



When I was ten, my dad gathered our family around the table in small-town Vermont and told us we were moving to the big desert city of Phoenix, Arizona. We were leaving behind family, friends, and everything familiar. None of us knew what to expect. But something beautiful happened. As we made the move together, our family grew closer. In retrospect, I'm amazed at my parents' courage to go on that adventure. Even as a kid I realized our family found, in that challenge, a deeper unity and mutual love.

In today's Gospel, Joseph is told; "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee..." (Matthew 2:13, 20). First to Egypt, then later to Israel. The Holy Family is frequently challenged to move and change, to adapt to God's will for them, in order to find safety in the midst of threat. It's not just an idiosyncratic story about survival. It's a spiritual pattern for all of us. Every Christian family is called to be a kind of sanctuary, especially in a world full of noise, busyness, and fear.

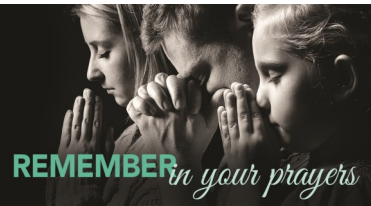
May I make a practical application for us? The Lord's Day. Sunday, is perhaps the most practical way we imitate this dynamic we see in Joseph and his family. Sunday is not meant to be just like every other day, filled with errands and stress. It's meant to be a day set apart; a holy "escape" into rest, worship, joy, and peace.

A day to rise, take your family, and flee, into God's presence. — Fr. John Muir

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR JAN. 3 & 4, 2026
Sat. Jan. 3 @ 4:30PM @ St. Nicholas
Reader: Brenda Tebbe
Music: Sally Rehberger, Barb Zaloga, & Colleen Lozier
Euch. Min.: Brenda & Marce Tebbe
Server: Pat Kalous

Sun. Jan. 4 @ 8:00AM @ St. Gertrude
Reader: Jacob Lewis
Music: Nick Worman & Randy Eckstein
Sacristan: Rich May
Euch.Min.: Terry & Sue Dickman & Sue Messerli
Ushers: Nathaniel & Nevin Straube
Servers: Oliver Lewis & Katie Schwarz

Sun. Jan. 4 @10:00AM @ IC
Reader: Denise Trickey Music: Joy Winkeler
Servers: Kendyl & Dylen Potthast
Euch. Min.: Rick & Ruth Zurliene & Kristin Potthast



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, Dave Deiters, Teresa Dickman, Joan Dickshot, Jean Fields, 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 Lubner, 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.

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.

33 years ago on 12/31/92, Father Cal was ordained a priest! We will celebrate Father Cal's ordination on Sunday, Dec. 28. Join us for refreshments and fellowship after the 10am Mass at Immaculate Conception! Come and help Father Cal celebrate his priestly ordination! We thank God for the gift of his priesthood and for his unwavering faith. We thank Fr. Cal for his years of devoted service and love for all. As we celebrate another year of your priesthood, we are grateful for your leadership and guidance. May the Lord continue to strengthen Fr. Cal and bless him abundantly!



† Mass Intentions †
No Mass
For the People of St. Gertrude, St. Nicholas & Immaculate Conception
† **Fr. Daren Zehnle** — Int. of Bill & Denise Trickey
† **Roland & Agnes Keller** — Int. of Delmar & Marlene Korsmeyer
† **Ralph Goestenkors** — Int. of Lucy Sybert
† **Leonard, Mike & Jay Schreiber** — Int. of Kay Williamson & Family
† **Willie & Anna Weis** — Int. of Jerry & Jean Weber
† **Ken & Betty Wagner** — Int. of Joe Lubner
† **Leonard & Audrey Frank** — Int. of Jim & Diane Hill
† **Clara & Jess Knebel** — Int. of Donna Straube
† **Weakie, Ellie & Tammy Potthast** —Int. of Eleanor Munie

Readings for the week of December 28, 2025

Sunday:
Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/
Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Monday:
1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/
Lk 2:22-35

Tuesday:
1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/
Lk 2:36-40

Wednesday:
1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/Jn 1:1-18

Thursday:
Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8/
Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Friday:
1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/
Jn 1:19-28

Saturday:
1 Jn 2:29-3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/
Jn 1:29-34

Next Sunday:
Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13/
Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

At St. Paul in Highland



Adult Catholic Refresher

A time for parents and parish adults to gain a deeper understanding of our Catholic Faith on select Wednesdays from 6:10pm-7pm in the St. Paul Room. Child care will be available for ages 2-8th grade if they are not in PSR/Edge.

- January 7th
- January 14th
- January 28th
- February 4th
- and more...

Each session discusses a different practice or teaching of the Catholic Church.

Attend the dates that are best for you!

Looking for something meaningful to do with your family over the Christmas break?

Wouldn't it be nice to share the light, peace, joy and love of the Christ Child with someone who is home-bound or living in residential care? You don't have to know someone to just stop by and share a smile and heartfelt conversation. Your heart will grow three sizes bigger!

STN Collection	12/20/25
Envelopes/Loose	\$2,292.00
IC Collection	\$100.00
Christmas	\$120.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$100.00
Sister Parish	\$100.00
Christmas Flowers	\$25.00
Budget Goal	\$1,257.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$1,355.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$31,425.00
Support Actual	\$32,382.06
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$957.06

"And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." Colossians 3:17

Giving thanks to God and using our words and actions to give all glory to God is the foundation of living a stewardship lifestyle. We were made in God's image and likeness, gratitude and generosity is in our DNA. As beloved sons and daughters of God, we are all part of God's family. Using our gifts to help others is our gift back to God and helps grow the Body of Christ here on earth and establishes a pathway to Heaven for each of us.

God created the Holy Family with a great sense of purpose, because He knew that Jesus would be defined by the woman and man who raised Him. Who is our "Holy Family" —the people who will define us? Who has God placed within our lives for a specific purpose?



We welcome Kelsi Hannan to Immaculate Conception Parish. Kelsi is preparing for Baptism and reception into the Church, through the OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults). Please pray for Kelsi as she continues her journey of prayer, reflection and study.

Pictured are Kelsi with her sponsor Terry Potthast



STG Collection	12/21/25
Envelopes/Loose	\$1,851.00
Christmas	\$100.00
Maintenance Fund	\$160.00
Budget Goal	\$1,505.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$446.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$37,625.00
Support Actual	\$32,001.00
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$-5,624.00

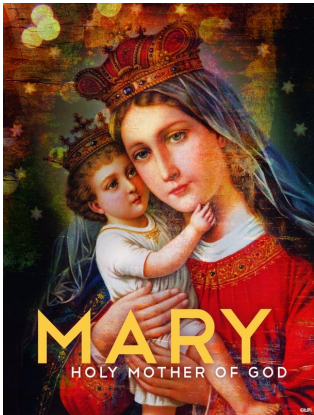
Observances for the week of December 28, 2025

Sunday: The Holy Family
Wednesday: St. Sylvester I, Pope; New Year's Eve
Thursday: Mary, The Holy Mother of God, New Year's Day, World Day of Peace
Friday: Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church
Saturday: The Most Holy Name of Jesus
Next Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord



Many thanks to those who stayed after Mass last Sunday to decorate our churches!!

We appreciate you taking time out of your busy schedules to help. May God bless each and every one of you!!



Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God Mass schedule:

Wed. December 31st

4PM @ St. Gertrude

Thurs. December 1st

8AM @ St. Nicholas

10AM @ Immaculate Conception

This is a holy day of obligation.

IC Collection	12/21/25
Envelopes/Loose	\$9,871.00
IC Collection	\$25.00
Christmas	\$195.00
Sister Parish	\$45.00
Retired Religious	\$190.00
Children's Home	\$295.00
Christmas Flowers	\$35.00
Building Fund	\$75.00
Candles	\$57.00
Budget Goal	\$2,672.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$7,419.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$66,800.00
Support Actual	\$65,728.45
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$-1,071.55

Mon. (Dec.29)	8:00am
Tues. (Dec.30)	8:00am (St.G)
Wed. (Dec.31)	8:00am (IC)
Wed. (Dec.31)	4:00pm (St.G)
Thur. (Jan. 1)	8:00am (St.N)
Thur. (Jan. 1)	10:00am (IC)
Fri. (Jan. 2)	8:00am (IC)
Sat. (Jan. 3)	4:30pm (St.N)
Sun. (Jan. 4)	8:00am (St.G)
Sun. (Jan. 4)	10:00am (IC)

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR DEC 31 & JAN 1, 2026

Wed. Dec. 31 @ 4:00PM @ St. Gertrude

Reader: Jane Deiters

Music: Nick Worman & Randy Eckstein

Sacristan: Jane Dieters

Euch. Min.: Judi Rode, Gail Ohren &
Karen Knackstedt

Ushers: Randy & Dianne Leitschuh

Servers: Elizabeth Schwarz & Morgan Dressler

Thurs. Jan. 1 @ 8:00AM @ St. Nicholas

Reader: Don Cureton

Music: Sally Rehberger, Barb Zaloga, &
Colleen Lozier

Euch.Min.: Marce & Brenda Tebbe

Server: Pat Kalous

Thurs. Jan. 1 @10:00AM @ IC

Reader: Mary Bergman Music: Joy Winkeler

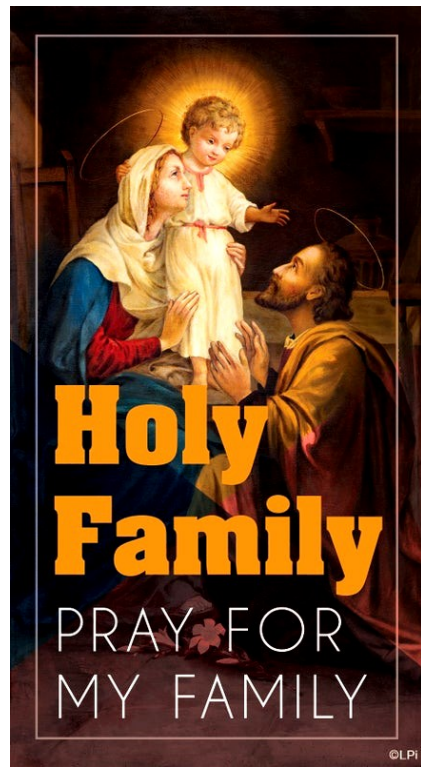
Servers: Jack Williamson

Euch. Min.: Cindy Knebel, Evelyn Knebel &
John Dea

Retreat for married couples offered – Worldwide Marriage Encounter presents weekend experiences for married couples to rekindle romance, enhance meaningful communication, and deepen and renew commitment. Sign-up now! For more information or to apply, go to www.me.org or call Terry & Eric Engholm at 314-649-7317.

Next ones: 2/6/2026 – 2/8/2026, St. Peters, MO

4/17/2026 – 4/19/2026, St. Peters, MO



Meet Our Seminarians



Ryan Kaufmann
Propaedeutic
St. Meinrad Seminary

One thing I have learned about discernment is that God is a loving God and wants what is best for us. He loves us so much that he gives us the free will to choose what we believe is best for ourselves. If we choose to come after him, we must 'deny ourselves, take up our cross daily and follow him.' (Luke 9:23)



Pics from St. Gertrude's Christmas Decorating last Sunday



Devotions, Explained!

St. Gertrude's Prayer is a petition said on behalf of the Holy Souls of Purgatory, offering the Blood of Christ in reparation for the sins of the departed.

Family Blessing

May God bless, protect, unite, mend, and renew our family. Help us to be instruments of healing and holiness, breaking generational curses, rewriting scripts, overcoming tribulation, joining in gratitude, and growing in joy ... together. Amen.

Devotions Explained! St. Gertrude's Prayer

St. Gertrude's Prayer is a petition said on behalf of the Holy Souls of Purgatory, offering the Blood of Christ in reparation for the sins of the departed.

St. Gertrude, often called "St. Gertrude the Great," was a Benedictine nun who lived in 13th-century Saxony, present-day Germany. A mystic, she received visions of Christ beginning at the age of 25. She was also a prolific writer and devotee of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and is often invoked as an intercessor for the Holy Souls in Purgatory. Her feast day is celebrated on November 16.

The St. Gertrude Prayer reads: "Eternal Father, I offer You the most precious blood of thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal Church, for those in my own home, and in my family. Amen." ©LPi

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH DECEMBER 27 & 28, 2025



Saint Nicholas - Pocahontas



Immaculate Conception—Pierron



Saint Gertrude—Grantfork



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2025

THE HOLY FAMILY

"Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." - Mt 2:20

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

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SECRETARY

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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