

Sunday Announcements

Carols at Noon

All are welcome to join us at 12 PM on December 26th for our annual Carols at Noon. Mark Gifford will provide us holiday carols on the Cathedral organ.

Helping Hands Volunteers Planning Meeting

A team of faithful Cathedral volunteers has provided a home cooked meal each month to the men at the Helping Hands Homeless Shelter for 13 years. Anyone who would like to be a part of this volunteer group is invited to join us as we prepare for our 14th year of service. Those who do not cook can help in other ways. If you are interested in participating in this ministry to “feed the hungry”, please join us for a 9:00 am breakfast meeting on Saturday, January 11, 2019 in the Cathedral School Hall. It is very important to attend this planning breakfast to meet with your group and plan meals for the entire year. Please RSVP by calling 487-7824 no later than January 8th.

Epiphany Lessons and Carols

In the continued joy of the Church’s celebration of Christmas, you are invited to again join Mark Gifford and the Cathedral Choir for an evening of Scripture, music, and prayer as we reflect on the events surrounding the birth of our Savior at Christmas.

Sunday, January 5th - 7:00PM

The Gospel of Matthew

Beginning with the new church year in Advent, the majority of the year’s Sunday Gospel readings will be taken from Matthew. Join Father Friedel as he explores the structure and themes of this gospel.

Tuesdays, January 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th - 7:00PM

Millikin University Choir

Sacred Sounds, Sacred Spaces at the Cathedral will host the Millikin University Choir January 8th at 7PM. This concert is FREE and open to the public.

A Gift for Someone who has Everything

Who would have thought that you could give a cow or a bee hive for Christmas? And fit it all into a stocking!

In Congo, Vietnam and so many places around the world, cows and other livestock are a daily source of nutritious milk, helping children make it past the age of 5 and helping farm families increase incomes. And beehives can provide a family with a successful and lucrative business. What’s given you hope this year? Your family? Friends? The grace of God? Here’s a unique way to show your love and give hope to others.

Simply give a gift from Catholic Relief Services’ Gift of Hope catalog at gifts.crs.org, then order a special card to be mailed to a loved one on your list. Provide a cow to a family or lunch to a student for a school year—order by December 18 to stick a special card into their stocking.

Alpha Course at Cathedral – A chance to explore a relationship with Jesus

Are you someone who might enjoy learning a little more about Christianity? Have you or a friend drifted away from the faith? Why not try Alpha? Alpha is a no pressure opportunity to explore the Christian faith in an atmosphere of warm hospitality. Each Alpha session includes a meal, a talk, and conversation. No cost, no obligation. If you or someone you know is interested, the next course begins on Monday, January 13 at 6:30pm in the Cathedral school basement. Please make sure to RSVP at 522-3342 or vcompton@cathedral.dio.org or online at <https://spicathedral.org/alpha/> You are welcome!

Special Opportunities for Welcoming Guests

Many new faces will be coming through the Cathedral doors this Christmas. Some visitors may not have been to church in a while or ever. Some visitors may not be Catholic or Christian. Some visitors may be looking for a deeper meaning to the Christmas season. Our faith and our parish have so much to offer those who are seeking peace and mercy, joy and fellowship, answers and understanding. It is of vital importance to let them know we are glad to see them and to make them feel they are welcome. Please make a special effort this year to smile and leave room in the pew. If you and your family want to serve our visitors in a special way, volunteer to be ushers and greeters at one of our Christmas Masses. Contact the parish office to be scheduled and receive some simple instructions.

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Facing Homelessness – An Art Exhibit

Helping Hands clients and local artists have partnered to create portraits of people experiencing homelessness in our community. The Springfield Art Association will host an opening reception on Friday, January 3, from 5:30-7:30 at the SAA gallery, 700 N Fourth St. Free and open to the public, the exhibit runs through January 23rd.

SHG JUNIOR POMS CAMP 2020

The SHG Golden Angel Poms will be hosting a Junior Poms Camp on Saturday, January 4th from 10am-1pm at the SHG East Campus. Campers will also be performing with the Golden Angels during halftime of the SHG Boys Basketball game that night. All Pre-K-8th Graders are invited to register! Email jugan@shg.org to receive a registration form or visit the SHG Facebook page. GO CYCS! **Walk-ins are welcome the day of camp, but pre-registration by Friday, December 20th is required to guarantee a t-shirt**

2nd St. Thomas School Trivia Night (Newton)

All are welcome to join us Saturday, Feb 8th at 7:30pm, doors open at 6pm at the St. Thomas Parish Center, Newton, IL. Tables are \$160 for a team of 8 and all individuals must be over 21 years old. Fun trivia questions, cash prizes, silent and live auction, games, food and more! Pulled pork and chips available for an at-will donation and beverages available for purchase. For questions or to register contact Jill Bierman or Lori Smith at St. Thomas School at 618-783-3517.

9 Days for Life

9 Days for Life (January 21-29, 2020) is a novena for the protection of human life. Participants can receive novena prayers each day by downloading the free 9 Days for Life app, or by subscribing to daily emails or text messages at: <https://pro-life-activities.lpages.co/9-days-for-life-2020/>. Each day there is an intention accompanied by a short reflection and suggested action to help build a culture of life.

Trivia Night- The Pregnancy Care Center

The Pregnancy Care Center of Springfield, Inc. and Trivia Workshop invites you to attend Trivia Night on January 11, 2020 at the Prairie Heart Dove Conference Center from 7:00 p.m.- 10:00 p.m. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20 per person, or \$160 for a table of 8. Bring your own snacks. There will be soda, water, beer and wine available for purchase. Registration for the event can be done by calling the Center at 525-5630.

Season Two of Dive Deep Podcast

Season two Dive Deep, the official podcast of Diocese of Springfield in Illinois, has launched. Join Andrew Hansen, Amber Cerveny, and Father Christopher House as they explore interesting and controversial topics surrounding our faith. Diving deep into Season two, they explore what the Catholic Church says about ghosts and aliens, what are the last four things, annulments, why Archbishop Fulton Sheen's beatification Mass in Peoria was postponed, the 10 things you didn't know about Christmas, and much more. Go to dio.org/podcast and click "listen and subscribe." Each Friday, a new episode will be available. You can also find the podcast on your favorite podcast platform, such as Apple Podcast, Google Podcast, Spotify and Overcast, among others. Just search "Dive Deep Diocese of Springfield in Illinois."

Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation

Did you know that obtaining a Certificate in Catechesis from the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) satisfies all the requirements for advanced level certification in the diocesan Catechist Formation Process? Classes for the next cycle are open now and include several of the required courses for the certificate. Visit <https://www.dio.org/catechesis/vlcff.html> for more information about VLCFF and how courses align with the Diocesan Catechist Formation Process.