

*"Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." (John 20:27).*

In my early 20s, I volunteered at a parish youth group. I witnessed teens encountering Jesus with a fresh, romantic wonder that reminded me of my own teenage conversion. But something had changed in me. I was quietly jaded and cynical. When teens shared stories of encountering Christ, I'd want to sarcastically murmur, "Well, good for you." I had grown suspicious of the zeal I once knew. Then we brought the group on a pilgrimage. I was standing in an old church in France, ignoring a long-winded tour guide. I found myself before a crucifix. In that moment, I heard something, not audibly, but unmistakably in my heart: "I came to be your friend...and you wish to be my enemy? Why do you stand far from me? I suffer gladly for you. I was pierced for you. Why do you run from me?" My heart opened. I saw how cold and cynical I had become. But Jesus had not given up on me. He had returned, and His mercy broke through. So I can relate to the scoffing — and transformation — of Thomas when the Risen Jesus presents His wounds for inspection. Thomas is not simply doubting; he is guarded, suspicious, even cynical. But Jesus comes to him. No lecture. Just understanding and mercy. He invites Thomas to touch His wounds. This burns away his cynicism like the morning mist. **Divine Mercy Challenge:** This week, rejoice with someone who is newly alive in faith. If your own heart has grown skeptical or tired, ask Jesus to help you. He will. —Father John Muir

**Readings for the week of April 12, 2026**  
**Sunday:** Acts 2:42-47/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24/ 1 Pt 1:3-9/Jn 20:19-31  
**Monday:** Acts 4:23-31/Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9/Jn 3:1-8  
**Tuesday:** Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/ Jn 3:7b-15  
**Wednesday:** Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/ Jn 3:16-21  
**Thursday:** Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20/ Jn 3:31-36  
**Friday:** Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Jn 6:1-15  
**Saturday:** Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19/Jn 6:16-21  
**Next Sunday:** Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2 and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11/1 Pt 1:17-21/Lk 24:13-35

**"Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.'" John 20:19**  
 Are you good at making people feel welcome? When you meet someone new, like a new neighbor, a new work colleague or a new parishioner, do you make them feel at home? When we make people feel welcome, we make them feel like they are included instead of being excluded. We are made for relationships – with God and each other. When you see yourself as a beloved son or daughter of God, you tend to see others the same way, too – just as God, Our Father, sees us.

**Observances for the week of April 12, 2026**  
**Sunday:** 2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)  
**Monday:** St. Martin I, Pope and Martyr  
**Wednesday:** Tax Day  
**Next Sunday:** 3rd Sunday of Easter



**St. Gertrude's parish and CFL Council 60 would like to honor all high school and college grads at a Mass and breakfast on Sunday, May 17th. Please submit your graduates name to Wendy Essenpreis by April 26th. 618-530-0927 or wessen85@yahoo.com.**



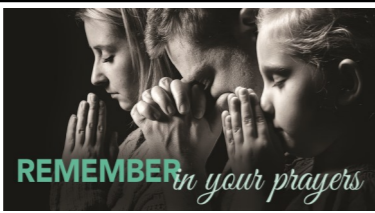
We will also put the names of grads from the 3 parishes in our bulletin; Please call or email the parish office with your grads name, school & degree (if in college) if you would like them listed.

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR APRIL 18 & 19, 2026**

**Sun. Apr. 18 @ 8:00AM @ St. Nicholas**  
 Reader: Brenda Tebbe  
 Music: Sally Rehberger, Barb Zaloga, & Colleen Lozier  
 Euch. Min.: Doris Eilers & Joyce Schlemper  
 Server: Pat Kalous

**Sun. Apr. 19 @ 8:00AM @ St. Gertrude**  
 Reader: Katrina Korsmeyer  
 Music: Nick Worman & Randy Eckstein  
 Sacristan: Gail Ohren  
 Euch.Min.: Brenda Knackstedt, Amber Kapp & Debby Schwarz  
 Ushers: Terry Dickman & Bryan Rutz  
 Servers: Katie Schwarz & Kinslei Kapp

**Sun. Apr. 19 @10:00AM @ IC**  
 Reader: John Dea  
 Music: Joy Winkeler  
 Servers: Rebecca Dea & Emma Winte  
 Euch. Min.: Cindy Knebel, Evelyn Knebel &



**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, P.J. Hereford, James Hodge, Gene Jolliff, Pat Kalous, Val King, Janice Korsmeyer, 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, Robin Pollmann, Suzanne Steinbring, Marcia Rowe, Gunner Sadler, Abby Schrage, Bill Schroeder, Marie 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, 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.**

**Country Store at St. Gertrude's Chicken Dinner**

Catholic Fraternal Life is bringing back the Country Store at STG's chicken dinner on Sunday, June 7th. We are asking for donations of baked goods, crafts, homemade jellies, produce, plants, & canned goods. Bring the items to the hall the day of the dinner.

You do not have to price the items. Profit from this fund raiser is used for many programs like Matching Fund, Matching Gift, Hearts and Hands and Silver Star. If you have any questions call Wendy Essenpreis 618-530-0927, Kris Hundsdorfer 618-977-1570, Gail Ohren 618-830-1384 or Judi Rode 618-791-8204 . **We appreciate your help!**

Tickets for the CFL Country Store quilt raffle are currently available. To request additional tickets, please contact Kris Hundsdorfer or Wendy Essenpreis.

**The St. Gertrude Altar Society meeting and dinner will be held Monday April 27th at 6:00pm at Blue Springs. All women of the parish are welcome and encouraged to attend.**

**IC Church is looking for a cantor for the 10AM Sunday Mass starting August 2nd, 2026. Anyone interested please call or email the parish office.**



**We congratulate the parents of and welcome Ariel Irene Singh, Minnie Alice Singh and Tiger Samual Singh children of Jet & Jene' (Knebel) Singh who were baptized at Immaculate Conception Church on Saturday, April 11th, 2026.**

**Godparents for Ariel are Tyler Knebel & Katherine Knebel Godparents for Minnie & Tiger are Ashley Zurliene & Tony Heimsath**

STG Collection	4/5/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$2,423.00
Sister Parish	\$30.00
Holy Land	\$235.25
Seminarians	\$148.00
Home Missions	\$35.00
Maintenance Fund	\$170.00
Rice Bowl	\$100.00
Budget Goal	\$1,505.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$918.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$60,200.00
Support Actual	\$59,591.27
Surplus/Deficit YTD	-\$608.73

**Next St. Gertrude Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 28th at 7PM**  
**\*\*Please note date change\*\***

STN Collection	4/5/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$1,391.00
Holy Land	\$75.00
Seminarians	\$175.00
Budget Goal	\$1,257.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$134.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$50,280.00
Support Actual	\$56,103.27
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$5,823.27



**Many Thanks to our Catechists, Barb Zaloga, Jane Dapkus and Mark Williams for their support of the OCIA ministry. We appreciate You!!**

**Kelsi, Cayden & Conlin Hannan and family— receiving the Sacraments at the Easter Vigil at Immaculate Conception Church**



**† Mass Intentions †**

**No Mass**  
 † **Ruth Richter** — Int. of Bill & Denise Trickey  
 † **George Wellen** — Int. of Lowell & Denise Wellen  
 † **All Souls**  
 † **Sister Virginia Kampwerth** — Int. of Bill & Denise Trickey  
 † **Living & Deceased members of Christine & Erwin Holtgrave Family and John Wolters** — Int. of the family  
 † **Frances & Al Luitjohan, Shirley Schwarz & Judy Wilke** — Int. of Karen Boulanger

**For the People of St. Gertrude, St. Nicholas & Immaculate Conception**  
 † **Beverly Watson** —Int. of Bill & Denise Trickey  
 † **Ann & Ed Plocher** —Int. of Eleanor Munie

Mon. (Apr.13)	8:00am
Tues. (Apr.14)	8:00am (St.G)
Wed. (Apr.15)	8:00am (IC)
Thur. (Apr.16)	8:00am (St.N)
Fri. (Apr.17)	8:00am (IC)
Sat. (Apr.18)	4:30pm (St.N)
Sun. (Apr.19)	8:00am (St.G)
Sun. (Apr.19)	10:00am (IC)



**Pray Along with the Prairie Travelers**  
 On Sunday, April 19 at 8AM  
 Join us for a special mass at St. Gertrude in Grantfork with music by the Prairie Travelers acoustic trio!



After Mass Fr. Cal will be blessing the US flag that will be raised on the new St. Gertrude Cemetery flag pole. The US flag was donated by Highland VFW Post 5694.

**HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US!!**

IC Collection	4/5/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$3,987.00
Sister Parish	\$80.00
Holy Land	\$635.00
Seminarians	\$638.00
CRS	\$150.00
Home Missions	\$25.00
HACSM	\$233.00
Candles	\$81.00
Building Fund	\$304.00
Budget Goal	\$2,672.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$1,315.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$106,880.00
Support Actual	\$110,247.12
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$3,367.12

SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY APRIL 11 & 12, 2026

Divine Mercy Sunday Mass - April 12  
 St. Paul Catholic Church, Highland  
 Adoration and Rosary :1PM; Confessions  
 1:30pm; Chaplet of the Divine Mercy  
 2:30PM and Holy Mass : 3pm  
 Refreshments to follow



St. Getrude's will be continuing the raffle at the 2026 Chicken Dinner. If anyone would like to make a contribution towards it, please place your donation in the offertory basket marking your envelope as "Raffle Donation" or contact Dianne Leitschuh. Thank You!



Happy Easter! As our CRS Rice Bowl journey comes to an end, may the Eucharist continue to transform our lives and help us respond to God's call to serve our global family. Don't forget to turn in your CRS Rice Bowl or donate online at [crsrice-bowl.org/give](http://crsrice-bowl.org/give).

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.

Congratulations to Elizabeth Schwarz who has distinguished herself by being on the High Honor Roll for the 3rd quarter of this academic year at Mater Dei Catholic High School.



April HACSM Pantry Needs: Granola Bars  
 We appreciate your support! Thank You!



**SEMINARIANS ON STAGE**

An event to get to know our local seminarians and support them!

APRIL 17, 2026  
 6:30-8:00PM  
 TRINITY HALL  
 1411 MAIN STREET  
 HIGHLAND, IL 62249

Hear their vocation story!

Audience Q & A session

Light refreshments provided

St. Elizabeth Catholic Church Altar Society's Spring Craft & Vendor Fair on April 25th 9AM to 3pm. Local small businesses, crafts, food, free entry. 150 N. Windmill St. in Marine. 618-887-4535



Virtues Explained! Fortitude

"When you go out to war against your enemies and you see horses and chariots and an army greater than your own, you shall not be afraid of them," we read in Deuteronomy 20:1. "For the Lord, your God...will be with you."

The virtue of fortitude actually requires, first and foremost, the feeling of fear. In order to grow in fortitude, one must face a thing which frightens him; in that way, it is distinct from patience and perseverance. Christ shows perfect fortitude as he endures his Passion and death, of which he was indeed afraid; it is likewise shown by martyrs. But fortitude doesn't require a cinematic battle.

Fortitude can be shown by someone who is afraid of losing his job or of being in bodily danger simply for adhering to the laws of God.

What is important is that the courage shown is in pursuit of the good, not just bearing with an attack. ©LPI

Virtues, Explained!

The virtue of fortitude actually requires, first and foremost, the feeling of fear. In order to grow in fortitude, one must face a thing which frightens him, doing so specifically in pursuit of the good.

Divine Mercy Blessing

Dear Jesus, May your mercy flow over us, filling our gaps and healing our wounds. Open our hearts more deeply with knowledge of your love for us, understanding of the depth of your passion, and trust in your never-ending mercy. Amen.



Saint Nicholas - Pocahontas



Immaculate Conception—Pierron



Saint Gertrude—Grantfork

SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2026

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

**SHOWED**  
 THEM HIS HANDS  
 AND HIS SIDE.

JOHN 20:20

+BISHOP  
 THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI  
 DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD  
 IN ILLINOIS

✠  
 REV. CALLISTUS OSIAGA  
 PASTOR

SONYA CURRY  
 SECRETARY

Mailing Address:  
 PO Box 410  
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[www.icstnsta.org](http://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