



If you are like me, it's easy to fixate on our shadows: failures, guilt, shame. Especially when we suffer, it is easy to blame ourselves or others. In this week's Gospel, Jesus' disciples ask about the blind man, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents?" (John 9:2). They like us, focus on blame. But Jesus sees the entire situation differently: "Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him." He does not deny sin, but He sees deeper — through the light of mercy, not the lens of judgment. The scene hinges on Jesus' strange claim: "I am the light of the world" (John 9:5). He sees things differently than everyone. They see shadows and light. He is the light.

Thought experiment: imagine you are the sun looking at everything on the earth. What do you see? Everything. What do you *not* see? Shadows. Everything is illuminated, if you see it, it is illuminated. For the light, nothing is dark. Because He is the light, Jesus sees us in the glow of His redemptive love. Even our sin becomes a place where His glory can shine. The man's healing is not just about sight — it is about seeing as Christ sees. Lent is not a season of staring into darkness. It is a time to step into the light — to let Christ's gaze reframe how we see ourselves and one another.

Lenten challenge: Spend 10 quiet minutes this week asking Jesus to show you how He sees you. Not through shame or fear, but through the light of His mercy. —Father John Muir

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR MARCH 21 & 22, 2026

Sat. Mar. 21 @ 4:30PM @ St. Nicholas

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

Sun. Mar. 22 @ 8:00AM @ St. Gertrude

Reader: Jacob Lewis
Music: Nick Worman & Randy Eckstein
Sacristan: Rich May
Euch.Min.: Larry & Tina Luitjohan & Zach Lewis
Ushers: Randy & Dianne Leitschuh
Servers: Teagan Barr & Oliver Lewis

Sun. Mar. 22 @ 10:00AM @ IC

Reader: Confirmandi 2026
Music: Joy Winkeler
Servers: Jack Williamson & Rebecca Dea
Euch. Min.: John Dea, Cindy Knebel & 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, 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.

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.

Readings for the week of March 15, 2026

Sunday:
1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38
Monday:
Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b/Jn 4:43-54
Tuesday:
Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16
Wednesday:
Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18/Jn 5:17-30
Thursday:
2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
Friday:
Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday:
Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12/Jn 7:40-53
Next Sunday:
Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

"Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance, but the Lord looks into the heart."
1 Samuel 16:7
How often do we invest our time, talent and treasure in creating an appearance that does not matter at all to God? We strive to impress with our clothing, home, career, possessions, car and other marks of distinction. But none of these illusions of greatness will impress God. Instead, He will look into our hearts to see how much we loved Him, how much we loved others and how we showed that love by the way we used our time, talent and treasure here on earth.

Observances for the week of March 15, 2026
Sunday: 4th Sunday of Lent
Tuesday: St. Patrick, Bishop: St. Patrick's Day
Wednesday: St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Thursday: St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Next Sunday: 5th Sunday of Lent

March HACSM Pantry Needs:
Chicken Helper
We appreciate your support! Thank You!



STG PSR will be holding a live rosary with the kids after Stations of the Cross on Wed., March 18th.

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— Mar. 18, April 1 and Shadow Stations Mar 25th at dusk.



St. Gertrude 2nd graders celebrated their First Reconciliation on Wednesday, March 4th.
Students are:
Hadley Richardson, Kade Kapp, Sloane Suhre, Nora Frank & Emma Wirz.
Thanks to their catechist Kris Schwarz, Fr. Cal, to their parents, and all who helped guide and prepare them for the Sacrament.

Lenten Penance Services



St. Cecilia/St. Mary Edw @ St. Cecilia – Wednesday, March 18, 6:00pm
St. Paul Highland – March 18 6:30pm
St. Paul Highland – March 19 10:00am
St. Mary's, Alton - Lenten Day of Reconciliation - Saturday, March 21, at least one priest will be available from 8:30am - 5pm (no service)
St. Boniface, Edwardsville – March 22 2:30 p.m.



The Scrutinies of the Elect

Throughout Lent, we accompany Kelsi Hannan, our OCIA Elect as she prepares for Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. On the 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays of Lent, we celebrate the three scrutinies during the 10AM Mass at IC. These rites of healing and strengthening remind us all of our need for God's grace. Please keep Kelsi in your prayers.



This Saturday, our 3rd graders will be going to the Cathedral in Springfield for First Communion & Confirmation. Their recognition Mass will be next Sunday. Please keep the children and their sponsors in your prayers.



Prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of **Delores Rinderer**, sister of **Marie Weis**, of our parish family. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Delores's family and friends.
Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord...

"Even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, and weeping, and mourning. Rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the Lord, your God."



† Mass Intentions †

No Mass
† Ron Liening — Int. of Bruce & Karen Kovach
No Mass
† All Souls
† Joe Overby — Int. of Bill & Denise Trickey
† Paul & Diana Ragsdale — Int. of Debbie Schwarz
† Cliff & Dorothy Landolt — Int. of Terry & Karla Pflueger
For the People of St. Gertrude, St. Nicholas & Immaculate Conception
† Scott Frank — Int. of Cindy & Orville Knebel
† Lawrence & Pat Frank — Int. of Lenny & Mary Ratermann



STN Collection	3/7/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$1,205.00
Catholic Charities	\$10.00
Sister Parish	\$45.00
CRS	\$10.00
Easter Flowers	\$145.00
Holy Land	\$10.00
Seminarians	\$10.00
Budget Goal	\$1,257.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	-\$52.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$45,252.00
Support Actual	\$51,720.27
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$6,468.27

STG Collection	3/8/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$716.00
Sister Parish	\$30.00
Easter Flowers	\$75.00
Maintenance Fund	\$75.00
Catholic Charities	\$20.00
Cemetery	\$100.00
Budget Goal	\$1,505.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	-\$789.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$54,180.00
Support Actual	\$48,784.66
Surplus/Deficit YTD	-\$5,395.34

IC Collection	3/8/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$2,218.00
Sister Parish	\$45.00
Catholic Charities	\$30.00
CRS	\$50.00
Easter Flowers	\$80.00
Building Fund	\$90.00
Candles	\$100.00
Budget Goal	\$2,672.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	-\$454.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$96,192.00
Support Actual	\$99,903.77
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$3,711.77

St. Teresa Church, Marydale
DRIVE-THRU Chicken Dinner

Sunday, March 22, 2026

Serving 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

\$15.00 per Meal

Packaged meal includes: ½ Fried Chicken
(4 pieces), Dressing, Mashed Potatoes &
Gravy, Green Beans, Slaw

Handmade Quilt Raffle

Located six miles north of Carlyle on
Route 127— Follow the signs

(Follow us on Facebook
@MarydaleStTeresa)



Thanks again for your
generosity in the
Just Jeans Drive!
Thanks to all of you, we were
able to deliver a huge
abundance of jeans to
St. Vincent de Paul Parish for
the homeless.
Greatly appreciate your
support!



Meet Our Seminarians



Joshua Freund
Discipleship I
St. Meinrad Seminary

One thing I have learned about
discernment is that there is safety
in listening to Jesus. His desires and
plans for us may scare us at first,
but they are for our good and he
will "be with us always" (Matt. 28).



Feeding Dreams in Timor-Leste

By participating in CRS Rice Bowl, we're
helping young people in Timor-Leste find
opportunities and support to fulfill their
dreams of becoming leaders in their
communities. Visit crsricebowl.org/week-4
to read about Adriana's dream of
becoming a doctor in this week's
Story of Hope.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 14 & 15, 2026



Saint Nicholas - Pocahontas



Immaculate Conception—Pierron



Saint Gertrude—Grantfork

Highland Knights of Columbus
Lenten Fish Fries
Beginning Ash Wednesday, February 18th, then every
Friday until Good Friday, April 3rd.
**DINE-IN AND CARRY OUT AVAILABLE CASH AND
CREDIT/DEBIT CARDS ACCEPTED**
Three meal sizes \$8, \$11, & \$14. Desserts available
THANK YOU 4:00 PM-- 7:00 PM

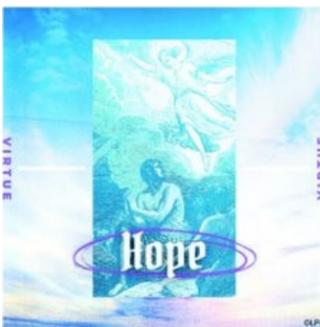
The Pioneer
newspaper is now
online and can be
read at
www.thepioneernews.com and on
Facebook at
[thepioneerpaper-
madison county](https://www.facebook.com/thepioneerpaper-madison-county)



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!

You are invited to "Spring Awakens", the Heartland
Community Chorus Spring Concert, with guest
performers: the Highland Youth Orchestra. You will enjoy
seeing these young people play, under the baton of
Greg Allen. Hear choral & instrumental music to usher in
springtime! Saturday, March 21 at 7:00PM and Sunday,
March 22 3:00PM, both at St. Paul Catholic Church in
Highland. Tickets are \$15 (age 16 and under FREE) and are
available at the door, from chorus members, or online at
heartlandcommunitychorus.org

HACSM is currently seeking 2-3
volunteers to help lead our local Salvation
Army bell-ringing program, which directly
supports the pantry. This program is
important to our operations as 80% of the
funds collected through our kettles are
returned to HACSM. These funds help
cover essential expenses to the pantry
such as utilities and daily operational
needs. As well as rent and utility assis-
tance for our clients. The volunteers will
have the full support of HACSM staff,
resources, and an established guide to
assist them throughout the process.
Thank you for helping us continue to
serve our community!



Virtues Explained!

Hope

"Hoping against hope, he
believed, and thus became the
father of many nations."
(Romans 4:18)

This is how Paul describes the
hope of Abraham, who allowed
himself to believe in and wish for
what seemed like an impossible
thing — all because it had been
promised to him by God. In this
same way, Christian hope "is the
theological virtue by which we
desire the kingdom of heaven
and eternal life as our happiness"
(CCC 1817), even as we recognize
that our own strength and merit
can never achieve this.

Hope, simply, is remembering
that God keeps His promises.
A desire for happiness is a seed
planted by God in each heart.
The virtue of hope pours down
like rain to nourish that seed, but
a barrier has been created by
original sin. The Holy Spirit
removes the barrier, allowing the
hope to pour forth upon the
roots of our sprouting happiness
in great abundance. ©LPi

Virtues, Explained!

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Blessing to See

Bless us, Lord, to see as You see.
Remind us that heartbeats and
hopes can outshine outward
show.
That quiet witness can overcome
violence and darkness.
That Your Light can break like the
dawn.
Amen.

Holy Week Schedule



Holy Thursday: April 2nd
7:00PM at IC

Good Friday: April 3rd

Stations of the Cross at Noon:
St. Nicholas

3:00PM at IC

7:00PM at St. Gertrude

Easter Vigil, April 4th

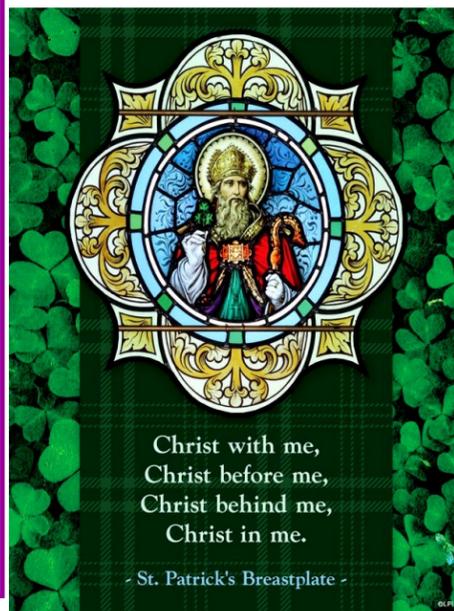
8:00PM at IC

Easter Sunday, April 5th

8:00AM at St. Nicholas

8:00AM at St. Gertrude

10:00AM at Immaculate
Conception



The Lord is
my shepherd;
I shall
not want.

PSALM 23

+BISHOP
THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI
DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD
IN ILLINOIS



REV. CALLISTUS OSIAGA
PASTOR

SONYA CURRY
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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