



Cathedral WEEKLY

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

CHILDREN OF THE COVENANT | FR. CHRISTOPHER HOUSE

ENCOURAGEMENT | VICKI COMPTON

ALWAYS BE READY TO GIVE A REASON FOR YOUR HOPE | LISA HENDEY

TRANSFIGURING OUR SPIRITUAL LIVES | DOUGLAS SOUSA

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

DEACON IRVIN LAWRENCE SMITH

DEACON T. SCOTT KEEN

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MINISTRY TO THE SICK
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524 East Lawrence Springfield, IL 62703
Cathedral Parish Office: 217-522-3342
Website: 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 9

7am: Helen Call (Joe Sullivan)
12:05pm: Lemuel Moss (Jean Moss)
5:15pm: William F. & Shirley Logan (Lisa Logan & Lori Matyka)

Tuesday – March 10

7am: Alonzo Ferrel (Betty & Glen Rogers)
12:05pm: **Communion Service Only**
5:15pm: **No Mass/No Communion Service**

Wednesday – March 11

7am: Steve Hergenrother (Thomas Hergenrother)
12:05pm: **Communion Service Only**
5:15pm: **No Mass/No Communion Service**

Thursday – March 12

7am: Joyce Jenness (Lee & Dorothy Hayes)
12:05pm: Henry Hellrich (Norma Lesko)
5:15pm: Anna & Thomas Roberts (Norma & Tom Lesko)

Friday – March 13

7am: Doris Drea (Missouri AFL-CIO)
12:05pm: Ralph Walter, Sr. (Jean Moss)
5:15pm: Sr. M. Pauletta Overbeck, OP (Rebecca & Woody Woodhull)

Saturday – March 14

8am: Richiusa & Leo Families (Family)
4pm: Thomas Rapps (Sue Warner)

Sunday – March 15

7am: Helen F. Call (Aaron & Shawn Shures)
10am: Irvin Larry Smith (Larry & Bev Smith)
5pm: For the People



Children of the Covenant

This Sunday's first reading from the Book of Genesis tells us about God's promise to Abraham that He would make of him a great nation. This promise was because of the covenant that God made with him. Abraham was not the first person that God made a covenant with. Before Abraham, God made a covenant with Noah after the flood and God would later make other covenants with Moses and David. Finally, through the Prophet Jeremiah, God makes a promise of a greater covenant still to come and we find that covenant is made and fulfilled in our Lord Jesus Christ.

So why does this particular act with Abraham stand out? As God fashions His covenant with Abraham in Genesis, He promises to make of him a great nation, but He goes further in promising Abraham that their bond will be unique and personal. A covenant is more than an agreement or a series of promises; a covenant is a sacred relationship.

The covenant that God made with the children of Israel through Abraham is not undone but rather perfected in Jesus Christ and we have been made partakers of that same covenant. This Christian covenant is both corporate and personal, and we are brought into this sacred relationship through baptism. In baptism, we are chosen by God and rescued from the power of sin and death. In this wonderful sacrament the promise made to Abraham is also made to us individually: I will be your God and you will be mine.

As with any other form of agreement or contract, a covenant's value is only as good as each party's resolve to keep it. The good news for us is that God's resolve is infinite which is why His covenants are everlasting. God does not relent in his love and He is forever true to His word. What about us? What about our resolve to keep our part of the covenant? I doubt that any of us if asked, would say that our resolve to maintain our relationship with the Lord is anything but resolute; our words may say that, but what does the lived reality of our daily lives say? Are we living up to our side of the covenant each day?

Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Church has this sacred season of Lent. This season is an invitation from a loving and merciful Lord to examine our lives, our part of the covenant, and truly reckon with ourselves if we are living up to our part of the agreement, maybe only somewhat, or maybe not really at all. The journey of Lent is a call to return to the grace that was given to us at baptism, when God made a covenant with us individually and thus made us corporate members of Christ's Mystical Body, the Church. In this weekend's second reading, St. Paul says to each of us through Timothy "bear your share of hardship for the Gospel." We must be ready and willing to do our part in this covenant relationship with the Lord, and the Good News continues because God's goodness is never outdone as Paul reminds us that God gives us the strength to do it.

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

Special Announcement

Please note, on **Monday, March 9th and Tuesday, March 10th**, only the 7am Masses will be offered. A communion service will be held at 12:05pm on both March 9th and March 10th. There will be no 5:15pm Mass or communion service on either March 9th or March 10th. There will also be no adoration or confessions on these days. If you have any questions, please contact the Parish Office.

Encouragement

In today's second reading, St. Paul greets Timothy with encouraging words:

“Beloved, bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God.”

All Christians are called to encourage one another. But those with the charism of encouragement are empowered to be an effective channel of God's love by strengthening and healing individuals in remarkable ways through his or her presence and words.

Encouragers are exceptional nurturers and interested in the unique needs of individuals. People who are troubled or uncertain frequently seek them out for conversation and report that their lives have been changed for the better after spending time talking. Encouragers are exceptionally good listeners and feel energized and deeply connected to God when they are listening and talking to someone about personal issues.

If you are the one in your family or friend group who everyone calls when they need to discuss a personal crisis, you may have a charism for encouragement. But remember, the manifestations of charisms are only evident when you know Christ personally and have made the decision to follow him. It is then that you'll begin to see how the Holy Spirit has equipped you to be the face of Christ to the world.

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



Sunday Reflection

It Is Good to Be Here

God says to each of us today: I will bless you; live a holy life. Thus, it is good to be here in this holy Lent. Like the three apostles on the mount, we listen to Christ, we witness his divine glory, and we keep our eyes on the promise of heaven while living in merciful ways today.

- How will the radiant Christ shine through my thoughts and actions?
- What will I do to listen more intently to Christ each day this week?
- Because of God's mercy to me, what mercy works will I do today and tomorrow?

Always Be Ready to Give a Reason for Your Hope

As I write this, I'm fresh off the experience of an epic five-week road trip with my son Adam. While the art and science of traveling 7,500 miles with a 19-year-old in a MINI Cooper is fodder for a blog post, I spent much of our adventure pondering a single Bible verse. In 1 Peter 3:15, the apostle offers encouragement to the faithful of his time:

“Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope.”

In the following verse, Peter teaches that their evangelization be tempered with gentleness and respect, and delivered with a clear conscience.

As we drove across the magnificent U.S. and into beautiful Canada on our excursion, Adam and I made literally scores of new friends along the road. It often happens that within a line or two of introduction, I share that I am a Catholic. My faith is as central to my being as my brown eyes or my vocation to motherhood. It defines me as a person, informs my actions, and lays foundation for my life's greatest goals. And over the past few weeks I've found that venturing outside my comfort zone and into new venues provides a fresh perspective on those three words at the heart of 1 Peter 3:15: “Always be ready”.



Are You Ready?

With so much national news attention on our Church these days, I met folks in certain parts of the country who didn't know a single Catholic, but were intrigued by what they'd heard of late about us. In separate conversations, I chatted with new non-Catholic friends who were following Pope Francis on Twitter or had heard about the Church's humanitarian responses in Iraq, Syria and along the southern borders of our country.

These opening salvos, often delivered in a somewhat defensive manner, were an opening for me to share a bit about the Church I love and the God I serve. But I've learned to tread carefully in such moments. It's easy, when someone asks us questions like this, to misperceive the motivation behind it.

Avoid Those Social Media Smack-downs

In some cases, we may hear their question as an attack and respond in similar fashion. If you've ever been involved in sharing your faith in a venue such as Facebook, you know how unproductive these types of dialogues can be. (In these moments, I try to remind myself of St. Peter's instruction towards gentleness and respect.) We might hear a question about our faith and understand that behind it wait many other questions—deeper and more subtle—from new friends who are lost and

seeking something in their lives. They may recognize in us something they desire for themselves: a sense of the peace, happiness, and grace that we experience as Christians. A simple, “What's up with that pope of yours?!” delivered with a laugh could actually be an invitation to share the true reason for our hope.

But we may be sorely tempted to laugh back, dodge the bullet, and simply move the conversation along to safer pastures. In those moments, we fail to “always be ready”. We may avoid the temporary discomfort that accompanies sharing our faith, but we have also lost a golden opportunity to share the hope that is within us. It's almost as though he foresaw twenty-first century “Evangelism 101” moments: the messiness of a Facebook faith smackdown, a Catholic combox war on a blog, or even the ugliness that can come up at a family dinner when one present has a disdain for our Church.

And in these verses, Peter provides exactly what I need to enable me to “always be ready”. By reminding me to “sanctify Christ as Lord” in my heart, St. Peter helps me to lay a firm foundation for these moments. For me, such sanctification isn't an easy one-step process, but rather a day-to-day journey of prayer, reception of the sacraments, and trust in God's ultimate wisdom and providence. I won't claim that I'm successful every time an opportunity to share my faith presents itself, but these days I am making it a high priority to “always be ready.”

You Weren't Made for Fear

The words that come after my favorite three (“always be ready”) in 1 Peter 3:13-15 hold the key ingredients to being ready when such opportunities

present themselves:

“Now who is going to harm you if you are enthusiastic for what is good? But even if you should suffer because of righteousness, blessed are you. Do not be afraid or terrified with fear of them, but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts.”

Often, in praying with these verses, I marvel how St. Peter could have written something thousands of years ago that could be so relevant to the challenges I face today as a believer.

Now Over to You:

Have you ever had a friend or relative ask you a question that gave you the chance to share your faith? How did you reply?

Lisa M. Hendey is the Founder of CatholicMom.com and the author of The Grace of Yes and A Book of Saints for Catholic Moms. Lisa writes in multiple Catholic venues and maintains an active speaking calendar, presenting on faith, family, technology and evangelization topics. Visit her at www.LisaHendey.com.

Transfiguring Our Spiritual Lives

The Story of the Transfiguration maps out some steps we need to take in our journey of prayer. First, we must climb the mountain; second, we must look upon Jesus; and third, we must go back down the mountain to tell others what we have seen.

First, we must climb the mountain. Before revealing his glory to Peter, James, and John, Jesus leads them up a high mountain. Climbing a mountain takes a good deal of effort. There's always the danger of falling off a cliff or running into a wild animal. Also, the higher one climbs, the thinner the air is and the harder it becomes to breathe.

The apostles' experience teaches us something profound about the spiritual life. God often does not reveal himself until we are willing to make the hard journey up the mountain. That mountain could be a sin that we have to overcome, an unhealthy relationship, or sickness. Every challenge we experience is an invitation from God to climb the mountain so that He can reveal His glory to us. We may not understand why God has put those obstacles in our path and made things so hard for us. However, if we ask Him, He will give us the strength to endure whatever may come. And, with time, we will see and be amazed by God's mercy.

The second truth of the spiritual life which the Transfiguration teaches us is that we are meant to see the vision of God. Unlike the apostles, we do not see Jesus face to face. How, then, do we get a glimpse of him in all his glory? The central and most important way is in the Mass. At every Eucharist, the Risen Lord is truly present in our midst. When the readings are proclaimed, it is Jesus' voice that we hear. When we receive the Eucharist, we touch the body of the Risen Lord just as the apostles did, and we are transformed by him.

For that reason, the Sunday Mass is an indispensable part of our Christian life and spirituality. While it is very good to read the Bible, pray the rosary, and contemplate the beauty of nature, none of those activities compare with the gift offered us in the Eucharist. While those activities can give us some insight into Jesus and his love, they cannot actually give us Jesus himself as the Eucharist does. There is no substitute for the real, life-changing encounter we have with the Risen Lord in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood which we receive every Sunday.

The third truth of the spiritual life is that we cannot stay on the mountain. We have to go back down to witness to others the Jesus we have come to know.

The experience the apostles had of Jesus was overwhelming. It filled them both with awe and fear. Understandably, Peter does not want it to end. He wants to stay there, camping out with Jesus, Elijah, and Moses forever. But Jesus does not allow it. The vision of his glory comes to an abrupt end, and he leads them back down the mountain to continue preaching the good news and healing the sick.

Many times, when we are praying and feeling God's presence all around us, we do not want it to end. We want to stay basking in the warmth of God's love. That is entirely natural because we were created to praise God and never feel so much "at home" as when we are praying. But it is not enough. The spiritual life is never just a private affair. From worship, we must go into service. We must come down the mountain and point out the way to encounter God to others so that they may share our joy.

Douglas Sousa, S.T.L. is an author for Liturgical Publications, Inc., and writes reflections on various topics, including reflections on Sunday readings.



Stewardship Activity

Stewardship of Prayer:

CRS Rice Bowl Prayer of the Week:

Heavenly Father, may we follow Jesus' example in the feeding of the 5,000 and gather all around the table to share in the bounty of the Lord. May we never forget that an empty seat at our table is a missed opportunity to make someone feel at home, where food is shared and community is had.

In your name we pray. Amen.

Stewardship of Service:

Charity has been the first principle of the Knights of Columbus since its founding. Join the men of the Knights of Columbus Fr. Augustine Tolton Council #16126 in faith and charitable action. They host a variety of service opportunities and events throughout the year which help support the Cathedral. For more information, please visit www.kofc16126.org.

Stewardship of Gifts

Stewardship of Treasure - February 29th & March 1st

Envelopes:	\$5,839.00
Loose:	\$2,986.32
Maintenance:	\$1,086.00
Total:	<u>\$9,911.32</u>
February EFT	\$21,768.00

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 *Helping Hands of Springfield*. Helping Hands of Springfield is a private, not-for-profit organization that provides homeless services to single adults. Helping Hands of Springfield strives to "shelter the homeless, provide support, promote independence, and work with others in the prevention of homelessness in the community." For more information on Helping Hands of Springfield, please visit www.helpinghandsofspringfield.org.

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, 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.

Welcome New Parishioners!

Please join us in welcoming the following individuals into our parish family:

Theresa DiBartolomeo
Christopher Lucchesi
Robert King & Monica Tessie
Kathleen Clark
Katherine Shade
Dominique Nicole Welch
Joelle J. Major

