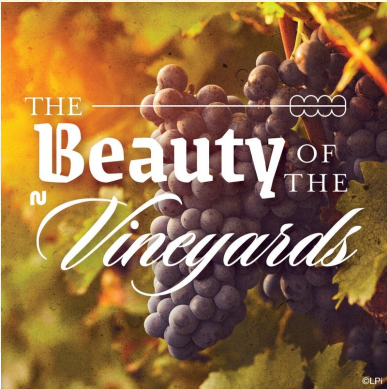




Have you ever felt like your attempts at prayer are a waste of time? I have. Early in my priesthood, I noticed that my prayer life was weakening. Awe and eager expectancy of contact with God had given way to routine. I gradually spent less and less time praying. Nothing dramatic had happened, but my attitude toward God had changed, and I was losing the desire to pray. Jesus’ parable of the insane vineyard tenants speaks into this kind of experience. He says the landowner “leased it to tenants and went on a journey” (Matthew 21:33). The key to this message is that the vineyard does not belong to those who work it — they are entrusted with it. But little by little, they view it as their possession, and ungrateful entitlement follows. The servants sent by the owner are treated as intrusions. Even the owner’s son becomes a means to their delusional self-will. The central tragedy is not violence but the forgetfulness that spawns it. They need reminding how lucky they are to be given so much. Eventually, God sent friends to remind me that my relationship with Him and my prayer time are not my possessions, but rather God’s tremendous gifts to me. Perhaps you are feeling discouraged for some reason or other these days in your walk with God. Ponder this parable and let it be a gentle reminder that you and I are fortunate stewards, and God is the generous giver. This allows us to rediscover the beauty of the vineyards in our lives and to remain energetic in cultivating His gifts. — Fr. John Muir

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR OCT 3 & 4 2026
Sat. Oct. 10 @ 4:30PM @ St. Nicholas

Reader: Don Cureton
Music: Barb Zaloga & Colleen Lozier
Euch. Min.: Doris Eilers & Joyce Schlemper
Server: Pat Kalous

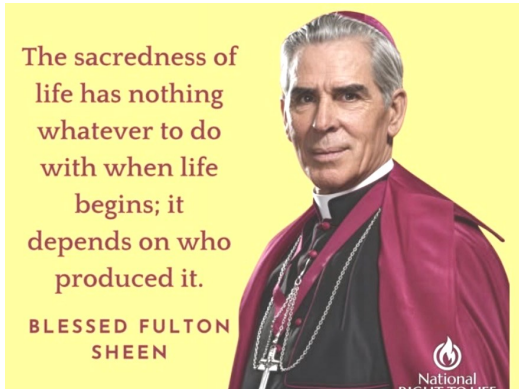
Sun. Oct. 11 @ 8:00AM @ St. Gertrude

Reader: Brenda Knackstedt
Music: Nick Worman & Randy Eckstein
Sacristan: Brenda Knackstedt
Euch.Min.: Karen Knackstedt, Gail Ohren & Debby Schwarz
Ushers: Karen & Nathaniel Straube
Servers: Elizabeth Schwarz & Aubrey Barr

Sun. Oct. 11 @10:00AM @ IC

Reader: John Dea
Music: Nick Worman & Madi Crawford
Servers: Cyiah Wiegmann & Rebecca Dea
Euch. Min.: Rick & Ruth Zurliene & Mary Korte

Life Chain—this Sunday
Oct 4 from 2-3pm at the
intersection of Rt. 143 & 40.
Bring a lawn chair.

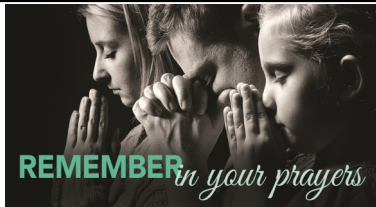


Fulton Sheen of Peoria is now Blessed Sheen! It was a beautiful beatification Mass in St. Louis Sept. 24. If another miracle is attributed to Sheen’s intercession by the Holy Father, he will then become Saint Sheen!

† **Mass Intentions** †

Mon.	(Oct. 5)	8:00am	(IC)
Tues.	(Oct. 6)	8:00am	(St.G)
Tues.	(Oct. 6)	9:30am	(H.H.)
Wed.	(Oct. 7)	8:00am	(IC)
Thur.	(Oct 8)	8:00am	(St.N)
Fri.	(Oct. 9)	8:00am	(IC)
Sat.	(Oct.10)	4:30pm	(St.N)

Sun.	(Oct.11)	8:00am	(St.G)
Sun.	(Oct.11)	10:00am	(IC)



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, 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 Luber, Christopher Marti, Taylor Marti, Barry May, Alex McCall, Eleanor Munie, Cody Neal, Marcia Rowe, Gunner Sadler, Abby Schrage, Bill Schroeder, Suzanne Steinbring, Brenda Usher, 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 prayer list please call the parish office.



The Diocesan October Count starts today and will continue throughout the month of October. We ask that all parishioners attend Mass at IC, STN, or STG during this month, as this count is used for assigning priests to parishes in the Diocese.
It’s important to be counted!

St Nicholas Church, Pocahontas
Gary Plog SOUP & SONG
Fall Festival & Raffle
October 17, 2026

Serving soup & dessert starting after the 4:30 Mass at approximately
5:30 PM – 7:30 PM
St Nicholas Hall

Enjoy Country, Gospel, & Bluegrass songs by local musicians throughout the evening

Admission Free & open to the public
Donations to St Nicholas gratefully accepted

Games, prizes, & drawing for Queen size quilt, \$150 Korte Meat Bundle, \$100 cash, & more

Readings for the Week of October 4, 2026

Sunday

Is 5:1-7/Ps 80:9 and 12, 13-14, 15-16, 19-20/Phil 4:6-9/Mt 21:33-43

Monday

Gal 1:6-12/Ps 111:1b-2, 7-8, 9 and 10c/Lk 10:25-37

Tuesday

Gal 1:13-24/Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 14c-15/Lk 10:38-42

Wednesday

Gal 2:1-2, 7-14/Ps 117:1bc, 2/Lk 11:1-4

Thursday

Gal 3:1-5/Lk 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75/Lk 11:5-13

Friday

Gal 3:7-14/Ps 111:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 11:15-26

Saturday

Gal 3:22-29/Ps 105:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Lk 11:27-28

Next Sunday

Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Phil 4:12-14, 19-20/Mt 22:1-14 or 22:1-10

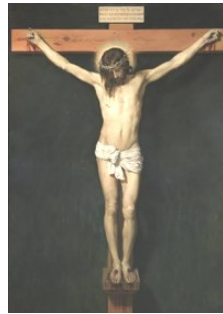
SAVE THE DATE: St. Jerome Parish, Troy, is hosting the next Alton Deanery Council of Catholic Women

on Fri., Oct. 16th @ 9:30 a.m. Prayers, refreshments, guest speaker, & fellowship will be shared. We will be requesting RSVP’s soon. RSVP’S assist the host parish with setup as well as refreshments. Deanery suggests of \$5 per person donation to assist with expenses. Guest speaker, Clyde Nosser, “Finding God in Adversity” will inform us of a mission project “Feeding Body and Soul” that he currently is involved in with the homeless. Please consider assisting with this project with the following list of donations: protein bars, powdered drink mixes for individual bottles of water, packages of wipes, non refrigerated drinks, \$10 McDonald’s gift cards or a monetary donation. Please watch the bulletins for additional information Looking forward to sharing the morning with YOU!
Sue Schwegel, ADCCW Pres
618-304-2916

STN Collection 9/26/26

Envelopes/Loose	\$688.00
All Saints	\$5.00
Sister Parish	\$140.00
Church in Africa	\$20.00
Black/Indian Mission	\$5.00

World Mission	\$5.00
All Souls	\$5.00
Budget Goal	\$1,276.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	-\$475.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$16,588.00
Support Actual	\$16,710.00
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$122.00



Catholics believe that the Eucharist is the Real Presence of Jesus Christ. The bread and wine truly become the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ during Mass.

When receiving Holy Communion by tongue, make a simple bow of the head acknowledging Christ’s presence as you approach the priest. When the priest says, “The Body of Christ”, clearly and with careful reverence answer “Amen” to affirm your faith. Slightly tilt your head back and open your mouth to receive the Body of Christ. Stick your tongue out and hold completely still while the priest places the Sacred Host on your tongue. Do not try to catch or bite the Body of Christ. With careful reverence, consume the Precious Body of Christ. Reverently walk back to your pew and pray quietly.

When receiving Holy Communion by hand, you will be making a "throne" since you are about to receive a King. Make a simple bow of the head acknowledging Christ’s presence as you approach the priest. Slightly cup your non-dominant hand, palm up, and then place your dominant hand underneath it for support to receive the Body of Christ. When the priest says, “The Body of Christ”, clearly and with careful reverence answer “Amen” to affirm your faith. Let the priest place the consecrated host flat on the palm of your top hand. Do not grab the host from the priest’s hand. Use your bottom hand to pick up the host, place it directly into your mouth, and consume the Precious Body of Christ. Take extreme care that nothing from the Sacred Particles is lost or dropped, as every crumb is Sacred. Reverently walk back to your pew and pray quietly.

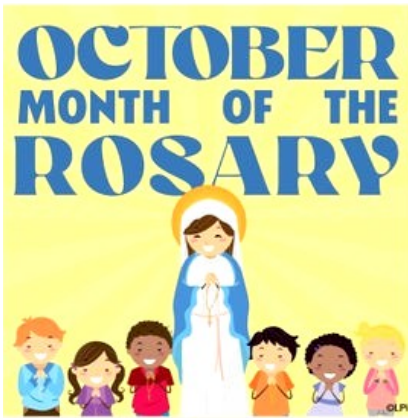
The Anima Christi (Soul of Christ) Prayer is widely considered the most beloved and traditional Catholic prayer to say after receiving Holy Communion.

The Anima Christi Prayer
Soul of Christ, sanctify me.
Body of Christ, save me.
Blood of Christ, inebriate me.
Water from the side of Christ, wash me.
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.
O good Jesus, hear me.
Within Thy wounds, hide me.
Separated from Thee, let me never be.
From the malignant enemy, defend me.
At the hour of death, call me.
And bid me come to Thee,
That with Thy saints, I may praise Thee
For ever and ever. Amen

STG Collection 9/27/26

Envelopes/Loose	\$688.00
Sister Parish	\$10.00
Maintenance Fund	\$150.00

Budget Goal	\$1,524.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	-\$836.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$19,812.00
Support Actual	\$15,650.00
Surplus/Deficit YTD	-\$4,162.00



Observances for the Week of October 4, 2026

Sunday

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time;
Respect Life Sunday

Monday

Bl. Francis Xavier Seelos, Priest

Tuesday

St. Bruno, Priest; Bl. Marie Rose Durocher, Virgin

Wednesday

Our Lady of the Rosary

Friday

St. Denis, Bishop, and Companions, Martyrs;
St. John Leonardi, Priest

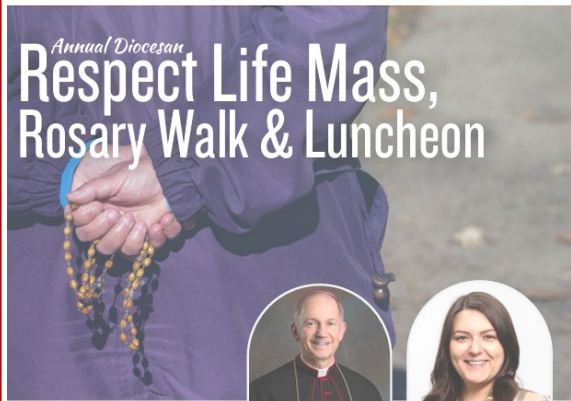
Next Sunday

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“The stone that the builders rejected has become the corner stone...” – Matthew 21:42

Jesus was rejected by the religious and political leaders of his day, as well as ordinary citizens, but he was still obedient to God, the Father. Similarly, living a stewardship lifestyle may cause you to be “rejected” by others, but we, too are called to be obedient. Saying grace before a meal in a restaurant may attract some strange looks from some. But to others it is a sign that God is alive and well!

IC Collection	9/27/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$1,216.00
All Saints	\$10.00
Sister Parish	\$105.00
Church in Africa	\$30.00
Black/Indian Mission	\$10.00
World Mission	\$10.00
Building Fund	\$50.00
Candles	\$62.00
All Souls	\$10.00
Budget Goal	\$2,920.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	-\$1,694.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$37,960.00
Support Actual	\$31,490.59
Surplus/Deficit YTD	-\$6,469.41



October 24, 2026

9:00 am | Mass
Holy Family Catholic Church, Granite City
Celebrated by Bishop Thomas John Paprocki

10:00 am | Rosary Walk
Peaceful, prayerful walk to Hope Clinic and return

11:30 am | Luncheon
Englebert Hall, Madison
Guest Speaker: Lucy Sykes, Students for Life of America
Free lunch; free-will offering benefiting Project Rachel



Dive Deep Podcast: Why The Devil Hates Mary More Than Jesus – Why does the devil really hate Mary more than Jesus, do Catholics really worship Mary, what can Mary actually do for us, and why is the Rosary so powerful? We talk all things Mary with Fr. Tony Stephens, Rector of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion in Wisconsin, the only approved Marian apparition site in the U.S. Go to [youtube.com/diospringfield](https://www.youtube.com/diospringfield) or search “Dive Deep” on all the major podcast platforms to listen and subscribe.

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 and 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 had prayer warriors join us in this important mission. We had prayer warriors who prayed with us at the facility in Granite City, and we had some praying from work, home, etc. too. 40 Days for Life works because prayer works! Thanks for your prayers, and thank you for standing up for life!



Mother of Perpetual Help
Sunday, October 4th
11:30-5:00
200 North Lange in Maryville

All-You-Can-Eat Chicken Dinner

Serving fried chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy, dressing, apple sauce, green beans, sauerkraut slaw, dessert and a beverage.

\$15 for adults, \$7 for children ages 6-13, children 5 and under are free. Dine-in or carry-out.

Quilt Raffle
50/50 Drawing

Free Flu Shots at Alhambra Firemen Hall (610 W. Main) on October 12th; 3 to 6pm Free for Alhambra township and village residents; no registration required. Mobile flu shots available for disabled residents. Call 618-830-1384 to schedule.

EXTRA!
EXTRA!

The Birthday Times

Volume 1 No. 1 Bellview, MO Tuesday, October 6, 1935 FREE

BACK IN 1936

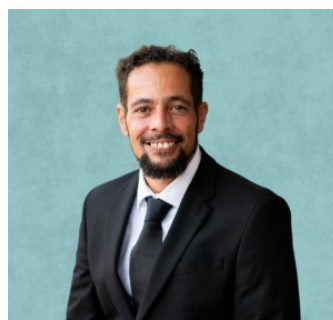
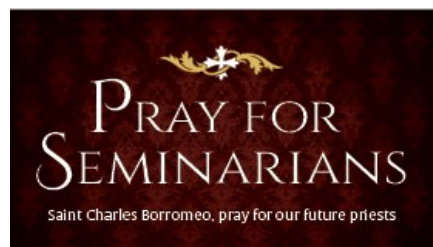
THE HOOVER DAM WAS COMPLETED
A DOZEN EGGS COST 20 CENTS
A GALLON OF GAS COST 19 CENTS
RADIOS WERE THE HEART OF THE HOME
SWING MUSIC AND PIN CURLS WERE IN STYLE
AND A LEGEND WAS BORN!



Please join us to celebrate
EUGENE’S
90th BIRTHDAY!
Wednesday, October 7th
at The Vine St Center
225 Vine St, Greenville, IL

Meal provided. No gifts, cards are ok
This will be at the October Community Table.

Chad Robinson
Propaedeutic
Saint Meinrad Seminary



27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME OCTOBER 3 & 4, 2026



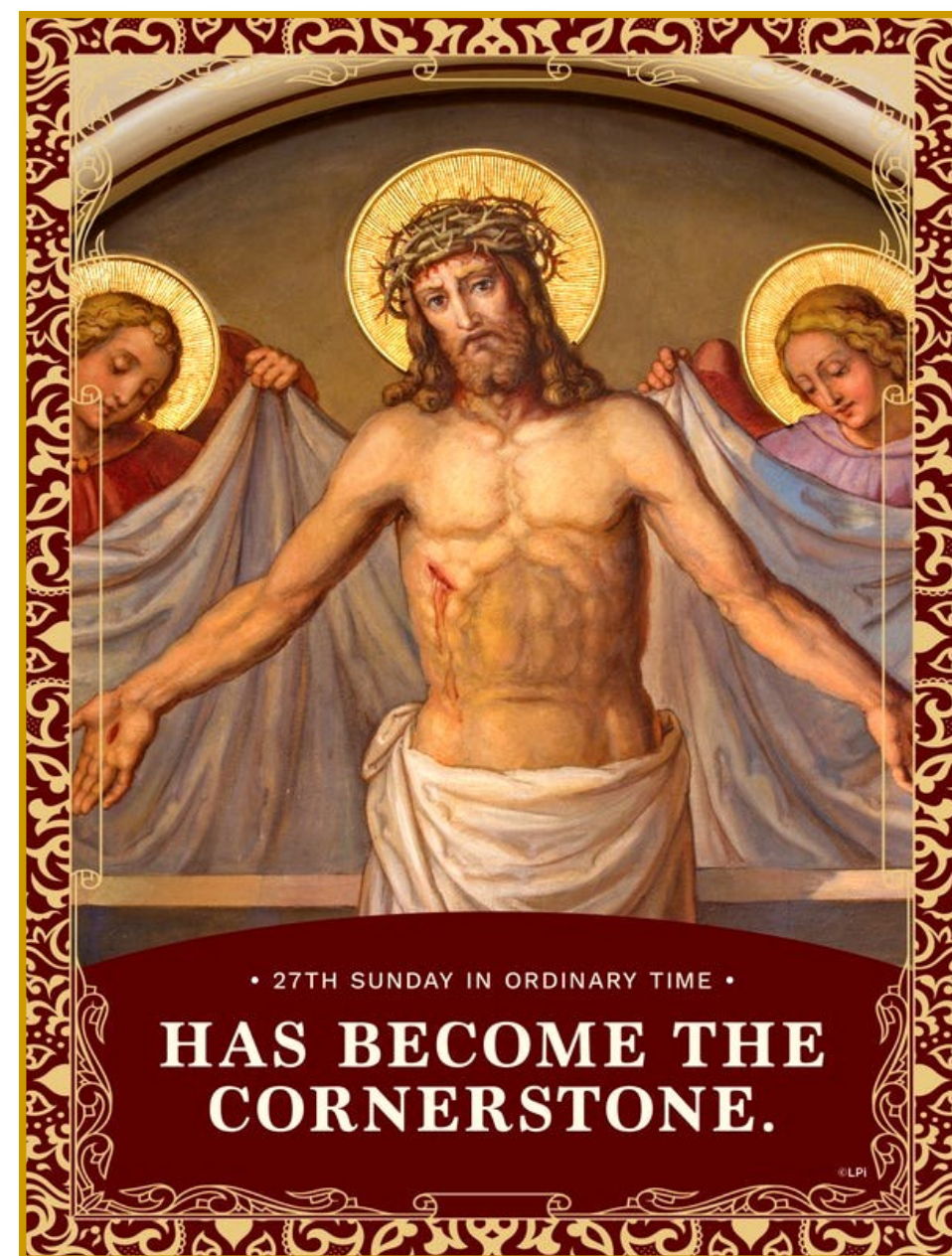
Saint Nicholas - Pocahontas



Immaculate Conception—Pierron



Saint Gertrude—Grantfork



+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

5 YEARS
OF MAKING AN IMPACT

GOLF SCRAMBLE
4 Person Golf Scramble
Friday, October 9
Oak Brook Golf Club, Edwardsville
9:00 AM Shotgun Start

Prizes
Lunch
Goodie Bags

Relevant OPTIONS

Snacks
Side Games
Free Water & Soda

Contact: Darrin Korte: 618.781.1622/darrinkorte@me.com
Darrell Luitjohan: 618.407.5299/dkluitjohan@gmail.com

QR code

