



Not long ago, I was called to a hospital to anoint a woman in her early 80s. She was dying, and visibly in pain. But what struck me most wasn't her suffering—it was the atmosphere in the room. She had eight children and 30 foster kids, and many of them were gathered around her. You'd except sorrow, fear, maybe even despair. But the room was filled with something else entirely — a quiet strength, a kind of sweetness. It was as if she was suffering not just with them, but for them. And they, in love, were suffering for her. The pain was real. But so was the peace. I didn't want to run. I felt as if I was in a little paradise, beeping machines and all.

I think of that moment when I hear today's Gospel. Jesus, hanging on the cross, doesn't look like a king. But one of the crucified, dying men beside Him sees through the suffering and says, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom" (Luke 23:42). That word —*remember*— literally means to make someone a member again. He's asking to be joined to Christ, to become part of His Body. And Jesus says, "Today you will be with me in paradise." He doesn't say, "I'll take your suffering away." He says, "You will be with me." That's the strange power of Christ the King. He doesn't rule by avoiding suffering. He reigns by entering into it, and transforming it with love. What are you suffering right now in your life? Likely you want it to stop. But if we are willing to suffer with Him—paradise begins even today.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR NOVEMBER 29 & 30, 2025
Sat. Nov. 29 @ 4:30PM @ St. Nicholas
Reader: Marce Tebbe Music: Sally Rehberger
Euch. Min.: Brenda & Marce Tebbe
Server: Pat Kalous

Sun. Nov. 30 @ 8:00AM @ St. Gertrude
Reader: Jacob Lewis Music: Nick Worman
Sacristan: Brenda Knackstedt
Euch.Min.: Sue Messerli, Jane Deiters & Carole Sauls
Ushers: Karen & Nathaniel Straube
Servers: Oliver Lewis & Nevin Straube

Sun. Nov. 30 @10:00AM @ IC
Reader: Terry Potthast Music: Joy Winkeler
Servers: Paige Knebel
Euch. Min.: Erica Knebel, Cindy Knebel & Amy Gilomen

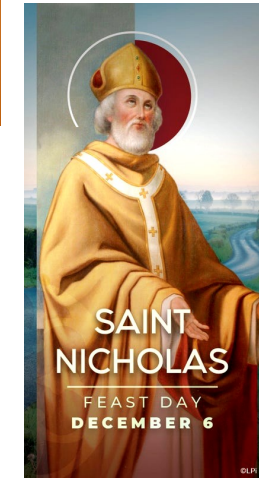


FAITHFUL DEPARTED

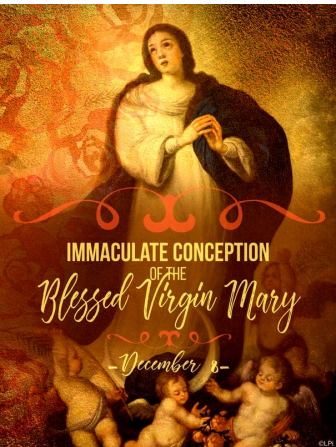
Prayers are requested for the repose of the souls of **Ruth Schroeder, Helen Wuebbels & Bob Winet** of our parish family. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Ruth, Helen & Bob's family and friends.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord...

Mon. (Nov.24)
Tues. (Nov.25) 8:00am (St.G)
Tues. (Nov.25) 7:00pm (IC)
Wed. (Nov.26) 8:00am (IC)
Thur. (Nov.27) 8:00am (St.N)
Fri. (Nov.28) 8:00am (IC)
Sat. (Nov.29) 4:30pm (St.N)
Sun. (Nov.30) 8:00am (St.G)
Sun. (Nov.30) 10:00am (IC)



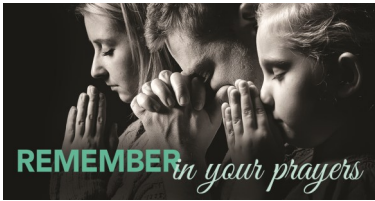
We are having a dual St. Nicholas and Immaculate Conception Feast Day celebration on Sunday, December 7th after the 10AM Mass at IC at 11:30AM at IC's Church Hall. Everyone from the 3 parishes are invited. There will be sign-up sheets at the back of each church. Please sign up if you plan to attend and what dish you would like to bring. The meat will be provided. Transportation is available.



THY KINGDOM COME!

† Mass Intentions †

No Mass
† All Souls
† Loretta Frey — Int. of Rick & Ruth Zurliene
For the People of Immaculate Conception, St. Nicholas & St. Gertrude
† Bill Huelsmann — Int. of the estate
† Mary Frank — Int. of Virginia Vosholler
† Roman Korte — Int. of Charlie & Jeannie Korte
† Deceased Members of STG Altar Society — Int. of STG Altar Society
† Diana Beck — Int. of Bill & Denise Trickey
† Duane Munie —Int. of Eleanor Munie & Family



Members of our parish families who are recovering in the hospital & at home, for their strength and patience each day, and for all those who ask for our prayers for health or other issues.

Pat Beard, Ana Cantrell, Steve Crawford, Don Dapkus, Dave Deiters, Teresa Dickman, Joan Dickshot, Jean Fields, Scott Frank, Gabriel Frey, Jerry Fyke, Ed Gagen, Karen Grabowski, P.J. Hereford, James Hodge, Gene Jolliff, Pat Kalous, Val King, Barrett Korte, Denny Korte, Randy Korte, Ruth Korte, Steve Korte, David Kuehn, Sue Luber, Christopher Marti, Taylor Marti, Barry May, Alex McCall, Eleanor Munie, Cody Neal, Jeannie Oestringer, Suzanne Steinbring, Marcia Rowe, Gunner Sadler, Abby Schrage, Bill Schroeder, Bertha Voss, Marie Weis, Ginny Werner, Dean Wernle.

FOR OUR PARISHIONERS IN NURSING HOMES:
Delmar Knebel, Ann Plocher, Barbara Weiss, Margie Zurliene and special people in our families.

FOR THOSE CURRENTLY SERVING IN THE MILITARY:
Adam Canfield, Tim Doll, Chad Knebel, Michael Knebel, Dustin Korte, Solon McGill, Lt. Abigail Mesaros, Jerriett Mettler, Jimmy O'Boyle, Sgt. Joseph Patterson, Rickie Schuster, Joseph Schatte, Greg Spina, T.J. Waddington, Sgt. Tyler Wegman, Sgt. Zach Weiss.
If you would like to have someone added or removed from the prayer list please call the parish office.

Readings for the week of November 23, 2025

Sunday:
2 Sm 5:1-3/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5 (see 1)/ Col 1:12-20/Lk 23:35-43

Monday:
Dn 1:1-6, 8-20/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/ Lk 21:1-4

Tuesday:
Dn 2:31-45/Dn 3:57, 58, 59, 60, 61/ Lk 21:5-11

Wednesday:
Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28/Dn 3:62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67/Lk 21:12-19

Thursday:
Dn 6:12-28/Dn 3:68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74/Lk 21:20-28

Friday:
Dn 7:2-14/Dn 3:75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81/ Lk 21:29-33

Saturday:
Dn 7:15-27/Dn 3:82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87/ Lk 21:34-36

Next Sunday:
Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/ Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44

I would like to thank Father Cal and the ladies that prepared and served the luncheon and those who assisted during Mass.
I greatly appreciate all of the cards, prayers and condolences from our parish family and friends who shared in my loss.
May God Bless you!
Bill Schroeder

The next IC Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 16th at 7:00PM

No PSR on Wednesday November 26th



Congratulations to Elizabeth & Christian Schwarz on their accomplishment of being on the Honor Roll at Mater Dei for the 1st quarter of the academic year.

STN Collection	11/8/25
Envelopes/Loose	\$796.00
Military Arch Diocese	\$60.00
All Souls	\$20.00
STN Collection	11/15/25
Envelopes/Loose	\$1,170.00
Christmas Flowers	\$10.00
Budget Goal	\$1,257.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	-\$87.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$25,140.00
Support Actual	\$24,080.06
Surplus/Deficit YTD	-\$1,059.94

"...giving thanks to the Father, who has made you fit to share in the inheritance of the holy ones in light."

Colossians 1:12

God wants us to be happy! Instead of looking at the Ten Commandments as being restrictive and telling us what we can't do, look at them as guides for living a joy-filled and peaceful life. Most of our problems arise when we put our own needs first or we spend most of our time trying to acquire more stuff. Instead, try putting God first in all things. We were made for God. Open your heart and let Him in!

Our king wears a crown of thorns, not a crown of gold. His glory is not in riches but in suffering. His law is written in His own blood, shed for the love of us. Do we understand the gift that it is, to be subject to such a king?

Fill the Freezer! Madison County Catholic Charities is requesting food donations. Come check out our new walk-in freezer, tour the food pantry and stay for hot chocolate and cookies. We hope to see you on Saturday, December 6th from 1pm to 3pm at our Alton location, 3512 McArthur Blvd. Items requested: lunch-meat, hot dogs and brats, ground hamburger, hamburger helper, pasta and sauce, ramen, PB&J and oatmeal. For questions, contact Denise Burton at (618) 462-0634, ext. 232.

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
December 8th mass schedule:
8:00AM at St. Nicholas
5:00PM at St. Gertrude
7:00PM at Immaculate Conception
This is a Holy Day of Obligation

Please join us for the Thanksgiving Mass on Tuesday, November 25th at Immaculate Conception 7PM



STG Collection	11/9/25
Envelopes/Loose	\$818.00
All Souls	\$10.00
Sister Parish	\$40.00
Justice & Hope	\$10.00
Military Arch Diocese	\$58.00
Building Fund	\$95.00
STG Collection	11/16/25
Envelopes/Loose	\$696.00
Military Arch Diocese	\$25.00
Maintenance Fund	\$1,095.00
Cemetery	\$220.00
Budget Goal	\$1,505.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	-\$809.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$30,100.00
Support Actual	\$24,294.00
Surplus/Deficit YTD	-\$5,806.00

Observances for the week of November 23, 2025

Sunday: Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
Monday: St. Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs
Tuesday: St. Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin and Martyr
Thursday: Thanksgiving Day
Next Sunday: 1st Sunday of Advent



The PAPAYA Youth Group will be collecting money for a Christmas family (or families) in need. Donations will be collected after each Mass at IC & STN thru December 7th. Thank you for your generous support!!

Advent Penance Services in Our Area

Immaculate Conception Pierron – Wednesday December 3 7:00PM

St. Cecilia/St. Mary Edw @ St. Cecilia – Wednesday December 10 @ 6:30PM

St. Paul Highland – Wednesday. December 10, 6:30 PM

St. Paul Highland – Thursday December 11, 10:00 AM

St. Gertrude Grantfork – Wednesday December 17 7:00PM

Tri City @ St. Elizabeth Granite – Wednesday December 17 6:00PM

IC Collection	11/9/25
Envelopes/Loose	\$2,333.00
Justice & Hope	\$50.00
Sister Parish	\$75.00
Military Arch Diocese	\$385.00
Christmas Flowers	\$20.00
Building Fund	\$150.00
Cemetery	\$3.00
Candles	\$74.00
IC Collection	11/16/25
Envelopes/Loose	\$2,104.44
Sister Parish	\$20.00
Military Arch Diocese	\$5.00
Christmas Flowers	\$10.00
Candles	\$45.00
Building Fund	\$90.00
Budget Goal	\$2,672.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	-\$567.56
Support Needed (budget)	\$53,440.00
Support Actual	\$46,854.28
Surplus/Deficit YTD	-\$6,585.72

Clinton Co. Showcase Presents



525 N. 2nd St.; Breese, IL
618-526-2866 Showtimes:
12/5 and 12/6 at 8PM
12/7 at 2PM
12/12 & 12/13 at 8PM
12/14 at 2PM



The Grantfork Historical Society is hosting the Wreaths Across America wreath laying event on Saturday, December 13th at the GRANTFORK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CEMETERY at 11:00 am. Everyone is welcome to attend. To donate a wreath, contact Wendy at 618-675-3472 or 618-444-2520. Wreaths are \$17.00.



Devotions Explained! Jesse Tree

The Jesse Tree is an Advent practice which recounts the history of salvation by tracing the lineage of Christ — the foretold “shoot from the stump of Jesse” who will bring peace and unity to the people of God (Isaiah 11:1).

In a way, creating a Jesse tree is the telling of one big story — the redemption of man — through the telling of many smaller stories — the fall of Adam, God’s promise to Abraham, the wandering of the Israelites, the greatness of David and the humble submission of Mary. A Jesse tree is adorned with symbols of these various people and stories, with the earliest ones hung from the topmost branches, progressing downward.

There are different versions of the Jesse Tree featuring different Old Testament figures and stories, but all begin with Adam and end with the birth of Jesus. It is an easy tradition to practice at home —all you need is a tree, paper, markers, scissors, string & a Bible.©LPI

Jesus is King

Dear Jesus,
I see the kingdom you love,
the one full of the broken and forgotten.
I see the crown you wear —
thorns out of love for me.
I pick you as my King.
Mold my heart to be a worthy member of your kingdom.
Amen.

HITZ HOME AUXILIARY PRESENTS

Christmas Tasting Bee

Friday, December 5, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.

Join Us!

For an afternoon of fellowship and entertainment.

Where?

Hitz Home
Activity & Dining
Room
Donation:
\$8.00

We invite you to

Bring your favorite Christmas appetizer, dish, or dessert
(A variety of meats will be provided)

Share a delicious meal, silent auction, entertainment and Christmas raffle!

Raffle Prizes Include

Quilt

\$25 Gift Certificates to:

Aldi
Amazon
Big R
Blue Springs
Diamond Mineral Springs

Maedges
Olive Garden
Slots-n-Slices
Texas Roadhouse
Wal-Mart



Note of Thanks from 40 Days for Life at Granite City Core Team Fall 2025 Campaign

We would like to thank everyone who came out to pray at the abortion facility in Granite City during our 40 Days for Life campaign. It is awesome to see more & more people make the decision to come out to the sidewalk to pray. Prayer partners covered 12 hours a day, for 40 straight days - AGAIN! We have been blessed with great weather in which to pray throughout this campaign!

Over 1,400 hours were peacefully prayed!

11 babies were saved (that we know of)!

65 hours were prayed by our clergy and religious brothers and sisters.

Prayer partners from Effingham, and a couple from Texas came to pray with us.

We have been blessed with humble and God loving volunteers to fill the gaps!

This is the 13th campaign in Granite City. It is due to the constancy of prayer partners that these campaigns have thrived over the last seven years!

SHOP FOR A CAUSE! Get all your Christmas shopping done while supporting Madison County Catholic Charities. Shop *Scentsy* wax warmers, candles and more, delivered right to your door. Use our special *Scentsy* link during the entire month of November, and all proceeds will go to support our programs that serve the community.

<https://touchdownscents.scentsy.us/party/19308167/madison-county-charities-link>

“Surely if there is one thing that God wants each of us to be as his sons and daughters, it is to be channels of his love. God is love, and wherever God’s people are, there God’s love should be manifest.”

SR. ANN SHIELDS
Fire in My Heart



DynamicCatholic.com

Meet Our Seminararians



Joseph Tuttle
Configuration I
St. Meinrad Seminary

One thing I have learned in my discernment is to continually surrender to the will of the Father. I have learned to say with Jesus, "Not as I will, but as You will." (Matt. 26:39)

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE NOVEMBER 22 & 23, 2025



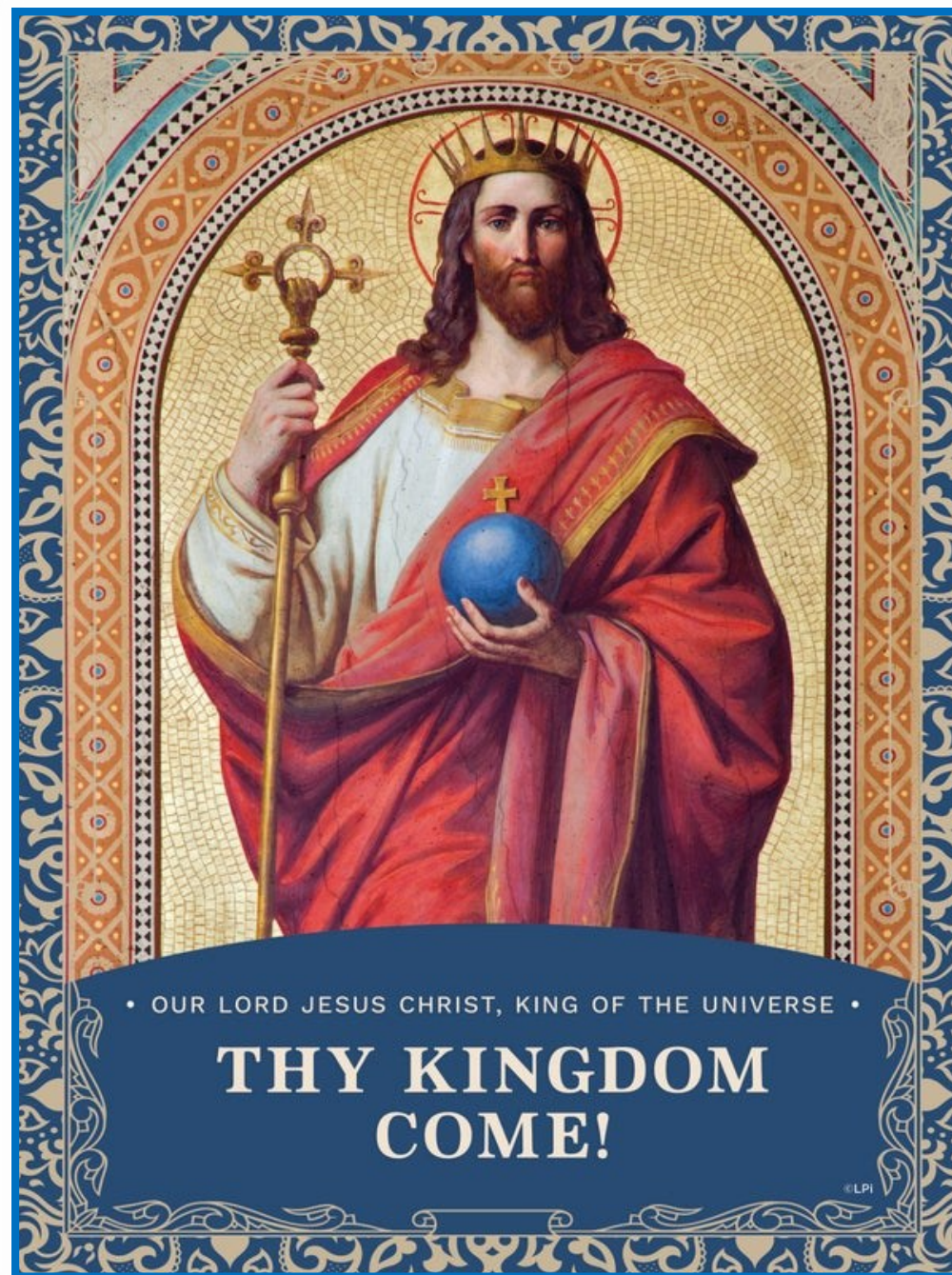
Saint Nicholas - Pocahontas



Immaculate Conception—Pierron



Saint Gertrude—Grantfork



+BISHOP
THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI
DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD
IN ILLINOIS



REV. CALLISTUS OSIAGA
PASTOR

SONYA CURRY
SECRETARY

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401 E State Street,
Pocahontas
Office Hours:
Mon.—Thurs. 9am to 4pm
Fridays 9am to 1pm

Mass Times
Immaculate Conception
Wed. & Fri. —8:00am
Sunday —10:00am

Saint Nicholas
Thursday — 8:00am
Saturday — 4:30pm

Saint Gertrude
Tuesday — 8:00am
Sunday — 8:00am