

ISSUE NO. 83

24 MARCH 2019

# *Cathedral*

## WEEKLY



### THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

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A LIMITED TIME | FR. CHRISTOPHER HOUSE

ON SUFFERING: HOW I STOPPED ASKING "WHY" AND STARTED ASKING "HOW" | MARY ANN STEUTERMANN

FIVE WAYS ST. JOSEPH CAN HELP YOUR LENT | DOMINICANS

# 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

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[SPICATHEDRAL.ORG](http://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!



Very Reverend Christopher A. House  
Rector

### Mass Intentions for the Upcoming Week

#### Monday 25 March

7 AM -Andy O'Neill (Jim and Julie Berberet) 12:05 PM - Margaret Herman (Sue Warner) 5 PM - Helen Miles (Fr. Edgar)

#### Tuesday 26 March

7 AM -James Tulles (Carl & Lou Ann Corrigan) 12: 05 PM- Gloria Casey (Sue Warner) 5 PM- Augustine & Stella Nwajei (Richard & Kay King)

#### Wednesday 27 March

7AM - Veronica Paprocki (Rob & Jan Sgambelluri) 12:05 PM - Ben Garde (Family) 5 PM- Mary Ann Midden (William Midden)

#### Thursday 28 March

7AM - Jim Kornfeld (Fr. Edgar) 12:05 PM- Jon Baumann (Carl & Lou Ann Corrigan) 5 PM- Jeff & Kathleen Porter & Family ( Kay & Dick King)

#### Friday 29 March

7 AM - Doris Drea (Bill Vogt) 12:05 PM- Eleanor Svetlik (Leo & Ann Midden) 5 PM- Kyle Buckman (Mom)

#### Saturday 30 March

8 AM - Roy Rhodes (Carol Guazzo & Family) 4 PM- Matthew Penning (Friend)

#### Sunday 31 March

7 AM - For the People 10 AM- St. M. Pauletta Overbeck, OP (Walter & Becky Woodhull) 5 PM- Elmer & Clara Malafa (Malafa-Simpson Families)





## A Limited Time

The Gospel selection from Luke for this Third Sunday of Lent comes in two parts. The first part speaks of two different tragedies that are recent in the minds of those in the crowd following Jesus. The second part of the Gospel passage is a parable from our Lord concerning a fig tree.

In the parable of the fig tree, Jesus tells the story of an orchard owner who comes upon a fig tree in his orchard and states that he wants the tree cut down because it has not produced fruit. This is not a rash decision on the part of the orchard owner because this is the third year that the tree has not produced fruit. The gardener intercedes asking the owner for more time to work with the tree. If the tree still does not bear fruit then it will be cut down.

This parable shows us the patience of God the Father and the mercy that he extends to us sinners, but it's a mercy that is limited in time. The tree is given time but it must produce fruit. The tree will be helped by the gardener. The gardener is the Lord Jesus who intercedes on our behalf. He seeks to show us the way and he freely gives us grace to help us produce fruitful lives that are worthy of our Father in heaven. We must remember that the time to produce this fruit is limited to this earthly life, however long that will be, which brings us back to the first part of the Gospel passage.

Jesus speaks of two events at the beginning of this Gospel passage. The first is an atrocity committed against a group of Galileans by the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate. The second event is the collapse of a tower at Siloam that kills eighteen people. Neither event is a direct act willed by God but rather they are events that are allowed by his permissive will; in other words, things happen. The first act is of one person choosing to cause harm and the second is an accident; neither act directly involve action on the part of God.

Brining the two parts of the Gospel together reminds us that we must be about producing the fruit of the Kingdom of God in our lives. God expects this of us and he has a right to that expectation. We can only be about this work in the present life; the same is true for repentance and conversion as they can only happen in this life as well. None of us knows how long this present life will last because we do not know what tomorrow might bring or if there will even be a tomorrow for us. Therefore, we must be about the business of the Kingdom of God right now! A true disciple does not procrastinate in fulfilling the will of God in their life, but allows the work of the Kingdom to be a guiding force in their everyday living.

As always, the Saints have wisdom to impart to us and I will leave you with a word from two of them. St. John Bosco tells us "do not put off till tomorrow the good you can do today." St. Augustine admonishes us to know that "God has promised forgiveness to your repentance, but he has not promised tomorrow to your procrastination."

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

## Lenten Schedule

### Mass

Sunday Masses: Saturday Evening Vigil- 4 PM,  
Sunday- 7 AM, 10 AM, 5PM

Weekday Masses: Monday thru Friday- 7 AM, 12:05PM, 5:15 PM, Saturday 8 AM

*Sign-up to be a Liturgical Minister today by contacting Vicki Compton at [vcompton@cathedral.dio.org](mailto:vcompton@cathedral.dio.org).*

### Confessions

Monday thru Friday 4:15 PM to 5 PM,  
Saturday 9 AM to 10 AM and 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM,  
Sunday 4 PM to 4:45 PM

### Adoration

Tuesday and Thursday 4 PM- 5 PM

### Stations of the Cross

Friday during Lent immediately following the 5:15 pm Mass.  
The Stations will also be prayed on Good Friday at 12:05PM.

### Novena for Life

Join us nightly for a Novena for Life from March 17th through March 25th at 7 PM. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

### CCCW Lenten Soup Supper

Join us Wednesday, March 27th in the Atrium at 6PM. All are welcome to join us!



## On Suffering: How I Stopped Asking “Why” and Started Asking “How”

Actor Ed Asner said, “Raising kids is part joy and part guerrilla warfare.” He couldn’t have been more correct! The absolute best, most joy-filled thing in my life is my teenage son. But

parenting him hasn’t been all T-ball games and birthday parties. It’s also been the most gut-wrenching, heartbreaking experience of my life. Some days, “guerrilla warfare” sounds like Sunday afternoon tea compared to being a mom.

I thought I knew a thing or two about suffering. I’m no stranger to loss and failure. But nothing has ripped my insides out like my son’s battle with a serious eating disorder. I’ve spent the past several years accompanying him through every circle of hell. It would be an understatement to say that this has challenged my faith to its core.

Like most people of faith, I tried to find some “greater” reason why this horrible thing would need to happen. Early on, I was convinced I had done something wrong. Maybe I was too selfish or spent too much time at work. But all that did was make me feel horrible, which was pointless. After that, I got angry: If God knows I’m doing the best I can, why would he want to punish me like this? From there, I decided that if I’m not being punished, then maybe God is trying to make me a better parent and my son a stronger person. Maybe we were being prepared for a life that is richer or fuller in some way after we get through all the pain and sorrow. But in time, this viewpoint, too, made no sense. The God I know could never be so cruel and calculating.

I’m sure I’m not alone in my need to figure out the purpose behind my suffering. We all need to find meaning in our experiences, so when painful things happen, our default setting is to uncover WHY. We figure that if there is some logical reason, some benevolent-but-inscrutable plan that we just don’t understand right now, then maybe we can sleep through the night and pay the mortgage tomorrow and possibly even laugh again one day a long time from now. So we hold on to a shaky, plastic, duct-taped-together kind of faith as we try to identify some reason why God might have intended this suffering for us all along.

When it comes to the WHY of suffering, there are a few usual suspects our culture defaults to: punishment for our sins, a test of our faith, an exercise in character development, or a powerful lesson about getting too big for our britches. The problem is that it’s hard to reconcile any of those viewpoints with the Catholic Christian notion of a God who loves unconditionally and seeks only to forgive, unite, comfort, and heal.

Eventually, I gave up trying. Life has taught me that searching for the WHY behind our suffering is like trying to fit an elephant onto

the head of a pin for the purpose of balancing my checkbook. It’s impossible to do, and even if I could, it wouldn’t help me in the slightest, so why bother?

Instead of focusing on the WHY, it may be more useful to become curious about the HOW. Suffering is a powerful thing, and like a super hero’s special powers, it can be used for good or for evil. For me, Lent is an opportunity to find ways to use the power of suffering for good. When I look back on this journey – and it is very far from over – I can see that my suffering has transformed me in surprising ways.

I’ve become less insistent that life unfold according to my preferences, and I’m less anxious and fearful when it doesn’t. When horrible things happen and you discover that they haven’t killed you yet, then other horrible things seem less scary. For some reason, I seem to feel more deeply, communicate more honestly, and say “no” more often. Suffering has a way burning away our ego impulses that used to seem so important but now just look silly. When I used to encounter people in great pain, I’d say, “Please let me know what I can do to help,” which is the least helpful thing I could say. Instead, I now say, “This thing you are going through is the absolute worst, most unfair, most horrible thing in the world and the fact you were able to get out of bed this morning proves that you are the bravest person on earth right now.”

I’ll admit, I’ve had the temptation to conclude that these changes in myself are the actual WHY behind my suffering, that perhaps God gave me this horrific experience to help me manage my expectations better and be more compassionate toward others. But to that I say a firm “NO WAY!” One reason is that my suffering hasn’t resulted in all positive outcomes. I ugly-cry more than I’m comfortable with these days, and in my weakest moments, I resent all the perfect Facebook families in my feed who seem to be living the dream in all their photogenic glory. Also, I swear more now, which is not an attractive change.

There is another, more compelling reason I believe that God didn’t send me this suffering to “improve” me. In my experience, God doesn’t invite us into “the fullness of life” that Jesus spoke of but then set a ridiculously expensive cover charge and station a big, scary bouncer at the door so no one can get in. The God I know leaves the door to the Kingdom wide open and keeps inviting me in.

If I can conclude anything at all about the nature of suffering, it is simply that fixating on WHY it exists is pointless. Exploring HOW the guerilla warfare in our lives can become part of our spiritual journey, though, is far more interesting and helpful. Lent is the perfect time to let go of the “why” and embrace the “how.”

*Mary Ann Steutermann is currently the director of campus ministry at Assumption High School in Louisville, Kentucky. She holds a bachelor’s degree in English and two master’s degrees in education. Mary Ann lives in Louisville with her husband and son.*



## Five Ways St. Joseph Can Help Your Lent

How can St. Joseph help you this Lent? I propose five ways.

### 1. Simplicity

In John 6, when Jesus boldly declares, "I am the bread of life," his hearers murmur among themselves

and ask, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph?" (Jn 6:41). Apparently, they considered Joseph to be just a regular, law-abiding Jew—an average Joe, if you will. By implication, Joseph didn't go around Nazareth working miracles and polishing his halo; rather, he lived his holiness wrapped in simplicity.

Every year on Ash Wednesday, we hear: "Take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them" (Mt 6:1). Our prayer, fasting, and almsgiving should be kept for God's eyes only. Yet we should also remember Jesus' words earlier in the Sermon on the Mount: "Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father" (Mt 5:16).

The key difference is simplicity. When we act simply, we take no heed of our glory, but seek God's alone. Such simplicity is a modesty of soul, guarding the intimacy we have with God through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

### 2. Work

On May 1, we celebrate the feast of St. Joseph the Worker. He is a saint who knows how to roll up his sleeves and put in a hard day's work. Joseph reminds us of the dignity of work, beautifully captured in *Gaudium et Spes*: Through labor

offered to God man is associated with the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, Who conferred an eminent dignity on labor when at Nazareth He worked with His own hands. (GS 67)



Lent is a good time to live out this dignity of work by imitating St. Joseph. God draws us to Himself through the ordinary means of simply fulfilling our tasks. We need not search for extraordinary acts of penance or lengthy prayers, especially if these detract from our normal duties. So before we add on extra practices, we should redouble our attentiveness to the work already before us.

### 3. Rest

While Joseph shows us the dignity of work, he had some of his best moments as he slept. It was here that God spoke to him repeatedly through dreams.

We can distinguish two types of rest: physical sleep and spiritual abandonment to God. Both are critical for holiness. Sleep renews us for another day of work and love. Just ask the mother of a newborn about the importance of sleep. Abandonment increases our hope in God's loving providence, strengthening our faith in times of trials and creating room for love to grow.

By both sleep and abandonment, we recognize our limits: we need sleep and we need God. We can see this pairing in the beginning of Psalm 127:

*If the Lord does not build the house,  
in vain do its builders labor;  
if the Lord does not watch over the city,  
in vain does the watchman keep vigil.  
In vain is your earlier rising,  
your going later to rest,  
you who toil for the bread you eat,  
when he pours gifts on his beloved while they slumber.*

This psalm proclaims the futility of all-nighters and the emptiness of self-made saints. Psalm 127 is a good reminder during Lent, as we up the ante with prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. These are

not exercises of our sheer willpower. Our practices on their own do not make us holy. God makes us holy. And sometimes, God bids us to rest.

Remember the words of Moses to the Israelites as Pharaoh pursued them: "The LORD will fight for you; you have only to keep still" (Ex 14:14), as well as the words of Isaiah: "By waiting and by

calm you shall be saved;

in quiet and in trust shall be your strength" (Is 30:15).

**...continued on p. 6**



## Stewardship Activity

### Stewardship of Time

Pray with us! Bring your family and friends to the Novena for Life March 17-25th at 7PM.

### Stewardship of Talents

Continue to examine how you can serve this Lent! Check the Sunday Announcements for many opportunities.

### Stewardship of Treasure March 16th & 17th

Envelopes:	\$4,552.59
Loose:	\$2,031.00
Maintenance:	\$210.00

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Total:	\$6,793.59
February EFT	(18,700.45)

## Sacraments

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

## Scripture Questions

### First Reading:

In his call and commission of Moses, God reveals his name as "I AM" - our God lives in the eternal present moment. When have you experienced God's spirit in the here and now of your life?

### Second Reading:

Paul instructs the Corinthians that the desert journey of ancient Israel serves as an example for all future generations of believers. During this Lenten journey, what do you do to make sure you do not fall?

### Gospel Reading:

Jesus repeatedly warns against the dangers of not repenting. How do you keep the need for repentance part of your spiritual exercises?



...continued from page 5

## 4. Family

Joseph was a great man, but where would he be without his family, without Jesus and Mary? I doubt he would make many appearances in twenty-first century blog posts—most first-century Jewish carpenters don't.

Joseph's holiness came through Jesus and Mary, by serving them and receiving from them. Similarly, God draws us to himself through those around us. We do not become saints as isolated individuals, but as members of a family or community.

With their parents leading the way by example and family prayer, children and indeed everyone gathered around the family hearth will find a readier path to human maturity, salvation and holiness. (GS 48)

Lent is a good opportunity to examine our closest relationships. Is there a need to forgive? Is there love that needs rekindling? Is there gratitude missing? These are excellent ways of giving alms.

## 5. Jesus and Mary

Of course, Joseph's family isn't your normal family. There's a special grace about Jesus and Mary (understatement of the year). If we compare our families to the Holy Family, we might be tempted to discouragement. But by God's goodness, Jesus and Mary are not distant, but rather intimately close to us: Jesus is our savior and brother, and Mary is our tender mother. Joseph, for his part, can help us stay close to Jesus and Mary, just as he did.

In the end, all of our Lenten practices are simply saying "yes" to Jesus, just as Mary first did at the Annunciation. May Mary pray for us, and may Jesus bring us to the Father.

*The Order of Preachers, known also as the Dominican Order, was founded by St. Dominic in 1216 with the mission of preaching for the salvation of souls. With contemplative study serving as a pillar of Dominican religious life, the Order continues to contribute to the Catholic synthesis of faith and reason, following the example of such Dominican luminaries as St. Albert the Great and St. Thomas Aquinas. The Friars of the Province of St. Joseph administer Providence College in Providence, RI and serve as teachers and campus ministers in several colleges, universities, and seminaries in addition to serving as pastors, chaplains, and itinerant preachers. Follow the Dominican students at their blog, [DominicanaBlog.com](http://DominicanaBlog.com).*

## Sharing the Gospel

I sin. You sin. Everybody sins. God knows that we cannot be perfect like God. But God wants you to love him and talk to him. God wants you to be sorry for your sins, learn from your mistakes, and grow closer to him every day.

## Prayer and Mission

Dear God,  
Help me to grow closer to you with every day you give me.  
Amen.

Mission for the Week  
When you get into trouble, ask God to help you change so that you do not do it again.

## Family Reflection

### Puzzle

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

PILATE  
GALILEE  
KILLED

SACRIFICES  
SINNERS  
SILOAM

WORSE  
TREE  
GARDENER

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

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### Mission for the Week

When you get into trouble, ask God to help you change so that you do not do it again.

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Growing with the  
**GOSPEL**

My Church,  
My Family and Me

Luke 13:1-9 ■ 3rd Sunday of Lent

CYCLE C



Read the Gospel and Color



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