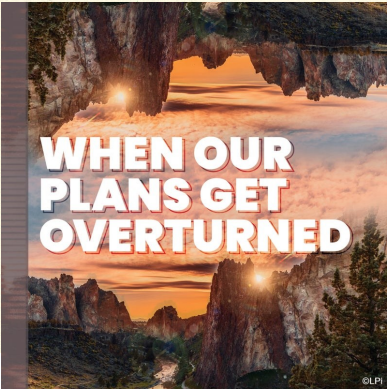




Do you know what it is like to be thrilled by the power of Christian faith one moment and then utterly fail in it the next? I do. That is Peter in today's Gospel. After last week's bold confession, he now hears Jesus speak of suffering and death, and something in him recoils. He takes Jesus aside and tries to correct Him. Jesus responds with the shocking rebuke, "Get behind me, Satan." Peter is the mirror of every disciple. We love Jesus until He contradicts the script we have written for our lives. Peter does not reject Jesus. He rejects a *suffering* Jesus. So do we, whenever we avoid a hard responsibility, resist a demanding relationship, or cling to comfort instead of choosing love.

We want a Lord who supports our plans, not one who overturns them.

Yet Jesus does not discard Peter. He redirects him. "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me." In effect, Jesus says, stop trying to lead Me. Let Me lead you. Discipleship does not begin with heroism or clarity but with surrender. It means trusting that God's path to life often passes through places we would never choose. Peter is all of us. We move from insight to confusion, from confidence to correction. That is why we should have hope. Jesus patiently teaches us again and again. Trust Me. Get behind Me. Follow Me.

When we stop fighting the crosses that come and start carrying them with Him, we discover a freedom deeper than comfort and a love stronger than fear. — Fr. John Muir

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR SEPT. 5 & 6 2026
Sat. Sept. 5 @ 4:30PM @ St. Nicholas
Reader: Marce Tebbe
Music: Sally Rehberger, Barb Zaloga, & Colleen Lozier
Euch. Min.: Doris Eilers & Joyce Schlemper
Server: Pat Kalous

Sun. Sept. 6 @ 8:00AM @ St. Gertrude
Reader: Janice Korsmeyer
Music: Roger Frey & Randy Eckstein
Sacristan: Rich May
Euch.Min.: Brenda Knackstedt, Jane Deiters & Sue Messerli
Ushers: Terry Dickman & Kevin Schwarz
Servers: Makayla & Evonna Korsmeyer

Sun. Sept. 6 @10:00AM @ IC
Reader: John Dea
Music: Sally Rehberger & Madi Crawford
Servers: Rebecca Dea & Landry Korte
Euch. Min.: Rick & Ruth Zurliene & Mary Korte

Baptism

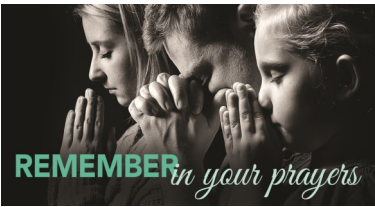
We congratulate the parents of and welcome **Ruthie Ann Maedge,** daughter of Brent & Kaitlin (Kent) Maedge who was baptized at St. Gertrude Church on Friday, August 28th, 2026. Godparents are Michelle & Daniel Scott


WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY!

Mon.	(Aug.31)	8:00am	
Tues.	(Sept. 1)	8:00am	(St.G)
Tues.	(Sept. 1)	9:30am	(H.H.)
Wed.	(Sept. 2)	8:00am	(IC)
Thur.	(Sept. 3)	8:00am	(St.N)
Fri.	(Sept. 4)	8:00am	(IC)
Sat.	(Sept. 5)	4:30pm	(St.N)
Sun.	(Sept. 6)	8:00am	(St.G)
Sun.	(Sept. 6)	10:00am	(IC)
Mon.	(Sept. 7)	8:00am	(IC)

† **Mass Intentions** †
No Mass

- † **All Souls**
- † **All Souls**
- † **Edward Joseph Friedel** — Int. of Bill & Denise Trickey
- † **Derek Burns** —Int. of Lowell & Denise Wellen
- † **Donna Rapp** —Int. of Richard Boehm
- † **Clara Liening** —Int. of Charlie & Jeannie Korte
- For the People of St. Nicholas, St. Gertrude & Immaculate Conception**
- † **Kenneth Korsmeyer** — Int. of Lawrence Schwarz
- † **Dean & June Sauls** — Int. of Skip & Joan Dickshot
- † **Dennis & Lorraine Huelskamp** — Int. of Bill & Denise Trickey
- † **Lawrence & Pat Frank** —Int. of Terry & Joan Riffel
- † **Ron Davis** —Int. of Steve & Debbie Baczewski



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, Barrett Korte, Denny Korte, Gerry Korte, Randy Korte, Steve Korte, David Kuehn, Sue Lubert, Christopher Marti, Taylor Marti, Barry May, Alex McCall, Eleanor Munie, Cody Neal, Marcia Rowe, Gunner Sadler, Abby Schrage, Bill Schroeder, 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, Jerriett 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.

Parish School of Religion —PSR

PSR for IC and STN starts on Wednesday, September 9th; 6:30 to 7:45PM at Immaculate Conception Hall in Pierron.

Registration is that evening starting at 6PM, and a class schedule will be given. Any 1st graders or new members, please contact Mary Jo Luitjohan, PSR DRE at 618-210-1112.

The Catholic University of America: Founded by the U.S. bishops in 1887, is the national university of the Catholic Church in the United States. The National Collection, established in 1903, is the only nationwide annual collection for Catholic higher education. Your gift helps educate future Catholic leaders—both lay and ordained—through a faith filled academic formation while supporting research, training, & initiatives that strengthen dioceses, parishes, & the Church throughout the nation.

Readings for the week of August 30, 2026

Sunday:
Jer 20:7-9/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/
Rom 12:1-2/Mt 16:21-27

Monday:
1 Cor 2:1-5/Ps 119:97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102/Lk 4:16-30

Tuesday:
1 Cor 2:10b-16/Ps 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13ab, 13cd-14/Lk 4:31-37

Wednesday:
1 Cor 3:1-9/Ps 33:12-13, 14-15, 20-21/
Lk 4:38-44

Thursday:
1 Cor 3:18-23/ Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/
Lk 5:1-11

Friday:
1 Cor 4:1-5/Ps 37:3-4, 5-6, 27-28, 39-40/
Lk 5:33-39

Saturday:
1 Cor 4:6b-15/Ps 145:17-18, 19-20, 21/
Lk 6:1-5

Next Sunday:
Ez 33:7-9/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7b, 7c-9/
Rom 13:8-10/Mt 18:15-20

FAITH. FRIENDS. FUN. THAT'S PAPAYA!

PAPAYA YOUTH GROUP
2026/2027 REGISTRATION!

- BUILD FRIENDSHIPS.** GROW IN FAITH & MAKE AN IMPACT!
- COMMUNITY SERVICE.** SERVE OTHERS & MAKE A DIFFERENCE!
- MISSION TRIPS.** GO. SERVE. CHANGE LIVES.
- FUN OUTINGS.** MAKE MEMORIES LAST A LIFETIME!
- DON'T MISS OUT!** BE A PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER!

COMPLETE THE REGISTRATION FORM

QUESTIONS? REACH OUT TO: KAY WILLIAMSON 618-225-9298



STN Collection	8/22/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$1,934.00
Assumption of Mary	\$100.00
Capital Improvement	\$300.00
Missionary Coop	\$100.00
Sister Parish	\$80.00
Budget Goal	\$1,276.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$758.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$10,208.00
Support Actual	\$11,184.00
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$976.00

"What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?" — Matthew 16:26

St. Francis of Assisi said, "Remember, you are what you are in the eyes of God, and nothing else." We often forget this stewardship wisdom when we spend all of our time, talent and treasure to gain more of the world's riches. We need to set our priorities based on God's values and not the values of the material world.

Plenty of people are drawn to Jesus. Curious about Him, inspired by Him. But can they carry the cross? Today, Jesus tells us that we cannot have one without the other — it is Christ and the cross, or nothing at all. Which will we choose?



O.C.I.A.
(Order of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Who comes to O.C.I.A.? Anybody and everybody!
Some of the most common reasons people attend O.C.I.A. are:

A personal call to join the Catholic Church, whether baptized in the Catholic Church, in another church, or never baptized.
A spouse of a member of the Catholic Church who desires to create harmony in the family by becoming a Catholic.
Someone who is planning marriage to a Catholic, and is considering joining the Catholic Church to bring unity to the marriage.
An individual who is baptized a Catholic, but has not received the Sacraments of Holy Eucharist or Confirmation; or who has stopped practicing the Catholic Faith and wishes to begin again.
Any Catholic who wishes to expand his or her knowledge of the faith or any non-Catholic who wishes to learn more about the Catholic Faith.

If you know of someone who falls into any of these categories, please let them know about the inquiry session to be held on Wednesday, Sept. 23rd 6:30PM at Immaculate Conception Parish Hall.
If that person wants to attend inquiry sessions, has any questions or would like to know more about what the Catholic Church teaches please have them call Mark Williams at 618-960-3319.

Next Immaculate Conception Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 15th at 7PM.

STG Collection	8/23/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$535.00
Budget Goal	\$1,524.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	-\$989.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$12,192.00
Support Actual	\$8,044.00
Surplus/Deficit YTD	-\$4,148.00

Observances for the week of August 30, 2026

Sunday: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Thursday: St. Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church
Next Sunday: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

★ GET YOUR TEAM TOGETHER & JOIN THE FUN! ★

YOUTH KICKBALL TOURNAMENT

GOOD FRIENDS GREAT FUN STRONGER COMMUNITY

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 20TH

PIC PARK
208 Edward's St
Pierron, IL

★ AGES 12-17 • FOOD • FELLOWSHIP • FUN ★

TEAM INFO
COED - EVEN BOY & GIRLS
8 PLAYERS PER TEAM
ALL SKILL LEVELS WELCOME!

FUN
CASH PRIZE FOR 1ST PLACE TEAM
--AND--
BRAGGING RIGHTS!

GAME INFO
DOUBLE ELIMINATION
STARTS AT NOON

SIGN UP TODAY!
CONTACT KAY WILLIAMSON
618-225-9298
TO REGISTER

\$50 NON-REFUNDABLE ENTRY FEE

★ PLAY HARD. HAVE FUN. MAKE MEMORIES. ★

Marriage on Tap STL – Join us on Thursday, September 17, 2026, at 6 p.m. for an evening of dinner and marriage enrichment at Syberg's on Dorsett in Maryland Heights, Missouri. Our guest speaker will be Father Paul Hoelsing, President Rector of Kenrick-Glennon Seminary. Fr. Hoelsing's presentation is entitled, "Lifting Each Other up Before God in Spousal Prayer." The evening is sponsored by Worldwide Marriage Encounter. Dinner is \$70 per couple/\$35 per person. Cash bar will be available. The deadline to register is Sept. 11th. For more information, check out Marriage on Tap STL on Facebook or email us at marriageontapstl@gmail.com.

IC Collection	8/23/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$1,700.00
Assumption of Mary	\$25.00
Building Fund	\$40.00
Candles	\$44.00
Sister Parish	\$55.00
Catholic University	\$10.00
Church in Africa	\$10.00
Budget Goal	\$2,920.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	-\$1,195.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$23,360.00
Support Actual	\$19,592.57
Surplus/Deficit YTD	-\$3,767.43

ST. LAWRENCE CHURCH
ANNUAL CHICKEN DINNER

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

11 A.M. - 2 P.M.

DINE-IN	PRICE
ADULT	\$15
AGE 6-12	\$8
AGE 0-5	FREE
CARRYOUT	\$15

CASH, CHECK OR VENMO
ACCEPTED FOR DINNERS



**CAKE WALK
COUNTRY STORE
SILENT AUCTION
RAFFLE**

DINNER INCLUDES:
FRIED CHICKEN
NOODLES
GREEN BEANS
MASHED POTATOES & GRAVY
COLESLAW
HOMEMADE DESSERT



From September 23 to November 1, we are uniting with many others for another major simultaneous pro-life mobilization – the 40 Days for Life campaign. The mission of 40 Days for Life is to bring together the Body of Christ in a spirit of unity during a focused 40 day campaign of prayer, fasting and peaceful activism, with the purpose of repentance, to seek God's favor to turn hearts and minds from a culture of death to a culture of life, thus bringing an end to abortion. We (Immaculate Conception, St. Gertrude & St. Nicholas parishes) chose to Adopt a Day in the 40 Days for Life Granite City campaign to end the demand for abortion. We were assigned Sunday, **September 27th** as our adopted day, and we need many prayer warriors to join us in this important mission. We will need prayer warriors to pray with us at the facility in Granite City, and we need some praying from work, home, etc. too. In order to sign up for an hour or two of prayer on Sept. 27, 2026, please call or text Denise Trickey at 618-358-3954. 40 Days for Life works because prayer works!

Thank you for standing up for life!



**September HACSM
Pantry Needs:**
Rice Sides & Instant
Packs of Oatmeal

Pocahontas Food Pantry Needs:
Canned veggies, spaghetti & sauce,
canned meat, ravioli, cake mix &
icing, cereal.
There is a box for donations at
St. Nicholas Church.
This pantry serves the people of
Pocahontas, Millersburg & Old Ripley.
Check or cash is also accepted; checks
written to "Pocahontas Food Pantry".
The pantry is available to all on the 1st
Monday of each month from 9AM to
11:30AM year-round. All donations
are greatly appreciated!!



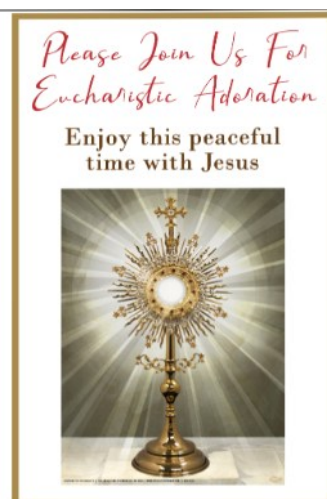
Amidst fires, droughts, storms, and floods, our Earth, God's creative gift, needs the commitment of Christian discipleship. September 1, World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, to October 4, the Feast of St. Francis, is the perfect season to read the Scriptures, study, reflect, pray, and act for the sake of our common home and the next generations.

The 2026 World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation takes place on September 1, 2026. Pope Leo XIV's chosen theme is "They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks" (Isaiah 2:4), focusing on the deep link between armed conflict and environmental destruction.



**Sign up for Called and Courageous
Women's Conference in Springfield**

What is preventing you from trusting God more deeply?
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, and 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. Questions? Contact Gracie Ortiz at gortiz@dio.org or 217-321-1124.



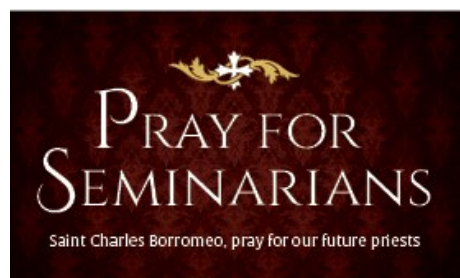
ADORATION SCHEDULE

St. Joseph Chapel
M-F 8:00-4:00p

St. Paul
T & TH 4-8pm

IC in Pierron
Fridays after 8:00am Mass

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



22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 29 & 30, 2026



Saint Nicholas - Pocahontas



Immaculate Conception—Pierron



Saint Gertrude—Grantfork



SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2026

22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." - Mt 16:24b-25

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:
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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