

A friend of mine wrote an imaginative reflection on the raising of Lazarus that caught me off guard. She proposed that when Jesus called Lazarus from the tomb, the man was not joyful but angry and annoyed. After so much suffering, maybe death felt like a release. He had finally escaped the pain. And then, suddenly, Jesus' voice cuts through the silence: "Lazarus, come out!" (John 11:43). The light stings his eyes. The pain returns. And now he is dragged back into a world that had broken him.

It startled me at first, but the more I sat with it, the more it made sense. Sometimes, people do not want to be raised. Not at first. Think of those in the grip of addiction, despair, or numbness. The tomb can feel safer than the risk of living again. Yet Jesus, moved by the grief and faith of others (Martha, Mary, the community) calls the dead man out. Lazarus obeys. But he is still bound, head to foot. Jesus says to the bystanders, "Untie him and let him go" (John 11:44) That is often how healing happens: slowly, reluctantly. Not just by a personal decision, but through the love and persistence of others. Resurrection is not always euphoric. It may begin in protest and confusion and only later turn to gratitude and freedom. But Christ's voice breaks through anyway.

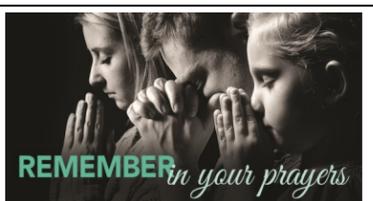
Lenten Challenge: Who in your life needs to be called back to life? Pray for them. If that person is you, listen for the voice. It is calling even now. —Father John Muir

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR MARCH 28 & 29, 2026

Sat. Mar. 28 @ 4:30PM @ St. Nicholas
 Reader: Kelsey Bentlage & Pat Kalous
 Music: Sally Rehberger, Barb Zaloga, & Colleen Lozier
 Euch. Min.: Brenda & Marce Tebbe
 Server: Pat Kalous

Sun. Mar. 29 @ 8:00AM @ St. Gertrude
 Reader: Carole Sauls & Brenda Knackstedt
 Music: Nick Worman & Randy Eckstein
 Sacristan: Wendy Essenpreis
 Euch.Min.: Debby Schwarz, Jane Deiters & Gail Ohren
 Ushers: Kevin Schwarz & Terry Dickman
 Servers: Katie Schwarz & Evonna Korsmeyer

Sun. Mar. 29 @ 10:00AM @ IC
 Reader: Terry Potthast & Tim Schuette
 Music: Joy Winkeler
 Servers: Jentry Lobello & Landry Korte
 Euch. Min.: Amy Gilomen, Mary Korte & Erica Knebel



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, Suzanne Steinbring, Marcia Rowe, Gunner Sadler, Abby Schrage, Bill Schroeder, Marie 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 March 22, 2026

Sunday:
 Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8/
 Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

Monday:
 Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Jn 8:1-11

Tuesday:
 Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21/
 Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday:
 Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11/
 Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38

Thursday:
 Gn 17:3-9/Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 8:51-59

Friday:
 Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7/
 Jn 10:31-42

Saturday:
 Ez 37:21-28/Jr 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13/
 Jn 11:45-56

Next Sunday:
 Mt 21:1-11 (37)/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24/Is 50:4-7/Phil 2:6-11/Mt 26:14-27:66 or 27:11-54

"Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?'" John 11:40

Many of us say that we believe in God. We attend Sunday Mass and participate in parish events. But when life gets hard and the pressure is on, when things aren't going our way, do we really believe? Do we really put our trust in the Lord? When we live a life of gratitude, recognizing all that we have been given, we really do see that God is providing for our needs. Living a grateful and generous life allows us to see God's active presence in our daily lives and we become "partakers of the divine nature."

"Lazarus, come out!" Jesus calls into the tomb. These same words He cries into the depths of our hearts. "Come out!" God is calling you. Come out from the sleep of your indifference. Easter is near. Now is the time. Come Out!

Lenten Penance Services
St. Boniface, Edwardsville – March 22 2:30 p.m.

Observances for the week of March 22, 2026

Sunday: 5th Sunday of Lent
Monday: St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop
Wednesday: The Annunciation of the Lord
Next Sunday: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord; Holy Week begins

March HACSM Pantry Needs: Chicken Helper
We appreciate your support! Thank You!



Stations of the Cross During Lent
IC after the 8AM Mass on Wednesdays
STN after the 8AM Mass on Thursdays
STG Wednesdays at 6:30PM
IC 6:30PM— April 1
Shadow Stations Mar 25th at dusk.

Holy Week Schedule



Holy Thursday: April 2nd 7:00PM at Immaculate Conception
Good Friday: April 3rd
 12:00PM Stations of the Cross at St. Nicholas
 3:00PM at Immaculate Conception
 7:00PM at St. Gertrude
Easter Vigil, April 4th
 8:00PM at Immaculate Conception
Easter Sunday, April 5th
 8:00AM at St. Nicholas
 8:00AM at St. Gertrude
 10:00AM at Immaculate Conception



The Scrutinies of the Elect

Throughout Lent, we accompany Kelsi Hannan, our OCIA Elect as she prepares for Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. On the 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays of Lent, we celebrate the three scrutinies during the 10AM Mass at IC. These rites of healing and strengthening remind us all of our need for God's grace. Please keep Kelsi in your prayers.



What Really Happens at Mass movie – The Real Presence: The Mass

is a 28-minute film that reveals the unseen spiritual world of the Catholic Mass through a combination of beautiful liturgical imagery and artistic augmented reality. At the heart of the film is the belief that Jesus Christ is truly present in the Eucharist—not symbolically, but in reality. With alarming statistics showing that many Catholics no longer believe in this foundational truth, the film seeks to reawaken faith and offer compelling insights into what the Church teaches about the Real Presence. Watch for free: therealpresence.com.



Congratulations to our parishes 3rd grade PSR students who on March 14th received the Sacraments of First Communion & Confirmation at the Cathedral in Springfield. Both IC and St. Gertrude are recognizing the students today at Mass and will have refreshments in the parish halls after to celebrate. Please join us in congratulating the students!!



Immaculate Conception Students
Cora Wiegmann, Cyiah Wiegmann, Kylee Gilomen & Ellie Singh
Cora & Cyiah received Confirmation only



St. Gertrude Students
Eliana Wirz, Elleiah Compton, John Schwarz

STN Collection	3/14/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$854.00
CRS	\$80.00
Budget Goal	\$1,257.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$-403.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$46,509.00
Support Actual	\$52,574.27
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$6,065.27

STG Collection	3/15/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$526.00
CRS	\$115.00
Easter Flowers	\$70.00
Budget Goal	\$1,505.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$-979.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$55,685.00
Support Actual	\$49,310.66
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$-6,374.34

IC Collection	3/15/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$2,477.35
CRS	\$183.00
Easter Flowers	\$215.00
Building Fund	\$200.00
Catholic Charities	\$100.00
Candles	\$67.00
Budget Goal	\$2,672.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$-194.65
Support Needed (budget)	\$98,864.00
Support Actual	\$102,381.12
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$3,517.12

† Mass Intentions †

No Mass
 † **All Souls**
 † **Sharon Cantrell** — Int. of Bill & Denise Trickey
 † **Charlie Korte** — Int. of Jeannie Korte & Family
 † **Firmin & Thelka Pierron** — Int. of Jane & Dale Grieser
 † **Bill Halcomb** — Int. of Bob Rapp
For the People of St. Nicholas, St. Gertrude & Immaculate Conception
 † **Leo & Lois Goesten Kors** — Int. of Paul & Ralph Goesten Kors
 † **Barbara Kutz** — Int. of Lowell & Denise Wellen
 † **Lary Quigly** — Int. of Bill & Denise Trickey

Mon. (Mar.23)	8:00am
Tues. (Mar.24)	8:00am (St.G)
Wed. (Mar.25)	8:00am (IC)
Thur. (Mar.26)	8:00am (St.N)
Fri. (Mar.27)	8:00am (IC)
Sat. (Mar.28)	4:30pm (St.N)
Sun. (Mar.29)	8:00am (St.G)
Sun. (Mar.29)	10:00am (IC)

St. Teresa Church, Marydale
DRIVE-THRU Chicken Dinner

Sunday, March 22, 2026

Serving 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

\$15.00 per Meal

Packaged meal includes: ½ Fried Chicken
(4 pieces), Dressing, Mashed Potatoes &
Gravy, Green Beans, Slaw

Located six miles north of Carlyle on Route
127— Follow the signs

(Follow us on Facebook
@MarydaleStTeresa)



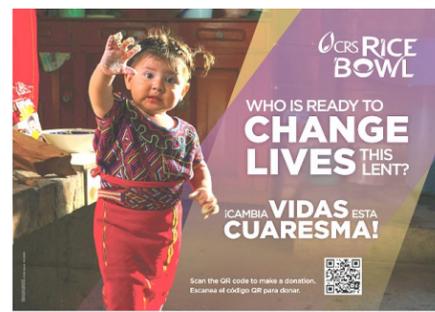
St. Getrude's will be continuing the
raffle at the 2026 Chicken Dinner.
If anyone would like to make a
contribution towards it, please place
your donation in the offertory basket
marking your envelope as
"Raffle Donation" or contact
Dianne Leitschuh. Thank You!

HACSM is currently seeking 2-3 volunteers to help lead our
local Salvation Army bell-ringing program, which directly
supports the pantry. This program is important to our
operations as 80% of the funds collected through our kettles
are returned to HACSM. These funds help cover essential
expenses to the pantry such as utilities and daily operational
needs. As well as rent and utility assistance for our
clients. The volunteers will have the full support of HACSM
staff, resources, and an established guide to assist them
throughout the process.

Thank you for helping us continue to serve our community!

Join us on Saturday, March 28th from
11am to 2pm as FBC's Clothing Closet
hosts its Annual Spring Give-Away!
This event is completely free and open
to the entire community! Offering free
children's haircuts, spring clothing (all
ages), bath products, shoes, linens and a
whole assortment of FREE items.

Vine Community Center 225Vine St.
Greenville, IL



Meet Our Seminarians



Ryan Kaufmann
Propaedeutic
St. Meinrad Seminary

One thing I have learned
about discernment is that God
is a loving God and wants
what is best for us. He loves us
so much that he gives us the
free will to choose what we
believe is best for ourselves. If
we choose to come after him,
we must 'deny ourselves, take
up our cross daily and follow
him.' (Luke 9:23)

Embracing God's Love, United in Generosity

God created man and woman in his
image, reminding us that every person
is sacred and reflects God's love. Each
of us has a purpose, woven into God's
plan. Our support of CRS Rice Bowl
provides hope and opportunity to
families around the world. Let's reflect
on how our prayers, fasting, and alms-
giving can help our sisters and broth-
ers fulfill their potential. Visit [crsrice-
bowl.org/week-5](http://crsricebowl.org/week-5) to read this week's



*O infinite God, how sweetly have you
now poured out your goodness in me!
When I did not exist, you gave me
being. When I left you, you would not
leave me. When I tried to escape you,
you so gently took me captive.*

Blessed Henry Suso
(from the meditation for March 24)

You are invited to "Spring
Awakens", the Heartland
Community Chorus Spring
Concert, with guest performers:
the Highland Youth Orchestra. You
will enjoy seeing these young peo-
ple play, under the baton of Greg
Allen. Hear choral & instrumental
music to usher in springtime!
Saturday, March 21 at 7:00PM and
Sunday, March 22 3:00PM, both at
St. Paul Catholic Church in High-
land. Tickets are \$15 (age 16 and
under FREE) and are available at
the door, from chorus members,
or online at
heartlandcommunitychorus.org

Virtues Explained! Faith

"Nobody reaches God's
presence until he has learned
to believe that God exists, and
that he rewards those who try
to find him." (Hebrews 11:6)
So how do we learn to believe?
Through the theological virtue
of faith — which is "man's
response to God, who reveals
himself and gives himself to
man." (CCC 26). Faith, then, is
embarking on the journey to
find God. By faith "man freely
commits his entire self to God."
For this reason, the believer
seeks to know and do God's
will." (CCC 1814)

But it is not enough for faith to
simply be within us, as a lit
match burns in a dark room.
We are compelled to fan those
flames. We must encourage
them with the complementary
virtues of hope and love, and
we must ask the Holy Spirit for
the gift of understanding so
that our faith will grow and
strengthen. ©LPI

Virtues, Explained!

The virtue of faith is "man's
response to God, who reveals
himself and gives himself to man."
(CCC 26). Faith is encouraged
by the complementary virtues of
hope and love, and through the
gift of understanding our faith
grows and strengthens.

Blessing for New Life

God, in Your goodness, restore
our hope.
Where we feel imprisoned, break
our chains.
Where we feel discouraged, bring
us light.
Where the ground feels dry,
break through with life anew.
Amen.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 21 & 22, 2026



Saint Nicholas - Pocahontas



Immaculate Conception—Pierron



Saint Gertrude—Grantfork

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2026

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life;
whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live."
- Jn 11:25

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

+BISHOP
THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI
DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD
IN ILLINOIS

✠
REV. CALLISTUS OSIAGA
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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