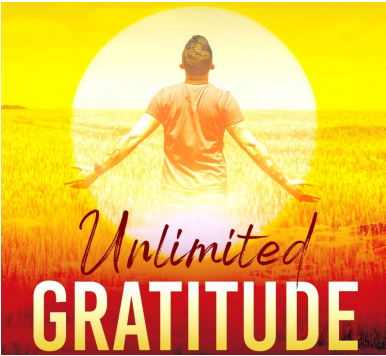




Dorothy Day, the great Catholic activist, doubted God’s existence. At least in her early adult years. But something changed when after giving birth to her daughter, she experienced an overwhelming gratitude. She later described how, as she held her daughter, the only appropriate response was a kind of unlimited gratitude. She had done nothing to deserve such a gift—this tiny miraculous life— but there she was, flooded with gratitude, completely undone by the love of such a Giver.

Something similar occurs in Luke 17:19 when Jesus tells a healed leper, “Stand up and go; your faith has saved you.” This man had already received physical healing through his faith. But the moment of an even deeper transformation came when he turned back, fell at Jesus’ feet, and gave thanks. Like Dorothy, this man’s gratitude let him to encounter the Giver. Isn’t that what we want too? Gratitude to God has the power to break our chains of sadness, bitterness, and disenchantment. It empowers us to step out of the prison of self-pity and into the reality of God’s abundant love.

It shifts our focus from what we lack to what we have received, from what wounds us to what heals us.

Where do we learn this? The Mass. The priest prays: “It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks.” Always. Everywhere. Not just when life is easy. Not just when prayers are answered as we expect. Gratitude is not a passive feeling; it is an act of faith. In the Eucharist, we remember that Christ Himself has given everything for us.

And in this act of gratitude, we are healed. — Fr. John Muir

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR OCTOBER 18 & 19, 2025
Sat. Oct. 18 @ 4:30PM @ St. Nicholas
Reader: Brenda Tebbe Music: Sally Rehberger
Euch. Min.: Brenda & Marce Tebbe
Server: Pat Kalous
Sun. Oct. 19 @ 8:00AM @ St. Gertrude
Reader: Brenda Knackstedt Music: Roger Frey
Sacristan: Brenda Knackstedt
Euch.Min.: Sue Messerli, Jane Deiters & Karen Knackstedt
Ushers: Terry Dickman & Michael Sauls
Servers: Nevin Straube & Katie Schwarz

Sun. Oct. 19 @10:00AM @ IC
Reader: John Dea Music: Joy Winkeler
Servers: Rebecca Dea & Paige Knebel
Euch. Min.: Evelyn Knebel, Mary Korte & Erica Knebel


FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of **Diana (Munie) Beck**, wife of **Keith Beck**, and for **Lawrence Frank** father of **Lisa (Terry) Frey, Scott (Anna) Frank, Nicholas Frank**, and **Kimberly (Jeremy) Knebel** of our parish family. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Diana & Lawrence’s family and friends.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord...

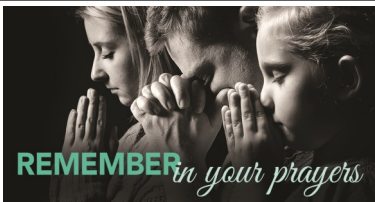
Funeral Arrangements for Lawrence Frank: Visitation Sunday, October 12th 2:00 - 6:00 pm at Meridith Funeral Home in Highland and on Mon. Oct. 13th 9AM to10AM at Immaculate Conception Church with funeral Mass to follow at 10AM.



Mon. (Oct.13)
Tues. (Oct.14)
Wed. (Oct.15)
Thur. (Oct.16)
Fri. (Oct.17)
Sat. (Oct.18)
Sun. (Oct.19)
Sun. (Oct.19)

8:00am (St.G)
8:00am (IC)
8:00am (St.N)
8:00am (IC)
4:30pm (St.N)
8:00am (St.G)
10:00am (IC)

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time



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:
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 prayer list please call the parish office.

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!

† **Mass Intentions** †
No Mass

For the People of St. Gertrude, St. Nicholas & Immaculate Conception
† **Fred & Rita Stoll** — Int. of Bill & Denise Trickey
† **All Souls**
† **Firmin & Thelka Pierron** — Int. of Jane & Dale Grieser
† **Gary Plog** — Int. of Don Cureton
† **Frank & Rita Nordhaus** — Int. of Karen & Allen Knackstedt Family
† **Clarence Korte** — Int. of Donna & Ralph Korte
† **Hants & Alice Knebel** —Int. of Mr. & Mrs. Mike Capelle

October 11 & 12, 2025

Readings for the week of October 12, 2025

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

Monday:
Rom 1:1-7/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/
Lk 11:29-32

Tuesday:
Rom 1:16-25/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Lk 11:37-41

Wednesday:
Rom 2:1-11/Ps 62:2-3, 6-7, 9/Lk 11:42-46

Thursday:
Rom 3:21-30/Ps 130:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6ab/
Lk 11:47-54

Friday:
Rom 4:1-8/Ps 32:1b-2, 5, 11/Lk 12:1-7

Saturday:
2 Tm 4:10-17b/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18/
Lk 10:1-9

Next Sunday:
Ex 17:8-13/Ps 121:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (see 2)/2 Tm 3:14-4:2/Lk 18:1-8



The Diocesan October Count 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!



Please Note: the next St. Gertrude Council meeting will be held on Thursday, Oct. 23rd at 7:00PM



STN Collection	10/4/25
Envelopes/Loose	\$1,227.00
All Saints	\$120.00
Sister Parish	\$30.00
Black & Indian Mission	\$150.00
World Mission	\$100.00
All Souls	\$10.00
Budget Goal	\$1,257.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$90.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$17,598.00
Support Actual	\$16,770.06
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$-827.94

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?” Luke 17:18

Most of us live relatively “easy” lives. We have food, shelter, clothing, and money. We go on vacation every year and own a car or two. Most of us take this all for granted. Did you ever notice that people with the least amount of possessions are usually the most grateful? Shouldn’t this be the other way around? Take time every day and thank God for all He has given you and discern how He is calling you to share your gifts.

If we have faith, we call out to God and we beg Him for healing. But when our faith is rewarded, what then? Do we take our miracle and run? No, we must return to the source of our healing to say, “You have changed me, Lord. Now help me to change others.”

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).



Parish Office will be closed on Monday Oct. 13th

Please join us for a special Mass, along with Adoration and Benediction, at Immaculate Conception on Tuesday, October 21, 2025 at 6:30pm, which will be 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, this community gathers to seek Divine intervention, promote reconciliation, and cultivate nonviolence in our 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.



STG Collection	10/5/25
Envelopes/Loose	\$1,080.00
Black & Indian Mission	\$25.00
Cemetery	\$5.00
Maintenance Fund	\$170.00
Budget Goal	\$1,505.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$-425.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$21,070.00
Support Actual	\$17,679.00
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$-3,391.00

Observances for the week of October 12, 2025

Sunday: 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: Columbus Day; Indigenous Peoples’ Day
Tuesday: St. Callistus I, Pope and Martyr
Wednesday: St. Teresa of Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church
Thursday: St. Hedwig, Religious; St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, Virgin
Friday: St. Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop and Martyr
Saturday: St. Luke, Evangelist
Next Sunday: 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time; World Mission Sunday



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

St Nicholas Parishioners

Soup & Song Fall Festival is next Saturday Sept 18. Please return raffle tickets this week or during the event. The parish hall will open from 9-10 AM that morning or before the 4:30 Mass to drop off a dessert. For more information contact Barb Zaloga @ 618-704-5006. Hope to see you there! Thank you

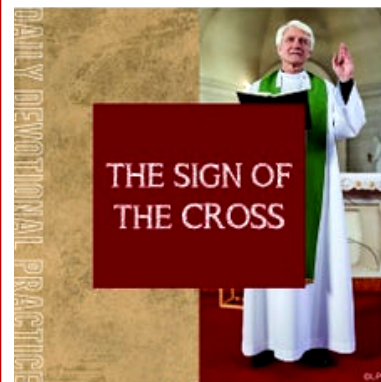
IC Collection	10/5/25
Envelopes/Loose	\$2,484.00
All Saints	\$10.00
Sister Parish	\$65.00
Black & Indian Mission	\$225.00
Building Fund	\$120.00
Candles	\$110.00
World Mission	\$35.00
Cemetery	\$80.00
All Souls	\$10.00
Budget Goal	\$2,672.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$-178.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$37,408.00
Support Actual	\$32,336.14
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$-5,071.86

October 11 & 12, 2025



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.

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.



Devotions, Explained!

Christians have been making the sign of the cross since ancient times. It is not only an important component of formal liturgies and sacramental rites, but also a daily devotional practice whereby the faithful invoke the blessing and protection of God.

Prayer of Identity

Dear God,
Claim me as Your own.
When I lose my way, remind me that I am Yours.
When I'm plagued with doubt, fill me with Your love.

Amen.

Devotions Explained! The Sign of the Cross

Christians have been making the sign of the cross since ancient times, as evidenced by writings from Tertullian, Hippolytus and St. Cyprian. The ritual action is not only an important component of formal liturgies and sacramental rites, but also a daily devotional practice whereby the faithful invoke the blessing and protection of God.

In the Latin rite, it is made either with a movement of the full hand from one's forehead, breast and shoulders (going right to left) or with the thumb tracing the cross on the forehead, lips and breast.

"I claim you for Christ by the sign of his cross." These words from the Rite of Baptism, spoken as the priest traces a cross on the infant's forehead, perfectly communicate the significance of that simple, familiar action. In signing the cross, we claim ourselves again and again for Christ, unite ourselves with His sacrifice on Calvary, and confess his victory over death.

St Gertrude Parish in Grantfork was recently chosen to receive the **Bernard J. Lengerman Compassionate Hands grant**. Gail Ohren and Kris Hundsorfer from the Grantfork CFL Council 60 present a check to Diane Williams of the Highland Area Christian Services Ministry food pantry. The donation will be used to purchase turkeys or hams for the food pantry. There are currently 6 parishioners from St. Gertrude Parish who volunteer monthly at the pantry.

Bernard Lengerman was a past Chairman of the Board and President of Catholic Fraternal Life. His lifelong dedication was to the St. Vincent DePaul Society at St. Teresa Parish in Belleville. Bernard passed away at the age of 95. After his passing, the staff and Board of Directors at CFL felt it only fitting to implement a program in his memory. A \$500 grant is awarded every month in one of the 17 states in which the CFL is licensed. The grant must be used at a local food pantry or to St Vincent DePaul Society.

United For Others (UFO) meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 14th at Grantfork UCC. Members are asked to dress in costume or some type of "Halloween attire."



Vote Madison County Catholic Charities for the #1 Best Local Non-Profit—Madison County Catholic Charities was voted #1 Best Local Non-Profit in our area in 2022 & 2024. We were more than grateful to receive the Best of the Best award. It would be our honor to claim the award again this year. The voting round will be open Oct. 16-29th this year & you may vote every day for us! To cast your votes, visit our website: <https://cc.dio.org/events/nomin-madison-county-catholic-charities> or scan the QR code.

Red Mass for Legal Professionals

The 9th Annual Red Mass will be celebrated at 10:15 a.m. on Sunday, October 26, 2025, at St. Boniface, 110 N. Buchanan St., Edwardsville. Bishop Thomas John Paprocki and Chief Judge Christopher P. Threlkeld invite all legal professionals and their families. Judges are invited to join the entrance procession in judicial robes. Brunch follows Mass at Bella Milano with Keynote speaker: Darren Price, Esq. RSVP by October 18 to Sarah Kreke: skreke@st-boniface.com or 618-656-6450.

"Life is too short for us to worry about what other people think. We are called by God to be saints: to live our faith with courage and conviction in this time and in this place, and to put all our trust in God."

DEACON HAROLD BURKE-SIVERS
& SONJA CORBITT
Ignite

DynamicCatholic.com

Meet Our Seminarists



Wyatt Clark
Propaedeutic
Bishop Simon Bruté
Seminary

One thing I have learned about discernment is to stay close to the Sacraments especially the Eucharist and Confession as well as to set aside time to spend with Jesus in the Eucharist in adoration.

28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME OCTOBER 11 & 12, 2025



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