

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
November 22, 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

Fatima Frist Satruday Devotion
8:30am 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

Christ our King Who Reigns Through Love and Service

This Sunday, we celebrate the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. This celebration on the final Sunday of the liturgical year is significant. It tells us that the whole year of worship and prayer was meant to help us to acknowledge Jesus Christ as the King of our lives. This feast therefore invites us to ask ourselves what place we offer Him in our lives. Do we recognize Him as the Lord of all creation, the King of our hearts, and the center of our lives? It also reminds us that our true citizenship is in His Kingdom, a Kingdom of truth, love, justice, peace, mercy, and service.

Our usual understanding of kingship is associated with power, authority, wealth, position, privilege, and people serving the king. Jesus turns this understanding upside down! He is not a King who comes to be served, but one who comes to serve. He does not rule through force, fear, or domination, but through love, compassion, humility, and self-sacrifice. His crown is made of thorns, His throne is the Cross, and His royal power is revealed in His willingness to give His life for us. He does not distance Himself from His people but draws near to them, especially the poor, the suffering, the forgotten, and the vulnerable. In Him everyone finds hope and new life.

The Gospel for this Sunday (Matthew 25:31-46) gives us a beautiful and challenging picture of what His Kingdom looks like. Jesus identifies Himself with the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick, and those in prison. Whatever we do for one of the least of our brothers and sisters, we do for Him. In other words, our love for Christ cannot be separated from our love and care for others. We cannot claim Jesus as the King of our lives while ignoring the needs of those around us.

What does it mean to accept Jesus as the King of our lives? It means to allow Him first place in our hearts, our families, our decisions, our relationships, and our daily choices. It means allowing His teachings, rather than our selfish desires, pride, anger, or worldly ambitions, to guide the way we live. It means choosing forgiveness over resentment, generosity over selfishness, kindness over indifference, humility over pride, and service over self-interest. It means seeing Christ in the people we meet every day and treating them with the love and dignity they deserve.

We do not need to do extraordinary things to live in the Kingdom of Christ. Sometimes, it begins with a kind word to someone who is lonely, a visit to someone who is sick, a helping hand to someone in need, patience with a family member, forgiveness when we have been hurt, or sharing what we have with someone in need. These ordinary acts of love are the very things our King recognizes as service rendered to Him. And this is what it means to live in His kingdom which is already present with us and among us!



As we enter this Thanksgiving week let us thank God not only for the blessings we enjoy, our families, friends, health, homes, and daily provisions, but above all for Jesus Christ, our loving King, who walks with us, guides us, forgives us, and gives His life for us. May our gratitude never remain only in words, but find expression in generosity, kindness, compassion, and care for one another. **May Christ reign in our hearts, in our families, and in our parish community! Wishing everyone and your families a blessed, joyful, and grace-filled Thanksgiving. May God bless you with grateful hearts and may the love of Christ our King unite us in faith, hope, and love.**

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.

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.



A BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT FOR THE CARING CENTER AND SNACKS FOR THE FIRST RESPONDERS. IT WAS GREATLY APPREICATED!

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 23	Tue 24	Wed 25	Thu 26	Fri 27	Sat 28	Sun 29
	Thanksgiving Mass in Gillespie at 6:00pm	**Thanksgiving Mass in Benld at 8:00am**			Eucharistic Adoration in Gillespie 3-4pm **Fr. Chuck will be celebrating Mass today at 4pm**	Praying Rosary in Benld at 7:30am **Fr. Chuck will be celebrating Mass today at 8am** **NO PSR or YG**



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 29 (No Class Thanksgiving Break), Dec 6, Dec 13

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

Upcoming Youth Group
Nov 29 (No Class Thanksgiving Break), Dec 6, Dec 13



Christmas Program: This year's Christmas Program will be on Saturday, 12/19 after 4pm Mass. Practices will occur prior to PSR class from 9:00-9:30am on 11/22, 12/6 & 12/13. *Practices are not mandatory, bur preferred.* All are welcome to participate.

Dear Padre

November 22, 2026

Why do some parishes have only priests who can't speak English well?

The short answer to your question is that in many instances, a diocese does not have enough priests to staff all its parishes. In this case, the bishop "recruits" priests from parts of the world where the number of priests is more abundant.

This is not a new practice. In the 1830s, American bishops were recruiting priests from Europe to staff the parishes in the United States. As a result, men like St. John Neumann and Blessed Francis Seelos came to the United States. They worked not only for the German immigrants, whose language they knew because they were German themselves, but also for the Irish, the French-speaking, the Native Americans, and any other Catholic group that needed Catholic pastoral service.

In the first half of the twentieth century, the American Church was able to send missionaries to Latin America, Asia, and Africa, where there were not enough Catholic priests. The Maryknoll Missionaries, for instance, were founded for this purpose.

Today, the situation has reversed. The places with the most Catholic priests are in Asia, Africa, and some Latin American countries, as well as in Eastern Europe. If these men are willing to make the sacrifice of leaving their homeland, family, and friends to serve us, shouldn't we make the effort to show some gratitude and hospitality to them? ●

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.

<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 21
4:00pm Vigil **Bill Newman / Suzanne Newman +**
(M. Friedman / B. Marasti)

Tuesday, November 24
6:00pm Virginia Altieri
(MM Preston)

Saturday, November 28
4:00pm Vigil The Mussatto Family / Terry Plovich +
(P. Zaksas/ Plovich Family)

STEWARDSHIP
MANAGING GOD'S GIFTS TO US

Weekend Envelopes, Checks & Cash
$1,527.00

PSR & Building Fund
$55.00

Holy Day: All Souls & All Saints
$40.00

Special: V. Candles
$35.00

Total: $1,657.00

Thank you for your continued generosity!

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, November 22
8:00am **Don Dobrino +**
(Clark Family)

Wednesday, November 25
8:00am Matthew Koyickal
(Fr. Joe)

Sunday, November 29
8:00am For the Tri-Parish Community

STEWARDSHIP
MANAGING GOD'S GIFTS TO US

Weekend Envelopes, Checks & Cash
$1,255.00

Building Fund & PSR
$25.00

Holy Day: All Saints & All Souls
$27.00

Special:
$0.00

Total: $1,307.00

Thank you for your continued generosity!

PARISH LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Saturday, November 28, 2026 at 4:00pm

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

Sunday, November 29, 2026 at 8:00am

Greeters:	Knights of Columbus
Lector:	Janice Burns
Euch. Ministers:	Knights of Columbus
Gift Bearers:	Knights of Columbus
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, 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.

DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD IN ILLINOIS
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

November, 2026

Dear Friends in Christ,

In the coming weeks, our parishes will take up the annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection. This appeal supports more than 21,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who have devoted their lives to serving the Church and God's people.

For generations, these women and men have been teachers, caregivers, spiritual guides, and quiet witnesses of faith in our communities. Many of us can name a sister, brother, or religious order priest whose example strengthened our faith or whose kindness shaped our lives.

Today, the reality they face is challenging. Most religious received little compensation during their ministry. Now, their communities must pay for rising costs in health care, nursing support, and medications. These financial pressures are significant, and the need continues to grow.

Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious directly supports their care and helps their communities provide for them with dignity. It is a meaningful way to express gratitude for lives spent in faithful service.

I am mindful that you are asked to support many important causes, and I am sincerely grateful for your generosity. I encourage you, if possible, to donate to this year's Retirement Fund for Religious collection. Your contribution will make a real difference in the lives of our elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. Please also keep them in your prayers, just as they faithfully pray for us.

May God bless you and your loved ones with lasting peace, strength, and good health.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Thomas John Paprocki

Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki
Bishop of Springfield in Illinois

The Kids' Bulletin

Feast of Christ the King
November 22nd, 2026



A E F H I L M P R S T U W Y

△ □ > ■ ı − ▲ ○ ● < + ∪ ∩ ×

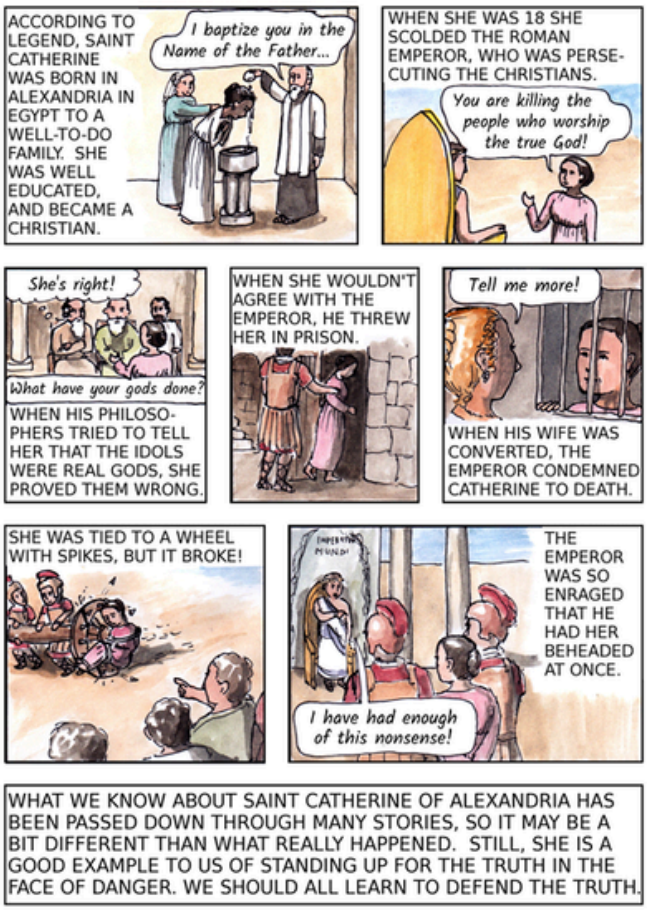
What does God say about His people in the first reading? Use the code to find out some of what He said.

ı ▲ × < □ − > ∩ ı − −

○ △ < + ∪ ● □ + ■ □ ▲

Saint Catherine of Alexandria

November 25



WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT SAINT CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA HAS BEEN PASSED DOWN THROUGH MANY STORIES, SO IT MAY BE A BIT DIFFERENT THAN WHAT REALLY HAPPENED. STILL, SHE IS A GOOD EXAMPLE TO US OF STANDING UP FOR THE TRUTH IN THE FACE OF DANGER. WE SHOULD ALL LEARN TO DEFEND THE TRUTH.

Whatever you do to others...



Jesus is a fair king. In today's Gospel reading, He tells us how He will judge people at the end of time. Those who were good to God will be saved, and those who were not good to Him will be condemned. Whoever is good to others is good to God, and whoever is unkind to others is unkind to God.



Our Lord cares so much about His people that He will judge us according to how we treat each other. Jesus is the Good Shepherd and the King, and He cares about every one of us specially. Imagine a king who came to see every one of his subjects to make sure that they were doing okay. Well, Jesus does more than that- He died for us on the cross! He looks after us all the time, and He says that anyone who is unkind to us will be judged as being unkind to Him.



Christ the King is the just judge. How do you think you will be judged when you die, or at the end of time? Are you kind to others? Do you ever think about how you would treat Jesus if He were here? Do you treat other people the way you would treat Jesus?

Answer to front page: I myself will pasture them.
Answers to match-up puzzle: 1. you gave me food, 2.you gave me drink, 3.you welcomed me, 4.you clothed me, 5.you cared for me, 6.you visited me.

Gospel Match-Up

In today's Gospel reading, Our Lord tells the people how they will be judged. What did the righteous people do when they found people in need?

See if you can match up the needs on the left with the help on the right!

1. I was hungry and •	• you welcomed me,
2. I was thirsty and •	• you clothed me,
3. a stranger and •	• you gave me drink,
4. naked and •	• you cared for me,
5. ill and •	• you visited me.
6. in prison and •	• you gave me food,



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:
Dennis Janssen

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.