

A friend once told me, "When I was young, I was so broke, I couldn't even pay attention." It's a clever line. Even when your pockets are empty, you can still be attentive. And yet, we often find creative ways to spend our attention on anything but what matters most.

We begin the season of Advent with Jesus' words about how we maintain our attention. He says, "What I say to you, I say to all: "Watch!" (Mark 13:37). He describes servants waiting for their master's return. Their task is simple: stay alert. Be ready to open the door, welcome him, and serve. That is why they're there. Advent reminds us that this is the purpose of our lives, too. God is coming to us. The question is whether we are awake and ready to receive Him. How do we train our attention for God? One powerful way is the age-old Christian practice of vigils. Praying in the quiet stillness of night – free from all distraction--focuses the heart and awakens a deeper awareness of God's presence. This Advent, watch for the coming of the Lord by the practice of vigils. Not in theory, but concretely. The Lord is coming. The awake, attentive heart will recognize Him. --Fr. John Muir

Liturgical Ministers for Dec. 5 & 6, 2026

Sat. Dec. 5 @ 4:30PM @ St. Nicholas

Reader: Kelsey Bentlage
Euch. Min.: Doris Eilers & Joyce Schlemper
Server: Pat Kalous
Ushers: Denny Gobble & Don Cureton

Sun. Dec. 6 @ 8:00AM @ St. Gertrude

Reader:Chad Korte
Music: Nick Worman & Randy Eckstein
Sacristan: Carole Sauls
Euch.Min.: Judi Rode, Sue Messerli & Debby Schwarz
Ushers: Karen & Nathanial Straube
Servers:Oliver Lewis & Evonna Korsmeyer

Sun. Dec. 6 @10:00AM @ IC

Reader: Lowell Wellen
Servers: Cyiah Wiegmann & Rebecca Dea
Euch. Min.: John Dea, Cindy Knebel & Evelyn Knebel



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, Karen Grabowski, John Grubb, Eugene Henson, P.J.Hereford, James Hodge, Gene Jolliff, Pat Kalous, Val King, Barrett Korte, Cindy Korte, Denny Korte, Gerry Korte, Randy Korte, Steve Korte, David Kuehn, Sue Luber, Christopher Marti, Taylor Marti, Barry May, Alex McCall, Eleanor Munie, Cody Neal, Marcia Rowe, Gunner Sadler, Abby Schrage, Bill Schroeder, Suzanne Steinbring, Brenda Usher, Rich Weis, Ginny Werner, Dean Wernle, Melanie Wernle, Paige 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:

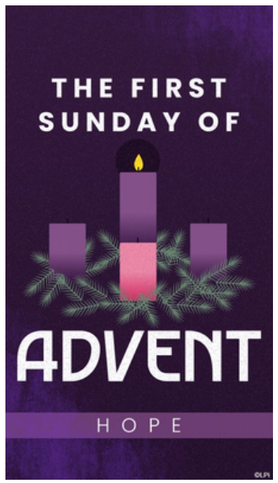
Adam Canfield, Tim Doll, Ensign Eli Jones, Chad Knebel, Michael Knebel, Dustin Korte, Solon McGill, Lt. Abigail Mesaros, Jerritt Mettler, Jimmy O'Boyle, Sgt. Joseph Patterson, Rickie Ford, JosephSchatte, Greg Spina, T.J. Waddington, Sgt. Tyler Wegman, Sgt. Zach Weiss.

If you would like to have someone added or removed from the prayer list please call the parish office.



We would like to thank everyone for all the lovely cards commemorating our 50th wedding anniversary. We are so blessed to have reached this mile stone and your kind wishes added so much to this happy event. God Bless You, Lowell & Denise

Advent Penance Services
Immaculate Conception on Wednesday, December 2nd at 7PM and St. Gertrude on Wednesday, December 16th at 7PM.

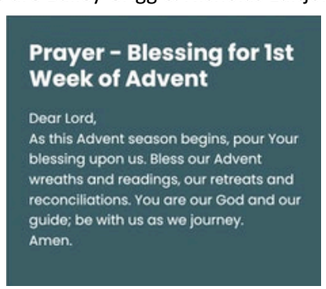




We congratulate the parents of and welcome

Caroline Jo Goddard,

daughter of Triston & Hannah (Luitjohan) Goddard
who was baptized at St. Gertrude Church
on Saturday, November 28th, 2026.
Godparents are Bailey Grigg & Nicholas Luitjohan



† Mass Intentions †

Mon. (Nov.30)		**No Mass**
Tues. (Dec.1)	8:00am (St.G)	† **All Souls**
Tues. (Dec.1)	9:30am (H.H.)	† **All Souls**
Wed. (Dec. 2)	8:00am (IC)	† **Dr. Renato & Linda Rivera** – Int. of Bill & Denise Trickey
Thur. (Dec. 3)	8:00am (St.N)	† **Robin Pollmann --** Int. of Jane Dapkus
Fri. (Dec. 4)	8:00am (IC)	† **Willie & Anna Weis** — Int. of Joan Watson
Sat. (Dec. 5)	4:30pm (St.N)	† **Bill & Betty Haberer** —Int. of Murray & Eunice Hediger
Sun. (Dec. 6)	8:00am (St.G)	† **Sonny Schwarz** — Int. of Emily Schwarz & Family
		For the People of St. Gertrude, St. Nicholas, & Immaculate Conception
Sun. (Dec. 6)	10:00am (IC)	† **Jon Straube** — Int. of Donna Straube & Family
		† **Mike & Jay Schreiber** — Int. of Kay Williamson & Family

Readings for the Week of November 29, 2026

Sunday
Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19/ 1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37

Monday
Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/Mt 4:18-22

Tuesday
Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday
Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 15:29-37

Thursday
Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday
Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Mt 9:27-31

Saturday
Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

Next Sunday
Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

You Are Not Forgotten: An Advent Journey – In a world where it's easy to feel overlooked or alone, Advent reminds us that God sees us, loves us, and calls us closer to Him. Beginning November 29, embark on **You Are Not Forgotten**, a free four-week Advent journey inspired by the coming of Christ and the message of Our Lady of Guadalupe. You are seen. You are loved. You are called. You are not alone. Sign up at go.dio.org/adv26(opens in new tab) and prepare your heart for Christmas!

The 37th Annual National Night of Prayer for Life
December 8-9 coincides with the Feasts Day of the Immaculate Conception and St. Juan Diego where Catholic parishes across the US will hold evening vigils with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the Rosary, prayers, litanies, and music to pray for a culture of life and renewal in the nation.
When: **December 8, 2026**
Where: **Immaculate Conception**
Time: **9pm-12midnight**
(There is no obligation to stay the full hours)



STN Collection	11/21/26
Envelopes/Loose	$866.00
Christmas Flowers	$20.00
Budget Goal	$1,276.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	$-410.00
Support Needed (budget)	$26,796.00
Support Actual	$26,807.00
Surplus/Deficit YTD	$11.00

"Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come." – Mark 13:33
We all take things for granted. In particular, we take time for granted. We make our lives too busy. We plan our days, weeks, months, even years in advance. Remember, our time on earth is a gift. None of us knows how long we will be here. Start today and begin thanking God for each and every day. Take time in silence, every day, and listen to how God is calling you right now to help build His kingdom on earth.

The core team for 40 Days for Life of Granite City is looking for a Vigil Coordinator(training will be provided) for the Spring Campaign 2027.
150 babies have been saved through 40 Days for Life in the past 15 campaigns which confirms prayers and fasting work!
Please dig deep in your hearts to use your talents to help with this very valuable ministry! If not the upcoming spring campaign will cease.
Contact Rose Wascher at (847)274-3916



The Grantfork Historical Society is hosting the Wreaths Across America wreath laying event on Saturday, December 19th at the St. Gertrude Cemetery at 11AM.
Everyone is welcome to attend!
To donate a wreath, contact Wendy at 618-675-3472 or 618-444-2520 Wreaths are $17. If inclement weather, the event will move to the parish hall.

Dive Deep Podcast: This is What the US Catholic Church Must Do Better: Cardinal Okpaleke of Nigeria – Cardinal Okpaleke of Nigeria visited the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois recently and sat down to talk about why African Churches are packed, what the US Church can do better, and what his first conclave was really like when Pope Leo was elected. 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.

"Let the peace of Christ control your hearts… and **be thankful**."
– Colossians 3:15

STG Collection	11/22/26
Envelopes/Loose	$474.00
Cemetery	$25.00
Christmas Flowers	$20.00
Budget Goal	$1,524.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	$-1,050.00
Support Needed (budget)	$32,004.00
Support Actual	$27,352.00
Surplus/Deficit YTD	$-4,652.00



Observances for the Week of November 29, 2026

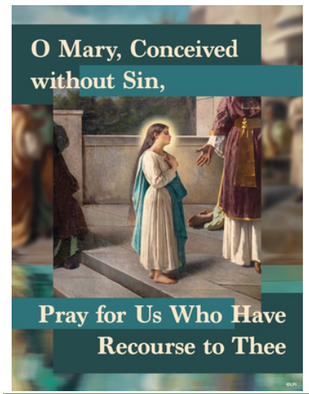
Sunday
1st Sunday of Advent

Monday
St. Andrew, Apostle

Thursday
St. Francis Xavier, Priest

Friday
St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Next Sunday
2nd Sunday of Advent



The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a holy day of obligation.
Mass Times:
Mon, Dec. 7 at St. Nicholas 6PM
Tues., Dec. 8 at St. Gertrude 8AM and Immaculate Conception 7PM

IC Collection	11/22/26
Envelopes/Loose	$1,323.00
Christmas	$20.00
Candles	$107.00
Cemetery	$20.00
Christmas Flowers	$20.00
Budget Goal	$2,920.00
Weekly Surplus/Deficit	$-1,577.00
Support Needed(budget)	$61,320.00
Support Actual	$52,524.85
Surplus/Deficit YTD	$-8,795.15









Collection Boxes are at the back of each church.
Last day to donate is Dec. 6th.



The Grantfork UFO Group will be hosting the HHS Madigral Singers. This event will be held on December 13th at the Grantfork UCC Hall starting at 11:30. A light lunch will be provided for those attending. All donations will support the Madigral singers.

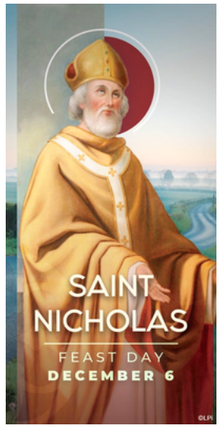
Answers to Your Kids' Tough Questions – Compass aims to anticipate the needs of Catholic parents, accompany them through the trials and joys of family life, and point them to faithful answers to life's difficult questions whether they are speaking with their child, teen, or young adult. To learn more, visit compassforparents.org. Questions? Contact Gracie at the Office of Marriage and Family Life 217-321-1124 or gortiz@dio.org

St. Gertrude Adopt A Family

The tags are up in the back of church at St. Gertrude for our Adopt a Family this year. Please return gifts, along with a gift receipt if possible, and the red tag by Sunday, November 29th. Gift cards can be given directly to Jamie Dressler if preferred to leaving at the back of church.

Gifts will be wrapped during PSR, Wednesday December 2nd, for anyone that would like to assist.

Thanks to all that are willing/able to help this family out this Christmas.

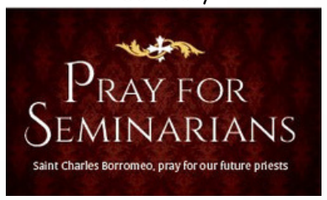


St. Nicholas of Bari (270–343), the fourth-century bishop of Myra, is known for his kindness, generosity, and care for those in need. One famous legend tells of him secretly giving gold to a poor family, inspiring traditions of gift-giving and hanging stockings. A strong defender of the Christian faith, St. Nicholas became widely honored after his death. His legacy eventually inspired the beloved figure of Santa Claus.





Devin Flach
Pastoral Internship
Kenrick - Glennon Seminary



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT NOVEMBER 28 & 29, 2026



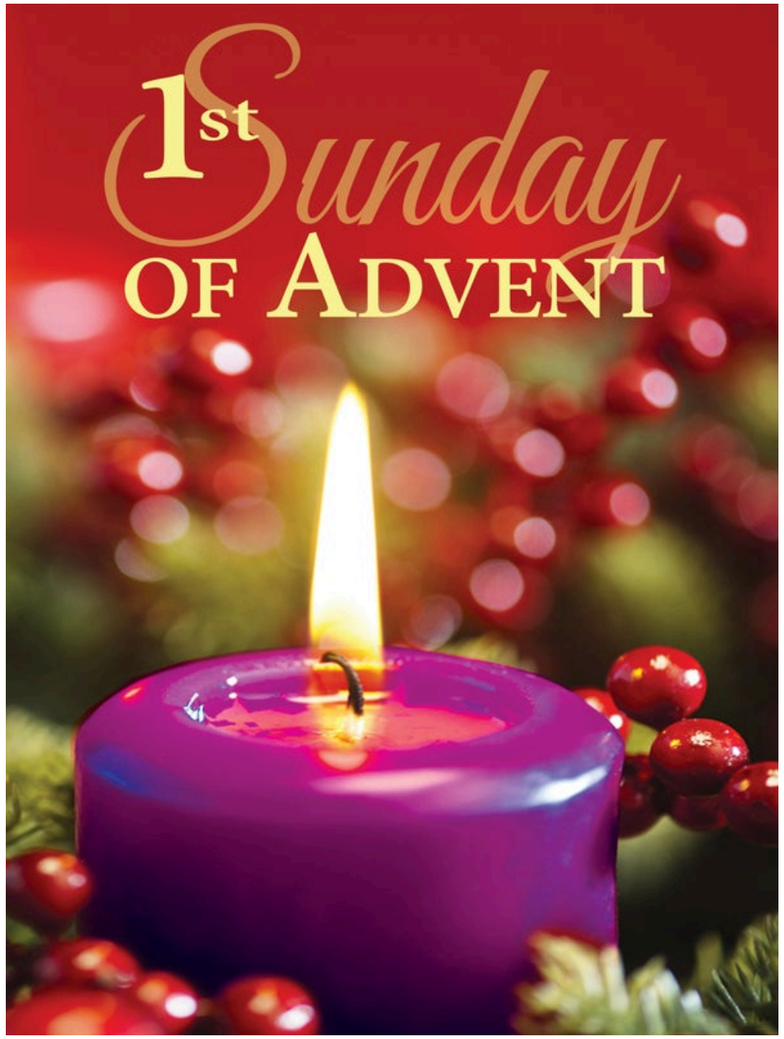
Saint Nicholas - Pocahontas



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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www.icstnstg.org

Office: 618-669-2391
Rectory: 618-654-2789

Office Address:
401 E State Street,
Pocahontas 62275

Office Hours:
Mon.—Thurs. 9am to 4pm
Fridays 9am to 1pm

MassTimes

ImmaculateConception
Wed.& Fri.—8:00am
Sunday —10:00am

Saint Nicholas

Thursday — 8:00am
Saturday — 4:30pm

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