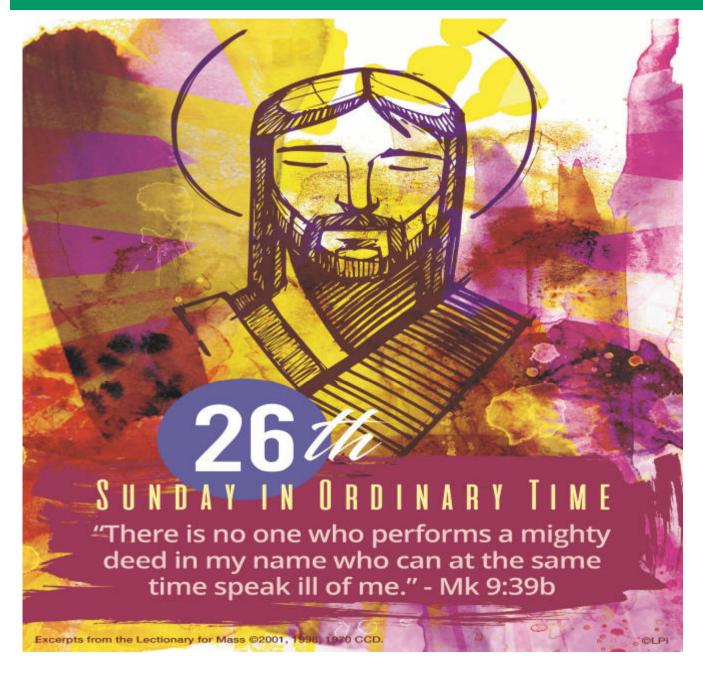


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Parish Notes

Pastor:
Rev. William J. Hitpas 632-1797

Deacon:
Gary Mueller 558-8932

Parish Office:

Phone: 632-1797 Fax: 632-7703

Parish Secretary

Pam Steinke 632-1797

Business Administrator:

Ann Daniels 632-1797

Director of Education:

Barbara Furdek 632-1137

Coordinator of Adult Faith FormationMark Etling 726-6700

Coordinator of Liturgy & Music

Karen Scherrer 632-1007

Coordinator of Youth

Megan Edwards 632-1797 *Rectory*: 900 N. Smiley, O'Fallon, IL

632-1997

School: St. Clare School 214 W. Third St., O'Fallon, IL

632-6327

Parish School of Religion:

632-1137

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd:

632-1137

Pre-School: Good Shepherd Pre-School

726-6532

St. Nicholas Website Address: www.stnicholasofallon.org

Parish Office Hours: 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

St. Vincent de Paul

Emergency Assistance 632-4270

Lottery UpdateThis week's winning ticket is

MaryAnne Caponegro of St. Nicholas Parish

Parish Choir Sunday, October 2 4:30 pm Mass

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

The Acts of the Apostles is a fast-paced imaginative story about early Christianity. It depicts the fulfillment of Jesus' command in the Gospel of Luke that his message of repentance and forgiveness should be proclaimed "to all nations, beginning in Jerusalem". Acts tells the story of the fateful decision by the Apostles to proclaim the Good News of Jesus to both Jews and Gentiles. **The series continues on Wednesdays, September 29 and October 6. Times of the presentation will be at 9:30 am and 7:00 pm in the Spirituality Center. Presenter will be Mark Etling.**

From Anxiety to HOPE

Real Issues. Real Answers

Real Talk about Mental Health for Today's Parents

As a leader in Mental Health, in partnership with St. Nicholas, Karla Smith Behavioral Health is offering a FREE speaker series on three critical issues facing today's adolescent and teen in order to help parents, grandparents, teachers, youth leaders and caregivers understand the issues that may affect a person's mental health. The sessions will continue on Wednesday nights, October 13 and November 17 in the Activity Center at St. Nicholas at 7:00 pm. Topics for the remaining two different sessions will be:

- ANXIETY 101 (Oct. 13)
- WHO IS THEM? WHAT AM I Exploring Gender and Sexuality (Nov. 17)

Please take 30 seconds to register online at

FREE Registration online at <u>KarlaSmithBehavorialHealth.org</u> so they can ensure there is enough material for each session.

Confirmation Walk to Benefit St. Vincent de Paul

Sunday, October 3 at 1:00 pm at Rock Springs Park all 7th & 8th grade students are expected to participate in the St. Vincent de Paul Walk for the Poor. The walk is to support the St. Vincent de Paul Drop-in Center. We ask that every candidate earn and donate minimum of \$5.00, instead of soliciting people for donations.

A parent will need to accompany their child for the walk, you may have a cluster of youth walk with one parent. If it should rain, the walk will be cancelled but the donations will still be collected.



Liturgical Poles

Saturday, (Oct. 2) at 4:30 pm

Altar Servers:

Kate Riepe, Colin Smith
Cantor: Karen Kaus
Eucharistic Ministers:
Deacon Gary Mueller (EM

Bill Henggeler, Cathy Mueller, Carol Papenberg,

Jen Umali (GEM)
Greeters:

Greeters: Bill & Kris Green

Guardian Angels:

Dave Pfeifer, Christopher

Heilig

Lectors: Candice Kusmer,

Lee Smith

Presenter of Gifts:

Erin Davidson, TBD **Ushers:** John Knapik, David Loyet, Dennis

Mulqueeny

Sunday, (Oct. 3) at 8:30 am

Altar Servers: Bethany Broeckling, RJ Devine

Cantor: Dan Roberts
Eucharistic Ministers:

Deacon Gary Mueller (EM Host 1), Lisa Mallets, Kathy

Short, Bill Short, Robert Mallets (GEM)

Mallets (GE Greeters:

Brandon & Liz Rotz

Guardian Angels: Regina Broeckling, John Davis

Lectors: Alyssa Broeckling, Anita Kazmierczak

Presenter of Gifts:

Charles Wagner, Sharon Gage

Gage

Ushers: Matt Ballance, Eric Broeckling, Harlan Gerrish

Sunday, (Oct. 3) at 10:30 am

Altar Servers: Bethany Wessel, Madelyn Wessel Cantor: Cheri Wessel Eucharistic Ministers: Deacon Gary Mueller (EM

Host 1), Kitty Hohrein, Martie Rheaume, Nancy Stapchuk,

Mary Winger (GEM) Greeters:

Ashley & Brett Johnson

Guardian Angels: TBD, Danny Flores

Lectors:

Christopher Pollard, Tim Toennies

Presenter of Gifts:

Tracy & Ryan Brown Ushers: Ean Eskra, Gerry

Riley, TBD

St. Andrew Dinner

Bishop McGovern and the Vocations Office staff cordially invite young men of high school or college age to attend the next St. Andrew Dinner on Sunday, October 17, 5 pm at Immaculate Conception parish in Columbia. The evening presents a unique opportunity to pray with the bishop, share a meal, and to ask him questions about priesthood in a relaxed setting. Parents are invited to attend as well. Please contact the Vocation Director, Father Steven Beatty, to learn more and to sign up! He can be reached at frstevenbeatty@gmail.com or 618-697-2632.

Respect Life Month

As part of Respect Life Month, the parish is participating in the Life Chain held along Highways 159 and 50 in Fairview Heights near Walgreens/Hobby Lobby area. The Life Chain consists of thousands of Christians standing along side of the highways in a peaceful and prayerful sign of support to an end to abortion in our country. The time for the Life Chain is from 2:00 to 3:00 pm on Sunday, October 3. For questions please contact Joe and Pat Kaiser at 622-8851.

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time - September 26, 2021

Numbers 11:25-29. Psalm 19:8, 10, 12-13, 14. James 5:1-6. Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47 -48.

The More the Merrier. Who cares if other Christians are also doing the good things that Catholics do? Or other believers? Or even non-believers? The kingdom of heaven is not an exclusive club. By God's design, everyone belongs. Jesus says: "Whoever is not against us is for us."

- What good can I affirm that someone else is doing this week?
- How can I foster others to do good work?
- How can I help others to care for "little ones"?

TRUNK OR TREAT

Mark your calendars for the annual St. Nicholas Trunk or Treat party following Mass on Saturday, October 23. Children are encouraged to wear their costumes to mass (NO Costume Masks



Please). Following mass, hotdogs and other refreshments will be available in the Parish Hall and of course plenty of trunk trick or treating in the parking lot. We had some very spooky car decorations in past years, so don't miss out on the fun.

St. Nicholas App

Keep in touch with St. Nicholas. If you haven't checked out our St. Nicholas App, please give it a try. It offers our calendar, homilies, Daily Messages, and now it offers videos of our Speaker Series (Parish Talks), and much more. To download our parish app text **APP** to **88202**. If you have questions, please call the parish office at 632-1797.

WE SHARE

This time of year many of us are planning for football games, and tailgate parties, but many others can't plan on having enough food to feed their kids. Won't you help out by sharing food with those who don't have enough? Please bring non-perishable food with you to Mass next weekend.

Jesus replied, "Do not prevent him. For whoever is not against us is for us. Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his reward." — no 51321, 40141

Does on how the Leib one year Music 2001, 1999, 1997, 700.

Did You Know?

Every week we try to cover different aspects of parish life in the "Did You Know?" column. It is a way of welcoming those who are new and keeping all the parishioners informed. If you have a suggestions for this column, please call the parish office.

REMINDER Loop Hearing Impaired System Available at St. Nicholas

It is called the "loop" system activated by a hearing aid telecoil. If your hearing aid has a phone switch, it most likely has a telecoil. Many hearing aids have this system lying dormant in the settings which need to be activated. If you are hearing impaired and do not have hearing aids or hearing aids with a telecoil, there are headsets in the Gathering Area. The headsets are in a basket marked SOUND AMPLIFICATION

For more information there are handouts available on the Informational table in the Gathering Area.

DEVICES.





September 29 - Search and Rescue K9 Co-Op presentation **October 6** - No youth group due to OTHS Homecoming activities **October 13** - Karla Smith

Behavioral Health presentation on Depression and Anxiety in our youth. We highly recommend the teens are present for this!





Breaking the Stewardship Mold

Have you noticed how we always tend to pigeonhole one another — and ourselves? "I could never serve on the Parish Council. That's for Rick and Ellen and that whole group of people who have done it for years." "Greg takes care of faith formation in the parish — he always has. He doesn't need my help." "I can't afford to give the big bucks like those families who sit up front can. My offering wouldn't matter even if I did increase it."

Thinking like this is a good indication that we aren't in conversation with God about what His will is for our lives. If we have already decided what we are and are not meant to do, we aren't likely to pray over it, to discern it.

We have to be open to the spirit of the Lord wherever it leads us, regardless of what we or others have come to expect from us. We human beings come to believe that we are such good judges of what others can offer — or what we ourselves can offer. But God has plans for us to which we aren't privy. God calls everyone to serve Him in the way that pleases Him best, and only He can decide what that is. Everyday Stewardship demands a continual accounting of who we can be, what we can offer — even if it's outside our comfort zone, even if it's something that never occurred to us before.

There's only one Person who can tell us what God wants from us. Do we even think to ask Him?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



Saturday, September 25 4:30 pm Dorothy Gerrick Sunday, September 26 8:30 am Merle "Moe" Frech 10:30 am For the Parish Monday. September 27 Joyce Eversman 8:30 am Tuesday, September 28 8:30 am NO Mass at School Wednesday, September 29 Diane Vest 8:30 am September 30 Thursday, 8:30 am NO Mass October 1 Friday,

8:30 am Bob & Angie Guithues Sr.

Saturday, 3:00 pm 4:30 pm Francis Gross
Sunday, October 3

8:30 am Bill & John Rhodes 10:30 am For the Parish

TITHE

Total tithe last weekend	\$15,428.00
Offering	\$13,972.00
Guatemala	
Poor	\$775.00
Retired Diocesan Priest	\$280.00

Thank you very much!

Readings for the week of September 26, 2021

Sunday: Nm 11:25-29/Ps 19:8, 10, 12-13, 14 [9a]/Jas 5:1-6/

Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

Monday: Zec 8:1-8/Ps 102:16-18, 19-21, 29 and 22-

23 [17]/Lk 9:46-50

Tuesday: Zec 8:20-23/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7 [Zec 8:23]/

Lk 9:51-56

Wednesday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a/Ps 138:1-

2ab, 2cde-3, 4-5 [1]/Jn 1:47-51

Thursday: Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11

[9ab]/Lk 10:1-12

Friday: Bar 1:15-22/Ps 79:1b-2, 3-5, 8, 9 [9]/Lk

10:13-16

Saturday: Bar 4:5-12, 27-29/Ps 69:33-35, 36-37 [34]/

Mt 18:1-5, 10

Next Sunday: Gn 2:18-24/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6 [cf. 5]/Heb

2:9-11/Mk 10:2-16 or 10:2-12



GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

What are the little ones? They are the poor, the marginalized, the women and men at the well, the Zacchaeus' looking for Jesus from a tree, those mired in sin, the blind who want to see, and the lame who want to walk. They are the lepers and the different ones who have been told that they are unclean, and the ones who suffer from abuse and grave injustices and oppression. They are children who want nothing more than to be loved and enjoy celebrating their innocence. These are all the little ones and they are all vulnerable. Life already brings them burdens, we don't need to add to them.

St. Oscar Romero said, "When the church hears the cry of the oppressed it cannot but denounce the social structures that give rise to and perpetuate the misery from which the cry arises." Why are so many people still so gravely hurting? We have the resources and the means to make things better. We choose not to. There are still those things called greed, pride, lust, apathy, jealously, gluttony, and anger that prevent us from seeing each other and people to be loved and not objects to be used. Is this how God intended things to be?

God loves what is good and upright. It doesn't matter who did it or where it came from. In God's eyes, the end result is always faith, hope, and love. Those will always unite a person with God. We fill our lives with many things that are not good either for ourselves or for others. All of us have to work to discover what it is, exactly, that leads to the world's brokenness. There are people, systems, and ideologies in place that foster oppression and injustice rather than equity and fairness. Sadly, our complacency can be the greatest evil. Turning a blind eye, ignoring the truth, and believing that we are helpless to fix so great a problem, does little to move us closer to the kingdom of God. As members of the Body of Christ, we cannot condone anything that keeps people in misery.

As it is said, charity begins at home. Perhaps a good place to start is with our own households and making sure their foundations are properly laid.

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