

This weekend, our nation celebrates the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Unlike most nations, the United States was not founded primarily on a shared ethnicity, language, or culture. Instead, our founders built a political community out of diverse peoples united by a shared vision of liberty. That vision echoes something deep in the Christian mystery revealed in today's Gospel. Jesus returned to His hometown. The people see only what is familiar: the carpenter, the son of Mary, one of their own. As Mark tells us, "They took offense at Him. Jesus said, "A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and among his own kin and in his own house." Their narrow vision blinds them. Jesus has come to inaugurate a new communion that transcends geography, bloodlines, and culture. He has come to unite all people in Himself. At its best, America's national unity reflects this possibility, which fully subsists only in the Catholic Church. Our unity is not based on ancestry or tribe, but on a shared commitment to higher ideals. For this reason, we can love our country with gratitude while situating patriotism within the broader horizon of faith. Rooted in Christ, we are less vulnerable to the unholy tribalism that threatens civic life and faith. This weekend, let us thank God for our nation and pray that we also live as citizens of Heaven in Jesus Christ. —Fr. John Muir

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR JULY 11 & 12, 2026
Sat. July 11 @ 4:30PM @ St. Nicholas
 Reader: Kelsey Bentlage
 Music: Sally Rehberger, Barb Zaloga, & Colleen Lozier
 Euch. Min.: Doris Eilers & Joyce Schlemper
 Server: Pat Kalous

Sun. July 12 @ 8:00AM @ St. Gertrude
 Reader: Debby Schwarz
 Music: Nick Worman & Randy Eckstein
 Sacristan: Gail Ohren
 Euch.Min.: Karen Knackstedt, Jane Deiters & Sue Messerli
 Ushers: Randy & Dianne Leitschuh
 Servers: Morgan & Cooper Dressler

Sun. July 12 @ 10:00AM @ IC
 Reader: Lowell Wellen
 Music: Joy Winkeler
 Servers: Emma Winte & Rebecca Dea
 Euch. Min.: Cindy Knebel, Barry Otto & Amy Gilomen

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 Korsmeyer, 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 Oestinger, 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, 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.

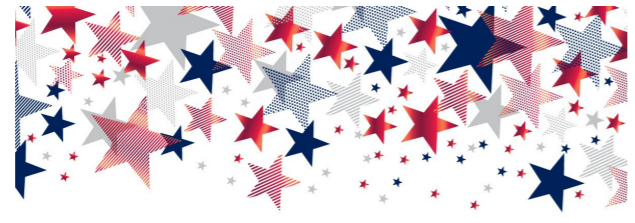
SAVE THE DATE

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!

Mass for Peace to End War and Violence in our world at Immaculate Conception Church on Thursday, July 9th

6:00 PM Adoration
 6:30PM Mass

The Baby Bottle Boomerang has come to a close. 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!



HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!



Mon. (July 6) 8:00am
 Tues. (July 7) 8:00am (St.G)
 Tues. (July 7) 9:30am (H.H.)
 Wed. (July 8) 8:00am (IC)
 Thur. (July 9) 8:00am (St.N)
 Thur. (July 9) 6:30pm (IC)
 Fri. (July 10) 8:00am (IC)
 Sat. (July 11) 4:30pm (St.N)
 Sun. (July 12) 8:00am (St.G)
 Sun. (July 12) 10:00am (IC)

† **Mass Intentions** †
No Mass
 † **All Souls**
 † **All Souls**
 † **Matt Schumacher** —Int. of Bill & Denise Trickey
 † **Michael Lazella** —Int. of the Lazella Family
For the People of Immaculate Conception, St. Gertrude & St. Nicholas
 † **Karen Luechtefeld & P.J. Hereford** —Int. of Judy Hereford
 † **Dolores & Bill Kalous** —Int. of Pat Kalous
 † **Christian Schwarz** — Int. of Cory, Sheryl & Kyle Hess
 † **Jess & Clara Knebel** —Int. of Linda Bohnenstiehl
 † **Alvin & Shirley Frey** —Int. of Amy Alderman

Readings for the week of July 5, 2026
Sunday:
 Zec 9:9-10/Ps 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13-14/
 Rom 8:9, 11-13/Mt 11:25-30

Monday:
 Hos 2:16, 17c-18, 21-22/Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 9:18-26

Tuesday:
 Hos 8:4-7, 11-13/Ps 115:3-4, 5-6, 7ab-8, 9-10/Mt 9:32-38

Wednesday:
 Hos 10:1-3, 7-8, 12/Ps 105:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/
 Mt 10:1-7

Thursday:
 Hos 11:1-4, 8e-9/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16/
 Mt 10:7-15

Friday:
 Hos 14:2-10/Ps 51:3-4, 8-9, 12-13, 14 and 17/Mt 10:16-23

Saturday:
 Is 6:1-8/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/Mt 10:24-33

Next Sunday:
 Is 55:10-11/Ps 65:10, 11, 12-13, 14/
 Rom 8:18-23/Mt 13:1-23 or 13:1-9

"For my yoke is easy, and my burden light." – Matthew 11:30

When we think of being good stewards, we may think that God is asking too much of us when He calls us to generously share our time, talent and treasure. However, we must remember that we are not "owners" of anything, we are merely "stewards" of the gifts God has given us. All He is asking is that we give back a small portion, in gratitude, of what He has already given to us.



These days, everyone's an expert. We have a world of information at our fingertips. But some answers can't be found in newspapers or even history books. What God hides from the wise, He reveals to the little ones. Are you looking in the right place?



A little goes a long way. Give blood.

Blood Drive at St. Nicholas Church Hall Tuesday, July 14th 1:00PM to 6:00PM

Please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter **STNICOLASCHURCH** to schedule an appointment.

Give Something that Means Something®
 1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

Organ Recital Friday, July 10th 10:00AM – 10:45AM

As part of the American Guild of Organists National Convention, Wicks Organ LLC will be hosting an organ recital at St. Paul in Highland, featuring vocalist Amanda Wick and organist Jeff White. If you care to make a day of it, an all-day ticket includes a catered lunch at the Olde Wicks Factory and an afternoon organ recital at Our Lady of Sorrows in St. Louis MO. Visit our website at www.wicksorgan.com for more information and to purchase tickets.

STN Collection	6/27/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$665.00
Peter's Pence	\$75.00
Sister Parish	\$115.00
Budget Goal	\$1,257.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$-592.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$65,364.00
Support Actual	\$69,907.37
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$4,543.37

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Freedom

Freedom is enshrined in our US Constitution. The First Amendment of our constitution protects our freedom of speech. However, our speech may not infringe upon another's freedom. Freedom does have its limits. And we must protect everyone's freedoms, not just ours. On this 4th of July, let us remember from whom all our freedoms originate, our good and gracious God.

Let us pray...

God, giver of all good gifts, Help us to be thankful for rest & food, and remember that, in all we do or say, you are with us, here this day.

We are thankful for all you do and for everything you have given us. But above all we are thankful for our freedoms and the ability to protect others' freedom.

We are free because of you.

We ask for your continued blessing on all your creation.

Through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Observances for the week of July 5, 2026

Sunday: 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: St. Maria Goretti, Virgin and Martyr
Thursday: St. Augustine Zhao Rong, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs
Saturday: St. Benedict, Abbot
Next Sunday: 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Funeral Policy, Diocese of Springfield July 1, 2026

The Vigil is an integral part of the Order of Christian Funerals. The Vigil should not be replaced by the Rosary or other devotions, although these may be done in addition to the Vigil. The Vigil can be offered even without the family for the benefit of the deceased.

The Vigil may not take place on the morning of the Funeral Liturgy, nor may the visitation take place in the church on the morning of the Funeral Liturgy. The nature of a vigil is to stay awake and keep watch. This is from the tradition of having someone with the deceased from the time of death until the burial, even throughout the night, accompanying them through their last journey on earth.

The Vigil, with visitation, on the evening before the funeral also gives the family, friends, and members of the community another opportunity to pay their respects to the deceased and loved ones other than just the Funeral and Rite of Committal.

Neither the Vigil nor the visitation may take place in the church, except for with the permission of the pastor in extenuating circumstances— e.g. so large a number of people is expected that it would overwhelm and exceed the capacity of the funeral home. In this case, the visitation should take place in the vestibule or gathering space of the church, if the architecture of the church allows it. If the visitation must take place in the church, the Blessed Sacrament should be removed from the tabernacle and visitors should be asked to respect the church as a place of prayer, maintaining a reverential attitude, and to refrain from bringing food or drink into the church. The body or cremated remains are never to be left on the parish property overnight.

Words spoken in remembrance of the deceased during any of the funeral rites —Vigil, Funeral Liturgy, or Committal— are to be read by a priest or deacon. The remarks are prepared by a family member and then submitted to the pastor at least three days in advance for approval. They are read by the priest or deacon. They are not to be a eulogy, which are words spoken in praise of the deceased. To speak in remembrance is to speak of the faith-life of the person in order to give praise to God. Outside of the funeral liturgy, these words can be spoken by anyone — e.g. at a luncheon or at any other period outside of the funeral liturgy.

STG Collection	6/28/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$1,066.00
Peter's Pence	\$50.00
Sister Parish	\$20.00
Budget Goal	\$1,505.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$-439.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$78,260.00
Support Actual	\$72,328.27
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$-5,931.73

IC Collection	6/28/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$1,643.00
Peter's Pence	\$383.00
Sister Parish	\$170.00
Candles	\$111.00
Budget Goal	\$2,672.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$-1,029.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$138,944.00
Support Actual	\$147,198.49
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$8,254.49



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



Happy Independence Day &
Thanks
to all those who serve

VOCATION MINISTRY PRAY FOR VOCATIONS:
July 4 & 5, 2026

For the Church, that religious men and women may find rest and strength in Christ's service.

For those discerning religious vocations, that they may embrace consecrated life with peace and joyful commitment.

For our parish, that we may nurture religious vocations through prayer and spiritual encouragement.

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 on July 17-19, 2026. Cost is \$290 including meals. Visit www.ReflectRetreat.com, e-mail reflect.stlouis@gmail.com, or call (630) 222-8303 for details.

The National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows 83rd Annual Healing & Hope Novena to Our Lady of the Snows —Tuesday, July 28, through Wednesday, August 5, 2026, 7pm nightly at Church of Our Lady of the Snows.

Finding Healing and Hope through Our Lady's Intercession

Join us in prayer for any or all of these nine evening Masses, as we pray for our own needs & those of our world. For the schedule of themes and more information, visit snows.org/Novena

July Pantry Needs:
Toilet Paper & Brownie Mix
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!

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

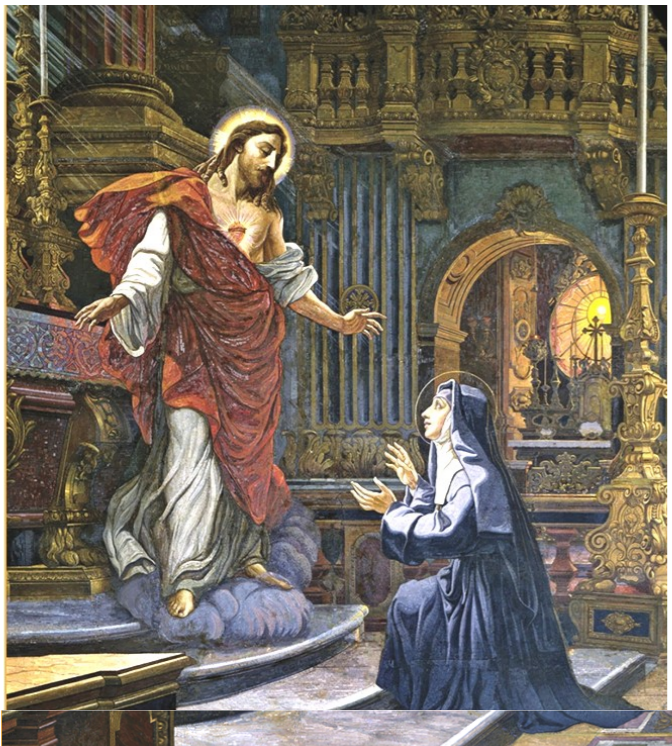
PROVIDED
Lunch & Materials

PRESENTED BY
Carolyn Klika Catino
Catholic Divorce Healing
Coach & Founder of AJM

ABOUNDINGJOY
No Catholic walks through separation or divorce alone.



SCAN ME



My God, my Savior, I adore your Sacred Heart, for that heart is the seat and source of all your tenderest human affections for us sinners. It is the instrument and organ of your love. It did beat for us. It yearned over us. It ached for us, and for our salvation. It was on fire through zeal, that the glory of God might be manifested in and by us.

Saint John Henry Newman
(from the meditation for July 7)



Pray For Our Seminarians
Sean Sullivan
Discipleship II
St. Meinrad Seminary



14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME JULY 4 & 5, 2026



Saint Nicholas - Pocahontas



Immaculate Conception—Pierron



Saint Gertrude—Grantfork

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MY YOKE IS EASY, AND MY BURDEN LIGHT.

MATTHEW 11:30

SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2026

+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