

ISSUE NO. 87

21 APRIL 2019

Cathedral WEEKLY

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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!



Very Reverend Christopher A. House
Rector

Mass Intentions for the Upcoming Week

Monday 22 April

7 AM -BILL CRUMLY (JUDY CIOTTI)

5:15PM NO MASS

Tuesday 23 April

7 AM -JACK ELY (WIFE)

5:15PM MRS. MARY RATNA KUMARI PANDITY (SUSEELA PANDITY)

Wednesday 24 April

7AM - MARY REDDING (BERNIE ELY)

5:15PM MARY ANN MIDDEN (WILLIAM MIDDEN)

Thursday 25 April

7AM -DORIS DREA (MIKE & KAREN RELLIHAN)

5:15 PM FRANCES KLEIN (ANDREW & CHERYL KLEIN)

Friday 26 April

7AM -MARY PRIESTER (BEV & LARRY HOFFMAN)

5:15PM NO MASS

Saturday 27 April

8 AM- PAUL BOWN (LEAH, SUE ELLEN & JACK BILLINGTON)

4 PM JOHN & EDITH BAKALAR (JOHN BUSCIACCO)

Sunday 28 April

7 AM -7 AM MARY ANN MIDDEN (WILLIAM MIDDEN)

10 AM FOR THE PEOPLE

5 PM- JOHN MONTGOMERY (JOHN BUSCIACCO)

If you would like a Mass Intention, please contact the Parish Offices at 522-3342.

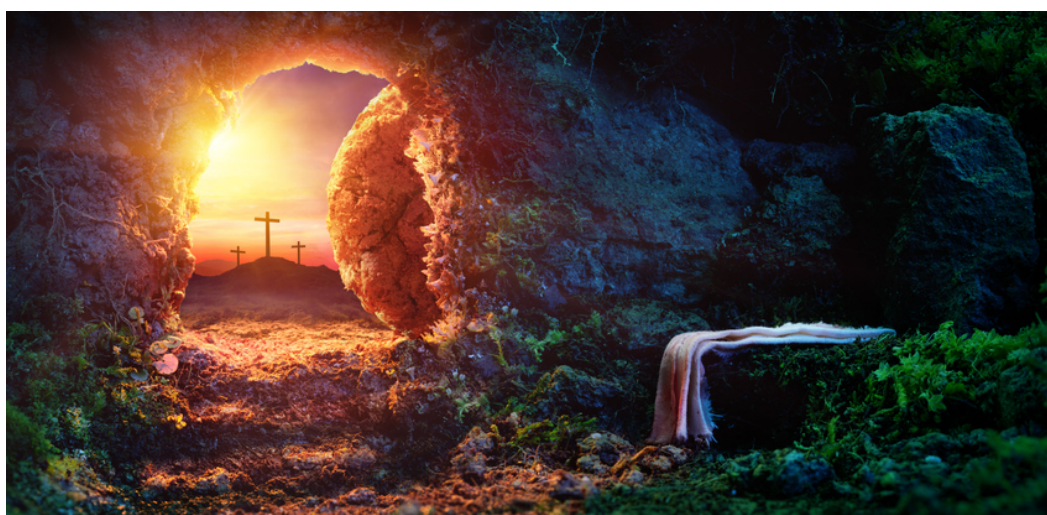
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A Bare Cross, An Empty Tomb

I wonder what that small group who remained was thinking as they looked upon the bare cross that Friday afternoon, the Lord's lifeless body now cradled in his mother's arms. How distant the past must have felt for Mary and the others in that moment: the angel, the shepherds and the Magi,

finding him in the Temple, the voice of the Father at the Jordan, feeding the multitudes, healing the sick, the blind & the lame, raising the dead, the teachings, the love, and the mercy. In the midst of their grief and the rush to bury his body before the setting of the sun, I believe that his mother, possibly the only one, remained resolute in faith, that God's will be done.... that God's will was not done yet in its fullness.



I wonder if anyone came that Passover day, that Saturday, to sit in silence; to wonder, to mourn, or maybe to wait.

I wonder what those holy women were feeling early in the morning on that first day of the week, as the Scriptures teach us, when Mary Magdalene and the others came to the tomb only to find it void of the one whom they sought, when in their amazement they were told:

Do not be amazed! You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised; he is not here (Mark 16:6).

Those holy women were the first to receive the good news that has forever changed the course of human history and the meaning of our shared human experience.

On this Easter day, the mystery of the cross and the empty tomb looms large. The two truly form one mystery because their meanings are not fully realized alone. Without the empty tomb, the cross stands only as a monument to brutality; without the cross, the joy of the empty tomb is lacking. It is the same for us in our lives.

We carry the burden of the crosses of our lives, but faith teaches us that these crosses are not ends in themselves when we unite them with the Cross of the Lord Jesus; no cross comes without the promise of resurrection. The resurrection moments of our lives are made all the sweeter because of the sacrifices and hardships that have preceded them.

In the end, having borne the trials of this life and having persevered in faith, the joy of everlasting life will be unlike anything that we can imagine now. Until then, the empty tomb stands as the Lord's promise to us and all who live and die in his friendship.

On behalf of Bishop Paprocki and the Cathedral clergy and staff, I pray that the Lord will bless you and yours this Easter with the fullness of his grace and

the joy that comes from him alone. With every cross may you remember that it is not the end.

In moments of sacrifice and desolation may you know that you are not alone or forsaken. May you always be mindful that Easter teaches us that God always gets the last word, and in the case of the cross and the tomb, his last word is life.

All honor, praise, and glory to the risen Christ, who, by his death and resurrection, has gained for us the rewards of everlasting life! Happy Easter!

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



Carrying Lent Forward

For Many, the season of lent can serve as a time of renewed dedication to living the Christian faith. We adopt forms of prayer, fasting and almsgiving in order to help us live that Lenten call to *“repent and believe in the Gospel”*. Now that we have reached Easter and Lent is over it might be our experience that any bad habits we avoided or good habits we formed during this Lenten period will begin to fade. However, it does not have to be the case.

The actions we took during lent as signs of penance can now be performed as acts of rejoicing!

The Easter season is a special time of celebration in our for the Lord is RISEN. What better way can we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ than by continuing to seek ways to pray, offer sacrifices and help others? Of course, the Easter season is not a time for fasting or penances but it is also possible for us to serve others and spend time in prayer as a way of celebrating and bringing glory to God. The resurrection of our Lord has changed the entire world and we can continue to spread that message of hope and life by carrying our Lenten dedication to the Gospel forward through the Easter Season and for the rest of our lives.

Fr. Wayne Stock is a Parochial Vicar for the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.



Witnessing to the Joy of the Resurrection

My sophomore year at the University of Illinois, my friend Alice finally thrust an application for a Koinonia retreat into my hands. She had already filled it out, and the only reason she didn't just turn it in for me was out of common courtesy: to make sure the dates worked in my calendar. Truth be told, she had already invited me *at least* five times up to that point to this “life-giving” retreat experience, but as a busy, non-committal college student, I found plenty of convenient excuses to turn her invitations down.

For reasons I couldn't discern at the time, Alice cared about me having this real experience of Christ's love—and like the friend at midnight, it was her perseverance that won me over. And I'll be honest: that retreat was the beginning of a long road that led me, in His time, to the priesthood. Without Alice's joyful and persistent invitation, there's a real possibility that I would not be a priest today.

We are an Easter people! Like the Apostles, we experience anew this Easter the joy and the glory, the profound and life-giving Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead—the moment that Christ definitively conquers in us anything that could ever separate us from Him. And we, like the apostles, are promised at Pentecost an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, *precisely so that we can witness to what we have seen.*

Imagine if the apostles had kept the Resurrection to themselves, just their little secret. Where would our world be today? Our call this Easter is to spread the Word. To not stay silent. To witness to the joy of the Risen Christ.

If we are convicted of the truth of Jesus Christ, returning to our former ways of life is not an option. We must commit ourselves to the Lord and to sharing the joyful news of His Resurrection. As the numbers in our pews decrease, opportunities for witness abound! Whether it's a friend or a family member, a colleague or a neighbor, that lady who teaches your spin class or the guy who makes your coffee in the morning—extend the invitation. Don't stop just because you get a non-committal answer. Be joyful, but be brave. Who knows? By your persistence and your joy, you may just change someone's life forever.

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



Easter Sunday Is Concluded... Now What?

It is now the quiet time... The Triduum services are completed. The Easter Vigil (the “mother” of all vigils) has been concluded for another year — to varying degrees of liturgical success in each individual parish, I am sure.

The crowds that seem to magically appear and arrive for Easter Sunday Mass have come and gone. Candidates and catechumens have been received into the Church. Easter egg hunts are wrapped up as well as family Easter gatherings. Now what?

Is Easter Sunday to now be shelved away as a nice memory testified to by photos posted on Facebook? An opportunity for people to dress up and have good family time? Does the message of Easter end with the last Easter Sunday Mass? Liturgically, the Church says “no.” We have the Easter Season — a needed time to reflect on the truth of the resurrection and to look to the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. “Liturgical” here is important and it does certainly influence who we are but here I am specifically wondering about our day-to-day life outside the parish walls. Does Easter affect and shape who we are or does it remain a beautiful annual ritual that is left behind in the crowded Easter Sunday church parking lot? Do we take Easter with us into the streets of our lives and of our world or do we keep it hidden away behind locked doors — doors of a private faith, spirituality and morality, doors of our resignations and sense of hopelessness in the face of the pain of our world, doors of our fear to offend the accepted norm?

Easter cannot stay hidden away. Easter demands that we go into the streets — no matter how uncomfortable it makes us or others.

In Matthew’s account of the resurrection there is an interesting instruction that is given to the women who came to the tomb early that morning by the angel sitting on top of the rolled-away, heavy stone that had been used to seal the tomb. “...go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him.” (Mt. 28:7)

The resurrected Lord does not fear the world and its violence and sad resignation because he has overcome all the sin of the world through the love of the Father. The resurrected Lord goes before you to Galilee. He goes into the streets of the world and the expectation and instruction given by the angel of the resurrection is that the followers of Christ do the same!

Easter, if it is to be authentic and be more than a nice memory, cannot stay hidden behind any locked door and neither will it allow us to remain hidden.

There is a culture of fear that continually whispers to us that nothing can change, that we cannot really do anything in the face of the injustice of our world, that we should look upon ourselves and our world with hopeless eyes. The culture of fear is arrogant in its pride and thinks that it alone has words to speak. The culture of fear lies. The culture of fear would convince us that we are its children.

We are not children of the culture of fear. We are children of the resurrection! We are sons and daughters of God! We have nothing to fear and we have words, new words to speak to our world and to one another! The angel announces that the risen Lord is going to Galilee and that there the disciples will see him. The implication is more than apparent, the disciples are meant to go and meet the Lord who goes ahead of them. (The Lord always goes ahead of us.) They are meant to go out into the street and carry the truth of the resurrection into the world!



It is not enough to stay behind locked doors, no matter how pretty and gilded those doors may be and no matter how many other people may also be content to remain there also. If we do so then the culture of fear wins and our lives become exceedingly small, constrained and life-denying.

Joy is found only in following the risen Lord to wherever he might lead.

One further thought: there is no time to waste. The angel instructs the women: go quickly. We are each allotted only a certain number of Easters in our lives here on earth. There is no time to lose, both for the work needing to be done in our own hearts as well as the work needing to be done in our world. In the light of the resurrection we must make use of every moment given to us. When all is said and done, we will each have to give an accounting of how we have lived the Easters we have been given in our lifetime.

We are sons and daughters of the resurrection of our Lord! The Easter mystery is placed in our hearts and entrusted to us and it cannot remain behind locked doors, it demands to be taken out to the streets of our world!

Fr. Michael Cummins is a priest of the Diocese of Knoxville, TN. Ordained in 1995, he has served in a variety of roles within his diocese. Currently he is serving as pastor of St. Dominic Church in Kingsport, TN. Fr. Cummins holds a Masters of Divinity and Licentiate in Sacred Theology from the University of St. Mary of the Lake (Mundelein Seminary) in Chicago. This article was used with permission from the Word on Fire blog, wordonfire.org.

Stewardship Activity

Stewardship of Time & Talents

Check out the Weekly Announcements for upcoming special Liturgies and opportunities for prayer, service, and giving. Interested in joining Cathedral or have any questions on your call to be a disciple, reach out to Katie Price at kprice@cathedral.dio.org.

Stewardship of Treasure April 13th & 14th

Envelopes: \$ 5,484.00
Loose: \$ 2,812.06
Maintenance: \$ 235.00

Total: \$ 8,531.06
March EFT (\$18,550.00)

Everyday Stewardship

This Easter, in churches all over the world, people will be fully initiated in the Catholic Church. Those who have come from another Christian denomination have already begun their journey with Jesus Christ. But for those who are baptized at the Easter Vigil, a new reality has come to pass. Each newly baptized man, woman, and child have become new creations in Jesus Christ. They have died and risen with the one who rose on the third day and whose empty tomb we celebrate every Easter. Easter Sunday morning, they awake after many months of RCIA and all have the same question before them: "Now what?"

When one finds themselves having journeyed through various thresholds of conversion and now they bear the name of Christian, the time comes to chart the course of life as a disciple. Stewardship is that course of life. How one lives out their life from now on is the life of stewardship. The less one understands true stewardship and the value of their gifts and talents to the Body of Christ, the harder the journey.

Those of us who were baptized many years ago can easily fall into a false sense of comfort. We forget that sense of excitement those coming into the Church experience at the Easter Vigil. However, the story of that empty tomb reminds us of the power behind our baptism. Today, we, too, are called to discipleship and a stewardship way of life. Jesus continues to provide the answer to our, "Now what?"

- Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

What Would You Do?

Have you seen this picture around the web? It has been shared thousands of times on social media, major news outlets, and newspapers. The story is of a little girl with her family, when they were praying the Stations of the Cross. When she saw that Jesus had fallen she said, "Oh no, Jesus needs help." So, she proceeded to go over to the cross and with all her might, muster up the strength to help Him. Of course, she probably grew frustrated quickly with how hard that task became.

And, it is a hard task. Would we have run to Jesus to help Him with the Cross?

Without hesitation, the child saw Jesus in need. I would imagine if the child saw anyone else with that cross she would run to help them, as well.

Jesus dying for us and resurrecting to new life is not the only lesson here. We should step up, without hesitation, to help the face of Jesus around us. When one of us is in need, we help. When one of us needs prayers, we pray. When one of us needs a collection, we give. Everyone is carrying a different cross. The Easter message challenges us to jump in and help pick up the Cross. Will you do it?

Stewardship provides us a great framework for this challenge. This may be a silly story, but my five year old daughter and I discussed tithing last week because of the show, "American Idol." She was really fond of one particular artist named, Kai. The young singer had a beautiful voice, but she also had a story of

homelessness. One could see that she had a very heavy cross. She had to make an appeal to her Church to take up a collection for her to be able to afford "Hollywood Week," which was the next stop in her American Idol journey. On the show you see a scene of church-goers generously donating to this fund and all of them coming together around their fellow member. My daughter saw the money in a golden offering plate and said, "I do that too!"

Does our church send people to American Idol?" I couldn't help but laugh, and of course explain to her that no, not necessarily. It isn't an obligation for us to give, it is a blessing to be able too. It is a life lesson that when one of us needs help, we all are here to pitch in. Some day we may need to "withdraw" from the basket ourselves. We may need sacramental help, spiritual direction, help with a family funeral, fellowship or formation. Contributing to the basket isn't about the money, but the

Mission. Challenge yourself in the Easter season to consider three things every-time the offertory goes around: how can I pray more, give more, and serve more in order to help carry the Cross?

The Easter message for us is one of joy, excitement, and *action*. How will we respond to the message of the resurrection? What will you do next, now that the tomb is empty?

Katie Price is the Coordinator for Discipleship and Stewardship at the Cathedral.



Sharing the Gospel

It was very early in the morning on Sunday. The tomb stone was rolled away. Jesus was gone. All that was left inside were the strips of linen cloth. When John and Peter saw it, they were amazed. They did not understand all the promises the prophets wrote about Jesus yet. However, they knew he was alive. He had risen from the dead!

Prayer

Dear God,

I thank you for bringing Jesus back to life. Thank you for your sacrifice in order for me to live in eternity with you. Help me to be a good disciple.

Amen.

Something to Draw

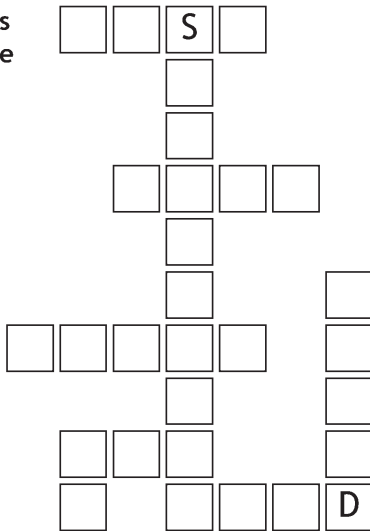
Draw how surprised Peter and John were when they saw Jesus' empty tomb.



Puzzle

Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:

The Scriptures
said Jesus
would rise
to life.



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Mission for the Week

Bake Resurrection Cookies with your family tonight. You can find the recipe online at <http://homehearth.virtualave.net/rescookie.html>.

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Growing with the
GOSPEL



John 20:1-9 ■ Easter Sunday

CYCLE C



Read the Gospel and Color



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