



A few years ago, my house was broken into on Super Bowl Sunday. Turns out, it’s a great day for burglars. If the TV isn’t on, people are probably watching the game somewhere else, so—easy pickins’. I’ll never forget walking into my bedroom and realizing someone had been there. My stuff was thrown all over the floor. The closet was torn apart. It was disorienting and disturbing —someone had invaded the space I thought was secure. After that, I bought an alarm system. And every Super Bowl since, I’m extra careful to lock the doors and keep the lights on. That experience made me more alert. Not scared. Just attentive. That’s much like the spiritual place Jesus wants us to be on this first Sunday of Advent. He doesn’t start the season with soft candlelight and cozy manger scenes. He starts with two brutal images: a flood and a thief. In other words, chaos and violation. Why? Because life will flood us. Chaos *will* come. And in the midst of it, Christ will come like a thief — not to steal from us, but to steal us back. He is the intruder we should want. The one who breaks in, not to ransack, but to rescue. Christ presents Himself as the thief but also the new Noah. He builds the ark of the Church to carry us through the flood. And He invites us to join Him. How? By participating fully in our parishes. By making our homes places of prayer. By guarding our hearts with truth. By refusing to let spiritual complacency leave us exposed by repentance. This Advent, don’t just stay vaguely “awake”. Prepare. Build. Watch. The flood will come. But so will He.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR DECEMBER 6 & 7, 2025
Sat. Dec. 6 @ 4:30PM @ St. Nicholas

Reader: Pat Kalous Music: Roger Frey
Euch. Min.: Brenda & Marce Tebbe
Server: Pat Kalous

Sun. Dec. 7 @ 8:00AM @ St. Gertrude

Reader: Carole Sauls Music: Nick Worman
Sacristan: Carole Sauls
Euch.Min.: Judi Rode, Gail Ohren & Brenda Knackstedt
Ushers: Bryan Rutz & Kevin Schwarz
Servers: Maris & Aubrey Barr

Sun. Dec. 7 @10:00AM @ IC

Reader: John Dea Music: Joy Winkeler
Servers: Jentry Lobello
Euch. Min.: John Dea, Evelyn Knebel & Ruth Zurliene

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR DECEMBER 8, 2025
Mon. Dec. 8 @ 8:00AM @ St. Nicholas

Reader: Don Cureton Music: Roger Frey
Euch. Min.: Brenda & Marce Tebbe
Server: Pat Kalous

Mon. Dec. 8 @ 5:00PM @ St. Gertrude

Reader: Brenda Knackstedt
Music: Nick Worman Sacristan: Rich May
Euch.Min.: Terry & Sue Dickman & Karen Knackstedt
Ushers: Terry Dickman & Michael Sauls
Servers: Elizabeth Schwarz & Morgan Dressler

Mon. Dec. 8 @ 7:00PM @ IC

Reader: Lowell Wellen Music: Joy Winkeler
Servers: Parker & Mabry Munie
Euch. Min.: Rick & Ruth Zurliene & Mary Korte



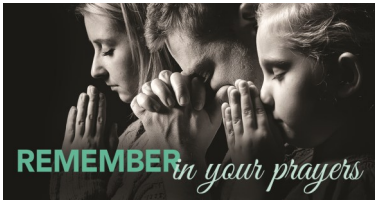
Mon. (Dec. 1)		
Tues. (Dec. 2)	8:00am	(St.G)
Wed. (Dec. 3)	8:00am	(IC)
Thur. (Dec. 4)	8:00am	(St.N)
Fri. (Dec. 5)	8:00am	(IC)
Sat. (Dec. 6)	4:30pm	(St.N)
Sun. (Dec. 7)	8:00am	(St.G)

Sun. (Dec. 7)	10:00am	(IC)
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Mon. (Dec. 8)	8:00am	(St.N)
Mon. (Dec. 8)	5:00pm	(St.G)
Mon. (Dec. 8)	7:00pm	(IC)

† **Mass Intentions** †

No Mass
† **All Souls**
† **Mary Frank** — Int. of Jim & Sandy Vosholler
† **Elmer Oestringer** — Int. of Jeannie Korte & Family
† **Donna Rapp** — Int. of Lenny & Mary Ratermann
† **Ken & Betty Wagner** — Int. of Craig & Kayla Kniepmann
† **Sonny Schwarz** — Int. of Emily Schwarz & Family
For the People of St. Gertrude, St. Nicholas & Immaculate Conception
† **Ruth Schroeder** — Int. of Lowell & Denise Wellen
† **Roscoe Ammann** —Int. of the Family
† **Walt Spihlman** — Int. of Ginny Werner
† **Shirley Schwarz** — Int. of Delmar & Marlene Korsmeyer
† **Msgr. David Peters** — Int. of Bill & Denise Trickey



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.

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, James Hodge, Gene Jolliff,
Pat Kalous, Val King, Barrett Korte, Denny Korte, Randy Korte,
Ruth Korte, Steve Korte, David Kuehn, Sue Lubert, Christopher Marti,
Taylor Marti, Barry May, Alex McCall, Eleanor Munie, Cody Neal,
Jeannie Oestringer, Suzanne Steinbring, Marcia Rowe, Gunner Sadler,
Abby Schrage, Bill Schroeder, Bertha Voss, Marie Weis, Ginny Werner,
Dean Wernle.

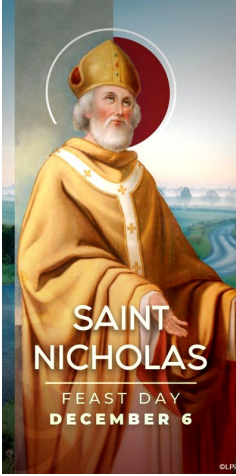
FOR OUR PARISHIONERS IN NURSING HOMES:

Delmar Knebel, Ann Plocher, Barbara Weiss, Margie Zurliene and special people in our families.

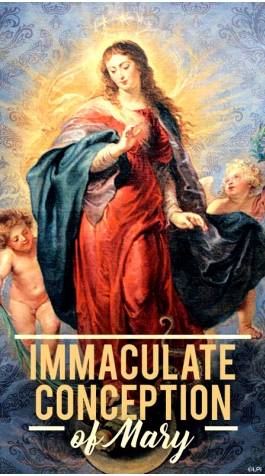
FOR THOSE CURRENTLY SERVING IN THE MILITARY:

Adam Canfield, Tim Doll, Chad Knebel, Michael Knebel, Dustin Korte,
Solon McGill, Lt. Abigail Mesaros, 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.



We are having a dual
St. Nicholas and
Immaculate Conception Feast
Day celebration on Sunday,
December 7th after the 10AM
Mass at IC at 11:30AM at IC’s
Church Hall. Everyone from
the 3 parishes are invited.
There will be sign-up sheets at
the back of each church.
Please sign up if you plan to
attend and what dish you
would like to bring. The meat
will be provided.
Transportation is available.



Readings for the week of November 30, 2025

Sunday:
Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/
Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44

Monday:
Is 4:2-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/
Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday:
Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/
Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday:
Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/
Mt 15:29-37

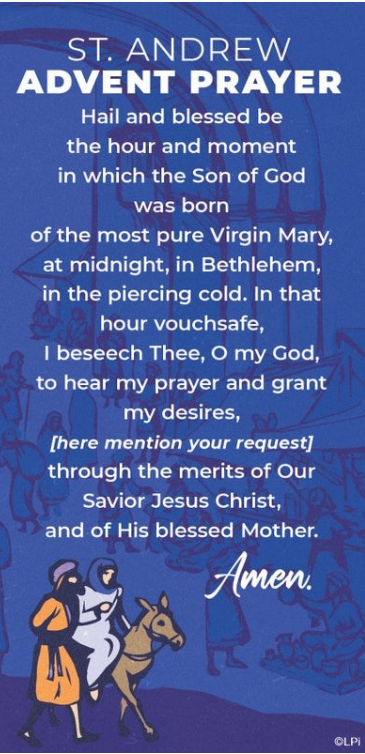
Thursday:
Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/
Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday:
Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Mt 9:27-31

Saturday:
Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/
Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

Next Sunday:
Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 (see 7)/
Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

The next IC Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 16th at 7:00PM



STN Collection	11/22/25
Envelopes/Loose	\$1,517.00
All Saints	\$100.00
Sister Parish	\$40.00
Budget Goal	\$1,257.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$360.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$26,397.00
Support Actual	\$25,697.06
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$-699.94

“Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.” Matthew 24:42

People who have had health issues or near-death experiences generally have a greater appreciation for each day being a gift from God. The rest of us usually take for granted that we will be around tomorrow. But when you start to look at each day as a gift, you realize all the little miracles that happen daily and you begin to see God’s active presence in your life. You grow in gratitude, each day, for all that we have been given.

“You do not know on which day your Lord will come.” Jesus says. He is reminding us that we do not know the mind of God. But we do know the heart of God, and we know that it is filled with mercy for those who heed the warning: Stay awake!

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary December 8th mass schedule:

8:00AM at St. Nicholas
5:00PM at St. Gertrude
7:00PM at Immaculate Conception
This is a Holy Day of Obligation

Pray for Holy Marriages



98% of Couples that Pray Together Stay Together!

Men’s Discernment Retreat

Join other Catholic men for a 3-day retreat at this beautiful, lakeside retreat center, to discern...

Dates: December 21-23, 2025

Time: 3pm arrival on the 21st, 7pm departure on the 23rd

Location: Villa Maria Retreat Center 1903 E Lake Shore Dr, Springfield, IL 62712

Who: For men 18-35 years old

Meals: All meals provided **Cost:** Free

STG Collection	11/23/25
Envelopes/Loose	\$1,127.00
All Saints	\$25.00
Black & Indian Mission	\$25.00
World Mission	\$25.00
All Souls	\$25.00
Maintenance Fund	\$25.00
Budget Goal	\$1,505.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$-303.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$31,605.00
Support Actual	\$25,496.00
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$-6,109.00

Observances for the week of November 30, 2025

Sunday: 1st Sunday of Advent; Respect Life Sunday
Wednesday: St. Francis Xavier, Priest
Thursday: St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church
Saturday: St. Nicholas, Bishop
Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Advent



The PAPAYA Youth Group will be collecting money for a Christmas family (or families) in need. Donations will be collected after each Mass at IC & STN thru December 7th. Thank you for your generous support!!



Advent Penance Services in Our Area

Immaculate Conception Pierron – Wednesday December 3 7:00PM

St. Cecilia/St. Mary Edw @ St. Cecilia – Wednesday December 10 @ 6:30PM

St. Paul Highland – Wednesday. December 10, 6:30 PM

St. Paul Highland – Thursday December 11, 10:00 AM

St. Gertrude Grantfork – Wednesday December 17 7:00PM

Tri City @ St. Elizabeth Granite – Wednesday December 17 6:00PM

St. Boniface – Sunday, Dec. 14, 2:30 PM

Advent Day of Recollection: Preparing Our Hearts for the Coming of Christ – Gift yourself an afternoon of spiritual reflection and prayer during this Advent season. Join Norbertine Father Herman Joseph Johanneck, O. Praem, at the Villa Maria Retreat Center in Springfield for an opportunity to personally encounter hope, peace, joy & love. Sunday, Dec. 7 from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Cost: \$25 (retreat materials & dinner). Registration Deadline: November 30. Register at dio.org/events. Open to men and women.

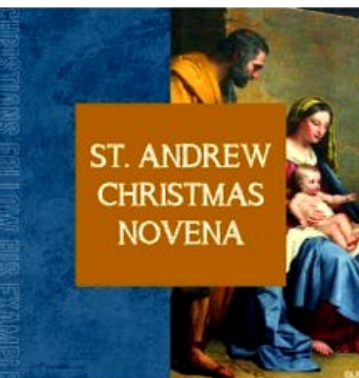
IC Collection	11/23/25
Envelopes/Loose	\$1,683.00
Military Arch Diocese	\$150.00
Building Fund	\$30.00
Candles	\$74.00
Budget Goal	\$2,672.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$-989.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$56,112.00
Support Actual	\$48,537.28
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$-7,574.72

Clinton Co. Showcase Presents



525 N. 2nd St.; Breese, IL
618-526-2866 Showtimes:
12/5 and 12/6 at 8PM
12/7 at 2PM
12/12 & 12/13 at 8PM
12/14 at 2PM

The Grantfork Historical Society is hosting the Wreaths Across America wreath laying event on Saturday, December 13th at the GRANTFORK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CEMETERY at 11:00 am. Everyone is welcome to attend. To donate a wreath, contact Wendy at 618-675-3472 or 618-444-2520. Wreaths are \$17.00.



Devotions, Explained!

The St. Andrew Christmas novena is a prayer said from Nov. 30 through Christmas Eve. St. Andrew was the first disciple of Christ, and in saying this prayer Christians follow his example of prescient faithfulness throughout the days of Advent.

Prayer for Advent - Arise

Bless God's Holy Name!
Prepare our hearts for Your coming, Lord.
Awaken them from any places that have become sleepy or despondent.
Inspire us with new visions.
Be with us as we climb closer to You.
Amen.

HITZ HOME AUXILIARY PRESENTS

Christmas Tasting Bee

Friday, December 5, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.

Join Us!

For an afternoon of fellowship and entertainment.

Where?

Hitz Home
Activity & Dining
Room
Donation:
\$8.00

We invite you to

Bring your favorite Christmas appetizer, dish, or dessert
(A variety of meats will be provided)

Share a delicious meal, silent auction, entertainment and Christmas raffle!

Raffle Prizes Include

Quilt

\$25 Gift Certificates to:

Aldi
Amazon
Big R
Blue Springs
Diamond Mineral Springs

Maedges
Olive Garden
Slots-n-Slices
Texas Roadhouse
Wal-Mart



Meet Our Seminararians



Martin McGrath
Discipleship IV
Bishop Simon Bruté
Seminary

One thing I learned throughout discernment is that I cannot discern alone. Fruitful discernment comes about through relationship with God, our Blessed Mother, and, ideally, close friends and mentors with whom we can share our hearts.

Makes a perfect Christmas gift!!

Celebrate the canonization of
St. Pier Giorgio Frassati
and St. Carlo Acutis
and support diocesan vocations!

T-shirts celebrating these two young saints are available for order and 100% of profits will support vocations to the priesthood in our diocese!

Art by Fr. Daniel McGrath!

100% Cotton Navy T-shirts
available in
youth XS—adult 5XL
Fundraiser hosted by
Sacred Heart Church
in Virden, IL



To order:
scan the

QR code or go to
sacredheartvirden.com

"Mary, our Mother and Queen, stays close to her faithful servants. She is always at hand to brighten their darkness, clear away their doubts, strengthen them in their fears, sustain them in their combats and trials."

ST. LOUIS DE MONTFORT
True Devotion to Mary



DynamicCatholic.com



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT NOVEMBER 29 & 30, 2025



Saint Nicholas - Pocahontas



Immaculate Conception—Pierron



Saint Gertrude—Grantfork



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2025

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come." - Mt 24:44

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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+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.io
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