



As a young, newly ordained priest, I admired a senior priest who was gifted, beloved, and had changed countless lives. But soon I learned that he had fallen in catastrophic and destructive ways. The painful juxtaposition of good and evil was complex to process. How could someone so seemingly good also be so broken and deceptive? It forced me to confront a sobering truth: leadership in the Church is no guarantee against weakness or sin.

Peter teaches that truth in this week’s Gospel. When he sees Jesus walking on the sea, Peter does what leaders do. He goes first. “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” But when he sees how strong the wind is, he becomes frightened and, beginning to sink, cries out, “Lord, save me.”

Immediately, Jesus stretches out His hand and catches him.

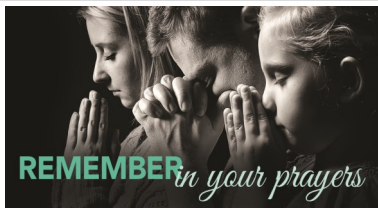
St. Thomas Aquinas observes that Peter overcomes the greater danger of the waves but falters before the lesser threat of the wind. This is the paradox leaders often face. It is not always the great trials that undo us, but the smaller, quieter temptations, such as subtle fears and compromises, that lead us to sink.

The good news is that Jesus does not abandon Peter. He saves him before it is too late. Our frail humanity lives within a rhythm of grace, risk, failure, and mercy. Jesus helps Peter overcome both the obvious and hidden sources of fear, and He promises to do the same for us. So, let us pray for all, especially our spiritual leaders. — Fr. John Muir

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR AUG. 15 & 16 2026
Sat. Aug. 15 @ 4:30PM @ St. Nicholas
Reader: Kelsey Bentlage
Music: Sally Rehberger, Barb Zaloga, & Colleen Lozier
Euch. Min.: Karen Kalous & Doris Eilers
Server: Pat Kalous

Sun. Aug. 16 @ 8:00AM @ St. Gertrude
Reader: Debby Schwarz
Music: Nick Worman & Randy Eckstein
Sacristan: Gail Ohren
Euch.Min.: Carole Sauls, Jane Deiters & Gail Ohren
Ushers: Karen & Nathaniel Straube
Servers: Morgan & Cooper Dressler

Sun. Aug. 16 @10:00AM @ IC
Reader: Denise Trickey
Music: Roger Frey & Madi Crawford
Servers: Jentry Lobello & Cyiah Wiegmann
Euch. Min.: Rick & Ruth Zurliene & Mary Korte



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, Eugene Henson, P.J. Hereford, James Hodge, Gene Jolliff, Pat Kalous, Val King, Janice Korsmeyer, Barrett Korte, Denny Korte, Randy Korte, Steve Korte, David Kuehn, Sue Lubert, Christopher Marti, Taylor Marti, Barry May, Alex McCall, Eleanor Munie, Cody Neal, Jeannie Oestringer, Marcia Rowe, Gunner Sadler, Abby Schrage, Bill Schroeder, Suzanne Steinbring, Brenda Usher, Marie Weis, 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, Jerrett 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.

Grantfork PSR Registration for 26-27 is now open. Please scan the code to complete the registration form by August 16th. If you have any questions, you may reach Karen Straube at 618-806-5472 or Grantfork PSR at parish.psr@gmail.com.



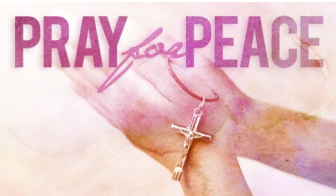
BORN INTO
Eternal Life

FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of **Kevin Korte**, brother-in-law of **Denise (Bill) Trickey** & **Mary Jo (Billy) Luitjohan**, And for **Shirley Schumacher**, sister of **Harold Schwarz & Betty Rutz** of our parish family. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Kevin and Shirley’s family and friends.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord...

Peace Mass for an
End to War and
Violence in our
World
at Immaculate
Conception
August 13, 2026
Thursday
6:00pm Adoration
6:30pm Mass



Mon.	(Aug.10)	8:00am
Tues.	(Aug.11)	8:00am (St.G)
Wed.	(Aug.12)	8:00am (IC)
Thur.	(Aug.13)	8:00am (St.N)
Fri.	(Aug.14)	8:00am (IC)
Sat.	(Aug.15)	4:30pm (St.N)
Sun.	(Aug.16)	8:00am (St.G)
Sun.	(Aug.16)	10:00am (IC)

† **Mass Intentions** †
No Mass
† **Helen Wuebbles** —Int. of Dave & Jane Deiters
† **Millie Frey** —Int. of Billy & Mary Jo Luitjohan
† **All Souls**
† **May Forth** — Int. of Bill & Denise Trickey
† **Ken & Betty Wagner** —Int. of James Knebel
For the People of St. Nicholas, St. Gertrude & Immaculate Conception
† **Leonard & Audrey Frank** — Int. of Jim & Diane Hill
† **Carly Denise Schwierjohn** —Int. of Lowell & Denise Wellen
† **Darlene & Archie D’Amico** —Int. of Bill & Denise Trickey

Readings for the week of August 9, 2026

Sunday:
1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Rom 9:1-5/Mt 14:22-33

Monday:
2 Cor 9:6-10/Ps 112:1-2, 5-6, 7-8, 9/ Jn 12:24-26

Tuesday:
Ez 2:8-3:4/Ps 119:14, 24, 72, 103, 111, 131/ Mt 18:1-5, 10, 12-14

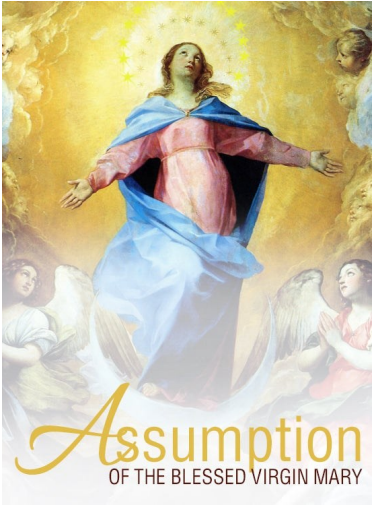
Wednesday:
Ez 9:1-7; 10:18-22/Ps 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/ Mt 18:15-20

Thursday:
Ez 12:1-12/Ps 78:56-57, 58-59, 61-62/ Mt 18:21-19:1

Friday:
Ez 16:1-15, 60, 63 or 16:59-63/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6/Mt 19:3-12

Saturday:
Vigil: 1 Chr 15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2/Ps 132:6-7, 9-10, 13-14/1 Cor 15:54b-57/Lk 11:27-28
Day: Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Ps 45:10, 11, 12, 16/1 Cor 15:20-27/Lk 1:39-56

Next Sunday:
Is 56:1, 6-7/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8/ Rom 11:13-15, 29-32/Mt 15:21-28



The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on August 15: This solemnity falls on a Saturday which means that the obligation is abrogated this year. Saturday evening Masses that regularly anticipate the Sunday should be for the Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time since it is a day of precept (obligation).



STN Collection	8/1/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$1,725.00
Assumption of Mary	\$100.00
Sister Parish	\$60.00
Capital Improvements	\$790.00

“He said, ‘Come.’ Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus.” – Matthew 14:29

When you hear Jesus calling, do you respond immediately and trust that He knows what He’s doing? If so, you are walking on water! When we say “yes” to Jesus, we feel the power of his presence in our lives. We can feel the freedom it gives us! Listen how Jesus is calling you to live the extraordinary life He has intended for you.

In the midst of life’s greatest storms, Jesus comes to us, but we may not recognize Him. We may test Him. In doing so, He will test us — and likely, we will fail. But when we falter, His saving hand is there.

St. Nicholas Council meeting will be held on Tues., Aug. 11th 7PM



Next weekend, Aug. 15 & 16 Fr. Emmanuel Enwerem will be with us from the MISSIONARY SERVANTS OF THE NEEDY (MSN)

Who We Are:
The Missionary Servants of the Needy is a male religious association founded in the Catholic Diocese of Tombura-Yambio, South Sudan, dedicated exclusively to serving the poor and addressing their needs. Our mission is rooted in a profound concern for the poor and vulnerable, especially those who receive little or no attention in their communities. We seek to help them rediscover their inherent dignity and grow in awareness of their value to human society, to their families, to themselves, and to God. We aim to provide counseling, understand their needs, offer education, and discern the most effective ways to help them become better persons for the sake of God’s Kingdom. The visible and practical expression of God’s mercy and love through works of charity and the corporal works of mercy lies at the heart of our mission. Our deepest desire is to be God’s voice and “another Christ” to the poor and needy. To learn more about us, please visit www.msnmission.org.

Our Apostolic Activities:
Education: Providing education to children and youth who have an interest in going to school but have no one to support them. We also offer adult education to interested adults who did not have the opportunity to receive formal education when they were younger due to poverty and lack of money.
Healthcare Provision: Providing health care services to the people of God is also an integral aspect of our apostolate.
Youth Apostolate: We are also into active youth apostolate aimed at providing moral and religious education to youths.
Orphanage Ministry: Ministering to orphans and vulnerable children occupies a very important place in our charism. We have orphanage centers where we provide shelter, food, clothing, and sound education to homeless, orphans and indigent children.
Caring for Retired Priests/Religious and Elderly People: We also extend our apostolate to priests and religious who are retired or inactive due to their health conditions or other reasons, and elderly people whose family members are not able to care for them.
Home Visitations: Through our house-to-house visitation apostolate, we are exposed to the needs of the community that we serve. By having healthy interactions with the people, we stand a better chance of getting to know them and the needs they have.
Parish Work: We are also open to running as many parishes as assigned to us by the local ordinary. At our parishes, we strive to be priests and servants to the people of God. In other words, the spiritual and the pastoral needs of the parishioners are our topmost priority.

STG Collection	8/2/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$826.00
Assumption of Mary	\$25.00
Sister Parish	\$25.00
Maintenance Fund	\$145.00
Cemetery	\$55.00

IC Collection	8/2/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$3,581.00
Assumption of Mary	\$70.00
Sister Parish	\$70.00
Building Fund	\$110.00
Candles	\$84.00

**August HACSM
Pantry Needs:
Toilet Paper &
Brownie Mix**

**Pocahontas Food
Pantry Needs:
Canned veggies,
spaghetti & sauce,
canned meat, ravioli,
cake mix & icing,
cereal. All donations
are appreciated!**



There is a table set up in the hallway at IC Church. Please bring fruit & veggies from your gardens that you would like to share with the church community.



Thank you to everyone for your support with the Flower Bar Fundraiser! The youth appreciate your prayers, support, and generosity. The youth also delivered bouquets to the residents at San Gabriel and Cedarhurst Sunday afternoon.

Community book sale in Staunton – Find grade school textbooks, curriculum materials, children's books, classic literature, young adult books, & other educational resources at the Community Book Sale. A free-will offering is accepted. The sale will be held at St. Michael's Gym, 500 E. North St., Staunton, on Saturdays, Aug. 15 and 22, from 2:30–5:30 p.m.; Sundays, Aug. 16 and 23, from 9 a.m.–12 p.m.; & weekdays from 9a.m.–2p.m. Whether you're a teacher, homeschool family, student, parent, or simply a book lover, you'll find something for all ages. For more information, call 618-635-3140.

"God sees your circumstances. He understands better than anyone what you are dealing with. He sees the intentions of your heart. He sees your love for him and your desire to put him first."

Lisa Brenninkmeyer
Walking with Purpose

DynamicCatholic.com



Pray For Our Seminarians
Wyatt Clark
Propaedeutic
Bishop Simon Bruté Seminary



Springfield in IL Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

97th Annual Convention

Thursday, September 3, 2026

Theme: *Handmaids of the Lord: Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*

Featuring Teresa Tomeo



Teresa Tomeo is a nationally known Catholic author, EWTN media personality and speaker

Day's Events

Hosted by the Quincy Deanery Council of Catholic Women

8:00 AM: Rosary, followed by Mass at **8:30 AM** at St. Anthony of Padua Church.

2223 St. Anthony Rd., Quincy, IL 62305

Main Celebrant: Reverend Monsignor David J. Hoefler

After Mass, travel to The Ambiance Banquet Hall, 5225 Kochs Lane, Quincy, IL 62305.
Doors will open at 9:30 AM: Registration and Program, including Morning Snack and Lunch.
(Gluten-Free lunch and morning snack items will be available)

Program includes two Teresa Tomeo Presentations:

Morning Talk (11:00 AM): *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace: Discovering Your True Dignity by Following in the Footsteps of Saint Francis and Saint Clare*

Afternoon Talk (1:30 PM): *Beyond Sunday: Becoming a 24/7 Catholic as a Handmaid of the Lord*
She will also be available for "Meet and Greet," Q&A Time, and Book Signing.

Time is allowed to visit Silent Auction tables and shopping at vendors in the morning and after lunch.
Dismissal around 3:30pm.

Use the Registration Form with this email or pick one up at your parish.

Questions? Contact Susan Asher, QDCCW President at 217-653-5074 or email asherte@yahoo.com or Gina Wolf, QDCCW Treasurer at 217-257-9966 or email g.wolf@cospq.org or, Kristi in Holy Family Parish Office.

UFO group will meet at E L Flanagan's for dinner at 6:30 on Tuesday, Aug. 11. Please RSVP by Monday to Judy Hartlieb, 618-977-3218. If you would like, bring boxes of tissues to donate to Highland Food Pantry. Study your spelling words because there will be a Spelling Bee!



Join us for the **NEW**
ST. PAUL COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN
INFO MEETING
August 11, 2026 at 6pm

in the St. Paul Room at
St. Paul Catholic Church, Highland.

This is an informational meeting; come find out what we are all about. All women of St. Paul and surrounding parishes are welcome.



We are also putting together a **FAMILY GAME NIGHT** basket for the SDCCW Convention. Please bring a Game Night item to include.

19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 8 & 9, 2026



Saint Nicholas - Pocahontas



Immaculate Conception—Pierron



Saint Gertrude—Grantfork



19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Peter said to him in reply, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus. - Mt 14:28-29

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