

I used to be a bad neighbor. I'd get wrapped up in my life and ignore those around me. Then I found sage advice from Benjamin Franklin to this effect: to be a better neighbor, ask someone to do a favor for you. It's counterintuitive, isn't it? Tell strangers that I need their help? Yuck. I'll risk looking needy. Worse, I'll be indebted to them. But I tried it, and it works like a charm. Recently I asked my neighbor Alan for a hacksaw, and Inga for an egg.

They kindly obliged, and our friendship is growing.

This week we hear a scribe of the law cynically ask Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10:29). Like him, we prefer to keep the list of our "neighbors" as short as possible. It requires less interruption and inconvenience. But when Jesus tells the parable of the Good Samaritan, He exposes the lonely, cold-hearted tendency of the scribe's (and our) heart. My "neighbor" is anyone I encounter who manifests a concrete need. There isn't time to require any other credential because human need opens us to the happy reciprocity which is love.

Jesus' words challenge us this week to ask a neighbor for help in some small way. How marvelous that God Himself shows us how. He moves into our world and asks us to love Him with small deeds of love.

Maybe that's where Ben Frankling got the idea. — Fr. John Muir

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR JULY 19 & 20, 2025
Sat. July 19 @ 4:30PM @ St. Nicholas
Reader: Marce Tebbe Music: Sally Rehberger
Euch. Min.: Brenda & Marce Tebbe

Sun. July 20 @ 8:00AM @ St. Gertrude
Reader: Chad Korte Music: Nick Worman
Sacristan: Sue Dickman
Euch. Min.: Brenda Knackstedt & Jane Deiters
Ushers: Bryan Rutz & Kevin Schwarz
Servers: Alissa & Evonna Korsmeyer

Sun. July 20 @10:00AM @ IC
Reader: John Dea
Music: Joy & Angela Winkeler
Server: Rebecca Dea & Paige Knebel
Euch. Min.: Cindy Knebel, Amy Gilomen & Ruth Zurliene



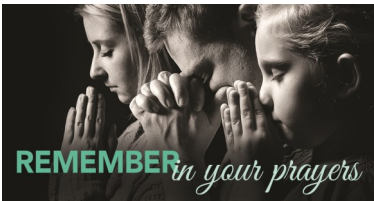
Chris & Kelsey Bentlage with baby Lorelei and big brother, Trace on Lorelei's baptism at St. Nicholas Church last Saturday.

Mon. (July14)	
Tues. (July15)	8:00am (St.G)
Wed. (July16)	8:00am (IC)
Thur. (July17)	8:00am (St.N)
Fri. (July18)	8:00am (IC)
Sat. (July19)	4:30pm (St.N)
Sun. (July20)	8:00am (St.G)
Sun. (July20)	10:00am (IC)
15th Sunday in Ordinary Time	

† **Mass Intentions** †
No Mass
† **Mary Frank** — Int. of Matt & Patsie Benhoff
† **Elinor Martin** — Int. of Bill & Denise Trickey
† **All Souls**
† **George & Margaret Daiber** — Int. of Orville & Cindy Knebel
† **Tami Lozier** — Int. of James & Colleen Lozier
For the People of St. Nicholas, St. Gertrude & Immaculate Conception
† **Sonny Schwarz** —Int. of Emily Schwarz & Family
† **Perry Knackstedt** —Int. of Brenda Knackstedt & Family
† **Catherine, Vincent & John Wessel** — Int. of the Wessel Family
† **Tony Vosholler** — Int. of Helvetia Sharpshooters



July 12 & 13, 2025



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, Sharon Cantrell, Steve Crawford, Don Dapkus, Adrian Clark, Dave Deiters, Teresa Dickman, Jean Fields, Scott Frank, Gabriel Frey, Jerry Fyke, Ed Gagen, Karen Grabowski, P.J. Hereford, Gene Jolliff, Pat Kalous, Val King, Barrett Korte, Randy Korte, Ruth Korte, David Kuehn, Sue Luber, Christopher Marti, Taylor Marti, Barry May, Alex McCall, Eleanor Munie, Cody Neal, Royce Nelson, Suzanne Steinbring, Marcia Rowe, Gunner Sadler, Abby Schrage, Bill & Ruth Schroeder, Bertha Voss, Marie Weis, Ginny Werner, Bob Winet.

FOR OUR PARISHIONERS IN NURSING HOMES:
Lawrence Frank, 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, 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.



Can you tap into the transformative power of faith? The Gospel showcases two extraordinary miracles sparked by the unwavering faith of those seeking help. A devoted father's plea to restore his deceased daughter to life and a woman's desperate cry for healing from a twelve-year affliction both moved Christ to perform the impossible. With faith, we can unlock the limitless potential of God's power. No matter what challenges we face in our modern world, we can rise above them by trusting in God's infinite wisdom and might. When we feel like we're at a dead end, God is already working on a new beginning.

IC Parishioners: We are replacing the locks at the rectory and the church. If you have a key, please let the parish office know so that we can get you a replacement key.

Readings for the week of July 13, 2025
Sunday:
Dt 30:10-14/Ps 69:14, 17, 30-31, 33-34, 36, 37 (see 33)/Col 1:15-20/Lk 10:25-37

Monday:
Ex 1:8-14, 22/Ps 124:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8/Mt 10:34-11:1

Tuesday:
Ex 2:1-15a/Ps 69:3, 14, 30-31, 33-34/Mt 11:20-24

Wednesday:
Ex 3:1-6, 9-12/Ps 103:1b-2, 3-4, 6-7/Mt 11:25-27

Thursday:
Ex 3:13-20/Ps 105:1 and 5, 8-9, 24-25, 26-27/Mt 11:28-30

Friday:
Ex 11:10-12:14/Ps 116:12-13, 15 and 16bc, 17-18/Mt 12:1-8

Saturday:
Ex 12:37-42/Ps 136:1 and 23-24, 10-12, 13-15/Mt 12:14-21

Next Sunday:
Gn 18:1-10a/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 5 (1a)/Col 1:24-28/Lk 10:38-42

"Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'" Luke 10:37

This was Jesus' command at the end of the Good Samaritan story. Did you know that the Samaritans and Jews despised each other? The moral of the story is to love our neighbor. That means loving someone you may not know, or someone that looks different than you, or someone that has different beliefs than you, or someone that you don't like. All without expecting anything in return.

Everyone is our neighbor—those we love and those we can't stand, the people we agree with and the people whose opinions we hate. In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us that we must not only see ourselves in every person we meet—we must see Him, too.

St. Gertrude Chicken Dinner Wrap-Up Meeting will be held on Tues., July 22 at 7pm in parish hall.

Observances for the week of July 13, 2025

Sunday: 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin
Tuesday: St. Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Wednesday: Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Friday: St. Camillus de Lellis, Priest
Next Sunday: 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

HACSM is asking for donations of the following items to fill their Back-To-School backpacks. They are due by July 15th. Any size donation is appreciated!

Post-it Notes, Colored Pocket Folders (3-ring), Red & Green Pocket Folders, Index Cards

July Pantry Needs: Canned Mixed Fruit & Canned Pears

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!



Calvary Cemetery in Pierron

Please visit their gravesites and pray for the priests from our parish who have passed away. Father Anthony Kunsch died in 1965, Father Wimar Oberdoester died July 30, 1897, and Father Henry Becker died in 1917.

"Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithfully departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen."

STN Collection	7/5/25
Envelopes/Loose	\$1,254.00
Sister Parish	\$40.00
Peter's Pence	\$15.00

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

STG Collection	7/6/25
Envelopes/Loose	\$1,671.00
Sister Parish	\$25.00
Maintenance Fund	\$95.00
Cemetery	\$50.00

IC Collection	7/6/25
Envelopes/Loose	\$2,367.00
Sister Parish	\$30.00
Building Fund	\$335.00
Candles	\$81.00

July 12 & 13, 2025



Blood donations are needed year-round to support your local hospitals, as 1 in 7 people entering the hospital will need blood. Make blood donation part of your summer plans.

Blood Drive at St. Nicholas Church Hall this Tuesday, July 15 1:00PM to 6:00PM

Please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter **STNICHOLASCHURCH** to schedule an appointment.

PSR Coordinator Needed

Sheryl Hess is vacating the role of St. Gertrude PSR Coordinator for the 2025-2026 PSR school year. If anyone is interested in replacing her or know of someone that would be a good fit, please contact the parish office or Sheryl at 618-791-3154.



Next St. Gertrude Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 15th 7PM

The Diocese is in the process of implementing a new program for couples interested in getting married. If you are interested in being on the Committee, please call or email the parish office.

ATTENTION ALL LADIES: Please join us for a gathering hosted by the ladies of Holy Family Parish, 2606 Washington Ave., Granite City, on Tues., July 22nd.

Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Stephen Thompson @ 10.00 a.m., followed by the installation of the new Deanery Board. We will proceed to the meeting room for registration and a brief meeting regarding upcoming events. Fellowship and luncheon will follow. (A decision has been made by the Deanery Board, to suggest a \$5 donation to assist parishes hosting events to cover expenses). Reservations are requested by Thurs., July 17th for food purchase. Please notify Sue @ 618-304-2916 or email: schwegelsue@gmail.com.

Afternoon program: Jan Copeland will share the "Quilt of Valor" program honoring blankets to veterans. Come share your friendship!

Build a New Life: 12-Week Healing & Support Program for Separated & Divorced Catholics

Feeling overwhelmed by marital stress, separation, or divorce? You're not alone—and healing is possible. Join a compassionate, Catholic-led virtual Intensive workshop to guide you through emotional and spiritual recovery with practical tools rooted in faith. **Starts September 11, 7 PM ET on Zoom with certified Catholic Divorce Healing Coach, Carolyn Klika.** Don't carry this burden any longer. Take the first step toward hope and renewal today.

Learn more & register: AboundingJoyMinistry.com/events or email Carolyn@aboundingjoyministry.com

Devotions, Explained! Spiritual Direction

Spiritual direction is the practice of seeking counsel from someone who is trustworthy and learned in the faith for the purpose of discerning the will of God in one's life and for more effectively living out one's baptismal calling.

All Christians are commanded, in a way, to provide spiritual aid to one another ("Go, make disciples of all nations—teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" — Matthew 28:19), but a spiritual director is usually an individual who has received some form of training or formation for this specific purpose. The Catholic Church, however, does not have explicit requirements, professional standards or a formal certification process for spiritual directors. Spiritual directors can be lay, religious or ordained persons. Spiritual direction is not to be confused with the sacrament of Penance, though the latter does usually include some spiritual counsel. ©LPI

Devotions, Explained!

Spiritual direction is the practice of seeking counsel from someone who is learned in the faith for the purpose of discerning the will of God in one's life.

Prayer for Charity

Give me the grace, Lord, to truly see those around me: the overlooked, the uncomfortable, the odd and disliked. Your kingdom is one of belonging, help us to be the types of neighbors who see and respond with Godly generosity. Amen.

Called & Sent Dive Deep with God

JULY 19-23, 2025

VILLA MARIA RETREAT CENTER
Springfield, IL

A fun and powerful retreat for
high school students
filled with prayer and fellowship!



Hosted by the Office of Vocations
Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

Meet Our Seminararians



Steven Kehoe
Discipleship I
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.



This July kicks off our annual Summer Hunger campaign that helps to fund Catholic Charities Mobile Food Pantry Program. The Mobile Food Pantry reaches out to feed disadvantaged people facing poverty in rural communities across our 28-county diocese. Our 7 Mobile Food Pantry trucks deliver meat, fresh produce, dairy and nonperishable food items all year long to those in need. We humbly ask you to consider a gift to help us continue to feed God's children through our mission to "extend to all the healing and empowering presence of Jesus." Every gift you give, no matter how small, makes a difference. Donate today at: https://cc.dio.org/ways_to_give/donate or scan the QR code.

The National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows 82nd Annual Healing and Hope Novena to Our Lady of the Snows; Monday, July 28, through Tuesday, August 5, 2025, 7:00 p.m. nightly - Find Healing and Hope... Each nightly Mass focuses on a different theme, & concludes with a beautiful praying of the rosary by candlelight. Join us in prayer for any or all of these nine evening Masses, as we pray for our own needs and those of our whole world. For the schedule of healing themes and more information, call 618-397-6700 or visit snows.org/novena

DIVE DEEP PODCAST: New Hope for Fulton Sheen's Beatification After Couple Talks To Pope Leo – Why is there new hope for Archbishop Fulton Sheen's Beatification after a Peoria couple talks with Pope Leo XIV about Sheen's cause, which has a pause on it right now? What did the Holy Father say? Go to 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.

"Coming to prayer with a heartfelt (and not just head-wise) sense of God's compassionate love for us should help to make prayer much more relaxing. In the presence of a loving Father, we don't have to prove anything, dress up nicely, or be formal. We are loved just as we are."

EAMON TOBIN
13 Powerful Ways to Pray

DynamicCatholic.com

15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME JULY 12 & 13, 2025



Saint Nicholas - Pocahontas



Immaculate Conception—Pierron



Saint Gertrude—Grantfork



SUNDAY, JULY 13, 2025

15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead. A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight." - Lk 10:30b-31, 33

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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+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:
ImmaculateConception
Pierron@parish.dio.org
Or
ICSTN2011@gmail.com
Website:
www.icstnstg.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