



Around the time that the gold rushes ended in the nineteenth-century West, a curious phenomenon arose in New England known as money diggers. These were men who roamed the countryside with shovels, divining rods, and superstitious hope, convinced that treasure lay buried beneath their feet. Surely there must be gold under our feet. But there was not. The craze of these wild goose chases caused many to lose farms, families, and sanity.

In this week's Gospel, Jesus inaugurates a new era of spiritual money digging. He announces, "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field." He invites us to become treasure seekers who search in the right place. What is of greatest value is not money beneath our feet, but the infinite treasure hidden deep in the humanity of Jesus Himself, God's own blessed life. The glory of heaven lies veiled in His ordinary life, His teaching, His suffering, His Church. This teaching about the Kingdom changes things. Now we see the Church's doctrinal and moral teachings are not arbitrary rules. They are a treasure map. Follow them, and we will uncover divine happiness. Ignore them, and we will wander aimlessly, spade in hand, digging in empty fields, discouraged.

Where have we wasted energy seeking treasure in the wrong places? How have we given up on seeking the treasure of truly finding God's love for us? If so, let us repent of both. Then let us dust off our shovels and get back to digging deep into the field of Christ Jesus and His Church. After all, He never ceases seeking His treasure in us.

— Fr. John Muir

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

Sun. Aug. 2 @ 8:00AM @ St. Gertrude
Reader: Chad Korte
Music: Nick Worman & Randy Eckstein
Sacristan: Carole Sauls
Euch.Min.: Larry & Tina Luitjohan & Debby Schwarz
Ushers: Bryan Rutz & Kevin Schwarz
Servers: Aubrey & Maris Barr

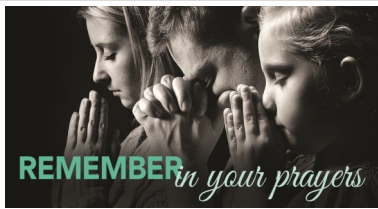
Sun. Aug. 2 @10:00AM @ IC
Reader: Tim Schuette
Music: Roger Frey & Madi Crawford
Servers: Dysten Potthast & Jack Williamson
Euch. Min.: Kristin Potthast, John Dea & Evelyn Knebel

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.	(July27)	8:00am
Tues.	(July28)	8:00am (St.G)
Wed.	(July29)	8:00am (IC)
Thur.	(July30)	8:00am (St.N)
Fri.	(July31)	8:00am (IC)
Sat.	(Aug. 1)	4:30pm (St.N)
Sun.	(Aug. 2)	8:00am (St.G)
Sun.	(Aug. 2)	10:00am (IC)

† **Mass Intentions** †
No Mass
† **Ken Weis** —Int. of the Weis Family
† **Father Stephen Poole** —Int. of Bill & Denise Trickey
† **All Souls**
† **Melvin & Marian Utecht** —Int. of Lowell & Denise Wellen
† **Scott Frank** —Int. of Barb & Frank Zaloga
For the People of St. Nicholas, St. Gertrude & Immaculate Conception
† **Ruth Korte** — Int. of Carolyn & Robert Firestone
† **Shirley Schwarz and the Schwarz & Luitjohan Families** — Int. of Lawrence Schwarz & Family
† **Julian & Loretta Frey** —Int. of the Frey Family
† **Ed & Ann Plocher** —Int. of Jeannie Korte



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, Carly Schwierjohn, 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

THANK YOU

Our organist at Immaculate Conception, **Joy Winkeler**, will be playing her last Sunday Mass today. Thank you Joy, for your loving devotion to provide our church with beautiful music over the past few years. We have truly been blessed with your musical ability and we want you to know how much we appreciate your time and talent.

“Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.”
-- Colossians 3:16

Readings for the week of July 26, 2026
Sunday:
1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12/Ps 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130/Rom 8:28-30/Mt 13:44-52 or 13:44-46
Monday:
Jer 13:1-11/Dt 32:18-19, 20, 21/Mt 13:31-35
Tuesday:
Jer 14:17-22/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13/ Mt 13:36-43
Wednesday:
Jer 15:10, 16-21/Ps 59:2-3, 4, 10-11, 17, 18/ Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42
Thursday:
Jer 18:1-6/Ps 146:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6ab/ Mt 13:47-53
Friday:
Jer 26:1-9/Ps 69:5, 8-10, 14/Mt 13:54-58
Saturday:
Jer 26:11-16, 24/Ps 69:15-16, 30-31, 33-34/ Mt 14:1-12
Next Sunday:
Is 55:1-3/Ps 145:8-9, 15-16, 17-18/ Rom 8:35, 37-39/Mt 14:13-21

“We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose.” – Romans 8:28

Do you really trust God? Do you really believe that God will provide all that you need? Faith is a challenge for everyone at times. Putting our trust in God, in everything we do, in good times and in bad, means that God's plan for our lives may be quite different than what we planned. When one door closes, another one opens. Trust in God, His plan is always better.

Christ compares the kingdom of Heaven to buried treasure — the find of a lifetime, one you would risk everything to keep. Are we doing all we can to hold onto this treasure that we have been lucky enough to discover? What is Heaven worth to us?



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 Donation: **\$10 PER BOUQUET** or more if you'd like to donate!

Immaculate Conception Church Pierron, IL
FAITH • FRIENDS • FLOWERS

DON'T MISS THIS!

Pray Along with the **Prairie Travelers**

Join us next Sunday, August 2nd for a special Mass at St. Gertrude with music by the Prairie Travelers acoustic trio! All are welcome!!

STN Collection	7/18/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$918.00

St. Gertrude Chicken Dinner	
Results 2026	
Donations to Dinner/Raffle	\$4350.00
Ticket Sales before Dinner	\$1259.00
Sales Day of Dinner	\$679.00
	\$6288.00
Less Prizes Paid -	\$1000.00
	\$5288.00
Proceeds from Dinners:	\$14,401.00
Food Sold	\$246.00
	\$14,647.00
Less: Advertising/Printing	\$399.42
Food Purchased:	\$7228.27
Supplies/Miscellaneous:	\$661.36
	\$8,289.05
Totals:	\$19,935.00
Less \$8,289.05	
Final Profit:	\$11,645.95

STG Collection	7/19/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$1,437.00

Observances for the week of July 26, 2026
Sunday: 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Wednesday: Sts. Martha, Mary and Lazarus
Thursday: St. Peter Chrysologus, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Friday: St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest
Saturday: St. Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Next Sunday: 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Pray for Holy Marriages
Joy Winkeler and Samuel Okema
Please join us in prayer for the upcoming marriage of Joy and Samuel.
Lord God, the source of all love, the wise plan of Your providence has brought these two together.
As they prepare themselves for the sacrament of marriage and pray for Your grace, grant that, strengthened by Your blessing, they may grow in their respect for one another and cherish each other with a sincere love. Amen.
They will be married at St. Boniface Church, Edwardsville on August 1, 2026
Please keep them and all those discerning Holy Marriage in your prayers.

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.

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.

IC Collection	7/19/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$2,647.00
Sister Parish	\$35.00
Building Fund	\$60.00
Candles	\$73.00



St. Elizabeth's Church Picnic

Marine, Illinois

BUFFET STYLE CHICKEN DINNER

With Homemade Dressing & Desserts

Sunday, July 26, 2026

Dinner Service Starts at 11:00 am

Dinner Tickets Sold Until 5:00 pm

Adults & Children (ages 6 – 10) sizes

Children 5 and under: Free

Adult CARRY-OUTS AVAILABLE:

½ chicken, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, slaw, applesauce and cake or pie

Refreshments ~ Raffle

Cash BINGO 12:30-7:30 pm ~ Attendance Prizes

BL50065

Come Rain or Shine ~ Everyone Cordially Invited!

Mass will be at 4:00 p.m. on Sat., July 25th

There will not be a 9:30 Mass Sunday morning!

August 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!



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.



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

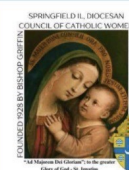
On October 4 at 2 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield, all couples married 50 years or more are invited to attend a special Mass honoring their marriage vocation! The Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Thomas John Paprocki. A reception will follow after Mass. Please register 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.



"Do not be afraid. In times of your own chaos or inner turmoil, do not be afraid to stand up against evil and regain control of your life. Tip your flag of triumph toward God as he stands there, waiting for you with his treaties of peace and forgiveness."

Christopher de Vinck
Simple Wonders

DynamicCatholic.com



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

What really happens at Mass Movie— The Real Presence: The Mass is a 28 minute film that reveals the unseen spiritual world of the Catholic Mass. At the heart of the film is the belief that Jesus Christ is truly present in the Eucharist —not symbolically, but in reality. With alarming statistics showing that many Catholics no longer believe in this foundational truth, the film seeks to reawaken faith & offer compelling insights into what the Church teaches about the Real Presence.

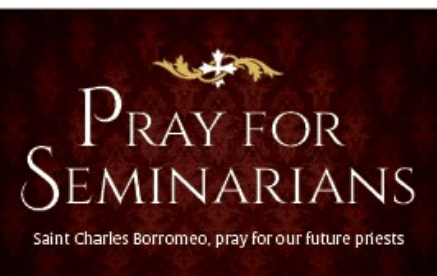
Watch for free: therealpresence.com

National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows – Visitors Center
When Mental Illness Hits Home Conference "Mental Health through the Ages"
Presenters: Sarah Surrey, LCSW, Mindy Grossman, Tanya Koelker, LCPC and Christopher Evans; **Friday, August 28th from 9:00AM to 3:00PM.** This annual and unique conference is for family members and friends who journey with people with mental illness and for professionals in the mental health field. Cost: \$50.00 per person, including lunch. Additional \$35.00 for **Illinois** CEUs; For more information, call 618-394-6281. Register online at <https://snows.org/illness2026>



Pray For Our Seminarians

Ryan Kaufmann
Propaedeutic
St. Meinrad Seminary



17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME JULY 25 & 26, 2026



Saint Nicholas - Pocahontas

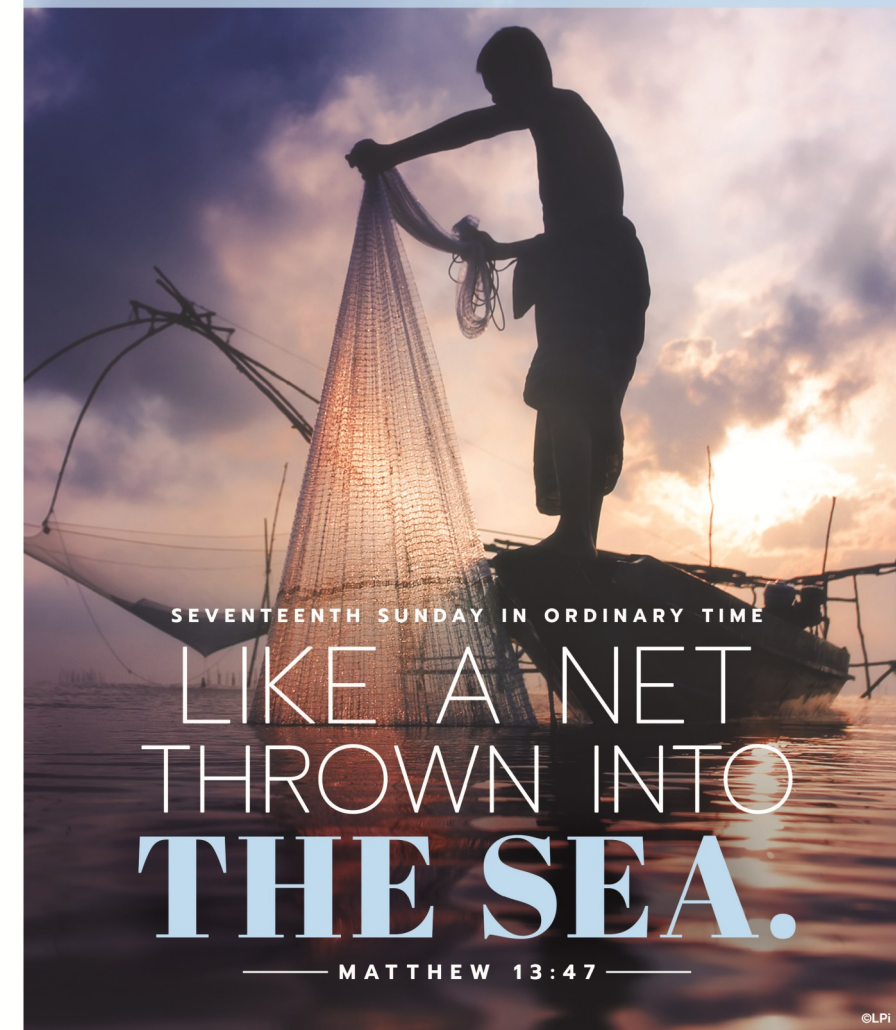


Immaculate Conception—Pierron



Saint Gertrude—Grantfork

SUNDAY, JULY 26, 2026



+BISHOP
THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI
DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD
IN ILLINOIS



REV. CALLISTUS OSIAGA
PASTOR

SONYA CURRY
SECRETARY

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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