

A Gentle and
Unmistakable
Clarity

I was 22 years old, lying in bed one night while on a pilgrimage, when I suddenly sensed an idea in my mind: “Go to the seminary.” There was no voice, no vision, but a gentle and unmistakable clarity. I simply prayed. “Lord, if that’s from you, let me find great joy in it.” Three days later, my heart was bursting with joy. I dropped everything and entered the seminary. The older I get, the stranger my rather careless and hasty departure seems to me. I followed not because it made sense, or because I was especially brave. I went because the Lord called me. Something like this happens in today’s Gospel. Jesus walks by Simon, Andrew, James, and John and says, “Come after me” (Matthew 4:19). And immediately they leave their nets and follow. There’s no explanation, no hesitation—just movement. Why? As St. John says, “In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that He loved us” (1 John 4:10). They do not leave their nets because His call made perfect, calculable sense. They left them because they were called. And Jesus’ call is powerful. Take a moment this week to remember when Christ first called you. However small or quiet it was, recall it, and give thanks. The more we marvel that Christ has called us personally, the more passionately and freely we will follow Him. —Father John Muir

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR JAN. 31 & FEB 1, 2026
Sat. Jan. 31 @ 4:30PM @ St. Nicholas

Reader: Pat Kalous
Music: Sally Rehberger, Barb Zaloga, & Colleen Lozier
Euch. Min.: Brenda & Marce Tebbe
Server: Pat Kalous

Sun. Feb. 1 @ 8:00AM @ St. Gertrude

Reader: Brenda Knackstedt
Music: Nick Worman & Randy Eckstein
Sacristan: Brenda Knackstedt
Euch.Min.: Terry & Sue Dickman & Judi Rode
Ushers: Nathaniel & Nevin Straube
Servers: Evonna & Makayla Korsmeyer

Sun. Feb. 1 @10:00AM @ IC

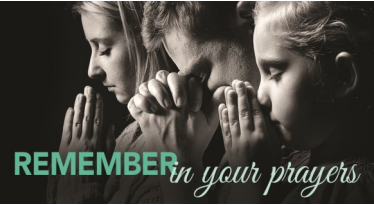
Reader: John Dea
Music: Joy Winkeler
Servers: Rebecca Dea & Paige Knebel
Euch. Min.: Evelyn Knebel, Amy Gilomen & Erica Knebel



Happy 100th Birthday Eleanor Munie
on January 19, 2026!

Eleanor says her 11 children are what
keep her young!

Pics from last Sundays Mass.



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, Jean Fields, Gabriel Frey, Jerry Fyke, Ed Gagen, Karen Grabowski, John Grubb, P.J. Hereford, James Hodge, Gene Jolliff, Pat Kalous, Val King, Janice Korsmeyer, Barrett Korte, Denny Korte, Randy Korte, Ruth Korte, Steve Korte, David Kuehn, Sue Lubber, Christopher Marti, Taylor Marti, Barry May, Alex McCall, Eleanor Munie, Cody Neal, Jeannie Oestinger, Robin Pollmann, Suzanne Steinbring, Marcia Rowe, Gunner Sadler, Abby Schrage, Bill Schroeder, Marie Weiss, Ginny Werner, Dean Wernle.

FOR OUR PARISHIONERS IN NURSING HOMES:

Delmar Knebel, Barbara Weiss, Margie Zurliene and special people in our families.

FOR THOSE CURRENTLY SERVING IN THE MILITARY:

Adam Canfield, Tim Doll, Ensign Eli Jones, 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.



† **Mass Intentions** †

No Mass

† **All Souls**

In Honor of Eleanor Munie’s Birthday — Int. of Gerry Korte

† **Roman Korte** — Int. of Lowell & Denise Wellen

† **Sister Anne Lawrence Buchmiller** — Int. of Bill & Denise Trickey

† **Clara Lienen** — Int. of Matt & Debbie Zoehner

† **Perry Knackstedt** — Int. of Brenda Knackstedt & Family

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

† **Jaisen Wellen** —Int. of Rick & Ruth Zurliene

† **Henry Korte** —Int. of Keith & Laurie Poss

**Readings for the week of
January 25, 2026**

Sunday:

Is 8:23-9:3/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/1 Cor 1:10-13, 17/Mt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17

Monday:

2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a, 10, 21-22, 25-26/Mk 3:22-30

Tuesday:

2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/ Mk 3:31-35

Wednesday:

2 Sm 7:4-17/Ps 89:4-5, 27-28, 29-30/ Mk 4:1-20

Thursday:

2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29/Ps 132:1-2, 3-5, 11, 12, 13-14/Mk 4:21-25

Friday:

2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6a, 6bcd-7, 10-11/Mk 4:26-34

Saturday:

2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 16-17/Mk 4:35-41

Next Sunday:

Zep 2:3, 3:12-13/Ps 146:6c-7, 8-9a, 9b-10/1 Cor 1:26-31/Mt 5:1-12a

Study is a work of prayer. Visit Saint Meinrad for the **Graduate Theology Program Open House**,

Feb 14–15. Tour campus,

attend class, pray at liturgy, and meet professors and students.

Learn more about our flexible

and affordable offerings and

register at saintmeinrad.edu/openhouse. All are welcome. If

you scan the QR code with your smartphone camera, it will take you to

www.saintmeinrad.edu/openhouse.



“He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed Him.” Matthew 4:22

Just as Jesus called the first apostles, He calls each of us to follow Him, too. Not everyone is called to leave their business or family behind, but we are expected to put God first in everything. In gratitude to God, we should give our first and best of everything to Him: our time in daily prayer, our talent in participating in one of our parish ministries and our treasure to support the financial needs of our parish mission.

Peter and Andrew, James and John — they were not expecting God that day. But there He was, right in front of them, beckoning. God stands before us today, and like the Apostles, we often don’t see Him coming. But still, He beckons. Will we follow?

KC Drive-Thru Chicken Dinner



**Four Pieces
\$14.00**

Sunday, January 25th, 11 AM - 3 PM

**Includes: Breast, Wing, Leg & Thigh
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy,
Green Beans, & Cole Slaw**

Cash, Credit, & Debit Cards Accepted

**Knights of Columbus, Council 1580
12454 IL Route 143, Highland, IL 62249
618-654-9049**



American
Red Cross



**St. Nicholas Blood Drive at St. Nicholas
Parish Hall on**

Tuesday, January 27th 1:00 to 6:00PM

**Please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter
STNICHOLASCHURCH to schedule an
appointment.**

**World Marriage Day – Date Night Ideas,
Couples Connection Plan, & more!**

The observances of National Marriage Week (Feb. 7-14) and World Marriage Day (Sunday, Feb. 8) are an opportunity for you and your spouse to focus on building a culture of life and love that begins with supporting and promoting marriage and the family. Check out marriageweek.org/.



Eleanor’s grandchildren and
great-grandchildren singing
“Love will be our Home “.

STN Collection	1/17/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$872.00
Catholic Times	\$125.00

Budget Goal	\$1,257.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$-385.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$36,453.00
Support Actual	\$40,459.72
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$4,006.72

STG Collection	1/18/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$765.00
First Offering	\$10.00
Catholic Times	\$115.00
Maintenance Fund	\$47.00

Budget Goal	\$1,505.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$-730.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$43,645.00
Support Actual	\$41,049.66
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$-2,595.34

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS:
Jan. 25, 2026
For the Church, that Catholic educators may bear witness to Christ’s love in word and deed, inspiring students to consider religious vocation.
For those discerning their vocation, that Christ’s invitation may awaken courage and commitment to follow Him faithfully.
For our parish, that we may champion Catholic education as a place where prayer and formation help young people recognize God’s purpose for their lives.

IC Collection	1/18/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$2,354.00
First Offering	\$15.00
Sister Parish	\$10.00
Catholic Times	\$175.00
Building Fund	\$280.00
Candles	\$50.00
Budget Goal	\$2,672.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	\$-303.00
Support Needed (budget)	\$77,488.00
Support Actual	\$80,130.93
Surplus/Deficit YTD	\$2,642.93

Mon. (Jan.26)	8:00am
Tues. (Jan.27)	8:00am (St.G)
Wed. (Jan.28)	8:00am (IC)
Thur. (Jan.29)	8:00am (St.N)
Fri. (Jan.30)	8:00am (IC)
Sat. (Jan.31)	4:30pm (St.N)
Sun. (Feb. 1)	8:00am (St.G)

Sun. (Feb 1)	10:00am (IC)
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40 DAYS FOR LIFE®

Feb 18 - March 29

Granite City



You are invited to join over 1 million volunteers in 855 cities across 61 nations for a peaceful, life-saving campaign to end abortion.



PRAYER & FASTING

Wednesday, February 18 - Sunday, March 29
During these 40 days, all are invited to spend time during their normal day fasting and praying for an end to abortion.



PEACEFUL VIGIL

Adopt a Day or Fill the Gap
In addition, each Christian church or group is invited to select 1 day for its members to take turns praying at their local abortion facility.

Sign up to pray: www.40daysgc.com

Share, like & follow us: [Granite City 40 Days for Life](https://www.facebook.com/GraniteCity40DaysForLife)

Contact us directly: 636-206-6220 or vigil@40daysgc.com

The Pocahontas Food Pantry needs for January: Pancake mix, syrup, cereal, canned meats, canned fruit & veggies, peanut butter. There is a box for donations at St. Nicholas Church. This pantry serves the people of Pocahontas, Millersburg & Old Ripley.

Check or cash is also accepted; checks written to "Pocahontas Food Pantry". The pantry is available to all on the 1st Monday of each month from 9AM to 11:30AM year-round.

Virtues Explained! Patience

In treating others with a spirit of patience, said Pope Francis, we "look at them ... with God's gaze, knowing how to distinguish their faces from their faults."

"Rushing and impatience are enemies of spiritual life," he continued. "God is love, and those who love do not tire, they are not irascible; they do not give ultimatums. God is patient, God knows how to wait."

Patience is sometimes referred to as being "annexed" to the moral virtue of fortitude. In practicing patience, we bear any kind of suffering for a greater good. St. Thomas Aquinas describes patience as a means to "safeguard the good of reason against sorrow, lest reason give way to sorrow" (Sum. II-II, 136, Art. 1).

The virtue of patience is a fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22), and as Christians who have received the Holy Spirit we are called to "be patient in tribulation" (Romans 12:12) and to "preach the message (of Christ) ... with great patience" (2 Timothy 4:2). ©LPI

Virtues, Explained!

In practicing patience, we bear any kind of suffering for a greater good, safeguard our reason against sorrow, and "look at (other people) with God's gaze knowing how to distinguish their faces from their faults."

Blessing of Light

Where you have known darkness, may the light stretch and shine. Where you have dwelt in shadows, may the sun reach its gentle rays. Where you have hidden in shame, may you know light-filled redemption, healing, belonging, and rest in Jesus. Amen.



From February 18 to March 29, 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, February 22nd 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 February 22, 2026, please contact Denise Trickey at 314-495-9080. Thank you for standing up for life!

We are once again doing a "Just Jeans Drive for the Homeless" during the month of February. We ask that you please donate new or gently used adult jeans during the month of February. We will have boxes, to place the jeans in, at the following churches, Immaculate Conception, St. Gertrude, St. Nicholas and St. Paul, we will also have boxes at the KC Hall in Highland and the Highland Police Station. At the end of February, the jeans will be delivered to St. Vincent de Paul Parish in St. Louis. Should you have any questions, please reach out to Bill or Denise Trickey at 314-495-9080. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Meet Our Seminararians



Dennis Trickey
Pastoral Internship
Kenrick-Glennon Seminary

One thing that I learned throughout discernment is to put everything in the hands of God through our Blessed Mother. I have learned to trust in the desires of His Sacred Heart.



On Thursday, March 19, you are invited to join thousands of pro-life advocates, being a joyful witness to life and raising your voice for the voiceless at the Illinois Pro-Life Mass and March. The day begins with Mass at 10 a.m. at the Exposition Building on the grounds of the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield, celebrated by Bishop Thomas John Paprocki and concelebrated by bishops and priests from across the state. You must register for the Mass by going to dio.org.

After the Mass, there is a rally at the capitol at 1 p.m. with guest speakers, and then a march around the capitol at 2 p.m. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will also be going on at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception from noon to 5 p.m. Confessions at the Cathedral will also be available from 1:30 - 5 p.m. Last year, about 2,000 people attended the Illinois Pro-Life March, the vast majority being students from Catholic grade schools, high schools, and Newman Centers. Priests, seminararians, religious, and the lay faithful from every corner of the diocese and the state also showed up in strong numbers.

"How often we are tempted to keep close to the shore! Yet the Lord calls us to put out into the deep and let down our nets. He bids us spend our lives in his service. Clinging to him, we are inspired to put all our charisms at the service of others."

POPE FRANCIS
Rejoice and Be Glad



DynamicCatholic.com

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME JANUARY 24 & 25, 2026



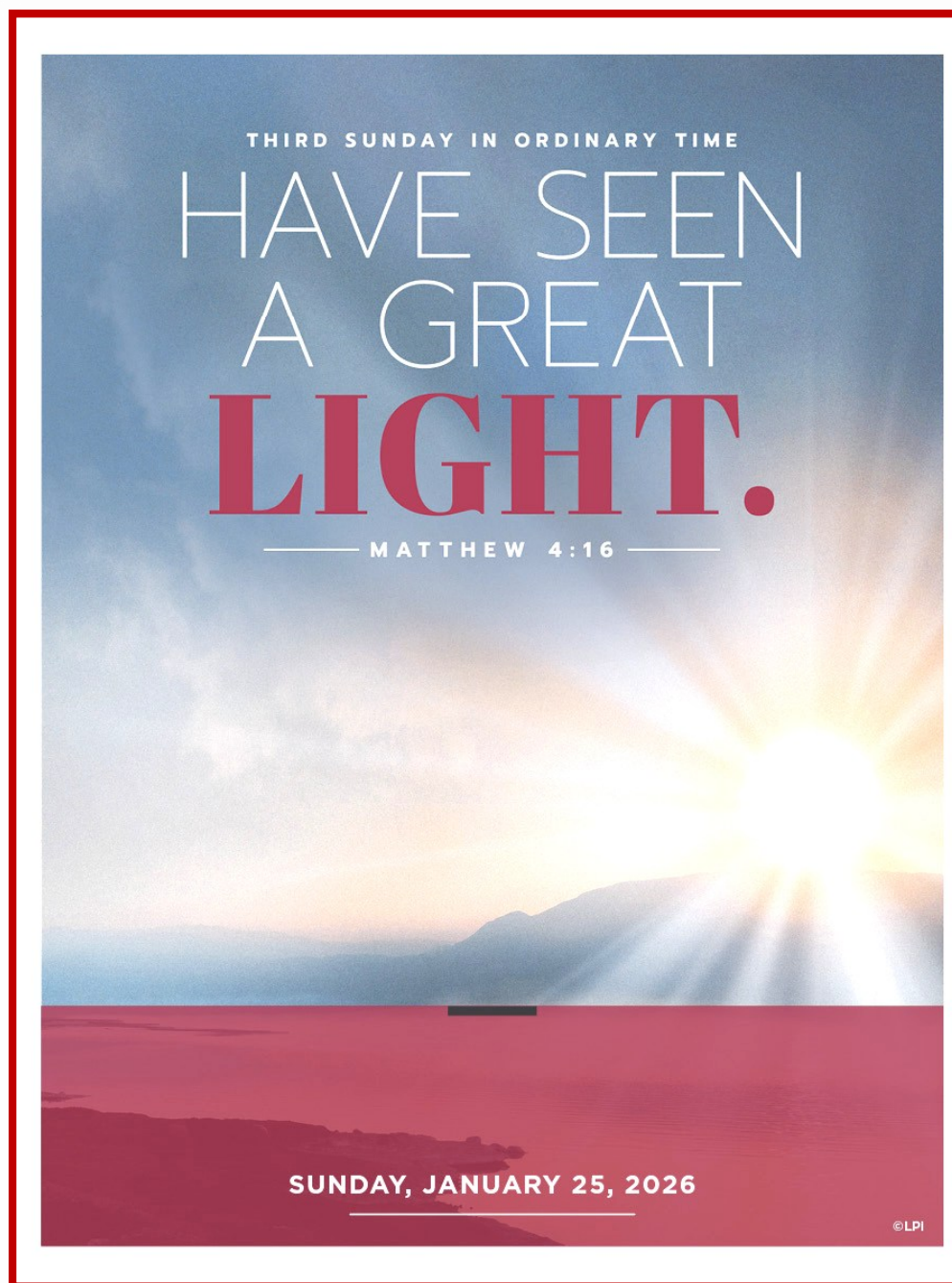
Saint Nicholas - Pocahontas



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:
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