

*Cathedral*  
WEEKLY

EASTER SUNDAY  
THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

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HAPPY EASTER | FR. CHRISTOPHER HOUSE  
"DEATH AND LIFE HAVE CONTENDED"— BUT CHRIST STILL REIGNS | FR. MICHAEL FRIEDEL  
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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

THE REVEREND MICHAEL FRIEDEL  
PAROCHIAL VICAR

THE REVEREND DOMINIC RANKIN  
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524 East Lawrence Springfield, IL 62703  
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



## Happy Easter

I wonder what those holy women were feeling early in the morning on that first day of the week, as the Scriptures teach us, when Mary Magdalene and the others came to the tomb only to find it void of the one whom they sought, when in their amazement they were told:

“Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said” (Matthew 28:5-6).

Those holy women were the first to receive the good news that has forever changed the course of human history and the meaning of our shared human experience.

Our shared human experience as of late will make this an Easter to remember, sadly for the suffering that our nation and many parts of the world have experienced throughout the Lenten season and even before due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While we are not able to celebrate Easter in the many ways that might wish to, the good news of the empty tomb is not changed, nor is our Lord's invitation to new life in Him rescinded.



On behalf of Bishop Paprocki and the Cathedral clergy and staff, I pray that the Lord will bless you and yours this Easter with the fullness of His grace and the joy that comes from Him alone. With every cross may we remember that the cross is never an end unto itself. In moments of sacrifice and desolation may we know that we are not alone or forsaken. May we always be mindful that Easter teaches us that God always gets the last word, and in the case of the cross and the tomb, His last word is life. All honor, praise, and glory to the risen Christ, who, by His death and resurrection, has gained for us the rewards of everlasting life! Happy Easter (and I hope to be able to wish that in person at some point during the fifty days of this holy season)!

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

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## Sunday Reflection

### Acts of the Apostles

All during Easter Time, we read and hear the Acts of the Apostles. Those many acts are not mere history. They launch us into Church life today. This Risen Lord, present among us, is so astounding, we cannot remain our old selves. We, too, are new – because of Baptism, because of this new Easter Day, because Christ is within and around us. We, too, act in new ways.

- How will I shine new life into another's life today?
- How will I bear witness to Christ among us by some word or deed?
- How will I rejoice?



## “Death and Life Have Contended” – But Christ Still Reigns

Christians, to the Paschal Victim  
Offer your thankful praises!  
A Lamb the sheep redeems;  
Christ, who only is sinless,  
Reconciles sinners to the Father.  
Death and life have contended in that combat stupendous:  
The Prince of life, who died, reigns immortal.  
Speak, Mary, declaring  
What you saw, wayfaring.  
“The tomb of Christ, who is living,  
The glory of Jesus’ resurrection;  
bright angels attesting,  
The shroud and napkin resting.  
Yes, Christ my hope is arisen;  
to Galilee he goes before you.”  
Christ indeed from death is risen, our new life obtaining.  
Have mercy, victor King, ever reigning!  
Amen. Alleluia.



This ancient hymn, the *Victimae Paschali Laudes*, is one of only a few “sequences” still in use in the Catholic Church today. A sequence—for your Catholic trivia file—is a hymn traditionally sung just before the Gospel proclamation. Before the reforms of the Mass in 1570, there were many such hymns on feast days and solemnities throughout the Church year. The current *Roman Missal* has only three: the above sequence for Easter, the *Veni Sancte Spiritus* for Pentecost, and the recommended (i.e. optional) *Lauda Sion* for the Solemnity of Corpus Christi.

The Easter Sequence is one of my absolute favorite pieces of prose in the entire Church year. Traditionally, the hymn is dated to the 11<sup>th</sup> century, one millennium after Christ’s Resurrection and one millennium from our current day. As such, it’s not only a beautiful hymn, it’s a sort of “bridge of faith,” connecting our belief down the centuries to the faith of the Apostles on that Easter morning, when the dawn from on high had only just begun.

Take a few moments to read this beautiful hymn, proclaimed proudly to believers this and every Easter (better yet, find a version of it on YouTube and listen to it!). It speaks in simple words an almost unfathomable reality: Christ, who alone is sinless, *reconciles* us to the Father! Death and life have fought for us in these days, my brothers and sisters, but the Prince of Life has conquered—not *will* conquer, but *has conquered*, definitively, once and for all, this nighttime of our fears.

And now, in the light of Easter morning, our hope indeed has risen. Postured again before the empty tomb, having lived a more realistic Good Friday and Holy Saturday than we ever could have imagined, we stand amazed, realizing once again what it is we truly live for.

Our Lord’s Resurrection, I pray, is as real to you today as it is to me. I pray the light of this Easter morning sheds light and glory on the struggles of this past Lent. And I pray that with this new dawn, the grace of the Lord’s favor will once again shine on His pilgrim people: we who live in this world, but who have long hoped for a world not yet completely our own.

Christ indeed from death is risen, brothers and sisters! May our King, ever reigning, come to meet us in His glory and bring us at last to life with Him and the Father, in the unity of His Holy Spirit. Amen, *alleluia!*

*Father Michael Friedel is a Parochial Vicar at the Cathedral and Chaplain at Sacred Heart Griffin High School.*



## Easter Reflection

He's. Not. Here.

3 simple words, but the incontrovertible evidence that the tomb was empty – the tomb until moments prior guarded by Roman soldiers, sealed by decree of Pilate, and scrutinized by those who hated and loved Christ alike – that He is not there, that He is somehow alive, marvelously outshone the splendor of the angels on that first Easter morning.

Sinfulness, fear, awe ... all those emotions that would appear in any “normal” encounter with angels are obliterated and overwhelmed by the truth of the resurrection. They run back to the disciples, yes, “with fear”, but, all the more incredibly, with “great joy”. Never had such a transformation been brought about in human hearts.

They come to the tomb despondent – having seen the brutality of the crucifixion – devastated – still feeling the horror of that great stone rolled over their God's grave – despairing – excepting the remnant of love that they can still offer His body. But 3 words later, and with one blinding-flash of angelic light, hope returns to their hope. The hope ... that somehow the bloody nightmare of Golgotha wasn't the end. The hope ... that somehow this grave and grief were somehow all part of God's plan. The hope ... against hope that their redeemer lives.

But those three words were to be outshone by a single one several swift steps back towards Jerusalem:

“behold, Jesus met them and said, “Hail!”

The same single word that announced the beginning of God's great invasion into His enslaved world – *hail, rejoice, be glad* –

now announces His definitive re-conquest. The women need not fall down in shame and sin. Sin has been annihilated, shown to be nothing in comparison with the superabundant Love of God. They need not fall down in fear or trepidation. Death has no power here, it has been overthrown; the tomb is now our passage to eternity. And they need not fall down awestruck at the work of God, for their God bears wounds in His human hands, and feet, and heart. Never again can any of us claim to be unworthy, unloved, or uncherished once we have embraced the Body of the Risen Christ.

My dear friends, *in Christ*. Your and my sins – if we give them to our Risen Savior – stand the same chance against God's Love as that rock did. Your and my fears – if we live out of our identity as sons and daughters in the Risen Son – will be transformed into icons of His resurrecting-power, as Christ's burial shroud was. And, your and my wonder at the mystery and power of our Risen Christ – if we receive His greeting of profound love – will be the catalyst for our *great joy*, in the midst of a world that otherwise might seem pretty crazy.

Happy Easter!!! Yes, it's a weird one, a daunting one even, but so was the very first Easter! Those women approached the tomb thinking that the greatest good God could bring out of that morning was Jesus' body anointed properly. But God grace isn't like ointment, it doesn't just cover over the problems or pains of our lives, it radically inverts them. If He can bring the greatest of all goods out of a roman execution ... If He can conquer the powers of Sin and Death by enduring the shame of Golgotha ... He can manage, in the midst of anything, to make the greatest of saints out of you and I. Alleluia, He is Risen! He is Risen indeed!

*Fr. Dominic Rankin is a Parochial Vicar at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.*





## 1917 and Evangelization

We can learn a lot about evangelization from the World War One film *1917*. On [imdb.com](http://imdb.com), a reviewer, calling himself “grantss” (no relation to me) summarized *1917*’s plot with these words:

“April 1917, the Western Front. Two British soldiers are sent to deliver an urgent message to an isolated regiment. If the message is not received in time the regiment will walk into a trap and be massacred. To get to the regiment they will need to cross through enemy territory. Time is of the essence and the journey will be fraught with danger.”

Now imagine the above summary changed slightly so that it applies to your life--and the lives of your fellow Catholics:

“March 2020, the City of Springfield. Cathedral parishioners are sent to deliver an urgent message to a Midwestern population. If the good news is not received in time, many people will remain far from God and be eternally unhappy. To get to the unchurched they will need to venture into secular society. Time is of the essence and the journey will be fraught with danger.”

In the First World War, the stakes included the lives of millions of soldiers and citizens, along with the political future of Europe and its colonies. The Allies were fighting to defeat the Axis Powers and to defend their foreign and domestic nations and peoples.

In the life of every Christian, a similar war is waged. In your life and in mine, we have the opportunity to be a participant in the campaign to bring friends and family and neighbors to Christ, or, we can choose to allow these relatives and acquaintances to remain in “enemy territory.”

Okay, you say, I’m willing to take part, but what exactly is my part again? Do I need to put on a uniform? Go through basic training? Dig a trench and hunker down?

In *1917*, we see the Axis and Allied armies use tried-and-true tactics, while also incorporating new technologies and strategies into their arsenal. They fight with knives, rifles, and machine

guns, trip wires, buried mines, and barbed wire, and artillery and airplanes--anything to get the job done.

In a similar vein, a modern Catholic who wants to win the evangelization war must use both tried and true techniques, like having good friends and a consistent prayer life, reading Scripture, and going to Mass as often as possible, while also taking advantage of new ways to spread the good news.

These might include posting on social media sites, pulling Christian messages out of popular movies, songs, and games, using words and analogies that connect with modern audiences, and offering others your personal testimony and friendly hospitality to show them that the Christian life is livable, believable, and true.

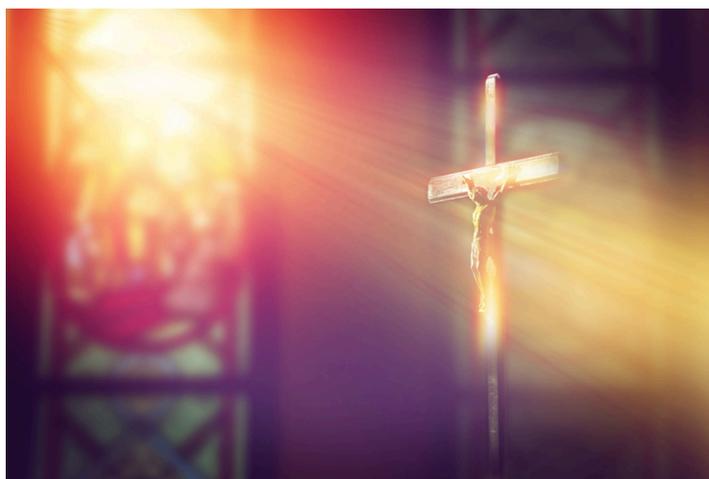
These strategies can’t be activities that we “add on” to our lives but should instead be parts of a total lifestyle change. A soldier going to war doesn’t just change clothes or add a few hours of combat to their normal routine. They leave family, friends, home, career, and everything else behind to defend their country.

Just so, a Christian hoping to evangelize can’t just put on a cross necklace, volunteer to read at Mass, or pray piously for five minutes before bedtime and expect to leave the rest of their life the same as before. A Catholic determined to be an ambassador will need to let the light of Christ shine in and on and through every aspect of

their life.

Finally, just as the goal of war is to bring peace to a nation, the goal of evangelization is to bring peace to others. Ever since the fall of Adam and Eve, we aren’t at peace with anything in the world: our bodies, our work, our friends, and above all, our God. Everything and everyone is fractured and broken. Because there is this great need, we need to aim our evangelization at bringing the peace of Christ into the lives of everyone we know and meet.

*Grant Wilson is a seminarian for the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois, currently residing at the Cathedral on internship. He will be going into third theology in the fall.*



## Collection Information

### Stewardship of Treasure - March 21st & 22nd

Envelopes: \$4,632.00

### Stewardship of Treasure - March 28th & 29th

Envelopes: \$3,135.00

Maintenance: \$655.00

Total: \$3,790.00

March EFT: \$22,321.85

Did you know you can still 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!

## CRS Rice Bowl Prayer of the Week

Heavenly Father, we pray for those we encountered through CRS Rice Bowl, and all members of our one human family, that they do not go hungry, and always have the proper nutrition giving them the opportunity to build their dreams and a brighter future. We pray in your name. Amen.

What happens to your rice bowl now that Lent is over? Here are some answers:

- You can donate the money you have collected online at [www.dio.org/missions/ricebowl](http://www.dio.org/missions/ricebowl). Your contributions not only help people globally, but 25% goes to feed people right here in our diocese. This link will be available until April 26th.
- You can keep your Rice Bowl (and continue adding to it) and return it to the Cathedral when we reopen our doors for public worship.

CRS is working hard to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the world's most vulnerable places, so your support is critical! If you have any questions, please contact the diocese at 217-698-8500 or the Cathedral Parish Office at 217-522-3342.



## Comfort Music from the Cathedral

You can find hymns, psalms, and other liturgical music posted online daily by our very own Mark Gifford! Comfort Music from the Cathedral can be found in two places:

Facebook: Sacred Sounds Sacred Spaces

YouTube: Sacred Sounds Sacred Spaces

## Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.