

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
November 15, 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

FROM THE PASTOR

Fr. Joe Koyickal, SAC jkoyickal@dio.org

A GIFT FOR JESUS: Prepare Your Personal Gift for Jesus This Christmas!

The Holy season of Advent is approaching fast. This is one of the busiest times of the year. We decorate our homes, shop for Christmas gifts, prepare special meals, greet and exchange gifts, attend parties, and make all kinds of arrangements to celebrate Christmas. These are beautiful traditions, and they bring joy to our families.

But amid all our preparations, there is one danger: **we can become so busy preparing for Christmas that we forget the One whose birthday we are celebrating!**

We prepare our homes, but do we prepare our hearts? We buy gifts for one another, but what special gift are we preparing for Jesus? This Advent, let us make a special effort not to miss Christ in our Christmas preparations! Can you spare 5-6 minutes each day for Jesus?

Here is a simple Family Advent Challenge

I invite every family in our parishes to take part in a simple but meaningful Advent activity: **Prepare a special Christmas gift for Jesus as a family!** Here is what it is all about. Simple and plain! All can join. No age bar!!

1. **Prepare an Advent wreath.** Make one together as a family or purchase one. Place it in a special location in your home where the family can gather for a few minutes of prayer every day.
2. **Gather around the Advent wreath every day.** Set aside just five or six minutes at a convenient time. It could be before or after dinner, before bedtime, or whenever the family can come together. You can do as an individual too, if not available for a common time. Each week, we will reflect on one of the four Advent themes: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. A short reflection, a Scripture passage, a question for reflection or sharing, and a family prayer. You will also be given some suggestions for act of love, kindness or charity to choose from. Do one of those things each day as explained below. This will help us prepare our hearts for Jesus. You will be provided with a flyer each week with prayers and the suggestions for good deeds.
3. **Make every day an opportunity to give Jesus a gift.** Each day, choose at least one simple act of kindness, love, charity, forgiveness, or sacrifice. Every member of the family is encouraged to do at least one good deed each day. It need not be anything extraordinary. Helping someone at home, sharing with a person in need, forgiving someone, visiting someone who is lonely, offering a prayer for someone, or making a small personal sacrifice can become a beautiful gift to Jesus.
4. **Collect your gifts for Jesus!** After your daily act of kindness, write it on a small slip of paper and place it in a special family box. You may call it your "Family Gift to Jesus Box." As the days go by, your box will fill up with little gifts: not toys, money, or material things, but acts of love offered to Jesus.
5. **Bring your gifts to Jesus on Christmas!** On Christmas Day, bring your family's collected slips of paper to church. We will have a special collection box in the church where all families can drop their gifts of good deeds. These gifts will be brought forward along with the gifts of bread and wine during the Offertory procession at Mass, symbolizing the love, prayers, kindness, and sacrifices that our families have offered to Jesus throughout Advent. Let this Advent be different. Let us not simply count the days until Christmas. Let us fill each day with love, goodness, and kindness.

Thus this Christmas, when we come to the manger, let us not come empty-handed. Let us bring Jesus a heart full of love and a box full of good deeds!

May every family make room for Jesus, and may every home become a little Bethlehem!

Blessings of Peace and Joy Always! 

PARISH NEWS



Now until Sun, Dec 13: Ornaments The Altar Society is offering poinsettia ornaments for $5 to adorn our Christmas trees. Proceeds will be donated to the Alton Catholic Children's Home. The names of those being remembered will be displayed in the church vestibule. After the Christmas decorations are taken down, you may take home one of the ornaments as a keepsake. Order forms are available in the bulletin and on the counter in the vestibule. Please make checks out to Ss Simon and Jude Altar Society. Questions please call Mary Newman at 217-825-9171. All names should be submitted by December 13.

Weekend of November 14/15: Caring Center Collection The Caring Center has reached out to us for assistance in providing support to families in our community. To help with this effort, we will be taking up a second collection next weekend. If you would like to contribute, your generosity would be greatly appreciated. Please make checks payable to **The Caring Center.**

Sun, Nov 22: Cursillo Ultreya Brunch will be held at Ss. Mary & Jopseph Parish Hall after 10am Mass. This is open to anyone from the Tri-Parish community whether you have attended a Cursillo weekend or not. This is an excellent opportunity to discover why more than 30 parishioners from SSMJ have taken the time to attend a Cursillo Weekend in Quincy. Breakfast brunch and fellowship after Mass followed by some spiritual reflection. For more information or to RSVP please call/text Dan Kallal at 217-473-3734.

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 behind the school 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 16	Tue 17	Wed 18	Thu 19	Fri 20	Sat 21	Sun 22
		Thanksgiving Mass in Carlinville at 5:15pm			Eucharistic Adoration in Gillespie 3-4pm	Praying Rosary in Benld at 7:30am **PSR 9:30-10:30am** **YG 6-7pm** **Cursillo Brunch after 10am Mass in C'ville** RSVP Deadline Altar Socities Party



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 22, Nov 29 (No Class Thanksgiving Break), Dec 6

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

Upcoming Youth Group
Nov 22, Nov 29 (No Class Thanksgiving Break), Dec 6



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 15, 2026

At Mass, I have difficulty communing with God after receiving Communion because of the noise and activity. Why not more silence?

During Mass, communal silence is called for within the Penitential Act, for people to recollect themselves; at the end of a reading or the homily, so all can meditate briefly on what they've heard; and then after Communion, for people to praise and pray to God in their hearts. (See *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, 45.) In other words, there is a silence that reflects our contrition before God; a silence that reflects our need to ponder his word; and a deep silence before God that reflects awe and incapacity for words after receiving the Body and Blood of Christ!

After Communion, a period of communal silence for personal prayer is intended before other activities, such as a second collection or announcements. Also, a psalm, canticle of praise, or hymn may be sung. (See *GIRM* 88, 164.) "Liturgical silence is indispensable to the rhythm of a balanced celebration. Without it, the celebration can become perfunctory in its haste or burdensome in its unrelieved sound and song" (*Introduction to the Order of Mass*, 48, USCCB, 2003). As St. Alphonsus wrote in *The Holy Eucharist*: "There is no prayer more agreeable to God, or more profitable to the soul, than that which is made during the thanksgiving after Communion." ●

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.

<u>Classes will be held in the Ss. Mary & Joseph Conference Room at 7pm</u>
We will be taking a break in December. Next class will be in January.

SS. SIMON & JUDE CHURCH

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, November 14
4:00pm Vigil **Thomas W. Alpi / Lucille Marinacci +**
(T. Wasylenko / J. Reid)

Tuesday, November 17
8:00am Becky Cerkoski
(Cerkoski Family)

Friday, November 20
10:00am Mass at Gillespie Health & Rehab
For the wellbeing of the residents

Saturday, November 21
4:00pm Vigil Bill Newman / Suzanne Newman +
(M. Friedman / B. Marasti)

STEWARDSHIP
MANAGING GOD'S GIFTS TO US

Weekend Envelopes, Checks & Cash
$2,506.00

PSR & Building Fund
$85.00

Holy Day: All Souls & All Saints
$130.00

Special: Cemetary & V. Candles
$347.00

Total: $3,068.00

Thank you for your continued generosity!

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, November 15
8:00am **Rose Marie Tebbe +**
(Tebbe Family)

Wednesday, November 18
8:00am **NEED A MASS**
(NAME)

Friday, November 20
10:00am Mass at Gillespie Health & Rehab
For the wellbeing of the residents

Sunday, November 22
8:00am **NEED A MASS +**
(NAME)

STEWARDSHIP
MANAGING GOD'S GIFTS TO US

Weekend Envelopes, Checks & Cash
$1,110.00

Building Fund & PSR
$285.00

Holy Day: All Saints & All Souls
$215.00

Special: Rural King Catholic Stewardship
$50.00

Total: $1,660.00

Thank you for your continued generosity!

PARISH LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Saturday, November 21, 2026 at 4:00pm

Greeters:	Rob & Denise Wirth
Lector:	Denise Wirth
Euch. Ministers:	R. Niehaus, D. Clark, B. Lubrant
Gift Bearers:	Dave & Pam Pickett
Altar Servers:	Volunteers Needed

Sunday, November 22, 2026 at 8:00am

Greeters:	Denise Cadmus & Jerri Bayse
Lector:	Janice Burns
Euch. Ministers:	G. Link, J. Kally, E. Saracco
Gift Bearers:	Jerry Saracco Family
Altar Servers:	Lucca Kapp

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

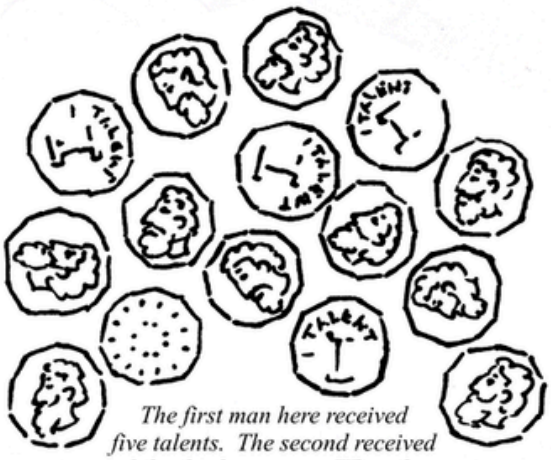
Dennis Skeldon, Michael McCullough, Brian Orr, Matt Orr, Meredith Heyen, Kyle Billings, Peggy Geurin, Joey Bertetto, Virginia Gruenenfelder, Jerri Bayse, Stacy Stoops, Brenda Lowe, Adrianne Devlin, Dave Bedinger, Joe Chiarodo, Carol Bangert, Bella Kennedy, Hazel Bono, Kelly Favre, Clark Jillson

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.

We had a great Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner celebration! We thank the St Joseph Altar & Rosary Society for their hard work in organizing & coordinating this memorable event. Great food & wonderful fellowship was enjoyed by all. We have much to be THANKFUL for!

The Kids' Bulletin

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
November 15th, 2026



The first man here received five talents. The second received two and the third man one. When the master returned, how many did each man have? Colour them this way to find out:



Colour the coins with faces gold.

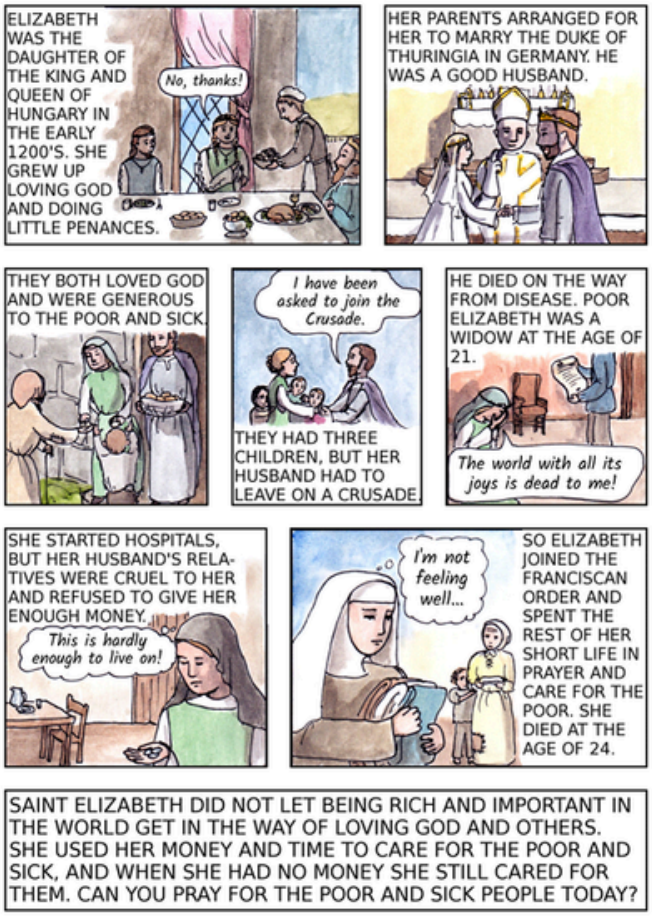


Colour the coins with letters silver.



Colour the coin with dots bronze.

Saint Elizabeth of Hungary
November 17



SAINT ELIZABETH DID NOT LET BEING RICH AND IMPORTANT IN THE WORLD GET IN THE WAY OF LOVING GOD AND OTHERS. SHE USED HER MONEY AND TIME TO CARE FOR THE POOR AND SICK, AND WHEN SHE HAD NO MONEY SHE STILL CARED FOR THEM. CAN YOU PRAY FOR THE POOR AND SICK PEOPLE TODAY?

Use Your Talents!



God has given each of us talents, or things that we're good at. In today's parable, Jesus tells about a master who gave three of his servants large amounts of money, which were also called talents. Two of the men used the talents and earned more, but one just hid his talent and didn't use it at all. When the master returned he rewarded the men who had used theirs, but punished the man who hadn't.



Some people have many talents and can do lots of good things. Other people can only do a few things well. But no matter what you can do, God wants you to do your best.

What are some things you're good at? What are some things you are not very good at? Rather than think about the things we can't do, we should be happy to do the things we can, and do them for God! Some people are good at drawing or writing. They can make people happy and teach people about God by drawing pictures or writing stories or letters. Some people are good at talking to people and making friends. They can show God's love and make people happy. Some people have a talent of being patient with others, and show Jesus' love that way. What are your talents? How can you use them to bring people closer to God?

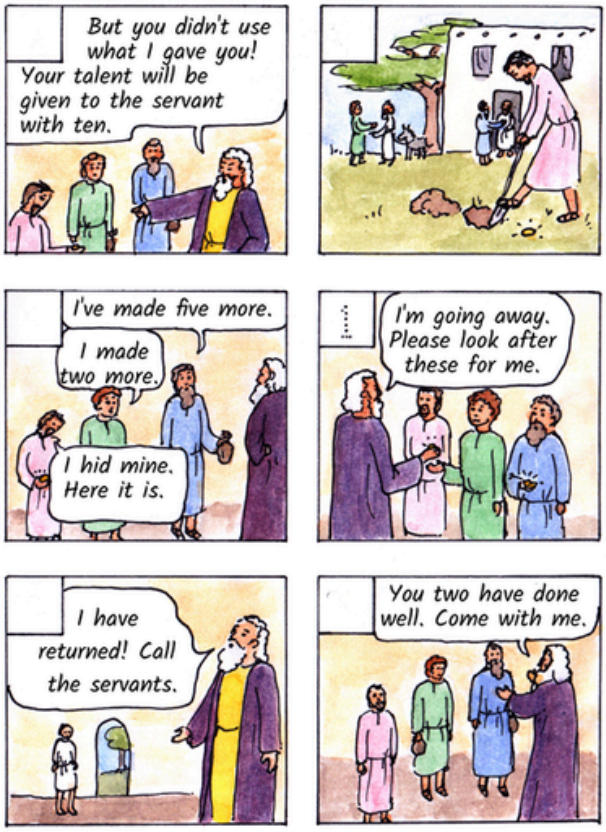


Answers to front page: The first man had ten, the second had four and the third man one.
Answer to picture puzzle: Top, left to right: 6, 2.
Middle: 4, 1. Bottom: 3, 5.

www.thekidsbulletin.com

Using the Master's Talents
- sort out the pictures -

How well do you know the parable from today's Gospel? Put the numbers 1 to 6 in the boxes in the correct order of the story.



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.