



It's common to hear belief in Jesus and the Church mocked as blind faith and credulity. But in reality, it is deeply human and rational. Think about it: we rely on the testimony of others constantly. I trust chemists who certify the safety of toothpaste and cleaning products. I trust engineers when I use a microwave or drive over a bridge. Why? Because they have studied and seen what I have not, and their testimony proves itself in daily life. That kind of trust is not irrational; it is how human knowledge works.

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist declares: "Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God" (John 1:34). That is the language of an eyewitness. It invites us into a very human act: trusting someone who has directly encountered something—or Someone—we have not yet fully seen ourselves.

The Church's faith is built on this kind of reliable sight-based testimony. The Apostles did not make abstract claims. They saw, followed, suffered for, and proclaimed Jesus Christ. Over centuries, their witness—carried in Scripture, in the lives of the saints, and in the sacramental life of the Church—has proven dependable. We come to know its truth by assenting to it, by living and studying it, praying with it, trusting it.

Faith in Christ is not a childish leap into the dark. It is a step into the light of testimony that proves itself over time.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR JAN. 24 & 25, 2026

Sat. Jan. 24 @ 4:30PM @ St. Nicholas

Reader: Kelsey Bentlage

Music: Sally Rehberger, Barb Zaloga, & Colleen Lozier

Euch. Min.: Brenda & Marce Tebbe

Server: Pat Kalous

Sun. Jan. 25 @ 8:00AM @ St. Gertrude

Reader: Katrina Korsmeyer

Music: Nick Worman & Randy Eckstein

Sacristan: Sue Dickman

Euch.Min.: Karen Knackstedt, Jane Dieters & Carole Sauls

Ushers: Terry Dickman & Bryan Rutz

Servers: Maris & Aubrey Barr

Sun. Jan. 25 @10:00AM @ IC

Reader: Lowell Wellen

Music: Joy Winkeler

Servers: Kendyl & Dylen Potthast

Euch. Min.: Cindy Knebel, Kristin Potthast & John Dea



FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of **Joan (Goestenkors) Dickshot**, mother of **Chris (Kim) Dickshot** and **Jodi (Brad) Neumann**, and sister of **Pat (Burnell) Landmann**, **Jim (Kathy) Goestenkors**, **Tom (Bonnie) Goestenkors**, & **Susie (Bryan) Kovach** of our parish family. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Joan's family and friends.

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord...



Mon. (Jan.19)	8:00am
Tues. (Jan.20)	8:00am (St.G)
Wed. (Jan.21)	8:00am (IC)
Thur. (Jan.22)	8:00am (St.N)
Fri. (Jan.23)	8:00am (IC)
Sat. (Jan.24)	4:30pm (St.N)
Sun. (Jan.25)	8:00am (St.G)
Sun. (Jan.25)	10:00am (IC)

† Mass Intentions †

No Mass

† **Nancy Zaloga & Schwarz Family** — Int. of Lawrence Schwarz

† **Linda Frank** — Int. of Gerry Korte

† **All Souls**

† **Fr. Daren Zehnle** — Int. of Bill & Denise Trickey

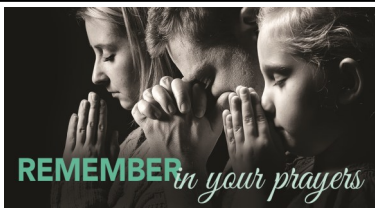
† **Bill & Betty Haberer** — Int. of Linda Hansen

† **Frank & Rita Nordhaus** — Int. of Karen Knackstedt Family

† **Kenny Rutz** — Int. of Clarence & Ruth Korte

† **Ed & Ann Plocher** —Int. of Bill & Denise Trickey

† **Cy & Dolores Weis** —Int. of Joan Watson



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, Jean Fields, Gabriel Frey, Jerry Fyke,

Ed Gagen, Karen Grabowski, John Grubb, P.J. Hereford, James Hodge, Gene Jolliff, Pat Kalous, Val King, Janice Korsmeyer, Barrett Korte, Denny Korte, Randy Korte, Ruth Korte, Steve Korte, David Kuehn, Sue Luber, Christopher Marti, Taylor Marti, Barry May, Alex McCall, Eleanor Munie, Cody Neal, Jeannie Oestringer, Robin Pollmann, Suzanne Steinbring, Marcia Rowe, Gunner Sadler, Abby Schrage, Bill Schroeder, Marie Weis, Ginny Werner, Dean Wernle.

FOR OUR PARISHIONERS IN NURSING HOMES:

Delmar Knebel, Barbara Weiss, 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.



Happy 100th Birthday to Eleanor Munie!!

May God richly bless you as you celebrate your birthday today and the years that follow.

It is with long life that you satisfy the Lord and show him your salvation." —Psalm 91:16

Happy Birthday and Be Blessed!



Readings for the week of January 18, 2026

Sunday:

Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40:2 and 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10/ 1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34

Monday:

1 Sm 15:16-23/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mk 2:18-22

Tuesday:

1 Sm 16:1-13/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 27-28/ Mk 2:23-28

Wednesday:

1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51/Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10/Mk 3:1-6

Thursday:

1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7/Ps 56:2-3, 9-10a, 10b-11, 12-13/Mk 3:7-12

Friday:

1 Sm 24:3-21/Ps 57:2, 3-4, 6 and 11/ Mk 3:13-19

Saturday:

2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27/Ps 80:2-3, 5-7/ Mk 3:20-21

Next Sunday:

Is 8:23-9:3/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/1 Cor 1:10-13, 17/Mt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17

Many thanks to those who stayed after Mass last Saturday & Sunday to remove the Christmas decorations!! We appreciate you taking time out of your busy schedule to help. May God bless each and every one of you!!

Thank You to all who donated for Christmas Flowers/Decorations. Your generous donations not only help us defray our decorating expenses, but also expresses your love and memories in a very real and visible way.



STN Collection	1/10/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$1,868.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$35.00
First Offering	\$10.00
IC Collection	\$10.00
Christmas	\$50.00
Sister Parish	\$50.00
Catholic Times	\$50.00
Christmas Flowers	\$40.00
Latin America	\$10.00
Eastern Europe	\$10.00
Children's Home	\$50.00
Other Special Collections	\$30.00
Candles	\$137.00

Budget Goal	\$1,257.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$716.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$35,196.00
Support Actual	\$39,587.72
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$4,391.72

"Now the Lord has spoken who formed me as his servant from the womb..." Isaiah 49:5

God have given each of us different gifts. In order for God's plan to work, you have to do what God is calling you to do, and I have to do what God is calling me to do. And guess what? God has given each of us a different plan! So, stop comparing yourself to others. Don't let envy and jealousy enter your life. Be thankful for the gifts God has given you and become the saint that God is calling you to be.

Do we recognize Christ when we see Him? Do we have the courage to point Him out, to show others who He is? John cried out so the whole world could hear, "He is the Son of God." Always and everywhere, let us do the same.



VOCATION MINISTRY For the Church, that by boldly proclaiming Christ as John did, we may inspire many to lives of service as deacons, priests, and consecrated men and women.

For those discerning their vocation, that they may recognize and respond to Christ's call with clarity and generosity.

For our families, that their witness of faith and prayer may guide children toward God's invitation in their own lives.

The next St. Gertrude Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 20th at 7PM

"Either sin is with you, lying on your shoulders, or it is lying on Christ, the Lamb of God."

— Adrian Rogers



STG Collection	1/11/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$885.00
Sister Parish	\$30.00
Catholic Times	\$30.00
Maintenance Fund	\$50.00

Budget Goal	\$1,505.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$-620.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$42,140.00
Support Actual	\$40,274.66
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$-1,865.34

Observances for the week of January 18, 2026

Sunday:	2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday:	Martin Luther King Day
Tuesday:	St. Fabian, Pope and Martyr; St. Sebastian, Martyr
Wednesday:	St. Agnes, Virgin and Martyr
Thursday:	Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children
Friday:	St. Vincent, Deacon and Martyr; St. Marianne Cope, Virgin
Saturday:	St. Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Next Sunday:	3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time; Celebrate Catholic Schools Week



St. Nicholas Blood Drive at St. Nicholas Parish Hall on

Tuesday, January 27th 1:00 to 6:00PM

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



We congratulate the parents of and welcome

Henry Roger Otto

son of Barry Otto & Trecia Wieseman Winte who was baptized at Immaculate Conception Church on Saturday, January 17th, 2026.

Godparents are Linda Otto & Leslie Otto



A Rite of Entrance into the Catechumenate was celebrated for Kelsi Hannan this week. Please continue to pray for her as she prepares for Baptism at the Easter Vigil.

IC Collection	1/11/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$2,904.80
First Offering	\$15.00
Latin America	\$100.00
Catholic Times	\$45.00
Sister Parish	\$85.00
Building Fund	\$45.00
Candles	\$83.00
Budget Goal	\$2,672.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$247.80
Support Needed (budget)	\$74,816.00
Support Actual	\$77,761.93
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$2,945.93

The Pocahontas Food Pantry needs for January:

Pancake mix, syrup, cereal, canned meats, canned fruit & veggies, peanut butter.

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.

78th Annual Sausage Supper at Salem United Church of Christ, 1117 W. North St., Alhambra; Saturday Jan. 31st Drive- thru from 1PM to 7PM. Menu: Fresh Home-made Pork Sausage, Sauerkraut, Potatoes/Gravy, Green beans, applesauce & pie. \$15.00

January 18 is Sanctity of Life Sunday, observed primarily by U.S. churches on the third Sunday in January (near the Roe vs Wade anniversary), is a day to affirm the value of all human life, especially the unborn, celebrating life, advocating for vulnerable individuals, and supporting pregnancy centers, with themes rooted in faith and human dignity, often linked to the March for Life events.

Let's give thanks for life by supporting our pregnancy centers and going to the March for Life in Springfield on March 19.

Virtues Explained! Peace

Peace. There may be no other word in the English language, writes Msgr. Stuart Swetland in Catholic Answers, "more susceptible to sloganeering, and thus misunderstanding."

But what is peace, in the context of Catholic virtue?

The peace of God, writes Paul in his Letter to the Philippians, "surpasses all understanding."

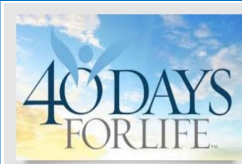
(Phil. 4:7) Peace is both a fruit of charity (CCC 1829) and a fruit of the Spirit (CCC 1832). Our modern Catholic understanding of peace is derived from the Hebrew concept of shalom, or wholeness, and it refers not just to an absence of violence (mandated by the fifth commandment) but to a personal reconciliation with one's Creator. Peace is a spiritual effect of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (CCC 1496). Our search for interior peace in our hearts parallels the historic struggle of mankind to realize peace in the world by practicing justice. "When we hear the Gospel, dear brothers and sisters," said Pope Benedict, "we learn to build peace on the truth of a daily life inspired by the commandment of love." ©LPI

Virtues, Explained!

Our modern Catholic understanding of peace is derived from the Hebrew concept of *shalom*, or wholeness, and refers not just to an absence of violence but to a personal reconciliation with one's Creator.

Blessing of the Beloved

Dear God, Bless and anoint us today. You are our Father and guide. Remind us of our identity in You: loved, called, and equipped for mission. Bless us as we journey, giving us strength for each day and grace in each step. Amen.



From February 18 to March 29, 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, February 22nd 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 February 22, 2026, please contact Denise Trickey at 314-495-9080. Thank you for standing up for life!

We are once again doing a "Just Jeans Drive for the Homeless" during the month of February. We ask that you please donate new or gently used adult jeans during the month of February. We will have boxes, to place the jeans in, at the following churches, Immaculate Conception, St. Gertrude, St. Nicholas and St. Paul, we will also have boxes at the KC Hall in Highland and the Highland Police Station. At the end of February, the jeans will be delivered to St. Vincent de Paul Parish in St. Louis. Should you have any questions, please reach out to Bill or Denise Trickey at 314-495-9080. Your support is greatly appreciated! JUST JEANS PLEASE... THANKS!

Meet Our Seminarists



Padrick Mulligan
Configuration III
Kenrick-Glennon Seminary

One thing I have learned through my discernment is how God has called me in a way that is personal to me. As I let God into the personal relationships and experiences of my life, He transforms spiritually isolated places of my heart into sources of healing, mercy, and a home for Jesus within me.

ILLINOIS
PRO-LIFE
MARCH

On Thursday, March 19, you are invited to join thousands of pro-life advocates, being a joyful witness to life and raising your voice for the voiceless at the Illinois Pro-Life Mass and March. The day begins with Mass at 10 a.m. at the Exposition Building on the grounds of the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield, celebrated by Bishop Thomas John Paprocki and concelebrated by bishops and priests from across the state. You must register for the Mass by going to dio.org.

After the Mass, there is a rally at the capitol at 1 p.m. with guest speakers, and then a march around the capitol at 2 p.m. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will also be going on at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception from noon to 5 p.m. Confessions at the Cathedral will also be available from 1:30 – 5 p.m. Last year, about 2,000 people attended the Illinois Pro-Life March, the vast majority being students from Catholic grade schools, high schools, and Newman Centers. Priests, seminarists, religious, and the lay faithful from every corner of the diocese and the state also showed up in strong numbers.

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that."

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"Jesus's heart is our refuge and remedy."

ANNE COSTA
Healing Promises



DynamicCatholic.com

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME JANUARY 17 & 18, 2026



Saint Nicholas - Pocahontas



Immaculate Conception—Pierron



Saint Gertrude—Grantfork

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
BEHOLD
THE LAMB
OF GOD.

JOHN 1:29



SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026

©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.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