

All Saints

November 01, 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 Feast of All Saints reminds us of our call to Holiness

On this Feast of the Solemnity of All Saints, the Church invites us to recall the holy men and women who have gone before us in faith and who have lived as authentic witness of the Gospel. This Feast honors all the saints in heaven, not only those officially recognized by the Church, but also the countless ordinary men and women who lived a holy and virtuous life in the sight of God and were known only to God, (Pope Francis called them “saints next door”). Through their lives of faith, the saints give us hope that holiness is possible for us too.

When we think of saints, we often imagine special or extraordinary people who lived long ago. But saints were ordinary people who were open to God and responded to God's love with extraordinary faith, courage, and generosity. They came from different backgrounds and walks of life. Some were priests and religious, missionaries; others were parents, farmers, teachers, workers, and ordinary people who faithfully lived their Christian vocation.

The Feast of All Saints reminds us that holiness is not reserved for a few special people; it is the calling of every Christian, every one of us. In the gospel today Jesus shows us the way in the Beatitudes (the Be-Attitudes): to be merciful, be clean of heart, work for peace and justice, forgive others, care for the poor, and remain faithful even in the midst of hardship and difficulties.

The saints are our companions and examples on our journey of faith. In a world often focused on success, wealth, recognition, and personal achievement, the saints remind us of what truly matters. Their lives teach us that love is more important than possessions, forgiveness is stronger than anger or resentment, and service is greater than selfishness. They encourage us to remain faithful to God in our families, workplaces, communities, and parishes.

How can we celebrate this feast in our daily lives? We can begin by practicing kindness, forgiving someone who has hurt us, reaching out to a lonely neighbor, helping someone in need, praying faithfully and not giving up, and bringing peace into our homes and communities. We can also learn about the lives of the saints and ask for their prayers and guidance.

As we celebrate the Feast of All Saints, let us remember that the saints were not perfect people who never struggled. They were people who trusted in God's mercy, got up when they fell, and continued to follow Jesus.

May this feast renew our desire to become the people God calls us to be. **The saints remind us of where we are going, encourage us on our journey, and show us that holiness is possible in our everyday lives.** May we live faithfully today so that, one day, we may join them in the eternal joy of God's kingdom.

Blessings of Peace and Joy Always!



PARISH NEWS

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.

Fri, Nov 6: The Jerseyville Deanery of the Springfield Diocesan Counsel of Catholic Women will meet for our Fall Meeting on Friday November 6th at St. Agnes Parish, 216 E. Tremont St., Hillsboro, IL. Mass will be at 9:30 am with the Rosary before Mass at 9:00am. We will also be remembering those we have lost in the past year. With the meeting follow in the parish hall. We will also have a little fun seeing how well we all know our saints.

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.

Sun, Dec 13: Christmas Caroling Mark your calendars! Benld & Gillespie parishes plan to go Christmas caroling the afternoon of Sun, Dec 13 and all from the Tri-Parish Family are welcome to join in the fun! We will meet at Ss. Simon & Jude parking lot at 1pm. If any Benld or Gillespie residents are interested in having carolers visit their home, contact Roger at 217-839-4036. Please provide your name, physical address and phone number. Time constraints limit us to visiting just a few homes in Benld and Gillespie, as well as the nursing home.

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 02	Tue 03	Wed 04	Thu 05	Fri 06	Sat 07	Sun 08
		SSMJ Sponsored Blood Drive at the C'ville Elks Noon-5pm **OCIA 7pm at Ss. Mary & Joseph Conf. Rm**		Jerseyville Deanery Mtg at 9am in Hillsboro	First Saturday at St. Joseph at 8:30am Eucharistic Adoration in Gillespie 3-4pm	Praying Rosary in Benld at 7:30am **PSR 9:30-10:30am** **YG 6-7pm** Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner 5pm St. Joseph



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 8, Nov 15, Nov 22, Nov 29 (No Class Thanksgiving Break)

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

Upcoming Youth Group

Nov 8, Nov 15, Nov 22, Nov 29 (No Class Thanksgiving Break)



Christmas Program: If your child is able to participate in this year's Christmas Program, Sat, Dec 19 after 4pm Mass, please let Donette know (if you have not responded already). There will be a few practices in the weeks prior before PSR class, but practices are not mandatory. Thank you!

Dear Padre

November 1, 2026

Growing up, I was never taught how to pray, just how to recite prayers. After a lot of reading about prayer, I find myself conflicted about to whom I pray. At church, we pray to Jesus. But, on the other hand, God is the Almighty One who gave me life. And to make it even harder, there are Mary and the saints. So, to whom do I pray?

A person can end up reciting long formulas of prayers or decades of the rosary without being mentally present. Distraction in prayer is a major problem. Real prayer is conversation with God. God appreciates having our full attention.

If you really look at the prayers of the Mass, you'll see they are all directed to God the Father, with the exception of a prayer that is said to Jesus before Communion. We pray *through* Christ *in* the Holy Spirit *to* God the Father in all the other prayers. However, the Persons of the Blessed Trinity are not jealous of one another. To honor the Father brings immense pleasure to the Son, and vice-versa.

And praying to Mary and the saints is better understood as asking them to pray *with* us. Jesus said that when two are in agreement about anything they pray for, God will grant that prayer. (See Matthew 18:19.) We exercise the option of praying with others when we invoke the saints.

The great thing is that any genuine prayer is a tremendous help to one's spiritual life. ●

Fr. Gary Lauenstein, 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 31
4:00pm Vigil **Angelo Ungarelli / Becky Cerkoski +**
(MM Preston / Cerkoski Family)

Tuesday, November 03
8:00am For the Poor Souls in Purgatory
(MM Preston)

Friday, November 06
10:00am Jack Plovich +
(C. Plovich Family)

Saturday, November 07
4:00pm Vigil Franklin & Mary T. Orr +
(L. Orr)

STEWARDSHIP
MANAGING GOD'S GIFTS TO US

Weekend Envelopes, Checks & Cash
$1,748.00

PSR
$0.00

Holy Day
$0.00

Special: World Mission
$38.00

Total: $1,786.00

Thank you for your continued generosity!

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

MASS INTENTIONS

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

Wednesday, November 04
8:00am Bill Newman +
(M. gucciardo)

Sunday, November 08
8:00am Darlene Koniak +
(G. Koniak)

STEWARDSHIP
MANAGING GOD'S GIFTS TO US

Weekend Envelopes, Checks & Cash
$1,238.00

Building Fund & PSR
$5.00

Holy Day
$0.00

Special: World Mission & Capital Campaign
$538.00

Total: $1,781.00

Thank you for your continued generosity!

PARISH LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Saturday, November 07, 2026 at 4:00pm

Greeters:	Carol Chesus & Rhonda Heyen
Lector:	Kristine Jarden
Euch. Ministers:	N. Schmidt, R. Heyen, C. Chesus
Gift Bearers:	Veronica Wilder
Altar Servers:	Volunteers Needed

Sunday, November 08, 2026 at 8:00am

Greeters:	Mr. & Mrs. Ed Saracco
Lector:	Janice Burns
Euch. Ministers:	M. Bertetto, N. Balzraine, G. Link
Gift Bearers:	Robert Burns 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.

The Knights of Columbus Council # 2076 would like to thank everyone who came out to Benld City Park today for our Trunk or Treat! We had a great turnout on a wonderful, very warm October afternoon! A special thank you to everyone who decorated a trunk, donated candy, volunteered, or helped make this event possible. We truly appreciate the continued support of our community and everyone who helped make today's event such a success!







On behalf of Knights of Columbus Council # 2076, a heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in the nine-night novena for Pope Leo XIV, whether you gathered at Ss. Simon & Jude, St. Joseph, or prayed from the comfort of your homes. Your faithful presence, prayers, and devotion to the Rosary were a beautiful witness to our unity as a community of faith. Together, we lifted our hearts in prayer for our Holy Father, entrusting him to the loving care and guidance of Our Blessed Mother and asking God's abundant blessings upon his speedy recovery.





The Kids' Bulletin

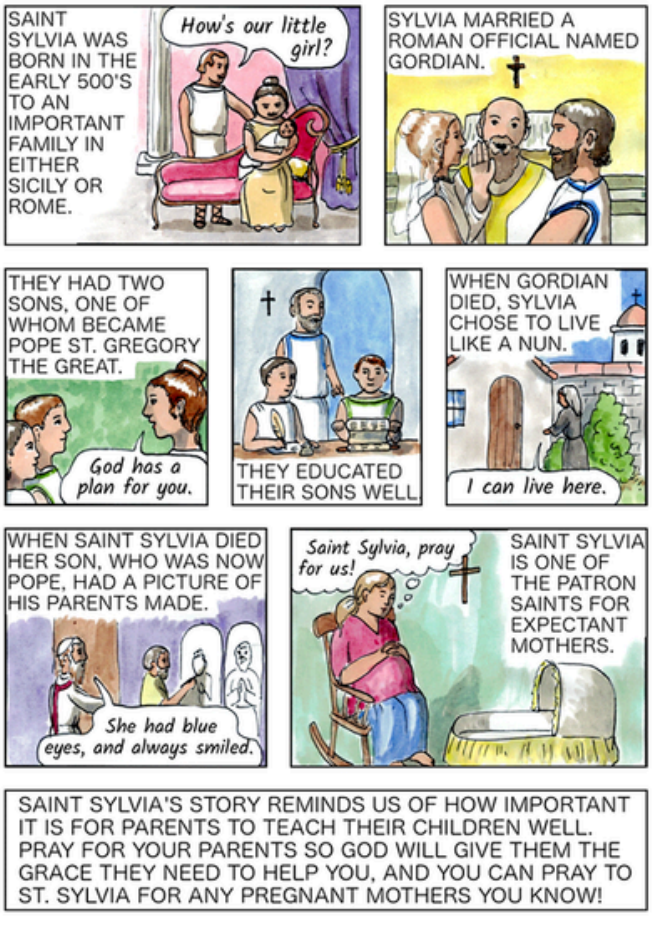
Feast of All Saints
November 1, 2026



Today we celebrate all the people that are in Heaven with God. We call these people 'saints.' They were normal people like us who chose to follow God.

Here are some saints that you can colour. Do you know who they are?

Saint Sylvia of Rome
November 5



SAINT SYLVIA'S STORY REMINDS US OF HOW IMPORTANT IT IS FOR PARENTS TO TEACH THEIR CHILDREN WELL. PRAY FOR YOUR PARENTS SO GOD WILL GIVE THEM THE GRACE THEY NEED TO HELP YOU, AND YOU CAN PRAY TO ST. SYLVIA FOR ANY PREGNANT MOTHERS YOU KNOW!

All Saints' Day



Today is a special feast day in the Church. We celebrate all the people who followed God on earth and are now in Heaven.

Tomorrow, November 2nd, is the feast of All Souls. It is a special day when we remember all the people who are still in Purgatory.



While we are alive we try to love God and do what He asks so that when we die we can go to Heaven to be with Him.

We can also help the souls in Purgatory. They are suffering because they have to make up for the sins they did when they were on earth. They can't go to Heaven until their souls are clean. We can help them by offering prayers and sacrifices to God for them.



The Saints in Heaven loved and served God and made up for their sins. We can pray to them and they can pray to God for us, to help us get to Heaven too!

Saints on the front page: Back row: St. Francis of Assisi, St. Peter, St. Joseph, St. Maximilian Kolbe. Front row: St. Joan of Arc, St. Therese of Lisieux, Our Lady (Mary), St. Jean Marie Vianney, St. Maria Goretti.
Answer to the Beatitudes Puzzle: Be a saint!

The Beatitudes Puzzle

Match the first and second parts of each of the beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12) and then use the letters in the same order to fill in the blanks at the end.

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit, [B]
2. Blessed are they who mourn, [ ]
3. Blessed are the meek, [ ]
4. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, [ ]
5. Blessed are the merciful, [ ]
6. Blessed are the clean of heart, [ ]
7. Blessed are the peacemakers, [ ]
8. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, [ ]



T ...for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.
A ...for they will inherit the land.
B ...for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.
S ...for they will be satisfied.
E ...for they will be comforted.
I ...for they will see God.
N ...for they will be called children of God.
A ...for they will be shown mercy.

Living the Beatitudes will help me

__ __ __ ___ _____!
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

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.