



When I was a young altar server, I once overheard two very different comments about the Eucharist. One person asked, "Is Father distributing the bread or the wine?" Later, another asked, "Can you go get Jesus from the tabernacle?" Same parish, same Mass, but two very different ways of speaking. I pondered: So, is it bread that we pretend is Jesus? Or is Jesus a tiny white thing in a box? I was utterly confused.

This feast of Corpus Christi is an excellent time to think about how we should speak about the Eucharist. In today's Gospel, Jesus declares: "My flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink." (John 6:55). His words scandalized His listeners, who feared cannibalism, and even today puzzle many, who reduce them to a metaphor. Both miss the truth. The Church gives us better words that honor Jesus' words in the Gospel. After the consecration, we do not call it "bread" or "wine." Nor do we say, "a piece of Jesus" or even "Jesus". We say: *the Eucharist*. We say: *the Body and Blood of Christ*. We say: *the Real Presence*. We say: *the Most Blessed Sacrament*. These words safeguard the astonishing reality that Christ Himself is truly present, whole and entire, under the appearances of bread and wine. If we speak well about the Eucharist, we will think more clearly and believe more deeply. And if we believe more deeply, we will adore more truly the One who gives Himself to us — not bread, not wine, but Jesus Christ Himself, whole and entire. —Fr. John Muir

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR JUNE 13 & 14, 2026

Sat. June 13 @ 4:30PM @ St. Nicholas

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

Sun. June 14 @ 8:00AM @ St. Gertrude

Reader: Jacob Lewis
 Music: Nick Worman & Randy Eckstein
 Sacristan: Gail Ohren
 Euch.Min.: Zach Lewis, Carole Sauls & Judi Rode
 Ushers: Randy & Dianne Leitschuh
 Servers: Oliver Lewis & Katie Schwarz

Sun. June 14 @ 10:00AM @ IC

Reader: Mary Bergman
 Music: Joy Winkeler
 Servers: Rebecca Dea & Dylen Potthast
 Euch. Min.: Rick & Ruth Zurliene & Cindy Knebel



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 Korskmeier, 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, Marcia Rowe, Gunner Sadler, Abby Schrage, Bill Schroeder, Suzanne Steinbring, Brenda Usher, Marie Weis, Rich 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.



FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of **Gayle England**, mother of **John (Christi) Dea**, of our parish family. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Gayle's family and friends.

Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord...

The next Immaculate Conception Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 16th at 7PM.



Next week, our brothers and sisters representing the Land of Peace mission- a nonprofit organization will be with us speaking about the Christian situation in the Holy Land and selling Crucifixes, religious art work, and rosaries- all made of olive wood which is native to Israel and Bethlehem. Since tourism has greatly depleted, Christian families in the holy land, who depend on tourists, have been greatly affected. The goal of this mission is to help the poor and needy families in Bethlehem and Jerusalem. Sale of these goods will help them very much and also give you the opportunity to have "something" authentic from the holy land. Please browse and buy some articles. It is for a good cause and also a help to your personal devotion.

see Website: www.landofpeace.org



† **Mass Intentions** †
 No Mass
 † **All Souls**
 † **All Souls**
 † **Justin Haubrich** —Int. of Bill & Denise Trickey
 † **Ralph Goestenkers** —Int. of Steve & Jayne Ferguson
 † **Barbara Korte** —Int. of Mark Korte
 † **Clara Liening** —Int. of Matt & Debbie Zoehner
 † **Roland & Agnes Keller** — Int. of Charlie & Cathy Stewart
For the People of St. Gertrude, St. Nicholas & Immaculate Conception
 † **Tamie Horstmann** —Int. of Maurine Voegele & Family
 † **Allan & Millie Frey** —Int. of Lawrence Schwarz

Readings for the week of June 7, 2026

Sunday:
 Dt 8:2-3, 14b-16a/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/1 Cor 10:16-17/Jn 6:51-58

Monday:
 1 Kgs 17:1-6/ Ps 121:1bc-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8/ Mt 5:1-12

Tuesday:
 1 Kgs 17:7-16/ Ps 4:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/ Mt 5:13-16

Wednesday:
 1 Kgs 18:20-39/ Ps 16:1b-2ab, 4, 5ab and 8, 11/Mt 5:17-19

Thursday:
 Acts 11:21b-26; 13:1-3 (580)/Ps 65:10, 11, 12-13/Mt 5:20-26

Friday:
 Dt 7:6-11/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 10/ 1 Jn 4:7-16/Mt 11:25-30

Saturday:
 1 Kgs 19:19-21/Ps 16:1b-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10/Mt 5:33-37

Next Sunday:
 Ex 19:2-6a/Ps 100:1-2, 3, 5/Rom 5:6-11/ Mt 9:36-10:8

"Because there is one bread, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one bread." 1 Corinthians 10:17

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to lead holy lives and invite others to join us. We are called to be fed and to feed others. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, serves a twofold purpose. One, it helps build God's kingdom here on earth. Two, it helps us strengthen each other's relationship with God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. It becomes our roadmap to Heaven. Let's help each other get there!

The starving Israelites found their physical salvation in manna, "a food unknown to your fathers." We find our spiritual salvation in the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, a food unknown to too many souls. Blessed are we to partake of the Bread of Life.



A new church sign for St Gertrude Parish was installed on May 28 along Rt 160 in Grantfork. This project was made possible by the Matching Gift program thru the Catholic Fraternal Life Council 60. We want to give a big thank you to Alan Rode and Eric Hundsdorfer for installing the sign.



CARRY OUT CHICKEN DINNER Limited Dine-In Seating!

Sunday, June 7 Serving 11am - 4pm

St. Gertrude's Church 202 Locust St, Grantfork, IL **ALL DINNERS \$15**

Each Dinner Includes:

- 1/2 Chicken (Wing, Breast, Thigh, Leg)
- Dressing, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
- Green Beans, Slaw & Cake

NO SUBSTITUTIONS

COUNTRY STORE Lots of Homemade Items!

QUILT RAFFLE & CASH PRIZES!

STN Collection	5/30/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$757.01
Sister Parish	\$170.00
Retired Priests	\$50.00
Peter's Pence	\$15.00
Budget Goal	\$1,257.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$-499.99
Support Needed (budget)	\$60,336.00
Support Actual	\$65,197.37
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$4,861.37

STN Collection	5/31/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$924.00
Sister Parish	\$85.00
Communications	\$2.00
Maintenance Fund	\$70.00
Budget Goal	\$1,505.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$-581.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$72,240.00
Support Actual	\$68,450.27
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$-3,789.73

Observances for the week of June 7, 2026

Sunday: The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ
Tuesday: St. Ephrem, Deacon and Doctor of the Church
Thursday: St. Barnabas, Apostle
Friday: The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
Saturday: The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary; St. Anthony of Padua, Priest and Doctor of the Church
Next Sunday: 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time: *Flag Day*



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.

Baby Bottle Boomerang

PICK UP YOUR BOTTLE - MOTHER'S DAY - MAY 10
 FILL IT WITH CHECKS, CASH AND/OR CHANGE
 RETURN YOUR BOTTLE - FATHER'S DAY - JUNE 21

RELEVANT Pregnancy Options Center

IC Collection	5/31/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$1,303.00
Sister Parish	\$110.00
Retired Priests	\$10.00
Candles	\$222.00
Building Fund	\$10.00
Budget Goal	\$2,672.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$-1,359.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$128,256.00
Support Actual	\$128,421.20
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$165.20



Lunch Bunch will be giving out free sack lunches each Monday & Wednesday **May 27th thru August 5th.**

Delivery Sites:
Pierron: Country View Park Bus Stop Highway 143 & Country Lane West (11:45am to Noon) and at PIC Park Pavilion (12:05 to 12:15pm)

Grantfork: Cedar Springs Drive & Pocahontas Road (11:30 to 11:40am) and at Grantfork UCC on South Locust St. (11:45 to 11:55am)

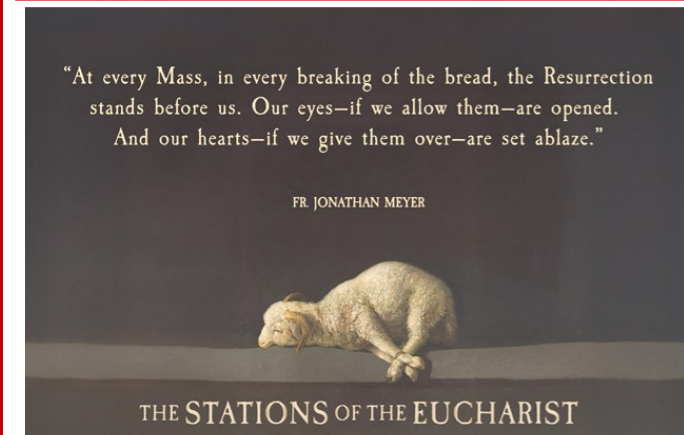
Donations are appreciated and can be made out to Highland Area Community Foundation with LUNCH Bunch in the memo & mailed to PO Box 571 Highland IL, 62249

CALLLED & Sent
 A fun and powerful retreat for high school students filled with prayer and fellowship!
JULY 18-23, 2026
 go.dio.org/dx8

VILLA MARIA RETREAT CENTER - SPRINGFIELD

Vatican II Didn't Do What You Think It Did – Vatican II in the 1960's continues to be discussed, implemented, debated, and disagreed upon all these decades later. But did Vatican II really implement changes so many people think it did? The answer is no. Go to [youtube.com/diospringfield](https://www.youtube.com/diospringfield) or search "Dive Deep" on all the major podcast platforms to listen and subscribe. *Dive Deep* is the podcast of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois.

Support for Divorced Parishioners – Be better equipped to handle life's ups-and-downs after divorce. The Divorced Catholic Recovering from Divorce 13-week group can be attended in person or online and addresses the most pressing challenges following divorce. Some of the session titles are: Why Did God Allow This to Happen? What Does the Church Really Teach About Divorce? and Working on Forgiveness. If interested, please visit divorcedcatholic.com. Questions? Contact Gracie Ortiz at gortiz@dio.org or 217-321-1124.



RETURNING TO THE ORDER OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS
 As of July 1, 2026, Bishop Paprocki has promulgated a return to liturgical norms for all funerals. Many factors played into the relaxation of normal practice, with accommodations, mainly due to Covid restrictions and these stayed in place. It is now time for us to return to our rich heritage and tradition of how funerals are celebrated. The 3 major parts to the Order of Christian Funerals:

- ◆ **The Vigil of the Deceased:** the day or evening before the funeral liturgy. This is a scripture prayer service that, even if the family doesn't desire a vigil, should be done nonetheless for the deceased at the funeral home. There will no longer be a vigil or visitation on the day of the funeral or immediately before the funeral Mass at the church.
- ◆ **The Funeral Liturgy:** Within or outside of Mass, the liturgy may not contain a eulogy, but instead words of remembrance, written by the family or friends about the faith life, example of the deceased and how they served God during their lifetime. These must be submitted to the priest prior to the funeral liturgy for approval and read by the priest or deacon. Outside of the funeral rites words can be spoken by anyone. (visitation, luncheon, etc.)
- ◆ **The Rite of Committal:** This rite at the cemetery expresses our belief in the resurrection of the just. If there are cremated remains these MUST be buried in earth or mausoleum.

The vigil prayers start the funeral liturgy that is continued with the procession to the church, the Mass, the procession to the place of committal and the committal service at the cemetery, which then ends the funeral liturgy. The purpose of the funeral rites is to offer worship, praise, and thanksgiving to God for the gift of life which has now been returned to God, and to commend the dead to God's merciful love and plead forgiveness of their sins, as well as to bring hope and consolation to the living.

Called and Courageous Women's Conference in Springfield
Coming in October
 Life is full of highs and lows, and it can be hard to see where God is in the middle of it all. At this year's Catholic Women's Conference, discover how to trust God in the messy, real moments of everyday life. Learn how your emotions influence your spiritual life and how to challenge the lies that lead to self-criticism, comparison, and discouragement. You'll leave with practical tools to learn how to recognize God in your daily life, grow in prayer, & live with greater confidence in your identity as a beloved daughter of God. No matter what your season of life – single, married, divorced, widowed, young adult, or retired – you'll find encouragement, community, and hope.
When? Saturday, October 10. Christ the King parish Center, Springfield. Women ages 18+. Cost \$30. For the full schedule, speaker information, and registration, visit go.dio.org/cac.
 Even if you are on the fence about God, remember: God is not on the fence about you.



Pray For Our Seminarians
Thomas Marten
 Configuration II
 Kenrick-Glennon Seminary



THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST JUNE 6 & 7, 2026



Saint Nicholas - Pocahontas



Immaculate Conception—Pierron



Saint Gertrude—Grantfork

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

I AM

THE LIVING BREAD.

— JOHN 6:51 —

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2026

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

Mailing Address:
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 Pierron, IL 62273
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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