

# *Cathedral* WEEKLY

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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FORWARD IN FAITH AND HOPE | FR. CHRISTOPHER HOUSE  
PRAYING FOR PATIENCE: WHAT I'VE LEARNED FROM GOD'S TIME VS. MY OWN | CHRISTINA ANTIS  
A HEART THAT NEED NOT BE TROUBLED | ALLISON GINGRAS  
RECOGNIZING THE VOICE OF JESUS | TRACY EARL WELLIVER

# Cathedral WEEKLY

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

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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



## Forward in Faith and Hope

For this Fifth Sunday of Easter this year, the Church provides for us a selection from the Gospels that takes us back to the night before Jesus died. These passages that are presented to us are from the fourteenth chapter of John's Gospel, a section known as the Last Discourse. Jesus would have been speaking in a way that would have bewildered the disciples; they would most likely have been perplexed and confused, as we hear from Thomas's question. Little did the disciples know that in a matter of hours their lives were "going to fall in" as one commentator puts it. They would find themselves turned upside down in chaos and uncertainty.

The Scriptures are timeless. We must never forget that the word of God is as apropos for us today as it was in the days when it was first heard/lived. Most of us can relate to the unfolding drama recorded for us by John. A few months ago (it is somewhat mystifying to say "months" now), we were living our lives but how quickly those lives were upended, not as quick for the disciples perhaps, but still quick for us, in about a week's time. At times like these, it is easy to fall into the trap that Philip does in the Gospel when he says to Jesus "show us the Father and that will be enough for us." We might be tempted to say "just manifest your power or glory in some undeniable way, Lord, and we will believe." We do not need to ask God to reveal Himself in such ways since He is always present; it is up to us to recognize Him.

In these months, I have seen the face of God in the many, many parishioners who contacted the parish office early in the shutdown to let us know that they were prepared to help in any way those who were vulnerable and could not get out for food, supplies, or medicine. I have seen the face of the God in those who have generously and sacrificially continued to send in financial support to the parish. I have seen the face of God in those who continue to manifest small and large acts of kindness, compassion, and selflessness in these uncertain and sometimes frustrating times. I have seen the face of God in these days because God is always present, hiding in plain sight, wanting and waiting to be seen by us. I hope that you too have been able to see the face of God in these uncertain times.

Being able to see God present around us is vital to our moving forward because moving forward now involves a degree of uncertainty and maybe some apprehension or fear for some, just as it did for Thomas in the Gospel. As we look forward to the days ahead, with a desire to return to some normalcy, if we are able to see God in our midst, then we can look forward in hope, even if the path and the details are unclear.

Some much of who and what we are has become uncertain: our routines, how we view the world, and how we understand this life. In the end, there is still one certainty and that is our loving God revealed to us in Jesus Christ who is the way, the truth, and the life. St. Paul teaches us that He is the same yesterday, today, and forever and so is His love, His mercy, and His presence among us. Find Him present in your life so that, together, we might move forward in faith and hope to a better tomorrow. God bless you and yours!

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

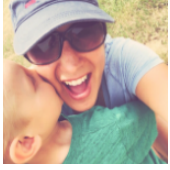
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## Sunday Reflection

### Chosen, Royal, and Holy

Jesus tells the disciples during the Last Supper that they know the way – to God, to new life, to heaven. This astonishing resurrected life, given us in Baptism, makes us chosen, royal, and holy people. We know, because of Jesus, the way to be all three.

- What mercy work will I do this week that fosters God's loving-kindness?
- How will this mercy activity make me more the royal and worthy person I am?
- How will I be holy?



## Praying for Patience: What I've Learned from God's Time vs. My Own

Patience. None of us have as much as we need. We all need it.

The lead singer of Guns N' Roses, Axl Rose, even sang about it. Of course, he isn't exactly the pinnacle of patience. If he were, he never would have sent a roadie on a plane from the U.S. to London moments before a concert to fetch the infamous yellow jacket he left behind. (And you thought you've had challenging bosses.)

Patience. I'm told it's a virtue. Patience is exemplified mostly by saints who became saints because they were capable of said virtue. Saint Monica of Hippo patiently prayed for 17 years for the conversion of her son, Augustine — and we're all thankful she did.

I don't exactly put forth 100% into my practice of this virtue. I'll be the first one to stand up and share that if there were a patience deficit, I would be the poster child for it. I am what-not-to-do for patience. Ask my kids, ask the cat, ask the countertop I vigorously tap while "patiently" waiting for everyone to start gravitating towards the door to leave for anywhere.

I struggle with patience in all aspects of my life, but specifically as a parent. I can only answer the same questions so many times before I want to bang my head on the wall. I can only imagine how I must make God feel when I do the same. I struggle with patience regarding my chores, my marriage, my work, my family, and people I run into in life. I am not always charitable. I allow myself to get frustrated, I get angry, I'm not friendly, I yell, I get short-tempered. I forget I make mistakes. I forget all the times that others have been patient with me in life. Most importantly, I forget God's infinite patience with me.

Mother Angelica said that "patience is adjusting our time to God's time," and that's a problem for those of us who have grown so dependent on an instant-gratification culture filled with Amazon Prime, good wifi, and remote voice commands.

As a parent, I'd like to be better at being patient with the Lord when I ask for something. On any given week, I tell my children "no," "later," or "another time." All because their requests are either not timed right, not good for them, or simply not possible. The only difference is my response to my children is clear, immediate, and direct. If God is clear and direct, which I'm confident he often is, then I'm not being open to listening because I want what I want when I want it... instead of having faith and trusting God.

God gives us what he wants when he wants us to have it.

Like any good parent, he knows when the best time is, or if there is a best time.

I once heard that the best way to understand God's time is to understand his ability to see everything. God is above looking down on the entire locomotive we call time. All at once he sees the caboose, the engine, and every car in between (past, present, and future). The train moves slowly for us riding inside of it, and even if we're walking around, it takes time to move a few cars up. God sets things in place for us in a certain car. It may take us several "cars" to reach the intended one, but we always get there. Even if our request isn't in the car, I'm positive a lesson to be learned is along the way and we almost always understand his answer by the time we get there.

Patience is a "time" thing for us. We experience the waiting period that God doesn't. I'm certain this is the way it is because in waiting, there can be suffering, but there is also always hope in this life. Every request is a trust fall exercise with a God we can't see but one who is there and wants us to just let go. He'll catch us. I think making us wait is his way of pushing us to trust in him. To ask and then let him do his job. God can see the whole train.



While I don't always understand the "whys" in life, I know if I trust and stay patient, the wait is a lot easier. So, how do I make the wait bearable? Well, I don't most of the time. Because I'm not patient. But I do try. I try to remind myself to trust God. It's an hourly effort most days to remember that he is not ignoring me, but that he knows what's best for me and he will take care of me.

I work towards patience daily (and fail hourly). I start and end the day with an Our Father and when I feel myself losing patience a quick Hail Mary. If it's a really rough day I say multiple Hail Marys in rapid succession. When I'm frustrated and feel my tipping point is coming, I try to say, "Jesus I trust in you" in an effort to slow myself down. I also recently came across this prayer for the virtue of patience:

*Patience is a virtue of the Lord: He awaits the return of His children. Forgive my trespasses Oh Lord Jesus, For many times have I tested You. I deserved the wrath of Your hand, But You saw greater things for me: Your patience has been enormous! Grant me a droplet of such endurance, That I may abolish my impious impatience, Refraining from using unpleasant words, And always reflecting Your serenity. Great is the Lord Jesus in His ways!*

Patience is a virtue but it's also a journey that takes a lot of dedication, humility, piety, perseverance, faith, and love. Most importantly, it takes trust that God's got this. In the words of Axl Rose: "... take it slow, and it'll work itself out fine. All we need is just a little patience."

*Christina Antus lives with her husband and her three cute, but noisy, kids. When she's not writing, she's running, reading, folding forever-piles of laundry, and probably burning dinner.*

## A Heart That Need Not Be Troubled

Promises have meaning and are typically not taken lightly. There is something about receiving someone's promise that evokes peace in our hearts. While the present moment may be uncertain or trying, knowing there is something good on the horizon gives hope. In John 14, Jesus shares heavenly promises bound to bestow peace and hope.

Jesus comforts us, proclaiming that we should not let our hearts be troubled. He encourages us not only to have faith in God but also to have faith in him, an act of trust you will never find misguided. Faith, as Hebrews 11 tells us, "is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen." Most experiences of faith are something not seen but felt only in our hearts. Perhaps having faith is not always the simplest task, but God never asks the impossible; therefore, we can be assured of the grace necessary to accomplish it.

We can hold tight to other promises shared by Jesus in today's Gospel as well; these are especially comforting in times of uncertainty. Jesus has gone before us and is preparing a place for us — meaning there is room in heaven for everyone. Furthermore, He promises to come back and take us there so that all we need to know of how to get there, is to follow the Way, Jesus himself. For Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life — the model of faith and giver of peace.

Although Jesus has gone before us, he is still, and will always be, right here with us. As worries mount, so too does the tendency to feel God has forgotten us, but the Scriptures ask us to recall the promises of His presence. Hope is restored upon the assurance never to be forsaken nor abandoned (Hebrews 13:5); recalling Jesus remains with us always, until the end of the age, to be exact (Matthew 28:20).

It is precisely those moments when we struggle the most to see God amid our circumstances, that we should rely those promises. With the gift of hindsight, we can look back to the outcomes of other hardships or trials (especially those beyond our control), carefully and prayerfully recognizing all the graces bestowed. Possibly the situation didn't resolve as wished, yet there is a discernable peace associated with that time and some greater good that came from it.

A family once prayed for a cure to their brother's terminal illness. They longed for his healing. As the disease progressed, so did his once dormant faith. Before becoming sick, he was far removed from the Catholic faith. His illness brought forth completely different healing as he decided to embrace a relationship with Christ. The miraculous reception of the sacraments, after too many years to count, and the acceptance of God's will; amazed the family, who likewise found great peace in this otherwise unwanted circumstance. In the end, the eternal promises of Christ resulted in a peace that was truly beyond understanding.

Like St. Thomas, we too can worry we'll not know the path to the place Jesus has prepared for us. The road may seem confusing or beyond our reach. The promises, while trustworthy, may feel as though they are meant for someone else, and not for someone so filled with doubt, sin, or fear. Remember, out of great love for us, while we were still sinners, God sent his only Son to die for our redemption (Romans 5:8).

Jesus is truly the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and we don't have to search far to find he is always with us. He journeys alongside our darkness and our joy. He is the embodiment of the unseen God; if we have seen him, then we have seen the Father.

We don't need to search far to find signs and wonders of God. We can witness his almighty love in a sunrise, the sweet smile of a child, and the peace which comes in prayer. "Amen, Amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father," (John 14:11). Amen, this is where hope prevails amid the most challenging and uncertain times.

*Allison Gingras is the founder of ReconciledToYou.com — where she shares her Catholic Faith and Relationship with Jesus with laughter and honesty, and how it is lived in the everyday, ordinary of life! Allison hosts A Seeking Heart with Allison Gingras recorded on FB Live Mondays 12:30 pm et; and distributed through Breadbox Media. Her newest project is the Stay Connected Journals for Catholic Women, published through Gracewatch.Media. Allison works for WINE: Women In the New Evangelization. As their WINE Steward she oversees and facilitates the online aspect, aka the Virtual Vineyard, including WINE Book Clubs.*



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## CCCW Scholarships

The Cathedral Council of Catholic Women and the Knights of Columbus Council #16126 are offering scholarships to students who are:

- (1) registered members of the Cathedral parish and
- (2) attending a Catholic high school or entering 7th or 8th grade a Catholic grade school in the fall of 2020.

Scholarship applications will be processed electronically this year. Use this link to request an application: <https://forms.gle/u2LvujZBbcHhmsBr7>.

The deadline to submit completed scholarship applications is midnight on Wednesday, May 13, 2020. Late applications will not be accepted. Please email questions to [cathedralcccw@gmail.com](mailto:cathedralcccw@gmail.com).



## Second Collections

Without Mass, we miss second collections. Second collections support local, national, and international efforts that are critical to the universal Church.

Below are a list of second collections that we have recently missed or will miss in the upcoming month:

- The Catholic Relief Services (March 22)
- Seminarian's Collection (April 12) - 100% of this collection stays local
- Catholic Home Missions Appeal (April 26)
- Catholic Communications Campaign (May 17) - 50% of this collection stays local
- Retired Diocesan Priests (May 31) - 100% of this collection stays local

Please prayerfully consider supporting these second collections this year. Since there will be no in-church collection taking place, please make your donation online at [www.parishgiving.dio.org/secondcollections](http://www.parishgiving.dio.org/secondcollections), or directly on the Cathedral's website at <https://spicathedral.org/give-online/>. You can also mail your donation to the parish office. Thank you for your support!

## Other Announcements

### Holy Mass Livestreams

Did you know you can join us at daily Mass from home? Mass is livestreamed every morning at 7:00am on the Cathedral Facebook page. All Masses are also added to the Cathedral website and can be found at [www.spicathedral.org/holy-mass-livestreams/](http://www.spicathedral.org/holy-mass-livestreams/).

You can also join Bishop Paprocki on Sundays at 10:00am for Sunday Mass. These livestreams can be found at [www.dio.org/live](http://www.dio.org/live).

### Spiritual Resources

The Cathedral website has many great resources for you to utilize during these uncertain times. Visit [www.spicathedral.org/](http://www.spicathedral.org/) to view them.

### Cathedral First Friday Concerts

At this time, the April, May, and June First Friday Concerts have been cancelled. We hope to resume our First Friday Concerts in August. In the meantime, you can enjoy familiar hymns, psalms, and tunes daily from our very own Mark Gifford. Comfort Music from the Cathedral can be found online on the Sacred Sounds Sacred Spaces Facebook page and on YouTube at Sacred Sounds Sacred Spaces.

## Stewardship Activity

### Stewardship of Prayer

Jesus, I do not want my heart to be troubled.  
I long to live in the peace of knowing  
you have prepared a place for me,  
and hope to follow you to it one day.  
Amen, I do believe in your great works shared in the Gospels  
and long to believe in even greater things.  
Guide me to truth along the way to a life with you, my Lord.  
Amen.

### Stewardship of Treasure - May 3rd

Envelopes:	\$4,301.00
Easter Envelopes:	\$1,616.00
<u>Maintenance:</u>	<u>\$115.00</u>
Total:	\$6,032.00

April EFT: \$25,664.80

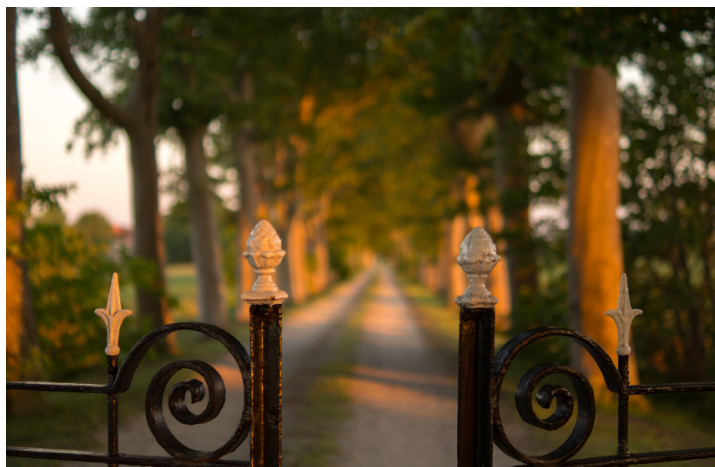
Did you know you can still make a gift online? If you would like to extend a special gift to the Cathedral, please visit <https://spicathedral.org/give-online/>. We appreciate your generosity!

## Recognizing the Voice of Jesus

When my wireless provider introduced HD Voice, the voice I heard on my phone was unbelievably clear, and it felt at times like both the caller and I were in the same room. The best aspect of this feature is that it didn't cost the customer any additional fees, and it didn't require any changes to the phone. I could say it was free, but I suspect I was already paying for it in my monthly bill anyway. At least it felt free.

The clearer the voice calling you, the easier it is to recognize who it is on the other end of the line. In John's Gospel, Jesus speaks of the gatekeeper who opens the gate and calls for his sheep. They respond because they know his voice. Others try to lure the sheep when the gatekeeper is not there, but the sheep find their voices unclear or unfamiliar.

Jesus is our gatekeeper. But unlike receiving something for free from a wireless company, to be able to hear his voice we need to pay attention and practice listening. By developing a stewardship way of life that is mindful and prayerful, we become attuned to his voice and are able to discern when the call is from our Lord and when it is from an imposter. It is great to talk about all the things we can do and all the gifts we can share, but if we are not listening for his call to hear where our offerings are needed, we can end up like a lost sheep searching for the gatekeeper.



*Tracy Earl Welliver is currently the Director of Parish Community and Engagement for LPI where he manages the company's coaching and consulting efforts. He has spoken on and coached dioceses, parishes, and individuals on stewardship, engagement, strengths, and discipleship all over North America, Australia, and New Zealand.*