

ISSUE NO. 119

1 DECEMBER 2019

# *Cathedral*

## WEEKLY



### FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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WATCH AND PRAY | FR. CHRISTOPHER HOUSE  
ADVENT OFFERINGS

START NOW FOR A HAPPIER, WHOLLY HOLIER ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS | ELLYN VON HUBEN  
GRATITUDE AND ADVENT STEWARDSHIP | 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  
PAROCHIAL VICAR

THE REVEREND DOMINIC RANKIN  
PAROCHIAL VICAR

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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 – December 2

7 AM BARBARA MCGRATH (FAMILY & FRIENDS)  
5:15 PM SHIRLEY LOGAN (LISA LOGAN & FAMILY)

### Tuesday – December 3

7 AM DORIS DREA (MIKE & KAREN RELLIHAN)  
5:15 PM MARY ANN MIDDEN (WILLIAM MIDDEN)

### Wednesday – December 4

7 AM PURING GARDE (FAMILY)  
5:15 PM ANDREW MCGEE (TOM MCGEE)

### Thursday – December 5

7 AM CARL VENVERTLOH (MR. & MRS. RICO JOHNSON)  
5:15 PM KARA LEIGH SMITH (FRIENDS FROM ISBE)

### Friday – December 6

7 AM CHARLES WOMBWELL (ELEANOR WOMBWELL)  
5:15 PM BILL CRUMLY (CINDY & ED HOUSE)

### Saturday – December 7

8 AM PATRIA & RUFINO GOTANCO (JOE & HATI UY)  
4 PM WILLIAM F. LOGAN (LISA LOGAN & FAMILY)

### Sunday – December 8

7 AM PAT CRAIG (FAMILY)  
10 AM JOHN MONTGOMERY (JOHN BUSCIACCO)  
5 PM FOR THE PEOPLE



## Watch and Pray

This weekend the church year begins anew as we begin the holy season of Advent, a name derived from the Latin word *adventus*, which means “the coming.” This holy season looks to the two comings of Christ; first, we look forward to our Lord’s return in glory at the end of time, and second, beginning December 17th, we look back, remembering that our Lord came to us in time to be one with us in all things but sin. While it may not have the same depth of austerity as Lent, Advent is also a penitential season where the words of the Prophets echo to us from ages past to prepare a way for the Lord in our hearts and lives.

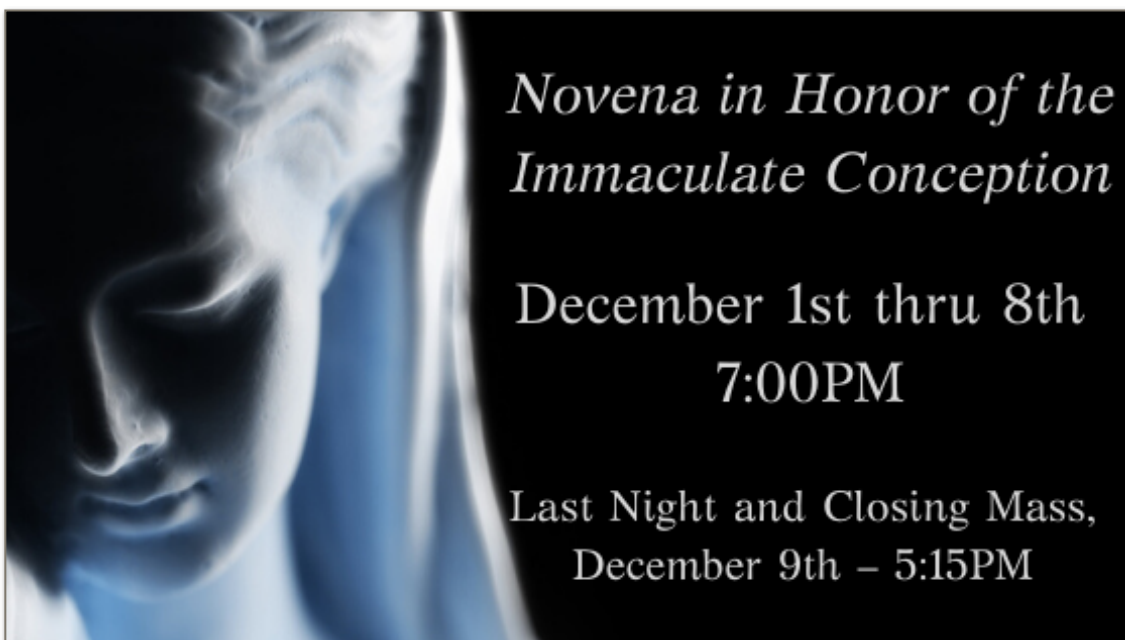
Even though the readings of Advent follow a three-year cycle, with Matthew now being this year’s primary Gospel, each of the four Sundays have their own consistent theme with their own readings. This first Sunday always has the theme of “Watch and Pray.” This year we hear from Paul’s Letter to the Romans where we are told to “wake from sleep.” Why? The answer follows in this Sunday’s Gospel from Matthew: “you do not know on which day your Lord will come.” This Gospel is not one of doom and gloom but an admonition for us to be ready every day and always for the Lord’s appearance; for those who will be ready to receive him, greater things will follow.

This time of year is a busy time for many of us, but I encourage you to not get swept away in the commotion. Advent is a beautiful season and even though it is penitential (thus the use of the color violet), it also possesses a subdued joy and peace. I encourage you to make use of this season and set aside some time for yourself with the Lord.

As we begin our Advent journey, three important celebrations are coming in the next week. First, we begin our annual novena in honor of the Immaculate Conception this Sunday evening, December 1st, and this will continue every evening through December 8th at 7PM. The novena will end on December 9th at the 5:15PM Mass. Second, this Monday, December 2nd, is the anniversary of the rededication of our Cathedral Church and is a solemnity in our parish and a feast day in every other parish in the diocese. I find it hard to believe that this will mark ten years since that beautiful celebration in 2009. Third and final, this coming Sunday, December 8th, would normally be the Solemnity of Mary, the Immaculate Conception, but it is transferred to Monday, December 9th because it cannot land on the Second Sunday of Advent, thus why the novena begins and ends a day later this year. This is the only circumstance when the obligation to attend Mass for the Immaculate Conception is lifted. While this year it is not a holy day of obligation, I still encourage you to come and honor our Blessed Mother who is patroness of our nation, diocese, and parish under the title of the Immaculate Conception. Masses that day will be at the regular daily times of 7AM and 5:15PM.

For me, this Sunday begins my favorite time of year, now through the end of the Church’s celebration of Christmas in mid-January. For some, this season can be stressful or sad; for all of us, the Lord wants us to know his peace, now and in every season. Open your heart to the Lord, watch and pray, and you will find him, his grace, and his peace.

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



*Novena in Honor of the  
Immaculate Conception*

**December 1st thru 8th  
7:00PM**

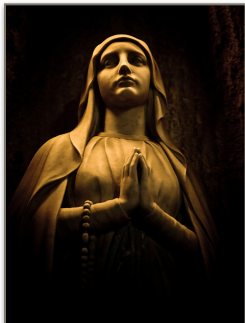
**Last Night and Closing Mass,  
December 9th – 5:15PM**



# 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 and bread lunch followed by a series of Advent reflections on the Tuesdays prior to Christmas. This year, our own

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, St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Chatham, IL

## **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 at 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***

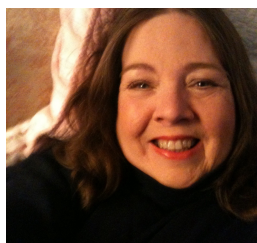
This book is designed to be used during the entire period from the First Sunday of Advent to the end of the Christmas season. Reflections begin with the words of Nouwen, followed by an excerpt from scripture related to the quote and then a prayer timing both together. Finally, an activity is suggested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



## Start Now for a Happier, Wholly Holier, Advent and Christmas

In *Death on a Friday Afternoon*, the late Fr. Richard John Neuhaus cautions us to take Lent slowly, to not rush to Easter. A similar thought comes to mind

when approaching Advent: we should not rush to the stable. Advent, the time of great expectation, should be a time when we can linger awhile with Mary and Joseph in their time of anticipation.

But what has become of Advent? Or the days before Advent, for that matter? I went shopping on November 1, All Saints Day, also known as the day after Halloween. What to my wondering eyes should appear but peppermint sticks, ornaments and a battalion of reindeer. On November

1. It is little wonder that those of us who wish to keep Advent feel not only a bit overwhelmed but just a little like Charlie Brown on his Trick or Treat rounds. OK, I didn't get a rock in my treat bag – just a holiday surprise that was less than charming.

Yes, there is no need to rush to Christmas. And, with a little advance planning now, Advent can find its proper place on the calendar and in our hearts.

### THANKSGIVING

A major stumbling block for those of us who live in the U.S. is the way the Thanksgiving holiday has been almost totally subsumed into the secular celebration of Christmas. Keeping Thanksgiving as its own holiday – before Advent – is a good start.

Thanksgiving is about gratitude; not the opportunity for jump starting our shopping. Decide now to bring a grateful heart into the days of Advent.

### PRAYING

Having a prayer plan is the most important Advent planning. Whether it be a personal choice from the many wonderful resources for Advent or a plan for prayer as a family, planning ahead can lead to a more peaceful, prayerful Advent. Parents of older children may want to include them in the planning for Advent devotions. (This is a lesson I had to learn the hard way. And I quickly learned that the first day of Advent is not a good time to be casting about for prayers and reflections for the season.)



### PLANNING

Panic is a peace thief of the blessed days of Advent. Good advance planning – be it for celebrations religious and secular, shopping, cooking, cleaning – helps prevent panic. Keeping all of those plates of plans spinning in one's head is a definite distraction. Putting plans down on paper (or electronically if that is your preference) gets things organized and out of your head. Whether you chose to use a special planner or create your own, start now with the planning that can free up your mind during the days of Advent.

### CELEBRATING

Don't forget the feast days that come in December. Among the many days for celebration, we have the feasts of St. Nicholas, St. Juan Diego, St. Lucy, Our Lady of Guadalupe as well as the feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Spending some days in Advent celebrating the feasts of these holy men and women is not just a teachable moment for the

family. These are tangible celebrations – not random days of the vague 'holidays' season. Not only are these days faith-filled and fun days, but they are also great moments for evangelization as we share the reason for our celebrations. Of course, St. Nicholas was the first of the December feast days that I remember from a very young age during my German Lutheran upbringing. Naturally, this was the first Advent feast day that we celebrated as a family and then, as time

passed, more family feast day celebrations were added to our calendar.

### PLANNING A FULL CHRISTMAS SEASON

Remember that Christmas is more than one day and plan accordingly. While secular media pulls the Christmas rug out from under us on the 24th of December, we know that the 25th of December is just the beginning of our Christmas celebration. Just as we should not rush to Christmas, we should ignore the cultural influences that try to rush us past this holy season.

*Ellyn von Huben is a native of Wisconsin, and has never lived more than five miles from the shores of Lake Michigan. She has a degree in art history from Barat College in Lake Forest, Illinois. Fascinated with the Catholic faith since her childhood, Ellyn, her husband, four children (plus one in utero) were received into the Catholic Church in May of 1988. Ellyn lives in the suburbs of Chicago, and still has her 'day job' as an administrative assistant in a large Catholic parish on Chicago's North Shore.*

## Gratitude and Advent Stewardship

Thank you to the many parishioners who have submitted your good faith intention cards during the Season of Stewardship! There is still time to send yours in to the office. However, are you wondering why you are being asked to do this? Why is this important?

When you commit to doing something, you likely have the best of intentions to see it through, right? You may right down your goal or tell others about it to help hold yourself accountable. The form helps us identify how we are currently stewards or how we would like to be stewards of our time, talent, or treasure in the future. Many of you are already incredibly generous and involved- *thank you!* By filling out the stewardship form you help the parish staff identify needs in the parish. We need to ensure that our ministries remain vibrant and welcoming with volunteers. The forms also help us plan the spiritual and financial resources for the year ahead. We want to make sure we can continue to bring to you the high-caliber faith formation programs, services, and special Liturgies, which have become the norm at Cathedral! We need your support and participation in this effort.

As we enter into the Season of Advent, we begin a new commitment to discipleship and stewardship in the Parish! Below we have a few ideas to challenge ourselves during Advent. Watch the Parish eblast and facebook page for more stewardship challenges and videos that will hopefully serve as great resources for you and your family this Advent!

- Begin the Season of Advent in prayer and in gratitude by joining us at the Novena in honor of the Immaculate Conception! The Novena begins December 1st and runs through December 9th. Each night a different preacher will offer a homily on a different aspect of Marian theology and devotion. Join us Dec. 1st thru 8th - 7:00PM; the last night and closing Mass, December 9th at 5:15 Mass.
- Serve at the Breadline with your family this Advent (<https://cc.dio.org/programs/st-johns-breadline>)! St. John's Breadline in Springfield serves a hot, nutritious meal in a clean, positive environment. The St. John's Breadline has volunteer opportunities available seven days a week. Shifts are available Mondays through Fridays from 7:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Shifts are also available on Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays from 10 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. The Breadline is located at 430 N. 5th St. Springfield, IL 62702. Contact them at (217) 528-6098 for more information.
- Have a family Advent wreath! The traditional Advent wreath – a crown made from branches of holly, spruce, or straw (or cardboard, fabric, dried flowers, etc.) with four candles (three purple and one rose) that you light in the course of the four weeks of Advent, is a great family tradition! Find a great article with resources for your Advent wreath here: (<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/advent/about-advent-wreaths.cfm>)
- Make a NEW family Advent tradition by joining us at the Cathedral Lessons and Carols (Sunday, December 15th - 7:00PM at Cathedral), the Late Advent Holy Hour (Tuesday, December 17 - 7:00pm at Cathedral) or at the *first annual* Rorate Coeli Mass, which is a Mass in candlelight on Sat. December 14th at 7am!

*If you have any questions regarding your stewardship form or how you can grow deeper in your relationship with God this Advent, please contact Katie Price at [kprice@cathedral.dio.org](mailto:kprice@cathedral.dio.org).*



## 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.

### Stewardship of Gifts- November 23rd & 24th

At the time of this *Weekly* submission, we had not had the gifts count to completed due to early submission times for the holiday. We will add the Nov. 23rd and 24th count in the upcoming *Weekly*. Thank you for your generosity!