



Once I was invited to a group meeting with Pope Francis. Entering the room, I paused, eyeing the seats next to the Pope’s fancy chair. Someone saw my paralysis and invited me to sit in the seat farthest from what I wanted. Hiding my disappointment, I sat. We waited. To our surprise, an aid pointed out that those seats were still empty and invited me and another to have them. We calmly but gleefully strode across the room and sat.

Pope Francis entered, and we enjoyed two hours of amazingly uplifting conversation.

Jesus says this week to us: “When you are invited, go and take the lowest place so that when the host comes to you he may say, ‘My friend, move up to a higher position.’ Then you will enjoy the esteem of your companions at the table” (Luke 14:10). This is not about how to score free seat upgrades. Rather, it is a wise pattern for the whole of life.

It is how to live free from the anxiety of constantly grasping for status and recognition.

Jesus perfectly embodies His seat-taking advice. He eschews His glorious throne for the lowest: death on a cross, that lonely chair we all deserve. In His resurrection, He calls us up higher to His marvelous banquet seats. This week, perhaps we should look for opportunities to choose the lowest seat. We’ll be pleasantly surprised when we do. — Fr. John Muir

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR SEPTEMBER 6 & 7, 2025
Sat. Sept. 6 @ 4:30PM @ St. Nicholas
Reader: Kelsey Bentlage Music: Sally Rehberger
Euch. Min.: Brenda & Marce Tebbe

Sun. Sept. 7 @ 8:00AM @ St. Gertrude
Reader: Janice Korsmeyer Music: Nick Worman
Sacristan: Rich May
Euch. Min.: Judi Rode & Gail Ohren
Ushers: Karen & Nathaniel Straube
Servers: Evonna & Makayla Korsmeyer

Sun. Sept. 7 @10:00AM @ IC
Reader: Terry Potthast
Music: Joy & Angela Winkeler
Server: Jentry Lobello & Emma Winte
Euch. Min.: John Dea, Rick & Ruth Zurliene



O.C.I.A. (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults); formerly called RCIA

Who comes to O.C.I.A.? Anybody and everybody!
Some of the most common reasons people attend O.C.I.A. are:

- A personal call to join the Catholic Church, whether baptized in the Catholic Church, in another church, or never baptized.
- A spouse of a member of the Catholic Church who desires to create harmony in the family by becoming a Catholic.
- Someone who is planning marriage to a Catholic, and is considering joining the Catholic Church to bring unity to the marriage.
- An individual who is baptized a Catholic, but has not received the Sacraments of Holy Eucharist or Confirmation; or who has stopped practicing the Catholic Faith and wishes to begin again.

If you know of someone who falls into any of these categories, please let them know about upcoming inquiry sessions beginning on Wednesday, September 10th, 7PM at St. Nicholas Hall. If that person wants to attend inquiry sessions, has any questions or would like to know more about what the Catholic Church teaches please have them call Mark Williams at 618-960-3319.

† Mass Intentions †			† No Mass		
Mon. (Sept 1)			† All Souls		
Tues. (Sept 2)	8:00am (St.G)		† All Souls		
Tues. (Sept 2)	9:30am (H.H.)		† William Kaus — Int. of Bill & Denise Trickey		
Wed. (Sept. 3)	8:00am (IC)		† Ken & Betty Wagner — Int. of Craig & Kayla Kniepmann		
Thur. (Sept. 4)	8:00am (St.N)		† Pauline & Leonard Frohn — Int. of Bill Huelsmann		
Fri. (Sept. 5)	8:00am (IC)		† Betty Shenkel — Int. of the Weis Family		
Sat. (Sept. 6)	4:30pm (St.N)		For the People of St. Nicholas, St. Gertrude & Immaculate Conception		
Sun. (Sept. 7)	8:00am (St.G)		† Kenneth Korsmeyer —Int. of Kevin Woodside		
Sun. (Sept. 7)	10:00am (IC)		† Dean & June Sauls —Int. of Lois Moore		
22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time			† Pat Frank — Int. of Jeannie Korte		
			† Donna Rapp — Int. of Rick & Ruth Zurliene		

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.

Brayden Baer, Pat Beard, Ana Cantrell, Sharon 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, Gene Jolliff, Pat Kalous, Val King, Barrett Korte, Randy Korte, Ruth Korte, David Kuehn, Sue Luber, Christopher Marti, Taylor Marti, Barry May, Alex McCall, Eleanor Munie, Cody Neal, Suzanne Steinbring, Marcia Rowe, Gunner Sadler, Abby Schrage, Bill & Ruth Schroeder, Bertha Voss, Marie Weis, Ginny Werner, Bob Winet.

FOR OUR PARISHIONERS IN NURSING HOMES:
Lawrence Frank, Delmar Knebel, Ann Plocher, Barbara Weiss, Helen Wuebbles, 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.

Every good thing in the Christian life grows in the soil of humility. Just as none of us will leave our homes without first putting on our clothes, God is saying to each and everyone of us today: Don’t step out of your home, don’t come to church, don’t go anywhere without first putting on humility. Do you realize that God resists the proud? At the beginning of the Good Friday liturgy, the priest prostrates in silence before the altar, an awesome expression of humility before the Lord. Humility leads to a higher place. Be humble!

If you humble yourself, you will be exalted.

HAPPY LABOR DAY

If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected — the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to the organization and joining of unions, to private property, and to economic initiative.

USCCB

Readings for the week of August 31, 2025

Sunday:
Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5 (1a)/Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a/Lk 14:1, 7-14

Monday:
1 Thes 4:13-18/Ps 96:1 and 3, 4-5, 11-12, 13/Lk 4:16-30

Tuesday:
1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Lk 4:31-37

Wednesday:
Col 1:1-8/Ps 52:10, 11/Lk 4:38-44

Thursday:
Col 1:9-14/Ps 98:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6/Lk 5:1-11

Friday:
Col 1:15-20/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Lk 5:33-39

Saturday:
Col 1:21-23/Ps 54:3-4, 6 and 8/Lk 6:1-5

Next Sunday:
Wis 9:13-18b/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14-17 (1)/Phlm 9-10, 12-17/Lk 14:25-33

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

God created you on a special day. Please let us know when your birthday is, it’s special and so are you. Starting in August, we shall include in the bulletin and pray in a special way for all those born in the month of August. We ask that you reach out to the parish office and let us know the month and day of your birthday. May God bless you abundantly, especially on your birthday!

BORN INTO Eternal Life

FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of **Rose Koberczky, mother of Anna (Scott) Frank,** of our parish family. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Rose’s family and friends.

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord...

STN Collection	8/23/25
Envelopes/Loose	\$849.00
Assumption of Mary	\$25.00
Capital Improvements	\$200.00
Budget Goal	\$1,257.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	-\$383.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$10,056.00
Support Actual	\$9,867.06
Surplus/Deficit YTD	-\$188.94
22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	

“Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you.” Luke 14:13-14

One of the main principles of living a stewardship lifestyle is to give without expecting anything in return. This is difficult for some to comprehend in our “consumerist” culture that we live in. This is even difficult for many parish communities that have become heavily dependent on parish fundraising events to support the mission and ministry of their local parish. Generally speaking, at a parish fundraiser, you pay money and receive something in return, it’s just a financial transaction. This is opposed to our parish offertory at Holy Mass, where you unite your sacrifice with Jesus’, renewing our covenant relationship with Him.

“When you hold a banquet, invite the poor, “ Jesus instructs. “Blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you.” Each of us has our own banquet to offer, our own gifts to share. Who will we invite?

Parish School of Religion

Parish School of Religion (PSR) for IC & STN starts Wednesday, **Sept. 3rd** 6:30p.m. to 7:45p.m. at Immaculate Conception Hall in Pierron

Registration is that night starting at 6:00p.m. and a class schedule will be given. Any 1st graders or new members, please contact MaryJo Luitjohan, PSR DRE at 618-210-1112

PSR classes for St. Gertrude will also begin on Wed., **September 3rd** with registration and meet and greet the teachers. Registration is \$50 per child payable the night of registration by check or cash. Please plan to stay as there will be a parent meeting and classes will be short. Any questions contact Kim Weis at 618-781-1022.

The Highland Food Pantry is asking our parishioners to donate Tuna & Chicken Noodle Soup for the month of September. All other food donations will still be accepted. Thank You!

STG Collection	8/24/25
Envelopes/Loose	\$845.00
Maintenance Fund	\$5.00
Cemetery Maintenance	\$35.00
Budget Goal	\$1,505.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	-\$660.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$12,040.00
Support Actual	\$11,661.00
Surplus/Deficit YTD	-\$379.00

Observances for the week of August 31, 2025

Sunday: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: Labor Day
Wednesday: St. Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church
Next Sunday: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time; Grandparents’ Day

A little goes a long way. Give blood.

Blood Drive at St. Nicholas Church Hall Tuesday, September 9th 2:00PM to 6:00PM

Please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter STNICHOLASCHURCH to schedule an appointment.

CANONIZATION OF TWO NEW SAINTS!

Sunday, September 7 is the date set for the canonization of Blessed Carlo Acutis and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati! This is an exciting moment for the Church as, during this Year of Hope, we honor two young saints who were not afraid to give their lives to God!

Celebrate the canonization of St. Pier Giorgio Frassati and St. Carlo Acutis and support diocesan vocations!

T-shirts celebrating these two young saints are available for order and 100% of profits will support vocations to the priesthood in our diocese!


Art by Fr. Daniel McGrath!
100% Cotton Navy T-shirts available in youth XS—adult 5XL. Fundraiser hosted by Sacred Heart Church in Virden, IL

To order: scan the QR code or go to sacredheartvirden.com

100% of profits from sales will support vocations to the priesthood in our diocese!

IC Collection	8/24/25
Envelopes/Loose	\$1,455.00
Assumption of Mary	\$100.00
Sister Parish	\$10.00
Candles	\$65.00
Budget Goal	\$2,672.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	-\$1,117.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$21,376.00
Support Actual	\$18,322.44
Surplus/Deficit YTD	-\$3,053.56

August 30 & 31, 2025

 St. Gertrude Parish Council discussed adding a flag pole to the STG Cemetery at their last meeting. We have an Eagle Scout interested in doing this for his project. Anyone who is interested in attending an informational meeting about the flag pole can meet after Mass on Sunday, **September 7th** at 9:30AM at the cemetery. In case of inclement weather, we will meet at the parish hall. Any questions, call Judi Rode at 618-791-8204.

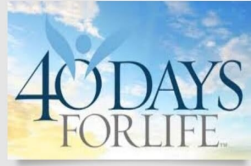
Grantfork Village-Wide Garage Sale will be Fri., Sat., and Sun., Sept. 19, 20 & 21.

Garage sale participants: **FREE** to join for everyone! Grantfork vendors can use their yard or reserve a spot on the East side of St Gertrude's Parish hall. Out of town vendors may reserve a spot as well. Register by Sept. 12 to be included on the map. To sign up or get involved, contact Paige Fox at pnfox89@gmail.com or 618-444-9236 or Peggy Korte at Spakorte@gmail.com or 618-444-2940

**Times: Fri. Sept. 19 (12 pm - 5 pm)
Sat. Sept. 20 (10 am - 5 pm)
Sun. Sept. 21 (11 am - 2 pm)**

Participants' Contests:

- * Most Fun House - voted by shoppers
- * Best Bargains House/Spot - voted by shoppers
- * Scavenger Hunt Prize -shoppers who complete the scavenger hunt will be entered into a drawing to win a prize!



From September 24 to November 2, we are uniting with many others for another major simultaneous pro-life mobilization – the 40 Days for Life campaign. The mission of 40 Days for Life is to bring together the Body of Christ in a spirit of unity during a focused 40 day campaign of prayer, fasting and peaceful activism, with the purpose of repentance, to seek God's favor to turn hearts and minds from a culture of death to a culture of life, thus bringing an end to abortion. We (Immaculate Conception, St. Gertrude and St. Nicholas parishes) chose to Adopt a Day in the 40 Days for Life Granite City campaign to end the demand for abortion. We were assigned Sunday, September 28th as our adopted day, and we need prayer warriors join us in this important mission. We need prayer warriors to pray at the facility in Granite City, and we need some to pray from work, home, etc. too! 40 Days for Life works because prayer works! If you would like to pray for an hour or two on September 28, 2025, please contact Denise Trickey at 314-495-9080. Thank you for standing up for life!

Springfield Diocesan Council of Catholic Women 2025 Convention – All women are invited to the annual convention on Wednesday, **October 1**, at St. Paul's Church & Trinity Hall, 1411 Main St., Highland. The day begins with registration and refreshments from 8:00–9:00 a.m., followed by the convention from 9:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m., including Mass at 11:00 a.m. with Bishop Thomas John Paprocki. This year's theme is "Let Yourself Be Loved" and will feature speaker Claire Dwyer, author of *This Present Paradise: A Spiritual Journey with St. Elizabeth of the Trinity*. Hosted by the Alton Deanery Council of Catholic Women. Registration forms are available at the parish office or dio.org/events and are due by **September 14**. For more info. email sdccwinil@gmail.com or call SDCCW President Janet Zimmerman at 217-494-4743.

Meet Our Seminararians



Martin McGrath
Discipleship IV
Bishop Simon Bruté Seminary

One thing I learned throughout discernment is that I cannot discern alone. Fruitful discernment comes about through relationship with God, our Blessed Mother, and, ideally, close friends and mentors with whom we can share our hearts.

**Grantfork Historical Society
Rummage Sale
Auction Barn Rt 160**

**September 18th (12-7 pm)
September 19th (8am–5pm)
September 20th (8am – 12pm) Household, Furniture, Décor, & more! Donation Drop
Off: Sept. 11th from 4-7PM
No books, clothing or electronics; See Grantfork News FB page for additional dates.**

Pope Leo invites us to pray and fast for peace among countries that are "wounded by war." Join millions around the world in praying for an end to conflict.

"Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification."

Romans 14:19

Prayer for Peace

Lord Jesus Christ, who are called the Prince of Peace, who are yourself our peace and reconciliation, who so often said, "Peace to you," grant us peace.

Make all men and women witnesses of truth, justice, and brotherly love. Banish from their hearts whatever might endanger peace. Enlighten our rulers that they may guarantee and defend the great gift of peace.

May all peoples of the earth become as brothers and sisters. May longed-for peace blossom forth and reign always over us all.

Amen

—Saint John XXIII

JOIN US FOR A SUPERHERO THEMED

**5K RUN
2M WALK**



RELEVANT pregnancy options center | 618.654.3732 | 2653 Plaza Dr, Highland IL

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2025 AT THE CENTER

LET US NOT LOVE IN WORD OR SPEECH, BUT IN ACTION AND TRUTH. 1 JOHN 3:18

WIN A FREE TRIP TO BRANSON!

22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME AUGUST 30 & 31, 2025



Saint Nicholas - Pocahontas



Immaculate Conception—Pierron



Saint Gertrude—Grantfork

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

GO AND TAKE THE LOWEST PLACE.

LUKE 14:10



SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 2025

+BISHOP
THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI
DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD
IN ILLINOIS


REV. CALLISTUS OSIAGA
PASTOR

SONYA CURRY
SECRETARY

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Rectory: 618-654-2789

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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