

ISSUE NO. 78

17 FEBRUARY 2019



Cathedral

WEEKLY

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

WHAT IS YOUR "WHY?" | FR. MICHAEL FRIEDEL
CATHEDRAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL TUITION SCHOLARSHIP
WHAT IF CHRIST APPEARS AS SUDDENLY AS AN IRISH BEACH? | KELIZABETH SCALIA

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 18 February

7 AM -Otis Huber (Children) 5:15PM - No Mass

Tuesday 19 February

7 AM -Joyce Jenness (Linda Sabol) 5:15PM - Burnell Heinecke (Carl & Lou Ann Corrigan)

Wednesday 20 February

7 AM -Special Intention for Lost Souls (CCCW) 5:15 PM - Betty Sowarsh (Fr. Edgar)

Thursday 21 February

7 AM -Mrs. Mary Ratna Kumari Pandity (Suseila Pandity) 5:15 PM - Mary Ann Midden (William Midden)

Friday 22 February

7 AM -Charles Morris (Family) 5:15 PM - Mary Corrigan (Carl & Lou Ann Corrigan)

Saturday 23 February

8 AM -Vogt Family (Bill Vogt) 4 PM - For the People

Sunday 24 February

7 AM -John & Edith Bakalar (John Busciacco) 10 AM - Sr. M. Pauletta Overbeck, OP (Walter & Becky Woodhull)
5 PM - Jeffery Kuchera (Malafa-Simpson Family)

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



What Is Your “Why?”

When I was growing up, I somehow got it into my head that I *really* wanted to study at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. I didn’t know what I wanted to study or why I wanted to go there—I was just excited by the idea of it. My 8th-grade class at St. Kevin Catholic School in East Alton was nine students; at Marquette

Catholic High School in Alton, my graduating class was 76. There was something about going to a university of over 40,000 students that made the extrovert in me leap for excitement.

But at a university that size, a person needs a place of belonging—a place of encounter. For me, that was St. John’s Catholic Newman Center. It was there that I found a sense of community which I had never experienced, and if I’m honest, I’ve probably never experienced since. In the midst of a bustling, secular university, the chapel and common spaces of the Newman Center became my haven not just for prayer (the ultimate communion!), but for fraternity and mutual enrichment in the spiritual life. The friendships which were made and fostered in those walls were centered on Christ, and they bore fruit in my life in a way that I had never anticipated.

It was in the common bond of discipleship, much like the apostles’, amidst the challenges and rigors of university life that we were forged together as one.

And it was there that my vocation was born. In that experience of community, I felt the Lord calling me to share that experience with others—to give them an experience of authentic encounter with the Church which I had longed for but never knew, and which He blessed me with in a way that I never expected. For me, *community*—the common bond of friendship and fraternity, forged in discipleship and rooted in Christ’s call to communion with Him and with each other—community became my “why.”

By that I mean that community is why I witness to Christ; it’s what convinced me of the truth of God’s goodness contained in the Word and Sacraments. In my ministry, it’s what I hope people

would come to experience in the Church: communion with each other and, ultimately, communion with God.

Community was the incontrovertible push that I needed to experience true and lasting conversion, and then to become convinced of Jesus’ call to become a disciple for others, tasked with the mission of sharing the Gospel with everyone I encounter.

I hope to spend my life sharing that gift that I received so many years ago, and which I continue to experience in all the places I go.

Ask yourself: what is your “why?” What in your past made you unswervingly convinced of God’s love, of His Church, of His call to discipleship?



It’s that which Christ calls you to share with others in a way that no one else can. If all of us tapped into our why—that moment of extreme conviction—there would be no doubt that the Church and the world around us would be on fire with the blessings of the Spirit. The apostles—I’m

convinced—had their why, each and every one. What else would enable them to suffer so much for Christ and His Church?

If you can’t answer the question immediately, take it to prayer. You may be surprised by the answer, but it will no doubt resonate with your passions and desires. The Lord has a way of fulfilling us, even when we have no idea what we want or why we want it. That was certainly my experience.

Father Michael Friedel is a Parochial Vicar at the Cathedral.

STEWARDSHIP



Stewardship Activity

Stewardship of Time

Consider praying for the ministries at the Cathedral and all who volunteer!

Stewardship of Talents

Have you considered recommending someone for ministry? Think about who you might have a conversation with about volunteering this week!

Stewardship of Treasure February 9th & 10th

Envelopes:	\$5,559.50
Loose:	\$3,121.98
Maintenance:	\$160.00

Total:	\$8,841.48
January EFT	(\$18,137.45)

Thank you for your generosity and support!

Sacraments

For Sacramental information, please contact the Parish Offices at 522-3342.

Scripture Questions

First Reading: JER 17:5-8

The prophet Jeremiah urged his fellow Israelites from Judah to trust in divine providence rather than human wisdom. Why do you think believers today still trust people more than God?

Second Reading: 1 COR 15:12, 16-20

Paul places our share in Jesus' resurrection from the dead as core to our Christian beliefs. What might you add to this list of our core beliefs?

Gospel Reading: LK 6:17, 20-26

We hear today of Luke's account of Jesus' Sermon on the Plain, which consists of both blessings and woes. Where do you see yourself in this mix of curses and blessings?

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.

Jennifer Smith and SPARC receives a donation of \$660.27 from the Cathedral Fr. Augustine Tolton Knights of Columbus Council 16126 with donations received from the Annual Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities conducted in the fall at White Oaks Mall. The funds will go to those with special needs who benefit from the many SPARC programs.

For more information about the Cathedral Knights of Columbus Fr. Augustine Tolton Council please check out their website at <http://www.kofc16126.org>.





What if Christ Appears as Suddenly as an Irish Beach?

“More than 30 years ago, a storm swept away a beachfront in Dooagh, Achill Island, off the County Mayo coast of Ireland. The entire beach was washed away, leaving a scenic but also craggy coast, treadable only by the hardiest of souls, wearing the hardest of soles.

Around Easter of 2017, the beachfront reappeared overnight. A member of the Achill Island tourism board suggested that a cold snap and a steady north wind probably deposited the sand on its shores. Tourists immediately visited the beach, walking shoeless.

It’s an enchanting story and as it is situated in Ireland, it almost begs for an accompanying bit of freewheeling blarney — something about “the little people” being miffed at the locals for some reason and taking away their beach only to restore it when their pique had run its course.



But as I read about the reappearing beach, what struck me was what a working metaphor it was for our lives—both the material and the spiritual, the worldly life and the life of faith. It brings us a lesson about how the world and everything in it is continually in flux. What is alive is constantly in motion, sometimes obviously—like the waves pounding upon every ocean’s coast, or the wind bending a tree or raising a beach—and sometimes imperceptibly.

Right now, for instance, if your body is operating as it should, your red blood cells are collecting oxygen through your lungs and then transporting it throughout your body tissue by way of your heart, enlivening every bit of your tissue, but you don’t notice it.

Similarly, if your religious practices are being kept up, prayers and sacraments and devotions are, in a manner of speaking, bringing oxygen to your spirit in a strengthening and sustaining way. They are keeping your spiritual life alive, even as you attend to material things.

Thus, what is living is always changing in big and small ways, always resisting stasis and stagnation by living within the thrust and tension of a moment. It is adaptive. “A dead thing can go with the stream, but only a living thing can go against it,” observed G.K. Chesterton. That’s very true, of course, and only a living thing can evolve as needed, too.

Still, as the beach of Achill Island demonstrates, heavy weather will change things, cut new lines, expose new ground that must still be traveled, but always with an eye to the gauge of one’s sole, and of course, one’s soul.

It’s like that, right now, in Catholic evangelism. We are many decades away from the days of fully-enrolled Catholic schools giving instruction in the faith to children who had those lessons reinforced at home. That culture, which even featured a Catholic bishop, Fulton Sheen, hosting a show during network prime time, has become fundamentally and forever changed; those beachheads have been washed away. We are on newly exposed ground, requiring a new way to step.

The heavy storms of late have created a new mood too; people are not very open just now. They’re closing in on themselves and their secular-socio communities, tolerating fewer differences of thought, opinion,

or practice, and religious instruction—or outright evangelism—they want not at all.

Mother Angelica once told a story about an agnostic visitor to her Abbey who refused a gift of one of the nun’s books. When asked why she didn’t want the book, the woman said, “If I read that, I might have to change, and I don’t want to.”

This is the challenge facing Christians who feel called to give witness to the life in Christ: evangelistic outreach invites others to consider Jesus of Nazareth and his teachings, which are all about becoming free in deep and authentic ways that cannot easily be imagined by those who see religion as a swampland of “No” when all they really want to hear is “Yes.” Many people fear giving any opening to an evangelist because they intuit that the True Yes they may find there, like true north, might navigate them away from what feels familiar and socially safe.

Continued from p. 5

Like Bartleby the Scrivener, they would prefer not to.

But the life in Christ, particularly one lived with promise of sacramental graces, enriched by devotions and traditions and the whole communion of saints, is a life that is lived completely in “Yes,” and therefore in never ending possibility and potential—so alive that it leaps forward against the stream to find the next chance to say “Yes.”

It is the job of the evangelist to convey the excitement and energy that comes from understanding one’s gifts, discerning one’s mission within the plans of Christ, and then cooperating with the Creator for the furtherance of his purposes, which are—along with the Incarnation —“for all the people.”

And we cannot waste time bemoaning the loss of our comfortable earlier holdings because Christ is coming and—as with the beachfront in Dooagh—he may show up just that suddenly, and that unexpectedly, and asking us why we have permitted souls to be lost as we dithered about whether flip-flops or thick soles are the best way to manage the new landscape.

The living world, constantly in flux, is deeply in need of a living Church to walk within it in the hopes of rescuing some who’ve wandered too near a cliff, pulling others back from fast current or a dangerous riptide, inviting still others to rest in a light that will bathe but never consume, unless one asks it to.

Things being as they are, the living Church needs all of us to step up. The more I realize just how much she needs us—how much Christ needs us—in this work, the more excited I am to watch the continued growth of the Word on Fire Institute, and the communities of new lay evangelists beginning to be formed and made ready for the walking. It is a challenging time to be a Catholic. And an exciting one, as well. Do not be afraid.

Elizabeth Scalia is a Benedictine Oblate and author of several books including the award-winning Strange Gods: Unmasking the Idols in Everyday Life (Ave Maria Press) and Little Sins Mean a Lot (OSV). Before joining the Word on Fire team as a Editor at Large, she served as Editor-in-Chief of the English edition of Aletheia, and as Managing Editor of the Catholic section of Patheos.com. Elizabeth also blogs as “The anchoress” at www.theanchoress.com. She is married, and living on Long Island.

Everyday Stewardship



When I was a child, I often thought of the Church as something mystical and supernatural. I wasn’t wrong in my understanding of the Body of Christ, for surely the Church has these characteristics. However, even though we speak about the foundation of all we are as Church being the “mystery of Christ,” Jesus became a man so that supernatural element could break into the natural world in a profound way.

What we once could not see, we now see.

What we saw as a God in a distant place now dwelt among us. It is one of the aspects of Catholicism that I have grown to appreciate the most as I have matured: for a Catholic, the

supernatural is natural. The communion of saints is heavenly and earthly at the same time.

The Beatitudes instruct us about this reality. Pope Francis reminds us that holiness is “not about swooning in mystic rapture.” Holiness is about living in the real world and doing extraordinary things with our ordinary lives. Our stewardship way of life consists of actions in the natural world that have extraordinary repercussions.

Do not ever take your simple actions of generosity and love for granted. As disciples called to a life of stewardship, we participate in something more profound than what we can see. We are blessed to be called to follow Jesus, and we bring blessing to all those with whom we choose to share ourselves.

Tracy Earl Welliver is a Catholic author, speaker, consultant, and Gallup-certified Strengths coach with over 25 years experience in

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!

Prayer

Dear God,

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

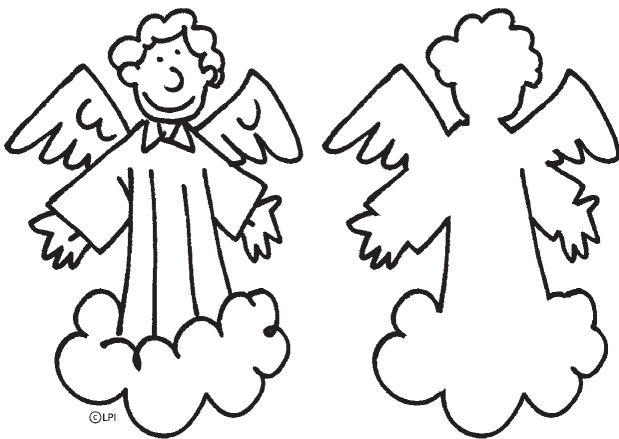
Amen.

Mission for the Week

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

Puzzle

Can you draw this angel from heaven identical to the first drawing?



Mission for the Week

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

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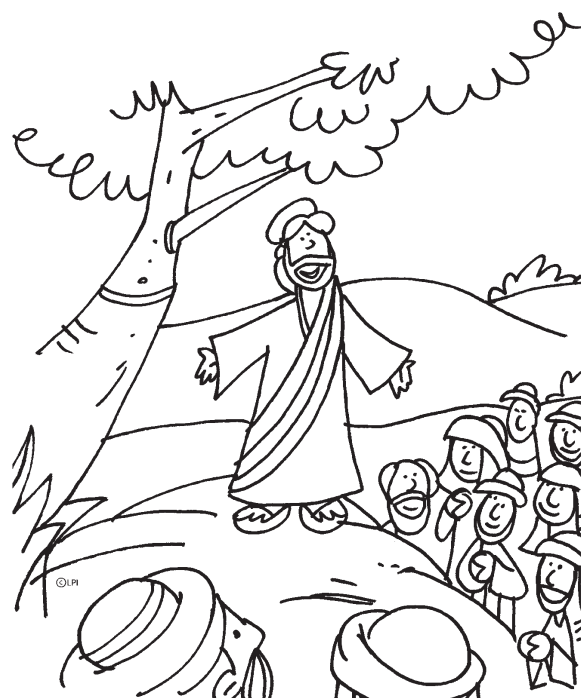
Growing with the
GOSPEL

My Church,
My Family and Me

Luke 6:17, 20-26 ■ 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

CYCLE C

Read the Gospel and Color



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Name _____