



A priest friend of mine received a call from a family whose elderly mother was dying. Within thirty minutes, he was at her bedside, offering the consolation of the sacraments, anointing her with the oil of the sick, and commending her soul to God. She passed not long after, and for months, her family spoke of their deep gratitude for his presence. When I phoned him to commend his faithful ministry, he simply said, “I was just doing my job.”

His words brought to mind Jesus’ teaching this week in Luke 17:10: “So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, “We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.” In a world that often seeks recognition and applause, the Lord invites us into a different mindset— one of humble service. The priest did not see his response as extraordinary; he saw it as a grace to fulfill his vocation.

How tempting it is to seek affirmation for doing what I ought to do! Yet Jesus reminds us that true discipleship is not about grandstanding but about quiet faithfulness. It is enough to have served. It is enough to have loved. It is enough to be grateful that we were given the chance to do our duty in the first place. Whether in priesthood, parenthood, or any vocation, what peace-soaked freedom there is in simply doing what is asked of us. No more, no less.

Jesus, that is how you quietly love us. — Fr. John Muir

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR OCTOBER 11 & 12, 2025
Sat. Oct. 11 @ 4:30PM @ St. Nicholas
Reader: Kelsey Bentlage Music: Sally Rehberger
Euch. Min.: Brenda & Marce Tebbe

Sun. Oct. 12 @ 8:00AM @ St. Gertrude
Reader: Carole Sauls Music: Nick Worman
Sacristan: Sue Dickman
Euch.Min.: Terry & Sue Dickman & Brenda Knackstedt
Ushers: Bryan Rutz & Kevin Schwarz
Servers: Evonna & Makayla Korsmeyer

Sun. Oct. 12 @10:00AM @ IC
Reader: Tim Schuette Music: Joy Winkeler
Servers: Parker & Mabry Munie
Euch. Min.: Rick & Ruth Zurliene & John Dea

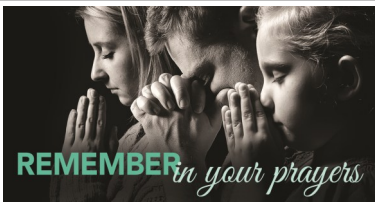


Prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of **Hulin “Bill” Halcomb**, husband of **Joyce Halcomb**, of our parish family. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Bill’s family and friends.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord...

Thank You!

To my beloved parishioners, Thank you for your prayers, love, gifts and beautiful messages on Priesthood Sunday. I am humbled by your kindness and generous support. I am overwhelmed by the outpouring of love I receive from all of you. I rely on God’s grace and your prayerful support to give me strength to make this ministry effective and to overcome challenges. I am grateful to be your priest. May God bless you for your generosity and may our shared mission continue to flourish. Father Cal



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, Steve Crawford, Don Dapkus, Dave Deiters, Teresa Dickman, Joan Dickshot, Jean Fields, Scott Frank, Gabriel Frey, Jerry Fyke, Ed Gagen, Karen Grabowski, P.J. Hereford, Gene Jolliff, Pat Kalous, Val King, 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, Suzanne Steinbring, Marcia Rowe, Gunner Sadler, Abby Schrage, Bill & Ruth Schroeder, Bertha Voss, Marie Weis, Ginny Werner, Dean Wernle, 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, 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

October is *Mission Month* and World Mission Sunday is October 26. On that day, every parish globally unites in prayer and generosity for the Holy Father’s missions in 1,100+ territories where the Church is poor, young, and persecuted. Your gift helps train seminarians, support vowed religious men and women, and provides schools and clinics in the world’s most vulnerable places. Be part of this global mission of hope — pray and give generously!



St Nicholas Church, Pocahontas
Gary Plog SOUP & SONG
Fall Festival & Raffle
October 18, 2025

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 5, 2025

Sunday:
Hb 1:2-3; 2:2-4/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 (8)/
2 Tm 1:6-8, 13-14/Lk 17:5-10

Monday:
Jon 1:1-2:2, 11/Jon 2:3, 4, 5, 8/Lk 10:25-37

Tuesday:
Jon 3:1-10/Ps 130:1b-2, 3-4ab, 7-8/
Lk 10:38-42

Wednesday:
Jon 4:1-11/Ps 86:3-4, 5-6, 9-10/Lk 11:1-4

Thursday:
Mal 3:13-20b/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/
Lk 11:5-13

Friday:
Jl 1:13-15; 2:1-2/Ps 9:2-3, 6 and 16, 8-9/
Lk 11:15-26

Saturday:
Jl 4:12-21/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Lk 11:27-28

Next Sunday:
2 Kgs 5:14-17/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4 (see 2b)/
2 Tm 2:8-13/Lk 17:11-19



The Diocesan October Count has started 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!



God created you on a special day. Your birthday is special and so are you. We would like to pray in a special way for all those born during the month of October. May God bless you abundantly especially on your birthday.

Instead of listing individual names of those celebrating a birthday, and in an effort to celebrate all with birthdays, we would like to instead say, “Happy Birthday to all who are celebrating a birthday this month!”

STN Collection	9/27/25
Envelopes/Loose	\$1,772.00
Sister Parish	\$210.00
Budget Goal	\$1,257.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$515.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$16,341.00
Support Actual	\$15,423.06
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$-917.94

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control.” 2 Timothy 1:7

Many of us compartmentalize our Faith, we bring it out only when we attend Mass or when we attend a parish event. Being a good steward requires discipline and striving to put God first in everything – all the time. The next time you are at a neighborhood party or at work or out shopping, would your words and actions signal to others that you are a good and faithful servant of our Lord?

The Apostles beg Jesus for increased faith, but they don’t really want faith. They want a magical feeling of certainty that requires no effort. Real faith must grow and sprout roots in fertile soil. Real faith requires attention and work. Are we willing to work?

Fr. Cal will hear confessions on Fridays at IC after the 8AM Mass & Adoration; On Saturdays before the 4:30PM Mass at STN from 3:45-4:15PM; On Tuesdays after the 8AM Mass at STG; at the parish office on Tues./Thurs. 9AM –Noon or by appointment. (please note the 1st Tues. of the month is Mass at Hitz Home).

Alhambra Township and Village residents will be offered FREE flu shots on Monday, October 13 from 3-6pm at the Alhambra Firemans Hall. High Dose vaccines for seniors will also be available. For drive thru vaccinations, please contact Gail Ohren at 618-830-1384. No registration is required.



Some pics from Priesthood Sunday!

“A word or a smile is often enough to put fresh life in a despondent soul.” - St. Therese of Lisieux

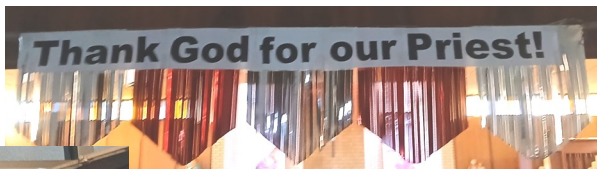
STN Collection	9/28/25
Envelopes/Loose	\$1,027.00
Sister Parish	\$15.00
Church in Africa	\$25.00
Maintenance Fund	\$50.00
Budget Goal	\$1,505.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$-478.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$19,565.00
Support Actual	\$16,599.00
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$-2,966.00

Observances for the week of October 5, 2025

Sunday: 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Respect Life Sunday
Monday: St. Bruno, Priest; Bl. Marie Rose Durocher, Virgin
Tuesday: Our Lady of the Rosary
Thursday: St. Denis, Bishop, and Companions, Martyrs; St. John Leonardi, Priest
Saturday: St. John XXIII, Pope
Next Sunday: 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

2025 Respect Life Mass, Rosary Walk, and Luncheon—Saturday, October 11 | 9 a.m. | Holy Family Catholic Church, Granite City
The day will begin with the Respect Life Mass at 9am at Holy Family Church (2606 Washington) Following Mass, there will be a Rosary Walk through the community, giving witness to the dignity of every human life. A luncheon will follow, featuring guest speaker Kristi Hofferber, Executive Director of A Beacon of Light. All are welcome—families, youth, clergy, parish staff, and members of the community. No registration or fees are required.

Life Chain—Sunday, October 5th from 2 to 3PM in Highland at the intersection of Rt. 143 & 40. Bring a lawn chair, signs provided.



IC Collection	9/28/25
Envelopes/Loose	\$1,807.00
Sister Parish	\$60.00
Candles	\$74.00
Budget Goal	\$2,672.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$-865.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$34,736.00
Support Actual	\$29,842.14
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$-4,893.86

October 4 & 5, 2025

Mon. (Oct. 6)
Tues. (Oct. 7) 8:00am (St.G)
Tues. (Oct. 7) 9:30am (H.H.)
Wed. (Oct. 8) 8:00am (IC)
Thur. (Oct. 9) 8:00am (St.N)
Fri. (Oct.10) 8:00am (IC)
Sat. (Oct.11) 4:30pm (St.N)
Sun. (Oct.12) 8:00am (St.G)
Sun. (Oct.12) 10:00am (IC)

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

† **Mass Intentions** †
No Mass

† **All Souls**
† **All Souls**
† **Scott Duursma** — Int. of Bill & Denise Trickey
† **For the People of St. Nicholas, St. Gertrude & Immaculate Conception**
† **Firmin & Thelka Pierron** — Int. of Jane & Dale Grieser
† **Betty Shenkel**— Int. of the Weis Family
† **Leo & Lois Goestenkors** — Int. of Donna Holthaus
† **Mary Frank** — Int. of Jim & Sandy Vosholler
† **Bill Klostermann** —Int. of Jane Bircher

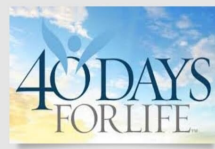
October 4 & 5, 2025



David is a 3rd grader at Holy Family Catholic School in Granite City. He is recovering from his battle with cancer. He has been fighting hard, and his immune system is shot. We need all the prayers and all the support for this family. David has continued to show his positivity, strength and courage throughout.

Fundraiser for David on Saturday Oct 11th 2 -6PM or until sold out. Street tacos (Pork Carnitas or Chicken) \$15/plate (comes with 3 tacos rice & beans, \$10 Child Plate. Includes water, lemonade or tea.

1900 St. Clair Avenue, Granite City
Mass will be held in the gymnasium at 4PM



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

Meet Our Seminarists



Samuel Lutostanski
Propaedeutic
St. Meinrad Seminary

One thing I have learned about discernment is the importance of giving everyone and everything in my life back to God. He can take far better care of my friends and family than I can, and everything I offer Him will be returned in a much greater form.



Devotions, Explained!

This popular phrase is an affirmation of God's faithfulness amidst the trials of life, a theme that is presented again and again in Scripture: come what may, God will be with us.

Prayer to Respect Life

Dear God,
Help us to hear Your voice, especially when You speak on behalf of the voiceless, the overlooked, and the forgotten. Keep our ears attuned, and work through us in a way that loves, blesses, assures, supports, and strengthens LIFE.
Amen.

Devotions, Explained! God is Good, All the Time

Perhaps you have been a member of a congregation to whom the pastor says, expectantly, "God is good!" The congregation responds, faithfully, "All the time." In turn, the speaker repeats: "All the time." And the congregation affirms: "God is good!"

A collective affirmation of God's faithfulness amidst the trials of life, this refrain communicates a theme presented again and again in Scripture: Come what may, God will be with us. There is no official consensus on the origins of this saying, though it is often associated with African Christianity. Whatever this saying's roots, its message is truth: "For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endures to all generations," says Psalm 100:5. "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever," echoes 1 Chronicles 16:34. Jesus confirms this in Matthew 28:20: "I am with you always, even to the end of the age." ©LPi

St. Mary's 18th Annual Oktoberfest

Join us in Alton for St. Mary's 18th Annual Oktoberfest, October 10-12, at our grounds at Henry & 3rd Streets, as we celebrate our parish's 167th anniversary, with music, food, raffles, auctions, kids' activities, and more!

Visit www.stmarysoktoberfest.com for details, \$10,000 Sweepstakes raffle tickets, and auction info.



My Lord Jesus Christ, I thank you for the great love and charity you show me. For it is a sign of great love when the Lord punishes his servant for all his misdeeds in this world rather than punish him in the next. And I am joyfully prepared to undergo every trial and adversity which you,

God, are pleased to send me for my sins.

Saint Francis of Assisi
(from the meditation of October 4)



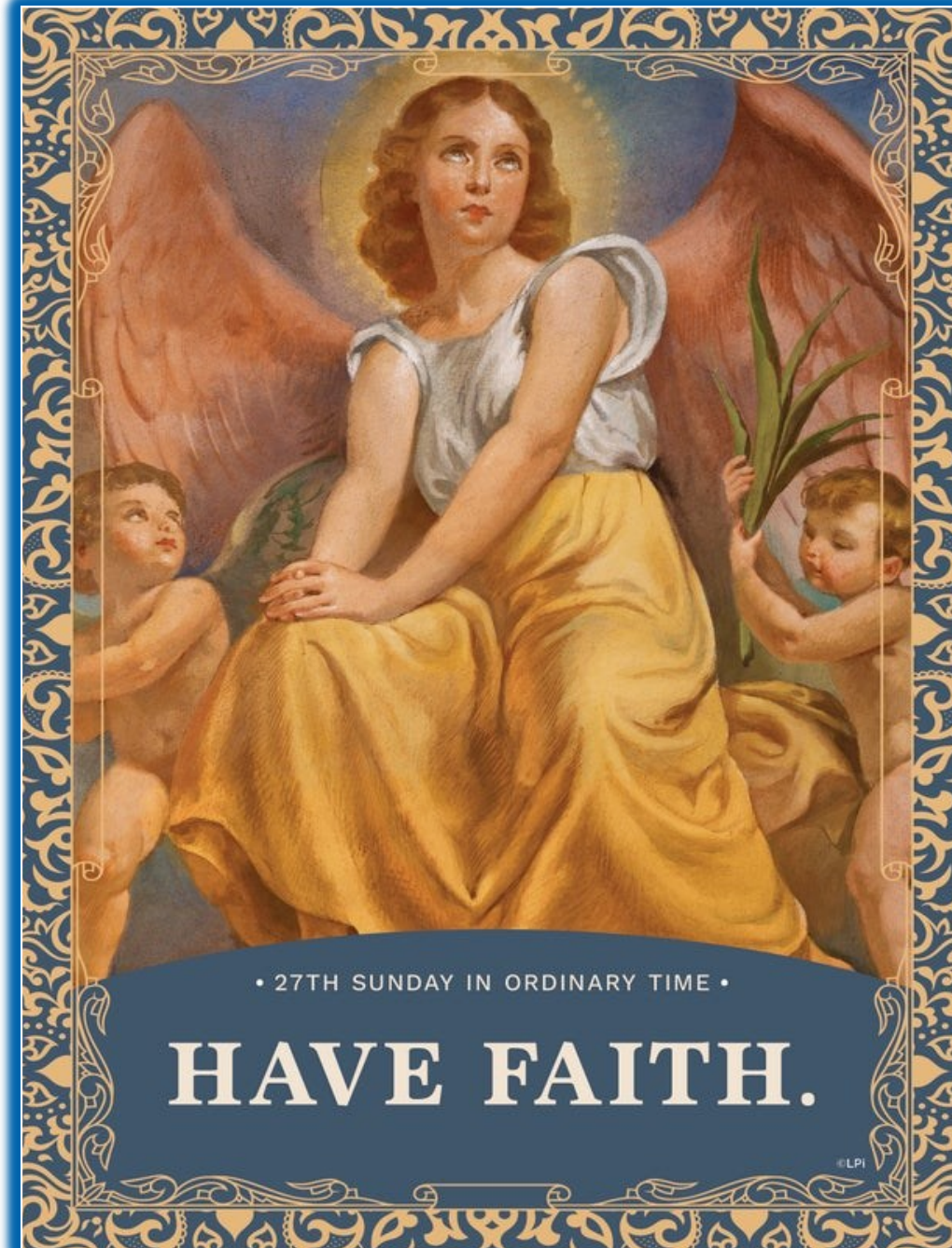
Saint Nicholas - Pocahontas



Immaculate Conception—Pierron



Saint Gertrude—Grantfork



+BISHOP
THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI
DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD
IN ILLINOIS

✠
REV. CALLISTUS OSIAGA
PASTOR

SONYA CURRY
SECRETARY

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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