



One of my favorite movies is the 1991 comedy *What About Bob?* Bill Murray plays a troubled, paranoid hypochondriac named Bob Wiley who innocently but annoyingly hounds Dr. Leo Marvin, played by Richard Dreyfuss. Bob is paralyzed by his fear of, well, everything, and is convinced the psychologist can heal him. But Dr. Marvin’s failed attempts to heal Bob end up driving the doctor to attempt to murder Bob. He fails. The surprise is that, having faced death head on, Bob is suddenly healed. He attributes his healing to Dr. Marvin for breakthrough “death therapy.”

In facing the cause of his deepest illness and dysfunction, Bob is healed.

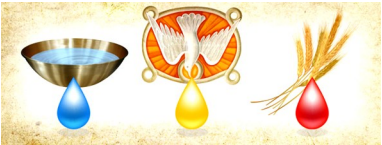
Underneath this light-hearted comedy is a dead-serious resonance with this week’s feast: the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Christ is lifted up on the cross to force us to face the truth of sin and death. In that reckoning we find healing. Like Moses’ snake on a pole, the cross says: this is what is causing your sickness—rebellion, disobedience, sin. Look at it! Don’t run from it. Now seeing it exposed, we see life. We see our physician mercifully healing us. In this sense, we are still like Bob Wiley. The “death therapy” of the cross is our only hope for healing.

This week I invite you to “exalt the cross.” If you don’t have one in your house, get one. Use it for prayer. Gaze on it frequently. It teaches us to not be afraid. It heals us. — Fr. John Muir

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR SEPTEMBER 20 & 21, 2025
Sat. Sept. 20 @ 4:30PM @ St. Nicholas
Reader: Don Cureton Music: Sally Rehberger
Euch. Min.: Brenda & Marce Tebbe

Sun. Sept. 21 @ 8:00AM @ St. Gertrude
Reader: Jacob Lewis Music: Nick Worman
Sacristan: Gail Ohren
Euch.Min.: Brenda Knackstedt & Karen Knackstedt
Ushers: Terry Dickman & Michael Sauls
Servers: Oliver Lewis & Teagan Barr

Sun. Sept. 21 @10:00AM @ IC
Reader: Denise Trickey
Music: Prairie Travelers
Server: Parker & Mabry Munie
Euch. Min.: John Dea, Cindy Knebel & Evelyn Knebel



O.C.I.A. (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults); formerly called RCIA

Who comes to O.C.I.A.? Anybody and everybody!
Some of the most common reasons people attend O.C.I.A. are:

A personal call to join the Catholic Church, whether baptized in the Catholic Church, in another church, or never baptized.

A spouse of a member of the Catholic Church who desires to create harmony in the family by becoming a Catholic.

Someone who is planning marriage to a Catholic, and is considering joining the Catholic Church to bring unity to the marriage.

An individual who is baptized a Catholic, but has not received the Sacraments of Holy Eucharist or Confirmation; or who has stopped practicing the Catholic Faith and wishes to begin again.

If you know of someone who falls into any of these categories, please let them know about inquiry sessions being held on Wednesdays, at 7PM at St. Nicholas Hall. If that person wants to attend inquiry sessions, has any questions or would like to know more about what the Catholic Church teaches please have them call Mark Williams at 618-960-3319.

Mon. (Sept15)
Tues. (Sept16) 8:00am (St.G)
Wed. (Sept.17) 8:00am (IC)
Thur. (Sept.18) 8:00am (St.N)
Fri. (Sept.19) 8:00am (IC)
Sat. (Sept.20) 4:30pm (St.N)

Sun. (Sept.21) 8:00am (St.G)

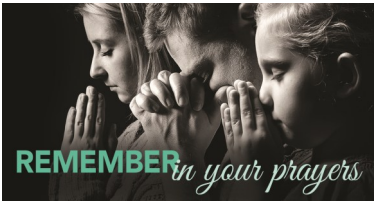
Sun. (Sept.21) 10:00am (IC)

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

† Mass Intentions †

No Mass
No Mass
† Communion Service
No Mass
No Mass
† Clara Liening — Int. Matt & Debbie Zoehner
For the People of St. Nicholas, St. Gertrude & Immaculate Conception
† Lucille, Vincent & Richard Schwarz, Nancy & Nick Zaloga — Int. of the Betty Rutz Family
† Joetta Korte — Int. of Skip & Joan Dickshot
† George & Margaret Daiber —Int. of Rick & Ruth Zurliene

September 13 & 14, 2025



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, Sharon 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, Randy Korte, Ruth Korte, David Kuehn, Sue Lubber, Christopher Marti, Taylor Marti, Barry May, Alex McCall, Eleanor Munie, Cody Neal, Suzanne Steinbring, Marcia Rowe, Gunner Sadler, Abby Schrage, Bill & Ruth Schroeder, Bertha Voss, Marie Weis, Ginny Werner, Bob Winet.

FOR OUR PARISHIONERS IN NURSING HOMES:
Lawrence Frank, 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.

St. Gertrude Altar Society Meeting will be held on Monday, Sept. 22nd at 7PM

Next IC Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 23rd at 7PM.

Mass for an End to War and Violence at Immaculate Conception Thursday, Sept. 25; 6:30pm Fr. Callistus Osiaga; celebrant

Please keep Fr. Cal in your prayers as he will be attending the Priest Convocation this week!



On Sunday, Sep. 21 at 10AM

Join us for a special Mass at Immaculate Conception with music by the Prairie Travelers acoustic trio!

There will be donuts in the hall afterwards!



Readings for the week of September 14, 2025

Sunday:
Nm 21:4b-9/Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17

Monday:
1 Tm 2:1-8/Ps 28:2, 7, 8-9/Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35

Tuesday:
1 Tm 3:1-13/Ps 101:1b-2ab, 2cd-3ab, 5, 6/ Lk 7:11-17

Wednesday:
1 Tm 3:14-16/Ps 111:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 7:31-35

Thursday:
1 Tm 4:12-16/Ps 111:7-8, 9, 10/Lk 7:36-50

Friday:
1 Tm 6:2c-12/Ps 49:6-7, 8-10, 17-18, 19-20/ Lk 8:1-3

Saturday:
1 Tm 6:13-16/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Lk 8:4-15

Next Sunday:
Am 8:4-7/Ps 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8 (see 1a, 7b)/ 1 Tm 2:1-8/Lk 16:1-13 or 16:10-13

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Our Church mourns the terrible suffering of Christians and other innocent victims of violence in Gaza and surrounding areas who are struggling to survive, protect their children, and live with dignity in dire conditions. The Holy Father continues to call for a cease fire and for aid to enter the territory, noting with great sorrow that "Gaza is starving."

The Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) is there providing vital emergency humanitarian relief and medical and psychological care for the sick, malnourished and wounded. Given the extraordinary nature of this crisis, The Most Reverend Timothy P. Broglio, President of the USCCB, has asked our Diocese to take up a special collection to provide humanitarian relief and pastoral support for our affected brothers and sisters in Gaza and surrounding areas in the Middle East and send donated funds to CNEWA. This organization has well-established partnerships with the Catholic Church in the region which allows them to respond quickly and efficiently. The situation in Gaza and across the Middle East cries out for the assistance of the Catholic community of the U.S. Please prayerfully consider supporting this special collection. In lieu of envelopes, please include "Gaza" in the memo line of check offerings. Sincerely yours in Christ, + Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki Bishop of Springfield in Illinois

| STN Collection | 9/6/25 |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Envelopes/Loose | \$844.00 |
| Capital Improvement | \$10.00 |
| Sister Parish | \$20.00 |
| Candles | \$144.00 |
| Budget Goal | \$1,257.00 |
| Weekly Surplus/Deficit | \$-413.00 |
| Support Needed (budget) | \$12,570.00 |
| Support Actual | \$11,516.06 |
| Surplus/Deficit YTD | \$-1,053.94 |

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son.” John 3:16

God created us to be in relationship with Him. Sin broke that relationship. Jesus came to earth so that we may reconcile our relationship with God. Following Jesus’ example, we can be blessed with a joy-filled life on earth and eternal life in Heaven. These four points are known as the “kerygma” – the first proclamation of the Gospel. This core message is the basis of our Catholic faith. How do you live this out in your daily life?



****For youth 5th grade and up****



God created you on a special day. Please let us know when your birthday is, it’s special and so are you. We would like to include in the bulletin and pray in a special way for all those born during the month. We ask that you reach out to the parish office and let us know the month and day of your birthday. May God bless you abundantly, especially on your birthday!

Happy Birthday to Lowell Wellen on September 15, Debby Williams on September 17 and Teresa Gnaedinger on September 29!

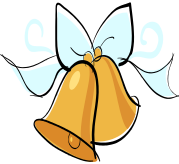
| STG Collection | 9/7/25 |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Envelopes/Loose | \$1,890.00 |
| Sister Parish | \$55.00 |
| Church in Africa | \$25.00 |
| Maintenance Fund | \$220.00 |
| Cemetery | \$100.00 |
| Candles | \$22.00 |
| Budget Goal | \$1,505.00 |
| Weekly Surplus/Deficit | \$385.00 |
| Support Needed (budget) | \$15,050.00 |
| Support Actual | \$14,291.00 |
| Surplus/Deficit YTD | \$-759.00 |



| IC Collection | 9/7/25 |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Envelopes/Loose | \$2,821.00 |
| Building Fund | \$55.00 |
| Sister Parish | \$55.00 |
| Candles | \$75.00 |
| Budget Goal | \$2,672.00 |
| Weekly Surplus/Deficit | \$149.00 |
| Support Needed (budget) | \$26,720.00 |
| Support Actual | \$23,395.44 |
| Surplus/Deficit YTD | \$-3,324.56 |

September 13 & 14, 2025

CELEBRATE THE CANONIZATION OF ST. PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI & ST. CARLO ACUTIS AND SUPPORT DIOCESAN VOCATIONS !
T-shirts celebrating these two young saints are available for order, and 100% of the profits will support vocations to the priesthood in our diocese! The artwork on the shirt is by Fr. Daniel McGrath. These 100% cotton navy T-shirts are available in youth XS to adult 5XL. To order, please visit www.sacredheartvirden.com or call 217-965-4545.



Pray for Holy Marriages
Angela Winkeler and Luis Gamboa will be married at Immaculate Conception Church on September 13, 2025.

Please join us in prayer for the upcoming marriage of Angela and Luis.

Lord God, the source of all love, the wise plan of Your providence has brought these young people together. As they prepare themselves for the sacrament of marriage and pray for Your grace, grant that, strengthened by Your blessing, they may grow in their respect for one another and cherish each other with a sincere love. Amen.

Please keep them and all those discerning Holy Marriage in your prayers.



The Highland Food Pantry is asking our parishioners to donate **Tuna & Chicken Noodle Soup** for the month of September. All other food donations will still be accepted. Thank You!

Grantfork Historical Society Rummage Sale
Auction Barn Rt 160
Sept. 18th (12-7 pm); Sept. 19th (8am—5pm) and Sept. 20th (8am—12pm) Household, Furniture, Décor, & more! Donation Drop Off: Sept. 11th from 4-7PM
No books, clothing or electronics; See Grantfork News FB page for additional dates.

The Grantfork Historical Society will hold a bake sale along with their rummage sale on Thursday Sept. 18 from 11-7 and Friday Sept 19 from 8 -5. Baked items are needed. Bring to the auction barn on Thursday or Friday morning. For more information call Emily Schwarz @ 618-675-3386. Thank you!

St. Teresa Church, Marydale DRIVE-THRU Chicken Dinner
Sunday, September 28, 2025
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)



From September 24 to November 2, 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 and 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 28th** as our adopted day, and we need prayer warriors join us in this important mission. We need prayer warriors to pray at the facility in Granite City, and we need some to pray from work, home, etc. too! 40 Days for Life works because prayer works! If you would like to pray for an hour or two on September 28, 2025, please contact Denise Trickey at 314-495-9080. Thank you for standing up for life!

Meet Our Seminarians



Steven Kehoe
Discipleship II
St. Meinrad Seminary

One thing I have learned in my discernment is about being pruned so you might bear more fruit. Humility receives this gift with joy.

Men’s Leadership Summit taking place in Edwardsville Oct. 18

Join men from across the diocese on Saturday, **October 18th** at St. Boniface Church in Edwardsville (110 N Buchanan) for a Men’s Leadership Summit featuring John Edwards, host of Just a Guy in the Pew. The purpose of this summit is to bring single and married men together to support one another, get inspired by their faith, gain or enhance leadership skills, and discuss best practices in men’s ministry. Visit <https://dio.org/event/mens-leadership-summit/> to watch John’s powerful story and to register. Cost is \$30 which includes materials and a catered lunch. Questions? Contact Gracie at (217) 321-1124, or email gortiz@dio.org.

Calling all men juniors in high school and above! Join Bishop Paprocki and Priests of the Diocese for an Andrew Dinner at 5:00pm on Sun., September 21 at Little Flower in Springfield. The Andrew Dinner is a simple/low key gathering where we will pray, share a meal, and have conversations about Priesthood and how best to discern what vocation God is calling you to. If you would like to attend, sign up at this link: <https://forms.gle/exdi2Jyrpbo3zNrC7> or email Fr. Zach Samples at zsamples@dio.org.

Grief Share—Grief Recovery Group

Thursdays Sept. 18 thru Dec. 18th 6-7:30PM at Greenville Free Methodist Church Room C103 in the CE Annex

Mondays Sept. 22 thru Dec. 22nd 6-8PM at Evangelical United Church of Christ in Highland contact # 618-654-7459

To register go to: griefshare.org/findagroup.
[Facebook.com/griefshare](https://www.facebook.com/griefshare)

Devotions, Explained! Litany

A litany is an ancient form of prayer incorporating repetitive refrains (often “hear our prayer” or “pray for us”). Litanies are used in a variety of liturgical settings and in both private and public acts of devotion.

The basis of the word “litany” comes from the Greek word for “supplication” or “petition.” In a litany, the leader will make an appeal or a statement and the congregation will make the response. Litanies can also be said by one person acting as both the leader and the respondent.

Many litanies have been written, including litanies to the Holy Name of Jesus, the Sacred Heart, the Most Precious Blood, litanies appealing to the intercession of various saints, and litanies to the Blessed Mother under her different titles. There are also litanies composed for the attainment of graces and virtues, including the Litany of Humility and the Litany of Trust.

©LPi

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Prayer of Love

Dear God,
Expand my heart in new ways today,
to understand the love You have for me,
to take that love deeply into myself,
and to act from that love.
Amen.

“Love is choosing what’s best for your beloved.”

JOHN WOOD
Ordinary Lives Extraordinary Mission



DynamicCatholic.com

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS SEPTEMBER 13 & 14, 2025



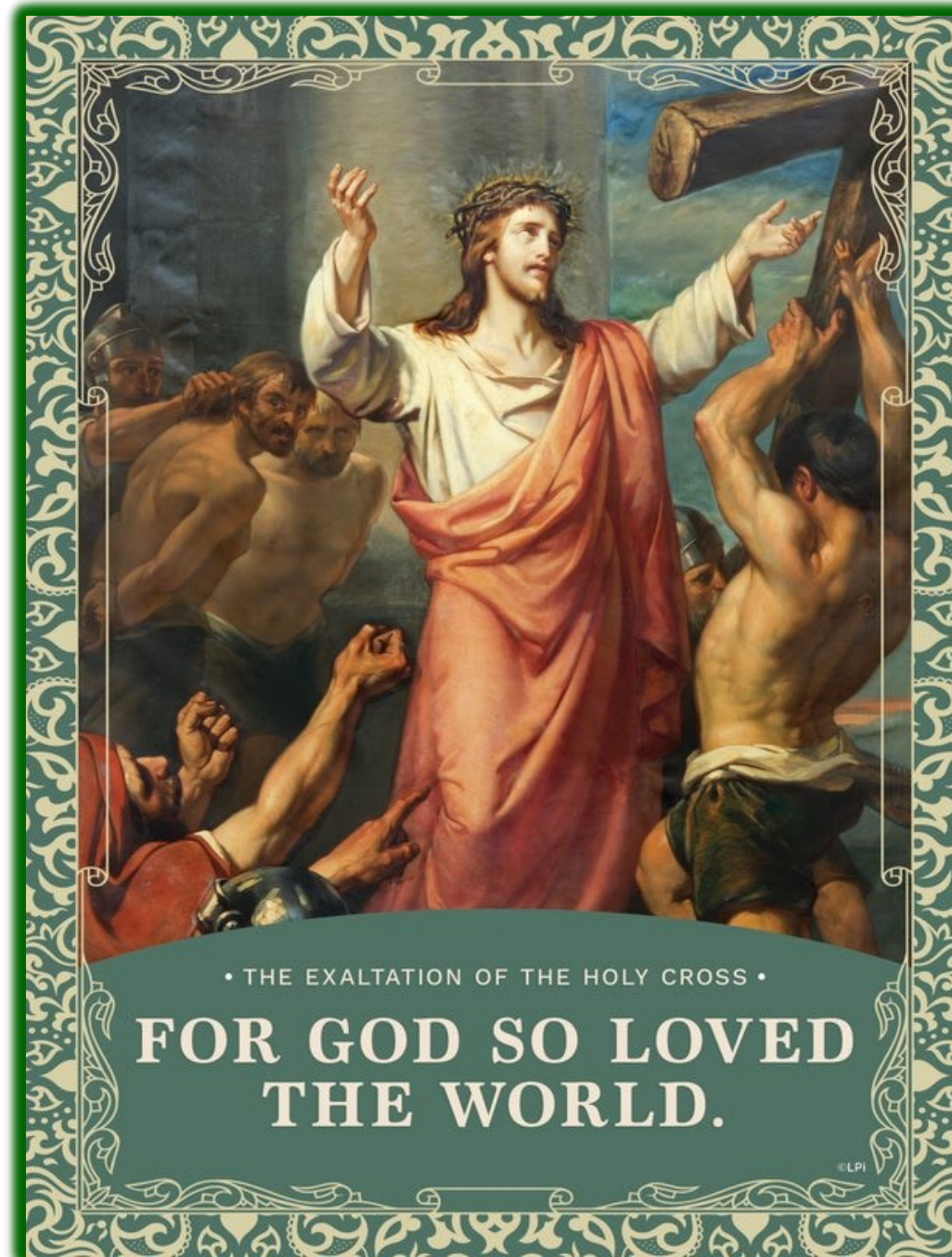
Saint Nicholas - Pocahontas



Immaculate Conception—Pierron



Saint Gertrude—Grantfork



+BISHOP
THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI
DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD
IN ILLINOIS



REV. CALLISTUS OSIAGA
PASTOR

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SECRETARY

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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