

BUILT BALANCED PROTECTED & LED

Zander Price was the fastest kid at my grade school. He won every race on Field Day. To me, his swiftness meant he was the greatest. Zander was the best. It's the same with the speediest Apostle on Easter morning. John tell us he "ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first." (John 20:4). But only *after* Peter entered did John go in, see the burial cloths, and believe. Here is a symbol of two dimensions of the Church. John, the beloved disciple, represents the contemplative, mystical life: affection, prayer, intimacy. Peter, the rock, represents the Church's institutional life: steady, authoritative, structured...but slower.

Of course, John runs faster! Love is the heartbeat of Christian faith, so love will always arrive first. Peter's role is, in a sense, secondary. He arrives later, but is still very much needed. John waits for him. The Church must be built, balanced, protected, and led. Love without structure can vanish; structure without love becomes lifeless.

This dynamic is not just historical— it is personal. In you, there is a John who longs to run to the tomb in love. Let him run! Pray, sing, love Jesus. There is also a Peter, who eventually gets to the tomb and takes charge. The Risen Christ wants both. Remember: if you want to get to the mystery of Jesus' resurrection *fast*....love Him, for love is best.

—Father John Muir

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR APRIL 11 & 12, 2026

Sun. Apr. 11 @ 8:00AM @ St. Nicholas

Reader: Kelsey Bentlage
Music: Sally Rehberger, Barb Zaloga, & Colleen Lozier
Euch. Min.: Lowell & Denise Wellen
Server: Pat Kalous

Sun. Apr. 12 @ 8:00AM @ St. Gertrude

Reader: Jacob Lewis
Music: Nick Worman & Randy Eckstein
Sacristan: Wendy Essenpreis
Euch.Min.: Carole Sauls, Judi Rode & Zach Lewis
Ushers: Randy & Dianne Leitschuh
Servers: Oliver Lewis & Aubrey Barr

Sun. Apr. 12 @10:00AM @ IC

Reader: Terry Potthast
Music: Joy Winkeler
Servers: Jentry Lobello & Landry Korte
Euch. Min.: Mary Korte, Tim Schuette & Barry Otto



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 Kormeyer, 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, Suzanne Steinbring, Marcia Rowe, Gunner Sadler, Abby Schrage, Bill Schroeder, Marie 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.

Easter Blessing from Alton Deanery Council of Catholic Women

Easter is a busy time for many but especially mom's, grandma's and women of our parishes. Forty days for Life activities, March for Life, fish fry's, spring bake sales, Lenten retreats, prayer meetings, bible studies, and the list goes on. But in all the business we also must find solace and peace like Mary sitting at the feet of Jesus. We pray that you find that balance with prayer and that your heart be as full as your table this Easter. If you want to get inspired by a great group and grow your ministry outside your parish, join us at the upcoming deanery meeting June 5 at St Peter and Paul Collinsville beginning at 9 AM and end with a special mass held at noon. For more information contact Sue Schwegel 618-304-2916 or schwegelsue@gmail.com.



We congratulate and welcome Kelsi, Cayden & Conlin Hannan to our Immaculate Conception family. Cayden and Conlin received the Sacrament of Baptism and Kelsi received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. Kelsi's sponsor & godparent is Terry Potthast.

Cayden and Conlin's godparents are Amanda Korte & Shaun Hannan.

Please keep Kelsi, Cayden & Conlin in your prayers!



† Mass Intentions †

No Mass

† Clara Liening — Int. of Bruce & Karen Kovach

† All Souls

† Bill Huelsmann — Int. of the estate

† Anna Oestringer — Int. of Jeannie Korte & Family

† Lois Brightenburg — Int. of Bill & Denise Trickey

† Bill & Dolores Kalous — Int. of Pat Kalous

For the People of St. Nicholas, St. Gertrude & Immaculate Conception

† Kenneth Kormeyer — Int. of Ron & Goldie Woodside

† Hants & Alice Knebel — Int. of Sherri & Scott Lawson

† Alvin & Shirley Frey — Int. of Pearl & Karen Immer

Readings for the week of April 5, 2026

Sunday:
Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23/Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/Jn 20:1-9 or Mt 28:1-10 Or Lk 24:13-35

Monday:
Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11/Mt 28:8-15

Tuesday:
Acts 2:36-41/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 and 22/Jn 20:11-18

Wednesday:
Acts 3:1-10/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9/ Lk 24:13-35

Thursday:
Acts 3:11-26/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9/ Lk 24:35-48

Friday:
Acts 4:1-12/Ps 118:1-2 and 4, 22-24, 25-27a/Jn 21:1-14

Saturday:
Acts 4:13-21/Ps 118:1 and 14-15ab, 16-18, 19-21/Mk 16:9-15

Next Sunday:
Acts 2:42-47/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24/ 1 Pt 1:3-9/Jn 20:19-31

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.

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

STN Collection	3/28/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$1,375.00
Sister Parish	\$130.00
Seminarians	\$200.00
Holy Land	\$40.00
Home Missions	\$100.00
Budget Goal	\$1,257.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$118.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$49,023.00
Support Actual	\$54,712.27
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$5,689.27

"Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth." Colossians 3:2

Do you put God first in all things? Possessions, money, power, ego can easily become gods to many of us. Do a quick check of what is important to you. Is God at the very top of the list? If not, your priorities need to be re-adjusted. Don't let earthly things become a god before God. This is also the first commandment – I am the Lord your God, you shall not have any strange gods before me.

I go to church — to Catholic Mass, specifically — for the same reason Mary Magdalene went to the tomb. I go because it is the last place I saw Christ, and I am desperate to see Him again.

Spring Cemetery Clean-Up

Please remove all Christmas flowers & seasonal decorations at both Calvary and St. Gertrude Cemeteries so that the grounds can be readied for spring clean-up. Please remember that the tombstones should be kept clear of statues, flower pots, etc. so that lawncare can be provided. Thank You.



St Gertrude cordially invites your family to join us for a morning of worship by Fr. Cal Osiaga and music by The Prairie Travelers. Fr. Cal will also be blessing the US Flag that will be raised on our new cemetery flag-pole immediately following mass. The US Flag was donated by Highland VFW Post 5694. April 19th 8AM Mass. HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US!!

STG Collection	3/29/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$1,153.61
Easter Flowers	\$35.00
Sister Parish	\$65.00
Raffle Donation	\$100.00
Budget Goal	\$1,505.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$-351.39
Support Needed (budget)	\$58,695.00
Support Actual	\$57,168.27
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$-1,526.73

Observances for the week of April 5, 2026

Sunday: Easter Sunday
Monday: Monday within the Octave of Easter
Tuesday: Tuesday within the Octave of Easter
Wednesday: Wednesday within the Octave of Easter
Thursday: Thursday within the Octave of Easter
Friday: Friday within the Octave of Easter
Saturday: Saturday within the Octave of Easter
Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)



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 26th. 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.



PAPAYA Youth Group who performed the Shadow Stations of the Cross at IC last Wednesday



IC Collection	3/29/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$2,111.00
Sister Parish	\$105.00
Easter Flowers	\$75.00
Seminarians	\$10.00
Holy Land	\$10.00
Home Missions	\$10.00
Candles	\$77.00
Building Fund	\$15.00
Budget Goal	\$2,672.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$-561.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$104,208.00
Support Actual	\$106,260.12
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$2,052.12



Mon. (Apr. 6)	8:00am	
Tues. (Apr. 7)	8:00am	(St.G)
Tues. (Apr. 7)	9:30am	(H.H.)
Wed. (Apr. 8)	8:00am	(IC)
Thur. (Apr. 9)	8:00am	(St.N)
Fri. (Apr.10)	8:00am	(IC)
Sat. (Apr.11)	4:30pm	(St.N)

Sun. (Apr.12)	8:00am	(St.G)
Sun. (Apr.12)	10:00am	(IC)

We are joining the Alton Deanery Council of Catholic Women as a 3- parish activity.

St. Gertrude Altar Society is paying the \$50 membership fee. There are 3 or 4 annual deanery meetings which are open to all women. These meetings are for spirituality, friendship, and refreshments. There are also retreats, participation in the Women of Distinction, Annual Diocesan conventions and there was a prayer breakfast at St. Elizabeth's in Granite City on Oct 21st where several ladies from our 3 parishes attended. More information about upcoming events will be in the bulletin.

Divine Mercy Sunday Mass -April 12
St. Paul Catholic Church, Highland
Adoration and Rosary :1PM
Confessions 1:30pm
Chaplet of the Divine Mercy 2:30PM
Holy Mass : 3pm
Refreshments to follow

St. Elizabeth Catholic Church Altar Society's Spring Craft & Vendor Fair
on April 25th 9AM to 3pm.
Local small businesses, crafts, food, free entry. 150 N. Windmill St. in Marine. 618-887-4535
stelizabethhungary@dio.org



St. Getrude'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!



Happy Easter! As our CRS Rice Bowl journey comes to an end, may the Eucharist continue to transform our lives and help us respond to God's call to serve our global family. Let us commit to sharing the joy of the Resurrection with people in our local community and around the world. Don't forget to turn in your CRS Rice Bowl or donate online at crsricebowl.org/give.

40 Days for Life: Treasures - This word is used to describe your efforts, which to us are from above. Thank you for your witness to stand for the belief that all life is sacred. We have completed the Spring 2026 Campaign and during the times we have spent praying outside the abortion center, there have been evidence that our efforts matter. Here are some blessings from this campaign: We have been blessed with great weather (on most days) in which to pray! Over **1,350** hours were peacefully prayed! **Five** Babies were saved (That we know of!) **58** hours were prayed by our clergy and religious brothers and sisters. Thank you for inspiring us to persevere. **37** organizations participated in adopting a day or partial day! Again we have been blessed with humble and God loving volunteers to fill the gaps! You are amazing! This is the **14th** campaign in Granite City. Prayer partners have shown that these campaigns have thrived over the last **eight** years! **40 Days for Life works because prayer works! Thank you for standing up for life!**

Meet Our Seminarians



Wyatt Clark
 Propaedeutic
 Bishop Simon Bruté Seminary

One thing I have learned about discernment is to stay close to the Sacraments especially the Eucharist and Confession as well as to set aside time to spend with Jesus in the Eucharist in adoration.



EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD APRIL 5, 2026



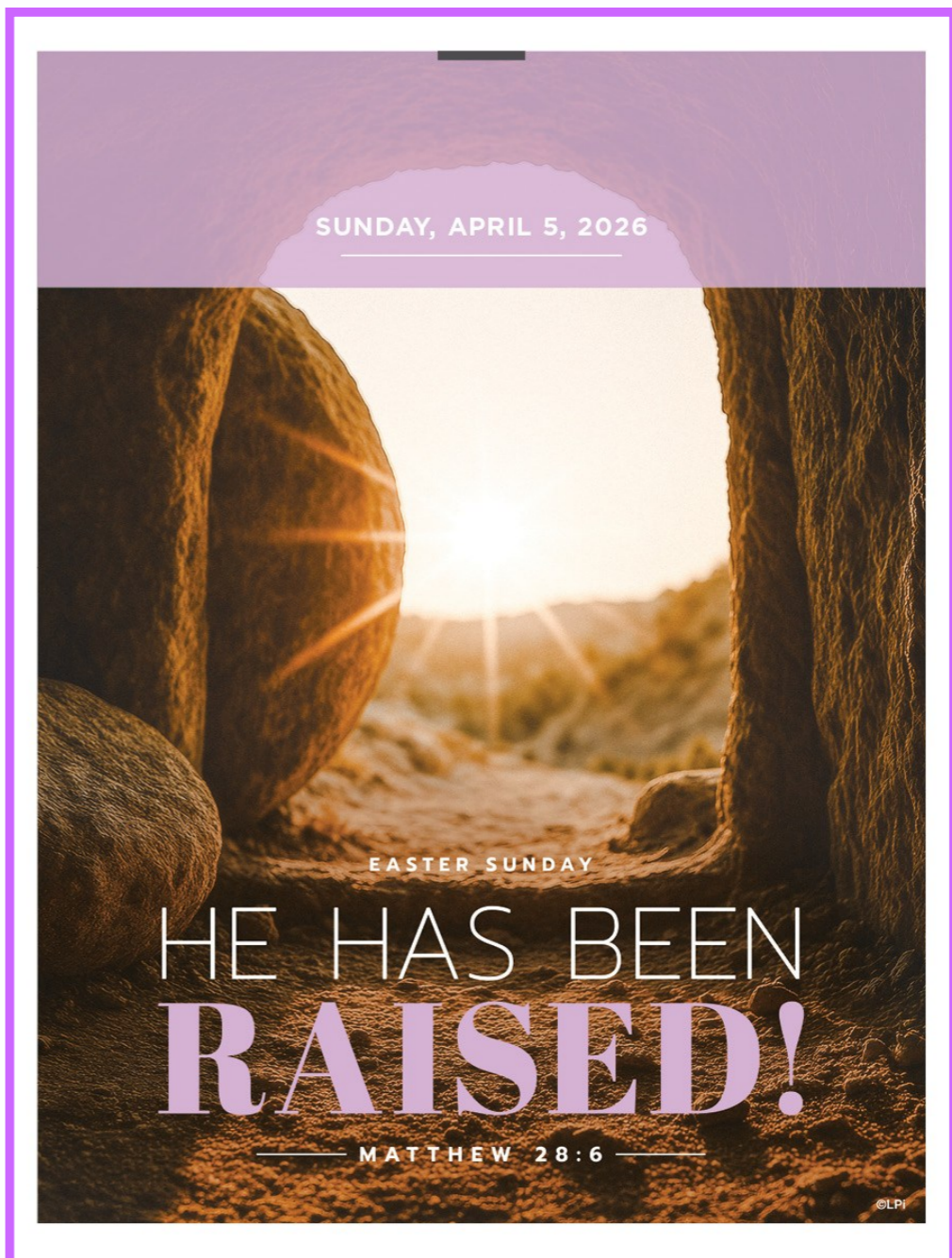
Saint Nicholas - Pocahontas



Immaculate Conception—Pierron



Saint Gertrude—Grantfork



+BISHOP
 THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI
 DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD
 IN ILLINOIS
 ✠
 REV. CALLISTUS OSIAGA
 PASTOR

SONYA CURRY
 SECRETARY

Mailing Address:
 PO Box 410
 Pierron, IL 62273

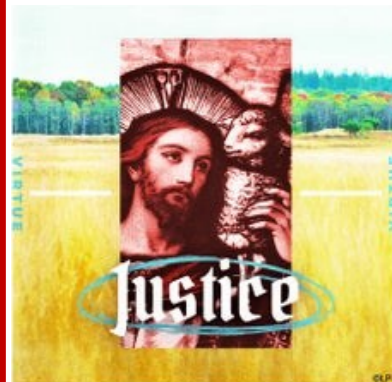
E-mail Address:
icpierron@parish.dio.org
 Website:
www.icstnsta.org
 Office: 618-669-2391
 Rectory: 618-654-2789

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



Virtues Explained!
Justice

"Original justice" is what the Catechism calls the state of harmony that existed between God, mankind and all creation (CCC 376) before the fall. Though original justice perished when sin entered the world, our souls still bear its memory, and we are oriented toward this virtue like a flower is oriented to the light of the sun: "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will have their fill." (Matthew 5:6)

The cardinal virtue of justice has to do with the fulfillment of our duty to one another and to God (religion is the justice we owe to our Creator). Justice gives us a framework for existing and justice is made possible by the virtue of charity (CCC 1825) because justice demands what is right for all, not just for one. ©LPI



God's plans for our sanctification are never quite what we expect them to be; and are often quite contrary to our own ideas, no matter how well we are acquainted with God's ways. He always hides His sanctifying work from our eyes, for He must preserve in us that humility and poverty of spirit which is essential for sanctity.
 Dom M. Eugene Boylan, O.C.R.
 (from the meditation for April 1, 2026)

Virtues, Explained!

The cardinal virtue of justice has to do with the fulfillment of our duty to one another and to God. It gives us a framework for existing in the world alongside one another, in reverence with our respective rights, property, and obligations.

Easter Blessing

Dear Lord,
 Where there has been death, bring new life! Renew and redeem the sorrow in our stories with Your goodness and grace. Bless our hearts and homes this Easter and always. Amen.