

Demanding Love



During my baseball career, my best coach often said, “You shouldn’t be worried if I yell at you. Be worried if I don’t. If I stop pushing you, it means I don’t think you have any more potential.” He demanded a lot, and I knew it meant he saw that I could be something special on the baseball field.

Jesus says some demanding words to us this week. “Do you think I have come to establish peace on the earth?” He asks, “No, I tell you, but rather division” (Luke 12:51). He wants you and me—in fact, all the earth—to participate in the luminous glory of God. That’s why He speaks of Himself as a divine arsonist. Divine fire is like a good coach: it demands the removal of all that obstructs the achievement of the lofty goal.

How is your life demanding right now? That inconvenient family situation, the unfair boss at work, the kids who reject their parents’ wishes, the nagging health issue? Maybe things would be more peaceful devoid of these seemingly arbitrary difficulties. But for us who believe in the one who comes to set the earth on fire, we should be much more worried if He stops demanding so much from us. In fact, let’s thank Him for it.

He sees how glorious we can become. — Fr. John Muir

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR AUGUST 23 & 24, 2025
Sat. Aug 23 @ 4:30PM @ St. Nicholas
Reader: Marce Tebbe Music: Sally Rehberger
Euch. Min.: Brenda & Marce Tebbe

Sun. Aug 24 @ 8:00AM @ St. Gertrude
Reader: Barbie Weis Music: Nick Worman
Sacristan: Wendy Essenpreis
Euch. Min.: Terry & Sue Dickman
Ushers: Terry Dickman & Michael Sauls
Servers: Nevin Straube & Makayla Korsmeyer

Sun. Aug 24 @10:00AM @ IC
Reader: Mary Bergman
Music: Joy & Angela Winkeler
Server: Parker & Mabry Munie
Euch. Min.: Cindy Knebel, Amy Gilomen & Erica Knebel



O.C.I.A. (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults): formerly called RCIA

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.

If you know of someone who falls into any of these categories, please let them know about upcoming inquiry sessions beginning in September. 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.

Mon. (Aug18)
Tues. (Aug19) 8:00am (St.G)
Wed. (Aug20) 8:00am (IC)
Thur. (Aug21) 8:00am (St.N)
Fri. (Aug22) 8:00am (IC)
Sat. (Aug23) 4:30pm (St.N)

Sun. (Aug24) 8:00am (St.G)
Sun. (Aug24) 10:00am (IC)

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

† Mass Intentions † No Mass

† **All Souls**
† **Macy Haar** — Int. of Bill & Denise Trickey
† **Wilbert & Lucille Keller** — Int. of Mark Williams
† **Bill Huelsmann** — Int. of the estate
† **Corky Hutchinson** — Int. of the Hutchinson Family
For the People of St. Nicholas, St. Gertrude & Immaculate Conception
† **Cliff & Dorothy Landolt** —Int. of Rita Frank
† **Msgr. David Peters**— Int. of Lowell & Denise Wellen
† **Willie & Anna Weis** — Int. of Rick & Ruth Zurliene

August 16 & 17, 2025

Readings for the week of August 17, 2025

Sunday:
Jer 38:4-6, 8-10/Ps 40:2, 3, 4, 18 (14b)/
Heb 12:1-4/Lk 12:49-53

Monday:
Jgs 2:11-19/Ps 106:34-35, 36-37, 39-40,
43ab and 44/Mt 19:16-22

Tuesday:
Jgs 6:11-24a/Ps 85:9, 11-12, 13-14/
Mt 19:23-30

Wednesday:
Jgs 9:6-15/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mt 20:1-16

Thursday:
Jgs 11:29-39a/Ps 40:5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/
Mt 22:1-14

Friday:
Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22/Ps 146:5-6ab, 6c-7,
8-9a, 9bc-10/Mt 22:34-40

Saturday:
Ru 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17/Ps 128:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/
Mt 23:1-12

Next Sunday:
Is 66:18-21/Ps 117:1, 2 (Mk 16:15)/
Heb 12:5-7, 11-13/Lk 13:22-30

Men's Leadership Summit taking place in Edwardsville Oct. 18

Join men from across the diocese on Saturday, October 18th at St. Boniface Church in Edwardsville (110 N Buchanan St) for a Men's Leadership Summit featuring John Edwards, host of Just a Guy in the Pew. The purpose of this summit is to bring **single and married men** together to support one another, get inspired by their faith, gain or enhance leadership skills, and discuss best practices in men's ministry.

John is a dynamic, inspirational speaker and spiritual leader. His background and down-to-earth, practical approach appeals to sons, fathers, brothers, and friends who are Just a guy in the pew and to those interested in men's ministry. Visit the [Men's Leadership Summit event page](#) to watch the John's powerful story and to register. Cost is \$30 which includes materials and a catered lunch. Questions? Contact Gracie at (217) 321-1124, or email gortiz@dio.org.

STN Collection	8/9/25
Envelopes/Loose	\$1,555.00
Assumption of Mary	\$100.00
Sister Parish	\$40.00
Capital Improvement	\$300.00


Budget Goal	\$1,257.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$398.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$7,542.00
Support Actual	\$7,969.00
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$427.00

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus tells us that He has come to set fire to the earth. What can we give Him as kindling? Let us look into our souls and see where the fire of Christ can be ignited, and pray that our souls may be consumed by its life-giving flames.



God created you on a special day. Please let us know when your birthday is, it's special and so are you. Starting in August, we shall include in the bulletin and pray in a special way for all those born in the month of August. We ask that you reach out to the parish office and let us know the month and day of your birthday. May God bless you abundantly, especially on your birthday!
Happy 7th Birthday to Marshall Wirz on August 22nd!

 St. Gertrude Parish Council discussed adding a flag pole to the STG Cemetery at their last meeting. We have an Eagle Scout interested in doing this for his project. Anyone who is interested in attending an informational meeting about the flag pole can meet after Mass on Sunday, **September 7th** at 9:30AM at the cemetery. In case of inclement weather, we will meet at the parish hall. Any questions, call Judi Rode at 618-791-8204.

Next St. Nicholas council meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 19th at 7:00PM

Share the Harvest — We have a table set up in the hallway at Immaculate Conception Church. Please bring fruit & vegetables from your gardens that you would like to share with the church community.



STG Collection	8/10/25
Envelopes/Loose	\$1,159.00
Sister Parish	\$30.00
Maintenance Fund	\$100.00

Budget Goal	\$1,505.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	-\$346.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$9,030.00
Support Actual	\$9,562.00
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$532.00

Observances for the week of August 17, 2025

Sunday: 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Tuesday: St. John Eudes, Priest
Wednesday: St. Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church
Thursday: St. Pius X, Pope
Friday: The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Saturday: St. Rose of Lima, Virgin
Next Sunday: 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Clinton County HCE Presents: "Basic Bread and Beyond!"

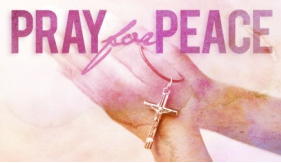
Join us for a special presentation by Fr. Dominic Garramone, Benedictine monk and PBS TV host, on Saturday, **August 23** at 10:00 a.m. at Mater Dei Catholic High School in Breese, IL. Fr. Dominic is known for his high-energy, entertaining, and educational cooking demonstrations. His cookbooks and other specialty items from Saint Bede Abbey will be available for purchase. Tickets are \$20.00, and pre-registration is requested. Proceeds will support community projects through Clinton County HCE. To purchase tickets or for more info. call 618-594-3669, contact any HCE board member, or visit the Clinton County Extension Office in Breese.



We are happy to announce that Kim Weis has volunteered to be the PSR coordinator for St Gertrude's PSR. Her sister Kari will assist her as needed. Kim and Kari attended St Gertrude's PSR when growing up and they are looking forward to being part of the team.

Thanks Kim and Kari and welcome to the St. Gertrude PSR Team!!

The next Vocation Ministry meeting will be on **Wednesday, August 20, 2025, at 6:30pm at the IC Hall. All are invited and welcome to attend. We are looking for additional members to join the committee. If you are interested in attending this meeting to gain more knowledge about this ministry and/or to join the committee, please call or text Denise Trickey at 314-495-9080.**



IC Collection	8/10/25
Envelopes/Loose	\$2,950.44
Assumption of Mary	\$50.00
Sister Parish	\$50.00
Building Fund	\$99.00
Candles	\$108.00

Budget Goal	\$2,672.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$328.44
Support Needed (budget)	\$16,032.00
Support Actual	\$14,236.00
Surplus/Deficit YTD	-\$1,795.56

August 16 & 17, 2025

Mass for an End to War and Violence in the World

Join in a special Mass dedicated to praying for peace and an end to all war and violence in the world. In the face of ongoing conflicts and the suffering they cause, the community gathers to seek divine intervention, promote reconciliation, and cultivate nonviolence in their lives and communities. Let us seek God's grace to become instruments of peace, working towards a world where justice, understanding, and love prevail over hatred and destruction.

Thursday, August 28th
Immaculate Conception in Pierron
Fr. Callistus Osiaga, celebrant
6:30pm

Madison County Catholic Charities Roma's Pizza – 2nd Annual Dine to Donate Fundraiser

Roma's Pizza will be hosting the 2nd annual "Dine to Donate" fundraiser benefitting Madison County Catholic Charities on Wednesday, **August 27, 2025**, from 11:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Mention Madison County Catholic Charities at checkout and we earn 10% of sales. Roma's Pizza is located at 121 E Bethalto Dr in Bethalto, IL.

An invitation...to audition for the Heartland Community Chorus! Please consider joining us for our 13th season! Auditions are on Friday, August 29, 6-8pm and Saturday, August 30, 10-noon. Location: St. Paul Hall, second floor, 1411 Main Street, Highland, IL. Please enter the EAST (Lemon Street) door. CAN'T MAKE THOSE TIMES? Schedule an appointment by contacting Luanne at 618.791.8408 OR luannemurphy@gmail.com Rehearsals will be on Monday nights from 6:30-8:30p.m. at St. Paul Church. First rehearsal is Monday, September 8, 2025. More information at heartlandcommunitychorus.org

GREGORIAN CHANT

Devotions, Explained!

Defined by a monophonic (meaning a single melody without harmony or chords), unaccompanied song, Gregorian chant is a form of sacred music used in liturgical settings and prayer. It has been synonymous with Catholic musical worship since the first millennium.

Prayer for Bravery

Dear God,
In the moments when my faith is met with others' disdain or ridicule, give me the grace to be grounded in You. Remind me that Your mission matters, and that You alone bring comfort, healing, and salvation.
Amen.

Devotions, Explained! Gregorian Chant

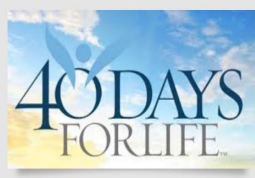
Gregorian chant is an ancient form of sacred music used in liturgical worship and prayer.

Defined by a monophonic (meaning a single melody without harmony or chords), unaccompanied song, this type of chant focuses the singer's mind on the content of the prayer being sung, which makes it uniquely suited for use in the Mass.

Dating to the first millennium, it derives its name from Pope St.

Gregory the Great, though scholarship is unclear on when exactly this type of chant originated. Prior to the Second Vatican Council, it was standard to use Gregorian chant in the Roman Rite Mass.

Sacrosanctum Concilium, the Constitution on Divine Worship promulgated by Pope Paul VI in 1963, asserts that Gregorian chant is "specially suited to the Roman liturgy...(and) should be given pride of place in liturgical services." ©LPi



From September 24 to November 2, 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 28th as our adopted day, and we need prayer warriors join us in this important mission. We need prayer warriors to pray at the facility in Granite City, and we need some to pray from work, home, etc. too! 40 Days for Life works because prayer works! If you would like to pray for an hour or two on September 28, 2025, please contact Denise Trickey at 314-495-9080. Thank you for standing up for life!

Meet Our Seminararians



Devin Flach
Configuration II
Kenrick-Glennon Seminary

One thing I have learned about discernment is that it is not merely about my desire, but another desiring in me. My true life consists in following where there is a union of desire-that is, when my heart is in union with His.



**LAUDATO SI'
MOVEMENT**
Catholics for Our Common Home

October 1-3, Pope Leo XIV and high-level leaders from around the world will celebrate the 10th anniversary of *Laudato Si'* at the Raising Hope conference in Italy. The Raising Hope conference is a joyful call to action from change makers including Church leaders, young people, Indigenous leaders, policy makers, and grassroots advocates. Over three days, we'll raise hope together by celebrating *Laudato Si'* and discerning the most impactful ways to take action now.

You are warmly invited to register now to follow the livestream of these events. Go to: <https://raisinghope.earth/conference/>

More information is available at the website above.

"There are many voices in the world that compete with God's voice. If we are serious about doing his will, we must come up with a way to distinguish the Lord's voice from all of the competing voices."

GARY ZIMAK
Faith, Hope, and Clarity



DynamicCatholic.com

20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME AUGUST 16 & 17, 2025



Saint Nicholas - Pocahontas



Immaculate Conception—Pierron



Saint Gertrude—Grantfork

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
**ALREADY
BLAZING!**

LUKE 12:49

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17, 2025

+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.io
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