

# A BLAZING TRUTH

I was 16 years old on a youth group retreat in the mountains. One night, I opened my heart to the message being proclaimed: that God so loved the world that He sent His Son for us. Later, I lay under the pine trees and looked up at the countless stars. They seemed different. No longer cold, distant balls of chemical reactions, they appeared as an expression of God's love, as if He were giving those stars directly to me. The truth of God sending His Son changed how I saw the whole universe. That is what today's Gospel reveals: "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son." (John 3:16). The universe is not just a whirl of impersonal forces or empty space. At its heart is a gift: the Father eternally giving the Son, not to condemn, but to bring life. This is not abstract doctrine but deeply personal. God gives His Son for you and me. Each human life is precious enough to be caught up in that eternal gift. It is in the Mass where we encounter this most directly. In the Word proclaimed, in the assembly gathered, in the priest, and above all in the Eucharist, the Father once again gives His Son. What looks like bread and wine is the drama of the Trinity, laboring to love us here and now. The Trinity is not a puzzle to solve but the blazing Truth at the center of everything: the Father gives the Son for you and me. Lord, help us to see this more clearly. —Fr. John Muir

## LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR JUNE 6 & 7, 2026

### Sat. June 6 @ 4:30PM @ St. Nicholas

Reader: Marce Tebbe  
 Music: Sally Rehberger, Barb Zaloga, & Colleen Lozier  
 Euch. Min.: Doris Eilers & Joyce Schlemper  
 Server: Pat Kalous

### Sun. June 7 @ 8:00AM @ St. Gertrude

Reader: Brenda Knackstedt  
 Music: Nick Worman & Randy Eckstein  
 Sacristan: Brenda Knackstedt  
 Euch.Min.: Karen Knackstedt, Jane Deiters & Sue Messerli  
 Ushers: Terry Dickman & Bryan Rutz  
 Servers: Allisa Korsmeyer & Nevin Straube

### Sun. June 7 @ 10:00AM @ IC

Reader: Tim Schuette  
 Music: Joy Winkeler  
 Servers: Jack Williamson & Emma Winte  
 Euch. Min.: John Dea, Barry Otto & Mary Korte



## FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of **Linda Schleper**, of our parish family. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Linda's family and friends.

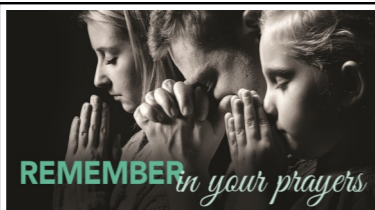
Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord...

Please keep Fr. Cal in your prayers as he will be away next week for the Spring Priest Retreat.

The next Immaculate Conception Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 16th at 7PM.

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

Sun. (June 7) 8:00am (St.G)  
 Sun. (June 7) 10:00am (IC)



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, Ruth Korte, Steve Korte, David Kuehn, Sue Luber, Christopher Marti, Taylor Marti, Barry May, Alex McCall, Eleanor Munie, Cody Neal, Jeannie Oestringer, Robin Pollmann, 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, 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.**



Fr. Cal at Calvary Cemetery, Pierron

"THE WORD OF GOD IS INFLAMED WITH THE FIRE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. IT CONSUMES VICES AND PROMOTES VIRTUE."  
 — ST. NORBERT

## † Mass Intentions †

**No Mass**  
**No Mass**  
**Communion Service**  
**No Mass**  
**No Mass**

† **Linda Schleper** —Int. of Barb Zaloga  
**For the People of St. Nicholas, St. Gertrude & Immaculate Conception**  
 † **Cliff & Judy Gruner** — Int. of Catholic Fraternal Life  
 † **Russell Korte & Elmer Oestringer** —Int. of Jeannie Korte & Family  
 † **Melvin & Marian Utecht** —Int. of Lowell & Denise Wellen

## Readings for the week of May 31, 2026

**Sunday:**  
 Ex 34:4b-6, 8-9/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/  
 2 Cor 13:11-13/Jn 3:16-18

**Monday:**  
 2 Pt 1:2-7/ Ps 91:1-2, 14-15b, 15c-16/  
 Mk 12:1-12

**Tuesday:**  
 2 Pt 3:12-15a, 17-18/ Ps 90:2, 3-4, 10, 14  
 and 16/Mk 12:13-17

**Wednesday:**  
 2 Tm 1:1-3, 6-12/ Ps 123:1b-2ab, 2cdef/  
 Mk 12:18-27

**Thursday:**  
 2 Tm 2:8-15/ Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/  
 Mk 12:28-34

**Friday:**  
 2 Tm 3:10-17/ Ps 119:157, 160, 161, 165, 166,  
 168/Mk 12:35-37

**Saturday:**  
 2 Tm 4:1-8/ Ps 71:8-9, 14-15ab, 16-17, 22/  
 Mk 12:38-44

**Next Sunday:**  
 Dt 8:2-3, 14b-16a/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-  
 20/1 Cor 10:16-17/Jn 6:51-58

**"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son..." John 3:16**

Is your love conditional? Is there a price others have to pay to receive your love and forgiveness? Are you generous with your time, skills, money and possessions? If you give someone something, do you expect something in return? Do you give your time freely or do you "fit it in" when it's convenient for you? God desires a personal relationship with us so much that He gave us His Son, unconditionally! Pray for a grateful and generous heart.

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.

Hitz Home Auxiliary Presents: June Salad Luncheon on Friday, June 5th at 1pm. Join us for an afternoon of fun and fellowship at Hitz Home Activity & Dining Room in Alhambra; Donation is \$8.00. We invite you to bring your favorite appetizer, dish, or dessert (a variety of meats will be provided). Share a delicious meal, silent auction, entertainment and raffle.

## Observances for the week of May 31, 2026

**Sunday:** The Most Holy Trinity  
**Monday:** St. Justin, Martyr  
**Tuesday:** Sts. Marcellinus and Peter, Martyrs  
**Wednesday:** St. Charles Lwanga and Companions, Martyrs  
**Friday:** St. Boniface, Bishop and Martyr  
**Saturday:** St. Norbert, Bishop  
**Next Sunday:** The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ



### St. Gertrude Chicken Dinner — June 7th

We are asking ALL FAMILIES to make 3 cakes for the dinner. They can be any kind. Angel food, sugar free, or whatever you would like to make.

Help is needed on Saturday, June 6 to help set up for the dinner. We will start at 8am.

Chicken Dinner gift certificates are available for \$15.00 each if you would like to purchase any to be given to the special people in your lives as a gift. Please contact Dianne Leitschuh at 618-410-0144 to get yours before the dinner.



Pictures from Memorial Day at UCC Cemetery in Grantfork.



### STN Collection 5/23/26

Envelopes/Loose	\$1,274.09
Retired Priests	\$125.00
Budget Goal	\$1,257.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$17.09
Support Needed (budget)	\$59,079.00
Support Actual	\$64,440.36
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$5,361.36

### STG Collection 5/24/26

Envelopes/Loose	\$570.00
Retired Priests	\$85.00
Maintenance Fund	\$25.00
Budget Goal	\$1,505.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	-\$935.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$70,735.00
Support Actual	\$67,526.27
Surplus/Deficit YTD	-\$3,208.73

### IC Collection 5/24/26

Envelopes/Loose	\$1,657.00
Sister Parish	\$30.00
Retired Priests	\$685.00
Peter's Pence	\$35.00
Building Fund	\$80.00
Budget Goal	\$2,672.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	-\$1,015.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$125,584.00
Support Actual	\$127,108.20
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$1,524.20



In Remembrance this Memorial Day, our PAPA Youth Group donated and placed flags beside the resting places of the brave servicemen and women who served and sacrificed for our nation at Calvary Cemetery in Pierron. We honor their courage and remember them with grateful hearts.

TODAY WE  
honor  
AND  
remember



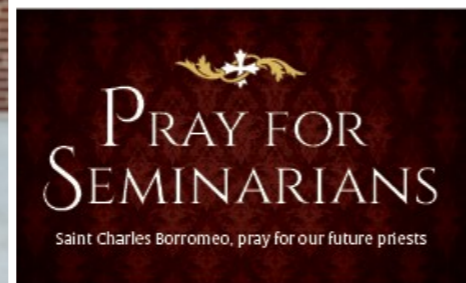
**Alton Deanery Council of Catholic Women  
Gathering Friday, June 5th**

Hosted by Ss Peter and Paul Parish Ladies Auxiliary of Collinsville Knights. 207 Vandalia St., Collinsville. Registration: 9:30am at the Church gathering space. Donation of \$5 to assist host parish with expenses. Proceed to church lower level (elevator is available) to Beveridge Hall. 10:00AM—Welcome: Prayer, breakfast refreshments. Guest Speaker: Sgt. Breanna Kemper Damm from the Swansea Police and Public Service Department. Sgt. Breanna's topic will be "Awareness of internet use and children". Brief business meeting will follow: Prayer, pledge of allegiance, introduction of officers, reports. Event concludes with a First Friday noon Mass celebrated by Father Michael Haag. For reservations please RSVP by May 31 and provide your name and parish. Via phone to Chris: 618-530-6469. If no answer please leave name and parish Via email to Kristi: altondeaneryccw@gmail.com.



**Pray For Our Seminarians**

**Dennis Trickey**  
Pastoral Internship  
Kenrick-Glennon Seminary



**CARRY OUT CHICKEN DINNER** Limited Dine-In Seating!

**Sunday, June 7**  
Serving 11am - 4pm

**St. Gertrude's Church**  
202 Locust St, Grantfork, IL

**ALL DINNERS \$15**

Each Dinner Includes:  
• 1/2 Chicken (Wing, Breast, Thigh, Leg)  
• Dressing, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy  
• Green Beans, Slaw & Cake **No Substitutions**

**COUNTRY STORE** Lots of Homemade Items!  
**QUILT RAFFLE & CASH PRIZES!**

**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 MOST HOLY TRINITY MAY 30 & 31, 2026**



**Saint Nicholas - Pocahontas**



**Immaculate Conception—Pierron**



**Saint Gertrude—Grantfork**

**SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2026**

**THE MOST HOLY TRINITY**

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. - Jn 3:16

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

+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](mailto:icpierron@parish.dio.org)  
Website:  
[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