

Truly, Fully Alive



We generally approach life with the question, "What can this do for me?" We try a new workout, a low-carb diet, intermittent fasting, or a new career path, hoping it will make us healthier, stronger, happier. The assumption is that if I invest in this, I'll eventually reap some benefit, or I won't do it. It is easy to think of faith the same way: if I really practice my faith, what will it do for me? Will it make me calmer, more moral, more successful?

But in today's Gospel, Jesus says something astonishing. He doesn't present Himself as a teacher who shows us the way to life. He says, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." (John 14:6). He is not merely a guide toward some higher benefit. He is the benefit itself. To know Him is to know Life.

Thomas Aquinas explains that every desire in the human heart — love, joy, meaning, all of our restless cravings — is really an indirect cry for life. Even despair testifies to this longing: people despair precisely because they feel they are not, and might never be, fully alive.

The good news is that Jesus is not simply the means to a better life; He is Life itself. To believe in Him is to share in God's own eternal vitality. Not simply later but even now. Faith is not a transaction that produces results — it is a union that fills us with joy. To be in communion with Christ is to be truly, fully alive. —Father John Muir

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR MAY 9 & 10, 2026

Sat. May 9 @ 4:30PM @ St. Nicholas

Reader: Pat Kalous
 Music: Sally Rehberger, Barb Zaloga, & Colleen Lozier
 Euch. Min.: Marce & Brenda Tebbe
 Server: Pat Kalous

Sun. May 10 @ 8:00AM @ St. Gertrude

Reader: Janice Korskmeier
 Music: Nick Worman & Randy Eckstein
 Sacristan: Carole Sauls
 Euch.Min.: Jane Deiters, Sue Messerli & Carole Sauls
 Ushers: Randy & Dianne Leitschuh
 Servers: Evonna & Makayla Korskmeier

Sun. May 10 @ 10:00AM @ IC

Reader: Denise Trickey
 Music: Joy Winkeler
 Servers: Emma Winte, Dylen Potthast, Parker & Colton Stephenson
 Euch. Min.: Kristin Potthast, Evelyn Knebel & Barry Otto

The St. Gertrude Altar Society meeting and dinner will be held Monday May 4th at 6:00pm at Blue Springs. All women of the parish are welcome and encouraged to attend. **Please note date change**



REMEMBER in your prayers

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. John Alberternst, Pat Beard, Ana Cantrell, Steve Crawford, Don Dapkus, Teresa Dickman, Garland Edwards, Jean Fields, Gabriel Frey, Jerry Fyke, Ed Gagen, Karen Grabowski, John Grubb, P.J. Hereford, James Hodge, Gene Jolliff, Pat Kalous, Val King, Janice Korskmeier, 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, Robin Pollmann, Marcia Rowe, Gunner Sadler, Abby Schrage, Bill Schroeder, Suzanne Steinbring, Brenda Usher, Marie Weis, Rich Weis, Ginny Werner, Dean Wernle.

FOR OUR PARISHIONERS IN NURSING HOMES:

Delmar Knebel, Harold Schwarz, Barbara Weiss, Margie Zurliene and special people in our families.

FOR THOSE CURRENTLY SERVING IN THE MILITARY:

Adam Canfield, Tim Doll, Ensign Eli Jones, Chad Knebel, Michael Knebel, Dustin Korte, Solon McGill, Lt. Abigail Mesaros, Jerritt 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 May 3, 2026

Sunday:
 Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19/1 Pt 2:4-9/
 Jn 14:1-12

Monday:
 Acts 14:5-18/ Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16/
 Jn 14:21-26

Tuesday:
 Acts 14:19-28/ Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21/
 Jn 14:27-31a

Wednesday:
 Acts 15:1-6/ Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5/
 Jn 15:1-8

Thursday:
 Acts 15:7-21/ Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10/
 Jn 15:9-11

Friday:
 Acts 15:22-31/ Ps 57:8-9, 10 and 12/
 Jn 15:12-17

Saturday:
 Acts 16:1-10/ Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5/Jn 15:18-21

Next Sunday:
 Acts 8:5-8, 14-17/Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16 and 20/1 Pt 3:15-18/Jn 14:15-21

May HACSM Pantry Needs: Italian salad dressing (plastic bottle) and croutons. We appreciate your support! Thank You!



St. Nicholas Blood Drive at St. Nicholas Parish Hall on Tuesday, May 19th 2:00 to 6:00PM Please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter STNICHOLASCHURCH to schedule an appointment.

"The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone." 1 Peter 2:7

Every person has been given gifts from the Holy Spirit. These are called "charisms" and they are used to build God's kingdom of earth. While many people are able to recognize their natural talents and abilities, they may be unsure of their charisms. If you know someone who is struggling for a direction in life, give them a little encouragement. Help them discern their charisms and how God is calling them to use them. Remember – no gift is too small or insignificant in God's salvation plan.

How often do we contemplate the mercy of God, but fear it will run out? How often do we consider following the path of Christ and worry that it is too steep? But God has not overpromised. Dare to believe Him. Dare to follow Him.

IC Church is looking for a cantor for the 10AM Sunday Mass starting August 2nd, 2026. Anyone interested please call or email the parish office.

St. Gertrude's will be continuing the raffle at the 2026 Chicken Dinner. If anyone would like to make a contribution towards it, please place your donation in the offertory basket marking your envelope as "Raffle Donation" or contact Dianne Leitschuh. Thank You!

Hall cleaning for the chicken dinner will be May 7 starting at 5 pm.

Please bring rags & buckets. Many hands make it go fast!

We are asking ALL FAMILIES to make 3 cakes for the dinner. They can be any kind. Angel food, sugar free, or whatever you would like to make.

Help is needed on Saturday, June 6 to help set up for the dinner. We will start at 8am.

Chicken Dinner gift certificates are available for \$15.00 each if you would like to purchase any to be given to the special people in your lives as a gift. Please contact Dianne Leitschuh at 618-410-0144 to get yours before the dinner.

Observances for the week of May 3, 2026

Sunday: 5th Sunday of Easter
Tuesday: Cinco de Mayo
Thursday: National Day of Prayer
Next Sunday: 6th Sunday of Easter; Mother's Day

ST. LOUIS CATHOLIC CONFERENCE —The 27th Anniversary Saint Louis Marian Conference will be held May 15-17, 2026 at the Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel. Everyone is welcome & parking is FREE! The cost is still only \$60 for three full, dynamic days of inspiring talks, Holy Mass, Adoration, Confession, a large selection of vendors, beautiful music, & fellowship with Catholics from all over the country! Hotel group rate good for 1-4 people per room. Confirmed Speakers: His Eminence Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke, Fr. Mitch Pacwa, SJ, Msgr. Eugene Morris, Fr. Bill Casey, CPM, Sr. Gianna Casino, LIHM, Susan Tassone, Patty Schneider, Ken & MaryAnn Duppong, and a concert by Eric Genuis. For more info., to register, or to book your hotel room please visit us at: stlmc.org or Phone 314-850-7718.



Let's wish Father Cal

a very

Happy Birthday on May 5th!

And to help him celebrate his birthday, we are asking that everyone join us at the Immaculate Conception Hall right after the 10am Mass on Sunday, May 3rd, for snacks, drinks and fellowship!

† Mass Intentions †

No Mass
 † **All Souls**
 † **All Souls**
 † **JoAnn Lucas** — Int. of Larry Walker
 † **Bill Huelsmann** — Int. of the estate
 † **Cliff Wheelan** — Int. of Bill & Denise Trickey
 † **Ronnie & Bonnie Rutz** — Int. of Joan & Al Watson
For the People of St. Nicholas, St. Gertrude & Immaculate Conception
 † **Deceased of the Knebel Family** — Int. of Emily Schwarz & Family
 † **Loretta Knebel** —Int. of Delmar Knebel & Family
 † **Pat Frank** —Int. of Monica & Jeff Toennies



Mon. (May 4) 8:00am
 Tues. (May 5) 8:00am (St.G)
 Tues. (May 5) 9:30am (H.H.)
 Wed. (May 6) 8:00am (IC)
 Thur. (May 7) 8:00am (St.N)
 Fri. (May 8) 8:00am (IC)
 Sat. (May 9) 4:30pm (St.N)

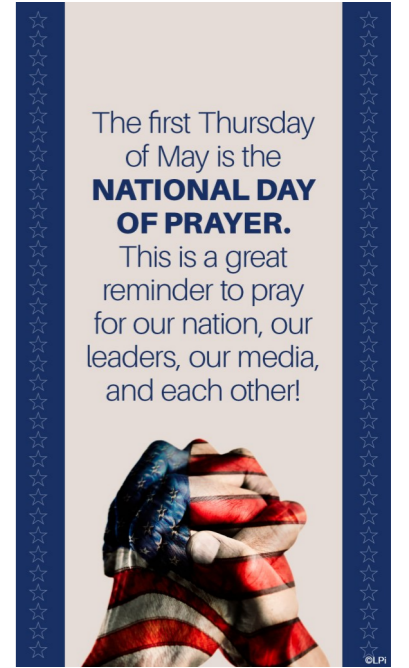
Sun. (May 10) 8:00am (St.G)
 Sun. (May 10) 10:00am (IC)

STN Collection	4/25/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$1,995.00
Sister Parish	\$230.00
Easter Flowers	\$25.00
Holy Land	\$50.00
Seminarians	\$100.00
Home Mission	\$15.00
Candles	\$194.00
Budget Goal	\$1,257.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$738.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$54,051.00
Support Actual	\$59,939.27
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$5,888.27



St. Gertrude's parish and CFL Council 60 Mass and breakfast to honor all high school and college graduates on Sunday, May 17th.

STG Collection	4/26/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$860.00
Home Missions	\$25.00
Sister Parish	\$110.00
Maintenance Fund	\$20.00
Budget Goal	\$1,505.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	-\$645.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$64,715.00
Support Actual	\$62,931.27
Surplus/Deficit YTD	-\$1,783.73



The first Thursday of May is the NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER. This is a great reminder to pray for our nation, our leaders, our media, and each other!

IC Collection	4/26/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$2,277.48
Ascension	\$25.00
Sister Parish	\$195.00
Home Mission	\$25.00
Communications	\$25.00
Retired Priests	\$175.00
Building Fund	\$35.00
Candles	\$56.00
Cemetery	\$45.00
Budget Goal	\$2,672.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	-\$369.52
Support Needed (budget)	\$114,896.00
Support Actual	\$117,198.29
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$2,302.29



CALLED & Sent

A fun and powerful retreat for high school students filled with prayer and fellowship!

JULY 18-23, 2026

VILLA MARIA RETREAT CENTER - SPRINGFIELD

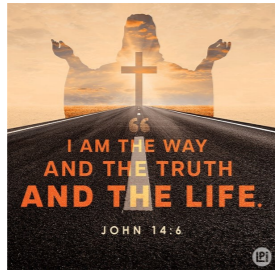


VOCATION MINISTRY PRAY FOR VOCATIONS: May 3, 2026

For the Church, that we may honor the witness of religious brothers, and be inspired by their humble service to Christ and His people.

For those discerning their vocation, that they may joyfully follow Christ, walking the path of humility and devotion.

For our parish, that we may encourage and pray for religious brothers who dedicate their lives to Christ's mission.



Virtues Explained! Diligence

Diligence is the opposite of negligence; the diligent person pursues his goal with the same faithfulness with which God has pursued us, wayward as we are, through the long course of salvation history. St. Thomas Aquinas writes that "diligence, no less than solicitude, is required for every virtue." (Sum., II:II, 54, Art. 1)

Christians are called to diligence in prayer, in self-scrutiny, in exercising virtue, in seeking God's will, in detachment from the world and in reflecting on God's word in Scripture: "If we are diligent in observing all of these commandments before the Lord, our God, as he commanded of us, then this will be our righteousness." (Deuteronomy 6:25) Diligence is made possible by the freedom of will that we have been granted by God, and it is the virtue by which man can secure for himself true happiness. (Gaudium et spes. 17). ©LPi

Blessing of Peace

Dear Lord,
You have said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled."
Bless me with Your peace.
Fill my heart with trust in You, and hope in Your promises.
Be my rock in times of distress, my light in times of darkness, and my rest in the storm.
Amen.

The Grantfork Area Dev Club (GADC) is sponsoring a BBQ fundraiser on Sun., **May 3, serving 10 am - 4 pm at the Grantfork firehouse.** All proceeds will benefit the Grantfork Volunteer Fire Dept & Grantfork's United for Others ("UFO" - St Gertrude's Church and the UCC). Baked goods and beverages will also be sold; dine-in or carry-out; and a 50/50 drawing will take place. If anyone would like to donate baked goods, please individually wrap & price before dropping off. If questions, or to request large pre-order pickups, contact Peggy Korte (618-444-29400, Jeanette Schuster (618-402-4015), or Adam Vosholler (618-795-2178). All support is appreciated!

Ladies' Morning of Recollection — All women are invited to a special time of spiritual renewal on **Saturday, May 9, from 10:00 to Noon at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Alton.** The morning will include Adoration, Confession, and meditations offered by a priest of Opus Dei. Come and take this opportunity to spiritually recharge as we celebrate Mother's Day weekend. No need to RSVP, but for more info. contact Eva at evamahaine@gmail.com



This very day leave behind the world's anxieties; leave worry to those who should be worrying, and take that time for holy exercises in true solid virtue. Don't wait for more time, since we have no assurance we shall have it. Love! Love! For you are loved indescribably much!

Saint Catherine of Siena
(from the meditation for April 29)

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER MAY 2 & 3, 2026



Saint Nicholas - Pocahontas



Immaculate Conception—Pierron



Saint Gertrude—Grantfork



SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2026

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

"In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?" - Jn 14:2

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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+BISHOP
THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI
DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD
IN ILLINOIS

✠
REV. CALLISTUS OSIAGA
PASTOR

SONYA CURRY
SECRETARY

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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