



A LOVE THAT SURPASSES
LOGIC

"I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." (John 10:11).

My most boring job was working at an insurance company as a college student. My main task? Filing. Now imagine if I had told my supervisor, "I just want you to know, I'm willing to die for these files." She would have called a psychiatrist— or at least security. There is something absurd in Jesus' words in today's Gospel: "I am the good shepherd...I lay down my life for the sheep." (John 10:11). It sounds noble, until you think about it. No one dies for sheep. Not a hired hand. Not even a good shepherd. Sheep are important, sure, but not worth a human life.

And yet, Jesus insists: *I will die for them.* The crowd understandably responds: "He is our of his mind." C.S. Lewis once said that Jesus does not leave us the option of calling Him merely a good teacher. If someone speaks like Him, he is either lying, crazy, or telling the truth. John's Gospel won't let us stay sentimental. Jesus means it. He reveals a love that surpasses logic — a love that measures worth not by strength or success, but by the willingness to suffer unto death. The Good Shepherd's madness is mercy. His cross makes no earthly sense and yet it makes divine sense. He lays down His life not for kings or saints but for sheep— for the ordinary, the unworthy, for you and me. Think of someone who may feel unworthy of love. Do something simple and generous for them, not because they deserve it, but because Jesus did the same for you. —Father John Muir

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR MAY 2 & 3, 2026

Sat. May 2 @ 4:30PM @ St. Nicholas

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

Sun. May 3 @ 8:00AM @ St. Gertrude

Reader: Chad Korte
Music: Nick Worman & Randy Eckstein
Sacristan: Rich May
Euch.Min.: Larry & Tina Luitjohan & Gail Ohren
Ushers: Bryan Rutz & Kevin Schwarz
Servers: Maris & Teagan Barr

Sun. May 3 @ 10:00AM @ IC

Reader: Mary Bergman
Music: Joy Winkeler
Servers: Jack Williamson & Rebecca Dea
Euch. Min.: John Dea, Mary Korte, Cindy Knebel



FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of **Art Warnecke**, father of **James (Vicki) Warnecke**, and grandfather of **Tim (Jessica) Warnecke** of our parish family. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Art's family and friends. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord...

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.

Mon. (Apr.27) 8:00am
Tues. (Apr.28) 8:00am (St.G)
Wed. (Apr.29) 8:00am (IC)
Wed. (Apr.29) **6:30pm** (IC)
Thur. (Apr.30) 8:00am (St.N)
Fri. (May 1) 8:00am (IC)
Sat. (May 2) 4:30pm (St.N)
Sun. (May 3) 8:00am (St.G)

Sun. (May 3) 10:00am (IC)

† **Mass Intentions** †

No Mass
† **All Souls**
No Mass
† **Joetta Korte** — Int. of Merle & Shirley Wernle
† **Roman Korte** — Int. of Pauline Perrine
† **Joe & Judy Overby** — Int. of Bill & Denise Trickey
† **Tyler Vosholler** — Int. of Dennis & Sheila Frey
† **Cliff & Dorothy Landolt** — Int. of Don & Barb Johannes
For the People of St. Gertrude, St. Nicholas & Immaculate Conception
† **Ruth Schroeder** —Int. of Lowell & Denise Wellen
† **Clarence & Blanche Potthast** —Int. of the Potthast Family



REMEMBER in your prayers

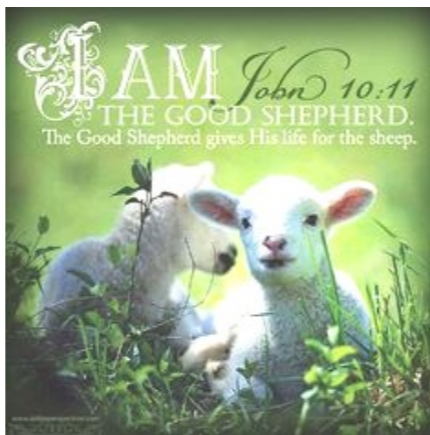
Members of our parish families who are recovering in the hospital & at home, for their strength and patience each day, and for all those who ask for our prayers for health or other issues. John Alberternst, Pat Beard, Ana Cantrell, Steve Crawford, Don Dapkus, Teresa Dickman, Garland Edwards, Jean Fields, 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, Marcia Rowe, Gunner Sadler, Abby Schrage, Bill Schroeder, Suzanne Steinbring, Brenda Usher, Marie Weiss, Ginny Werner, Dean Wernle, Melanie Wernle.

FOR OUR PARISHIONERS IN NURSING HOMES:

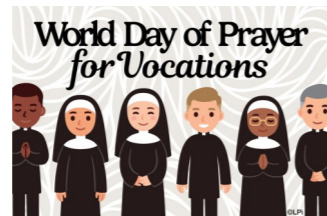
Delmar Knebel, Harold Schwarz, Barbara Weiss, Margie Zurliene and special people in our families.

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.



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



Readings for the week of April 26, 2026

Sunday:
Acts 2:14a, 36-41/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/
1 Pt 2:20b-25/Jn 10:1-10

Monday:
Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4/Jn 10:11-18 (second choice)

Tuesday:
Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/
Jn 10:22-30

Wednesday:
Acts 12:24-13:5a/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8/
Jn 12:44-50

Thursday:
Acts 13:13-25/Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27/
Jn 13:16-20

Friday:
Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab/
Jn 14:1-6

Saturday:
Acts 13:44-52/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/
Jn 14:7-14

Next Sunday:
Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19/1 Pt 2:4-9/
Jn 14:1-12

May HACSM Pantry Needs: Italian salad dressing (plastic bottle) and croutons.
We appreciate your support! Thank You!



| STN Collection | 4/18/26 |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Envelopes/Loose | \$915.00 |
| Home Missions | \$110.00 |
| Budget Goal | \$1,257.00 |
| Weekly Surplus/Deficit | \$-342.00 |
| Support Needed (budget) | \$52,794.00 |
| Support Actual | \$57,944.27 |
| Surplus/Deficit YTD | \$5,150.27 |

"And Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ...'" Acts 2:38

The word "repent" means to turn from sin – to change our thoughts, words and actions. Change that is permanent comes from within – a transformation or conversion of heart. This requires prayer, discipline and perseverance. Change is hard. The first step is recognizing that we are broken and that we need God's help. The good news – we are not alone in our journey. Ask Jesus daily for guidance and patiently listen for his response.

"The sheep follow Him, because they recognize His voice," Jesus says. Do we know the voice of Jesus when He speaks to us? Have we spent time in conversation with Him? This week, listen for the voice of Jesus in your life, and follow where it leads.

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.



Cemetery Flag Blessing and flag raising ceremony at St. Gertrude last Sunday, April 19th. A new flagpole was recently added to the St. Gertrude's Cemetery. Grant Heisler, Scout Troop #8091, coordinated the design and installation of the flagpole as part of his Eagle Scout project. **Congratulations Grant Heisler** and your entire support team! Grant's parents, fellow scouts of Troop #8091, the local VFW, and the Catholic Fraternal Life group were just a few of the many that contributed to this venture. What a blessing to enjoy this for years to come! If you drive by at dusk, you will see the added solar light which brightens Old Glory after daylight hours.



| STG Collection | 4/19/26 |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Envelopes/Loose | \$1,865.00 |
| Home Missions | \$12.00 |
| Sister Parish | \$20.00 |
| Maintenance Fund | \$150.00 |
| Budget Goal | \$1,505.00 |
| Weekly Surplus/Deficit | \$360.00 |
| Support Needed (budget) | \$63,210.00 |
| Support Actual | \$62,071.27 |
| Surplus/Deficit YTD | \$-1,138.73 |

Observances for the week of April 26, 2026

Sunday: 4th Sunday of Easter; World Day of Prayer for Vocations
Tuesday: St. Peter Chanel, Priest and Martyr; St. Louis Grignon de Montfort, Priest
Wednesday: St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church
Thursday: St. Pius V, Pope
Friday: St. Joseph the Worker; National Day of Prayer
Saturday: St. Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Next Sunday: 5th 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 27th. 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.



| IC Collection | 4/19/26 |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Envelopes/Loose | \$1,764.00 |
| Home Missions | \$60.00 |
| Building Fund | \$50.00 |
| Candles | \$80.00 |
| Budget Goal | \$2,672.00 |
| Weekly Surplus/Deficit | \$-908.00 |
| Support Needed (budget) | \$112,224.00 |
| Support Actual | \$114,895.81 |
| Surplus/Deficit YTD | \$2,671.81 |



Pictured from left to right, Kris Hundsdorfer, Wendy Essenpreis, Jane Deiters (St. Gertrude Altar Society President) and Gail Ohren.

The Catholic Fraternal Life has chosen the St. Gertrude Church to receive the Helping Hands Church Grant in the amount of \$3,000 for the St. Gertrude Altar Society. The St. Gertrude Altar Society is a dedicated group of women committed to the spiritual and physical stewardship of our parish. Their mission is multifaceted: caring for the Altar and Sanctuary, tending to the spiritual needs of our members, giving to others in need and serving as a living witness of faith to the wider community. They manage the maintenance of sacred linens and vestments, purchase albs and altar cloths, and frequently coordinate liturgical roles. Additionally, they fund new items for the church's liturgical environment. Our members serve as readers, Eucharistic ministers, sacristans, and PSR teachers, and they distribute communion to homebound parishioners. The society provides financial support to centennial celebrations and farewell or welcome receptions for our priests; most recently, they funded the Prairie Creek Travelers band to perform during services in April, 2026.

The Altar Society members serve funeral luncheons throughout the year. The society cleans the parish hall in preparation for the annual chicken dinner. Members of the society assist with landscape maintenance throughout the year. To support our youth, the Altar Society provides homemade treats for PSR activities, such as, the "Moses Movie Night."

Their impact extends far beyond the church walls. Members of the Altar Society are deeply embedded in local service, volunteering to assist families in need through hands-on work with the Highland Food Pantry, United for Others (UFO), Make-A-Wish and other local programs. St. Gertrude Altar Society strengthens our ability to provide both spiritual comfort to our parish and tangible relief to the vulnerable in the greater community.

St. Paul Catholic School is selling Cardinal Tickets for St. Paul School Cardinal Day at the Ball Park. The game is on June 28th and the tickets are \$35 each and come with a jumbo hotdog and soda. It is also a Giveaway day! A 5th grade student will be throwing out the first pitch AND every St. Paul Student that sells tickets can sing "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" on the field! It is a great opportunity for our students and we would love to share this with you. If interested contact Katie Rehkemper at (618) 654-7525.

The Grantfork Area Dev Club (GADC) is sponsoring a BBQ fundraiser on Sun., May 3, serving 10 am - 4 pm at the Grantfork firehouse. All proceeds will benefit the Grantfork Volunteer Fire Dept & Grantfork's United for Others ("UFO" - St Gertrude's Church and the UCC). Baked goods and beverages will also be sold; dine-in or carry-out; and a 50/50 drawing will take place. If anyone would like to donate baked goods, please individually wrap & price before dropping off. If questions, or to request large pre-order pickups, contact Peggy Korte (618-444-29400, Jeanette Schuster (618-402-4015), or Adam Vosholler (618-795-2178). All support is greatly appreciated.

Ladies' Morning of Recollection — All women are invited to a special time of spiritual renewal on **Saturday, May 9, from 10:00 to Noon at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Alton.** The morning will include Adoration, Confession, and meditations offered by a priest of Opus Dei. Come and take this opportunity to spiritually recharge as we celebrate Mother's Day weekend. No need to RSVP, but for more information, contact Eva at evamhaine@gmail.com



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER APRIL 25 & 26, 2026



Saint Nicholas - Pocahontas



Immaculate Conception—Pierron



Saint Gertrude—Grantfork

SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2026

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

"Whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as the shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out." - Jn 10:2-3

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
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

St. Gertrude'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!

Hall cleaning for the chicken dinner will be May 7 starting at 5 pm.

Please bring rags & buckets. Many hands make it go fast!

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.



Virtues Explained!

Humility

"If anyone wishes to be first," Christ told the Apostles in the Gospel of Mark, "he must become the last of all and the servant of all." (Mark 9:35).

True humility does not require us to ignore, underestimate or hide our gifts — it merely demands that we use these gifts rightly, with the knowledge that they are from our Creator and meant for His glory, not our own. "Man is a beggar before God," said St. Augustine.

The Blessed Mother is the perfect model of this, and her Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55) is a blueprint for a life lived in joyful humility.

Humility, says the Catechism, is also the key to a fruitful prayer life: "Humility is the foundation of prayer. Only when we humbly acknowledge that 'we do not know how to pray as we ought,' are we ready to receive freely the gift of prayer." (CCC 2559). ©LPI

Virtues, Explained!

True humility does not require us to ignore, underestimate, or hide our gifts — it merely demands that we use these gifts rightly, with the knowledge that they are from our Creator and meant for His glory, not our own.

Blessing of the Good Shepherd

Dear Jesus,
Be the Good Shepherd in my life.
Help me to know your voice and to respond.
Help me to find your fold and the paths on which you lead.
Bless me with verdant pastures and restful waters.
Refresh my soul.
Amen.