



# *Cathedral* WEEKLY

## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

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# Cathedral WEEKLY

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

THE VERY REVEREND CHRISTOPHER A. HOUSE, V.J.  
RECTOR

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THE REVEREND DOMINIC RANKIN  
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Cathedral Parish Office: 217-522-3342  
Website: [www.spicathedral.org](http://www.spicathedral.org)

Mass Times: Saturday - 4:00pm; Sunday - 7:00am, 10:00am, & 5:00pm

Weekday Masses: Monday through Friday - 7:00am & 5:15pm; Saturday - 8:00am

Reconciliation: Monday through Friday - 4:15pm-5:00pm; Saturday - 9:00am-10:00am & 2:30pm-3:30pm; Sunday - 4:00pm-4:45pm

Adoration: Tuesday & Thursday - 4:00pm to 5:00pm

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 217-522-3342 x 142.

## 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 – March 2

7am: Barbara J. McGrath (Family & Friends)  
12:05pm: Nola Ethel Deming (Betty & Glen Rogers)  
5:15pm: Helen F. Call (John Cernich Family)

### Tuesday – March 3

7am: Truman Flatt (Family)  
12:05pm: Luella Davin (LouAnn & Carl Corrigan)  
5:15pm: Special Intention for Bianca & Family (Family)

### Wednesday – March 4

7am: Doris Drea (Asher, Gittler & D'Alba, Ltd)  
12:05pm: Ellen Mattox (Shana Gray)  
5:15pm: Madeline M. Sivak (John Sivak)

### Thursday – March 5

7am: Eric Gurther (Cheryl Gale)  
12:05pm: Special Intention for All Souls in Purgatory (Friends & Family)  
5:15pm: Donna Kluckman (Tom Steil & Sharon Oldfield)

### Friday – March 6

7am: Mattie Hergenrother (Thomas Hergenrother)  
12:05pm: Repose of the Soul for Mabel Lorene Ferrel (Betty & Glen Rogers)  
5:15pm: Nancy Shea (Jim & Barb Stelte)

### Saturday – March 7

8am: Sophia E. Bartoletti (Bartoletti Family)  
4pm: Helen F. Call (Margaret Dunham Lemanski)

### Sunday – March 8

7am: John Montgomery (John Busciacco)  
10am: For the People  
5pm: Polly Keen (The Bentel Family)



## Dealing with Temptation

Temptation is real. It is not the stuff of legend and myth nor is it some figure of speech. Temptation is not sin although people sometimes confuse the two. Temptation is an invitation to turn from God and to serve ourselves. If we consent to temptation then the actual act that constitutes the turning from God is what is sinful. We know that temptation itself cannot be sinful because of the Gospel proclaimed to us this weekend from St. Matthew regarding Jesus being tempted by the devil.

Why was Jesus tempted? The Catechism (##538-540) teaches us that Jesus underwent temptation for us, to show us that we are not alone in our struggle to follow God's will in our lives, and to show us that we can be victorious in the face of temptation. While the devil tempted Jesus through the allurements of pleasure, power, and honor, the basis for this temptation was Jesus's sonship, to get the Lord to forget who he truly was. Twice in Matthew's account of the temptation of Jesus the devil premises his temptations with "if you are the Son of God." The devil tempted Jesus with a perverted notion of Jesus's sonship, yet Jesus clung to the truth of His sonship which called for perfect obedience to the Father's will. In the Garden, Adam and Eve lost sight of what it meant to be children of God, of the obedience that was expected of them and the grace that come as the fruit of obedience. Jesus, in His temptation and ultimately in the Cross, shows us that He is the new Adam whereby He completely and perfectly chooses the Father's will over his own.

When we pray the Lord's Prayer, we ask the Father to "lead us not into temptation." Immediately we are faced with the problem of an insufficient translation from the original Greek to English. We do not have to ask God to not lead us into temptation. He won't, because for him to do so would be contrary to his divine nature; God wants us to be free from the power of evil. However, God does allow us to be tempted. He allows us to be challenged to use the grace He has given us to discern what is of Him (good) and what is not (evil). Facing temptation and overcoming it leads to spiritual growth. Again, this is why prayer, the sacraments, mediating on the Scriptures, and good works are all so important in our discipleship because these are pathways to the grace that we need.

Let us pray together that these Lenten days may be a time of increased grace for all us through our prayer, fasting, and acts of charity. The grace given to us, which is the fruit of these holy acts, will strengthen us in our struggle against temptation and evil and allow us to stand victorious with the Lord Jesus over the power of sin and death in our lives.

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



## Sunday Reflection

### Keep Grace Upfront

Transgression and sin play a big part in the garden of Eden story. So does grace – which is the first part of that story. In the Roman's reading, Saint Paul counterpoints Adam and Eve with the saving death of Jesus Christ. He is the very grace of God. It is only when standing within this grace can we name what is non-grace, what is wrong with life, what is sin. Thus, Jesus can face the tempter without faltering – and help us do the same.

- How will the Bread of Life (Communion) fill me more than daily bread?
- How will I trust and not test God this Lent?
- What things and/or people will I stop "worshipping" so that I will worship God alone?



## Evangelism

The charism of evangelism empowers a Christian to be an effective channel of God's love by sharing the faith with others – baptized or not – in a way that draws them to intentionally follow Jesus. All Christians have been called to the task of bearing witness to the difference Christ has made in their lives, but some have been empowered in a special way to draw people to Christ. Those with this gift are especially drawn to non-believers or those whose faith has grown lukewarm.

This is a gift that can be suspect in many Catholic parishes where talking about faith has strangely become uncommon. Many disciples with a strong urge to speak of Christ can feel isolated by the culture of silence in a parish that has forgotten its central charge to “go and make disciples”. It is refreshing to be part of parish where evangelism is encouraged through programming like Alpha, which is a regularly occurring opportunity to invite others to faith in Jesus Christ. But we must do more. Every baptized person has to reflect on their own faith and seek opportunities to speak a word of God to others in a way that is inviting.

You may have this charism if you love talking about God and the Church and seek out opportunities to share your faith with the unchurched. This charism allows you to have remarkable results when you share the Good News. People become intrigued and

desire to know more. They begin to find the person and love of Jesus compelling. Cathedral offers so many opportunities to support you in accompanying others to faith. If you don't see what you need in the Weekly, call the office for help - we are anxious to grow disciples and encourage a spirit of evangelization at the Cathedral!

*Vicki Compton is the Coordinator of Faith Formation and Mission at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield, Illinois.*



## How Should I Best Share My Faith With Others?



Jesus told his disciples to go out and spread the word of God. We are all disciples of God, and as such, we should be spreading the word of God as well. How would you suggest a normal, everyday person go about sharing our faith with others?

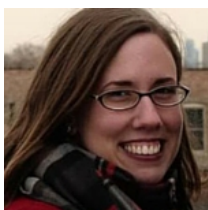
Pope Paul VI and the United States Catholic Bishops addressed this very question in some of their writings. They suggest a three-fold process. First, of course, is that you should be “converted” to the gospel yourself; not just being a Christian in name, but in you your deeds as well. Second is to “witness” to the gospel and your faith by how you live your daily life. Love God and your neighbor as yourself. Strive to speak and act with compassion to others. Practice justice and generosity in how you spend your money and your time, being especially attentive to the outcast and those normally invisible to much of society. Put gospel values ahead of secular values of commercialism, over-consumption, and an idolatry of the body. Cultivate quiet time for prayer and simply “being” instead of always “doing.” (John's gospel is emphatic about the need to “be,” “abide,” and “rest” in Jesus.) Cultivate a community around you that will support you and challenge you in living out this faith. Like Pope Francis, strive to live as a person of hope and joy in a world that is often rife with darkness and despair.

When Christians live like this in a kind of wordless witness, other people will notice, so the third step is to share by explicitly proclaiming your faith. When someone asks you why you seem so peaceful compared to how they feel, or how you manage to remain hopeful, or why it is you seem content living with less than those around you, be ready with your answer (1 Peter 3:15). You can say truthfully that you are trying to live out the gospel. You are trying your best to follow a counter-cultural Jesus.

You can elaborate more about your faith life if they seem interested, or invite them to come to church with you. If they aren't interested at that time, know that their curiosity has been piqued and keep your eyes and ears open for further opportunities to share about your faith. Depending on your relationship with the person, you may feel comfortable mentioning the role that your faith plays in your life even if they don't ask about it. Either way, you needn't be strident or pushy about it because that often has the opposite effect of turning people off of Christianity. Think of sharing your faith and the Bible as an invitation to others, not wielding it as a weapon. Finally, pray that God will use you as a channel of grace to introduce other people to the faith that has proven to be so life-giving for you.

*Ann Naffziger is a scripture instructor and spiritual director in the San Francisco Bay area. She has written articles on spirituality and theology for various national magazines and edited several books on the Hebrew Scriptures.*





## How Tea Transformed My View of Hospitality

I was exactly 8,491 miles away from home. It had taken me four flights, 16 hours of waiting in airports, 20 hours in the air, and several hours careening around dirt roads in a bus to reach the

town of Hosur in India.

I was there as part of a month-long immersion trip and had just finished my first week in country. Given the effort to get here, you might think I am the adventurous type — prone to backpacking solo around Europe, cliff jumping into swimming holes, or taking off on a last-minute trip to Patagonia. The reality is that I am cautious by nature, a careful planner, and not a fan of heights, cliffs, roller coasters, or really anything that involves danger. And yet here I was traipsing through the dusty streets of an Indian village and wondering if I had been slightly possessed when deciding to come here.

The truth is that I had been fascinated with the idea of traveling to India ever since I was a little girl. I had come across pictures of India in the National Geographic magazines that I dragged home from the library and it seemed like a magical place — exotic, mysterious, colorful — a place of adventure. I'm sure my 10-year-old imagination romanticized it quite a bit. My actual experience of India was full of color and beauty, but it was also hot, smelly, noisy, crowded, and confusing. I felt overwhelmed by the differences in culture, and I struggled to communicate even the most basic of questions.

As our group wandered through the town, a local family stopped us and invited us to their home for refreshments. I ducked in through the doorway and was struck by how tidy the house was. Mats covered the carefully swept dirt floor and a few chairs were placed along the wall. There was a small alcove that served as the kitchen and a sheet hanging across a doorway that went into a bedroom.

I removed my sandals at the door and started to sit down on the floor, but the matriarch of the family clucked at me and shooed me toward one of the chairs. I tried to gesture that I was OK with sitting on the floor, but it was obvious that she would not take no for an answer. Her daughter handed me a cup of sweetened coffee, and I noticed that it was in a very beautiful china teacup. The rest of the tea set was nearby and it was obvious that it was one of their prized possessions as there was not a single chip or

crack that I could see. I asked the guide to tell them that I thought it was very pretty. As she translated, the mother and daughter glowed with pride. The rest of their family sipped their coffee from tin cups while the guests were given the china teacups.

I felt slightly awkward as we had no gifts or anything that we could offer in exchange. We were dusty, dirty, and probably smelled to high heaven after being on a crowded, hot bus all morning. Our hosts were dressed in what looked like their very best clothes.

Conversation was slow and stilted. We had to use our guide to translate, so much time was simply spent nodding and smiling at each other. Our guide shared with us that the family was very happy we had come to visit them. They were not well liked within their community because they came from a lower caste, and initially they were not sure if we would accept their invitation. They told us they felt honored that we had come to their home and asked us if we would pray for them and keep them in our thoughts after we left. The mother bowed to us and offered a

“Namaste” as we readied ourselves to leave. I found myself wishing that there was something of value that I could offer in return but all I had was a smile, a promise to pray for them, and an attempt to say thank you in Hindi.

I was so touched by the hospitality of this family and at the same time felt guilty and unworthy of their gratitude. All I had done was shown up at their home. There was next to no effort on my part whereas they had dressed in their finest, cleaned their home, offered us refreshment and in their treasured tea set, no

less! I found myself wondering if I would have gone out of my way quite so much for a group of complete strangers. But then I realized that's how it is with God's love sometimes. I show up dirty, tired, with nothing to offer in exchange. I often don't feel worthy of it and yet it's still there being offered. Sometimes all I can give is a heart-felt thank you.

As I put my sandals back on and walked out into the sunshine, I felt a new openness to the experience of traveling in India. A simple afternoon tea had touched my heart and helped me to see not only the beauty of the country but also the beauty that was inside the people I was encountering.

*Annie Devine is originally from Ohio and currently resides in Wilmington, Delaware, with her husband, baby daughter, and a rescue dog named Lucy. She has a B.A. in English and literature and an M.A. in pastoral ministry and has spent the last 10 years working and volunteering in young adult ministry. Annie likes to cook, read books, and take naps in hammocks.*



## An Anatomy of Sin

Kichijiro is a supporting figure in Martin Scorsese's 2016 drama/history movie, *Silence*. In the movie, Kichijiro is a Japanese guide who serves and accompanies the French Jesuits, Frs. Rodriguez and Garupe. The Jesuits go to Japan on a mission to find their lost mentor, Fr. Ferreira, who has been rumored to have committed apostasy. Kichijiro is a cowardly drunkard who denies being Christian and betrays his visitors to the Japanese officials, only to return to Fr. Rodriguez, begging to have his confession heard. This cycle happens a number of times throughout the movie.

From Kichijiro's character in the movie, we can surmise what some might call the "anatomy of sin." Sin is mysterious and predictable, depending on how you look at it. We can come to understand what the early Church Fathers have described as a four-fold path: Suggestion, Conjunction, Acceptance, and Captivity. In Suggestion, a thought or image, desire or feeling is presented to the soul. (For the sake of clarity, I'll just use the word "thought" to encompass all these sentiments.) Some of these thoughts draw the soul towards God, but not all. The next step, Conjunction, is the interchange that we have with that thought. We can entertain the thought with delight or repulsion. Up to this point, these thoughts can be temptations towards sin, but we have not yet committed it, either in thought or in action. Acceptance follows, wherein the thought is embraced by the will, and a plan for carrying out a corresponding action ensues. Up until this point, the person — you and I — have the will power to make course corrections on the thoughts which have been presented to us. But if we linger in this acceptance, we become enslaved — or held Captive, the fourth stage — to the thought and its expression, from which there is no escape of our own volition.

Some of you might be thinking to yourself, "Gee, this sounds like a summary of an addiction recovery course." Well, in a certain sense, yes. This approach does fit in that arena. But it also

applies to our spiritual lives, at least I know it does for me! This cycle helps me to understand why it is that when I go to confession, I usually have the same set of sins. I have often reflected at how my life can look like Kichijiro's: the fears I can have about the loneliness of virtue, the anxieties about wanting to save my reputation among people with conflicting ideas, the need for unconditional acceptance without embracing the consequences of my actions, etc. When external events trigger these thoughts within me, there are predictable outcomes, none of which I am proud.

The wisdom of the Church gives us six weeks to reflect on how we have this tendency to prefer the fleeting pleasure or power of sin over the goodness and mercy of the Father. This is where sin is a mystery to us: why, when given the choice to pursue goodness and virtue, do we instead choose pleasure and vice? Are we even mindful or aware of the diversity of thoughts that we have throughout the day? Are we conscious at how our actions and speech are dictated by those interior thoughts? St. Isaac the Syrian gives us a hope-filled insight here: "the inflamed thoughts are uprooted and turned to flight by *constant occupation of the mind with God*. This is a sword that puts them to death... Whoever always thinks about God drives the demons away from himself and pulls up the seeds of their malice."

While we cannot know the interior dimension of a fictitious movie character, we can examine our own interior with the wisdom of the Church during this season. Maybe we can practice being mindful of our thoughts during this time. Maybe we can learn to be more discerning of what we allow our thoughts to entertain. Maybe, during this Lenten season, we can learn to think more about God throughout the day and let His thoughts become our thoughts so our actions and words might better reflect His.

*Brother John-Marmion Villa, BSC is an author for Liturgical Publications, Inc. and writes reflections on the Sunday readings.*





## Stewardship Activity

### Stewardship of Prayer:

#### **CRS Rice Bowl Prayer of the Week:**

Heavenly Father, we pray for our brothers and sisters who struggle to put food on the table, that they may find the resources to care and provide for their families. We pray also for our community, that we may be thankful for the gifts we have and realize that by sharing them they are multiplied to feed the needs of our global family. In your name we pray. Amen.

### Stewardship of Service:

Are you someone with a heart for service and hospitality? Join the homebound ministry to help support Cathedral's homebound community and accompany those in need. Volunteers accompany Sr. Francella in regularly visiting the sick or homebound, or often become Eucharistic Ministers for the sick or homebound. For more information on this ministry, or to volunteer your time, please call the Parish Office at 217-522-3342.

### Stewardship of Gifts

Stewardship of Treasure - February 22nd & 23rd

Envelopes:	\$7,758.32
Loose:	\$2,868.57
Maintenance:	\$117.00
<u>Total:</u>	<u>\$10,743.89</u>
January EFT	\$20,602.70

Did you know you can make a gift online? If you would like to extend a special gift to the Cathedral, please visit <https://spicathedral.org/give-online/>. We appreciate your generosity!

Next week's second collection will be for the *St. Martin de Porres Center*. St Martin De Porres uses donated funds to purchase food to give to those who may not have the resources to provide for themselves. Your generous donation will go towards assisting St. Martin de Porres Center's mission of providing for those in need.

## Cathedral Parishioner Catholic School Tuition Scholarship

The Cathedral Parish believes in the value of Catholic education and is committed to assisting parishioners who choose a Catholic education for their children by providing tuition assistance. Parishioners will receive a \$500 tuition scholarship for each child enrolled in a Springfield Catholic Grade School (Grades K-8), and a \$750 tuition scholarship for each child enrolled at Sacred Heart-Griffin High School.

The scholarship is eligible to any parishioner household who is registered and active in the Cathedral parish. An active parishioner is defined as someone who regularly attends Mass on Sundays, supports the parish financially, and is active in the life of the parish. While all three of these qualifications are important, Sunday Mass participation is of the greatest importance. Faith formation begins with participation at Sunday Mass. To be eligible as a parishioner household, the family must be registered and active parishioners for a minimum of six months before the application is made for the scholarship.

The scholarship will be paid directly to the school that the student attends, and funds will be attributed toward the 2019-2020 school year. A digital copy of this application can be found online at [www.spicathedral.org](http://www.spicathedral.org), while paper copies are available at the Parish Office. Applications are DUE by March 15th, 2020. You will be notified when the scholarship is being sent to the receiving school. If you have any questions, please contact the Cathedral Parish Office at 217-522-3342.

