



Recently I received a note from a teenager I met years ago. He wrote, "Dear Father Muir, you probably do not remember me, but I wanted to thank you for your inspiring and humorous homilies at the parish. They helped me appreciate the beauty of Catholicism, which I have now embraced in a personal way." That small note moved me more than he probably imagined. I had no idea my words had taken root in him. I was simply sowing seeds — week by week, Mass by Mass. Someone else — his parents, a youth minister, or God Himself — was doing the deeper work.

Now this young man is joyfully reaping a harvest of faith.

In today's Gospel, Jesus offers living water to a Samaritan woman whose life had been full of searching and disappointment. By the end of their encounter, she becomes a bold and joyful evangelist. Then Jesus turns to his disciples and says something easily overlooked: "One sows and another reaps" (John 4:37). He is helping them — and us — understand how evangelization works. Often, the one who sows the seeds of faith is not the one who sees the fruit. This Lent, ask yourself: Are you in a sowing phase or a reaping phase? If you are sowing — raising children, praying for someone, mentoring — be patient. Your work matters. If you are reaping — seeing someone come alive in faith — be grateful. You are standing on sacred ground, tilled and watered by others.

Lenten challenge: Thank someone who once sowed faith into your life. And keep sowing, even when the harvest is unseen. —Father John Muir

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR MARCH 14 & 15, 2026

Sat. Mar. 14 @ 4:30PM @ St. Nicholas

Reader: Don Cureton
 Music: Sally Rehberger, Barb Zaloga, & Colleen Lozier
 Euch. Min.: Brenda & Marce Tebbe
 Server: Pat Kalous

Sun. Mar. 15 @ 8:00AM @ St. Gertrude

Reader: Brenda Knackstedt
 Music: Nick Worman & Randy Eckstein
 Sacristan: Brenda Knackstedt
 Euch.Min.: Terry & Sue Dickman & Carole Sauls
 Ushers: Karen & Nathaniel Straube
 Servers: Nevin Straube & Allisa Korsmeyer

Sun. Mar. 15 @ 10:00AM @ IC

Reader: Tim Schuette
 Music: Joy Winkeler
 Servers: Emma Winte & Paige Knebel
 Euch. Min.: John Dea, Erica Knebel & Amy Gilomen



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, Suzanne Steinbring, Marcia Rowe, Gunner Sadler, Abby Schrage, Bill Schroeder, Marie Weis, Ginny Werner, Dean 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.

Immaculate Conception Chicken Dinner

A big THANK YOU to all who helped make this dinner a success and for supporting our parish.
Special Thanks to the chicken dinner committee:

Pat Flanigan, Jan Wessel, Terry & Jim Potthast, Mary & Gary Korte, Carla Crawford, Vicky Weber, Denise & Lowell Wellen

There were 1,255 dinners sold.
 Extra Food Sale: \$218.00
 Less extra cakes bought: \$236.56
 Total Income of \$17,231.39



Anointing of the Sick will be offered after all Masses this weekend **March 7 & 8.**

ECCE AGNUS DEI

Service of Scripture, sacred music, and silent prayer, reflecting on the Last Seven Words of Jesus Christ from the Cross.

Laetare Sunday, March 15th | 4:00 PM
 Holy Angels Catholic Church
 345 E Acton Ave, Wood River

Offered by the Father McGivney Catholic HS Choirs, under the direction of Ms. Dani Boulanger.



† Mass Intentions †

No Mass
 † **All Souls**
 † **Lee Rinderer** — Int. of Bill & Denise Trickey
 † **Becky McCullah** — Int. of Mark Williams
 † **Tom Whalen** — Int. of Mary & Gary Korte
 † **Bertha Voss** — Int. of Bill & Denise Trickey
For the People of St. Nicholas, St. Gertrude & Immaculate Conception
 † **Shirley Schwarz & the Schwarz & Luitjohan Families** — Int. of Gena & Tim Daiber
 † **Weakie, Ellie & Tammy Potthast** — Int. of Lenny & Lucille Schreiber
 † **Willie & Anna Weis** — Int. of Clarence & Marlene Goestenkors

Readings for the week of March 8, 2026

Sunday:
 Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

Monday:
 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab/Ps 42:2, 3; 42:3, 4/Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday:
 Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 18:21-35

Wednesday:
 Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20/Mt 5:17-19

Thursday:
 Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 11:14-23

Friday:
 Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17/Mk 12:28-34

Saturday:
 Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab/Lk 18:9-14

Next Sunday:
 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38



Easter Flowers/Decorations
 Please remember to add names in memory or in honor of a loved one if you would like them to be listed in the bulletin.



Stations of the Cross During Lent
IC after the 8AM Mass on Wednesdays
STN after the 8AM Mass on Thursdays
STG Wednesdays at 6:30PM
IC 6:30PM— Mar. 11, 18, April 1 and Shadow Stations Mar 25th at dusk.

STN Collection	2/28/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$1,985.00
Catholic Charities	\$200.00
Sister Parish	\$35.00
CRS	\$50.00
Easter Flowers	\$155.00
Budget Goal	\$1,257.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$728.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$43,995.00
Support Actual	\$50,515.27
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$6,520.27

"Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again." John 4:13

Jesus reminds us that material things, even something as basic as water, can never satisfy us over the long run. When we build our lives around material possessions we will always want more, and no amount will ever satisfy our desire. True joy and peace only come when we follow Jesus — when we become more "God-centered" and less "self-centered."

Jesus did not convert the Samaritan woman with miracles. He converted her with presence. He was not afraid of her sins or her failures. He listened to her. He sat with her. Let us learn from this: when we are present to others, we can show them the face of God.



ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS to the National Council of Catholic Women, celebrating 106 years of service and leadership in our Catholic values. Founded and approved by the U.S. Council of Catholic Bishops on March 4, 1920.

Primarily they began as Altar and Rosary Societies within churches, expanding to include other organizations as parishes grew in size, including Daughters of Isabella, Daughters of America, Right to Life, school mothers, mother clubs, and K.C. Auxiliaries, etc.

Regardless of affiliations, all Catholic Women are part of the Council. The "ladder" might begin on parish level, then Deanery level (23 Parishes make up Alton Deanery), followed to the Diocesan level (5 Deaneries make up Springfield level), then proceed to the National level. We strive to make a difference by our actions and voices within our parishes, communities, National and International ministries. Please pray for guidance in their works and continued prayers for world peace.

Submitted by: Alton Deanery Council of Catholic Women Board

STG Collection	3/1/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$1,928.00
Sister Parish	\$25.00
Easter Flowers	\$135.00
Maintenance Fund	\$215.00
Catholic Times	\$20.00
Catholic Charities	\$60.00
CRS	\$25.00
Candles	\$31.00
Budget Goal	\$1,505.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$423.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$52,675.00
Support Actual	\$48,068.66
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$-4,606.34

Observances for the week of March 8, 2026

Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Lent; Daylight Saving Time begins

Monday: St. Frances of Rome, Religious

Next Sunday: 4th Sunday of Lent

Next IC Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10th at 7PM.

March HACSM Pantry Needs:
Chicken Helper
We appreciate your support! Thank You!

Lenten Penance Services

BE MERCIFUL, LORD, FOR WE HAVE SINNED. PSALM 51

St. Jerome and MPH at St. Jerome in Troy - March 8 at 6pm

Immaculate Conception Pierron - March 11 @ 7:00PM

Tri City (Holy Family, St. Elizabeth, St. Mary/St. Mark- Granite City/ Madison) March 12 at 6:30 pm @ Holy Family

St. Cecilia/St. Mary Edw @ St. Cecilia - Wednesday, March 18, 6:00pm

St. Paul Highland - March 18 6:30pm

St. Paul Highland - March 19 10:00am

St. Mary's, Alton - Lenten Day of Reconciliation - Saturday, March 21, at least one priest will be available from 8:30am - 5pm (no service)

St. Boniface - March 22 2:30 p.m.

IC Collection	3/1/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$4,313.00
Sister Parish	\$50.00
Catholic Charities	\$190.00
CRS	\$110.00
Easter Flowers	\$120.00
Building Fund	\$60.00
Candles	\$84.00
Budget Goal	\$2,672.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$1,641.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$93,520.00
Support Actual	\$97,685.77
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$4,165.77

Mon. (Mar. 9)	8:00am
Tues. (Mar.10)	8:00am (St.G)
Wed. (Mar.11)	8:00am (IC)
Thur. (Mar.12)	8:00am (St.N)
Fri. (Mar.13)	8:00am (IC)
Sat. (Mar.14)	4:30pm (St.N)
Sun. (Mar.15)	8:00am (St.G)
Sun. (Mar.15)	10:00am (IC)

Join us for the 2026 Women's Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, March 21, 2026
St. Elizabeth Catholic Church
2300 Pontoon Rd, Granite City, IL 62040

8:15am- 8:50 Registration/Rosary
Mass 9:00am
Breakfast 10:15am
Speaker 11:00am
Closing prayer 12:15pm

Guest Speaker:
Jen Ryan,
Director of Pastoral Education
and Evangelization
Kenrick-Glennon Seminary

Space is limited! Register before
March 10, 2026, to reserve your spot.

For more information, contact
Tammie Mooshagian, 618-920-1792 or
TammieRae58@gmail.com

Cost: \$30 per registrant accepted by mail or
via the QR code.
Checks payable to St. Elizabeth Ladies
Sodality

Hosted by the Ladies Sodality
of St. Elizabeth Parish



Name: _____ Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Parish: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Enclosed is my check to reserve my seat (\$30)
(one form per registrant)

Additional donation for Seminarians \$ _____



Beginning Ash Wednesday, February 18th, then every
Friday until Good Friday, April 3rd.

**DINE-IN AND CARRY OUT AVAILABLE CASH AND
CREDIT/DEBIT CARDS ACCEPTED**

Three meal sizes \$8, \$11, & \$14. Desserts available
THANK YOU 4:00 PM-- 7:00 PM



**Virtues Explained!
Mercy**

"And what does the Lord require of you? Only this: to do what is right, to show mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8)
But what does it mean to show true mercy?

God's mercy to us knows no bounds, but that mercy does not compel Him to grant us everything our appetitive passions desire. God's perfect mercy could never allow for something that would harm His children. A father whose child has a toothache cannot, out of mercy, give the child the candy he wants, no matter how the tears of the child grieve the father's heart. The father can, and should, surround the child with love and sympathy, and help him to remedy the problem that lies at the heart of his grief.

This is true virtuous mercy — a choice governed by reason, not merely an emotion. ©LPi

Virtues, Explained!

True virtuous mercy is a choice governed by reason, not merely a feeling. God's mercy to us knows no bounds, but that mercy does not compel Him to grant us everything our appetitive passions desire. Rather, His perfect mercy is directed toward supplying our needs.

Blessing of Living Water

Lord, where there has been dryness in my life, bless me with Your living water!
Where I fear to dream of new hope and growth, bless me with Your living water!
Where I'm thirsty for new and abundant life, bless me with Your living water!
Drench the parched earth with Your promise, bless me with Your living water!
Amen.

Madison County Catholic Charities 2026 Annual Fundraiser
Help On The Move

Saturday, April 18, 2026 / 6:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Julia's Banquet Center

101 Eastgate Plaza / East Alton, IL 62024

Dinner, Beer, Wine, Music & Activities



Dinner Tickets: \$60 each
Raffle Tickets: \$25 or
buy 2 get 1 free

To purchase tickets: scan the
QR code or visit cc.dio.org.

\$10,000 IN RAFFLE PRIZES

One \$5,000 winner, one \$2,000 winner, and three \$1,000 winners

ST. SERRA VOCATIONS CLUB – LENTEN DAY OF REFLECTION

All are welcome to attend a Lenten Day of Reflection hosted by the St. Serra Vocations Club on Wed., March 11, from 11:00am to 2:30pm at St. Ambrose Church & Community Center, Godfrey. The day includes Mass, two reflection talks, lunch, and the opportunity for Confession. Retreat Director: Fr. Tom Donovan. Cost is \$25 per person; RSVP is required for lunch. To register, please contact Carolyn at casimansky@gmail.com or 618-463-1793. Non-members are most welcome!

Spaghetti Dinner

ST. PAUL 6TH GRADE CARRY OUT SPAGHETTI DINNER

Sunday, March 8, 2026
11:00 am – 5:00 pm

Pick up from: St. Paul School Cafeteria
(Corner of Ninth and Lemon Street, Highland, Illinois)

Includes Spaghetti with Meat Sauce, Italian Salad, Breadsticks, Freshly Baked Desserts

Carryout - \$13

For tickets, see any 6th Grade student or contact St. Paul School (651-7525)

Proceeds will help fund the class trips in 7th and 8th grade



Nourishing Futures in Guatemala—
In Guatemala, nutrition classes and savings programs give mothers and families better opportunities to improve their health, nutrition and financial well-being. Visit crsricebowl.org/week-3 to read how your support of CRS Rice Bowl is helping the Guatemala community thrive.

"Seeking God's will is not something that's done once or twice in a lifetime. Seeking and responding to the Lord's voice is something we have the opportunity to do every day."

GARY ZIMACK
Faith, Hope, and Clarity

DynamicCatholic.com

Meet Our Seminarians



Steven Kehoe
Discipleship II
St. Meinrad Seminary

One thing I have learned in my discernment is about being pruned so you might bear more fruit. Humility receives this gift with joy.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 7 & 8, 2026



Saint Nicholas - Pocahontas



Immaculate Conception—Pierron



Saint Gertrude—Grantfork

SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2026

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." - Jn 4:10

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