



Every December, the priests of my diocese gather for a Christmas dinner with our bishop. Nearly 200 of us in one room; newly ordained and long retired pastors of large parishes and quiet confessors, men full of energy and others moving more slowly. Some carry visible success; others bear hidden wounds. It is a tapestry of vocations and lives. When the bishop thanks us, I am always moved. For a moment, none of our differences matter. What matters is that we belong to one another. I usually leave that evening with a deep sense of peace, but also with a sober realization. Nothing drains joy from the vineyard of the Lord faster than comparison. The quiet habit of measuring, ranking, and resenting can creep in even among those who sincerely serve God.

That is what Jesus exposes in today's parable of the workers in the vineyard. The early laborers are not upset because they were treated unjustly; they are angry because others were treated generously. Their resentment blinds them to the gift already in their hands. When the landowner asks, "Are you envious because I am generous?" he names the real wound. This tension echoes throughout salvation history: the elder brother resenting the prodigal, the faithful servant scorning the latecomer. Jesus does not deny the labor of those who have borne the heat of the day, but He refuses to let God's mercy become a zero-sum game. In the end, the vineyard's reward is not about fairness but belonging. The joy offered is communion with a generous Father, who delights in gathering early and late, strong and weak, into one household of grace. — Fr. John Muir

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR SEPT. 26 & 27 2026

Sat. Sept. 26 @ 4:30PM @ St. Nicholas

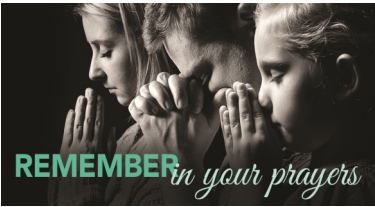
Reader: Pat Kalous
Music: Barb Zaloga & Colleen Lozier
Euch. Min.:
Server: Pat Kalous

Sun. Sept. 27 @ 8:00AM @ St. Gertrude

Reader: Katrina Korsmeyer
Music: Nick Worman & Randy Eckstein
Sacristan: Gail Ohren
Euch.Min.: Zach Lewis, Amber Kapp & Jane Deiters
Ushers: Randy & Dianne Leitschuh
Servers: Maris & Teagan Barr

Sun. Sept. 27 @10:00AM @ IC

Reader: Denise Trickey
Music: Madi Crawford
Servers: Landry Korte & Avery Gilomen
Euch. Min.: Rick & Ruth Zurliene & Mary Korte



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, Barrett Korte, Denny Korte, Gerry Korte, Randy Korte, Steve Korte, David Kuehn, Sue Lubert, Christopher Marti, Taylor Marti, Barry May, Alex McCall, Eleanor Munie, Cody Neal, Marcia Rowe, Gunner Sadler, Abby Schrage, Bill Schroeder, Suzanne Steinbring, Brenda Usher, Marie Weiss, Rich Weiss, Ginny Werner, Dean Wernle, Melanie Wernle, Paige 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, Michael Knebel, Dustin Korte, Solon McGill, Lt. Abigail Mesaros, Jerriett 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.

Congratulations to Autumn Kalous, Christopher Dilks & Mitch Campbell on their reception into Full Communion with the Catholic Church.



Autumn & Jed Kalous Family



Mitch Campbell & Christopher Dilks w/ Fr. Cal

† Mass Intentions †

No Mass

No Mass

Communion Service

No Mass

† **Lyle Edgar** —Int. of Bill & Denise Trickey

† **Ken & Betty Wagner** —Int. of Dewey Gilomen

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

† **Kenny Rutz** — Int. of Delmar & Marlene Korsmeyer

† **Loretta Knebel** —Int. of Delmar Knebel & Family

† **Tom Whalen** — Int. of Lenny & Mary Ratermann

Mon. (Sept.21) 8:00am (IC)
Tues. (Sept.22) 8:00am (St.G)
Wed. (Sept.23) 8:00am (IC)
Thur. (Sept.24) 8:00am (St.N)
Fri. (Sept.25) 8:00am (IC)
Sat. (Sept.26) 4:30pm (St.N)

Sun. (Sept.27) 8:00am (St.G)
Sun. (Sept.27) 10:00am (IC)



A new OCIA class starts on Wednesday, September 23rd at 6:30PM at Immaculate Conception.

We welcome anyone who is interested in joining the Catholic Church, and those who have been baptized in the Catholic faith but never received the Sacraments of Confirmation and/or Eucharist.



Thanks to our OCIA Catechists:
Jane Dapkus, Mark Williams & Barb Zaloga

Readings for the Week of September 20, 2026

Sunday

Is 55:6-9/Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18/Phil 1:20c-24, 27a/
Mt 20:1-16a

Monday

Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Mt 9:9-13

Tuesday

Prv 21:1-6, 10-13/Ps 119:1, 27, 30, 34, 35, 44/Lk 8:19-21

Wednesday

Prv 30:5-9/Ps 119:29, 72, 89, 101, 104, 163/Lk 9:1-6

Thursday

Ecc1 1:2-11/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17bc/Lk 9:7-9

Friday

Ecc1 3:1-11/Ps 144:1b and 2abc, 3-4/Lk 9:18-22

Saturday

Ecc1 11:9-12:8/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17/
Lk 9:43b-45

Next Sunday

Ez 18:25-28/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5/
Mt 21:28-32



St. Nicholas Blood Drive at St. Nicholas Parish Hall on Tuesday, September 22nd; 1:00 to 6:00 PM
Please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter STNICHOLASCHURCH to schedule an appointment.

Prayer for an OCIA Class

Dear God,
You never cease calling each of us to You.
Be with our OCIA class as we journey to know You better.
Inspire our conversations, guide our lessons, and direct our hearts as each of us seeks Your will.
Amen.



FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of **Eleanor Pirok**, mother of **Sharon (Steve) Frey**, of our parish family. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Eleanor's family and friends.

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord...

Visitation will be held on Tues. Sept 22 at Moss Funeral Home, Highland, from 8:30-10:30am. Mass at St. James Catholic Church, St. Jacob at 11:00am.

STN Collection

9/12/26

Envelopes/Loose	\$1,255.00
Budget Goal	\$1,276.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$-21.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$14,036.00
Support Actual	\$15,299.00
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$1,263.00

"Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last".
— Matthew 20:16

You've heard the saying "it's not where you start, but how you finish." This certainly applies to this Bible passage. We have a responsibility not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well. We are called to generously share our gifts with others, not hoard them for our own use. Our sincere gratitude and cheerful generosity will help us live "God-centered" lives and not "self-centered" lives.



This year, the Church will celebrate Catechetical Sunday on September 20 under the theme of "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me... to bring good news to the poor ." On this day, catechists are formally commissioned for ministry to the community. Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each baptized person plays in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith.

Thanks to Mary Jo Luitjohan, Kari Weis Asbury, Kim Weis, and all the catechists for their dedication and hard work in leading the PSR programs again this year; to the parents for their encouragement and sharing of the faith with their children; and to the kids for their attendance and willingness to continue learning their faith.

Our Catechists for Immaculate Conception & St. Nicholas

Mary Jo Luitjohan 26 years (22 years as Director of PSR), Denise Trickey 19 years, Bill Trickey 13 years, Candace Luitjohan 13 years, Judy Hereford 6 years, Karen Kalous 6 years and Allie Knebel 3 years.

Our Catechists for St. Gertrude

Karen Straube 18 years, Janice Korsmeyer 9 years, Lauren Maedge 4 years, Kris Schwarz 3 years, Kari Weis-Asbury & Kim Weis (2 years as directors of PSR) and Jesse Sauls.

Bless these men and women who have responded to the call to the ministry of catechesis.

Big hearts shape little minds. Thank you for all of your hard work and support over the years!

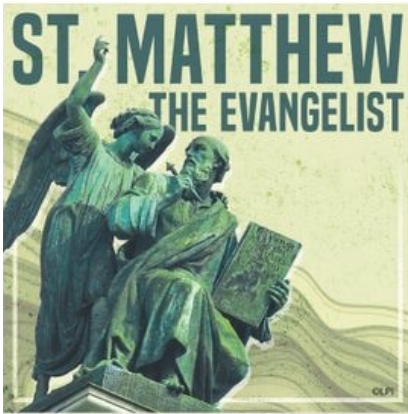
There will be donuts at IC in the parish hall after Mass to celebrate!

St. Gertrude Altar Society meeting will be held on Monday, September 21st at 7PM. All ladies of the parish are welcome and encouraged to attend!

STG Collection

9/13/26

Envelopes/Loose	\$3,875.00
Sister Parish	\$30.00
Budget Goal	\$1,524.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$2,351.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$16,764.00
Support Actual	\$14,628.00
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$-2,136.00



Observances for the Week of September 20, 2026

Sunday

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time;
Catechetical Sunday

Monday

St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist;
National Migration Week

Wednesday

St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest

Saturday

Sts. Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs

Next Sunday

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time;
Priesthood Sunday



The master rewards the latecomers with the same wage as those who labored all day, upsetting the construct of who deserves what —and why. May we never seek to be the judge of what others deserve. May we labor in our vineyard with joy and gratitude.

Please keep Fr. Cal in your prayers this week as he will be attending the Priest Convocation; Mon. Sept 21 thru Thurs. Sept. 24th.

IC Collection	9/13/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$2,056.00
Sister Parish	\$25.00
Church in Africa	\$25.00
Catholic University	\$125.00
Building Fund	\$260.00
Candles	\$98.00

Budget Goal	\$2,920.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$-864.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$32,120.00
Support Actual	\$28,329.59
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$-3,790.41



From September 23 to November 1, we are uniting with many others for another major simultaneous pro-life mobilization – the 40 Days for Life campaign. The mission of 40 Days for Life is to bring together the Body of Christ in a spirit of unity during a focused 40 day campaign of prayer, fasting and peaceful activism, with the purpose of repentance, to seek God's favor to turn hearts and minds from a culture of death to a culture of life, thus bringing an end to abortion. We (Immaculate Conception, St. Gertrude & St. Nicholas parishes) chose to Adopt a Day in the 40 Days for Life Granite City campaign to end the demand for abortion. We were assigned Sunday, **September 27th** as our adopted day, and we need many prayer warriors to join us in this important mission. We will need prayer warriors to pray with us at the facility in Granite City, and we need some praying from work, home, etc. too. In order to sign up for an hour or two of prayer on Sept. 27, 2026, please call or text Denise Trickey at 618-358-3954. 40 Days for Life works because prayer works! Thank you for standing up for life!

**Seek the Lord while He may be found,
call Him while He is near.**
(Is 55:6)



You must be strong and cheerful in spirit, for the Lord is in the depths of your heart. He will fight along with you and for you. Who, then, will win the battle? Who is stronger than He is? Who will hold out against the King of the heavens? What is the creature, what is hell itself in front of the Lord?

Saint Pius of Pietrelcina
(from the meditation for September 23).

St. Teresa Church, Marydale
DRIVE-THRU Chicken Dinner
Sunday, September 27, 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 6 miles north of Carlyle on Route 127—Follow the signs
(Follow us on Facebook @MarydaleStTeresa)

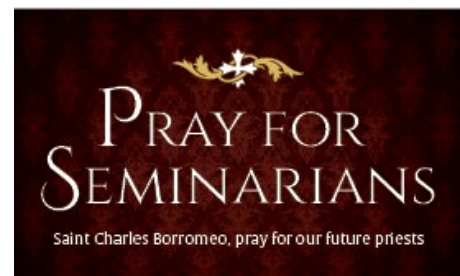
Mother of Perpetual Help
All-You-Can-Eat Chicken Dinner
200 North Lange, Maryville
Sunday, October 4th, 11:30am-5:00pm
Dine-in or carry-out
\$15 for adults, \$7 for children ages 6-13, and children under 5 are free
Dinner includes fried chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy, dressing, apple sauce, green beans, sauerkraut slaw, dessert, and a beverage

CHICKEN DINNER: St. Felicitas Church,
Beaver Prairie, 13322 Church Road,
Carlyle, Sunday, Sept. 20. 11:00 A.M. -
5:00 P.M. Drive-thru only. \$15. (Look
for signs on New Rt. 50 west of Carlyle
& on Rt. 127 six miles north of Carlyle.)

Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa:
Like Latin America, the continent of
Africa is vast, with over 50 countries.
The Church is flourishing in Africa; many
priests from the continent serve us here.
Helping the Church in Africa helps the
Church here and across the world.
Please be generous!



Pray For Our Seminarians
Andrew Bilgri
Configuration II
Mundelein Seminary



Sign up for Called and Courageous Women's Conference in Springfield
What is preventing you from trusting God more deeply? Life is full of highs and lows, and it can be hard to see where God is in the middle of it all. At this year's Catholic Women's Conference, discover how to trust God in the messy, real moments of everyday life. Learn how your emotions influence your spiritual life and how to challenge the lies that lead to self-criticism, comparison, and discouragement. You'll leave with practical tools to learn how to recognize God in your daily life, grow in prayer, and live with greater confidence in your identity as a beloved daughter of God. No matter what your season of life – single, married, divorced, widowed, young adult, or retired – you'll find encouragement, community, and hope. When? **Saturday, October 10.** Christ the King parish Center, Springfield. Women ages 18+. Cost \$30. For the full schedule, speaker information, and registration, visit go.dio.org/cac. Even if you are on the fence about God, remember: God is not on the fence about you. Questions? Contact Gracie Ortiz at gortiz@dio.org or 217-321-1124.

ST. CECILIA'S ANNUAL COMMUNITY CHICKEN DINNER & FALL FESTIVAL

SEPT. 27
DINNER SERVED FROM
12:00 noon
UNTIL
5:00 p.m.

FRIED CHICKEN
DRESSING
MASHED POTATOES
GRAVY
CORN
GREEN BEANS
DESSERT
BEVERAGE

Dine In: \$14.00 Adults
\$ 6.00 Children 5-10
FREE Under 5

Carry-Outs
\$14.00

ENTERTAINMENT
RAFFLE GAMES
FELLOWSHIP
DUNK TANK



Free Flu Shots at Alhambra Firemen Hall (610 W. Main) on October 12th
3 to 6pm Free for Alhambra town-
ship and village residents;
no registration required. Mobile flu
shots available for disabled residents
Call 618-830-1384 to schedule.

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME SEPTEMBER 19 & 20, 2026



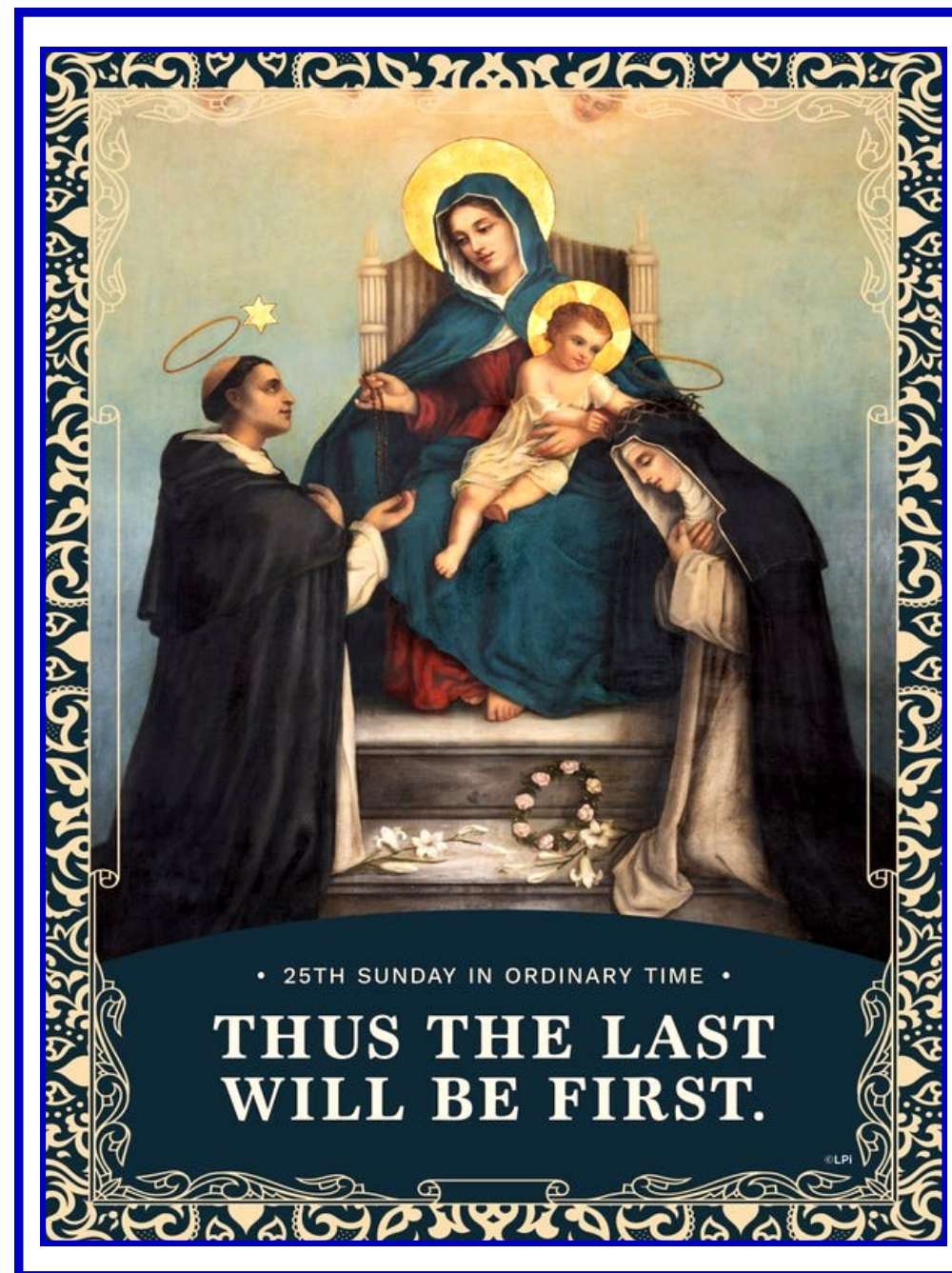
Saint Nicholas - Pocahontas



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