

SHAKING US TO SPIRITUAL ACTION

Before I was a priest, I was a lazy worker for a retail Apple store. Hearing a rumor that my boss was going to fire me, I secretly sold iPhones for half-price, gave away dozens of free iPads, and donated several brand new laptops to managers in others stores in the mall. After a week, my boss called me into his office. He knew what I was up to. He said I had cost the store thousands of dollars. “Really great work, John,” he said. “I am going to recommend you to be my assistant manager and double your pay.” I was amazed.

And so are you. Which is understandable because it never happened. How could it? My tall tale is a retelling of Jesus’ brow-furrowing parable we hear this week. A lazy, dishonest steward defrauds his boss and then the “master commended the dishonest servant for acting prudently” (Luke 16:8). What is the Lord saying to us?

Most of us treat our spiritual lives like a lazy teenager at an Apple store. We really don’t care. We go through the motions. Then, if we are lucky, something happens that shakes us to spiritual action; to employ whatever time, money, and resources we have to build around us a strong network of love. Every saint did that. Our Lord is so good He *wants* us to use His stuff to forgive debts and to bless others. He wants us to ensure our future. So do it! — Fr. John Muir

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR SEPTEMBER 27 & 28, 2025
Sat. Sept. 27 @ 4:30PM @ St. Nicholas
Reader: Marce Tebbe Music: Sally Rehberger
Euch. Min.: Brenda & Marce Tebbe

Sun. Sept. 28 @ 8:00AM @ St. Gertrude
Reader: Barbie Weis Music: Nick Worman
Sacristan: Carole Sauls
Euch.Min.: Jane Deiters & Carole Sauls
Ushers: Randy & Dianne Leitschuh
Servers: Maris & Aubrey Barr

Sun. Sept. 28 @10:00AM @ IC
Reader: Lowell Wellen
Music: Joy Winkeler
Servers: Paige Knebel
Euch. Min.: Rick & Ruth Zurliene & Mary Korte

On Catechetical Sunday
we ask God's blessing
on our Catechists.

Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism in, handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith.

A Big Thank You to Mary Jo Luitjohan, Sheryl Hess, Kim Weis, Kari Asbury and all the catechists for their dedication and hard work in leading the PSR program this year; to the parents for their encouragement and sharing of the faith with their children and to the kids for their attendance and willingness to continue learning their faith.

Catechists at IC: Mary Jo Luitjohan 25 years (21 as Director); Denise Trickey 18 years; Bill Trickey 12 years; Candace Luitjohan 12 years; Judy Hereford 5 years; Karen Kalous 5 years; Allie Knebel 2 years; and Liz Kutz.

Catechists at STG: Karen Straube 17 years; Sheryl Hess 13 years (4 as Coordinator); Janice Korsmeyer 8 years; Lauren Maedge 3 years; and Kris Schwarz 2 years.

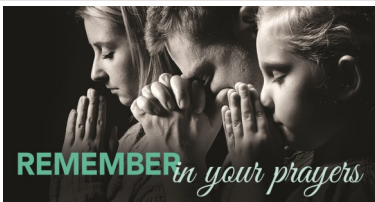
IC will have donuts in the parish hall after Mass to celebrate!!

Mon. (Sept22)
Tues. (Sept23) 8:00am (St.G)
Wed. (Sept.24) 8:00am (IC)
Thur. (Sept.25) 8:00am (St.N)
Thur. (Sept.25) 6:30pm (IC)
Fri. (Sept.26) 8:00am (IC)
Sat. (Sept.27) 4:30pm (St.N)
Sun. (Sept.28) 8:00am (St.G)
Sun. (Sept.28) 10:00am (IC)

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

† Mass Intentions †

No Mass
† **All Souls**
† **Loretta Knebel** — Int. of Delmar Knebel & Family
† **Don & Elizabeth Doll** — Int. of Mark Williams
For the People of Immaculate Conception, St. Nicholas & St. Gertrude
† **Colin DeSelm**— Int. of Bill & Denise Trickey
† **Ralph Goestenkors**— Int. of Paul Goestenkors
† **Mary Frank** — Int. of Randy & Julie Ribbing
† **Barbara Kutz** — Int. of Bill & Denise Trickey
† **Millie & Allan Frey** —Int. of Terry & Joan Riffel



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, Sharon 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, Randy Korte, Ruth 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 Weis, Ginny Werner, 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.

St. Gertrude Altar Society Meeting will be held this Monday, Sept. 22nd at 7PM

Next IC Council Meeting will be held this Tuesday, Sept. 23rd at 7PM.

Mass for an End to War and Violence at Immaculate Conception Thursday, Sept. 25; 6:30pm Fr. Callistus Osiaga; celebrant



On Sunday, Sep. 21 at 10AM

Join us for a special Mass at Immaculate Conception with music by the Prairie Travelers acoustic trio!

There will be donuts in the hall afterwards!



September 20 & 21, 2025

Readings for the week of September 21, 2025

Sunday:
Am 8:4-7/Ps 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8 (see 1a, 7b)/ 1 Tm 2:1-8/Lk 16:1-13 or 16:10-13

Monday:
Ezr 1:1-6/Ps 126:1b-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6/ Lk 8:16-18

Tuesday:
Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5/Lk 8:19-21

Wednesday:
Ezr 9:5-9/Tb 13:2, 3-4a, 4befghn, 7-8/ Lk 9:1-6

Thursday:
Hg 1:1-8/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/ Lk 9:7-9

Friday:
Hg 2:1-9/Ps 43:1, 2, 3, 4/Lk 9:18-22

Saturday:
Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a/Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13/ Lk 9:43b-45

Next Sunday:
Am 6:1a, 4-7/Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 (1b)/ 1 Tm 6:11-16/Lk 16:19-31

Donations are still being accepted to provide humanitarian relief and pastoral support for our affected brothers and sisters in Gaza and surrounding areas in the Middle East. Please prayerfully consider supporting this special collection. In lieu of envelopes, please include "Gaza" in the memo line of check offerings.

God created you on a special day. Please let us know when your birthday is, it’s special and so are you. We would like to include in the bulletin and pray in a special way for all those born during the month. We ask that you reach out to the parish office and let us know the month and day of your birthday. May God bless you abundantly, especially on your birthday!

Happy Birthday to the Korsmeyer’s & Margaret & Kim Weis on the following days!

Makayla Korsmeyer on July 20th
Katrina Korsmeyer on August 8th
Janice Korsmeyer on September 9th
Evonna Korsmeyer on September 13th
Alissa Korsmeyer on September 21st
Margaret Weis on September 20th
Kim Weis on September 26th

STN Collection	9/13/25
Envelopes/Loose	\$1,027.00
Sister Parish	\$10.00
Church in Africa	\$10.00
Capital Improvement	\$100.00
Gaza Collection	\$288.00
Budget Goal	\$1,257.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$-230.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$13,827.00
Support Actual	\$12,543.06
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$-1,283.94

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“No servant can serve two masters. He will hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon (wealth).” LUKE 16:13

Jesus knows that for many of us, God and money run “neck and neck” as top priority. Is money a “god” that you put before God? Giving money to support the Church and other charity is a pillar of our faith, just like attending Mass every Sunday and participating in parish ministry. Giving money frees us from becoming a slave to money. It increases our dependence on God and our trust that God will provide all that we need.



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. Charbel’s First Class Relic and relics of other saints coming to Vandalia/Springfield in October — A First Class relic of St. Charbel Makhlof, the miraculous Maronite priest, monk, & hermit from Lebanon, is coming to our diocese for the first time from his homeland and Catholics across Illinois are invited to this rare spiritual encounter. The relic will be available for public veneration at 2 locations: the Sanctuary of the Sorrowful Mother in Vandalia on October 7–8 (Mass at 5pm, veneration from 4–8pm both days) and the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield on Sunday, October 19, following the 10 a.m. Mass. Additional relics of holy men and women, including St. Padre Pio, St. Carlo Acutis, the three Fatima children, & a piece of the True Cross will also be present. Come bring your intentions and experience the powerful intercession of the saints. No RSVP required.

For more information, visit [OSMM.org](https://www.osmm.org)

STG Collection	9/14/25
Envelopes/Loose	\$491.00
Maintenance Fund	\$40.00
Cemetery	\$100.00
Gaza Collection	\$135.00
Budget Goal	\$1,505.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$-1,014.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$16,555.00
Support Actual	\$14,782.00
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$-1,773.00

Observances for the week of September 21, 2025

Sunday: 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Catechetical Sunday
Monday: National Migration Week
Tuesday: St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest
Friday: Sts. Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs
Saturday: St. Vincent de Paul, Priest
Next Sunday: 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Priesthood Sunday

Luis and Angela Gamboa were married on September 13, 2025

Please keep them and all those discerning Holy Marriage in your prayers.



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.

IC Collection	9/14/25
Envelopes/Loose	\$2,786.70
Sister Parish	\$45.00
Church in Africa	\$25.00
Building Fund	\$225.00
Cemetery	\$100.00
Gaza Collection	\$724.00
Candles	\$63.00
Budget Goal	\$2,672.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$114.70
Support Needed (budget)	\$29,392.00
Support Actual	\$26,182.14
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$-3,209.86

September 20 & 21, 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

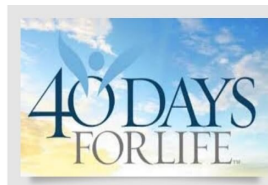
Sunday, September 28, 2025

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



Joshua Freund
Discipleship I
St. Meinrad Seminary

One thing I have learned about discernment is that there is safety in listening to Jesus. His desires and plans for us may scare us at first, but they are for our good and he will "be with us always" (Matt. 28).

Grief Share – Grief Recovery Group

Thursdays Sept. 18 thru Dec. 18th 6-7:30PM at Greenville Free Methodist Church Room C103 in the CE Annex

Mondays Sept. 22 thru Dec. 22nd 6-8PM at Evangelical United Church of Christ in Highland contact # 618-654-7459

Men's Leadership Summit taking place in Edwardsville Oct. 18

Join men from across the diocese on Saturday, **October 18th** at St. Boniface Church in Edwardsville (110 N Buchanan) for a Men's Leadership Summit featuring John Edwards, host of Just a Guy in the Pew. The purpose of this summit is to bring single and married men together to support one another, get inspired by their faith, gain or enhance leadership skills, and discuss best practices in men's ministry. Visit <https://dio.org/event/mens-leadership-summit/> to watch John's powerful story and to register. Cost is \$30 which includes materials and a catered lunch. Questions? Contact Gracie at (217) 321-1124, or email gortiz@dio.org.

Devotions, Explained! The Jesus Prayer

The Jesus Prayer is a short invocation of mercy in the name of Jesus: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner."

The exact origins of the prayer are unclear, though it is often attributed to the tradition of Eastern Christianity, possibly via the Desert Fathers (early Christian ascetics who dwelled in Egypt). The prayer has been important to the traditions of both the Eastern Orthodox and the Eastern Catholic faithful. The text echoes the words of the publican in the parable from Luke 18:9-14, whose humble manner of prayer was praised by Jesus. Its short form and simple wording make it ideal for meditative prayer.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, in paragraph 2667, highlights the Jesus Prayer, saying that "by it the heart is opened to human wretchedness and the Savior's mercy." ©LPI

Prayer for Trust

Jesus,
With your gentle mercy, build my trust. Help me to believe you when you say you want good for me. In every season, give me grace. In every need, be my answer. Amen.



Getting Fat. Is There a Moral Line in Eating Junk Food and Not Exercising?- Father Dominic Rankin answers questions about not eating right, not exercising, and not taking medicine. Where is the moral line? Where does sin come in? What about if you are obsessed with exercising and eating healthy? Go to youtube.com/diospringfield or search "Dive Deep" on all the major podcast platforms to listen and subscribe. Dive Deep is the podcast of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois.

"Our God infuses us with compassion that can put an end to hate, with generosity that can eradicate greed, and with the wisdom and courage to put our fears and sorrows in their rightful place."

MATTHEW KELLY
The Three Ordinary Voices of God



25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME SEPTEMBER 20 & 21, 2025



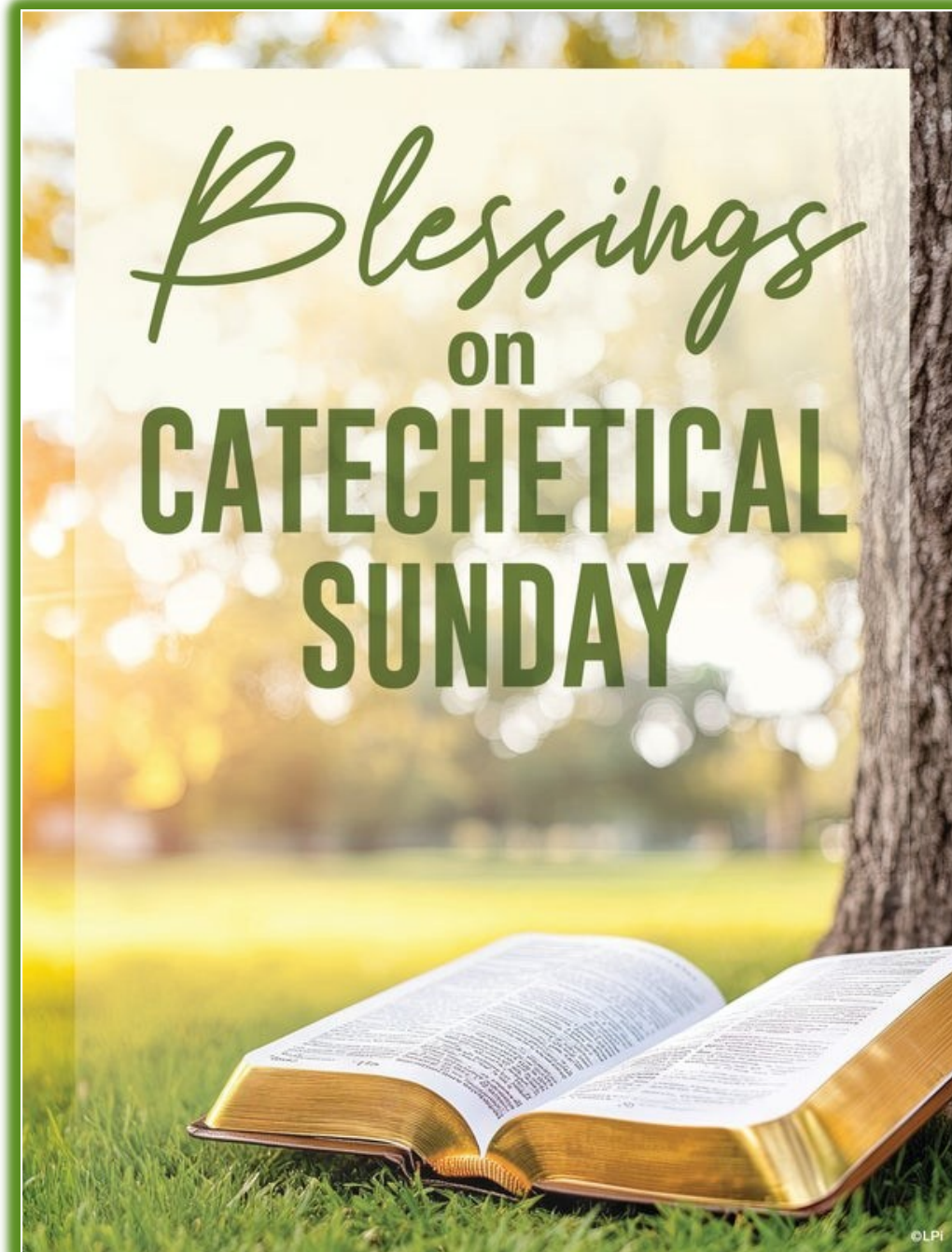
Saint Nicholas - Pocahontas



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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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