



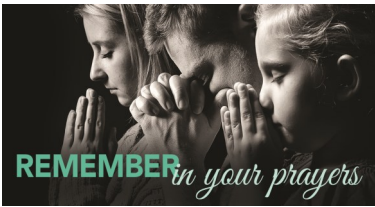
In his song, "Lose Yourself", the artist Eminem raps, "the mood all changed."
We all know that moment when the mood changes, when life turns from lighthearted to deadly serious. That happens in today's Gospel. Jesus has just heard that John the Baptist, his cousin, forerunner, and friend, has been murdered. As Matthew tells us, "When Jesus heard of it, He withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by Himself."
Until now, He had been teaching in parables and healing quietly. But John's death signals a new phase.
The shadow of the Cross begins to fall. Evil shows its teeth.
And how does Jesus respond? Not with rage or despair. He goes to a lonely place to go into deep communion with His Father. From that silence comes action. He feeds the multitude. Out of grief comes generosity. Out of sorrow, life. This is the rhythm of every disciple's life. When tragedy or violence breaks our hearts, we face a choice. We can react, or we can retreat in prayer — like and with Christ. This is the hidden place where pain becomes compassion and compassion becomes self-gift.
Lord Jesus, when life intensifies, draw me into Your quiet strength. In that hidden place with You and the Father, turn my heartbreak into the bread of love for the world. Amen. — Fr. John Muir



LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR AUG. 1 & 2 2026
Sat. Aug. 8 @ 4:30PM @ St. Nicholas
Reader: Don Cureton
Music: Sally Rehberger, Barb Zaloga, & Colleen Lozier
Euch. Min.: Marce & Brenda Tebbe
Server: Pat Kalous

Sun. Aug. 9 @ 8:00AM @ St. Gertrude
Reader: Katrina Korsmeyer
Music: Nick Worman & Randy Eckstein
Sacristan: Wendy Essenpreis
Euch.Min.: Karen Knackstedt, Judi Rode & Sue Messerli
Ushers: Randy & Dianne Leitschuh
Servers: Alissa & Evonna Korsmeyer

Sun. Aug. 9 @10:00AM @ IC
Reader: Mary Bergman
Music: Roger Frey & Madi Crawford
Servers: Emma Winte & Rebecca Dea
Euch. Min.: Barry Otto, Tim Schuette & John Dea



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, Steve Korte, David Kuehn, Sue Lubber, Christopher Marti, Taylor Marti, Barry May, Alex McCall, Eleanor Munie, Cody Neal, Jeannie Oestringer, Marcia Rowe, Gunner Sadler, Abby Schrage, Bill Schroeder, Suzanne Steinbring, Brenda Usher, Marie Weis, Rich Weis, Ginny Werner, Dean Wernle, Melanie Wernle, Paige 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, 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.

Readings for the week of August 2, 2026
Sunday:
Is 55:1-3/Ps 145:8-9, 15-16, 17-18/ Rom 8:35, 37-39/Mt 14:13-21
Monday:
Jer 28:1-17/Ps 119:29, 43, 79, 80, 95, 102/ Mt 14:22-36
Tuesday:
Jer 30:1-2, 12-15, 18-22/Ps 102:16-18, 19-21, 29, 22-23/Mt 14:22-36 or Mt 15:1-2, 10-14
Wednesday:
Jer 31:1-7/Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13/Mt 15:21-28
Thursday:
Dn 7:9-10, 13-14/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9/ 2 Pt 1:16-19/Mt 17:1-9
Friday:
Na 2:1, 3; 3:1-3, 6-7/Dt 32:35cd-36ab, 39abcd, 41/Mt 16:24-28
Saturday:
Hb 1:12-2:4/Ps 9:8-9, 10-11, 12-13/ Mt 17:14-20
Next Sunday:
1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Rom 9:1-5/Mt 14:22-33

"Jesus said to them, 'There is no need for them to go away; give them some food yourselves'." – Matthew 14:16
This is what Jesus said right before he fed the five thousand men. How often do we really place our trust in Jesus when the situation looks grim? With Jesus, no gift is too small or insignificant when offered with love. But, we have to do our part. We should trust that Jesus will provide all that we need. We need to believe that Jesus has a better plan in store for us.

When Jesus multiplied the loaves and fishes, He didn't create only what was needed — there were leftovers that could be saved and shared again. God is lavish in bestowing His grace upon us. He always gives enough to share.

St. Nicholas Council meeting will be held on Tues., Aug. 11th 7PM



Observances for the week of August 2, 2026
Sunday: 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Tuesday: St. John Vianney, Priest
Wednesday: The Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major
Thursday: The Transfiguration of the Lord
Friday: St. Sixtus II, Pope, and Companions, Martyrs; St. Cajetan, Priest
Saturday: St. Dominic, Priest
Next Sunday: 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Question and Answer Series with Fr. Cal
St. Gertrude church is beginning a series after mass that Fr. Cal will explain in 2-3 minutes concerning questions you may have relating to Catholic mass, traditions or whatever else concerning our catholic faith.
There will be a box in the vestibule **"QUESTIONS FOR FR. CAL"**. Please put your questions in the box for him. Thank you.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION YOUTH GROUP
Bloom BOUQUET BAR
CREATE. CONNECT. BLOOM.
Come build a beautiful bouquet and grow in faith and friendship!
AUGUST 2ND
11:00am - 12:30pm PM
Bouquet Donations: **\$10 PER BOUQUET** or more if you'd like to donate!
Immaculate Conception Church Pierron, IL
FAITH • FRIENDS • FLOWERS



Prayer for the Transfiguration
Dear Lord,
The heavens and earth declare your glory!
Fill our hearts with songs of praise for you, today and always!
Come, Lord Jesus!



STG Collection	7/26/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$730.00
Sister Parish	\$20.00
Maintenance Fund	\$10.00
Cemetery	\$10.00



In June St Nicholas church received a new roof due to hail damage which was covered by insurance less the \$10,000 deductible. The Annual Capital Improvement collection is one way which assists in maintaining & keeping our beautiful church open to gather in worship.
Thank you for your generous support.
God is good, all the time. All the time, God is good!



"We are called to bear witness to our joyful faith in Christ the Savior."
— Pope LEO XIV

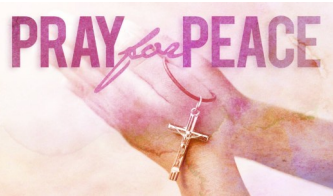
IC Collection	7/26/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$1,540.00
Assumption of Mary	\$10.00
Sister Parish	\$125.00
Building Fund	\$15.00
Cemetery	\$15.00
Candles	\$86.00

Grantfork PSR Registration for 26-27 is now open. Please scan the code to complete the registration form by August 16th. If you have any questions, you may reach Karen Straube at 618-806-5472 or Grantfork PSR at parish.psr@gmail.com.



BORN INTO Eternal Life
FAITHFUL DEPARTED
Prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of **Carly Denise Schwierjohn**, daughter of **Brian & Shelby Schwierjohn** and granddaughter of **Dennis & Eileen Schwierjohn**, of our parish family. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Carly's family.
Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord...
Please keep the Schwierjohn Family in your prayers!

Peace Mass for an End to War and Violence in our World
at Immaculate Conception
August 13, 2026
Thursday
6:00pm Adoration
6:30pm Mass



Mon.	(Aug. 3)	8:00am
Tues.	(Aug. 4)	8:00am (St.G)
Wed.	(Aug. 5)	8:00am (IC)
Thur.	(Aug. 6)	8:00am (St.N)
Fri.	(Aug. 7)	8:00am (IC)
Sat.	(Aug. 8)	4:30pm (St.N)
Sun.	(Aug. 9)	8:00am (St.G)
Sun.	(Aug. 9)	10:00am (IC)

† **Mass Intentions** †
No Mass
† **All Souls**
† **Jack & Diane Huelskamp** —Int. of Bill & Denise Trickey
† **Linda Schleper** —Int. of Lowell & Denise Wellen
† **Firmin & Thelka Pierron** —Int. of Jane & Dale Grieser
† **Michael Lazella** —Int. of the Lazella Family
† **Art Warnecke** — Int. of Bill & Denise Trickey
For the People of St. Gertrude, St. Nicholas & Immaculate Conception
† **Willie & Ann Weis** —Int. of Mary Rutz
† **Weakie, Ellie, and Tammy Potthast** —Int. of Gary & Mary Korte

Join us to celebrate Brenda Tebbe's 70th birthday

Sunday, August 2nd
St Nicholas Catholic Church
401 East State Street
Pocahontas, IL.
This will be an Open House from 1-5 PM.
There will be light refreshments.
No gifts expected.

STN Collection	7/25/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$1,377.00
Assumption of Mary	\$5.00
Sister Parish	\$155.00

Have you been married 50+ years?
Time to celebrate!

On October 4 at 2 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield, all couples married 50 years or more are invited to attend a special Mass honoring their marriage vocation! The Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Thomas John Paprocki. A reception will follow after Mass. Please register for the Mass by going to dio.org/events and clicking on the Oct 4 Mass. The reception will showcase all photos submitted in the last two years. Due to the number of couples attending, please only submit photos if you have not done so in past years. Any questions? Call Ruth Staab at 217-698-8500.

**August HACSM
Pantry Needs:
Toilet Paper &
Brownie Mix**

**Pocahontas Food
Pantry Needs:
Canned veggies,
spaghetti & sauce,
canned meat, ravioli,
cake mix & icing,
cereal. All donations
are appreciated!**



There is a table set up in the hallway at IC Church. Please bring fruit & veggies from your gardens that you would like to share with the church community.

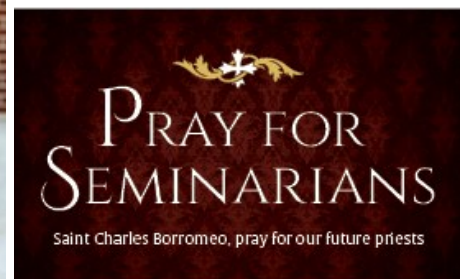


VOCATION MINISTRY PRAY FOR VOCATIONS: August 2, 2026

For the Church, that families may nourish others in Christ's love.
For engaged couples, that they may answer God's call to holy matrimony with open hearts.
For our families, that they may encourage children to recognize and respond to God's prompting.



Pray For Our Seminarians
Samuel Lutostanski
Propaedeutic
St. Meinrad Seminary



Save the Date!
SDCCW 97th Annual Convention
Springfield IL, Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

THURSDAY, September 3, 2026, Quincy, IL
Hosted by the Quincy Deanery Council of Catholic Women

Guest Speaker: Teresa Tomeo

Event Theme: Handmaids of the Lord: Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Teresa Tomeo is an author, syndicated Catholic talk show host, and motivational speaker with more than 40 years of experience in TV, radio, and newspaper, 20 of which were as a secular reporter/anchor in the Detroit market. Teresa appears frequently on the EWTN Global Catholic Television Network, including hosting the *EWTN Learn Series*, "Saints in Italy."

Morning Rosary and Mass at St. Anthony of Padua Church, Quincy IL.
Followed by Registration and Program at The Ambiance Banquet Hall, Quincy, IL.
Registration information will be sent out later.
Follow Quincy Deanery Council of Catholic Women on Facebook

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Presents

GOD CHOSE YOU FOR ME

**A New Experience:
1 Day.
7 Hours.
Transform your Marriage.**

Aug 22, 2026 - St. Nicholas Roman Catholic Church in O'Fallon, IL
Oct 3, 2026 - Sts. Joachim and Ann Parish in St. Charles, MO
Cost \$100 Includes Lunch

To Register Contact:
Eric & Terry Engholm
(931) 994-7882
Email: Eric.Terry.Engholm@wwme.org

Register Online Here

www.wwme.org

18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME AUGUST 1 & 2, 2026



Saint Nicholas - Pocahontas



Immaculate Conception—Pierron



Saint Gertrude—Grantfork

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2026

18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

He said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds. They all ate and were satisfied. - Mt 14:19c-20

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

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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