



I am embarrassed to admit that I frequently find myself dining and socializing with people who have millions and sometimes billions of dollars. I've eaten more caviar, lobster and wagyu steak than most people on the planet. I justify it by saying it's part of my job. But I have seven pairs of nice jeans and expensive shoes.

So it is rather uncomfortable to hear Our Lord say: "My child, remember that you received what was good in your lifetime, while Lazarus likewise received what was bad; but now he is comforted here, whereas you are tormented" (Luke 16:25). Fellow rich people (and if you're American, you're rich), do we not vehemently though quietly object to this parable's karma-esque reward system? Why bless the rich man just to curse him later? And curse Lazarus just to bless him later? So Americans go to hell, while Burundians and Afghans go to heaven? What is going on?

One clue is that the condemned rich man doesn't complain of injustice. Rather, he simply begs to help his brothers to repent. Of what? We don't know exactly. Perhaps another clue is that the rich man now seems more like the downtrodden Lazarus. He knows what it is to be hungry and thirsty, to be wounded in the gutter; that he deserved that, not fancy meals and clothes. Maybe the rich man finally understands how to receive true blessings, but it is too late for him. But not for me. Not for us.

— Fr. John Muir

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR OCTOBER 4 & 5, 2025
Sat. Oct. 4 @ 4:30PM @ St. Nicholas
Reader: Pat Kalous Music: Sally Rehberger
Euch. Min.: Brenda & Marce Tebbe

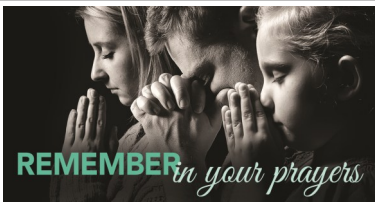
Sun. Oct. 5 @ 8:00AM @ St. Gertrude
Reader: Chad Korte Music: Nick Worman
Sacristan: Wendy Essenpreis
Euch.Min.: Judi Rode, Gail Ohren & Carole Sauls
Ushers: Karen & Nathaniel Straube
Servers: Elizabeth Schwarz & Morgan Dressler

Sun. Oct. 5 @10:00AM @ IC
Reader: Denise Trickey Music: Joy Winkeler
Servers: Jack Williamson
Euch. Min.: Erica Knebel, Cindy Knebel & Amy Gilomen



let us promote the culture of holiness and righteousness.
Christians are like a city built on a hilltop that cannot be hidden; our visibility must illuminate our environment through our positive Christian values.

I am light; you are light: keep your light shining. Today, perhaps more than ever before, we live in a dark world. Christ challenges us today to keep our lights shining through our actions. Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father (MT 5:14-16). Where is the light that we were presented at baptism? It is not enough to criticize, condemn, and point fingers, but rather,



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, Suzanne Steinbring, Marcia Rowe, Gunner Sadler, Abby Schrage, Bill & Ruth Schroeder, Bertha Voss, Marie Weiss, 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 prayer list please call the parish office.



FAITHFUL DEPARTED
Prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of **Lary Quigley**, brother in-law of **Harold (Marilyn) Meskil**, and for **Sharon Cantrell** of our parish family. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Lary & Sharon's family and friends.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord...



† **Mass Intentions** †
No Mass

† **All Souls**
† **Derek Burns** — Int. of Bill & Denise Trickey
† **Jerry Sugg** — Int. of Mark Williams
† **Joetta Korte** — Int. of Jeannie Korte & Family
† **Tony Vosholler**— Int. of Ralph & Paul Goesten Kors
† **Shirley Schwarz** — Int. of Karen Boulanger
For the People of St. Gertrude, St. Nicholas & Immaculate Conception
† **Jess & Clara Knebel** — Int. of Bruce, Pam, Nick Elser & Bernice Sperino
† **Cy & Dolores Weis** —Int. of Monica & Jeff Toennies

September 27 & 28, 2025

Readings for the week of September 28, 2025
Sunday:
Am 6:1a, 4-7/Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 (1b)/
1 Tm 6:11-16/Lk 16:19-31

Monday:
Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12ab/
Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 4-5/Jn 1:47-51

Tuesday:
Zec 8:20-23/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/
Lk 9:51-56

Wednesday:
Neh 2:1-8/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6/Lk 9:57-62

Thursday:
Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12 (458)/
Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/Mt 18:1-5, 10

Friday:
Bar 1:15-22/Ps 79:1b-2, 3-5, 8, 9/
Lk 10:13-16

Saturday:
Bar 4:5-12, 27-29/Ps 69:33-35, 36-37/
Lk 10:17-24

Next 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



BRING YOUR PET TO BE BLESSED
Wed. October 1st at IC 6:30PM

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
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	9/20/25
Envelopes/Loose	\$1,108.00
Sister Parish	\$30.00
Church in Africa	\$165.00
Gaza Collection	\$60.00
Budget Goal	\$1,257.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$-149.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$15,084.00
Support Actual	\$13,651.06
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$-1,432.94

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"My child, remember that you received what was good during your lifetime while Lazarus likewise received what was bad; but now he is comforted here, whereas you are tormented. Moreover, between us and you a great chasm is established..." Luke 16:25-26

When God created the world He declared that it was good and He gave it to all mankind for us to enjoy. However, over the years we have created a chasm between those who have great gifts and those who do not. In today's Gospel we see that with our own generosity we must bridge that gap between those who have much and those who have little, or we may find ourselves on the wrong side of the chasm in the next life.

The rich man had a chance, every day of his life, to choose righteousness. But righteousness wasn't convenient for him. He discovered too late that the only time we have to follow God is now. Here. This moment. Will we take our chance?

A Big Thank You to Dave Brainer for his donation of time, labor and equipment to remove and replace the parking markers in the newly oiled & chipped parking lot at St. Nicholas Church! Thanks Dave!!

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).



The Diocesan October Count will start next weekend and 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!

STG Collection	9/21/25
Envelopes/Loose	\$790.00
Church in Africa	\$125.00
Maintenance Fund	\$100.00
Budget Goal	\$1,505.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$-715.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$18,060.00
Support Actual	\$15,572.00
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$-2,488.00

September 27 & 28, 2025

Observances for the week of September 28, 2025

Sunday: 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Priesthood Sunday

Monday: Sts. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels

Tuesday: St. Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Wednesday: St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

Thursday: The Holy Guardian Angels

Saturday: St. Francis of Assisi

Next Sunday: 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Respect Life Sunday

Pancake Breakfast & Open House
September 27th to celebrate 146 years of service. Come tour our home and discover what we do. Located at 1400 State St., Alton IL

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.

New parish office Email: icpierron@parish.dio.org

September Pantry Needs at HACSM: Tuna & Chicken Noodle Soup
All food donations will still be accepted no matter the above assignment each month. Thank You!

IC Collection	9/21/25
Envelopes/Loose	\$1,853.00
Sister Parish	\$65.00
Church in Africa	\$701.00
Building Fund	\$100.00
Candles	\$54.00
Gaza Collection	\$240.00
Budget Goal	\$2,672.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$-819.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$32,064.00
Support Actual	\$28,035.14
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$-4,028.86

September 27 & 28, 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. He 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

St. Teresa Church, Marydale DRIVE-THRU Chicken Dinner

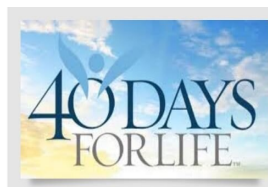
Sunday, September 28, 2025

Serving 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

\$15.00 per Meal

Packaged meal includes: ½ Fried Chicken (4 pieces), Dressing, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Green Beans, Slaw
Handmade Quilt Raffle

Located six miles north of Carlyle on Route 127; Follow the signs (Follow us on Facebook @MarydaleStTeresa)



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 Seminarists



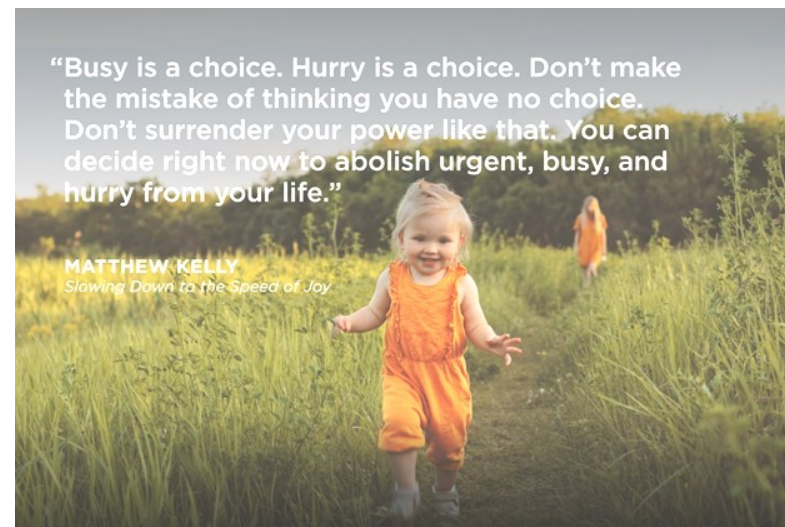
Ryan Kaufmann
Propaedeutic
St. Meinrad Seminary

One thing I have learned about discernment is that God is a loving God and wants what is best for us. He loves us so much that he gives us the free will to choose what we believe is best for ourselves. If we choose to come after him, we must 'deny ourselves, take up our cross daily and follow him.' (Luke 9:23)

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.



Explore Graduate Theology at Saint Meinrad —Laity and deacons are invited to an **Open House** for the Graduate Theology Program of Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology. **In-person Sat Oct 11 OR online Wed Nov 19** at 6:30pm CT. Discover how our **Master of Arts** and **certificate programs** in theology can deepen your understanding of the faith and support your call to ministry or discipleship. Visit saintmeinrad.edu/openhouse.



26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME SEPTEMBER 27 & 28, 2025



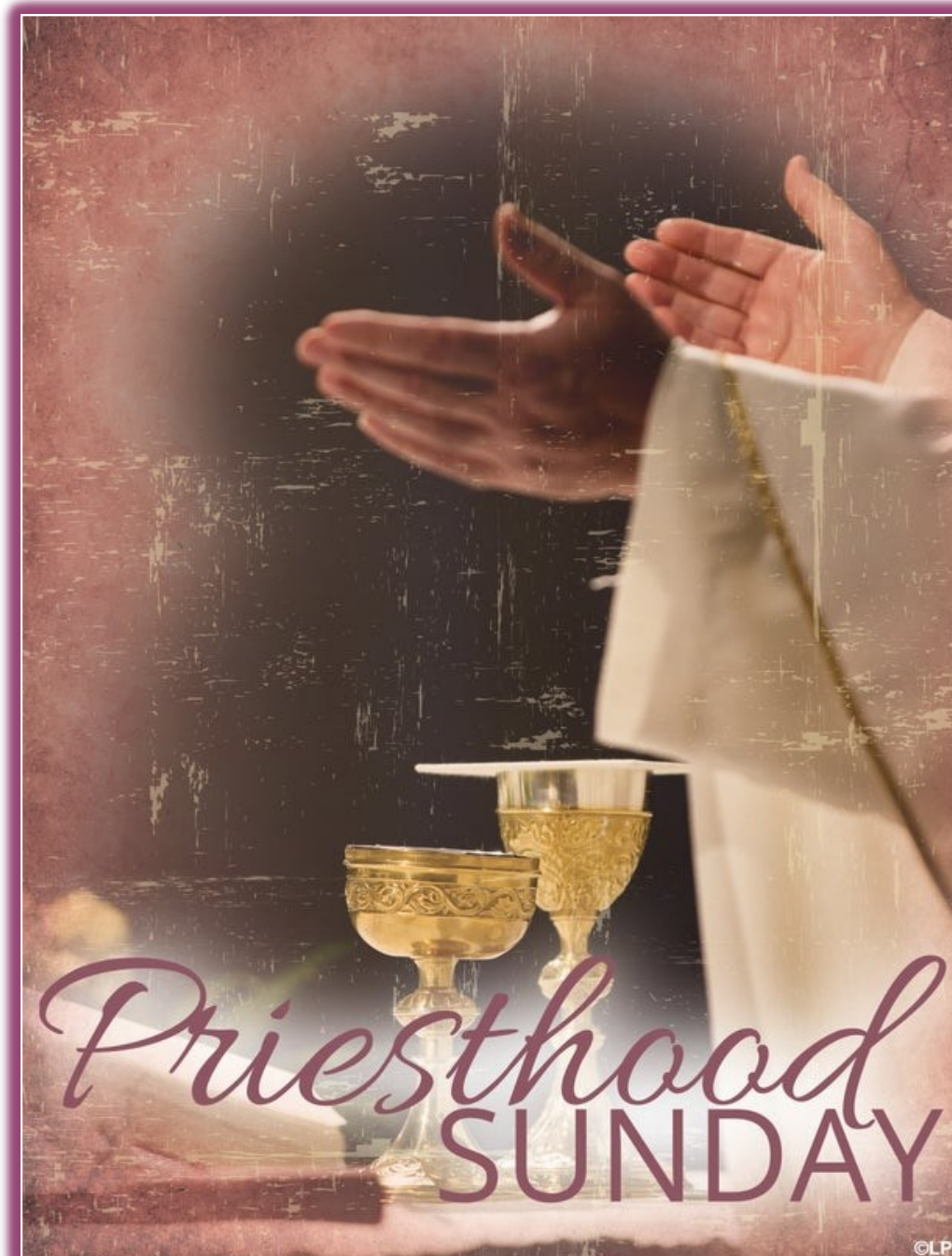
Saint Nicholas - Pocahontas



Immaculate Conception—Pierron



Saint Gertrude—Grantfork



+BISHOP
THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI
DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD
IN ILLINOIS

✠
REV. CALLISTUS OSIAGA
PASTOR

SONYA CURRY
SECRETARY

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Website:
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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
Saturday —10:00am

Saint Nicholas
Thursday — 8:00am
Saturday — 4:30pm

Saint Gertrude
Tuesday — 8:00am
Sunday — 8:00am