



Cathedral

WEEKLY

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEE CHRIST, SEE THE PERSON | FR. CHRISTOPHER HOUSE
DOES GOD WANT US TO BE HAPPY? | DOMINICK ALBANO
SOMETIMES | DEACON SCOTT KEEN
TAKE WHAT YOU NEED FROM THE OFFERTORY | KATIE PRICE

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 MICHAEL FRIEDEL
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THE REVEREND DOMINIC RANKIN
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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 – September 23

7 AM DORIS DREA (TIMOTHY ZEJICEK)
5:15 PM BARBARA HANSEN (FRIENDS & FAMILY)

Tuesday – September 24

7 AM SPECIAL INTENTION OF THANKSGIVING (CATHEDRAL PILGRIMS OF THE HOLY LAND)
5:15 PM ED BARTH (DIANE STRAUB)

Wednesday – September 25

7 AM BONNIE DONNALS (DAN KELCH)
5:15 PM SPECIAL INTENTION (RICHARD & KAY KING)

Thursday – September 26

7 AM ERIC GUNTHER (CHERYL GALE)
5:15 PM SOPHIA E. BARTOLETTI (BARTOLETTI FAMILY)

Friday – September 27

7 AM RICHIUSA & LEO FAMILIES (FAMILY)
5:15 PM HENRY HELLRICH (DALE & CAROLE PASHEA)

Saturday – September 28

8 AM HELENE O'SHEA (BUD O'SHEA FAMILY)
4 PM FOR THE PEOPLE

Sunday – September 29

7 AM JOHN & EDITH BAKALAR (JOHN BUSCIACCO)
10 AM ERIC NELSON (FAMILY)
5 PM FR. GEORGE MORELOCK
(LEAH, SUE ELLEN & JACK BILLINGTON)

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



See Christ, See the Person

This past weekend I had dinner with one of my closest friends, meeting up with him at after a conference he was presenting at. It's one of those friendships where we've seen each other at our best and our worst; one of those bonds where you can speak without words. I always had a second home with his family in Iowa. I stood up for him at his wedding, baptized two of his children, and I'm godfather to his middle son, Callum...you get the picture. In the course of dinner, sitting at a sidewalk table outside of the restaurant, there was a gentleman who appeared to be homeless as well as suffering from a form of mental illness. He was sitting down on the sidewalk about five or six feet from our table, talking to himself and smoking, but not causing any disturbance. My friend said we should move tables and I responded by asking him "what if that man is Jesus Christ?" My friend didn't say anything to me but the look that he shot me clearly said "don't try to play that card with me." I smiled and laughed and we stayed at our table and the gentleman five or six feet from us moved on a few minutes later.

My reply to my friend was in not a judgement of him. Honestly, I said what I did for my own benefit as much as for his (if not to lovingly jab at him too). That man on the sidewalk was not someone to be avoided because he was as much a son of God as I am. That man, made in the image and likeness of God like all of us, has remained on my mind this week. When I got home to the Cathedral on Sunday evening I saw the front page of the State Journal Register. The front page contained a story concerning a billboard that was attempting to shame Helping Hands Shelter for their efforts to expand their services. Let me be clear, I am not shaming or judging those who are opposing Helping Hands' effort to expand their services in their neighborhood even though it saddens me because I think that Helping Hands is doing the work of Christ that most no one else, including government, wants to do. I believe that many peoples' opposition to be motivated by fears and concerns that are rampant in our society, fears and concerns that I would argue are false. The sad reality is that many people will say that homeless people are a problem rather than understanding that its homelessness, not homeless people, that is the problem.



As Christians, we need to be conscious of separating problems from persons, because people should never be seen as problems. Behaviors may be problematic, physical, mental, emotional conditions may be problematic, attitudes may be problematic, but a person and their existence is never problematic. This confusion can be found at the root of the evil of abortion, that too many times pregnancy is seen only as a condition or a problem or a situation, rather than a woman who is carrying an unborn child where one or both may be facing issues, challenges, or difficulties. Another example is the epidemic of violence in society with guns or otherwise. I firmly believe that we cannot legislate a fix to this problem because, as a society, we have become masters at looking at people and denying/not seeing their personhood, their innate human dignity and as long as we are able to do that then the violence in our communities will only get worse.

The personhood of those around us cannot be ignored. We must always strive to see it first and foremost. To achieve this we have to see Jesus Christ in those around us; if we see Christ in another, we will not lose sight of their humanity, even if they themselves aren't doing much to put it on display. We see this necessity because of the condemnation that we hear in the Book of Amos in the first reading this weekend. The condemnation is given by the prophet to those who have chosen to ignore the humanity of their brothers and sisters for the sake of their own comfort and gain, and regarding this sin, the Word tells us that the Lord will not forget it (Amos 8: 4-7).

As disciples, we must work to make our ability to see Christ in others second nature to us. We must do this because we want to be among those in Matthew's Gospel who say at the Last Judgment "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you? And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me (Mt 25: 38-40).'" Those who are called the righteous by the Lord in this moment are those who saw in front of them a person with a problem, not the person as a problem. To borrow from Bishop Paprocki, may God give us this grace.

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



Does God Want Us to be Happy?

Does God want us to be happy?

We all know the answer is supposed to be yes, right?

Take Psalm 37:4 for example:

"take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart."

What are the desires of your heart? If you're like me, there's probably a long list. But they could all be boiled down to one word: Happiness.

So, yes. It would seem that God does want us to be happy. But does it always feel that way?

The Truth about Happiness

Let's have some fun.

Write up a list of a few things that make you feel happy. I don't mean some idealistic deep philosophical happy. Just write down experiences of happiness in the most literal sense. Here's my list:

- Eating a big bowl of ice cream at night
- Binge watching a great show
- Staying up late
- Buying stuff (usually baseball equipment for my sons and I).

There's my short list. It took me all of four seconds to think them up. I'm like the mouse in the experiment, pushing the lever and the cheese comes out. But there's a problem. Here's a list of four things that make me feel miserable:

- Feeling sick after eating a big bowl of ice cream at night
- Falling behind on my work or home responsibilities because I wasted time watching TV
- Being tired because I stayed up too late the night before
- Worrying because I blew the budget.

I'm the mouse who hit the lever and got the cheese, but it turned out the cheese is moldy!

Does God Want Us to Feel Happy

Why? Why does it have to be that way? Does God even want me to feel happy?

Guess what. The answer is no. God doesn't want you to feel happy, either. God wants us to be happy, and there's a big difference.



See, the world wants us to feel happy. Well, actually the world tells us we should want to feel happy. The problem is this superficial happiness now leaves us miserable later.

But God's plan is much different. In fact, it's flipped on its head.

God's Plan for Happiness

God wants you to be happy now so you can feel happy later. Most of the stuff that will cause you to be happy will not make you feel happy in the moment.

This is a key realization for living the Christian life.

Rarely does working out and eating healthy make you feel happy in the moment.

Rarely does swallowing your pride and forgiving someone make you feel happy in the moment. Revenge and holding a grudge can feel so sweet.

Prayer and spending time with God can feel like plain work.

Reading just doesn't feel quite as good as vegging out on the couch.

But God's path to true happiness isn't found in a feeling. It's found in being the person he created you to be.

And don't let yourself be fooled. God absolutely made you for happiness. The universal desire for happiness is one of the most deeply seated parts of the human experience.

What Does Everyone Really Want?

Ask a young couple who just had their first kid what they want for their child. What's their answer?

Happiness.

Ask an elderly couple whose kids are grown what they want for their children. What's their answer?

Happiness.

I want to be happy. You want to be happy. We all want to be happy! That desire isn't an accident. We're designed that way. Why?

Because God is happy and any earnest and unyielding pursuit of happiness can only lead you to one end: him.

God's plan for you is happiness. It's pretty simple really. The problem is that simple doesn't mean easy.

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Continued from p. 4

The Hard Part

I'm good at choosing the stuff that makes me feel happy now and makes me miserable later. Those choices come easy. The other stuff? The stuff that makes me be happy now so I can ultimately feel happy when I'm with God? That's the stuff I struggle with. I can take some solace in the fact that I'm not alone. That's not just true for me, but it's true for you, your kids, parents, priest, neighbor, coworker, and friends too.

We're all hitting the same levers, and we're all getting moldy cheese.

- It's time to make another list, a list of the things that cause me to be happy, even if they don't make me feel happy in the moment:
- Reading a book
- Praying
- Reading my Bible
- Exercising
- Eating healthy
- Spending time in silence and solitude
- Calling my mom
- Saving money responsibly
- Giving of my time, talent, and treasure generously
- Working diligently.

That's a much better list than my earlier one, but I can do even better because there are some things God has given me that cause me to be happy and feel happy at the same time.

- Going on a date with my wife
- Playing with my sons

The best part of God's plan is you can usually find a few things he's called you to do (vocation), that will cause you to be and feel happy at the same time.

Your Plan for Happiness

So make yourself a new list. Shoot for ten things that will cause you to be happy now even if they won't make you feel happy now. God's ways are typically always better than yours or mine, so set about doing them.

Want some more inspiration for your ten things? Check out the ten things of Pope St. John XXIII. It's called "The Daily Decalogue of Pope John XXIII".

1) Only for today, I will seek to live the lifelong day positively without wishing to solve the problems of my life all at once.

2) Only for today, I will take the greatest care of my appearance: I will dress modestly; I will not raise my voice; I will be courteous in my behavior; I will not criticize anyone; I will not claim to improve or to discipline anyone except myself.

3) Only for today, I will be happy in the certainty that I was created to be happy, not only in the other world but also in this one.

4) Only for today, I will adapt to circumstances, without requiring all circumstances to be adapted to my own wishes.

5) Only for today, I will devote ten minutes of my time to some good reading, remembering that just as food is necessary to the life of the body, so good reading is necessary to the life of the soul.

6) Only for today, I will do one good deed and not tell anyone about it.

7) Only for today, I will do at least one thing I do not like doing; and if my feelings are hurt, I will make sure that no one notices.

8) Only for today, I will make a plan for myself: I may not follow it to the letter, but I will make it. And I will be on guard against two evils: hastiness and indecision.

9) Only for today, I will firmly believe, despite appearances, that the good Providence of God cares for me as no one else who exists in this world.

10) Only for today, I will have no fears. In particular, I will not be afraid to enjoy what is beautiful and to believe in goodness. Indeed, for twelve hours I can certainly do what might cause me consternation were I to believe I had to do it all my life.

Ten things. A simple list. Simple doesn't always mean easy, but that's OK. Ten things that will make you be happy. Be happy now so you can ultimately feel happy with God.

Just like he always planned for you to be.

Dominick Albano is a nationally sought-after speaker, having spoken at countless men's conferences, parish missions, and other parish events. His podcast, The Best Catholic Podcast, features interviews with some of the spiritual greats of our time. He lives in Northern Kentucky with his wife and their four sons. Learn more about him and his ministry at dominickalbano.com.



RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS



**All are welcome to join us
Sept. 26th!**

Have you experienced a longing for something more in your life? Have you wondered what it is like to live a faith filled Catholic life? Have you experienced, here at Cathedral, a welcoming and loving acceptance? Please join us for a “COME and SEE” evening, Thursday, September 26th here in the Cathedral Atrium at 7:30 PM. Have your questions answered and your longings satisfied. Hope to see you there!

Sometimes

Sometimes, even to the seasoned Catholic, becoming a member of the Church can seem a little overwhelming. It raises a lot of questions. Here at Cathedral the RCIA process is gearing up to kick off on October 17th.

Let's start with some fundamentals – that are centered in Christ – for beginning and developing a life of faith here at Cathedral and the larger Roman Catholic Church. Everything else builds on these fundamentals!

Where do you begin? Well, you just begin from where you are now! Many adults follow a process known as the RCIA – the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

The RCIA process has several distinct stages. These stages are a good model of faith development in themselves for even cradle Catholics.

Inquiry: the initial period before you decide to enter the Catholic Church. You're asking questions and checking it out but aren't yet ready to commit.

Catechumenate: those who decide to enter the Church and are being trained for a life in Christ are called catechumens, an ancient name from the early Church. In this stage, you're developing your faith and are being “catechized” – learning catechism, or the basic points about Catholic faith and life.

Purification and preparation: The Church will help you focus and intensify your faith as you prepare you to commit your life to Christ and be received into the Church at Easter. If you're following the RCIA process, you'll go through a beautiful series of Gospel-based meditations during Lent, which is the time frame of this period.

Initiation itself, the culmination of the whole process! You're received into the Church during the Easter Vigil Mass, where you'll receive the sacraments of initiation: baptism, confirmation, and Eucharist. (If you've already been baptized, you won't be baptized again.)

Mystagogy: after reception into the Church at Easter, this period lets you reflect and learn more about the mysteries of the Mass and the Sacraments that you now participate in fully.

It is all centered on laying a strong foundation because your Faith will be the foundation of your entire life.

I know, sometimes it seems like it takes a long time. But...Don't rush it! Go slowly!

Stage 1: Just Looking

In the inquiry stage, you're just finding out about Jesus, Christianity, and the Catholic Church. Your main task here is to explore and develop your faith enough so you can make an informed initial decision about entering the Catholic Church. The final decision won't come for a long time, when you actually enter the Church at Easter and receive the sacraments of initiation.

Stage 2: Learning about the Faith

In the catechumenate, your faith has begun to develop. Now you need to learn and grow more. You focus on catechesis in this stage: learning about the faith, how to live as a Christian, and developing your interior life. Your job now is to come into closer contact with the Living God and learn more about the Catholic Faith.

Stage 3: Getting ready for rebirth!

This period of purification and enlightenment is the final stage before receiving the Easter sacraments of initiation into the Church: baptism, confirmation, and Eucharist. (Those already baptized with a valid baptism in another Christian church aren't baptized again.) This stage of intense reflection calls you to deeper conversion in preparation for your renewal at Easter. This is what the season of Lent is for, but it has a special intensity for you this year as you're entering the Church and receiving the sacraments of initiation.

Stage 4: Reflecting on the mysteries of the Mass

This stage of mystagogy during Easter is for continued reflection on the sacraments you have received at Easter, especially the Eucharist. Specific catechesis on the Mass, the Sacraments, and especially the Eucharist are the focus of this stage. The Mass and the Eucharist are the “source and summit” of the Christian life in the Catholic Church, and this period is designed to help you understand, appreciate, and live more deeply this center of Catholicism.

Deacon Scott Keen serves the Cathedral Parish by leading the Rite of Christian Initiations of Adults process.





Take What You Need from the Offertory

He is a beloved priest. He has a larger than life personality and a charismatic personality that was magnetic, especially young people. He had just finished up his homily and goes to sit down to prepare for the offertory. In an instant he jumps up, just as soon as the baskets started to be passed around, and he said, *"Oh no, I am so sorry! I completely forgot something to tell you all. Thank you. Thank you so much for all your give to the Notre Dame family and this community. I know it is hard to be a student here and particularly a graduate student, but I want you to know I am glad you are here. And, if you need something, if you are having a hard time financially, when that basket goes around...go ahead and take from it."*

I heard this story from an old colleague. To my colleagues surprise and awe, she was embarrassed to say she considered it! She was finding the financial burden of graduate school hard to bear. Many of the graduates students in the Theology program at Notre Dame will go on to careers of service in the church, which as I am sure you can imagine is not a lucrative career choice! However, here is my colleague, who had never imagined taking from the church, doing exactly that, taking from the church.

The church, the people of God, make up that basket. Yes, if she were to take something from the basket it would be like taking it directly from another's wallet. However, knowing that she was in need, would that donor had given it to her anyway? Probably. How about from the perspective of the donor? If you had placed a monetary gift in the basket, would you be fine with someone taking it out?

Here is the truth: at one point or another in your life you will need to take from the offertory. See, the offertory is NOT a fundraiser for the church. The offertory is part of the Mass. It is our invitation to say, "Yes! I am holding nothing back- my time, talent, or treasure...I give it all with no care for any return." This time of the

Mass is commonly looked upon uncomfortably. We wrestle around in the pew, sometimes embarrassingly, for some spare cash from the previous week. We pass along on placing something in the basket because we contribute online, however feel the "Catholic guilt" because we don't have an envelope. We reach to the bottom of our purse for spare change because our children want to place something in the basket. However, the offertory is not about what's left or spare.

Stewardship is a spiritual practice. It is an invitation to be counter-cultural, focusing on giving rather than receiving. It is time for each of us to reflect:

- Who can I pray for this week or how can I grow closer in my relationship with Jesus?
- How can I serve those in need this week with my talents?
- How can I live detached from "things" by sharing my gifts?

At one of the darkest times of my life, I took from the offertory. I know, gasp in horror! But, no, I didn't actually reach in a basket and take cash, instead I took prayers, comfort, service, and gifts from my home Parish. When my dad died, I remember an outpouring of the "basket." We had prayers, we had meals delivered, we had donations made in honor of my dad's favorite organization, the Boy Scouts.

When I arrived home the afternoon of my dad's passing, I sat in the driveway for at least an hour. I couldn't go into my house. The place where my dad had passed and the place he would never return. I pulled myself together and entered...I was met with hugs of strength and comfort from our Parish family. There is NO amount of money that I, or my family, ever placed in the offertory basket that could repay the stewardship of my parish family. Each one of us will take from the offertory...I just hope we will return the favor.

Katie Price is the Stewardship Coordinator for the Cathedral and the Director of Discipleship and Stewardship for the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois.

Activating a Stewardship Way of Life

In preparation for the Season of Stewardship this fall, let's reflect on stewardship as a way of life. The four pillars: *Prayer, Formation, Hospitality, and Service* create the framework and model for our Parish mission. This week we are looking at *hospitality and giving*. Commonly, we refer to one's individual stewardship tool kit as- time, talent, and treasure (or pray, service, and giving). How will you answer the call to a stewardship way of life?

Sometimes we misplace hospitality with giving something to someone else, as some "thing." However, hospitality is rooted in relationship, a reflection of the relationship we have with Jesus. Hospitality is a gift and the Mass, is ultimate the ultimate gift.

Stewardship Activity

Stewardship of Prayer & Service

Looking for a group of faith-filled women who serve, give, and have fun together? Join the CCCW for their first meeting of the year on Tues. Sept. 24th at 6:15pm . All ladies of the Parish are invited and we look forward to meeting you!

Stewardship of Gifts

September 14th & 15th

Envelopes:	\$ 3,032.06
Loose:	\$ 4,815.42
Maintenance:	\$ 80.55

Total: \$ 7,928.03
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Please pray for the repose of the soul of Martha Muir and please keep in your prayers her family and friends.

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