

GIVE WHAT THE MASTER ASKS

Just prior to this week's Passion narrative in St. Matthew's Gospel, there is a small, striking story describing a woman's scandalous action toward Jesus: "A woman came up to Him with an alabaster jar of costly perfumed oil, and poured it on His head" (Matthew 26:7). The ointment was pure nard, worth more than 300 denarii. A year's wages. Maybe a dowry, maybe a family inheritance. In any case, she breaks it. She does not measure or ration. She pours it all out, irreversibly, over Jesus. Why does this image begin Holy Week? Because what she does with the jar, Jesus will soon do with His life. That jar must be broken so the fragrance can be released. Jesus' body will be broken so His priceless divine and human love can be poured out. She gives everything, just as He is about to give everything. And He sees it: "She has done a good thing for me" (Matthew 26:10). Her act is lavish, impractical, scandalous in its apparent wastefulness. And He loves it. It is what Holy Week is all about. What jar are you still holding onto? Your time? Your comfort? Your plan for how life should go? Don't just wave palms today. Let yourself be broken open so your love, too, can be poured out. Lenten Challenge: Offer something costly to Jesus this Holy Week—not out of guilt, but love. Your attention. Your forgiveness. Your time. Break the jar. Trust that nothing poured out for Him is ever wasted. —Father John Muir

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR APRIL 5, 2026
Sun. Apr. 5 @ 8:00AM @ St. Nicholas
 Reader: Pat Kalous
 Music: Sally Rehberger, Barb Zaloga, & Colleen Lozier
 Euch. Min.: Brenda & Marce Tebbe
 Server: Pat Kalous

Sun. Apr. 5 @ 8:00AM @ St. Gertrude
 Reader: Carole Sauls
 Music: Nick Worman & Randy Eckstein
 Sacristan: Sue Dickman
 Euch. Min.: Karen Knackstedt, Jane Deiters & Sue Messerli
 Ushers: Bryan Rutz & Kevin Schwarz
 Servers: Elizabeth Schwarz, Morgan Dressler & Cooper Dressler

Sun. Apr. 5 @ 10:00AM @ IC
 Reader: Denise Trickey
 Music: Joy Winkeler
 Servers: Jack Williamson & Emma Winte
 Euch. Min.: Rick & Ruth Zurliene & Amy Gilomen

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, 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 Madros, 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 29, 2026

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

Monday:
 Is 42:1-7/Ps 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14/Jn 12:1-11

Tuesday:
 Is 49:1-6/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15 and 17/Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

Wednesday:
 Is 50:4-9a/Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 and 33-34/Mt 26:14-25

Thursday:
 Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/Ps 116:12-13, 15-16, 17-18/1 Cor 11:23-26/Jn 13:1-15

Friday:
 Is 52:13-53:12/Ps 31:2 and 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17 and 25/Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9/Jn 18:1-19:42

Saturday:
 Easter Vigil: Gn 1:1-2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a/Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35 (30) or Ps 33:4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20-22 (5b)/Gn 22:1-18 or 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11 (1)/Ex 14:15-15:1/ Ex 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18 (1b)/Is 54:5-14/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 (2a)/Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 (3)/Bar 3:9-15, 32-4:4/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 (Jn 6:68c)/Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28/Ps 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4 (42:2)/Rom 6:3-11/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23/Mt 28:1-10

Next Sunday:
 Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 (24)/Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/Jn 20:1-9 or Mt 28:1-10 Or Lk 24:13-35

"As they were marching out, they came upon a man of Cyrene, Simon by name; this man they pressed into service to carry his cross."
Matthew 27:32
 The Lord calls us to love God and to love our neighbor. Every day we are presented with opportunities to love our neighbor and help him "carry his cross." These opportunities aren't usually big events, they are usually ordinary occurrences like helping someone carry their groceries or holding the door open for them. The key is putting the other person's needs before our own and not expecting anything in return.

Spring Cemetery Clean-Up
 Please remove all Christmas flowers & seasonal decorations at both Calvary and St. Gertrude Cemeteries so that the grounds can be readied for spring clean-up. Please remember that the tombstones should be kept clear of statues, flower pots, etc. so that lawncare can be provided. Thank You.

Observances for the week of March 29, 2026

Sunday: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord; Holy Week begins
Wednesday: April Fools' Day
Thursday: Holy Thursday
Friday: Good Friday
Saturday: Holy Saturday
Next Sunday: Easter Sunday

STATIONS OF THE CROSS
 Via Crucis

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



Cousins
 Ellie Singh and Kylee Gilomen with Fr. Cal at IC's Recognition Mass last Sunday.



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



We welcome Kelsi, Cayden & Conlin Hannan to our Immaculate Conception family at the Easter Vigil. Cayden and Conlin will receive the Sacrament of Baptism and Kelsi will receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.
 Please keep Kelsi, Cayden & Conlin in your prayers!



As we journey toward the Resurrection of our Lord, let us pray for our priests in a special way, with hearts full of gratitude. On Holy Thursday, we commemorate the Last Supper and the Institution of the Eucharist, as well as the essential role that priests play in our faith and to offer thanks for their dedication and service. Through their ministry, we encounter Christ in the sacraments, and their faithful witness inspires us to grow closer to God. May your Triduum be fruitful, your Easter be glorious, and may our priests always be strengthened in their vocation.
 God Bless 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.

STN Collection	3/22/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$763.00
Budget Goal	\$1,257.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$-494.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$47,766.00
Support Actual	\$53,337.27
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$5,571.27

Pics from Recognition Masses at IC & St. Gertrude celebrating students who received sacraments this year. Thanks to all who helped and to all who came to celebrate with the children!

STG Collection	3/22/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$6,649.00
All Saints	\$25.00
Easter Flowers	\$30.00
Seminarians	\$125.00
Catholic Charities	\$50.00
CRS	\$25.00
Holy Land	\$25.00
Cemetery	\$100.00
Sister Parish	\$275.00
Maintenance Fund	\$400.00
Chicken Dinner Raffle	\$100.00
Other Special Collections	\$67.00
Budget Goal	\$1,505.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$5,199.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$57,190.00
Support Actual	\$56,014.66
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$-1,175.34



IC Collection	3/22/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$1,768.00
Easter Flowers	\$50.00
Building Fund	\$25.00
Candles	\$54.00
Budget Goal	\$2,672.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$-904.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$101,536.00
Support Actual	\$104,149.12
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$2,613.12

Mon. (Mar.30)	8:00am	
Tues. (Mar.31)	8:00am	(St.G)
Wed. (Apr. 1)	8:00am	(IC)
Thur. (Apr. 2)	7:00pm	(IC)
Fri. (Apr. 3)	3:00pm	(IC)
Fri. (Apr. 3)	7:00pm	(St.G)
Sat. (Apr. 4)	8:00pm	(IC)
Sun. (Apr. 5)	8:00am	(St.N)
Sun. (Apr. 5)	8:00am	(St.G)
Sun. (Apr. 5)	10:00am	(IC)

† **Mass Intentions** †
No Mass
 † **All Souls**
 † **Special Intentions for Jim Haberer** — Int. of Mary Haberer & Family
 † **Former Priests & Sisters who have served**
Good Friday Liturgy
Good Friday Liturgy
 † **George & Margaret Daiber** — Int. of Larry & Connie Knebel
For the People of Immaculate Conception, St. Nicholas & St. Gertrude
 † **Bill & Betty Haberer** — Int. of Susan Jakel
 † **Frank & Rita Nordhaus** — Int. of Karen & Alan Knackstedt Family
 † **Living & Deceased members of Cy & Delores Weis Family** — Int. of the Weis Family
 † **Dennis & Lorraine Huelskamp** — Int. of Bill & Denise Trickey

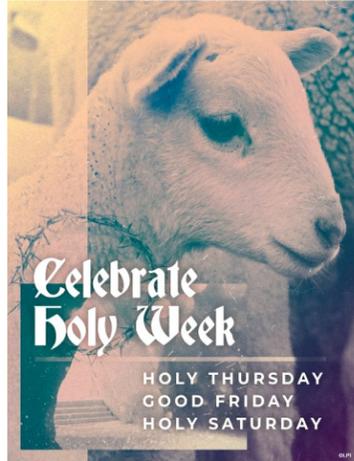
We are joining the Alton Deanery Council of Catholic Women as a 3- parish activity.

St. Gertrude Altar Society is paying the \$50 membership fee. There are 3 or 4 annual deanery meetings which are open to all women. These meetings are for spirituality, friendship, and refreshments. There are also retreats, participation in the Women of Distinction, Annual Diocesan conventions and there was a prayer breakfast at St. Elizabeth's in Granite City on Oct 21st where several ladies from our 3 parishes attended. More information about upcoming events will be in the bulletin.

Divine Mercy Sunday Mass -April 12
St. Paul Catholic Church, Highland
Adoration and Rosary :1PM
Confessions 1:30pm
Chaplet of the Divine Mercy 2:30PM
Holy Mass : 3pm
Refreshments to follow



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!



Special Collections:
Holy Thursday will be for the Highland Area Christian Service Ministry (HACSM)
Good Friday collection is for the Holy Land and Easter Vigil & Easter Sunday collection is for Seminarians.
Please Note: the new envelope service did not have an Easter envelope in the mailing. Please put your donations for your parish for that weekend in an envelope marked with the Church and your name if you want it to be recorded.

Meet Our Seminarians



Samuel Lutostanski
 Propaedeutic
 St. Meinrad Seminary

One thing I have learned about discernment is the importance of giving everyone and everything in my life back to God. He can take far better care of my friends and family than I can, and everything I offer Him will be returned in a much greater form.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR HOLY WEEK

Thur. Apr. 2 @ 7PM @ IC
 Reader: Denise Trickey
 Euch. Min.: Cindy Knebel, Evelyn Knebel & John Dea
 Server: Kendyl & Dylen Potthast
Fri. Apr. 3 @ 3PM @ IC
 Reader: Mary Bergman & John Dea
 Euch.Min.: Amy Gilomen, Mary Korte & Erica Knebel
 Servers: Rebecca Dea
Fri. Apr. 3 @7PM @ STG
 Reader: Janice & Katrina Korsmeyer
 Servers: Allisa Korsmeyer & Nevin Straube
 Euch. Min.: Terry & Sue Dickman & Judi Rode
 Sacristan: Gail Ohren
 Ushers: Karen & Nathaniel Straube
Sat. Apr. 4 @ 8PM @ IC
 Reader: Lowell & Denise Wellen, Jane Dapkus & Terry Potthast
 Server: Jentry Lobello & Landry Korte



Called to Share Bread for Life

Holy Week, the heart of the liturgical year, invites us to journey with Christ through his Passion, Death and Resurrection. As we witness the Last Supper and Jesus' gift of the Eucharist, we are reminded of our call to be bread broken for others. Let us draw strength from the Bread of Life and dedicate ourselves to serving our sisters and brothers who bear heavy crosses, bringing hope and resurrection to the world. Visit csrcebowl.org/holy-week to learn more.

PALM SUNDAY MARCH 28 & 29, 2026



Saint Nicholas - Pocahontas



Immaculate Conception—Pierron



Saint Gertrude—Grantfork

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord." - Mt 21:9

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

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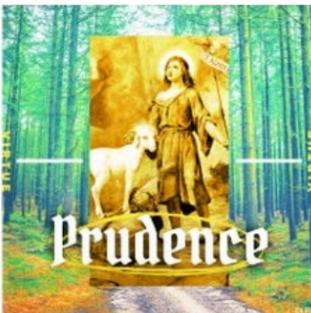
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 Mon.—Thurs. 9am to 4pm
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Mass Times
Immaculate Conception
Wed. & Fri. —8:00am
Sunday —10:00am
Saint Nicholas
Thursday — 8:00am
Saturday — 4:30pm

Saint Gertrude
Tuesday — 8:00am
Sunday — 8:00am

CAMP ONDESSONK
SPRING FLING
 April 11, 2026
 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM
 Trail Races | Open House
Ondessonk.com/events



Virtues Explained! Prudence

Those who have the vision condition of nearsightedness need glasses in order to discern objects which are far away. Without the aid of glasses, a nearsighted person's world is small; anything which lies beyond their strength of vision is hidden to them. The virtue of prudence is like glasses for a soul made nearsighted by original sin. "A prudent man is one who sees as it were from afar, for his sight is keen, and he foresees the event of uncertainties," said St. Isidore of Seville.

The Catechism teaches that prudence disposes our practical reason to not only discern what is good, but to choose the right way of achieving that good. Prudence is "the charioteer of the virtues," guiding the judgment of our conscience and directing our actions in accordance with that judgment (CCC 1806). Without prudence, not only can we not clearly see what is good, but we have no hope of realizing that good. ©LPI

Virtues, Explained!

The virtue of prudence is like glasses for a soul made nearsighted by original sin. Prudence disposes our practical reason to not only discern what is good, but to choose the right way of achieving that good.

Blessing for Holy Week

Be with us this week, Lord, journeying closer and closer to Your pierced and Sacred Heart. Immerse us in Your intense and undying love. Help us to encounter Your passion in new ways that inform, surprise, and inspire us. Amen.

LENTE DISCIPLINES OF FASTING & ABSTINENCE

Catholics in good health ages 18 to 59 are required to fast and to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Fasting consists of eating only one meal, with the possibility of two smaller snacks that do not add up to a single full meal.

Catholics age 14 and older are to abstain from meat on all Fridays in Lent.

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