



A woman in my parish has an adult son who has rejected his faith. She prays for him every day. She lights candles, says rosaries, and asks God again and again to bring him back. But nothing changes. Is God listening? Is He delaying? She told me once that she feels like the widow in Jesus’ strange parable — crying out for justice, but hearing only silence. And yet, she said, she is at peace. I asked shy. She responded, “God is *already* answering. I just can’t see it yet.” She embodies something of the mystery in Jesus’ parable this week in Luke 18. A powerless widow demands justice from a corrupt judge. This isn’t about wearing God down until He gives in. It’s about faith in the justice that is already coming. The widow isn’t just persistent; she believes that justice is inevitable. And when Jesus points to the judge’s words—his fear of being “struck”— He hints at something deeper: God’s justice does not creep in gradually. It strikes. It comes like lightning.

Blessed Mary is, of course, the ultimate widow demanding justice. At the foot of the cross she stands before what looks like the ultimate injustice — the brutal execution of her son. But she did not despair. She did not beg for a last-minute rescue. She knew that justice was not delayed. In fact, it was happening. The power of the cross was already unleashing justice upon the world— suddenly, decisively, like a blow that would topple every corrupt power, making even the most corrupt fear her strike. This parable asks us: will the Son of Man find faith on earth? Or will we mistake God’s silence for absence? The cross proves that justice is not slow. It is only hidden. The lightning has already struck. In the cross, justice is speedily being done. — Fr. John Muir

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR OCTOBER 25 & 26, 2025
Sat. Oct. 25 @ 4:30PM @ St. Nicholas

Reader: Don Cureton Music: Sally Rehberger
Euch. Min.: Brenda & Marce Tebbe
Server: Pat Kalous
Sun. Oct. 26 @ 8:00AM @ St. Gertrude
Reader: Jacob Lewis Music: Nick Worman
Sacristan: Carole Sauls
Euch.Min.: Judi Rode, Gail Ohren & Brenda Knackstedt
Ushers: Randy & Dianne Leitschuh
Servers: Oliver Lewis & Teagan Barr

Sun. Oct. 26 @10:00AM @ IC
Reader: Terry Potthast Music: Joy Winkeler
Servers: Jentry Lobello
Euch. Min.: Cindy Knebel, Amy Gilomen & John Dea



Prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of **Virginia (Reinacher) Vosholler**, mother of **Jim (Sandy) Vosholler** of our parish family. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Virginia’s family and friends.
Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord...



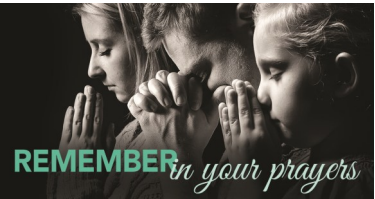
Congratulations to St Gertrude Parish member Laila Barr, daughter of Renee and Dusty Barr for being crowned Highland High School Homecoming queen last weekend. Congrats Laila!!

Please Note: the next St. Gertrude Council meeting will be held on Thursday, Oct. 23rd at 7:00PM

Mon. (Oct.20)
Tues. (Oct.21) 8:00am (St.G)
Tues. (Oct.21) **6:30pm** (IC)
Wed. (Oct.22) 8:00am (IC)
Thur. (Oct.23) 8:00am (St.N)
Fri. (Oct.24) 8:00am (IC)
Sat. (Oct.25) 4:30pm (St.N)
Sun. (Oct.26) 8:00am (St.G)
Sun. (Oct.26) 10:00am (IC)

† **Mass Intentions** †
No Mass
No Mass

For the People of St. Gertrude, St. Nicholas & Immaculate Conception
† **Mary Frank** — Int. of Jim & Sandy Vosholler
† **Dale Haberer** — Int. of Mark Williams
† **Firmin & Thelka Pierron** — Int. of Jane & Dale Grieser
† **Ted, Marie, Randy & Ryan Schrage** — Int. of Steve & Evelyn Knebel
† **Francis & Ruth Boeser** — Int. of Robyn & Jeff Mettler
† **Sam Palazzolo** — Int. of Lowell & Denise Wellen
† **Lucy Wellen & Jaisen Wellen** —Int. of Lowell & Denise Wellen



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. Brayden Baer, Pat Beard, Ana Cantrell, Steve Crawford, Don Dapkus, Dave Deiters, Teresa Dickman, Joan Dickshot, Jean Fields, Scott Frank, Gabriel Frey, Jerry Fyke, Ed Gagen, Karen Grabowski, P.J. Hereford, Gene Jolliff, Pat Kalous, Val King, 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, Suzanne Steinbring, Marcia Rowe, Gunner Sadler, Abby Schrage, Bill & Ruth Schroeder, Bertha Voss, Marie Weis, Ginny Werner, Dean Wernle, Bob Winet.

FOR OUR PARISHIONERS IN NURSING HOMES:
Delmar Knebel, Ann Plocher, Barbara Weiss, Helen Wuebbles, Margie Zurliene and special people in our families.

FOR THOSE CURRENTLY SERVING IN THE MILITARY:
Adam Canfield, Tim Doll, 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.

Please join us for a special **Mass, along with Adoration and Benediction, at Immaculate Conception on Tuesday, October 21, 2025 at 6:30pm**, which will be dedicated to praying for peace and an end to all war and violence in the world. In the face of ongoing conflicts and the suffering they cause, this community gathers to seek Divine intervention, promote reconciliation, and cultivate nonviolence in our lives and communities. Let us seek God’s grace to become instruments of peace, working towards a world where justice, understanding, and love prevail over hatred and destruction.

Today is World Mission Sunday! Today, every parish across the globe joins together for the only worldwide collection mandated by Canon Law—World Mission Sunday. Your generosity today supports the Pope’s missions in more than 1,124 territories where the Church is young or struggling. This year’s theme—“*Missionaries of Hope Among the Peoples*”—is a call to embody the love of God, poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit (cf. Rom 5:5). Your offering today provides hope where despair too often dominates—through the building of churches, formation of seminarians & religious sisters, healthcare clinics, and Catholic schools. Thank you for responding with faith, love, and generosity. As Pope Francis told us, “Each of us is a mission on this earth” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 273). Together, we share in that mission by ensuring that no one is excluded from the invitation to encounter Christ.

Readings for the week of October 19, 2025	
Sunday: Ex 17:8-13/Ps 121:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (see 2)/2 Tm 3:14-4:2/Lk 18:1-8	
Monday: Rom 4:20-25/Lk 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75/Lk 12:13-21	
Tuesday: Rom 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17/Lk 12:35-38	
Wednesday: Rom 6:12-18/Ps 124:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8/Lk 12:39-48	
Thursday: Rom 6:19-23/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 12:49-53	
Friday: Rom 7:18-25a/Ps 119:66, 68, 76, 77, 93, 94/Lk 12:54-59	
Saturday: Rom 8:1-11/Ps 24:1b-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 13:1-9	
Next Sunday: Sir 35:12-14, 16-18/Ps 34:2-3, 17-18, 19, 23 (7a)/2 Tm 4:6-8, 16-18/Lk 18:9-14	



Our 3 parishes are looking for people to volunteer for all ministries, such as Lector, Servers, Ushers, Eucharistic Ministers & Gift Bearers. If interested please call the parish office. Please consider volunteering a small amount of time to assist in these ministries. The word “liturgy” can be translated “the work of the people,” so it takes all of us to fully celebrate liturgies at our churches. We are truly blessed by the faithful service of our current liturgical ministers. Please consider joining them! Contact the parish office about sharing your gifts during our parish liturgies.



STN Collection	10/11/25
Envelopes/Loose	\$1,068.00
All Saints	\$30.00
Sister Parish	\$10.00
Black & Indian Mission	\$10.00
World Mission	\$10.00
Candles	\$125.00
All Souls	\$20.00
Budget Goal	\$1,257.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$-159.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$18,855.00
Support Actual	\$17,868.06
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$-986.94

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“...proclaim the word, be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient...” 2 Timothy 4:2
It is not always convenient to be a good steward, especially when all the temptations of our busy and materialistic world get in the way. Now add our own pride and ego into the equation and living a stewardship lifestyle may be downright uncomfortable! Remember, God didn’t call us to be comfortable. He never said that we would have an easy life. Rather, He called us to be faithful!

Fr. Cal will hear confessions on Fridays at IC after the 8AM Mass & Adoration; On Saturdays before the 4:30PM Mass at STN from 3:45-4:15PM; On Tuesdays after the 8AM Mass at STG; at the parish office on Tues./Thurs. 9AM –Noon or by appointment. (please note the 1st Tues. of the month is Mass at Hitz Home).



Our Annual Mass of Remembrance will be held at St. Nicholas Church on Sunday, November 2nd at 3:00PM. This liturgy will be especially in remembrance of anyone who has died since October 2024. The names of our deceased parishioners who died last year will be read after the homily at this Mass and candles with the names of the deceased will be lit. For parishioners who have lost a loved one this past year who is not a member of IC, STN or STG please contact the parish office before Oct. 27th to have your loved ones name included in the Mass of Remembrance. If you cannot be present at this service, you may pick up your candle with your loved one’s name in the parish office. Please remember in prayer the souls of all the faithful departed and all who are grieving. As we enter this season of remembrance when we especially honor our brothers and sisters who have gone before us, may we always remember them in prayer and place our hope in the power of the Resurrected Christ, who binds us all together.

Please Note: This year All Saints is not a holy day of obligation. The weekend masses will be the same as a usual weekend.

STG Collection	10/12/25
Envelopes/Loose	\$775.00
Sister Parish	\$30.00
Maintenance Fund	\$30.00
Budget Goal	\$1,505.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$-730.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$22,575.00
Support Actual	\$18,454.00
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$-4,121.00

Observances for the week of October 19, 2025	
Sunday:	29th Sunday in Ordinary Time; World Mission Sunday
Monday:	St. Paul of the Cross, Priest
Wednesday:	St. John Paul II, Pope
Thursday:	St. John of Capistrano, Priest
Friday:	St. Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop
Next Sunday:	30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**The Diocesan October Count will continue throughout the month of October. We ask that all parishioners attend Mass at IC, STN, or STG during this month, as this count is used for assigning priests to parishes in the Diocese. It’s important to be counted!**



November Pantry Needs:
Toothbrushes (Single Packets) & Tooth Paste
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!

All Souls Masses
We Remember, We Believe:
In November we will celebrate all of our loved ones who have gone before us and we trust and hope that they celebrate the fullness of life eternal with the Holy Trinity, Mary and all the Saints in glory. Each year we invite and encourage folks to offer masses for the Poor Souls that we together may continue to remember them in our thoughts and prayers. There are “All Souls” envelopes provided in the envelope packets and there will also be some in the back of each church. What more beautiful way to honor them then by the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass? God Bless you and may the souls of the faithful departed forever rest in peace.

The next St. Gertrude Altar Society meeting will be held on Monday, October 27th at 7PM

IC Collection	10/12/25
Envelopes/Loose	\$2,252.70
Candles	\$65.00
Sister Parish	\$20.00
Black & Indian Mission	\$20.00
Cemetery	\$20.00
All Souls	\$20.00
Budget Goal	\$2,672.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$-419.30
Support Needed (budget)	\$40,080.00
Support Actual	\$34,588.84
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$-5,491.16

October 18 & 19, 2025



Saint Nicholas - Pocahontas



Immaculate Conception—Pierron



Saint Gertrude—Grantfork



+BISHOP
THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI
DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD
IN ILLINOIS
✠
REV. CALLISTUS OSIAGA
PASTOR

SONYA CURRY
SECRETARY

Mailing Address:
PO Box 410
Pierron, IL 62273

E-mail Address:
icpierron@parish.dio.org
Website:
www.icstnsta.org
Office: 618-669-2391
Rectory: 618-654-2789

Office Address:
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

ST. ANNE'S ALTAR SOCIETY
TURKEY TROT CARD PARTY LUNCHEON
Play cards and games at your table!
Wednesday, November 12, 2025
Doors open at 11:00 AM
Lunch Served at 11:30 AM
Mother of Perpetual Help Church
200 North Lange, Maryville

FOR RESERVATIONS
CALL MICHELE 618-972-7372

1st Saturday Devotion

Meet Our Seminarians



Padrick Mulligan
Configuration III
Kenrick-Glennon Seminary

One thing I have learned through my discernment is how God has called me in a way that is personal to me. As I let God into the personal relationships and experiences of my life, He transforms spiritually isolated places of my heart into sources of healing, mercy, and a home for Jesus within me.

1st Saturday Devotion at St. Cecilia Church in Glen Carbon.

Reconciliation & Rosary 7:30AM Mass 8:00AM; Exposition 8:30AM & Adoration 9:00AM—3:30PM —St. Cecilia is located at 155 N. Main St. in Glen Carbon

Ladies Sodality
Fall Bazaar & Turkey Dinner
Sunday, October 26
11:00 - 5:00
Turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, sweet potato casserole, green beans, cole slaw, cranberry relish, roll, coffee & tea.
\$14 Adults
\$7 Child 4-10
3 & under free!
Dine In or Carry Out!

2300 Pontoon Road • Granite City, IL 62040 • www.stelizabethgc.org
Quilt Raffle • Special Collectibles • Basket Booth • General Store

“Mercy draws good from evil. It is the love that does not allow itself to be conquered by evil, pain, or suffering, but overcomes evil with good.”
—Pope Francis

MATTHEW KELLY
Beautiful Mercy



St. Gertrude Parishioners

The members of the United for Others (UFO) group would like to make a donation to those parishioners of St. Gertrude Church that are now attending college.

Please contact Carole Sauls at 618-741-9522 with the students name and address.

Mater Dei Open House: Sunday, Nov. 2

Explore the Mater Dei difference at their Open House on Sunday, November 2, from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., for families with students in grades 5-8. Families may arrive at the time of their choice, visit the informational tables of their choice, and select the tour of their choice (12:00 p.m., 12:30 p.m., 1:00 p.m., 1:30 p.m.). Visit Mater Dei's website

(www.materdeiknights.org,

“Announcements”) for detailed information and the tour registration link. (To ensure small tour groups, online registration, which includes selecting a tour time, is strongly encouraged.) Families who cannot attend may contact Assistant Principal Mrs. Maria Zurliene for an informational folder (mzurliene@materdeiknights.org).

“It is pleasant to spend time with Him, to lie close to His breast like the beloved disciple and to feel the infinite love present in His heart.” John 13:25

Devotions Explained!

Icon Writing

At first, the term “icon writing” may be confusing. Writing an icon? Shouldn't it be drawing an icon, or painting an icon? But although an icon depicts an image, it is so much more than just a religious picture. An icon is visual theology. Those who purchase icons for private devotion should have them blessed, as they are sacramentals. The Catechism tells us that “Christian iconography expresses in images the same Gospel message that Scripture communicates by words.”

In early Christianity, this was deeply controversial. Many so-called “iconoclasts” pointed to the Old Testament's prohibition of idols and insisted that it was sinful to represent the face of God in an image. But defenders of iconography like St. John Damascene pointed to the incarnation as a turning point in our visual relationship with God. In Christ, God made himself visible, and thus continually invites us to contemplate and understand Him visually.

Devotions, Explained!

Though an icon depicts an image, it's much more than a religious picture. An icon is visual theology. It expresses the same truths written in the Gospel, but through an artistic medium, mirroring how Christ's incarnation made the Word visible to man in the flesh.

Prayer for Interior Life

Dear Jesus,
Fill my heart so full of goodness that it produces your goodness.
Let my thoughts, words, and actions reflect you.

Amen.

