



Lord Jesus, Sower of life, soften the soil of my heart. Let Your Word take root in me again, and bring forth the fruit You desire. Amen. —Fr. John Muir

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR JULY 18 & 19 2026
Sat. July 18 @ 4:30PM @ St. Nicholas
Reader: Pat Kalous
Music: Sally Rehberger, Barb Zaloga, & Colleen Lozier
Euch. Min.: Doris Eilers & Joyce Schlemper
Server: Pat Kalous

Sun. July 19 @ 8:00AM @ St. Gertrude
Reader: Brenda Knackstedt
Music: Nick Worman & Randy Eckstein
Sacristan: Brenda Knackstedt
Euch.Min.: Carole Sauls, Judi Rode & Gail Ohren
Ushers: Karen & Nathaniel Straube
Servers: Nevin Straube & Elizabeth Schwarz

Sun. July 19 @10:00AM @ IC
Reader: John Dea
Music: Joy Winkeler
Servers: Landry Korte & Avery Gilomen
Euch. Min.: Tim Schuette, Mary Korte & Evelyn Knebel

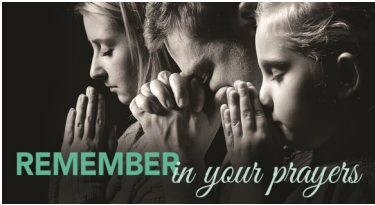
Grantfork PSR Registration for 26-27 is now open. Please scan the code to complete the registration form by August 16th. If you have any questions, you may reach Karen Straube at 618-806-5472 or Grantfork PSR at parish.psr@gmail.com.



Mon.	(July13)	8:00am	
Tues.	(July14)	8:00am	(St.G)
Wed.	(July15)	8:00am	(IC)
Thur.	(July16)	8:00am	(St.N)
Fri.	(July17)	8:00am	(IC)
Sat.	(July18)	4:30pm	(St.N)
Sun.	(July19)	8:00am	(St.G)
Sun.	(July19)	10:00am	(IC)

Sometimes I feel capable of absorbing almost anything except God’s Word. My mind soaks up song lyrics, sports trivia, and endless online content. But what was the reading at Mass this morning? I struggle to recall. That realization discourages me, and it leads to an uncomfortable question. What is my heart really for? Is it shaped for constant information and distraction, or is it truly designed for God? Am I capable of deeply receiving His Word? Jesus speaks directly to this today with a simple image. “The seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it.” By comparing the Word of the Kingdom to seed, Jesus reveals something hopeful about us. The human heart is made for that seed. Soil and seed belong together. No matter how compacted, rocky, or overgrown the ground has become, the Sower never stops sowing.

God loves our hearts. He sees them as a farmer sees his fields, full of potential. Human hearts can indeed “understand the Word.” Understanding does not mean mastering information. It means letting the Word sink in, interacting with it, and giving it a home. It means trusting that, beneath the surface, God is at work in quiet and hidden ways. When we allow the Holy Spirit to loosen the soil of our hearts through prayer, repentance, and simplicity, the same Word that created the universe begins to bear fruit in us. 30, 60, even a hundredfold.



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 Luber, 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.



OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults)
WELCOME! On July 12, at the 10:00am Mass at IC, we will celebrate Rites of Entrance Into the Catechumenate for Jacob Willis; and Welcoming the Candidates for Continuing Conversion for Mitch Campbell and Christopher Dilks. We will celebrate the Rite of Welcoming for Autumn Kalous on July 18 at the 4:30pm Mass at St. Nicholas. Please welcome Jacob, Mitch, Christopher and Autumn into our faith community and pray for them as they grow in faith with us.

† **Mass Intentions** †

No Mass
† **All Souls**
† **Delores Rinderer** —Int. of Bill & Denise Trickey
† **Robin Pollmann** —Int. of Jane Dapkus
† **Willene Rosalia Fehrmann** —Int. of the Wirz Family
† **Ken & Betty Wagner** —Int. of Greg & Amy Munie
For the People of St. Nicholas, St. Gertrude & Immaculate Conception
† **Sonny Schwarz** — Int. of Emily Schwarz & Family
† **Perry Knackstedt** — Int. of Brenda Knackstedt & Family
† **Ruth Schroeder** —Int. of Barb Zaloga
† **Charles Zurliene** —Int. of the Zurliene Family

Next St. Gertrude Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 21st at 7:00PM

Readings for the week of July 12, 2026

Sunday:
Is 55:10-11/Ps 65:10, 11, 12-13, 14/
Rom 8:18-23/Mt 13:1-23 or 13:1-9

Monday:
Is 1:10-17/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/
Mt 10:34-11:1

Tuesday:
Is 7:1-9/Ps 48:2-3a, 3b-4, 5-6, 7-8/
Mt 11:20-24

Wednesday:
Is 10:5-7, 13b-16/Ps 94:5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 14-15/Mt 11:25-27

Thursday:
Is 26:7-9, 12, 16-19/Ps 102:13-14ab and 15, 16-18, 19-21/Mt 11:28-30

Friday:
Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8/Is 38:10, 12abcd, 16/
Mt 12:1-8

Saturday:
Mi 2:1-5/Ps 10:1-2, 3-4, 7-8, 14/Mt 12:14-21

Next Sunday:
Wis 12:13, 16-19/Ps 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16/
Rom 8:26-27/Mt 13:24-43 or 13:24-30

ST. KATERI TEKAKWITHA



On July 14th, we celebrate the feast of the "Lily of the Mohawks." St. Kateri Tekakwitha is the first Native American woman to be canonized. Orphaned by a smallpox outbreak, Kateri survived with severe scarring and impaired eyesight. Despite tragedy, she was a devout girl at a young age, often building crosses from sticks in the woods. When she was 18, she began secret instruction in the Catholic faith with French missionaries. Her commitment to Christianity and vow of virginity was misunderstood and ridiculed by her fellow villagers. She escaped to a near-by mission, where she attended daily Mass, taught the children, and cared for the sick and the elderly. Sometimes the greatest misunderstandings can come from those closest to us. Like St. Kateri, God invites us to be faithful to our commitments of faith and to always respond in love.

STN Collection	7/4/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$1,854.00
Assumption of Mary	\$10.00
Sister Parish	\$80.00
Capital Improvements	\$10.00

“The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word but then the cares of the world and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit.” – Matthew 13:22

Does the lure of riches and material goods choke God out of your life? Are you so caught up in earthly activities that you have no time for God? Gratitude and generosity are virtues that we should strive to do on a daily basis. Every decision we make either takes us one step closer to God or one step further away. What we receive at Mass every Sunday should be shared with others all the other days of the week as well.

Our hearts are fertile ground for the Word of God, but we must be careful gardeners. Be conscious of what damages and depletes the soil of your heart. Pay attention to what nourishes it, so that the goodness of the Word can bloom forth into the world.



St Nicholas Gary Plog Soup & Song– Oct 17, 2026

Please text or call Barb Zaloga at 618-704-5006 if you would like to make a donation (monetary or item) for the raffle. A quilt has already been donated. Thank you!



KIRCHENFEST
Join St. Paul Parish in Highland, IL in celebrating the 54th Kirchenfest August 21st – August 23rd!

Highlights include:

- Great Live Music
- Games
- MEGA Flea Market
- Live Auction, Saturday - 11 am
- Polka Mass, Sunday – 10 am
- Chicken Dinner, Sunday, (carry-out & drive-thru) 11 am
- Bingo, Saturday 6:30 pm - 9 pm & Sunday 1 pm - 7 pm
- Strassenlauf Run, Saturday morning
- Tour Von Brats Bike Ride, Sunday Morning

Scan the QR Code to purchase Kirchenfest Mega Raffle Tickets with \$40,000 of Cash Prizes. Winner need not be present to win.



See www.Kirchenfest.com for full details.



Observances for the week of July 12, 2026

Sunday: 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: St. Henry
Tuesday: St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin
Wednesday: St. Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Thursday: Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Saturday: St. Camillus de Lellis, Priest
Next Sunday: 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ten Random Stewardship ideas for the month of July

- 1) Invite a single friend over for a meal.
- 2) Turn off the TV, phone, and computer, and spend an hour devoted to someone you love.
- 3) Attend an extra Mass on a weekday this month.
- 4) Take your rosary with you for an early morning walk.
- 5) Think of a charity that is amply blessed at Christmas. Remember it with a gift mid-year.
- 6) Each day, say a prayer for one of the world’s trouble spots.
- 7) Buy or pick a flower for someone without a “reason”.
- 8) Take your family to a farmer’s market if in season.
- 9) Stop for a moment during your busy day and enjoy an ice cream cone or other favorite treat.
- 10) Splurge on some produce and buy enough to share with someone in need.



Blood Drive at St. Nicholas Church Hall Tuesday, July 14th 1:00PM to 6:00PM
Please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter **STNICHOLASCHURCH** to schedule an appointment.

Give Something that Means Something®
1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

STG Collection	7/5/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$1,526.00
Maintenance Fund	\$190.00
Sister Parish	\$50.00

IC Collection	7/5/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$4,048.32
Sister Parish	\$78.00
Building Fund	\$385.00
Candles	\$42.00



July Pantry Needs:
Toilet Paper & Brownie Mix
 HACSM can always use monetary donations to allow them to purchase additional items as needed. All food donations will still be accepted no matter the above assignment each month. We appreciate your support!
 Thank You!

Called & Sent
 A fun and powerful retreat for high school students filled with prayer and fellowship!

JULY 18-23, 2026
 VILLA MARIA RETREAT CENTER - SPRINGFIELD

Diocese of Springfield in Illinois
VOCATIONS
 For Christ & His Church

INFO & REGISTRATION
go.dio.org/dv8



The July meeting of UFO's (United For Others) will be held on July 14th at 7PM at Grantfork UCC. Rummage thru your closet to dress in your high school decade style. (clothes, hairstyles & jewelry).

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

GOD CHOSE YOU FOR ME is a seven-hour experience designed to deepen the spiritual connection between married couples. The experience is hosted by a priest or deacon, a married couple, and a surviving spouse. Create a personal prayer for your marriage, and realize God's call to a relationship of unity and holiness.

"The two greatest commandments are to love God and to love our neighbor. He said the second commandment is like the first. We cannot love God unless we also love our neighbor."

JOHN KUYPERS
The Peace Promise

DynamicCatholic.com



Pray For Our Seminarians
Steven Kehoe
 Discipleship II
 St. Meinrad Seminary

PRAY FOR SEMINARIANS
 Saint Charles Borromeo, pray for our future priests

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

The National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows 83rd Annual Healing & Hope Novena to Our Lady of the Snows — Tuesday, July 28, through Wednesday, August 5, 2026, 7pm nightly at Church of Our Lady of the Snows.

Finding Healing and Hope through Our Lady's Intercession — Join us in prayer for any or all of these 9 evening Masses, as we pray for our own needs & those of our world. For the schedule of themes and more information, visit snows.org/Novena

VOCATION MINISTRY **PRAY FOR VOCATIONS: July 12, 2026**

For the Church, that families may bear abundant fruit by serving God and others with faith and generosity.

For those discerning their vocation, that God's Word may take root and flourish in their hearts.

For our parish, that we may cultivate vocations through prayer, guidance, and community support.

15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME JULY 11 & 12, 2026



Saint Nicholas - Pocahontas



Immaculate Conception—Pierron



Saint Gertrude—Grantfork

SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2026

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"A SOWER WENT OUT TO SOW."

MATTHEW 13:3

©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