

Thirtieth Sunday of Ordinary Time
October 25, 2026



SS. SIMON & JUDE CATHOLIC CHURCH
304 North Macoupin Street, Gillespie, IL 62033

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH
300 West Central Street, Benld, IL 62009

Welcome to Ss. Simon & Jude / St. Joseph!
Whether you are an existing member, visiting family or new to the Parish we are happy you are here. If you are new to our parish, please call the office to register or to know more about our Parish Family. We look forward to meeting you!

Parish Office
Office Hours: Tuesdays 9:00am-Noon

Pastor
Fr. Joe Koyickal, SAC
jkoyickal@dio.org
217-839-3456

Parish Administrative Assistant
Donette Clark
simonjude3456@sssimonjudegillespie.com
Office Phone: 217-839-3456

Director of Religious Education
Donette Clark
donette.clark@sssimonjudegillespie.com

Bulletin Notices due by 9am on Wednesdays
Bulletin Submissions: amy.killam@ssmaryjosephcarlinville.com

website: www.3parishes1faith.com
Facebook @ SS Simon & Jude - Gillespie and St. Joseph's - Benld

Diocesan Website: www.dio.org
Diocese Victim Assistance Coordinator and liaison between the Diocese & anyone with an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor– (217) 321-1155.

PRAYER & DEVOTIONS

Eucharistic Adoration
Saturdays in Gillespie 3:00-4:00pm

Reconciliation
Saturdays in Gillespie 3:00-3:45pm
Sundays in Benld 7:15-7:45am
By Appointment

Rosary
Sundays 7:30am in Benld

MASS SCHEDULE

Changes to the schedule will be announced on Facebook

Tuesday	8:00am	Daily Mass in Gillespie
Wednesday	8:00am	Daily Mass in Benld
First Friday	8:00am	Daily Mass in Gillespie
Saturday	4:00pm	Weekend Mass in Gillespie
Sunday	8:00am	Weekend Mass in Benld

Fr. Joe Koyickal, SAC jkoyickal@dio.org

FROM THE PASTOR

The Greatest Commandment: Love God and Love Your Neighbor

This weekend we have one of the most familiar gospel passages. A scholar of the Law asks Jesus, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" Jesus answers with two commandments that summarize the whole Christian life: "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind," and "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." This is the heart of our faith.

Love God with your whole heart. Loving God means more than our spiritual practices such as attending Mass, saying our prayers, or calling ourselves Catholics. These are important expressions of our faith, but our love for God must also shape our daily choices, priorities, and relationships. It means making room for God in our busy lives, trusting him in difficult times, and allowing his Word to guide our decisions. God does not ask for only a small part of our lives; he invites us to give him our whole heart.

Love your neighbor as yourself. Jesus reminds us that our love for God cannot be separated from our love for others. Our love of God needs to manifest itself in our love and care for others. Our neighbor is not only the person who lives next door, a family member, or someone we like. Our neighbor can be anyone who is in need of our help in any way. We all want to be respected, understood, forgiven, and treated with kindness. Jesus asks us to offer that same kindness and respect to others. St. John puts it beautifully; "If anyone says, "I love God", and hates his brother, is a liar…" (1 John 4:20).

The First Reading from Exodus (22:20–26) reinforces this message by reminding God's people to care for strangers, widows, orphans, and the poor. God calls us to notice the needs of those who are vulnerable and to respond with compassion. In our own families and communities, we can live this commandment through simple acts of love: visiting someone who is sick or lonely, listening patiently, forgiving an old hurt, helping a family in need, welcoming someone who feels left out, or offering a kind word when someone is discouraged.

Jesus concludes by saying that the whole Law and the Prophets depend on these two commandments. In other words, **love is the heart of God's law and the foundation of our Christian life.** We cannot claim to love God while deliberately ignoring the dignity and needs of our brothers and sisters.

Every time we gather to celebrate the Eucharist, listen to his Word, and receive Christ, who gives himself to us in love, we are reminded of this call. We are then sent forth to carry that love into our homes, workplaces, farms, neighborhoods, and parish community. The love we receive at the altar must become the love we share with others.

As we reflect on this Sunday's Gospel, let us ask ourselves three simple questions: Am I giving God a central place in my life? Is there someone who needs my forgiveness, patience, or help? What is one concrete way I can show God's love this week?

Blessings of Peace and Joy!



PARISH NEWS

Novena for the Recovery of Pope Leo XIV: This novena will start Mon, Oct 19 at 6pm. We will be doing the rosary at both St. Joseph & Ss. Simon & Jude parishes each night for 9 nights until Tues, Oct 27. The rosary will be said outside, if weather allows, with our KCs leading the rosary at each Parish. *All are welcome & encouraged to attend!*

Month of October: First Responder Snack Collection The Altar Societies are collecting snacks for our local First Responders during October. Donation boxes will be located in the vestibules of both churches. Please donate individually wrapped, grab-and-go items such as Pop-Tarts, chips, Rice Krispy Treats, beef sticks, cookies, nuts, granola bars and candy. Thank you for supporting our local First Responders!

October is the Month of the Holy Rosary. We will be praying the Rosary for Peace in the World at the Blessed Mother's Statue at the following times/places during the month of October.

- Tuesdays in Gillespie after the 8am Mass
- Wednesdays in Benld after the 8am Mass
- Mondays, Thursdays & Fridays in Benld at 8:40am

All are welcomed & encouraged to attend. If you can't make it to the church please say a rosary at home.

Sun, October 25: KC Trunk or Treat The Kc's Annual Trunk or Treat will be on Sunday, October 25 at the Benld City Park from 2-3pm. If you are interested in passing out treats please email the KC's at kofc2076@gmail.com.

Sat, Oct 31 & Sun, Nov 1: All Souls We will be remembering the lives of the loved ones we have lost this year during the weekend Masses. We ask that a family member or friend be present to come forth & light their loved one's candle.

Wed, Nov 4: Blood Drive Ss. Mary & Joseph is sponsoring a Blood Drive at the Carlinville Elks Lodge on from Noon to 5pm. To schedule your appointment, please call 1-800-747-5401. Volunteers are needed, if interested please call Reda Scanlan at 217-556-9781.

Sun, Nov 8: Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner St. Joseph parish will be hosting its annual pre-Thanksgiving dinner on Sun, Nov 8, beginning at 5:00pm. Turkey, pork roast, dressing, & rolls will be provided. Everyone in the tri-parish community is invited to attend. Sign-up sheets will be in the vestibules of both St. Joseph & Ss Simon & Jude. Anyone from Ss Mary & Joseph wishing to attend should contact Cindy Saracco at 217-835-2623 or at esaracco4@gmail.com. The price of admission is a side dish &/or a dessert. Bring your family & join us for some great food and fellowship.

Mon, Dec 7: Altar Societies Christmas Party The Altar Societies of St. Joseph & Ss Simon & Jude invite you to their Christmas Party on Mon, Dec 7, at Lumpy's in Gillespie starting at 5:30pm with social time. Enjoy a buffet dinner & entertainment. Dinner will include fried chicken, pasta, a vegetable, salad, dessert, tea &coffee. Cost is $30 per person. A cash bar will be available. Reservations are due by Sunday, November 22. Please place your reservation in the collection basket in an envelope marked "Party" on the outside. Include the names of everyone attending. Checks should be made payable to Altar Society. Questions? Please contact Cindy or Mary.

The Week Ahead

Please note that calendar events are based on requests for reservations, and we are not always informed when events are cancelled. If you have any quetions if an event is happening, please contact the head of that committee/group.

Mon 26	Tue 27	Wed 28	Thu 29	Fri 30	Sat 31	Sun 01
Praying Rosary in Benld at 8:40am **Novena at 6pm both Parishes**	Praying Rosary in Gillespie after Mass **Novena at 6pm both Parishes**	Praying Rosary in Benld after Mass KC COR Mtg 6:30pm at St. Joseph	Praying Rosary in Benld at 8:40am	Praying Rosary in Benld at 8:40am	Happy Halloween Eucharistic Adoration in Gillespie 3-4pm **Remembrance Candles at 4pm Mass**	Praying Rosary in Benld at 7:30am **PSR 9:30-10:30am** **YG 6-7pm** **Remembrance Candles at 8am Mass**



Donette Clark, DRE donette.clark@sssimonjudegillespie.com

PSR / HS YOUTH GROUP CORNER

3rd Grade students must attend PSR & Mass in order to be eligible for their sacraments.

PSR Class: Sundays from 9:30am-10:30am at SSSJ School

Upcoming PSR Classes
Nov 1, Nov 8, Nov 15, Nov 22

Youth Group: Sundays from 6-7pm at SSSJ School

Upcoming Youth Group
Nov 1, Nov 8, Nov 15, Nov 22

Children that have attended Altar Server Training are eligible to begin serving Mass. Servers are listed in the bulletin as Volunteer Needed. Please contact the office if you are a new server and wish to start serving Mass. Someone will be paired with you for the first few times.

Dear Padre

October 25, 2026

I occasionally need to be reminded why I should remain Catholic. Can you help?

Whether our faith was inherited at birth or adopted later, it's healthy to periodically reexamine our beliefs and practices with the intent to grow closer to God. Saint Paul uses the metaphor of moving beyond milk to solid food to explain our maturing faith. (See Hebrews 5:12–14). Questions or doubts are not necessarily signs of crisis or disloyalty to God or the Church. Indeed, it's often when we challenge pat answers that God moves us to a deeper meaning and stronger relationship—that is, if we're steadfast on the path to holiness. People remain Catholic for numerous reasons, including:

- the Church's belief in God's goodness to us through the sacraments;
- a 2,000-year tradition of living the gospel in a universal, multicultural community of faith;
- a proven track record as an agent for personal and spiritual growth and social transformation.

When Church members' behavior is contrary to Christ's mission, and our confidence to remain is tested, it's good to recall that the Church is divinely fortified and humanly composed. People remain Catholic because the Church exists to bring us into full communion with God, through Christ, by working toward the fullness of the kingdom. "The Church 'is the visible plan of God's love for humanity,' because God desires 'that the whole human race may become one people of god, form one body of Christ, and be built into one temple of the Holy Spirit'" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 776). ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

A Journey in Faith
OCIA
Order of Christian Initiation
(formerly known as RCIA)

OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) is a welcoming journey of faith for adults who want to learn more about Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church. It is a time to ask questions, explore Scripture, discover the beauty of the Catholic faith, and grow in a deeper relationship with God.

If you would like more information please contact the parish office or Don Reid.

Classes will be held in the Ss. Mary & Joseph Conference Room at 7pm
Upcoming Dates: November 4

SS. SIMON & JUDE CHURCH

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, October 24:
4:00pm Vigil **Paul Madden / Mary Cavanaugh +**
(MM Jarden / MM Kocis)

Tuesday, October 27
8:00am Ed Chesus / George Sawyer +
(MM Rossetto / MM Wirth)

Friday, October 30
10:00am Mass at Gillespie Health & Rehab
For the wellbeing of the residents

Saturday, October 31
4:00pm Vigil Angelo Ungarelli / Becky Cerkoski +
(MM Preston / Cerkoski Family)

STEWARDSHIP
MANAGING GOD'S GIFTS TO US

Weekend Envelopes, Checks & Cash
$2,112.00

PSR
$30.00

Holy Day
$0.00

Special: Black & Indian Mission & World Mission
$353.00

Total: $2,494.00

Thank you for your continued generosity!

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, October 25
8:00am **For the Tri-Parish Community**

Wednesday, October 28
8:00am For the continued recovery of
Pope Leo XIV

Friday, October 30
10:00am Mass at Gillespie Health & Rehab
For the wellbeing of the residents

Sunday, November 01
8:00am George Dresch +
(G. Leone)

STEWARDSHIP
MANAGING GOD'S GIFTS TO US

Weekend Envelopes, Checks & Cash
$1,215.00

Building Fund & PSR
$50.00

Holy Day
$0.00

Special: World Mission
$268.00

Total: $1,533.00

Thank you for your continued generosity!

PARISH LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Sunday, October 31, 2026 at 4:00pm

Greeters:	Harold Newman & Terry Crites
Lector:	Lee Ross
Euch. Ministers:	J. Ross, M. Newman, K. Jarden
Gift Bearers:	Jeff & Lee Ross
Altar Servers:	Volunteers Needed

Sunday, November 01, 2026 at 8:00am

Greeters:	Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Marcacci
Lector:	Janice Burns
Euch. Ministers:	R. Byots, M. Bertetto, N. Balzraine
Gift Bearers:	James Kelly Family
Altar Servers:	Lucca Kapp

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THE SICK AND THOSE IN NEED:

Dennis Skeldon, Michael McCullough, Brian Orr, Matt Orr, Meredith Heyen, Kyle Billings, Peggy Geurin, Kim Stotts, Joey Bertetto, Virginia Gruenenfelder, Jerri Bayse, Stacy Stoops, Brenda Lowe, Adrianne Devlin, Dave Bedinger, Joe Chiarodo, Carol Bangert, Bella Kennedy, Hazel Bono, Kelly Favre

SS. SIMON & JUDE / ST. JOSEPH HAS A TEAM OF PRAYER WARRIORS THAT ARE COMMITTED TO PRAYING FOR YOUR INTENTIONS. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE AN INTENTION INCLUDED, PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE.

Thank you to everyone who helped make last weekend's Ss. Simon & Jude Feast Day celebration such a wonderful success. So many people worked very hard, especially the Members of the Altar Society along with the Staff. We were blessed with a fantastic crowd, an excellent dinner, and, most importantly, the opportunity to enjoy great fellowship with one another. Thank you again for a great & memorable evening!















Sunday, October 18, 2026

The Kids' Bulletin

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 25th, 2026



How did Jesus say we should love God?
Put the letters in order by their numbers
to fill in the spaces and find out!

With all our __ __ __ __ __, __ __ __ __,
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

__ __ __ __ __ __ __.
10 11 12 13 14 15 16

The Greatest Commandment



What does Jesus say the greatest commandment is? At first you might think that the most important thing would be to not kill anyone, wouldn't you? But that's not what He says! The very most important thing is to love God with our whole heart and soul and mind! It means that we must do everything we do for love of God, and live our whole life completely for Him.

But how can we love God so much? Well, we can practice little by little, loving Him more each day. Paying attention at Mass every Sunday and saying a prayer every day would be a good start. Every morning tell God that you will do everything for Him today and every night before you go to bed, thank God for all that He has done for you and tell Him you're sorry for the bad things you did that day. Then try to think about God through the day.

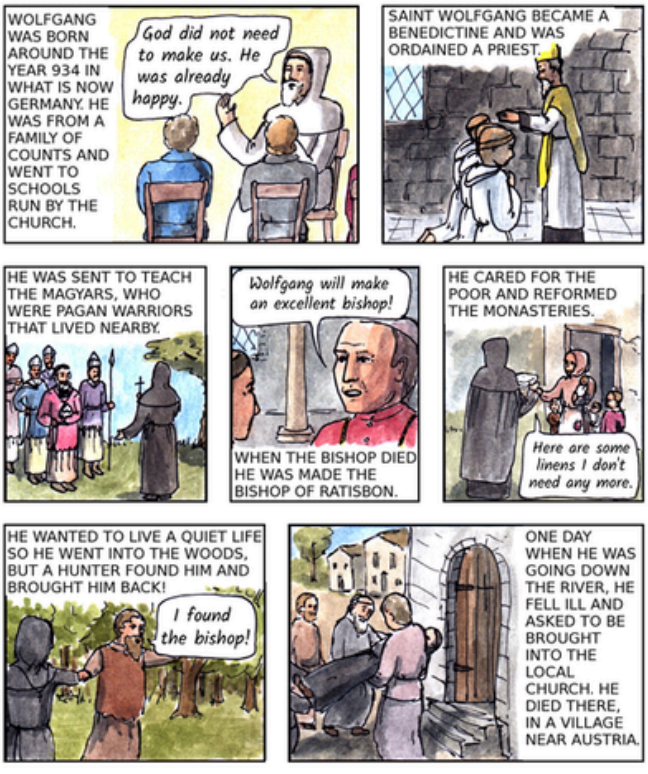


The second greatest commandment that Jesus tells us is that we should love others as much as we love ourselves. If we really love God then we will want to love other people too, because God loves them! If you don't love others, it shows that you don't really love God as much as you should. What can you do today to start loving God more?



Answer to front page: heart, soul and mind.
Answers to Unscramble: greatest, Lord, heart, soul, mind, first, love, yourself, whole. TO LOVE GOD

Saint Wolfgang
October 31



SAINT WOLFGANG WAS ONE OF THE IMPORTANT PATRON SAINTS FOR THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN EUROPE THROUGHOUT THE MIDDLE AGES. HE WAS THE TEACHER OF A FUTURE EMPEROR AND SEVERAL ARCHBISHOPS. HIS TEACHING KEPT THESE MEN CLOSE TO GOD AND HELPED THEM RULE WELL.

Unscramble The Gospel

Unscramble the words to fill in the blanks in today's Gospel reading, and use the letters in boxes to fill in the blanks at the end.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a scholar of the law, tested him by asking, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the □[7]__ __ __ __ __ __?" He said to him, "You
TREASGET
shall love the __ □[4]__ __, your God, with all
DOLR
your __ □[6]__ __ __, with all your __ □[8]__ __,
ARTHE OSUL
and with all your __ __ __ □[9]. This is the greatest
IDMN
and __ __ __ __ □[1]commandment. The second is
SRTFI
like it: You shall __ __ □[5]__ your neighbour as
OEVL
__ □[2]__ __ __ __ __ __. The __ __ __ □[3]__
ESUYFOLR LOHWE
law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.

What is the most important thing for us to ever do?



__ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

SS. SIMON & JUDE CHURCH

MISSION STATEMENT

We the faith community of Ss. Simon & Jude are called to worship as a family, to nurture and grow our faith and to be a welcoming, evangelizing and serving community.

PARISH COMMITTEES & GROUPS

Parish Council:
Mary Newman, Matt Brown, Harry Cavanaugh, Theresa Duncan, Brenda Lubrant, Roger Niehaus, Bob Tucker, Artie Vallerius, Denise Wirth, Fr. Joe Koyickal

Finance Council:
Harold Newman, Doug Goings, Kristine Jarden, John Marciukaitis, Weye Schmidt, Fr. Joe Koyickal

Ss. Simon & Jude Altar & Rosary Society Contact:
Mary Newman

Knights of Columbus Contact:
JO Kelly

Music Ministry Contact:
Pete Bertino

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

MISSION STATEMENT

With the Lord's kindness and guidance, we hope to keep St. Joseph Church alive and well so that we may continue to grow in faith and spirit for future generations.

PARISH COMMITTEES & GROUPS

Parish Council:
Cindy Saracco, Bill Bertetto, Donna Dopuch, John Fassero, Ruth Gill, JO Kelly, Chester Wyatt, Fr. Joe Koyickal

Finance Council:
Ed Saracco, Jerry Marcacci, Jerry Saracco, Fr. Joe Koyickal

St. Joseph Altar & Rosary Society Contact:
Cindy Saracco

Knights of Columbus Contact:
JO Kelly

Music Ministry Contact:
Sarah Williams

BAPTISMS

In order for a child to be baptized, the Church requires that the minister performing the baptism have a reasonable hope that the child will be raised in the practice of the faith. Attending Mass regularly and being a registered member of the parish provides this reasonable hope. Please contact the parish office for further details.

SACRAMENT OF FIRST RECONCILIATION, FIRST COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION

3rd Grade students must attend PSR & Mass in order to be eligible for these sacraments.
Contact the DRE, Donette Clark, for more information.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

A couple wishing to be married in Ss. Simon & Jude / St. Joseph Catholic churches must contact the parish office six months prior to the intended date. The couple must be registered in the parish & attend Mass regularly.

COMMUNION & ANOINTING OF THE SICK

If you are sick or homebound & would like to receive communion or be anointed, please contact the parish office.