

FULLY PRESENT, YET HIDDEN

When I first read Homer's *Odyssey* as a teenager, one scene captured my imagination: Odysseus finally returning home after 20 years, yet no one recognized him. Disguised as a beggar, he speaks with his wife, his son, and even his enemies. He is fully present, yet hidden. Only at the right moment does he reveal himself, and everyone realizes he has been with them all along. I was struck by the mystery that he could be so close to his loved ones, and yet they simply could not identify him.

A similar mystery is at the heart of today's Gospel. Two disciples walk the road to Emmaus with Jesus, but "their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him." (Luke 24:16). He listens, teaches, and eats with them, yet they remain blind until He breaks the bread. Suddenly their eyes are opened — and at that very moment, He vanishes.

His disappearance is not absence. Rather, it is revelation. The Risen Lord is now present in a new way, in the breaking of the bread and in the life of His Church.

Faith is this shift of vision. Instead of searching for a visible Jesus as if He were absent, we learn to recognize Him unveiled in hidden ways — in Scripture proclaimed, in the Eucharist, in the sacraments, in the very life of the Church.

And what is true of Him is true of us. Just as He disappears into the mission of His Body, we too are meant to be hidden in Him. When we live hidden in Christ, we are seen for who we really are.—Father John Muir

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR APRIL 25 & 26, 2026

Sun. Apr. 25 @ 8:00AM @ St. Nicholas

Reader: Don Cureton
Music: Sally Rehberger, Barb Zaloga, & Colleen Lozier
Euch. Min.: Marce & Brenda Tebbe
Server: Pat Kalous

Sun. Apr. 26 @ 8:00AM @ St. Gertrude

Reader: Brenda Knackstedt
Music: Nick Worman & Randy Eckstein
Sacristan: Brenda Knackstedt
Euch.Min.: Terry & Sue Dickman & Karen Knackstedt
Ushers: Karen & Nathaniel Straube
Servers: Nevin Straube & Elizabeth Schwarz

Sun. Apr. 26 @ 10:00AM @ IC

Reader: Tim Schuette
Music: Joy Winkeler
Servers: Emma Winte & Landry Korte
Euch. Min.: Rick & Ruth Zurliene & Barry Otto



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 Kormeyer, 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, Marcia Rowe, Gunner Sadler, Abby Schrage, Bill Schroeder, Suzanne Steinbring, Brenda Usher, 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.

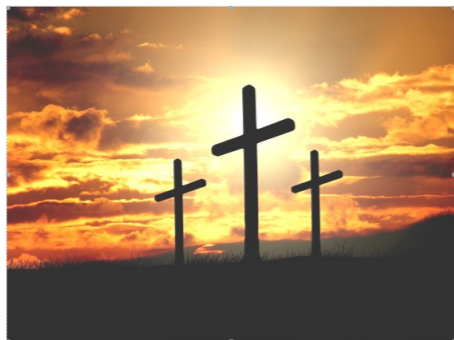
If you would like to have someone added or removed from the prayer list please call the parish office.

Pray Along with the **Prairie Travelers**

ON SUNDAY, APRIL 19 AT 8AM

Join us for a special mass at St. Gertrude in Grantfork with music by the Prairie Travelers acoustic trio!

After Mass Fr. Cal will be blessing the US flag that will be raised on the new St. Gertrude Cemetery flag pole. The US flag was donated by Highland VFW Post 5694. **HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US!!**



Don't forget to turn in your CRS Rice Bowl or donate online at crsricebowl.org/give.



Earth Day EVERY DAY

St Nicholas will be hosting a pot luck after Mass next Saturday, April 25th with fun events for the children to celebrate Easter and Earth Day. Please sign up today with your name, how many are coming, Parish, children's ages and what you will bring (Main Dish, Vegetable, Pasta, Salad or Dessert). Thank you.

Next St. Gertrude Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 28th at 7PM
Please note date change

† Mass Intentions †

No Mass

† **John & Rose Wellen** — Int. of Lowell & Denise Wellen

No Mass

† **Russell Korte** — Int. of Jeannie Korte & Family

† All Souls

† **Bill Halcomb** — Int. of Bill & Denise Trickey

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

† **Christian Schwarz** — Int. of Brenda Knackstedt & Family

† **Clarence Korte** — Int. of Donna & Ralph Korte

† **Bob & Pam Winet** — Int. of Lowell & Denise Wellen

Mon. (Apr.20) 8:00am
Tues. (Apr.21) 8:00am (St.G)
Wed. (Apr.22) 8:00am (IC)
Thur. (Apr.23) 8:00am (St.N)
Fri. (Apr.24) 8:00am (IC)
Sat. (Apr.25) 4:30pm (St.N)

Sun. (Apr.26) 8:00am (St.G)
Sun. (Apr.26) 10:00am (IC)

Readings for the week of April 19, 2026

Sunday:

Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2 and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11/1 Pt 1:17-21/Lk 24:13-35

Monday:

Acts 6:8-15/Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30/ Jn 6:22-29

Tuesday:

Acts 7:51-8:1a/ Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 7b and 8a, 17 and 21ab/Jn 6:30-35

Wednesday:

Acts 8:1b-8/ Ps 66:1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a/ Jn 6:35-40

Thursday:

Acts 8:26-40/ Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20/ Jn 6:44-51

Friday:

Acts 9:1-20/ Ps 117:1bc, 2/Jn 6:52-59

Saturday:

1 Pt 5:5b-14/ Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17/ Mk 16:15-20

Next Sunday:

Acts 2:14a, 36-41/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/ 1 Pt 2:20b-25/Jn 10:1-10



Like Cleopas, we make our way through this world with weary feet and disappointed hearts. Christ falls into step beside us. He can open our eyes. Will we let Him?

The St. Gertrude Altar Society meeting and dinner will be held Monday April 27th at 6:00pm at Blue Springs. All women of the parish are welcome and encouraged to attend.

IC Church is looking for a cantor for the 10AM Sunday Mass starting August 2nd, 2026. Anyone interested please call or email the parish office.

"Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us on the road, while He opened to us the scriptures?" Luke 24:32

How often do you take the time to discern what Jesus is calling you to do with your life? Are your prayers always petitions, asking Jesus to do things for you? If so, that's a one-sided relationship. Living our faith means developing a personal relationship with Jesus. Just like any friendship, there is give and take, each side listening to each other and helping each other out. Take time, in silence, to listen to what Jesus is asking of you today.

Observances for the week of April 19, 2026

Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Easter
Tuesday: St. Anselm, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Wednesday: Administrative Professionals' Day; Earth Day
Thursday: St. George, Martyr; St. Adalbert, Bishop and Martyr
Friday: St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest and Martyr; Arbor Day
Saturday: St. Mark, Evangelist
Next Sunday: 4th Sunday of Easter; World Day of Prayer for Vocations



St. Gertrude's parish and CFL Council 60 would like to honor all high school and college grads at a Mass and breakfast on Sunday, May 17th. Please submit your graduates name to Wendy Eszenpreis by April 27th. 618-530-0927 or wessen85@yahoo.com.

We will also put the names of grads from the 3 parishes in our bulletin; Please call or email the parish office with your grads name, school & degree (if in college) if you would like them listed.



A Big Thanks to all those who made our churches so beautiful for Lent and Easter, with a special thanks to Joan Gobble, Mary Jo Luitjohan, Kris Hundsdorfer, Rene Barr & Mary Rutz; and to Gail Ohren for donating the Easter banners. We are also grateful to the dedicated ministries who helped during Holy Week as Lectors, Cantors, Choir & Musicians, Eucharistic Ministers and Servers. Thanks to You All!!



April HACSM Pantry Needs: BBQ Sauce We appreciate your support! Thank You!

STN Collection	4/11/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$926.00

Budget Goal	\$1,257.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$-331.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$51,537.00
Support Actual	\$57,029.27
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$5,492.27

STG Collection	4/12/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$615.00
Holy Land	\$10.00
Sister Parish	\$30.00
Maintenance Fund	\$145.00

Budget Goal	\$1,505.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$-890.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$61,705.00
Support Actual	\$60,206.27
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$-1,498.73

IC Collection	4/12/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$2,884.69
Sister Parish	\$35.00
Holy Land	\$35.00
Seminarians	\$120.00
Home Missions	\$25.00
Building Fund	\$105.00
Candles	\$81.00

Budget Goal	\$2,672.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$212.69
Support Needed (budget)	\$109,552.00
Support Actual	\$113,131.81
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$3,579.81

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER APRIL 18 & 19, 2026

Exclusive: He Planned the Funerals for 5 Presidents & Pope John Paul II's White House Visit – In this episode of Dive Deep, Andrew Hansen interviews Jerseyville's Tom Groppe, the former Director of Ceremonies for the Military District of Washington who planned the funerals of five U.S. presidents. Groppe shares behind-the-scenes stories from presidential funerals, state visits to the White House—including St. John Paul II's historic 1979 visit—and personal conversations with presidents Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, and George H. W. Bush. 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.



A special thank you to Lawrence Schwarz for our beautiful and functional new railing at St. Gertrude's church. Also thanks to Bob Meffert for painting it and Randy Leitschuh for the installation.

Meet Our Seminarians



Dennis Trickey
Pastoral Internship
Kenrick-Glennon Seminary



One thing that I learned throughout discernment is to put everything in the hands of God through our Blessed Mother. I have learned to trust in the desires of His Sacred Heart.



Saint Nicholas - Pocahontas



Immaculate Conception—Pierron



Saint Gertrude—Grantfork



St. Gertrude'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!

Hall cleaning for the chicken dinner will be May 7 starting at 5 pm.

Please bring rags & buckets. Many hands make it go fast!

We are asking ALL FAMILIES to make 3 cakes for the dinner. They can be any kind. Angel food, sugar free, or whatever you would like to make.

Help is needed on Saturday, June 6 to help set up for the dinner. We will start at 8am.

St. Paul Catholic School is selling Cardinal Tickets for St. Paul School Cardinal Day at the Ball Park. The game is on June 28th and the tickets are \$35 each and come with a jumbo hotdog and soda. It is also a Giveaway day! A 5th grade student will be throwing out the first pitch AND every St. Paul Student that sells tickets can sing "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" on the field! It is a great opportunity for our students and we would love to share this with you. If interested contact Katie Rehkemper at (618) 654-7525.

St. Elizabeth Catholic Church Altar Society's Spring Craft & Vendor Fair on April 25th 9am to 4pm. Local small businesses, crafts, food, free entry. 120 N. Windmill St. in Marine. 618-887-4535 stelizabethungary@dio.org

Community Music

Join us for an afternoon of music from local churches! Sunday, May 3rd at 2pm at EVUCC in Highland, 2520 Poplar St. —A love offering will be collected to benefit Hamel Alhambra Ministerial Alliance & Highland Area Ministries. Light refreshments will be served afterwards.

The Grantfork Area Dev Club (GADC) is sponsoring a BBQ fundraiser on Sun., May 3, serving 10 am - 4 pm at the Grantfork firehouse. All proceeds will benefit the Grantfork Volunteer Fire Dept & Grantfork's United for Others ("UFO" - St Gertrude's Church and the UCC). Baked goods and beverages will also be sold; dine-in or carry-out; and a 50/50 drawing will take place. If anyone would like to donate baked goods, please individually wrap & price before dropping off. If questions, or to request large pre-order pickups, contact Peggy Korte (618-444-29400, Jeanette Schuster (618-402-4015), or Adam Vosholler (618-795-2178). All support is greatly appreciated.

Pilgrimage to Rome, Assisi, San Giovanni Rotondo and More!

You are invited to join Fr. Charles Robinson, a Franciscan Friar of the Immaculate on a pilgrimage to Rome, Assisi, San Giovanni Rotondo and more. Highlights include the Vatican, a Papal Audience with Pope Leo (subject to the Holy Father's schedule), Padre Pio's tomb, the tomb of the newest saint, St. Carlo Acutis and so much more. October 10-20, 2026. \$5696/per person based on double occupancy. Price includes round trip airfare from Chicago or St. Louis. Other departure cities are available. For more information, please visit www.QoHTours.com or call us at 1-800-213-4295

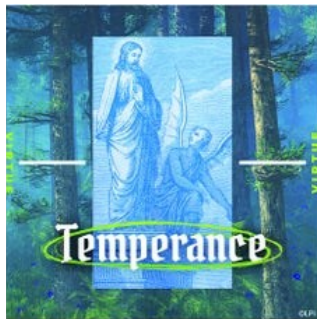
Virtues Explained! Temperance

"For the grace of God has appeared bringing salvation to the entire human race...(teaching) us to reject godless ways and worldly desires," reads Titus 2:11-12, "and in the present age to lead lives that are temperate, just and godly."

This cardinal virtue of temperance is shown in the person who is master of his passions and his attachment to the world.

"It ensures the will's mastery over instincts and keeps desires within the limits of what is honorable," we read in the Catechism (CCC 1809). Temperance is not repression of feeling; it is an exercise of the will, a careful and calculated choice. In this way, temperance actually safeguards virtuous love, keeping it "whole and uncorrupted," said St. Augustine. The practice of temperance is intimately linked to the virtue of chastity, which

"protects the intimate center of the person...refusing to unveil what should remain hidden" (CCC 2521).



Virtues, Explained!

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Blessing for Spring

Dear Lord,
As this new season begins,
bring new life to our hearts as well.
Prune what has grown despondent,
brush back that which darkens and clouds.
As the flowers bud and bloom,
bless us with new wonder, new hope, new promise, new joy.
Amen.

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

JESUS

HIMSELF DREW NEAR AND WALKED WITH THEM.

— LUKE 24:15 —

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2026

©LPI

+BISHOP
THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI
DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD
IN ILLINOIS



REV. CALLISTUS OSIAGA
PASTOR

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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