



I still remember the first homily I ever preached as a new deacon. It was at the seminary, and the Gospel was this one: "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me." (Matthew 10:37-38) Standing before more than 200 classmates and professors, I stumbled awkwardly through my words and realized how strange — almost insane — this teaching sounded. If anyone else said it, we would call it narcissistic or cultish.

And that is the point. I felt the weight of those words in my own heart then, as I still do today. Am I willing to live as though Christ's claim on my love is absolute? Are you?

Over the years, I've learned that the more I do, the more everything else makes sense. Family, friendships, vocation, even my very self: all of it falls into place when my love for Jesus comes first.

That is why He dares to speak this way. Our Lord is not a cult leader hungry for control. He is the Son of God, the source of life and love itself. To put Him before everything else is not to lose, but to find...everything, and everyone, in Him. This week, name one thing or person you are tempted to place before the Lord. Then consciously offer it back to Him in prayer. —Fr. John Muir

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR JUNE 27 & 28, 2026
Sat. July 4 @ 4:30PM @ St. Nicholas
 Reader: Don Cureton
 Music: Sally Rehberger, Barb Zaloga, & Colleen Lozier
 Euch. Min.: Marce & Brenda Tebbe
 Server: Pat Kalous

Sun. July 5 @ 8:00AM @ St. Gertrude
 Reader: Jacob Lewis
 Music: Nick Worman & Randy Eckstein
 Sacristan: Wendy Essenpreis
 Euch.Min.: Larry & Tina Luitjohan & Zach Lewis
 Ushers: Terry Dickman & Kevin Schwarz
 Servers: Oliver Lewis & Alissa Korsmeyer

Sun. July 5 @ 10:00AM @ IC
 Reader: Denise Trickey
 Music: Joy Winkeler
 Servers: Jack Williamson & Dylen Potthast
 Euch. Min.: Rick & Ruth Zurliene & Kristin Potthast

REMEMBER in your prayers

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, Janice Korsmeyer, Barrett Korte, Denny Korte, Randy Korte, Steve Korte, David Kuehn, Sue Luber, Christopher Marti, Taylor Marti, Barry May, Alex McCall, Eleanor Munie, Cody Neal, Jeannie Oestringer, Marcia Rowe, Gunner Sadler, Abby Schrage, Bill Schroeder, Suzanne Steinbring, Brenda Usher, Marie Weis, Rich Weis, Ginny Werner, Dean Wernle, Melanie 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, 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.

BORN INTO Eternal Life

FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of **Robin (Childerson) Pollmann**, mother of **Apryl (Chris) Marti**. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Robin's family and friends.

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord...

SAVE THE DATE

St Nicholas Gary Plog Soup & Song—Oct 17, 2026

Please text or call Barb Zaloga at 618-704-5006 if you would like to make a donation (monetary or item) for the raffle. A quilt has already been donated. Thank you!

Mon. (June 29) 8:00am
 Tues. (June 30) 8:00am (St.G)
 Wed. (July 1) 8:00am (IC)
 Thur. (July 2) 8:00am (St.N)
 Fri. (July 3) 8:00am (IC)
 Sat. (July 4) 4:30pm (St.N)

Sun. (July 5) 8:00am (St.G)
 Sun. (July 5) 10:00am (IC)

† **Mass Intentions** †

No Mass

† **All Souls**

† **Luke Kitterman** —Int. of Bill & Denise Trickey
 † **Linda Schleper** —Int. of Lowell & Denise Wellen
 † **Ken Weis** —Int. of Lowell & Denise Wellen
 † **Tyler Vosholler** —Int. of Dennis & Sheila Frey

For the People of St. Nicholas, St. Gertrude & Immaculate Conception

† **Leonard & Audrey Frank** — Int. of Bill & Marge Basler
 † **Stephen Moran** —Int. of the Wirz Family
 † **Lawrence & Pat Frank** —Int. of Dennis & Mary Korte

Baby Bottle Boomerang

PICK UP YOUR BOTTLE - MOTHER'S DAY - MAY 10
 FILL IT WITH CHECKS, CASH AND/OR CHANGE
 RETURN YOUR BOTTLE - FATHER'S DAY - JUNE 21

RELEVANT pregnancy options center

The Baby Bottle Boomerang has come to a close. Please return your bottles even if you were not able to make a donation. Checks can be written to Relevant Pregnancy Options Center.

Thanks for your contributions!

Pope Leo XIV in *Magnifica Humanitas* says, "True progress always stems from a heart open to others, an intelligence willing to listen and a will that seeks what unites rather than what separates."



Our Lady of Good Counsel Award: Women of Distinction 2026

Diocesan Award Announced: Our Lady of Good Counsel Award: "Women of Distinction"

This Saturday, June 27th +Bishop Thomas John Paprocki celebrated a Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield to honor the "Women of Distinction" from all the Catholic women of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois. Each parish is to name a woman from their parish who is actively living her Catholic faith, displays her spirituality and shares her time and talents with a cheerful attitude by doing acts of service and leadership toward her parish and community. She is to demonstrate how she willingly supports, empowers and educates all Catholic women in Spirituality, Leadership and Service. Fr. Cal has chosen Mrs. Denise Trickey, Ms. Barb Kalous and Mrs. Jane Deiters as our parish recipients and honorees for the "2026 Diocesan Woman of Distinction."



Barb Kalous is St. Nicholas' 2026 Woman of Distinction. Barb has done much over the years in support of her parish as a member of St. Nicholas. She is a life-long member of St. Nicholas and received all of her Sacraments there. Barb has previously been an usher, PSR Teacher, choir member, Eucharistic Minister, greeter and member of the former St. Nicholas Altar Sodality. Barb currently serves on the St. Nicholas Parish Council. She has helped at funeral luncheons, rummage sales, Soup & Song nights at St. Nicholas and assists in other parish events. Barb is always willing to lend a hand with any church project or activity. Within the Pocahontas community, she also serves as the Treasurer for Robinson Cemetery. She is always eager to help anyone in need. Barb truly reflects the values of our Catholic faith.

The 2026 Woman of Distinction for Immaculate Conception Parish is **Denise (Huelskamp) Trickey**. Denise is a smiling, familiar face at Immaculate Conception. Her greatest joy is being the mother of a seminarian; Dennis Trickey. Denise is very active in the parish, serving on the Parish Council, and has been a PSR teacher for 19 years. She is a Lector and an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion for the homebound of the parish and at the hospital. Denise was previously the Treasurer for the PAPAAYA youth group for 10 years. She is also a committee member for Vocation Ministry in order to bring awareness to vocations and promote an increase in prayers for religious. Denise and her husband of 40 years, Bill, coordinate and assist with the Just Jeans Drive for the homeless. She is also the leader and coordinator of the parish's prayer day at the Granite City facility. Denise is a member of the Ladies Auxiliary at the KC Hall in Highland. She has coordinated various faith oriented events at the parish in an attempt to help all to grow in holiness. Denise is always willing to help in any way that she can and is one of many reasons Immaculate Conception Church is a wonderful place to worship.



Jane (Jakel) Deiters has been a member of St. Gertrude Parish her whole life except for the first 2 years of her marriage when she lived in Highland. She attended CCD classes and received all of her Sacraments at St. Gertrude. Jane taught religious education for 7 years and had also been a lector. She has served on the Parish Council in the past and is currently serving as a member once again. Jane is a Eucharistic Minister, Sacristan, Sacristan Coordinator, she assists with funerals and baptisms, and also helps at funeral luncheons and annual chicken dinners. Jane is also the President of the St. Gertrude Altar Society. She helped facilitate the restarting of church services following the Covid pandemic. Jane was on the planning committee for the 150th Anniversary celebration at St. Gertrude. She is also a member of the United for Others group. Jane worked over 50 years as a nurse at St. Joseph's Hospital in Highland. While at St. Joseph's she received the Nursing Exemplar Award for excellence in nursing and the Daisy Award for Extraordinary Nurses. For these and many other reasons, Jane Deiters is St. Gertrude's 2026 Woman of Distinction.

Note From Fr. Cal: These ladies may look ordinary, but they possess extraordinary qualities which they have put in to the service of the Church and humanity. All of our ladies should put their ordinary qualities into productive use as witnesses to the Gospel.

We know there are many other ways Denise, Barb & Jane witness their love for Jesus in living out their Catholic faith. We know there are many other women worthy of this honor. We look forward in the years to come to honor more outstanding "Women of Distinction." Take time to congratulate them. Denise, Barb, & Jane you are such a blessing to our parishes—You're the Best!!

STN Collection	6/20/26	STG Collection	6/21/26	IC Collection	6/21/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$866.00	Envelopes/Loose	\$1,070.00	Envelopes/Loose	\$1,381.00
Budget Goal	\$1,257.00	Maintenance Fund	\$30.00	Candles	\$92.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$-391.00	Sister Parish	\$10.00	Budget Goal	\$2,672.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$64,107.00	Budget Goal	\$1,505.00	Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$-1,291.00
Support Actual	\$69,242.37	Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$-435.00	Support Needed (budget)	\$136,272.00
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$5,135.37	Support Needed (budget)	\$76,755.00	Support Actual	\$145,555.49
		Support Actual	\$71,262.27	Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$9,283.49
		Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$-5,492.73		

IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES:

Vocation NIGHT

FOR TEEN GIRLS

JULY 10 | 6-9 PM
Saint Paul Catholic Church
Highland, IL

SCAN TO RSVP:
Please submit by July 1st

CONTACT AMELIA HEMANN WITH ANY QUESTIONS
(618) 979-1144

"...whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me." Matthew 10:38

Pope Benedict XVI said "The world offers you comfort. But you were not made for comfort, you were made for greatness". "Comfort" puts me first. "Picking up your cross and following Jesus" puts God and others first. Why settle for comfort when you can achieve greatness! Pick up your cross, ask Jesus for guidance on using your gifts and live the life God intended for you!

June Pantry Needs:
Pencils (Ticonderoga) & Rulers

HACSM can always use monetary donations to allow them to purchase additional items as needed. All food donations will still be accepted no matter the above assignment each month. We appreciate your support! Thank You!

CALLED & Sent

A fun and powerful retreat for high school students filled with prayer and fellowship!

JULY 18-23, 2026 go.dio.org/dx8

VILLA MARIA RETREAT CENTER - SPRINGFIELD

Observances for the week of June 28, 2026

Sunday: 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles
Tuesday: The First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church
Wednesday: St. Junipero Serra, Priest
Friday: St. Thomas, Apostle
Saturday: Independence Day
Next Sunday: 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows 83rd Annual Healing & Hope Novena to Our Lady of the Snows — Tuesday, July 28, through Wednesday, August 5, 2026, 7pm nightly at Church of Our Lady of the Snows.

Finding Healing and Hope through Our Lady's Intercession

Join us in prayer for any or all of these nine evening Masses, as we pray for our own needs & those of our world. For the schedule of themes and more information, visit snows.org/Novena

Mid-life Singles (mid-30s to 50s): Are you looking for a renewed sense of purpose & belonging? Register today for a life-changing REFLECT weekend retreat at the Pallottine Renewal Center, Florissant, MO on July 17-19, 2026. Cost is \$290 including meals. Visit www.ReflectRetreat.com, e-mail reflect.stlouis@gmail.com, or call (630) 222-8303 for details.

Readings for the week of June 28, 2026

Sunday: 2 Kgs 4:8-11, 14-16a/Ps 89:2-3, 16-17, 18-19/Rom 6:3-4, 8-11/Mt 10:37-42

Monday:
Vigil: Acts 3:1-10/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Gal 1:11-20/Jn 21:15-19 **Day:** Acts 12:1-11/ Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18/Mt 16:13-19

Tuesday:
Am 3:1-8; 4:11-12/Ps 5:4b-6a, 6b-7, 8/ Mt 8:23-27

Wednesday:
Am 5:14-15, 21-24/Ps 50:7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13, 16bc-17/Mt 8:28-34

Thursday:
Am 7:10-17/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/Mt 9:1-8

Friday:
Eph 2:19-22/Ps 117:1bc, 2/Jn 20:24-29

Saturday:
Am 9:11-15/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/ Mt 9:14-17

Next Sunday:
Zec 9:9-10/Ps 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13-14/ Rom 8:9, 11-13/Mt 11:25-30

ENCOUNTER CHRIST • EXPERIENCE HEALING • REDISCOVER IDENTITY

RESTORATION RETREAT

FOR THE SEPARATED & DIVORCED

You are not alone. There is hope and a future.

Through prayer, teaching, sharing and community, experience healing and hope, rediscover your identity as beloved, and gain greater peace, clarity, and purpose.

SAT. JULY 11

SCHEDULE
9:00 am Mass
10 am-4:30 pm Retreat

LOCATION
Immaculate Heart of Mary (Marian Hall) or Online

PROVIDED
Lunch & Materials

SPECIAL GUEST
BISHOP DONALD HYING

PRESENTED BY
Carolyn Klifa Catino
Catholic Divorce Healing Coach & Founder of AJM

REGISTER TO ATTEND

SCAN ME

ABOUNDINGJOY
No Catholic walks through separation or divorce alone.

"Not everyone can join a convent or spend all their waking hours in prayer, penance, and contemplation, but everyone can deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow the Lord."

EMILY CAVINS
Lily of the Mohawks

DynamicCatholic.com



Pray For Our Seminarians
Martin McGrath
Discipleship IV
Bishop Simon Bruté Seminary

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

13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME JUNE 27 & 28, 2026



Saint Nicholas - Pocahontas



Immaculate Conception—Pierron



Saint Gertrude—Grantfork

SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 2026

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TAKE UP YOUR CROSS.

MATTHEW 10:38

+BISHOP
THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI
DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD
IN ILLINOIS

✠

REV. CALLISTUS OSIAGA
PASTOR

SONYA CURRY
SECRETARY

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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