



Jean Amery, a Holocaust survivor tortured by the Nazis, later wrote about the abyss of human evil. He described his reaction as an "indignant despair." Haven't we all, to some degree, felt that abyss opened beneath us? A sudden loss, a violent headline, a moment of loneliness or panic, when the world feels fragile and meaning seems to collapse? It is to this fear that Jesus speaks in today's Gospel: "Do not be afraid of those who can kill the body." (Matthew 10:28). He does not deny evil or pretend we will never suffer. Instead, He reframes the abyss: **do not fear those who can kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Your life is seen, known, and counted by the Father. Even the hairs of your head, even the sparrow's fall.**

This is no superficial comfort. Jesus Himself has entered the abyss: suffering, death, even our sense of forsakenness, and He has come through it. That is why His words, "Do not be afraid", hold such weight. They do not erase the abyss but build a bridge across it. Faith is not pretending everything is fine. It is staring into the abyss and still choosing trust. And in that trust, we discover we are never alone. Christ stands with us, and the Father's care surrounds us. That is the only comfort deep enough for our (often fearful) hearts. —Fr. John Muir

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR JUNE 27 & 28, 2026
Sat. June 27 @ 4:30PM @ St. Nicholas
 Reader: Brenda Tebbe
 Music: Sally Rehberger, Barb Zaloga, & Colleen Lozier
 Euch. Min.: Marce & Brenda Tebbe
 Server: Pat Kalous

Sun. June 28 @ 8:00AM @ St. Gertrude
 Reader: Janice Korskmeier
 Music: Nick Worman & Randy Eckstein
 Sacristan: Sue Dickman
 Euch.Min.: Terry & Sue Dickman & Brenda Knackstedt
 Ushers: Bryan Rutz & Kevin Schwarz
 Servers: Makayla & Evonna Korskmeier

Sun. June 28 @ 10:00AM @ IC
 Reader: Terry Potthast
 Music: Joy Winkeler
 Servers: Jentry Lobello & Landry Korte
 Euch. Min.: Mary Korte, John Dea & Amy Gilomen

As you proceed, proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Every Christian is a city situated on a hilltop. All Christians must bear witness to Christ wherever we go, because we cannot be afraid to stand boldly for Christ and His glory. Wherever we go and whoever we encounter, let our light shine so brightly that all will give glory to God, our Father. Peace.

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, Eugene Henson, P.J. Hereford, James Hodge, Gene Jolliff, Pat Kalous, Val King, Janice Korskmeier, Barrett Korte, Denny Korte, Randy 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.

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

The Baby Bottle Boomerang has come to a close this weekend. Please return your bottles even if you were not able to make a donation. Checks can be written to Relevant Pregnancy Options Center.

Thanks for your contributions!

Readings for the week of June 21, 2026

Sunday:
 Jer 20:10-13/Ps 69:8-10, 14 and 17, 33-35/ Rom 5:12-15/Mt 10:26-33

Monday:
 2 Kgs 17:5-8, 13-15a, 18/Ps 60:3, 4-5, 12-13/Mt 7:1-5

Tuesday:
 2 Kgs 19:9b-11, 14-21, 31-35a, 36/ Ps 48:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 10-11/Mt 7:6, 12-14

Wednesday:
Vigil: Jer 1:4-10/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5-6ab, 15ab and 17/1 Pt 1:8-12/Lk 1:5-17

Day: Is 49:1-6/Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 14c-15/Acts 13:22-26/Lk 1:57-66, 80

Thursday:
 2 Kgs 24:8-17/ Ps 79:1b-2, 3-5, 8, 9/ Mt 7:21-29

Friday:
 2 Kgs 25:1-12/ Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6/ Mt 8:1-4

Saturday:
 Lam 2:2, 10-14, 18-19/ Ps 74:1b-2, 3-5, 6-7, 20-21/Mt 8:5-17

Next Sunday:
 2 Kgs 4:8-11, 14-16a/Ps 89:2-3, 16-17, 18-19/Rom 6:3-4, 8-11/Mt 10:37-42)

"Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father." Matthew 10:32

Would others know that you are Catholic by the way you act and speak? Do you share your Catholic faith with others? Do you defend your Catholic faith when the situation arises or do you remain silent? Do you pray in public before meals? Pray for the strength and courage to be a joyful witness of our Catholic faith when the opportunity presents itself. Let us become the radiant light and bold witness that we are called to be!

Blessing of Fathers

God and Father of all creation, we come before you today with humble hearts. You are our model of a loving father.

When we fail and fall short of your expectations, you are always there at the end of the day with open arms, ready to heal the cuts and scrapes of the day and to encourage us to try again and not to give up.

We hold up these men in our midst who act in the world as fathers to their children or models of fathers for others. Bless them in their moments of doubt and frustration with their children. Give them warm and open hearts to forgive failures. Provide them with the words needed for encouragement and perseverance.

We ask all this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

SAVE THE DATE St Nicholas Gary Plog Soup & Song Oct 17, 2026. Please text or call Barb Zaloga at 618-704-5006 if you would like to make a donation (monetary or item) for the raffle. A quilt has already been donated. Thank you!

Catholic Traditions From The Gospel of James – There is a Gospel of James! Who wrote it, when, and what are the themes and traditions Catholics get from this Gospel? And Why did the Church not recognize it as fully inspired by the Holy Spirit? Go to [youtube.com/diospringfield](https://www.youtube.com/diospringfield) or search "Dive Deep" on all the major podcast platforms to listen and subscribe. *Dive Deep* is the podcast of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois.

STN Collection	6/13/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$1,481.00
Ascension	\$100.00
Sister Parish	\$40.00
Budget Goal	\$1,257.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$324.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$62,850.00
Support Actual	\$68,376.37
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$5,526.37



Mid-Life Singles (mid-30s to 50s): Are you looking for a renewed sense of purpose & belonging? Register today for a life-changing REFLECT weekend retreat at the Pallottine Renewal Center, Florissant, MO (30 mins from downtown St. Louis), on July 17-19th, 2026. Take a change and get involved... you won't regret it! Cost is \$290 including meals. Visit [ReflectRetreat.com](https://www.ReflectRetreat.com), email reflect.stlouis@gmail.com or call 630-222-8303 for details.

STG Collection	6/14/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$947.00
Maintenance Fund	\$80.00
Cemetery	\$100.00
Budget Goal	\$1,505.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	-\$558.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$75,250.00
Support Actual	\$70,192.27
Surplus/Deficit YTD	-\$5,057.73

Observances for the week of June 21, 2026

Sunday: 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Father's Day
Monday: St. Paulinus of Nola, Bishop; Sts. John Fisher, Bishop, and Thomas More, Martyrs
Wednesday: The Nativity of St. John the Baptist
Saturday: St. Cyril of Alexandria, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Next Sunday: 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Family Life is Messy Being a good parent starts with being a great spouse, but being a good parent or even a great spouse is hard, messy work. And we're not meant to do it alone! So find podcasts like "Fighting the Slow Drift in Marriage", courses like "Pizza and Parenting", blog articles like "How to Have a Conversation About Finances without Arguing", & guides like "Parenting as a Team" that can turn your messy family's journey into an adventure at [messyfamilyproject.org](https://www.messyfamilyproject.org). If you want to pray with your family, you need to play with them first. Questions? Contact Gracie with the Office of Marriage & Family Life at 217-321-1124.

I would like to invoke the heavenly protection of Saint Joseph on all fathers and on their duties in family life....By concretely fulfilling their responsibilities, may each of them reflect God's provident and faithful love. May we obtain this through Saint Joseph and Blessed Mary, Queen of the family and Mother of the Church.

Saint John Paul II



Saint Joseph and the Christ Child (1666), Claudio Coello



IC Collection	6/14/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$11,810.00
Sister Parish	\$1,000.00
Building Fund	\$200.00
Candles	\$53.00
Cemetery	\$1,010.00
Budget Goal	\$2,672.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$9,138.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$133,600.00
Support Actual	\$144,174.49
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$10,574.49



Mon. (June 22) 8:00am
 Tues. (June 23) 8:00am (St.G)
 Wed. (June 24) 8:00am (IC)
 Thur. (June 25) 8:00am (St.N)
 Fri. (June 26) 8:00am (IC)
 Sat. (June 27) 4:30pm (St.N)
 Sun. (June 28) 8:00am (St.G)

† **Mass Intentions** †
No Mass
 † **All Souls**
 † **Loretta Knebel** —Int. of Delmar Knebel Family
 † **Michael Lazella** —Int. of the Lazella Family
 † **Charlie Kirk** —Int. of Bill & Denise Trickey
 † **Scott Frank** —Int. of Pat Kalous
 † **Al & Frances Luitjohan, Shirley Schwarz & Judy Wilke** — Int. of Lynn & Joe Haegele

For the People of St. Gertrude, St. Nicholas & Immaculate Conception
 † **Bill & Lois Collins** —Int. of John & Christi Dea Family
 † **Gayle England** —Int. of John & Christi Dea Family

Sun. (June 28) 10:00am (IC)

IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES:

Vocation NIGHT

FOR TEEN GIRLS

JULY 10 | 6-9 PM
 Saint Paul Catholic Church
 Highland, IL

SCAN TO RSVP:
 Please submit by July 1st

CONTACT AMELIA HEMANN WITH ANY QUESTIONS
 (618) 979-1144

CALLED & Sent

A fun and powerful retreat for high school students filled with prayer and fellowship!

JULY 18-23, 2026 go.dio.org/dx8

VILLA MARIA RETREAT CENTER - SPRINGFIELD

June Pantry Needs:
Pencils (Ticonderoga) & Rulers

HACSM can always use monetary donations to allow them to purchase additional items as needed. All food donations will still be accepted no matter the above assignment each month. We appreciate your support! Thank You!

To report allegations of sexual abuse of a minor by clergy, even if it is in the past, individuals are encouraged to call the Diocesan Child Abuse Reporting & Investigation number at (217)-321-1155. Individuals may also contact the Illinois Dept. of Children & Family Services Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-25-ABUSE, or contact your local police authority.

"True joy flows from recognizing and responding to God's presence. By making ourselves present to Him—especially in the Eucharist—we encounter His love and are strengthened to reflect it to the world."

FR. JONATHAN MEYER

THE STATIONS OF THE EUCHARIST

Lunch Bunch will be giving out free sack lunches each Monday & Wednesday **May 27th thru August 5th.**

Delivery Sites:
Pierron: Country View Park Bus Stop Highway 143 & Country Lane West (11:45am to Noon) and at PIC Park Pavilion (12:05 to 12:15pm)
Grantfork: Cedar Springs Drive & Pocahontas Road (11:30 to 11:40am) and at Grantfork UCC on South Locust St. (11:45 to 11:55am)

Donations are appreciated and can be made out to Highland Area Community Foundation with LUNCH Bunch in the memo & mailed to 1008 Laurel St. Highland IL, 62249 or online at hacf.org/donate

KIRCHENFEST

"Where the Fun is In-Tents!"

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Connect with our Kirchenfest online community! Follow us for updates on events, delicious food, and fellowship. Be part of the best celebration of the summer!

FOLLOW NOW

Facebook: facebook.com/kirchenfest/
 Instagram: [@kirchenfest](https://instagram.com/kirchenfest)

MOVIE NIGHT

Fr. Callistus and Fr. Hilary bond over watching the movie Sacred Heart.

ENCOUNTER CHRIST • EXPERIENCE HEALING • REDISCOVER IDENTITY

RESTORATION RETREAT

FOR THE SEPARATED & DIVORCED

You are not alone. There is hope and a future.

Through prayer, teaching, sharing and community, experience healing and hope, rediscover your identity as beloved, and gain greater peace, clarity, and purpose.

SAT. JULY 11

SCHEDULE
 9:00 am Mass
 10 am-4:30 pm Retreat

LOCATION
 Immaculate Heart of Mary (Marian Hall) or Online

PROVIDED
 Lunch & Materials

SPECIAL GUEST
 BISHOP DONALD HYING

PRESENTED BY
 Carolyn Kluka Catano
 Catholic Divorce Healing Coach & Founder of AJM

REGISTER TO ATTEND

SCAN ME

ABOUNDINGJOY
 No Catholic walks through separation or divorce alone.



Pray For Our Seminarians

Joseph Tuttle
 Configuration I
 St. Meinrad Seminary

PRAY FOR SEMINARIANS

Saint Charles Borromeo, pray for our future priests

12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME JUNE 20 & 21, 2026



Saint Nicholas - Pocahontas



Immaculate Conception—Pierron



Saint Gertrude—Grantfork

TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YOU ARE WORTH MORE THAN MANY SPARROWS.

— MATTHEW 10:31 —

SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 2026

+BISHOP
 THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI
 DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD
 IN ILLINOIS

✠

REV. CALLISTUS OSIAGA
 PASTOR

SONYA CURRY
 SECRETARY

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 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