

ISSUE NO. 118

24 NOVEMBER 2019

# *Cathedral* WEEKLY

## THE SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST KING OF THE UNIVERSE

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THY KINGDOM COME! | FR. CHRISTOPHER HOUSE  
ADVENT OFFERINGS

TO JESUS THROUGH MARY? WHY YES, AND T'WAS EVER THUS! | ELIZABETH SCALIA  
GOOD GRIEF | DR. TOM NEAL



# Cathedral WEEKLY

THE MOST REVEREND THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI  
NINTH BISHOP  
OF SPRINGFIELD IN ILLINOIS

THE VERY REVEREND CHRISTOPHER A. HOUSE, V.J.  
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PAROCHIAL VICAR

THE REVEREND DOMINIC RANKIN  
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Cathedral Office: 217-522-3342  
[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 – November 25

7 AM SOPHIA E. BARTOLETTI (BARTOLETTI FAMILY)  
5:15PM BERNICE LAUDUSKIE (SANDY & JIM BLOOM)

### Tuesday – November 26

7 AM ERIC GUNTHER (MIKE WIRZ)  
5:15PM NORMAN & EILEEN ROVEY (FAMILY)

### Wednesday – November 27

7AM DORIS DREA (PHIL & RHODA CHAMPLEY)  
5:15PM FRANK & MARY MATHEIS (RITA MESSINGER)

### Thursday – November 28

7 AM NO MASS  
9AM JOHN MONTGOMERY (JOHN BUSCIACCO)  
5:15 PM NO MASS/NO CONFESSIONS

### Friday – November 29

7AM CARL W. ANDERSON (FAMILY)  
5:15PM NO MASS/NO CONFESSIONS

### Saturday – November 30

8 AM BONNIE DONNALS (R. ZIMMERMAN)  
4 PM VIRGILIO R. PILAPIL, MD (BERNADETTE MCKEE)

### Sunday – December 1

7 AM JOSEPH MCGRATH (MCGRATH FAMILY)  
10 AM FOR THE PEOPLE  
5 PM SPECIAL INTENTION FOR LOST SOULS (CCCW)



## Thy Kingdom Come!

Every now and again I am asked which of the four Gospels is my favorite. That is a difficult question to answer because, while there are four, together they form one Gospel of Jesus Christ. Each has parts that stand out for me. Mark is the oldest and arguably the most reliable concerning many of the sayings of Jesus. Matthew gives us part of the Infancy Narratives, along with Luke, especially the story of the Magi. John is very theological. It's the last of the Gospels and is able to assume a base knowledge that already exists among believers because of the three texts before it therefore its language and teaching is more exalted. This leaves us with Luke whose Gospel does have a special place in my heart because it gives us the image of Jesus as the loving divine physician.

The passage from Luke for this Sunday, the Solemnity of Christ the King, may be one of the last passages that we would think of having for this day as it presents us with Christ crucified; not the most kingly presentation from a worldly point of view. As Jesus hangs on the cross, he is mocked three times by the "rulers" who are most likely the Jewish religious authorities, the soldiers, and by one of the criminals crucified alongside Jesus. Each mockery is about challenging Jesus to save himself if he truly is the Messiah. The last mockery from the criminal also comes with a plea for Jesus to save him from the agony and death that he is experiencing as well. All three mockeries can be summed up as "save yourself from the pain and suffering of this life and we will believe." That's the messiah the world wants and at times it may be the messiah that we want, but that is not the Messiah who is Jesus Christ.



The other criminal gets it right. Tradition calls him "the good thief" and names him Dismas, but of that we can't be sure and we don't know his crimes, which were probably more heinous than robbery given that he and his accomplice are being crucified by the Romans. This criminal acknowledges his guilt and his repentance is implied in his stating that his punishment is just, he acknowledges the innocence of Jesus, and then follows one of the most beautiful exchanges in all of the Scriptures when he makes his own profession of faith: "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom" to which our Lord replies "today you will be with me in Paradise."

The salvation that our Lord Jesus has accomplished is for us but it is not for this life. Salvation does not mean that we will be spared from the heartaches and sufferings that are inevitable because of sin. The repentant criminal appears to understand that Christ's Kingdom truly is not of this world and that the salvation that he is accomplishing will be revealed only through our own exodus from this life.



As we celebrate this great feast of Christ the King and in times when we may be tempted to expect God to save us from the trials of this life, may we remember that God will save us but that his salvation is not about this world but liberation from it. Those who mocked the Lord could not see beyond this present life and still the world continues to mock the crucified Lord today as it holds on to a reality that is fleeting. Thanks be to God that we are called to a hope beyond this world, to a greater life to be revealed, to something better than this world could ever offer. As we prepare for the Season of Advent, let us be mindful that as Christ has come so he will return again in glory with salvation for those who live and die in him. May the grace of Christ lift

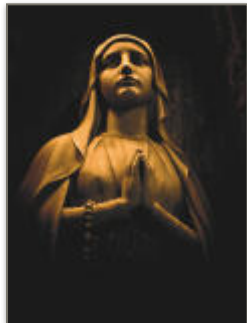
our minds beyond the cares of this life to the Paradise to be revealed. Thy Kingdom come!

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

# ADVENT OFFERINGS



**The Advent Season is approaching! We hope to provide you with resources and prayerful opportunities to help grow your relationship with Christ. Advent is a time of waiting and anticipation. It is a season that reminds us to slow down and to spend time in prayer and reflection. As you journey through the Advent season, please know you and your guests are welcome at any of the offerings listed. If you have any questions, please contact the Parish Offices at 522-3342.**



## **Novena in Honor of the Immaculate Conception**

Beginning December 1st thru December 9th, the Cathedral will host the annual diocesan novena in honor of the Immaculate Conception, patroness of the United States, our diocese, and the Cathedral Parish. Each night a different preacher will offer a homily on a different aspect of Marian theology and devotion. The novena is moved one day this year because December 8th falls on the Second Sunday of Advent resulting in the transfer of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception to December 9th.

December 1st thru 8th - 7:00PM; Last Night and Closing Mass, December 9th – 5:15PM @ Cathedral

## **Advent Lunch and Learn**

St Joseph Worker parish in Chatham hosts an Advent Lunch & Learn that consists of a simple soup/bread/etc. lunch followed by a series of Advent reflections on the Tuesdays prior to Christmas. This year, Fr. Dominic

Rankin will speak about the three gifts of the magi; gold, frankincense, and myrrh  
December 3, 10, 17 – 12:05, O'Hara Hall

## **Rorate Coeli Mass**

Join us on Saturday, December 14th at 7am for Cathedral's first Rorate Coeli candlelit Mass in honor of Our Lady during Advent. The Rorate Mass is lit only by candlelight. In the dimly lit setting, priests and faithful prepare to honor the light of the world who is soon to be born, and offer praise to God for the gift of Our Lady. As the Mass proceeds and sunrise approaches, the church becomes progressively brighter, illuminated by the sun as our Faith is illuminated by Christ. All are welcome to join us for this special Mass!

## **Springfield Choral Society Presents "Messiah"\*\*\***

The Cathedral is thrilled to once again host the Springfield Choral Society's presentation of Handel's "Messiah." This is a ticketed event. Tickets are available through the Springfield Choral Society or at the door the evening of the performance.

Saturday, December 14th - 7:30PM @ Cathedral



## **Advent Lessons and Carols**

On the evening of Gaudete Sunday, in the holy season of Advent, join Mark Gifford and the Cathedral Choir for an evening of Scripture, music, and prayer as we reflect on the two promised comings of Christ.

Sunday, December 15th - 7:00PM @ Cathedral

## **Late Advent Holy Hour**

Enjoy the peace and quiet during this prayerful hour spent before the Lord.

Tuesday, December 17th - 7:00pm @ Cathedral



# ADVENT OFFERINGS



## **ONLINE RESOURCES**

### **The Adventure of Discipleship**

Sacred Heart Major Seminary is offering a free, short, interactive online course based on Dr. Daniel Keating's new book, "The Adventure of Discipleship." Dr. Keating invites you to look at your Christian journey as an adventure that far surpasses other adventure stories. Dynamic and engaging, each week of the course features short videos, film clips from epic adventures such as Lord of the Rings, scriptural meditations, interactive learning activities and online discussion. Starting December 1st, register at [shms.edu](http://shms.edu)

### **Rejoice! Advent Preparations with Joseph or Rejoice! Advent Preparations with Mary**

Rejoice! Advent Meditations with Joseph is a prayer resource with daily meditations that will enrich your Advent by inviting you to experience the first Advent with Joseph and Mary, as they await the birth of their son, the Savior of the world. Together with the guided meditation videos, this journal calls you daily to see through Joseph's eyes, feel what is in Joseph's heart, and read the Scripture that Joseph read, so you can fully prepare to welcome Jesus into your heart this Christmas. Presented by Fr. Toups, Sister Miriam Heidland, and Fr. Josh Johnson. The Rejoice! Advent Meditations with Mary Journal not only lets you walk beside Mary during the first Advent, but also lets you get to know her in a way you haven't before. Rejoice! offers more than insights and information about Mary's life—it offers an opportunity for you to encounter Mary in the quiet of your heart. Go to [ascensionpress.com](http://ascensionpress.com) for more information and to watch an introductory video and order the book or journal.

### **Advent Gospel Reflections**

This year's Advent Gospel Reflection booklets contain brand new reflections from Bishop Barron, the full Gospel reading for each day, questions for reflection and even journal pages. It's short, simple, but extremely powerful. It's like getting a mini-homily each morning from Bishop Barron. Go to [bishopbarronbooks.com](http://bishopbarronbooks.com) to purchase a booklet.

### **Best Advent Ever**

A great Christmas begins with an incredible Advent. Every day during Advent, you'll receive an email with a short video from Matthew Kelly and the Dynamic Catholic team. It's free and easy to sign up. Go to [dynamiccatholic.com](http://dynamiccatholic.com) to sign up

### **Finding God in Unexpected Places**

A free daily email featuring a short and inspiring Advent video reflection on a work of art from the Detroit Institute of Arts by Fr. John Bartunek, LC. Each daily 1-minute video is designed to help you know the happiness and joy of discovering the presence of God in unexpected places of your daily life and to help others around you do the same. Go to [rcspirituality.org/advent-2019/](http://rcspirituality.org/advent-2019/)

### **DAILY PRAYER BOOKS – Paper copy and Online versions**

*Give Us This Day*- Request a free copy at [giveusthisday.org](http://giveusthisday.org)

*Magnificat*- Subscribe at: [bookstore.magnificat.net](http://bookstore.magnificat.net)

*The Word Among Us*- Subscribe or get a free online trial at [wau.org/subscribe/](http://wau.org/subscribe/)

## **ADVENT BOOKS**

### ***Jesus of Nazareth, the Infancy Narratives by Pope Benedict XVI***

Pope benedict focuses exclusively on the Gospel accounts of Jesus' life as a child. The root of these stories is the experience of hope found in the birth of Jesus and the affirmations of surrender and service embodied in his parents, Joseph and Mary.

### ***Joy to the World: How Christ's Coming Changed Everything (and Still Does) by Scott Hahn***

What could be more familiar than the Christmas story -- and yet what could be more extraordinary? The cast of characters is strange and exotic: shepherds and magicians, an emperor and a despot, angels, and a baby who is Almighty God. The strangeness calls for an explanation, and this book provides it by examining the characters and the story in light of the biblical and historical context.

### ***Advent and Christmas; Wisdom from Henri J.M. Nouwen***

This book is designed to be used during the entire period from the First Sunday of Advent to the end of the Christmas season. Reflections begin with the words of Nouwen, followed by an excerpt from scripture related to the quote and then a prayer timing both together. Finally, an activity is suggested for applying the message.

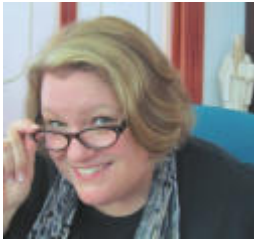
### ***Advent Meditations with Fulton J Sheen***

Drawn from Archbishop's best-selling books, theses reflections are eloquent quotes paired with beautiful Scriptures on the themes of the season; patience, waiting, gift, hope, humility, joy and more.

### ***Advent and Christmas: Wisdom from Pope John Paul II***

Designed like the Nouwen book, we read and reflect on selections from the Holy Father's talks and statements followed by scripture, prayer and a suggestion for an appropriate seasonal activity





## To Jesus through Mary? Why yes, and t'was ever thus!

How wonderful it is that the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary always falls within the start of Advent. Thus, in the very season during which we wait with longing for the Word made flesh to come to us as Emmanu-el (God-with-us), we are invited to consider how

deeply planned, how “not-random” is his coming, by pondering his Mother Mary, and the very fact of her. *“Without God’s Son, nothing could exist; without Mary’s son, nothing could be redeemed,”* declared St. Anselm in a sermon, also noting that God is “Father” of the created world and Mary the “Mother” of the world recreated in Christ. Anselm completes his thought by echoing the words of the Archangel Gabriel to Mary: *“Truly the Lord is with you, to whom the Lord granted that all nature should owe as much to you as to himself.”*

It’s a lot to take in. Mary’s own conception had itself been something pre-ordained by God as necessary within the pageant and process of our salvation—a moment of creation untainted by the brokenness of original sin, which had accompanied every human conception since the first sin of Eden.

From the very beginnings of her existence within the womb of Anne, her mother, the body and soul of Mary were created as the imperatively immaculate vessel required for the containment and growth of the Incarnation of the All Holy. Mary was created with the graces that would render her a fit Ark for the New Covenant, and not only for the time Jesus’ gestation within her womb but throughout her entire life.

This is a fact the Church might appreciate even more today than at any time previous, thanks to science and the discovery of microchimerism. We have learned that within the process of microchimerism, every baby conceived by a woman leaves within her a microscopic bit of his or her cellular being, even if gestation is interrupted, and remains with her forever. Mary, then, was indeed a tabernacle for the Divinity—not for a limited time but for all of her life, as these invisible but real reserves of the Christ remained within her.

Knowing this only reinforces how necessary, how profoundly sensible and reasonable-in-faith is the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, which was deduced long before a time of microscopic discovery. It makes perfect sense that the God who is all good is also completely pure; therefore, the vessel in which he would reside and be made manifest need also be pure, or it could never have been able to sustain all of the light, all of the holiness, all of that power extant within the All-in-All.

Were Mary not be-graced by God for that very purpose of holy containment and development, she would have been crumbled into dust by the immensity of it. And this relates directly to the Assumption of Mary as well. In the Psalms we read: *“You will not suffer your beloved to undergo corruption”* (Psalm 16:10). Christ’s divine body did not undergo corruption, but ascended into

heaven; it follows that his mother’s body, which contained the cellular components of that divinity—and a particle of God is God, entire—would not be permitted to undergo corruption either.

It could not be otherwise. The God particle, commingled with humanity, necessarily preserves humanity and calls it to himself. This is Incarnational. It is Eucharistic, from the beginning. It is our life, conceived in light. And yes, a lot to take in. It’s a lot to take in that God had so thoroughly planned, in the fullness of time, to draw all things to himself through Christ Jesus (Ephesians 1:10), and that we can see the reality of his plans in the Immaculate Conception of Mary and in her life.

It’s also a lot to take in, and something we rarely consider (even when we say, “To Jesus, through Mary”): that Christ’s Body and his Blood are Mary’s as well—that the foundational materials of our Holy Eucharist come to us through Mary. Without Mary’s body, Emmanu-el would not have been with us, and so it makes perfect sense that—as Ark and nurturing catalyst for the New Creation, her body and blood (and her generous, pristine soul) would be preserved of defect, and rendered “full of grace.” As St. John Vianney preached, *“The Father takes pleasure in looking upon the heart of the most holy Virgin Mary, as the masterpiece of his hands.... The Son takes pleasure in it as the heart of His Mother, the source from which He drew the blood that...ransomed us.”*

To Jesus, through Mary, indeed. Those non-Catholics who misunderstand Mariology and assert that Catholics pay her too much homage are missing the point of the essential mission to which she gave her consent: to provide the profoundly pure flesh and blood by which the Savior would eventually—and throughout the ages—feed us and heal us with the super-substantial “daily bread” of the Eucharist. The gift rendered Holy through Christ’s own divinity and called forth by his Bride, the Church. Seen in that light, how could we ever do Mary homage enough for her fiat, and her lifelong example of how to cooperate with grace?

How could we not, especially in Advent, want to ask the prayers of one so beloved of the Incarnate Word, an intercessor who troubled Christ Jesus for something as temporal and passing as wine at a wedding, and to whom we can speak so simply? Especially in this month, let us say each day, with perfect confidence in this “Mother of the world, recreated in Christ”: O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee!

*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](http://www.theanchoress.com). She is married, and living on Long Island.*



## Good Grief

*[On hearing of the death of his son,] the king was deeply moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept; and as he went, he said, "O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!"*

*It was told Joab, "The king is weeping and mourning for Absalom." So the victory that day was turned into mourning for all the troops; for the troops heard that day, "The king is grieving for his son." The troops stole into the city that day as soldiers steal in who are ashamed when they flee in battle. The king covered his face, and the king cried with a loud voice, "O my son Absalom, O Absalom, my son, my son!" (2 Sam. 19:1-5)*

We Americans live in a culture that has largely lost its shared social scripts and rituals for grieving. How does one grieve loss, failure or tragedy? For how long? How do we move on? How do others respond rightly to those who grieve? With whom should we share our grief? Do we mourn with our clothing? Do we weep and wail aloud in public or in private? Do we share our pain or remain silent? How do we pray in the midst of grief? When do we pray? How should we eat? And how does faith shape the way we grieve?

Grief is how we bury our dead—the injustices and injuries, losses, failures, and tragedies we undergo in life. Grief allows us to heal, surrender, forgive, and move on into new freedom with reverence.

In the face of my parents' death over the last two years, I have given much thought to this. I have one simple observation. I and my family were overwhelmed by the outpouring of love, support, care, prayer, and compassion shown to us. Cards, texts, emails, gifts, flowers, prayers promised, countless Masses offered, meals brought, memorial donations to charities, sincere words of condolence. One friend had a magnificent chalice made, inscribed with my mom's name, and donated it as alms to a poor diocese so that my mom would be perpetually remembered in the offering of the Sacrifice.

Absolutely overwhelming. How can one possibly begin to offer gratitude sufficient to repay these acts of kindness? "Pay it forward," as one friend suggested. Lovely, right, and just.

## Stewardship Activity

### Stewardship of Prayer:

How will you enhance your prayer life this Advent? Check out the pages in this Weekly to learn of new opportunities!

### Stewardship of Service

Are you looking to volunteer with the Parish this season of Advent? Contact Vicki Compton at [vcompton@cathedral.dio.org](mailto:vcompton@cathedral.dio.org) to learn about liturgical ministry opportunities available.

The beauty and power of all these gifts notwithstanding, what I found most powerful personally was the sacred space afforded me by two people I know. Each offered me a guarded sanctuary within which I could grieve.

One of them, while my mom was dying, asked me, "How are you?" I knew he meant he really wanted to know, and was prepared for whatever would come out. So I told him. He just listened as I dissolved in front of him. He didn't attempt to mute my pain with pious words of comfort or counsel; neither did he say he knew what I was going through by telling me of his own tale of loss. He simply listened, revering the infinite power of silence. At the end he said, "I'm so sorry." And embraced me. We left in silence.

For me, he was the weeping Christ-with-me. A real presence reserved in the tabernacle of compassionate silence. Aside from the Funeral Mass, nothing has allowed me to bury my mom and return her to God more than that hour I spent with this friend. He brought alive for me the beauty of the words of Job 2:13: *[The friends of Job] sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great.*

May I be able, by God's grace, to pay that forward . . .

*Dr. Tom Neal presently serves as Academic Dean and Professor of Spiritual Theology at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, Louisiana. Tom received a Masters in Systematic Theology from Mount St. Mary's University and a PhD in Religion at Florida State University.*

## Join Us!

*Cathedral hosts a weekly bereavement group, Grief Share, on Thursdays from 1:00-3:00 (except 11/28 and 12/26) in the Cathedral School Library. Grief Share offers a faith filled opportunity to grieve and heal in company with others. You are most welcome to join us. For more information contact Berni Ely at 899-6637 or [jackandberni96@yahoo.com](mailto:jackandberni96@yahoo.com)*

### Stewardship of Gifts- November 16th & 17th

Envelopes:	\$5,996.00
Loose:	\$2,122.70
Maintenance:	\$70.00

Total:	\$8,188.70
October EFT	\$17,897.70

Congratulations and blessings to Regina Mildred Becker & Lilyana Jean Becker for recently receiving the Sacrament of Baptism at Cathedral.



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