

ISSUE NO. 93

2 JUNE 2019

Cathedral WEEKLY



SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

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CATHEDRAL CONGRATULATIONS

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

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MINISTRY TO THE SICK
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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 3 June

7 AM- PILGRIMS GOING TO THE HOLY LAND (AUGUSTINE ELEYIDATH) 5:15 PM- NO MASS

Tuesday 4 June

7 AM- NO MASS 5:15 PM- HENRY HELLRICH (JUDINE LUX & THELM,A & JOHN BRUCH)

Wednesday 5 June

7 AM- KARA LEIGH SMITH (FRIENDS FROM ISBE) 5:15 PM- NO MASS

Thursday 6 June

7 AM- NO MASS 5:15 PM- Ed Barth (Paul Frey)

Friday 7 June

7 AM- PILGRIMS GOING TO THE HOLY LAND (AUGUSTINE ELEYIDATH) 5:15 PM- NO MASS

Saturday 8 June

8 AM- DENNIS HELM (JIM E.) 4 PM- FOR THE PEOPLE

Sunday 9 June

7 AM- MARY ANN MIDDEN (WILLIAM MIDDEN) 10 AM- SR. M. PAULETTA OVERBECK, O.P. (WALTER & BECKY WOODHULL)
5 PM- ELEANOR M. SVETLIK (5PM USHERS)

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Stop Staring at the Clouds

The end of our fifty-day Easter journey is near. It was seven weeks ago that we celebrated the joy of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday and now the Church celebrates the first of two key events both in our life of faith: this Sunday with the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord into heaven and the second being Pentecost next Sunday. St. Luke teaches us in the Acts of the Apostles that Jesus, having revealed his risen glory to his disciples after the Resurrection, returned to his

place with the Father in heaven forty days following his resurrection.

The Lord's Ascension into heaven is the fulfillment of his mission to achieve our salvation; we might use the phrase that he has come "full circle" in his return to the Father. However, there is a marvelous new reality that makes all the difference for us. In his return to the Father, Jesus takes with him our human nature. When he first descended from the Father in the Incarnation, Jesus joined his divinity to our humanity in an inseparable bond. Jesus's humanity was and remains real. It was not something that was an illusion nor was it discarded when his earthly ministry was completed. Jesus retains his glorified human nature beyond the boundaries of space and time in heaven. This fact points to the coming reality of the Resurrection of the Just on the last day when not just the soul but also the body will be redeemed and the two realities reunited forever in heaven.

While the Ascension is the fulfillment of the Lord's saving act for us, it does not mean that his work on our behalf is over. From his place at the Father's right hand, the Lord Jesus continues his mission as our intercessor, as the one who continually pleads our cause to the Father. Jesus's return to heaven also stands as a sign of hope for us that where he has gone we also may follow. We are reminded of both of these truths in the Preface of the Mass for the Ascension in which the Church prays:



Mediator between God and man, judge of the world and Lord of hosts, he ascended, not to distance himself from our lowly state but that we, his members, might be confident of following where he, our Head and Founder, has gone before.

Like the Apostles, we can't spend our lives looking up at the heavens and wondering "what next?" This great feast of the Ascension reminds us that the Lord Jesus has done his part and, now, we must do ours. With the Holy Spirit going before us, we must continue the proclamation of the Kingdom both in word and action. Every aspect of our lives is to point to Christ, crucified and risen, who will come again in glory. Until that day, we, as his disciples, must be about the work of the building up of the Kingdom of God. The Lord's Ascension calls us to be a people of action, proclaiming Jesus Christ and the forgiveness of sins and the coming of the Kingdom here and now.

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



How Can We Communicate the Pro-Life Message Effectively?

As the father of two adopted children, my thoughts about abortion and the way forward for the pro-life movement have developed significantly in the past decade. I often remember that

Leo and Zelig are survivors who were exponentially more likely to be aborted than adopted. The unique and unrepeatable light that each of them brings into the world could so easily have been snuffed out in a country where there are 1.3 million abortions each year.

Their birth mothers were and are brave. They could have fallen for the lure of the quick fix and gone with the flow of the modern throw-away culture, but they instead did the far harder thing. They gave the gift of life.

Whenever the topic of abortion comes up Leo and Zelig concretize the urgency of a movement for life. Looking into their eyes depoliticizes the discussion and reminds me that I am not pro-life fundamentally because I am against something. I am pro-life because I love life and because I love specific unique and unrepeatable people. I am pro-life because, especially since Aimee and I have adopted children, I know the vulnerability and bravery of women in crisis pregnancies and how adoption can be healing and empowering where abortion scars and tears at the hearts and souls of women.

From a Spark of Goodness to a Flame

Here we are, more than forty years after the Roe v. Wade decision, in a polarized world full of deeply entrenched opinion in which real discussion and genuine dialogue are rare, but ever more urgent. Our opinions are so often highly fortified talking points, guarded against dialogue out of raw insecurity. We like and share and comments in echo chambers. We create straw men, weak caricatures of the opposing position, rather than seeking to understand where some truth or goodness or beauty has been distorted. Perhaps we can blow upon the spark, until it is white hot smoldering coal and in service of full truth.



C.S. Lewis employs this concept in his book, *The Great Divorce*, where the heavenly creatures can work with even a small spark of goodness in order to bring souls along to heaven:

If there's one wee spark under all those ashes, we'll blow it till the whole pile is red and clear....

"Is there hope for her, Sir?"

"Aye, there's some. What she calls her love for her son has turned into a poor, prickly, astringent sort of thing. But there's still a wee spark of something that's not just herself in it. That might be blown into a flame."

(C.S. Lewis, *The Great Divorce*, HarperCollins, San Francisco, 77, 104)

A Sisterly Embrace, a Pro-Life Message

A few days ago an eighth grader asked a simple question as she prepared to go to D.C. for this year's March for Life:

"How can we make a convincing argument to someone who is pro-choice?"

When asked something like this I almost always think about a Saturday morning some years back when Aimee and I were praying outside of an abortion clinic with a group of students. I was leading the Rosary with a group of teens and Aimee was sidewalk counseling, I think for the first time. It was most typical that women would be dropped off and walk into the clinic alone, but that morning two women walking in together stood out. Aimee approached them on their way in to tell them about alternative services that were being

offered right next door. Out of the corner of my eye I watched the exchange and noticed one of the women get right in Aimee's face angrily while the other, visibly pregnant, walked into the clinic.

As the irate friend headed to her car I watched Aimee follow her. (My Hail Mary's got faster and I was more than a little worried for Aimee's safety.)

Just minutes later though, I noticed that those hands that were once flying around in anger were still. There was a major change in body language. Two decades of the Rosary later I witnessed a sisterly hug between Aimee and the other woman, and watched as the formerly angry friend headed back into the clinic to find the woman she had accompanied inside just about twenty minutes earlier.

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The Ember of Friendship

Later I asked Aimee about the exchange. "What did you say? How did you do that?" She explained how she did it. First she quietly and confidently took the angry barrage and when she had a chance, asked about the situation.

"What happened to your friend?" she asked her. Aimee heard all about how the friend in the clinic had been abandoned by a former boyfriend when she got pregnant. She heard about her friend's great financial difficulties, tensions with her family, and intense emotional difficulties. Aimee heard all of this from an invested and protective friend whose hands were flailing. This friend would do almost anything to take care of the woman she loved like a sister. Aimee simply listened and genuinely cared too.

After listening and radiating genuine charity, she had a chance to talk about alternatives to the awful finality of abortion. The formerly angry woman came to the clinic trying to be a good friend. Aimee blew on that glowing ember of goodness until it was white hot, open to truth, and able to burn away tragically flawed thinking. The result was beautiful.

Motivated by Charity

Now I would love to say that she emerged from the clinic minutes later with her pregnant friend, but that didn't happen. I honestly don't know what the outcome of her attempted intervention was. The victory of that day may not have averted the tragedy of that specific abortion, but it might have prevented future abortions, and it certainly opened a mind and heart and revealed a simple and powerful way forward.

When we move beyond ideology onto the solid ground of personal encounter, we are more likely to get somewhere. This is a hallmark of the feminine genius, and the path to a change in culture that will come mainly from women upholding the dignity of women. Aimee was able to fight for the unborn by fighting for the empowerment of women....actually, for the empowerment of a specific woman. The dignity of unborn lives shines brightest when women recognize first, even in the sharp pain of a crisis pregnancy, their own dignity. Remember that the whole teaching on morality in the Catechism of the Catholic Church begins with

St. Leo the Great telling us that very thing, "Christian, recognize your dignity."

So how can we make a convincing argument to those who are pro-choice?

- Listen to the story of the person to whom you are talking
- Find the embers of goodness in their faulty thinking and blowing on them until they are white hot and able to burn away error
- Remind the person that you are talking about their own dignity
- Do more than liking and sharing (Do that too though)
- Make sure that your comments and discussions are always motivated by real charity and love.

Colin MacIver teaches theology and has served as the religion department chair and campus ministry coordinator at St. Scholastica Academy in Covington, Louisiana. He is the author of the guide to Quick Catholic Lessons with Fr. Mike. He and his wife, Aimee, are co-authors and presenters of Theology of the Body for Teens Middle School Edition. They are also co-authors of the Power and Grace Guidebook, and the Chosen Parent's and Sponsor's Guides. This article originally appeared on the Ascension Press blog and is used with permission. (<https://media.ascensionpress.com/2019/01/15/how-we-communicate-pro-life-message-effectively/>)



Things Are Looking Up: The Catholic Vision and the Ascension of Jesus

Sadly, devout Catholics who believe and practice their faith are often cartooned as being out of touch and out of sync with the “world” or at least the “times.” Our priests wear robes as if we still live in biblical times, we occasionally use phrases from an archaic and “dead” language, Latin, and we literally believe that Jesus not only rose from the dead, but forty days later physically, not just spiritually, flew up into the air beyond the clouds, promising to return one day. So, it’s believed, Catholics have had their heads in the clouds ever since. The world, according to the worldly-minded, appears to be something Catholics would rather avoid altogether.

The French philosopher and convert to the Catholic Faith, Fabrice Hadjadj, would, however, disagree with this summation. The Feast of the Ascension is the perfect occasion to reestablish a firm foundation and a better definition of how Catholics truly relate to the world. Fabrice comments that, in fact:

“Christ’s Ascension is not an escape, but the way of being the fullness of everything. Don’t you find it magnificent? We are not asked to detach ourselves from earthly things, but to go to their origin, and this origin is heaven”

Though our hearts truly long to be with him, our feet are firmly planted on his good earth. Just like Jesus. He, after all, never shunned the world, or labelled it as a distraction to be avoided. He did not abandon it or encourage his disciples to do the same. Quite the opposite, Jesus spent long periods of time in a reverent gaze on the book of creation, and pulled his parables constantly from the good things of the earth; wind and water, fire and wheat, bread and birds and lilies. Look at these things, he encouraged us and sees them as so many flagstones leading to “My Father’s House.”

Now we look to Christ on this great Feast of the Ascension and he is going back to that Heavenly Place. Jesus’s word in John 12:32, *“When I am lifted up I will draw all men to myself”* is a beautiful line pointing to the Cross, but perhaps just as gloriously it lights a way to the Ascension. Like the disciples, with feet on the earth, we allow our hearts to be uplifted and moved by this Word who came and dwelt among us, but who has no where to lay his head. He is a presence that is never stagnant, but dynamic. In him we live and move and have our being, and it’s a being on the move. As the philosophers say we are all “homo viator” — persons on the journey. Jesus made the disciples at Emmaus believe, even after their seven mile walk, that he “was continuing on” and indeed he was. And isn’t his Ascension still more of a beginning than an ending of his revelation on earth? As the line from C.S. Lewis’ Narnia books echoes, it’s always “further up, further in.”



The Ascension of the Lord is the bookend to complement the Descension of the Lord; that first touch at the Annunciation. Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger wrote:

“The incarnation is only the first part of the movement. It becomes meaningful and definitive only in the cross and the resurrection. From the cross the Lord draws everything to himself and carries the flesh – that is, humanity and the entire created world – into God’s eternity” (Ratzinger, A New Song for the Lord)

That eternity is now unveiled as the very real body of Christ pierces the clouds and carries our hearts up with his. And oh how they are burning within us! His body and blood, soul and divinity now draw all things up and everything is holy now, and everything is made new. The water and wind and rain that touched him are now taken up. The fruit and the bread and the walks and talks and a thousand other things he experienced here are now part of There. You can in fact “take it with you” when all of it has been assimilated harmoniously in holiness.

Now we see more clearly what this world and our time here is really meant to be all about. Again, C.S. Lewis wrote, “I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.”

*This article is written by Bill Donaghy and featured on the Ascension Press blog. It is used with permission.
(<https://media.ascensionpress.com/2018/05/09/things-are-looking-up-the-catholic-vision-and-the-ascension-of-jesus/>)*

STEWARDSHIP & FAMILY



Stewardship Activity

Stewardship of Time

Have some extra time this summer? Check with the Parish Offices for possible projects that need volunteers!

Stewardship of Talents

Know a graduate? Share with them the invitation to use their unique talents with their local church.

Stewardship of Treasure May 25th & 26th

Envelopes: \$ 5,150.36
Loose: \$ 2,801.11
Maintenance: \$ 245.00

Total: \$ 8,196.47
April EFT (\$18,475.00)

Sacraments

Please keep the repose of the soul of parishioner John D. Sullivan in your prayers.

Scripture Questions

First Reading: ACTS 1:1-11

Why do you think Luke opens the Acts of the Apostles by narrating the ascension of Jesus into heaven?

Second Reading: EPH 1:17-23

Paul speaks of Jesus' resurrection and ascension into heaven as the source of divine wisdom for the unity of the Church. How do you think Jesus' ascension unifies the Church?

Gospel Reading: LK 24:46-53

The final episode in the Gospel of Luke is Jesus' ascension into heaven. Luke tells us the disciples "returned to Jerusalem with great joy" on their way back from Bethany, about 1.5 miles away. What do you imagine the disciples talked about on this brief journey home?

**Congratulations to Cathedral's
newly Confirmed Parish School of
Religion students.
Please keep them and their
families in your prayers!**

Claire Anselment

Rowan Jamieson

Grace Anselment

Zelia Jamieson

Maria Anselment

Amara Kaeding

Abby Borders

David Mankowski

Joshua Eyer

Dominic McDonald

Matthew Eyer

Vincent McDonald

Kieran Green

Leslie Montoya

Lillian Holtgrave

Nathalie Montoya

Rachel Holtgrave

Thomas Southern

Congratulations to Cathedral's Camryn Olivia Blair

Congratulations to Sacred Heart-Griffin graduate and Cathedral parishioner Camryn Olivia Blair, daughter of Tim and Tiffany Blair who is a recipient of a \$500 SDCCW (Springfield Diocesan Council of Catholic Women) Excellence in Leadership Award. Camry has exemplified the principles of the SDCCW: Faith, Spirituality, Leadership and Service to her church and community. Camryn, will be introduced at Our Lady of Good Council Women of Distinction (WOD) Award Luncheon on Saturday, June 1 at noon at Northfield Center.

Cathedral Parishioners Welcomed as Dominican Associates 2019 Class

Joann Lenn, parishioner, Cathedral; retired from AT&T. Her commitment includes serving the sick at St. John's Hospital, helping in Cathedral Parish as eucharistic minister and coordinating and serving funeral lunches.

Rose M. Lenn, parishioner, Cathedral; retired secretary. Her commitment includes serving the sick at St. John's Hospital, helping in Cathedral Parish as eucharistic minister and coordinating and serving funeral lunches.

Kathy Roe, parishioner, Cathedral; self-employed. Her commitment includes welcoming the stranger, serving as lector, responding to needs and surrendering her life to the Lord's service. She and her husband Dan have a daughter and a son.