



In my family, we can hardly speak about orphans without tears. My father was adopted as a baby. He frequently told us stories of how his parents welcomed him not just into their home but into their hearts. It was never merely a relocation or a legal transaction. It was the joy of being chosen, of receiving a family, a name, and a place where he belonged forever. Even in his later years, recalling that gift still moves him to tears of tender gratitude.

That is the kind of tenderness behind Jesus' words in today's Gospel: "I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you." (John 14:18). He is going away, but not abandoning us. Instead, He sends us the Advocate, the Holy Spirit — His own Spirit, shared with the Father — who dwells in us. Through the Spirit, Christ is present in us, and we are present in Him. His Spirit gives us a home and a family. We deepen this knowledge in the sacraments, in prayer, and in the daily life of the Church. The Spirit is the bond of belonging, the power that makes us God's sons and daughters, not spiritual orphans. And this is not a one-time event. There is always a deeper outpouring of the Spirit available to us, a fresh appropriation of the promise that we are never abandoned.

If only we could be as grateful as my dad is for his adoption, realizing that we have been adopted by God Himself. In Christ, we are never left as orphans. —Father John Muir

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR MAY 16 & 17, 2026
Sat. May 16 @ 4:30PM @ St. Nicholas
 Reader: Kelsey Bentlage
 Music: Sally Rehberger, Barb Zaloga, & Colleen Lozier
 Euch. Min.:
 Server: Pat Kalous

Sun. May 17 @ 8:00AM @ St. Gertrude
 Reader: Debby Schwarz
 Music: Nick Worman & Randy Eckstein
 Sacristan: Sue Dickman
 Euch.Min.: Judi Rode, Brenda Knackstedt & Gail Ohren
 Ushers: Terry Dickman & Kevin Schwarz
 Servers: Elizabeth Schwarz & Aubrey Barr

Sun. May 17 @ 10:00AM @ IC
 Reader: Terry Potthast
 Music: Joy Winkeler
 Servers: Jenty Lobello, Landry Korte, Avery Gilomen & Cyiah Wiegmann
 Euch. Min.: John Dea, Tim Schuette & Mary Kote

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 Korsmeyer, 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, Melanie 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 10, 2026
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

Monday:
 Acts 16:11-15/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/Jn 15:26-16:4a

Tuesday:
 Acts 16:22-34/Ps 138: 1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8/Jn 16:5-11

Wednesday:
 Acts 17:15, 22-18:1/Ps 148: 1-2, 11-12, 13, 14/Jn 16:12-15

Thursday:
 Acts 1:15-17, 20-26/Ps 113: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8/Jn 15:9-17

Friday:
 Acts 18:9-18/Ps 47:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Jn 16:20-23

Saturday:
 Acts 18:23-28/Ps 47: 2-3, 8-9, 10/Jn 16:23b-28

Next Sunday:
 Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47: 2-3, 6-7, 8-9/Eph 1:17-23/Mt 28:16-20

"For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that be God's will, than for doing evil."
1 Peter 3:17

The old line says "if you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans." Many of us are diligent in our planning and making sure things are progressing smoothly. Then disaster strikes, we don't get the result we anticipated or an unforeseen problem arises. Many times we may respond negatively and ask, "Why me? I did everything right!" Here's the thing – adversity humbles us and reminds us of our dependence on God and not on our own self-reliance. Rest assured, God has a better plan in store for you.

When we want to see Christ's face, we must look to the Sacraments. "The world will no longer see me," Christ tells His disciples, "but you will see me." This ability to see Jesus is a gift of the Holy Spirit, one made again and again — even today.

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

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.

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 1:00 to 6:00PM
 Please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter **STNICHOLASCHURCH** to schedule an appointment.

Next St. Nicholas Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 19th at 7:00PM

STN Collection	5/2/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$790.00
Ascension of the Lord	\$5.00
Sister Parish	\$15.00
Communications	\$20.00
Retired Priests	\$5.00
Budget Goal	\$1,257.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	-\$462.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$55,308.00
Support Actual	\$60,734.27
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$5,426.27

Retreat for married couples offered – Worldwide Marriage Encounter presents weekend experiences for married couples to rekindle romance, enhance meaningful communication, and deepen and renew commitment. Sign-up now! For more information or to apply, go to www.me.org or call Terry & Eric Engholm at 314-649-7317. Next one: **6/12/2026 – 6/14/2026**, St. Peters, MO

STG Collection	5/3/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$1,411.00
Ascension of the Lord	\$25.00
Sister Parish	\$30.00
Communications	\$25.00
Retired Priests	\$110.00
Maintenance Fund	\$705.00
Cemetery	\$105.00
Budget Goal	\$1,505.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$131.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$66,220.00
Support Actual	\$64,567.27
Surplus/Deficit YTD	-\$1,652.73

Observances for the week of May 10, 2026
Sunday: 6th Sunday of Easter; *Mother's Day*
Tuesday: Sts. Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs; St. Pancras, Martyr
Wednesday: Our Lady of Fatima
Thursday: The Ascension of the Lord (holy day of obligation in some U.S. dioceses); St. Matthias, Apostle
Friday: St. Isidore
Saturday: *Armed Forces Day*
Next Sunday: The Ascension of the Lord; 7th Sunday of Easter; *World Communications Day*

St. Gertrude Chicken Dinner — June 7th

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.

St. Gertrude parishioners, it would be very helpful for all sold and unsold raffle tickets to be turned in by **May 17, 2026**. By doing this, the process of pre-sales of raffle tickets would be accounted for prior to the selling of them on the day of the dinner. Thank You!

Country Store at St. Gertrude's Chicken Dinner

Catholic Fraternal Life is bringing back the Country Store at STG's chicken dinner on Sunday, June 7th. We are asking for donations of baked goods, crafts, homemade jellies, produce, plants, & canned goods. Bring the items to the hall the day of the dinner. You do not have to price the items. Profit from this fund raiser is used for many programs like Matching Fund, Matching Gift, Hearts and Hands and Silver Star. If you have any questions call Wendy Essenpreis 618-530-0927, Kris Hundsdorfer 618-977-1570, Gail Ohren 618-830-1384 or Judi Rode 618-791-8204.

We appreciate your help!

Tickets for the CFL Country Store quilt raffle are currently available. To request additional tickets, please contact **Kris Hundsdorfer** or **Wendy Essenpreis**.



Baptism

We congratulate the parents of and welcome **Felix Gregory Luitjohan**, son of Cameron & Victoria (Moss) Luitjohan who was baptized at **Immaculate Conception Church on Sunday, May 3rd, 2026.**

Godparents are **Candace Luitjohan & Webb Slifka**

WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY!



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

MARY IS THE MOTHER WHO WATCHES OVER US, HER CHILDREN ON OUR JOURNEY THROUGH LIFE, OFTEN WEARY AND IN NEED, ANXIOUS THAT THE LIGHT OF HOPE NOT FAIL.

CHRISTUS VIVIT, NO. 48

† Mass Intentions †
No Mass
 † **Helen Wuebbles** — Int. of George, Linda & Andrew Meyer
 † **Willene Rosalia Fehrmann** — Int. of the Wirz Family
 † **All Souls**
 † **Beverly Watson** — Int. of Bill & Denise Trickey
 † **Bertha Voss** — Int. of Barb Zaloga
 † **Skip & Joan Dickshot** — Int. of Cliff & Vicky Gruner
For the People of St. Gertrude, St. Nicholas & Immaculate Conception
 † **Jess & Clara Knebel** — Int. of Lowell & Denise Wellen
 † **Tony & Virginia Vosholler** — Int. of Donna Straube

Mon. (May 11) 8:00am
 Tues. (May 12) 8:00am (St.G)
 Wed. (May 13) 8:00am (IC)
 Thur. (May 14) 8:00am (St.N)
 Fri. (May 15) 8:00am (IC)
 Sat. (May 16) 4:30pm (St.N)
 Sun. (May 17) 8:00am (St.G)

Sun. (May 17) 10:00am (IC)



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



INFO & REGISTRATION



Heartland Community Chorus invites you to their Pops concert, featuring special guests the ShinSings Orchestra, a talented swing band that plays throughout the Midwest! This one-night-only event will be on Saturday, May 16 at 7:00, at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Route 143 in Highland. Enjoy drinks (cash bar), dancing, and great tunes by the chorus and the band! Tickets are \$15 at the door or online: heartlandcommunitychorus.org.

The May meeting for UFO's is Tuesday, May 12, at 7:00 at Grantfork UCC. Please wear spring colors and bring snacks for Food Pantry.

CARRY OUT CHICKEN DINNER Limited Dine-In Seating!

Sunday, June 7
Serving 11am - 4pm

St. Gertrude's Church
202 Locust St, Grantfork, IL

ALL DINNERS \$15

Each Dinner Includes:

- 1/2 Chicken (Wing, Breast, Thigh, Leg)
- Dressing, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
- Green Beans, Slaw & Cake

No Substitutions

COUNTRY STORE Lots of Homemade Items!

QUILT RAFFLE & CASH PRIZES!



Saint Nicholas - Pocahontas



Immaculate Conception—Pierron



Saint Gertrude—Grantfork

Blessing for Mother's Day
Dear Lord, Pour your goodness and grace upon the women of our community today in a special way.
For mothers: fill them with joy and blessing.
For those who have lost children: hold them in their sorrow.
For those who have hoped for children: surround them with Your love.
For those who have lost a mother: may they know Your comfort.
For those carrying difficulty on this day: bring them consolation.
Bless all women this day. Thank you for the love they bring to this world, no matter their circumstances or story. Amen.

Baby Bottle Boomerang

PICK UP YOUR BOTTLE - MOTHER'S DAY - MAY 10
FILL IT WITH CHECKS, CASH AND/OR CHANGE
RETURN YOUR BOTTLE - FATHER'S DAY - JUNE 21

RELEVANT
pregnancy options center



Virtues Explained!
Courage

In the Roman Rite, bishops extend their hands over confirmandi, praying that they will be given "a spirit of right judgment and courage."
This invocation echoes countless passages of sacred Scripture extolling the virtue of courage. "Be strong and courageous in your hearts, all you who place your hope in the Lord," says Psalm 31:25. "I have given you a command. Be strong and brave, do not be afraid nor dismayed. I, the Lord, your God, will be with you wherever you go," the Lord says in Joshua 1:9. Courage is also a frequent watchword of Christ: "Take courage! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33). The virtue of courage is intimately linked with that of fortitude — roughly understood as courage in action — and is shown by the person who makes a choice to place his trust in God, not in circumstance. ©LPI

Virtues, Explained!
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Alton Deanery Council of Catholic Women
Gathering Friday, June 5th

Hosted by Ss Peter and Paul Parish Ladies Auxiliary of Collinsville Knights. 207 Vandalia St. Collinsville.
Registration: 9:30am at the Church gathering space. Donation of \$5 to assist host parish with expenses. Proceed to church lower level (elevator is available) to Beveridge Hall.
10:00AM—Welcome: Prayer, breakfast refreshments
Guest Speaker: Sgt. Breanna Kemper Damm from the Swansea Police and Public Service Department. Sgt. Breanna's topic will be "Awareness of internet use and children".
Brief business meeting will follow: Prayer, pledge of allegiance, introduction of officers, reports.
Event concludes with a First Friday noon Mass celebrated by Father Michael Haag. For reservations please RSVP by May 31 and provide your name and parish. Via phone to Chris: 618-530-6469. If no answer please leave name and parish.
Via email to Kristi: altondeaneryccw@gmail.com.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

ANOTHER ADVOCATE TO BE WITH YOU

ALWAYS.

— JOHN 14:16 —

GLPI

+BISHOP
THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI
DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD
IN ILLINOIS
✠
REV. CALLISTUS OSIAGA
PASTOR
SONYA CURRY
SECRETARY

Mailing Address:
PO Box 410
Pierron, IL 62273
E-mail Address:
icpierron@parish.dio.org
Website:
www.icstnsta.org
Office: 618-669-2391
Rectory: 618-654-2789

Office Address:
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