



In my parish, there was once a new employee who frequently told me she was sorry for various imperfections in her work. It could be a little tiring. I finally told her, “You know, you don’t have to say “sorry” so often.” She looked me right in the eyes and said “Father, you’re right. I’m sorry.” Her ear-to-ear grin betrayed that she enjoyed the irony—and that she would keep asking for forgiveness as often as she needed it.

The Gospel reading this week proclaims to us that God, in Jesus, delights in numerous requests for, and the granting of, forgiveness. To Peter’s question, “Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus responds, “I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times.” In other words, Peter, stop counting. Christian life should be marked by a commitment to frequent forgiveness. God never tires of forgiving us. His limitless love has overcome the power of vengeance, hatred, and division. We tap into that each and every time we ask for forgiveness or extend it to another. How beautiful our hearts become when they become accustomed to frequent forgiveness! How joyful and attractive become our marriages, families, and parish communities!

How light our souls feel when unburdened by the habit of keeping score.

Challenge: Name one thing, small or large, for which you could ask forgiveness from someone in your life. Then do it.

— Fr. John Muir

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR SEPT. 19 & 20 2026
Sat. Sept. 19 @ 4:30PM @ St. Nicholas
Reader: Kelsey Bentlage
Music: Roger Frey, Barb Zaloga, & Colleen Lozier
Euch. Min.: Doris Eilers & Joyce Schlemper
Server: Pat Kalous

Sun. Sept. 20 @ 8:00AM @ St. Gertrude
Reader: Chad Korte
Music: Roger Frey & Randy Eckstein
Sacristan: Wendy Essenpreis
Euch.Min.: Larry & Tina Luitjohan, & Carole Sauls
Ushers: Bryan Rutz & Kevin Schwarz
Servers: Aubrey Barr & Elizabeth Schwarz

Sun. Sept. 20 @10:00AM @ IC
Reader: Mary Bergman
Music: Prairie Travelers
Servers: Emma Winte & Jack Williamson
Euch. Min.: Barry Otto, Tim Schuette & Evelyn Knebel

Pray for Holy Marriages
Candace Luitjohan and Mitch Campbell
Please join us in prayer for the upcoming marriage of Candace & Mitch.

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 Immaculate Conception on November 7th, 2026

Please keep them and all those discerning Holy Marriage in your prayers.



Mon.	(Sept.14)	8:00am	(IC)
Tues.	(Sept.15)	8:00am	(St.G)
Wed.	(Sept.16)	8:00am	(IC)
Thur.	(Sept.17)	8:00am	(St.N)
Thur.	(Sept.17)	6:00pm	(IC)
Fri.	(Sept.18)	8:00am	(IC)
Sat.	(Sept.19)	4:30pm	(St.N)
Sun.	(Sept.20)	8:00am	(St.G)
Sun.	(Sept.20)	10:00am	(IC)

† **Mass Intentions** †
No Mass
† **All Souls**
† **Jim Haberer** — Int. of Bill & Denise Trickey
† **Gloria Williams** — Int. of Mark Williams
For the People of Immaculate Conception, St. Nicholas & St. Gertrude
† **Barbara Korte** —Int. of Keith Korte
† **Living & Deceased of the Kuehn Family** —Int. of David Kuehn
† **Ronnie & Bonnie Rutz** — Int. of Dennis & Barbara Tabor
† **Ruth Schroeder** —Int. of Bill & Denise Trickey
† **Ed & Ann Plocher** — Int. of Jerry Klostermann



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 Lubber, 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.



We welcome Christopher Dilks, Autumn Kalous & Mitch Campbell into Full Communion of the Catholic Church. Thanks Be To God!!
Please keep Autumn, Christopher & Mitch in your prayers.



FAITHFUL DEPARTED
Prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of **Harold Meskil**, husband of **Marilyn (Schultz) Meskil**, of our parish family. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Harold’s family and friends. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord...

St. Gertrude Altar Society meeting will be held on Monday, September 21st at 7PM. All ladies of the parish are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Readings for the Week of September 13, 2026

Sunday
Sir 27:30-28:7/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12/Rom 14:7-9/Mt 18:21-35

Monday
Nm 21:4b-9/Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17

Tuesday
1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35

Wednesday
1 Cor 12:31-13:13/Ps 33:2-3, 4-5, 12 and 22/Lk 7:31-35

Thursday
1 Cor 15:1-11/Ps 118:1b-2, 16ab-17, 28/Lk 7:36-50

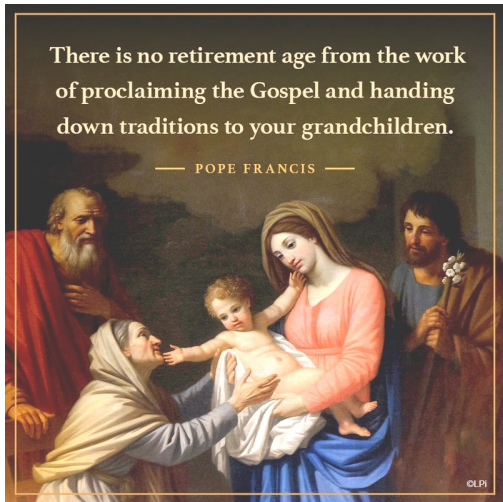
Friday
1 Cor 15:12-20/Ps 17:1bcd, 6-7, 8b and 15/Lk 8:1-3

Saturday
1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49/Ps 56:10c-12, 13-14/Lk 8:4-15

Next Sunday
Is 55:6-9/Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18/Phil 1:20c-24, 27a/Mt 20:1-16a

Have A Big Heart... Give Blood

St. Nicholas Blood Drive at St. Nicholas Parish Hall on Tuesday, September 22nd
1:00 to 6:00 PM Please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter **STNICHOLASCHURCH** to schedule.



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

STN Collection	9/5/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$1,815.00
Sister Parish	\$30.00
Church in Africa	\$50.00
Catholic University	\$80.00
Budget Goal	\$1,276.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$539.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$12,760.00
Support Actual	\$14,044.00
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$1,284.00

“For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s.” – Romans 14:8

This is the essence of stewardship – everything we have and everything we are is a gift from God. We aren’t “owners” of anything, we are merely “stewards” of the gifts that God has given us, especially our very own lives. Pray to God, daily, and ask Him how He is calling you to the live the life that He intended for you.

We have all been the wicked servant. We have denied others the same forgiveness and grace shown to us. This week, let us find new ways to make the love and mercy of God manifest in the lives of those we meet.

Pray Along with the **Prairie Travelers**

DON'T MISS THIS!

Start the school year with a special Blessing for all students and catechists!

Join us next Sunday, September 20th at 10am for a special Mass at IC with music from the **Prairie Travelers** acoustic trio! There will be donuts in the parish hall after Mass.

All are welcome!

Mass for Peace will be celebrated on Thursday, September 17th at IC. Adoration at 5:30PM and Mass at 6PM.

A Blessing for Grandparents

Dear God, Bless the grandparents in our community. Stir in them a sense of caring, thoughtfulness, and kindness toward their preceding generations. Like St. Anne and St. Joachim, inspire them to live lives of brave faith and virtue. Give them and their families warm memories, happy times, and bright hope. Amen.

STG Collection	9/6/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$1,673.00
Sister Parish	\$60.00
Church in Africa	\$25.00
Catholic University	\$25.00
Maintenance Account	\$170.00
Cemetery	\$100.00
Budget Goal	\$1,524.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$149.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$15,240.00
Support Actual	\$10,753.00
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$-4,487.00



Observances for the Week of September 13, 2026

Sunday
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Grandparent’s Day

Monday
The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Tuesday
Our Lady of Sorrows

Wednesday
Sts. Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs

Thursday
St. Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church; St. Hildegard of Bingen, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

Saturday
St. Janarius, Bishop and Martyr

Next Sunday
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Catechetical Sunday

★ GET YOUR TEAM TOGETHER & JOIN THE FUN! ★

YOUTH KICKBALL TOURNAMENT

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 20TH

PIC PARK 208 Edward’s St. Peoria, 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 -AD- BRAGGING RIGHTS!

GAME INFO: DOUBLE ELIMINATION STARTS AT NOON

SIGN UP TODAY! CONTACT: KAY WILLIAMSON 618-226-8098 TO REGISTER

\$50 NON-REFUNDABLE ENTRY FEE

★ PLAY HARD. HAVE FUN. MAKE MEMORIES. ★

IC Collection	9/6/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$4,454.02
Sister Parish	\$45.00
Church in Africa	\$45.00
Catholic University	\$62.00
Building Fund	\$80.00
Candles	\$62.00
Budget Goal	\$2,920.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$1,534.02
Support Needed (budget)	\$29,200.00
Support Actual	\$26,273.59
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$-2,926.41

ST. LAWRENCE CHURCH
ANNUAL CHICKEN DINNER

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

11 A.M. - 2 P.M.

DINE-IN ADULT AGE 6-12 AGE 0-5 CARRYOUT	PRICE \$15 \$8 FREE \$15
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CASH, CHECK OR VENMO
ACCEPTED FOR DINNERS

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



CAKE WALK
COUNTRY STORE
SILENT AUCTION
RAFFLE

ST. CECILIA'S ANNUAL COMMUNITY
CHICKEN DINNER & FALL FESTIVAL

SEPT. 27
DINNER SERVED FROM
12:00 noon
UNTIL
5:00 p.m.

**FRIED CHICKEN
DRESSING
MASHED POTATOES
GRAVY
CORN
GREEN BEANS
DESSERT
BEVERAGE**

Dine In: \$14.00 Adults
\$ 6.00 Children 5-10
FREE Under 5

Carry-Outs \$14.00

**ENTERTAINMENT
RAFFLE GAMES
FELLOWSHIP
DUNK TANK**

SAINT CECILIA
CATHOLIC CHURCH
155 N. Main
GLEN CARBON, IL

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.

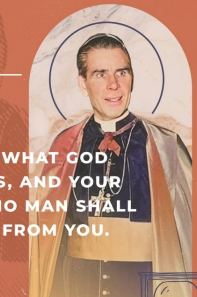
When? **Saturday, October 10.** Christ the King parish Center, Springfield. Women ages 18+. Cost \$30. For the full schedule, speaker information, and registration, visit go.dio.org/cac. Even if you are on the fence about God, remember: God is not on the fence about you. Questions? Contact Gracie Ortiz at gortiz@dio.org or 217-321-1124.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

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!

GriefShare
SUPPORT GROUP
Consider joining us or passing along the information to someone you know who is grieving a loss.
Mondays - Sept. 14 - Dec. 14
6:00 - 8:00 pm
Evangelical United Church of Christ
2520 Poplar Street, Highland
For more information call 618-654-7459

“WILL WHAT GOD, WILLS, AND YOUR JOY NO MAN SHALL TAKE FROM YOU.”
- VEN. FULTON SHEEN



We are excited about the upcoming Beatification of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, a beloved priest, bishop, & evangelist whose life inspired millions to encounter Christ. Held on Thursday Sept. 24 at 2pm at the Dome of America's Center in St. Louis. There may still be tickets available by going to celebratesheen.com

Grantfork Historical Society Rummage Sale

Grantfork Auction Barn
Thurs, Sept 17 11 am - 7 pm
Fri, Sept 18 8 am - 5 pm
Sat, Sept 19 8 am - Noon

Household, Furniture, Décor and More
Donation Drop off Accepted
(No books, clothing or electronics)
Mon, Aug 31 9 am - Noon
Sun, Sept 13 Noon - 4 pm
Mon, Sept 14 9 am - 1 pm

For Rummage sale questions, call or text Aimee at 618-604-2452
Bake Sale Items Needed on Thurs, Sept 17 and Fri, Sept 18 only
Contact Emily Schwarz at 618-675-3386 for bake sale questions



Pray For Our Seminarians
Devin Flach
Pastoral Internship
Kenrick-Glennon Seminary

PRAY FOR SEMINARIANS
Saint Charles Borromeo, pray for our future priests

24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME SEPTEMBER 12 & 13, 2026



Saint Nicholas - Pocahontas



Immaculate Conception—Pierron



Saint Gertrude—Grantfork



24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Peter approached Jesus and asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times." - Mt 18:21-22

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:
icpierron@parish.dio.org
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

"Before you say anything, consider the way you will say it: Your message will be heard only if you speak with charity and courtesy."

Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan
The Road of Hope



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