



ISSUE NO. 73

13 JANUARY 2019

# *Cathedral*

## WEEKLY

### THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

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THE PRIVILEGE OF SERVING AT THE ALTAR | FR. MICHAEL FRIEDEL  
HOW TO MAKE A HOLY HOUR | FR. BILLY SWAN



# Cathedral WEEKLY

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MASS TIMES: SAT 4PM, SUN. 7AM, 10AM, 5PM  
WEEKDAY MASSES: MON. thru FRI. 7AM, 5:15PM and SAT. 8AM  
RECONCILIATION (CONFESSIONS): MON-FRI 4:15PM- 5PM, SAT. 9AM-10AM, 2:30PM-3:30PM, and SUN. 4PM-4:45PM

Diocesan Victim Assistance is available. For the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator, please contact: Patricia Kornfield at 321-1155.

## Welcome to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception!

On behalf of our bishop, the Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki, our parishioners, deacons, and priests, I welcome you to the mother church of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois.

The seat of the diocese was moved to Springfield from Alton in 1923. In the same year, "Old St. Mary's" church of Immaculate Conception Parish was named as the pro-cathedral of the new diocese until this cathedral church was built and dedicated in 1928. Currently, our diocese comprises twenty-eight counties in central Illinois, serving over 140,000 members of the Catholic faithful.

I hope that your visit to our Cathedral is one of grace and beauty and that you feel at home in the mother church. I also hope that you will find this edition of the *Cathedral Weekly* to be both informative and spiritually enriching. May God bless you and yours!

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE UPCOMING WEEK



Very Reverend Christopher A. House  
Rector

### Monday 14 January

7 AM- Shirley Logan (Smith Family)

5:15PM - Tony Forlano, Sr. (John Busciacco)

### Tuesday 15 January

9 AM - Ralph Walter, Sr. (Jean Moss & Ralph Walter)

5:15PM - Irvin Larry Smith (Friends from ISBE)

### Wednesday 16 January

7 AM - Barb McGrath (Family)

5:15 PM - William F. Logan (Lisa Logan & Family)

### Thursday 17 January

7 AM -Rich Lefferts (Friends)

5:15 PM - Mary Ann Midden (William Midden)

### Friday 18 January

7 AM -Lemuel Moss (Jean Moss & Ralph Walter) 5:15 PM - Special Intention for Les & Cheryl Black (Eileen Jensen)

### Saturday 19 January

8 AM -Marguerite & Edward Wisniewski (Donald Wisniewski) 4 PM - John Montgomery (John Busciacco)

### Sunday 20 January

7 AM -Joseph McGrath (McGrath Family) 10 AM - Deceased Catholic War Veterans (Catholic War Veterans)

5 PM - For the People

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## Nothing Ordinary About It

The time has come for us to move beyond the manger; for white and gold to give way to green. This Sunday we come to the end of the Church's celebration of Christmas with the feast of the Baptism of the Lord and we prepare to enter into the liturgical season of Ordinary Time. This feast jumps us about thirty years forward in the Lord's earthly life and is understood as the event that inaugurates his public ministry. The Scriptures that the Church has chosen for this feast bring us full circle from where our pre-Christmas journey began in Advent, to Christmas Day, and now to the end of this holy season.

Some six weeks ago we began our Advent journey and over the course of that journey we heard those familiar words of the Prophet Isaiah that are proclaimed to us again this Sunday. The second reading for this feast, from the letter of Titus, is the same second reading that was proclaimed at the Mass at Night on Christmas. We might say that in today's feast we are given a recap of what has already been revealed and proclaimed: that God has heard the cry of his people and has responded to that cry in the coming of Christ his son. What was already made known to Mary & Joseph, the Shepherds, Simeon & Anna, and the Magi is made known to a wider audience by the Spirit at the Jordan River when the voice of God proclaims of Jesus *"You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."*



Today's feast is a continuation of last week's celebration of the Epiphany because Christ is once again made known for who is; his identity is not a secret as it is revealed by the Father and his purpose as revealed in the preaching of John. As with the Magi so now at the Jordan, God continues to make known through Jesus that his life and love are open to all people who will receive him and all who receive him belong to him.

Now that we have celebrated the coming of Jesus at the beginning of the Church year, we are now prepared for the unfolding of another great mystery; the mystery that is life in Christ and what that means for us as his disciples as the events of his passion, death, resurrection, and overall ministry are recounted for us over the rest of the Church year. This mystery of life in Christ is what we are called to contemplate and celebrate each day and in every season. We have been called and chosen to be children of God, not because of any merit of ours but because of God's great love for us; because of this we should in turn see our lives as something extraordinary.



Luke's Gospel for today's feast tells us that "the people were filled with expectation." May it be the same for us. May expectation of the good things that God wants to do for us each day be the fruit of our faithful discipleship. May we carry the light and joy of Christmas with us throughout the year and as this liturgical season of Christmas gives way now to Ordinary Time may we remember that, because of Jesus, there is nothing ordinary about who we are because we belong to him.

*Father Christopher House is the Rector of the Cathedral and serves in various leadership roles within the diocesan curia, namely Chancellor and Vicar Judicial.*

## Stewardship Activity

### Stewardship of Time

Join thousands as we pray for the respect of human life during the nine days for life starting Jan. 14th. Check out 9DaysforLife.com.

### Stewardship of Talents

Serving can be as simple as cleaning your house! Next time you clean take a look for anything that might be donated to someone in need.

### Stewardship of Treasure Jan. 5th & 6th

Envelopes:	\$5,911.00
Loose:	\$3,637.80
Maintenance:	\$812.00

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Total:	\$10,360.00
December EFT	(\$18,934.45)

Thank you for your generosity and support!

## Sacraments

Please keep in your prayers Giavanna Marie Jackson who celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism. Are you looking for sacramental information? Please contact the Parish Offices at 522-3342.

## Scripture Questions

First Reading: IS 42:1-4, 6-7

During Israel's darkest days in captivity in Babylon, the prophet Isaiah announced a comforting message: "Prepare the way of the Lord!" How does God's presence in your life bring you comfort?

Second Reading: ACTS 10:34-38

St. Paul speaks of Baptism as "the bath of rebirth." What is your reaction to this image of Baptism?

Gospel Reading: LK 3:15-16, 21-22

John the Baptist taught that the Messiah would baptize believers "with the Holy Spirit and fire." For John, fire symbolized transformative power. In what ways could you witness to others how your faith has transformed you?

## Stewardship of Prayer

Catholics have different strategies for putting Christmas decorations away, but it is always a bittersweet day. Some choose the Octave Day of Christmas, January 1. Some choose the 12th day of Christmas, the eve of the Epiphany, or January 6, the feast of the Epiphany.

Others wait all the way until the last feast of the infancy of Christ — the Presentation, February 2.

As our house returns to normal — for us on the last day of the liturgical Christmas Season, the feast of the Baptism of Christ (January 13 this year) — we pray this prayer. I have printed it out and hung it on the attic door as a reminder all year long.

### Prayer for Putting Away Christmas Decorations



Lord Jesus, today we have put all of our Christmas decorations away. We are entering into Ordinary Time, and our house looks "ordinary" again, too.

But Lord, you know and we know that our house has a secret. Deep inside it, all of our Christmas decorations are still here. The blessing of Christmas is always with us, kept in the deep, quiet places of the house.

And Lord, our lives will become ordinary again, too, but you know that each of us has the grace of baptism. The grace you gave us is always with us, in the deep, quiet places of our soul.

May we live the grace of Christmas every day, only without all the trappings: May we always give generously, receive gifts gratefully, welcome others, and study your life.

Make our house be a home with Christmas at its core, and our souls a home where Jesus always dwells.

Amen.

*This article is written by Tom Hoopes and originally appeared on January 6, 2019 in Aletheia.*  
(<https://aletheia.org/2019/01/06/prayer-for-putting-away-christmas-decorations/>)





## The Privilege of Serving at the Altar

The Mass is without a doubt one of the most privileged moments in the life of a Christian. It is there that we hear the Word of God proclaimed once again among the community of the faithful. It is there that we gather as a community around the altar of sacrifice, offering ourselves and our intentions and uniting them to the one true sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the Cross. It is there that we receive His very Body and Blood—the “source and summit of the Christian life”—which makes us united to God and to each other, giving us the strength and grace to live our mission as disciples in the world.

In the reforms to the liturgy called for by the Second Vatican Council, the council fathers explicitly stated that their aim was to consider before all else the *“full and active participation by all the people.”* It’s a phrase which has been oft-misunderstood in the fifty years since the close of the council. But primarily, this “full and active participation” consists of every individual offering their entire selves in the Mass—by engaging themselves in the Mass in every aspect: praying with the priest, singing, and, where appropriate, serving the liturgy through various roles.

One of those ministries of service—and a privileged one at that—is altar serving. An altar server is entrusted with serving the priest in the act of sacrifice. This entails holding the book during the various prayers offered by the priest, helping to prepare the altar, receiving the offertory gifts alongside the priest or deacon, and carrying the cross, incense, or candles during the processions into and out of the Church. But more than the mere responsibilities of the altar server, the role is privileged because of its proximity and importance to the Mass. Altar servers have a unique opportunity to serve directly the Body and Blood of Christ, to be present in the sanctuary for the sacrifice of Calvary, and to aid the priest as alter Christus (an “other Christ”).

Our Cathedral parish has a faithful corps of men and women, girls and boys who assist the priests and deacons at the altar, and for that we are all very grateful.

Nevertheless, we invite anyone who has considered this ministry in the past or who is currently interested to come forward and join our team. This new year of God’s grace is a perfect opportunity to offer your full and active participation in the liturgy by joining this ministry—or any of our other opportunities to sing, pray, and serve.



*Fr. Michael Friedel is a Parochial Vicar at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.*

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A training for all youth servers (5th grade and older, current and new) will occur on **Monday, January 21 at 11 am**, with a pizza party to follow. Parents are invited as well! Training for all adult servers (weekday and weekend, new and experienced) will occur on Wednesday, **January 23 at 6 pm**, with a dinner hosted in the Cathedral rectory (TBD) to follow.

For interest and to RSVP to the training, please contact Fr. Friedel at 522-3342 or email Vicki Compton at [vcompton@cathedral.dio.org](mailto:vcompton@cathedral.dio.org).



## How to Make a Holy Hour

The most influential chapter of any book I have ever read has to be the one entitled “The hour that makes my day” in the autobiography of Venerable Fulton Sheen, *Treasure in Clay*. I remember reading it over twenty-three years ago as a seminarian and being so inspired that I too resolved, from that time on, to make

a holy hour before the Blessed Sacrament every day. Apart from the Mass itself, this hour of prayer remains the fulcrum of my day even still.

Recently I gave a talk to a group of promoters of Eucharistic Adoration in my diocese. These are the good folks who are involved in promoting Eucharistic adoration in parishes. During the talk, I mentioned that while it is important to encourage people to commit themselves to regularly spending a holy hour before the Blessed Sacrament, it is also important to teach and guide them how to make that holy hour. Without this deeper catechesis, we can easily become bored, begin to fidget, and lose sight of what Adoration is all about. Without the necessary spiritual direction and guidance of how to make a holy hour, we can forget that this precious time with the Lord is more about his desire to be with us than our desire to be with him. He is the one who longs for our company more than we long for him: “Could you not watch with me one hour?” (Mark 14:37). Here I offer a few guidelines of how we can make a holy hour by dividing it into three blocks of twenty minutes.

The first twenty minutes before the Lord really present in the Eucharist is a sacred time of intimacy between us and him. It is a time to just be present to our God who welcomes us and accepts us. In the words of St. John Vianney, it is a time when “I look at Him and he looks at me.” Before the Eucharist is a time when we lean on Jesus’ breast, like John did at the last supper, and allow his heart to speak to ours. This was the episcopal motto of Blessed John Henry Newman: *cor ad cor loquitur* (heart speaks to heart). We begin to grow in our “interior knowledge of the Lord” as we contemplate his words, his life, and his real presence before us (St. Ignatius of Loyola, *Spiritual Exercises*, 104). Here is the zone into which we are drawn in the first third of our holy hour, where our heart speaks to his. It is also a time when we listen to him and allow him to speak to us. This is a time when we can tell him everything about how we are and how we feel. It is a time to tell him about our day and to ask his help in ways in which we need it. Above all it is a time to thank the Lord for his presence and action in our lives and to adore him for his goodness, truth, and mercy. It is also an opportunity to present to him the things we don’t understand, our sins, failings, and the worries that burden us. In this twenty minutes of our holy hour, we bask in the light of his love that never fails us.

The second twenty minutes can be a time when we intercede for all the people we know and are part of our lives. At this stage of our prayer, we bring to the Lord all who have asked us to pray for them, our families and friends both living and dead. In this time

we pray for all we have met in the past day or week, the conversations we had, the things we have said and done. Often during this time in the holy hour, some person will arise in our minds who we feel the Lord is calling us to pray for, reach out to, to contact or to visit. It is also a time to focus on what lies ahead—our next appointment, our next challenge, or perhaps a courageous conversation we need to have with someone to clear the air. In this time of prayer, our hearts are reminded that our call is to love others in Christ’s name, and that the same Lord before us in the Eucharist is the same Lord present in everyone, especially in the least of his brothers and sisters (cf. Matt 25:31ff).

The final twenty minutes can be a time when we pray for the entire human family and the whole universe. So we might pray for persecuted Christians around the world, for the victims of famine, and for an end to conflicts and wars. We might pray for the Church around the world, for the Holy Father on a foreign visit, or for all missionaries away from home. We might pray for the environment and for the care of the earth, thinking of ways to conserve more and consume less. For his beauty revealed in creation, this is a time to thank God for the sun, moon, and stars that were made through his Word present before us in the Eucharist. Finally, we can pray in this time for the peace among all nations for which Jesus lived and died—and that it might become a reality in our troubled world today.

There are many ways of praying and many ways of making a holy hour for “the Spirit blows where it wills” (John 3:8). But sometimes we need a little guidance that helps us to focus. Above is a guide for a holy hour of Adoration before the Lord, truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. It starts off with his love for us but ends with a prayer that blesses God for the whole of creation. In this way we exercise our share in Christ’s priesthood that lovingly embraces every individual but extends to the entire cosmos we inhabit.

*“O sacrament most holy, O sacrament divine, all praise and all thanksgiving be every moment thine!”*

*Fr. Billy Swan is a priest of the Diocese of Ferns, Ireland. He served for four years as the Director of Seminary Formation at the Pontifical Irish College, Rome. He is currently based at St Aidan’s Cathedral, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.*

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Cathedral will be offering Adoration on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4PM to 5PM starting on Feb. 5th. We will have more information in the next coming weeks. If you are interested in participating, please contact Vicki Compton at [vcompton@cathedral.dio.org](mailto:vcompton@cathedral.dio.org).



## Sharing the Gospel

Your Dad says, "Wash your hands, please. It is almost time to eat." After you wash your hands really well, your Dad smiles. He says, "That's my boy. You did a good job!" In today's Gospel, it was time for Jesus to be baptized. After his baptism, Jesus talked to God his Father in prayer. Jesus did everything his Father asked. God was happy with his Son and said, "I'm pleased with you."

## Let Us Pray

Dear God,

Help me to make you and my parents happy through my words and actions. Just as Jesus prayed to you, help me remember to pray often.

Amen.

### Puzzle

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

JOHN  
MESSIAH  
BAPTIZING

WATER  
POWERFUL  
SANDALS

HOLY SPIRIT  
FIRE  
JESUS

A J T U A R B Y W E N  
H O L Y S P I R I T O  
E H A I T O S U F A M  
J N E G Y W A T E R E  
I Y B E H E U P L M S  
H S I N U R M O A Y S  
J U P A W F I R E C I  
E M O Z T U Y M S U A  
S A N D A L S E O T H  
U D Y T O E A N G E D  
S O B A P T I Z I N G

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### Mission for the Week

Find out what makes God happy. As a family, read John 15:9-12.

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## Growing with the GOSPEL

My Church,  
My Family and Me

Luke 3:15-16, 21-22 ■ Baptism of the Lord

CYCLE C



Read the Gospel and Color



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