

ISSUE NO. 79

24 FEBRUARY 2019

Cathedral

WEEKLY

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

A BLUEPRINT FOR THE KINGDOM | FR. CHRISTOPHER HOUSE

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PRO-LIFE RESOURCES

Cathedral WEEKLY

THE MOST REVEREND THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI
NINTH BISHOP
OF SPRINGFIELD IN ILLINOIS

THE VERY REVEREND CHRISTOPHER A. HOUSE, V.J.
RECTOR

THE REVEREND WAYNE STOCK
PAROCHIAL VICAR

THE REVEREND MICHAEL FRIEDEL
PAROCHIAL VICAR

DEACON IRVIN LAWRENCE SMITH

DEACON T. SCOTT KEEN

VICKI DHABALT COMPTON
COORDINATOR OF FAITH FORMATION AND MISSION
VCOMPTON@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

LISA A. DUFFEY
CATHEDRAL SECRETARY
LDUFFEY@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

MARK GIFFORD
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
MGIFFORD@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

KATIE M. PRICE, M.P.S., CFRE
COORDINATOR FOR STEWARDSHIP
KPRICE@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

BILL VOGT
OFFICE AND PLANT MANAGER
BVOGT@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

SR. FRANCELLE VYVERMAN, O.P
MINISTRY TO THE SICK
SFRANCELLE@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

524 East Lawrence Springfield, IL 62703
Cathedral Office: 217-522-3342
SPICATHEDRAL.ORG

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
Adoration: Tuesdays & Thursdays 4PM to 5PM

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

Please remember that if you or a loved one is in the hospital, a nursing home or home-bound, to contact the Parish offices or Sr. Francella at 522-3342 x 142. Hospitals may know you are Catholic, but not know you are from Cathedral. We would be happy to visit.

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 25 February

7 AM -Mary Ann Midden (William Midden) 5:15 PM Ken Bradbury (Carl & Lou Ann Corrigan)

Tuesday 26 February

7 AM -Special Intention for Tom McGee (Tom McGee) 5:15PM Leo P. Lenn (Family)

Wednesday 27 February

7 AM - Special Intention for Victims of Clerical Sexual Abuse (Anonymous) 5:15PM Sara McGee (Tom McGee)

Thursday 28 February

7 AM -Ronnie Briggs, JR. (Fr. Zach Edgar) 5:15PM Bernardino Gabones (Rose Amon)

Friday 1 March

7 AM -Gertrude Rutkowski (Steve & Marilyn Hahn) 5:15 PM - Louise Rees (Woody & Rita Halbrook)

Saturday 2 March

8 AM - Joyce Jenness (Rick & Patty Allen) 5:15 PM - Ann Rydzewski (Family)

Sunday 3 March

7 AM - For the People 10 AM - Charles & Mercedes Nesbitt (Kathy Frank) 5 PM - Special Intention for Lost Souls (CCCW)

Like the Cathedral Weekly? Share this copy with a friend!

A Blueprint For The Kingdom



Last weekend at each of the parish Masses I preached on the subject of abortion. Abortion is the most brutal act that is allowed in our “advanced society” because abortion targets the most innocent and the most defenseless among us. This heinous act also arouses strong passions in people, passions both good and bad. Sadly, we have allowed this satanic act against the sanctity of human life to become a political football. Human rights, of which the right to life is paramount, should not be political issues as they, along with human dignity, are the gift of God and not the purview of the state except that the state is morally obliged to protect these gifts of God. In an 1864 letter to the editor of the *Frankfort Commonwealth*,

President Lincoln wrote, “if slavery is not wrong, nothing is wrong.” The same sentiment is even truer regarding abortion; if abortion is not wrong, nothing is wrong.

In my homily, I stated that ending abortion will ultimately not be achieved by legislative acts or judicial rulings; these things will only limit it. Abortion will only end when each of us, together, build a culture of life. This Sunday's gospel gives a blue print for the Kingdom of God, for how to build the foundation of that culture of life. Jesus tells us in Luke's Gospel *to you who hear I say, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you* (6:27-28). He further states: *Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give, and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you* (6:37-38).



We must be living billboards in every aspect of our lives concerning our Lord's words in the Gospel. If we want a culture of life then each of us must do our part to build it; love begets love and mercy begets mercy.

The words of the Lord Jesus can seem like a tall order because they are, especially if we think that we can fulfill the Gospel command on our own. Saint Paul tells us in his First Letter to the Corinthians this Sunday *just as we have borne the image of the earthly one, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly one* (15:49). While we are earthly creatures, we have been adopted in Christ as heirs of the Kingdom of God through baptism. The grace of God is always seeking to be at work in us, to bring to perfection the image of God that we were created in. If we cooperate with the grace of God then we will more and more bear the image of the heavenly one and this will be made manifest in our thoughts, words, and actions. If we would build the culture of life, if we would fulfill the Gospel command, then we must allow the grace of God to work in and through us each day so that we might always be a new creation for both the glory of God and for his work of renewing the face of the earth.

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

STEWARDSHIP



Stewardship Activity

Stewardship of Time

Our modern lives are filled with noise. We need to quiet ourselves to hear God – both internally and externally. Find a peaceful and quiet place to pray this week

Stewardship of Talents

Share in the musical talents from the Cathedral community and join us March 1st for the next First Friday Concert at 7PM.

Stewardship of Treasure February 16th & 17th

Envelopes:	\$4,255.07
Loose:	\$1,840.36
Maintenance:	\$83.00

Total:	\$6,178.43
January EFT	(\$18,137.45)

Thank you for your generosity and support!

A Disciple's Call

Today's Gospel challenges us:

love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you...and lend expecting nothing back.

We are presented with a challenge to live as disciples and stewards. An intentional disciple is one who doesn't feed into their enemies agenda, rather finds mercy and grace. They are not interested in mediocre faith, rather they seek to pray more, serve more, and give more. When challenged they accept, take to the streets and talk the talk, but more importantly walk the walk of the Gospel message. This Gospel rings loud and clear the mission assigned to us. It is not easy. It is not one we can take lightly. However, it is a mission worthy of everything we've got.

In light of today's culture, this challenge is ever-present in our day-to-day lives. It doesn't take me long on Facebook to run into negative posts concerning human dignity and decency. Today, let's take this Gospel as a challenge to live our faith courageously. What does courageous look like? Perhaps it is sharing a meal with someone who needs a friend, passing up the extracurricular activity to make it to Adoration, making the time everyday to pray as a family or perhaps it is simply sharing a piece of faith formation online with your friends.

If you remain silent, silent in your invitation to others, silent in your witness of the Gospel, silent in your own home... *what credit is that to you?*

Katie Price is the Coordinator of Stewardship for the Cathedral and the Diocese of Springfield.

Cathedral Parishioner Catholic School Tuition Scholarship Information!

The Cathedral Parish believes in the value of Catholic education and is committed to assisting parishioners who choose a Catholic education for their children by receiving a \$500 tuition scholarship to each child enrolled in a Springfield Catholic school in grades K-12.

The scholarship is eligible to any parishioner household who is registered and active. An active parishioner is defined as someone who regularly attends Mass on Sundays, supports the parish financially, and is active in the life of the parish. While all three of these qualifications are important, Sunday Mass participation is of the greatest importance because faith formation begins with participation at Sunday Mass. To be eligible as a parishioner household, the family must be registered and active parishioners for a minimum of six months before the application is made for the scholarship.

The scholarship will be paid directly to the school that the student attends. The funds will be attributed toward the 2018-2019 school year. The application is NOW available at the Parish Offices and posted online (spicathedral.org/scholarship). Applications are DUE by March 15th. Cathedral will notify you when the scholarship is being sent to the receiving school. If you have any questions, please contact the Cathedral offices.



Why Is God So Demanding Of Us?

From a very young age we're taught the value of accruing knowledge, relationships, popularity, and success—a storing up and clutching onto good things that can help us sail effectively toward a happy life. We're groomed not to dispense of anything we own or acquire that has value, but instead to cultivate it, protect it, hold onto it with tireless resolve.

What we have and collect—our education, gifts and talents, intellect, possessions—we are expected to use strategically to our advantage. We become hoarders so we can navigate the world and be victorious within it.

From a rational vantage point, it makes complete sense. It seems an absolutely necessary mindset to have in order to be successful in the world. These things, in their goodness, can point to God and allow for happiness. When I review the many good things in my life—my family, group of friends, job, health, home in San Diego, access to delicious food at will—sometimes I'm met with an overwhelming sense of comfort and contentment. For me, such a realization invites me to thank God, acknowledging that such things can work as refreshment on life's journey. These moments, as good and nourishing as they can be, though, also have the capacity to dim my reliance on God. I can easily take comfort in the things around me, becoming resistant in handing them over to God should he ask for them.



*Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty,
my memory, my understanding
and my entire will,
All I have and call my own.*

*You have given all to me.
To you, Lord, I return it.*

*Everything is yours; do with it what you will.
Give me only your love and your grace.
That is enough for me.*

—The *Suspice*, St. Ignatius of Loyola

This prayer from St. Ignatius is one of the most difficult prayers to say. I can muster the effort to rattle off the words, half-heartedly and with shallow earnestness, but to pray them from the heart—to say and mean them in their fullest—is very difficult for me. I don't know if I've ever been able to say those words and truly mean them. There is something inside me that tears when I say them, tempting me to rein in the words.



If we scramble to store up things in this world without a firm anchoring to God we begin to ironically lose these things anyways. Our memory can be held captive by regret and denial. Our understanding can become clouded, darkened by the ceaseless motion to grasp at our own notion of happiness. And our liberty and will—the very vehicles that allow for our freedom and autonomy—can become enslaved to anxiety, worry, and fear. We can replace our authentic selves—children loved by God—with a composite of excess possessions and shallow accomplishments. We may only become what we earned, what we were given by others, what the world says we are after a stringent accounting of our “assets.” The whole becomes buried by its parts.

An article in *Psychology Today* titled “Is the Intense Pressure to Succeed Sabotaging Our Children?” examines the stress placed on children to do well academically. The article serves as a somber warning against the unmitigated pressure placed on many students today to gain admittance to a good college in order to set themselves up for a successful career and life. Tragically, a failure to meet such a lofty goal can sometimes even result in suicide:

There are so many alternative roads to happiness and fulfillment beyond acquiring wealth and driving a fancy sports car. Why do so many people in our society put a premium on the superficial value of material possessions and status symbols? Everyone knows that friends, family, being healthy, and having a sense of purpose are ultimately the most important things in life and the keys to fulfillment.

This article only highlights stress placed on students in regard to their schooling. Of course, this same mindset that idolizes a harrowing drive toward success spans across all ages and facets of our culture.

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Yet Christianity stands athwart the blinded quest to accrue and collect. It speaks instead of returning back to a childlike state of dependence, offering up all we own to a loving Father. It calls for a radically different way of understanding our identity and place in the world.

But how can we expect to give away our liberty, memory, understanding, and will? Aren't those the very things that constitute our unique being? They are the crux of our identity, the intersecting of those four aspects of our person literally makes us who we are—and give us the capacity to procure a self-directed and happy life. St. Ignatius' prayer calls to mind the hard-to-swallow words of John the Baptist:

“[Christ] must increase; I must decrease.”

Some in our culture may be familiar with the phrase—reading it and repeating it with a feathery understanding. However, entering into a state of decrease—a state of relinquishing our freedom, gifts, and very identity—for the sake of God is a monumentally countercultural thing. Of course, the God we proclaim does not exist within a zero sum paradigm. Our loss, for the sake of him, is never truly a loss. It becomes a gain. And as we concede our identity—at least the one we've clumsily crafted for ourselves—we learn that he puts the pieces of who we are back together in the right order. We begin to see ourselves as we are: we begin to see we are worthy simply because God says so, emphatically.

The question still remains: *Why do many of us struggle to pray and mean the words of The Suspice?*

If we trust that God will reward us a hundredfold, then where is the holdup?

If I'm honest, it's still a problem of trust. And when I do manage to say the words and mean them, as much as possible, I still struggle to allow God to do with my offering what he wills as opposed to what I will. I can be guilty of assuming that if I give up my understanding, then I'll receive back my understanding times one hundred in return. It becomes a conditional relinquishing. I'll do that God, only if you do this.

Of course, maybe he will reward us as we hope, and we can be certain by our faith and understanding of God that he will bless us in some way (as the phrase goes, God will never be outdone

in generosity), but the blessing may not come in more understanding. That may only come in the life after this one. Or perhaps, it may come in the form of a deeper faith that doesn't always question God's ways—not a blind, irrational faith, but one that accepts the limits of human understanding and the lack of clarity to see what God is really up to.

Although we do not give everything to God and ask for nothing; we still always ask for his love and grace. We find that when we understand what it is we're asking for, the eternal love of an infinite God and his manifestation in our lives, the exchange is quite unequal—infinately so. We offer what measly gifts we can to God, measly gifts that we cling onto with furious might at times, in exchange for the whole of God's being.

St. Ignatius' prayer remains an invitation to let God bless us even more than he already has. In giving ourselves to him, we allow him to use us as he needs—as his divine instruments, his loving children. It may be in the way we had hoped, or it may come through suffering, but regardless, it will come with tremendous

blessings. And as we all know, sooner or later, we all do give up our liberty, understanding, memory, and will at that hour of death. The question then becomes, as Henri J.M. Nouwen reminds us in his book, *The Only Necessary Thing: Living a Prayerful Life*, this: When we do lose them and have nothing left to offer to God, will we stand before him with open hands of trust, or clenched fists of fear?

“Dear God,

I am so afraid to open my clenched fists!

Who will I be when I have nothing left to hold on to?

Who will I be when I stand before you with empty hands?

Please help me to gradually open my hands

and to discover that I am not what I own,

but what you want to give me.

—Henri J.M. Nouwen, *The Only Necessary Thing: Living a Prayerful Life*

Chris Hazell is the founder of The Call Collective (<http://thecallcollective.com/stay-updated/>), a blog exploring the intersection between faith, culture and creativity. He holds bachelors' degrees in English and Economics from UCLA and currently works as a Lead Content Strategist for Point Loma Nazarene University.



Pro-Life Resources

In light of the proposed pro-choice legislation in Illinois and sweeping pro-choice legislation around the country, we wanted to share with you some resources and events in which your support is encouraged! If you are looking to get more involved in fighting for the unborn, assisting women, and strengthening families, please consider joining us. We will be including more information in the coming weeks on how Cathedral will be working to support the pro-life movement.

Crusaders for Life

Calling all junior high and high school students! Are you an advocate for life? Want to get involved in the joyful message of life and meet new people in the Springfield area? Crusaders for Life are coming to Springfield! Come check it out as this chapter is launching on Feb. 23, at 7:30 p.m. at the Sacred Heart Church Parish Center (730 S. 12th Street in Springfield).

The Crusaders for Life work to educate ourselves on the issue of abortion so that we are better prepared to advance the pro-life cause in our schools, workplaces, and families. By fully understanding what abortion does to the unborn and their mothers and fathers, we are less likely to become numb to the fact that it happens every day by the thousands. With this understanding we try to spread the truth everywhere we go by participating in rallies, marches, protests, and prayer vigils. Through joy and prayer, we hope to re-establish the belief that there is beauty and sacredness in every life, born and unborn, and that each life needs to be cherished and protected.

Life Advocacy

Mark your calendar for Life Advocacy Day at the State Capitol on Wednesday, March 20, 2019, 10:00-1:00. Lunch will be provided. Check future bulletins for further information.

Rosary and Pro-Life Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 9, 2019 – Rosary and Pro-Life Stations of the Cross, St. Agnes Parish, Springfield, 9:00 am. Come and pray for an end to abortion. For flyer and further information go to the following website: <http://www.dio.org/plasm/events.html>



Family Reflection

Sharing the Gospel

One day in heaven, God will reward you for all the loving things you do. When you clean up the dishes without being asked, God sees. If other people are mean to you because you love Jesus, God sees. God will be so happy to see you in heaven!

Read the Gospel together: [LK 6:27-38](#)

Prayer

Dear God,

Help me love you with my whole heart. Help me do things that will make you smile

Amen.

Mission for the Week

Are any of your neighbors lonely? Go out of your way to show Jesus' love to those people.