



Every now and then readers of these reflections write letters in which they object to something. Years ago, this Gospel of Luke 18 prompted such an email. A man wrote to me: “I find it deeply offensive that you suggest we are still sinners once we are God’s sons and daughters.” His objection stirred in me a profound awareness of the paradox at the heart of our faith. Are we sinners or beloved children of God?

In this Gospel (Luke 18:9-14), a tax collector appears as one who has missed the mark. His sins have isolated him. His breast-beating is not an act of self-flagellation for pride’s sake but a heartfelt admission of his failure and unworthiness. Remarkably, Jesus honors the candid humility of the parable’s penitent. Why? Because we are always in need of mercy, always. But even more, perhaps because on the cross, Jesus will fully embrace a similar place of humiliation and rejection. He will enter into the most shameful, offensive place of the sinner so that we might “go home justified.” There is a sacred tension in admitting that we are sinners and yet have profound hope. We are beloved sons and daughters of God, growing precisely through our honest acceptance of failure. When we cry, “Have mercy on us,” during Mass or when we repeat the “Jesus Prayer” in quiet moments, or in the confessional, we embrace our imperfections as fertile ground for divine grace. In doing so, we follow Christ’s example—finding true exaltation in the humble acknowledgment of our human frailty. — Fr. John Muir

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR NOVEMBER 1 & 2, 2025
Sat. Nov. 1 @ 4:30PM @ St. Nicholas

Reader: Pat Kalous Music: Sally Rehberger
Euch. Min.: Brenda & Marce Tebbe
Server: Pat Kalous
Sun. Nov. 2 @ 8:00AM @ St. Gertrude
Reader: Janice Korsmeyer Music: Nick Worman
Sacristan: Rich May
Euch.Min.: Terry & Sue Dickman & Carole Sauls
Ushers: Karen & Nathaniel Straube
Servers: Maris & Aubrey Barr

Sun. Nov. 2 @10:00AM @ IC

Reader: PAPAYA Youth Group
Music: Joy Winkeler
Servers: PAPAYA Youth Group
Euch. Min.: Rick & Ruth Zurliene & Evelyn Knebel



Father Cal (left to right), John Schwarz, Eliana Wirz, Kade Kapp, Emma Wirz, Hadley Richardson.



Ends November 2nd



Mon. (Oct.27)
Tues. (Oct.28)
Wed. (Oct.29)
Thur. (Oct.30)
Fri. (Oct.31)
Sat. (Nov. 1)
Sun. (Nov. 2)
Sun. (Nov. 2)

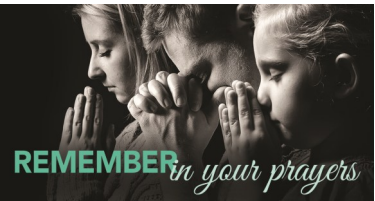
8:00am (St.G)
8:00am (IC)
8:00am (St.N)
8:00am (IC)
4:30pm (St.N)
8:00am (St.G)
10:00am (IC)

Sun. (Nov. 2) 3:00pm (St.N)

† **Mass Intentions** †

No Mass
For the People of St. Gertrude, St. Nicholas & Immaculate Conception

† **Mary Frank** — Int. of Virginia Vosholler
† **Dale Haberer** — Int. of Mark Williams
† **Firmin & Thelka Pierron** — Int. of Jane & Dale Grieser
† **Bill Halcomb** — Int. of Gerry Korte
† **Cliff & Judy Gruner** — Int. of Irma Korte
† **Nancy Zaloga** — Int. of Mary Bergman
† **Earl Weis** —Int. of Marie Weis & Family
† **All Souls**



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. Brayden Baer, Pat Beard, Ana Cantrell, Steve Crawford, Don Dapkus, Dave Deiters, Teresa Dickman, Joan Dickshot, Jean Fields, Scott Frank, Gabriel Frey, Jerry Fyke, Ed Gagen, Karen Grabowski, P.J. Hereford, Gene Jolliff, Pat Kalous, Val King, 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, Suzanne Steinbring, Marcia Rowe, Gunner Sadler, Abby Schrage, Bill & Ruth Schroeder, Bertha Voss, Marie Weis, Ginny Werner, Dean Wernle, Bob Winet.

FOR OUR PARISHIONERS IN NURSING HOMES:

Delmar Knebel, Ann Plocher, Barbara Weiss, Helen Wuebbles, Margie Zurliene and special people in our families.

FOR THOSE CURRENTLY SERVING IN THE MILITARY:

Adam Canfield, Tim Doll, 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.

Last Sunday, we had the joy of recognizing our St. Gertrude and St. Elizabeth PSR students who will receive sacraments this year. Please keep these young members of our parish in your prayers as they continue to grow in faith.

Second Grade – First Reconciliation

- Emma Wirz
- Sloane Suhre
- Kade Kapp
- Nora Frank
- Hadley Richardson

Third Grade – First Communion and Confirmation

- Josephine Winter
- John Schwarz
- Eliana Wirz
- Elleiah Compton
- Wyatt Kapp



Wyatt Kapp, Elleiah Compton, Josephine Winter, PSR teacher Lauren Maedge

Readings for the week of October 26, 2025

Sunday:
Sir 35:12-14, 16-18/Ps 34:2-3, 17-18, 19, 23 (7a)/2 Tm 4:6-8, 16-18/Lk 18:9-14

Monday:
Rom 8:12-17/Ps 68:2 and 4, 6-7ab, 20-21/Lk 13:10-17

Tuesday:
Eph 2:19-22/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Lk 6:12-16

Wednesday:
Rom 8:26-30/Ps 13:4-5, 6/Lk 13:22-30

Thursday:
Rom 8:31b-39/Ps 109:21-22, 26-27, 30-31/Lk 13:31-35

Friday:
Rom 9:1-5/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Lk 14:1-6

Saturday:
Rv 7:2-4, 9-14/Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/1 Jn 3:1-3/Mt 5:1-12a

Next Sunday:
Wis 3:1-9/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Rom 5:5-11 or Rom 6:3-9/Jn 6:37-40



Our 3 parishes are looking for people to volunteer for all ministries, such as Lector, Servers, Ushers, Eucharistic Ministers & Gift Bearers. If interested please call the parish office. Please consider volunteering a small amount of time to assist in these ministries. The word “liturgy” can be translated “the work of the people,” so it takes all of us to fully celebrate liturgies at our churches. We are truly blessed by the faithful service of our current liturgical ministers. Please consider joining them! Contact the parish office about sharing your gifts during our parish liturgies.



The Pharisee took such pride in his good deeds that he forgot to ask God for forgiveness; the tax collector acknowledged his many sins, and went home justified. Remember that we are saved not by our own merit, but by the mercy of God.

The next St. Gertrude Altar Society meeting will be held on Monday, October 27th at 7PM

STN Collection	10/18/25
Envelopes/Loose	\$1,385.00
Budget Goal	\$1,257.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$128.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$20,112.00
Support Actual	\$19,253.06
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$-858.94

“...for whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted.” Luke 18:14

Pride and ego are the root causes of most of our sins. Thinking your time is so valuable or your talent is better than anyone else or your money gives you status is another way of making those things “gods” before God. Pride is the opposite of humility. Remember, all that we have and all that we are is a gift from God. We should be humbled by God’s incredible generosity and be grateful for all we have been given. Ultimately, gratitude leads us to humility.



Our Annual Mass of Remembrance will be held at St. Nicholas Church on Sunday, November 2nd at 3:00PM. This liturgy will be especially in remembrance of anyone who has died since October 2024. The names of our deceased parishioners who died last year will be read after the homily at this Mass and

candles with the names of the deceased will be lit. For parishioners who have lost a loved one this past year who is not a member of IC, STN or STG please contact the parish office by Oct. 27th to have your loved ones name included in the Mass of Remembrance. If you cannot be present at this service, you may pick up your candle with your loved one’s name in the parish office. Please remember in prayer the souls of all the faithful departed and all who are grieving. As we enter this season of remembrance when we especially honor our brothers and sisters who have gone before us, may we always remember them in prayer and place our hope in the power of the Resurrected Christ, who binds us all together.

Please Note: This year All Saints is not a holy day of obligation. The weekend masses will be the same as a usual weekend.

Be Someone's Hero
Give Blood.



Blood Drive at St. Nicholas Church Hall on Tuesday, November 11th 2:00PM to 6:00PM

Please visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org) and enter STNICHOLASCHURCH to schedule an appointment.

STG Collection	10/19/25
Envelopes/Loose	\$1,774.00
Budget Goal	\$1,505.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$-269.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$24,080.00
Support Actual	\$20,228.00
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$-3,852.00

Observances for the week of October 26, 2025

Sunday: 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Tuesday: Sts. Simon and Jude, Apostles
Friday: All Hallow’s Eve
Saturday: All Saints
Next Sunday: The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls’ Day); Daylight Saving Time Ends

November Pantry Needs:

Toothbrushes (Single Packets) & Tooth Paste
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!

Mission Does Not End with October

As we conclude World Mission Month, we remember that the Church’s missionary work is ongoing. Our baptismal call to share the Gospel continues beyond this season, inviting us to remain engaged—through prayer, storytelling, and generous action. The first World Mission Sunday was celebrated nearly a century ago in 1926. The need today remains urgent: missionaries still serve in remote villages, conflict zones, refugee camps, and urban slums. They bring more than aid—they bring Jesus Christ. As St. Paul VI reminded us 50 years ago in his historic exhortation Evangelii Nuntiandi: “The Church exists in order to evangelize” (14). We are grateful for your support this October—and we invite you to continue the journey. Subscribe to Mission Magazine, join us in praying the World Mission Rosary year-round, and stay connected to the Pope’s missions through www.pontificalmissions.org. Hope does not disappoint—and the world still needs hope.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

©LPI

IC Collection	10/19/25
Envelopes/Loose	\$2,336.00
All Saints	\$30.00
World Mission	\$5.00
Black & Indian Mission	\$5.00
Cemetery	\$10.00
Building Fund	\$60.00
All Souls	\$50.00
Candles	\$43.00
Budget Goal	\$2,672.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$-306.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$42,752.00
Support Actual	\$36,954.84
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$-5,797.16



More pics of the Soup & Song in next week's bulletin



Gary Plog Soup & Song Report: Parishioners and other loyal St. Nicholas supporters donated all raffle prizes, soup, desserts, paper products etc. leaving 100% of all raffle ticket sales and event donations going directly to St Nicholas. Raffle ticket sales: \$1664; Donations: \$500; Grand Total \$2,164.

THANK YOU to all for your generous support. It was greatly appreciated! Nehemiah 3 "MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK"

Raffle winners: Christmas picture collage-Pat Kalous \$50 cash-Brianna Kalous \$50 Funderburk's gift card-Darlene May Christmas basket-Sue Lubert \$75 cash-Sue Romy \$100 cash-Tom Goestenorks \$150 Korte meats-Adam Kalous Quilt-Roger Frey

Thanks to Barb Zaloga for putting it all together!!

Meet Our Seminarians



Dennis Trickey Pastoral Internship Kenrick-Glennon Seminary



Gary's Son Chris and grandson



One thing that I learned throughout discernment is to put everything in the hands of God through our Blessed Mother. I have learned to trust in the desires of His Sacred Heart.



THE GUARDIAN ANGEL PRAYER

Devotions Explained! Guardian Angel Prayer

The Guardian Angel Prayer, also known as the Angel of God Prayer, invokes the protection of one's guardian angel. Often one of the first prayers taught to children, it consists of two rhyming couplets: "Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here, ever this day be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide."

Devotions, Explained!

Often one of the first prayers taught to children, the Guardian Angel Prayer consists of two rhyming couplets invoking the protection of one's guardian angel. Its exact authorship is unknown, but it originated in the medieval period.

Prayer of Praise

Dear God, As we look to the week ahead, help us to remember that You will accompany us at every moment — You who greet us with mercy anew every morning, and grace in abundance each night. Amen.

The exact authorship of this prayer is unknown. Scholars previously attributed it to St. Anselm of Canterbury, though many now believe a version composed by Reginald of Canterbury in his "Life of Malchus" serves as the prayer's inspiration. Guardian Angels are referred to in Scripture in the Book of Daniel (Dan. 12:1), the Gospel of Matthew (Matthew 18:10) and the Psalms (91:10-13). "From its beginning until death, human life is surrounded by their watchful care and intercession," says the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC 336).



Advertisement for Ladies Sodality Fall & Bazaar Turkey Dinner on Sunday, October 26, 11:00 - 5:00. Menu includes Turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, sweet potato casserole, green beans, cole slaw, cranberry relish, roll, coffee & tea. Prices: \$14 Adults, \$7 Child 4-10, 3 & under free! Dine In or Carry Out! Location: Saint Elizabeth Catholic Church & School, 2300 Pontoon Road, Granite City, IL 62040.

"Gaze upon Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and know that he is looking back at you in love."

DAN BURKE Into the Deep



DynamicCatholic.com

30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME OCTOBER 25 & 26, 2025



Saint Nicholas - Pocahontas



Immaculate Conception—Pierron



Saint Gertrude—Grantfork

Large graphic for the 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Text: THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME O GOD, BE MERCIFUL TO ME A SINNER. LUKE 18:13. SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2025. Image of a man with a beard looking down.

+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