



Some friends invited me to one of the most famous and expensive restaurants in the country. I was grateful and eager to go. One invited friend even flew from another state for the experience. Every bite and sip was truly memorable and delicious. But my friend’s teenage children spent much of the time on their phones, complained about the food, and generally ignored the once-in-a-lifetime experience. I wanted to yell, “C’mon, you guys! Look what you’re missing!” In today’s parable, Jesus describes people invited to an amazing wedding feast who respond with inexplicable indifference. He says, “Some ignored the invitation and went away, one to his farm, another to his business” (Matthew 22:5). The problem is not that they choose evil but that they allow other desires to distract them from an amazing opportunity. The feast is prepared, but their hearts are elsewhere. In Christ Jesus, God offers each of us a wildly extravagant offer: a place at the wedding banquet between heaven and earth. What are your current excuses for the delay in engaging with Jesus? How are you postponing a deepening of your relationship with Him under the guise of responsibility? The good news is that the feast is ready. His invitation remains. Hear the Lord say to us, “C’mon, guys! Looke what you’re missing!” Then respond with concrete action. — Fr. John Muir

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR OCT 17 & 18 2026
Sat. Oct. 17 @ 4:30PM @ St. Nicholas
Reader: Marce Tebbe
Euch. Min.: Joyce Schlemper & Brenda Tebbe
Server: Pat Kalous
Ushers: Denny Gobble & Don Cureton

Sun. Oct. 18 @ 8:00AM @ St. Gertrude
Reader: Chad Korte
Sacristan: Rich May
Euch.Min.: Larry & Tina Luitjohan & Zach Lewis
Ushers: Kevin Schwarz & Bryan Rutz
Servers: Nevin Straube & Evonna Korsmeyer

Sun. Oct. 18 @10:00AM @ IC
Reader: Terry Potthast
Servers: Dylen Potthast & Jentry Lobello
Euch. Min.: Kristin Potthast, John Dea & Evelyn 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, Karen Grabowski, John Grubb, Eugene Henson, P.J. Hereford, James Hodge, Gene Jolliff, Pat Kalous, Val King, Barrett Korte, Denny Korte, Gerry Korte, Randy Korte, Steve Korte, David Kuehn, Sue Lubert, Christopher Marti, Taylor Marti, Barry May, Alex McCall, Eleanor Munie, Cody Neal, Marcia Rowe, Gunner Sadler, Abby Schrage, Bill Schroeder, Suzanne Steinbring, Brenda Usher, Rich Weis, Ginny Werner, Dean Wernle, Melanie Wernle, Paige 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, Michael Knebel, Dustin Korte, Solon McGill, Lt. Abigail Mesaros, Jerritt Mettler, Jimmy O’Boyle, Sgt. Joseph Patterson, Rickie Ford, 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.

CAKE ROLL



Fundraiser

HELP US RAISE MONEY FOR OUR MISSION TRIP NEXT SUMMER WHILE ENJOYING A DELICIOUS READY TO EAT CAKE ROLL WITH YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS!

WHEN:
October 1st - October 31st

WHERE TO PLACE AN ORDER:
After 10:00 am Mass, QR Code or contact a PAPAYA Youth Member



Every purchase supports our fundraising efforts.
Thank you for your generosity!

BORN INTO
Eternal Life

FAITHFUL DEPARTED
Prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of **Anne Collins**, mother of **Christi (John) Dea** and grandmother of **Charlie, Grace & Rebecca Dea**, of our parish family. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Anne’s family and friends.

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord...

Visitation on Mon., Oct. 12th from 1-3PM at their home, 50 Jardin Circle in Highland.
Funeral Mass on Tues. Oct. 13th 10AM @ St. Paul in Highland.



St Nicholas Church, Pocahontas

Gary Plog SOUP & SONG Fall Festival & Raffle

October 17, 2026

Serving soup & dessert starting after the 4:30 Mass at approximately
5:30 PM – 7:30 PM
St Nicholas Hall

Enjoy Country, Gospel, & Bluegrass songs by local musicians throughout the evening

Admission Free & open to the public
Donations to St Nicholas gratefully accepted

Games, prizes, & drawing for Queen size quilt, \$150 Korte Meat Bundle, \$100 cash, & more

Mon.	(Oct.12)	8:00am	(IC)
Tues.	(Oct.13)	8:00am	(St.G)
Wed.	(Oct.14)	8:00am	(IC)
Thur.	(Oct.15)	8:00am	(St.N)
Fri.	(Oct.16)	8:00am	(IC)
Sat.	(Oct.17)	4:30pm	(St.N)
Sun.	(Oct.18)	8:00am	(St.G)
Sun.	(Oct.18)	10:00am	(IC)

† **Mass Intentions** †

No Mass

† **All Souls**

† **JoAnn Lucas** —Int. of Don & Carrie Schreiber

† **Linda Schleper** —Int. of Bill & Denise Trickey

† **Bob Rapp** —Int. of Virginia Bjornson

† **Gary Plog & Dave Korte** —Int. of Roger & Kathy Frey

† **Ken & Betty Wagner** —Int. of Greg & Amy Munie

Donald & Lucille Rutz 65th Wedding Anniversary

For the People of St. Gertrude, St. Nicholas & Immaculate Conception

† **Barbara Ogaz** —Int. of the Wirz Family

† **Marie Weis** — Int. of Lowell & Denise Wellen

Readings for the Week of October 11, 2026

Sunday
Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Phil 4:12-14, 19-20/
Mt 22:1-14 or 22:1-10

Monday
Gol 4:22-24, 26-27, 31-5:1/Ps 113:1b-2, 3-4, 5a and 6-7/
Lk 11:29-32

Tuesday
Gal 5:1-6/Ps 119:41, 43, 44, 45, 47, 48/Lk 11:37-41

Wednesday
Gal 5:18-25/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 11:42-46

Thursday
Eph 1:1-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6/Lk 11:47-54

Friday
Eph 1:11-14/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 12-13/Lk 12:1-7

Saturday
Eph 1:15-23/Ps 8:2-3ab, 4-5, 6-7/Lk 12:8-12

Next Sunday
Is 45:1, 4-6/Ps 96:1 and 3, 4-5, 7-8, 9-10/1 Thes 1:1-5b/
Mt 22:15-21



Pray for Holy Marriages

Tiffany Knebel and Christopher Dilks
Please join us in prayer for the upcoming marriage of Tiffany & Christopher.

Lord God, the source of all love, the wise plan of Your providence has brought these two together. As they prepare themselves for the sacrament of marriage and pray for Your grace, grant that, strengthened by Your blessing, they may grow in their respect for one another and cherish each other with a sincere love. Amen.

They will be married Oct. 17th. Please keep them in your prayers.

Our Annual Mass of Remembrance for All Souls will be held at IC Church on November 2nd at 6:30PM

If you have a loved one who has died since October 2025 and would like them included please call or email the parish office.



Four of our PAPAYA members had an amazing time at the Inspiration Midwest event at Six Flags Great America! They spent the day riding thrilling roller coasters and had the unique opportunity to attend mass right inside the park. It was the perfect blend of faith, fun and fellowship!

Peace Mass on Thursday, October 22 at Immaculate conception Church	
Adoration 5:30p Mass 6:00pm	
STN Collection	10/3/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$975.00
Black/Indian Mission	\$80.00
Budget Goal	\$1,276.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$-301.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$17,864.00
Support Actual	\$17,685.00
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$-179.00



Thank You!

Ladies of the Parish,
Thank you for your thoughtfulness, time and generosity for providing desserts and beverages for the luncheon. It was all greatly appreciated!

The Marie Weis Family

Next St. Gertrude Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 20th at 7PM.



The Diocesan October Count starts today and will continue throughout the month of October. We ask that all parishioners attend Mass at IC, STN, or STG during this month, as this count is used for assigning priests to parishes in the Diocese.

It's important to be counted!



CELEBRATING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY

Observances for the Week of October 11, 2026

Sunday
28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday
Columbus Day; Indigenous Peoples' Day

Wednesday
St. Callistus I, Pope and Martyr

Thursday
St. Teresa of Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

Friday
St. Hedwig, Religious;
St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, Virgin

Saturday
St. Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop and Martyr

Next Sunday
29th Sunday in Ordinary Time;
World Mission Sunday

Bringing Comfort Through Grief Support

It is incredibly painful for us to lose a loved one, especially during the holidays. You are not alone in your pain. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Jesus included this teaching in the Beatitudes for a reason. Fr. Cal provides support services for families who are grieving; his grief support is centered on Jesus Christ. Seek his expertise if you need any grief support at all. Call the parish office for an appointment, he is available anytime you need him.

STG Collection	10/4/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$1,179.00
All Saints	\$25.00
Sister Parish	\$25.00
World Mission	\$25.00
Black/Indian Mission	\$60.00
Maintenance Fund	\$150.00
All Souls	\$25.00
Budget Goal	\$1,524.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$-320.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$21,336.00
Support Actual	\$16,854.00
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$-4,482.00

IC Collection	10/4/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$4,762.44
All Saints	\$25.00
Sister Parish	\$115.00
Black/Indian Mission	\$220.00
World Mission	\$75.00
Building Fund	\$170.00
Candles	\$78.00
All Souls	\$25.00
Budget Goal	\$2,920.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$1,867.44
Support Needed (budget)	\$40,880.00
Support Actual	\$36,278.03
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$-4,601.97

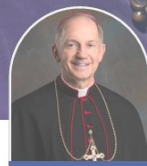


October 24, 2026

9:00 am | Mass
Holy Family Catholic Church, Granite City
Celebrated by Bishop Thomas John Paprocki

10:00 am | Rosary Walk
Peaceful, prayerful walk to Hope Clinic and return

11:30 am | Luncheon
Englebert Hall, Madison
Guest Speaker: Lucy Sykes, Students for Life of America
Free lunch; free-will offering benefiting Project Rachel



Bishop Paprocki
Mass Celebrant



Lucy Sykes
Speaker



go.dio.org/r26



From our Sister Parish, Santa Maria in Guatemala

Dear brothers and sisters, I send you my greetings and thanks for all the blessings God has given us through your financial support. It is thanks to your collaboration that we can continue our pastoral work. I reiterate my gratitude for your great generosity and we pray that you may receive every blessing from God. Padre Pedro

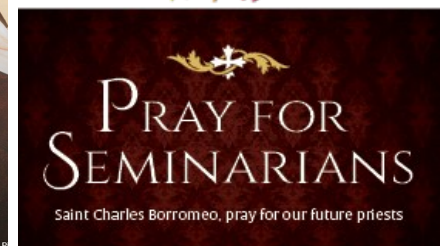
Our donations help support the following:

Help with health care for Priests, Seminarian Fund, catechism materials and training, Repairs and gas for vehicle, Training lay ministers, repairs to chapel, Church supplies, food, and education for youth.

St. Teresa of Ávila (1515-1582) was a Spanish Carmelite nun who lived in the 16th century. She was a mystic and author of spiritual writings and poems. The originator of the Carmelite Reform, she founded numerous convents throughout Spain and restored a contemplative life to the order. She became well known for the mystical experiences many of which she described in her autobiography.

The first of only four women to be named a Doctor of the Church, her ascetic doctrine and Carmelite reforms shaped Roman Catholic contemplative life. Her writings on the Christian soul's journey to God are considered works of art, especially the "Way of Perfection" and "The Interior Castle."

St. Teresa of Ávila died on Oct. 15, 1582. Canonized March 22, 1622, she is the patron saint of sick people, people in religious orders, chess, people ridiculed for their piety, and lacemakers.



Reece Kleinschmidt
Propaedeutic
Bishop Simon Bruté Seminary



ALL LADIES INVITED: St. Jerome Parish, Troy, is hosting the next Alton Deanery Council of Catholic Women on Fri., Oct. 16th.

Doors open at 9:00 a.m. in St. Jerome Hall (lower level). Breakfast at 9:30 am. Prayers, guest speaker, and fellowship will be shared. A very special intention rosary to be recited. Deanery suggests \$5 per person donation to assist with expenses. Guest speaker, Clyde Nossor, "Finding God in Adversity" will inform us of a mission project "Feeding Body and Soul" that he currently is involved in with the homeless. Please consider assisting with this project with the following list of donations: protein bars, powdered drink mixes for individual bottles of water, packages of wipes, non refrigerated drinks, \$10 McDonald's gift cards or a monetary donation. Looking forward to sharing the morning with YOU! RSVP'S assist the host parish with setup as well as refreshments. RSVP by Oct 12 to Sharon 618-789-4747 or dougnsharon85@charter.net. Parking limited lower level hall level. Additional parking upper level 107 Wayland.

Don't miss this year's Royal Run November 14 - St. Elizabeth Granite City



5K Runners/Walkers:
Hooded shirt,
Finisher medal,
Age/division prizes

5K of Prayer Registrants:
Pray in the church
while the runners run,
& also get a hooded shirt

StElizabethGC.org/Run

On October 18, World Mission Sunday, Catholics throughout the world will unite in prayer and sacrifice for this great work of the Church. This year marks the 100th World Mission Day, with the theme chosen by Pope Leo XIV, "One in Christ, united in mission." Please pray for our missionaries and give generously on World Mission Sunday.

St. Paul Catholic Church in Highland would like to invite all 6th-12th graders to our upcoming New Year's Retreat! Come kick off the new year with great music, inspiring messages, fun activities, and powerful times of prayer. It's the perfect way to reset and grow closer to God alongside other Catholic youth. For more details on dates, registration, and costs, please visit <https://www.stpaulhighland.org/youth-retreats> or contact Carrie Albaugh at chenrichsalbaugh@stpaulhighland.org.

The Daughters of Isabella Circle 218 is inviting the public to attend a Mass in remembrance of miscarried babies. All are welcome! The Mass will be held Wednesday **October 21st** at 6:45pm at St. Boniface Church in Edwardsville, IL. To have a baby's name or family name displayed on a card with a candle during Mass, please email the baby/family name and whether you will attend to: daughtersofisabella218@gmail.com

Attendees/families will receive a fresh flower and prayer card after the mass. RSVP not necessary but appreciated by Sunday, October 18th.

Follow Springfield Illinois Vocations! – The Diocese of Springfield in Illinois has launched new Vocations social media accounts on Facebook and Instagram at [@spivocations](https://www.facebook.com/spivocations).

These accounts are designed especially to reach young men who may be discerning a call to the priesthood, while also sharing stories, encouragement, events, and resources that help foster a culture of vocations throughout our diocese. You can help! Follow [@spivocations](https://www.facebook.com/spivocations) on Facebook and Instagram, and share the accounts with young men, parents, teachers, coaches, youth ministers, and others who may know someone asking where God is calling him. Sometimes a simple share can help put the right message in front of the right person at the right time.

28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME OCTOBER 10 & 11, 2026



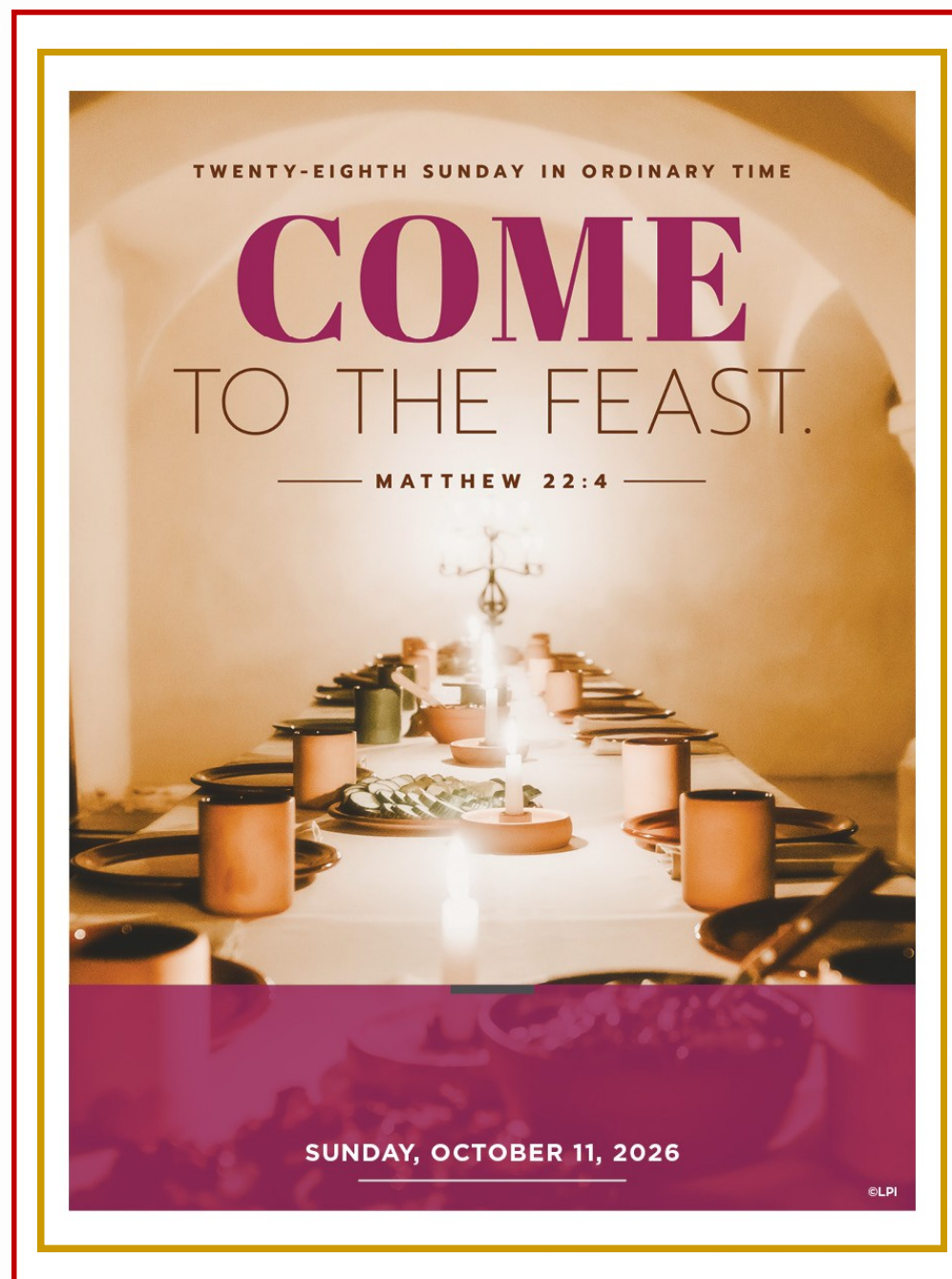
Saint Nicholas - Pocahontas



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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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