

**Homily Outline for the 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Year - Cycle A**  
**Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception**  
**November 8, 2020**

**† Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki**  
**Bishop of Springfield in Illinois**

- I. Confirmation today of Keith Murray from St. Mary's Parish in New Berlin.
  - A. The three sacraments of initiation in the Church are Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.
  - B. With Confirmation today, Keith will be fully initiated into the Catholic Church and will receive the fullness of the gift of the Holy Spirit, just as Ss. Peter and John conferred the Holy Spirit to those who were already baptized (cf. Acts 8:14-17).
- II. This has been a tumultuous week in our country with the election last Tuesday, and our readings during the past week have been very timely and appropriate.
  - A. Our weekday readings have been from St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians:
    1. Tuesday: "Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus, . . . at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Phil 2:5-11).
    2. Wednesday: "Do everything without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine like lights in the world, as you hold on to the word of life" (Phil 2:12-18).
    3. Thursday: "Whatever gains I had, these I have come to consider a loss because of Christ. More than that, I even consider everything as a loss because of the supreme good of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord" (Phil 3:3-8a).
    4. Friday: "Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified Body by the power that enables him also to bring all things into subjection to himself" (Phil 3:17-4:1).
    5. Saturday: "God will fully supply whatever you need, in accord with his glorious riches in Christ Jesus" (Phil 4:10-19).

- B. Whoever was your candidate in the election, we do well to remember the admonition of Psalm 146: "Put no trust in princes, in [human beings] who are powerless to save" (Psalm 146:3).
  - C. Our Lord Himself told the Roman Procurator, Pontius Pilate, "My kingdom does not belong to this world" (John 18:36).
- III. Today's Scripture readings continue our November theme of praying for the dead and preparing for our own death.
- A. Our first reading (Wis 6:12-16) and Responsorial Psalm (63) remind us that we seek many things in life, but we should seek above all the Lord and His wisdom.
  - B. St. Paul tells us that "the Lord himself will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise" (1 Thes 4:13-18).
  - C. In the Gospel, Jesus tells us to be prepared, for we "know neither the day nor the hour" of our death nor when the Lord will come for us" (Mt 25:1-13).
- IV. In the Eucharist we are about to receive, we receive Our Lord Himself to strengthen us and prepare us for this journey.
- V. May God give us this grace. Amen.