



One hot Arizona summer afternoon my car ran out of gas. I phoned the parish office and begged for help. My secretary came and helped me fill the gas tank. She chided me, “If you can’t manage getting your car from A to B, how can we expect you to guide the parish where it needs to go?” Point taken, Julie.

I vowed to always make sure I have plenty of gas in my car.

The Lord Jesus chides us in this week’s Gospel, too. He uses the two images of a man building a tower and a king marching soldiers into war to make this single point: acquire what is needed to follow Him or look ridiculous. We rightly mock the builder who lacks money for his tower and the king with a short-handed army. But out mocking boomerangs back on us. How do we expect to follow Jesus to the end with insufficient detachment from our possessions and divided hearts?

The good news is, there is still time. Jesus is building a great tower to heaven—His own body. So we renounce all and give ourselves to Him as His precious stones. Jesus is waging a battle against the enemy. So we forsake all and swear allegiance and march under His banner. In this way, we will finish what has begun in our discipleship. Or better put, our Lord will have the stones and soldiers required to see His great work through. — Fr. John Muir

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR SEPTEMBER 13 & 14, 2025
Sat. Sept. 13 @ 4:30PM @ St. Nicholas
Reader: Pat Kalous Music: Sally Rehberger
Euch. Min.: Brenda & Marce Tebbe

Sun. Sept. 14 @ 8:00AM @ St. Gertrude
Reader: Brenda Knackstedt Music: Nick Worman
Sacristan: Brenda Knackstedt
Euch. Min.: Terry & Sue Dickman
Ushers: Bryan Rutz & Kevin Schwarz
Servers: Elizabeth Schwarz & Morgan Dressler

Sun. Sept. 14 @10:00AM @ IC
Reader: Tim Schuette
Music: Joy & Angela Winkeler
Server: Jack Williamson & Rebecca Dea
Euch. Min.: Evelyn Knebel, Amy Gilomen & Erica 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 upcoming inquiry sessions beginning on Wednesday, September 10th, 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.

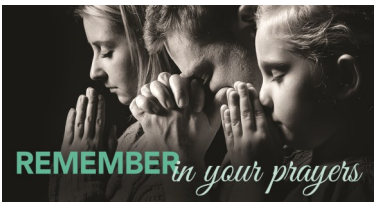
Mon. (Sept 8)
Tues. (Sept 9) 8:00am (St.G)
Wed. (Sept.10) 8:00am (IC)
Thur. (Sept.11) 8:00am (St.N)
Fri. (Sept.12) 8:00am (IC)
Sat. (Sept.13) 4:30pm (St.N)
Sun. (Sept.14) 8:00am (St.G)

Sun. (Sept.14) 10:00am (IC)
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

† **Mass Intentions** †
No Mass

† **Mary Frank** — Int. of Randy & Julie Ribbing
† **Mary Wells** — Int. of Bill & Denise Trickey
† **Jaisen Wellen** — Int. of Lowell & Denise Wellen
† **All Souls**
† **Bill & Betty Haberer** — Int. of Susan Jakel
† **Ronnie & Bonnie Rutz** —Int. of Dennis & Barbara Tabor
For the People of St. Gertrude, St. Nicholas & Immaculate Conception
† **Pam Winet**— Int. of the Curry Family
† **Ken Weis** — Int. of Lowell & Denise Wellen

September 6 & 7, 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 Luber, 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.

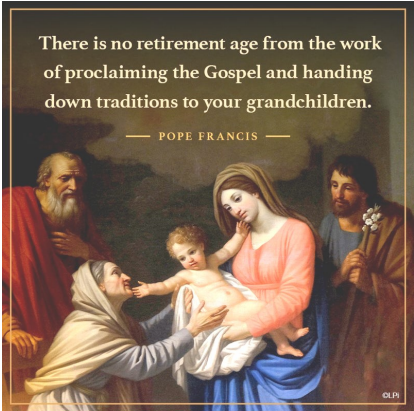
FOR THOSE CURRENTLY SERVING IN THE MILITARY:
Adam Canfield, Tim Doll, Chad Knebel, Michael Knebel, Dustin Korte, Solon McGill, Lt. Abigail Mesaros, Jerriett Mettler, Jimmy O’Boyle, Sgt. Joseph Patterson, Rickie Schuster, Joseph Schatte, Greg Spina, T.J. Waddington, Sgt. Tyler Wegman, Sgt. Zach Weiss.

If you would like to have someone added or removed from the prayer list please call the parish office.



The day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When is He going to come? If it were divinely revealed to you that He is coming next week, what would you be doing differently? No more excuses and procrastination. Tomorrow is not promised. Live right now. Be alert, vigilant, awake, ready, and prepared. Whatever you need to do, do it quickly. Start reconciling with God and your neighbors now. Start keeping the commandments now. Start prioritizing God now. We are children of light and cannot afford to live in the dark.

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



Readings for the week of September 7, 2025

Sunday:
Wis 9:13-18b/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14-17 (1)/Phlm 9-10, 12-17/Lk 14:25-33

Monday:
Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30/Ps 13:6ab, 6c/ Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23

Tuesday:
Col 2:6-15/Ps 62:6-7, 9/Lk 6:12-19

Wednesday:
Col 3:1-11/Ps 145:2-3, 10-11, 12-13ab/ Lk 6:20-26

Thursday:
Col 3:12-17/Ps 150:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6/ Lk 6:27-38

Friday:
1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14/Ps 16:1b-2a and 5, 7-8, 11/ Lk 6:39-42

Saturday:
1 Tm 1:15-17/Ps 113:1b-2, 3-4, 5a and 6-7/ Lk 6:43-49

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



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!

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/exdi2Yrpb03zNrC7> or email Fr. Zach Samples at zsamples@dio.org.

STN Collection	8/30/25
Envelopes/Loose	\$805.00
Sister Parish	\$80.00
Capital Improvements	\$100.00
Budget Goal	\$1,257.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$-452.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$11,313.00
Support Actual	\$10,672.06
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$-640.94

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Everyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple.” Luke 14:33

When we first hear this statement, it seems that Jesus is making an unrealistic demand upon us. How can we renounce all of our possessions? We need them to live. However, what we must renounce is the belief that they belong to us. Everything that we have belongs to God alone. All of our resources are entrusted to us not only for our own use, but also so that we can help others. Once we renounce the idea that we possess or are entitled to anything, it is much easier to share the many gifts that God has given us. Then we truly are His Disciples.



Server Training/Refresher at St. Gertrude on Wednesday, Sept. 10th.
If you are in 4th grade or up and feel called to serve our Lord and your church by being an altar server, this session is for you. This ministry helps develop maturity and responsibility and is an excellent way for young men and women to serve God and others. As an altar server, you are an integral part of the celebration and worship of our Lord.

St. Gertrude Altar Society Meeting will be held on Monday, Sept. 22nd at 7:00PM



FAITHFUL DEPARTED
Prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of **Jerry Hess, father of Cory (Sheryl) Hess,** of our parish family. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Jerry’s family and friends.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord...

STG Collection	8/31/25
Envelopes/Loose	\$740.00
Maintenance Fund	\$10.00
Sister Parish	\$20.00
Cemetery	\$5.00
Budget Goal	\$1,505.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$-765.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$13,545.00
Support Actual	\$12,401.00
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$-1,144.00

Observances for the week of September 7, 2025

Sunday: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time; Grandparents’ Day

Monday: The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Tuesday: St. Peter Claver, Priest

Thursday: Patriot Day

Friday: The Most Holy Name of Mary

Saturday: St. John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Next Sunday: The Exaltation of the Holy Cross



Blood Drive at St. Nicholas Church Hall
Tuesday, September 9th 2:00PM to 6:00PM

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

CANONIZATION OF TWO NEW SAINTS!
Sunday, September 7 is the date set for the canonization of Blessed Carlo Acutis and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati! This is an exciting moment for the Church as, during this Year of Hope, we honor two young saints who were not afraid to give their lives to God!



Pray for Holy Marriages
Angela Winkeler and Luis Gamboa

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.



IC Collection	8/31/25
Envelopes/Loose	\$2,252.00
Sister Parish	\$198.00
Church in Africa	\$60.00
Building Fund	\$65.00
Candles	\$104.00
Budget Goal	\$2,672.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$-420.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$24,048.00
Support Actual	\$20,574.44
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$-3,473.56

September 6 & 7, 2025

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!

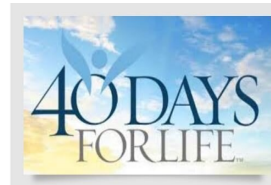
Grantfork Historical Society Rummage Sale
Auction Barn Rt 160
Sept. 18th (12-7 pm); Sept. 19th (8am—5pm) and Sept. 20th (8am—12pm) Household, Furniture, Décor, & more! Donation Drop Off: Sept. 11th from 4-7PM No books, clothing or electronics; See Grantfork News FB page for additional dates.

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!

Grantfork Village-Wide Garage Sale will be Fri., Sat., and Sun., Sept. 19, 20 & 21.

Garage sale participants: FREE to join for everyone! Grantfork vendors can use their yard or reserve a spot on the East side of St Gertrude's Parish hall. Out of town vendors may reserve a spot as well. Register by Sept. 12 to be included on the map. To sign up or get involved, contact Paige Fox at pnfox89@gmail.com or 618-444-9236 or Peggy Korte at 5pakorte@gmail.com or 618-444-2940

**Times: Fri. Sept. 19 (12 pm - 5 pm)
Sat. Sept. 20 (10 am - 5 pm)
Sun. Sept. 21 (11 am - 2 pm)**



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!

Springfield Diocesan Council of Catholic Women 2025 Convention – All women are invited to the annual convention on Wednesday, **October 1**, at St. Paul's Church & Trinity Hall, 1411 Main St., Highland. The day begins with registration and refreshments from 8:00–9:00 a.m., followed by the convention from 9:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m., including Mass at 11:00 a.m. with Bishop Thomas John Paprocki. This year's theme is "Let Yourself Be Loved" and will feature speaker Claire Dwyer, author of *This Present Paradise: A Spiritual Journey with St. Elizabeth of the Trinity*. Hosted by the Alton Deanery Council of Catholic Women. Registration forms are available at the parish office or dio.org/events and are due by **September 14**. For more info. email sdccwinil@gmail.com or call SDCCW President Janet Zimmerman at 217-494-4743.

Meet Our Seminararians



Sean Sullivan
Discipleship II
St. Meinrad Seminary

One thing I have learned so far in discernment is seeing God in the ordinary day to day by recognizing him in the present and inviting him into everything I do.

One-day marriage enrichment retreat entitled, "God Chose You for Me," is an experience designed to deepen the spiritual connection between married couples.
Saturday, September 20 – St. Nicholas Parish in O'Fallon, IL
To register, go to: stl-www.org/communitynews.php



Devotions, Explained!

Lectio divina ("divine reading") is an ancient practice of praying through the reading of Scripture. It includes four steps: read (*lectio*), meditate (*meditatio*), pray (*oratio*) and contemplate (*contemplatio*).

Prayer of Simplicity

Dear God,
In my desire for You, take away anything that keeps me from knowing You, myself, or my mission here on earth. Help me to remember what is truly important, and to seek and treasure that. Amen.

Devotions, Explained!

Lectio Divina
Lectio divina ("divine reading") is a practice of praying through the reading of Scripture, opening oneself to the inspiration and communication of the Holy Spirit.

The practice of *Lectio divina* dates to ancient monastic communities, but it has gained popularity in modern times as a way to meaningfully engage with the word of God. The formula for *Lectio divina* is simple and follows four steps. The text of the Scripture is read (*lectio*) multiple times, and the reader takes note of any words or phrases that resonate with him in a particular way. The reader then reflects deeply on the passage (*meditatio*) and the words that he noticed, turning them over in his mind. Following this, the reader prays with the passage (*oratio*), and dialogues with God, inviting him to illuminate the reader's understanding of the text. Finally, there is rest and contemplation (*contemplatio*).

United For Others
September meeting will be held at Grantfork UCC on September 9th 7PM.

MATER DEI JUNIOR KNIGHTS

Mater Dei Catholic High School invites children grade 4 & younger to join Junior Knights! For the informational letter, as well as both the printable registration form & the link to the online registration form, please visit our website: www.materdeiknights.org. For questions, contact Maria Zurliene at 618-526-7216 or mzurliene@materdeiknights.org.



Mary is the full flowering of the grace of Jesus Christ. To know her is to know what He has accomplished, what His victory has won... She shows in a singular manner what all of us are called to become.
Father Paul Scalia (from the meditation of Sept. 8)

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME SEPTEMBER 6 & 7, 2025



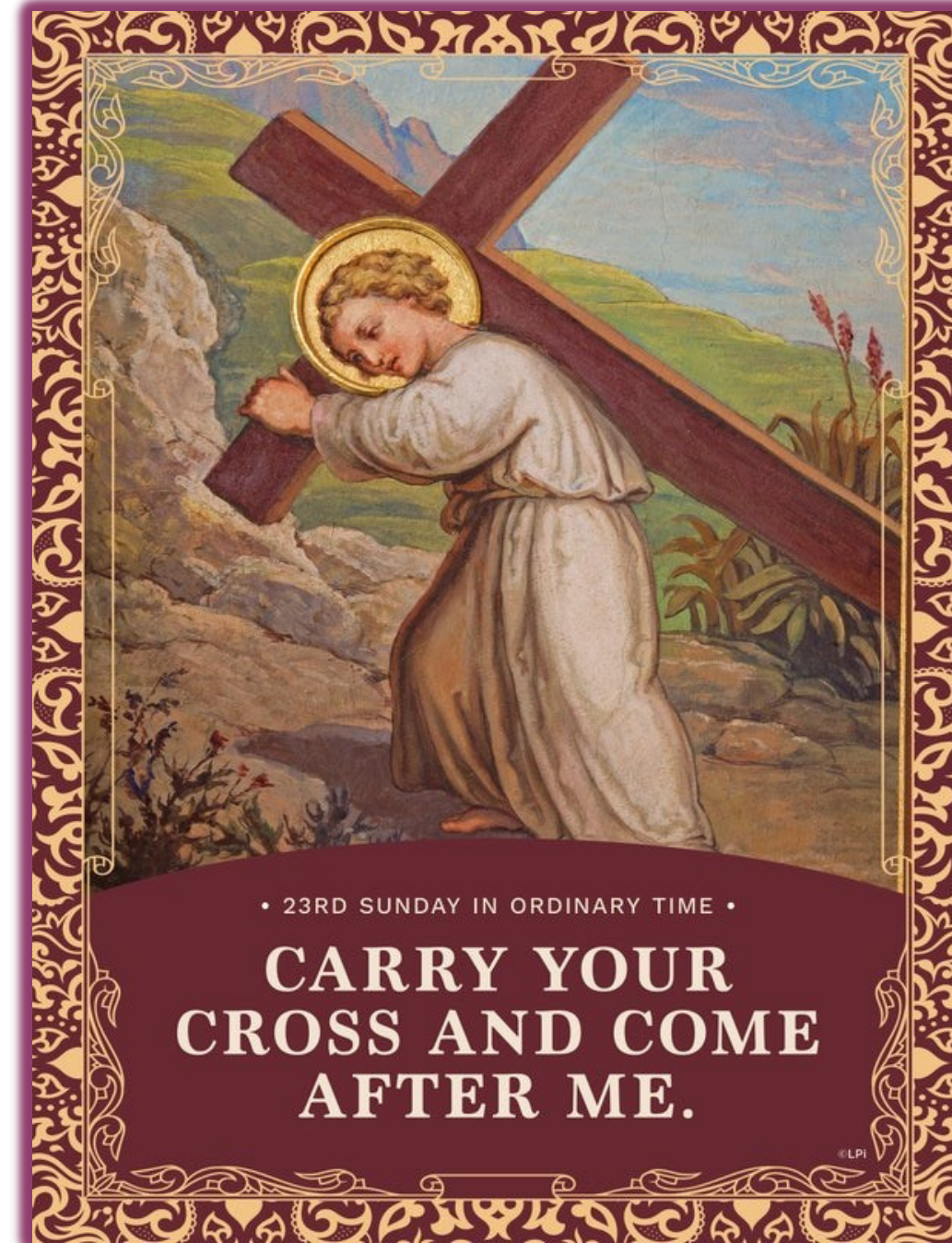
Saint Nicholas - Pocahontas



Immaculate Conception—Pierron



Saint Gertrude—Grantfork



+BISHOP
THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI
DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD
IN ILLINOIS

✠
REV. CALLISTUS OSIAGA
PASTOR

SONYA CURRY
SECRETARY

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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