

Pastor's Letter

September 7, 2025—23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Church Family,

Our second reading for today is taken from the shortest book in the Bible, St. Paul's Letter to Philemon. As short as it is there is an amazing story behind it. A Christian man from the city of Colossae named Philemon had a slave named Onesimus who escaped and found his way to Rome. While there he came in contact with Paul who was being held there as a prisoner under house arrest. Onesimus himself became a Christian and helped Paul in his work of preaching the gospel. Here's where it gets interesting.

Apparently, Paul knows Philemon, the master of Onesimus. It seems that it was Paul who converted Philemon to Christianity. Paul sends Onesimus back to Philemon with this letter asking Philemon to forgive Onesimus and welcome him as a brother in Christ. Paul even has the nerve to ask Philemon to set Onesimus free so that he can return to Rome and continue to help Paul.

Paul is asking a lot of both Philemon and Onesimus. He is asking Onesimus to put his life on the line for reconciliation with his master. A runaway slave could be punished by death. Even if Philemon didn't have him executed, he very well might end up back in slavery. And Philemon is being asked to give up his claim on Onesimus. According to the practice of the time, that made no sense. Slaves were valuable property. And Paul says he should welcome Onesimus like a brother. Slaves were at the bottom of the social ladder and Paul wants him to treat him as an equal. Where does Paul get the nerve to ask so much of these two?

Paul is only asking of them what Jesus asks of all his disciples; don't live according to the values of the world, but according to the values of heaven. Surrender your own will to the will of the Father. And what is the will of the Father? That we should be one and that we should love and forgive each other as he loves and forgives us.

This doesn't come easily to us. We are used to living in a world that encourages us to put ourselves before others. We're not used to putting others first or allowing God to call the shots in our lives. That goes against the grain of the way this world works. We need help to swim against the stream of selfishness. God give us that help. He reveals himself and his will in Jesus Christ and he strengthens us by his grace to be better than we thought we could be.

We don't know how the story of Philemon and Onesimus turned out. I hope Philemon forgave Onesimus. I hope I would forgive if it was me. May God give us the grace to follow him beyond the limited love of this world into the limitless love of heaven.

Blessings,

Fr. Scott

Journey of Faith—OCIA

Fr. Scott will once again be offering the Journey of Faith class on Mondays at 7pm in the parish hall at St. Brigid's. This class is for anyone who would like to learn more about the teachings of the Catholic Church. If you are thinking about becoming Catholic, or know someone who is, this is the way to do it. If you have been Catholic all your life, but want to know more about the faith, this class is for you. Have questions? Great! Come find some answers. Classes will begin on Monday, September 8 and run through May 4.

Calendar

Saturday, September 6

3:45 pm—4:15 pm Reconciliation @ St. Brigid

4:30 pm Mass @ St. Brigid

Sunday, September 7

7:30 am Mass @ St. Brigid, Donut Social to follow

9:00 am Mass @ St. Joseph, Donut Social to follow

9:15 am—10:15 am PSR (5-8) @ St. Edward

10:00 am—11:15 am PSR @ St. Joseph

10:30 am Mass @ St. Edward

Monday, September 8

6:30 pm Mass @ St. Brigid

7:00 pm OCIA @ St. Brigid

Tuesday, September 9

7:15 am—7:45 am Reconciliation @ St. Edward

8:00 am Mass @ St. Edward

Wednesday, September 10

7:15 am—7:45 am Reconciliation @ St. Joseph

8:00 am Mass @ St. Joseph

3:10 pm—4:30pm PSR (K-4) @ St. Edward

6:30 pm—7:45 pm PSR @ St. Brigid

Thursday, September 11

6:30 pm—Altar Society mtg @ St. Joseph

Friday, September 12

8:00 am Mass @ St. Brigid

Saturday, September 13

3:45 pm—4:15 pm Reconciliation @ St. Brigid

4:30 pm Mass @ St. Brigid

Sunday, September 14

7:30 am Mass @ St. Brigid

9:00 am Mass @ St. Joseph—Children's Mass

9:15 am—10:15 am PSR (5-8) @ St. Edward

10:00 am—11:15 am PSR @ St. Joseph

10:30 am Mass @ St. Edward

Monday, September 15

NO MASS

Wednesday, September 16

NO MASS

Wednesday, September 17

NO MASS

3:10 pm—4:30pm PSR (K-4) @ St. Edward

6:30 pm—7:45 pm PSR @ St. Brigid

Friday, September 19

8:00 am Mass @ St. Brigid

Mass Intentions

SAT. SEPTEMBER 6

4:30 pm—St. Brigid: +Wayne Warning

+Clara Neisen

+Brenda Hess

+Paul & Virginia Windoffer

SUN. SEPTEMBER 7

7:30 am—St. Brigid: +Alan Hildebrand

+Leroy Lentz

+George Barry

9:00 am—St. Joseph: +Jon & Ann Faubel

+Arlene Goehl

+Connie Boling

10:30 am—St. Edward: For the People of Our Parishes

MON. SEPTEMBER 8

6:30 pm—St. Brigid: +Rose Mary Howell

+Leon Lentz

TUES. SEPTEMBER 9

8:00 am—St. Edward: +Karen Shaffer

+John Frese

WED SEPTEMBER 10

8:00 am—St. Joseph: +Linda Leasman

+Don Fessler

+Ron Wiewel

+Jason Ohnemus

FRI. SEPTEMBER 12

8:00 am—St. Brigid: +Raymond Maas Sr.

SAT. SEPTEMBER 13

4:30 pm—St. Brigid: For the People of Our Parishes

SUN. SEPTEMBER 7

7:30 am—St. Brigid: +George Schneider

+Deceased members of the Boone Family

9:00 am—St. Joseph: +Dale & Rose Mary Zanger

+Kenneth Neisen

+George Emery

10:30 am—St. Edward: +Don Maas

+John Blickhan

Parish Collection: August 31

St. Brigid \$ 3,927.00

St. Edward \$ 2,198.42

St. Joseph \$ 2,395.00

Thank you for your generous support!

All Collections included in total this week

Victims Assistance & Child Abuse Reporting

To report Child Sexual Abuse by Church Personnel or to inquire about the Safe Environment Program in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois, please call 217-321-1155.

Bulletin Deadline

All information must be submitted by noon on Tuesday. Submit to: church@stsbej.org

Ministry Schedules

ST. BRIGID CHURCH						
September 13 & 14	Altar Server	Communion Minister	Usher	Lector	Greeter /Hospitality	Gift Bearer
SATURDAY 4:30 pm	Ashley Schutte Kelsey Schutte	Debbie Maas Mike Maas Norma Neisen	Randy Maas Laura Maas Dave Obert	Rich Cramsey	Jeff & Jody Obert	David & Angela Obert
SUNDAY 7:30 am	Dylan Hocking Mason Hocking	Brandy Hocking Dot Smith	Greg Obert Michael Obert Barb Obert	Mark Heidbreder	Mark & Carol Heidbreder	Justin & Lucy Mewes

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH						
September 14	Altar Server	Communion Minister	Usher	Lector	Greeter /Hospitality	Gift Bearer
SUNDAY 9:00 AM	James Bockhold Caleb Bockhold	Barb Frese Jolinn Tripp Brenda Siebers	Kerwin Cramsey Frank Siebers	7th & 8th grade PSR		4th grade PSR

ST. EDWARD CHURCH						
September 14	Altar Server	Communion Minister	Rosary	Lector	Greeter /Hospitality	Gift Bearer
SUNDAY 10:30 AM	Mark Wellman Abel Zimmerman Braylee Brackensick	Emily Wellman Need 1 Susan York	Susan York	Lisa Thompson	Kasey Cornwell Family	Tom & Janel Shaffer Family
* Please continue passing the basket for collection.						

Please Remember to Pray For:

Daran Knuffman	Linda Windoffer	Joann Walton
Zoey Obert	Monica Mast	Kent Hilgenbrinck
Julia Winfield	Bonnie Johnson	Jim Wilson
Haddlei Burnett	Elizabeth Leonard	Connie Dietrich
Jim Steinkamp	Ben Venvertloh	Virginia Berhorst
Kayle Sheely	Ripken Rangel	Corey Sheurman
John Kroner	Tony Peters	Lisa Bohan
Marvin Meyer	Joy Huebotter	Rinley Barry
Carl Schisler	Raleigh Bess	Glen Walton
Rachel Cramsey	Karen Woodworth	Bill Hilgenbrinck
Ginny Brinkman	Doug Woodworth	Lily Jean Roberts
Denny Meyer	Ryan Wiemelt	Sandra White
Rosie Miller	Scottie Bastert	Dorothy Mayfield
Joe Rice	Bernice Dittmer	

Please contact us if we need to remove your name from our prayer list.

Stewardship Reflection

“Everyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple.” Luke 14:33

When we first hear this statement, it seems that Jesus is making an unrealistic demand upon us. How can we renounce all of our possessions? We need them to live. However, what we must renounce is the belief that they belong to us. Everything that we have belongs to God alone. All of our resources are entrusted to us not only for our own use, but also so that we can help others. Once we renounce the idea that we possess or are entitled to anything, it is much easier to share the many gifts that God has given us. Then we truly are His Disciples.

2025 ADAMS COUNTY FLU CLINICS



24

SEPT, 2025

URSA FARMERS COOPERATIVE

730-930AM 2397 IL-96 URSA

1

OCT, 2025

LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL

3-5PM 505 N Park, Liberty

15

OCT, 2025

MENDON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

330-530PM 136 W Washington, Mendon

29

OCT, 2025

PAYSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

330-530PM 404 W State, Payson

30

OCT, 2025

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

3-530PM 2110 State HWY 9, Camp Point

PRE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE!

SCAN QR CODE
OR CALL 217-222-8440
TO PRE REGISTER



PLEASE BRING INSURANCE CARDS AND PHOTO ID

CALLING ALL STUDENTS IN 7th GRADE AND UP!

We are going to Catholic Heart Workcamp next summer. Please come to an informational meeting to learn more details at 1:00 on Sunday, Sept 7 at St Joseph Church. Registration and a \$100 deposit is due before Sept 24. **There is money available to help the youth of our parishes attend.

Adult chaperones will be needed too. Any adults interested in going along are encouraged to come to the informational meeting also!



Inviting all 13-15 year olds! Great River Quest has a retreat coming up September 12-13, 2025(6p-6p). It's a fast paced 24 hour retreat aimed at helping youth to examine their relationship to God, self, and others in their lives. You get to make new friends and get to know the ones you come with better, all while having lots of fun! Please contact Caroline Wiewel 217-430-6086/questcoordinator@greatrivertec.org for questions or fill out an app online at www.greatrivertec.org/quest

Welcome

We are pleased to welcome the following individual/families who recently registered as a parishioners. Please make them feel welcome and part of our great parish.

David & Lynn Hummel at St. Joseph

Luke & Natalie Zimmerman at St. Edward

Abel , Brynlee, Malia

St. Charbel's First Class Relic and relics of other saints coming to Vandalia/Springfield in October

A First Class relic of St. Charbel Makhlouf, the miraculous Maronite priest, monk, and hermit from Lebanon, is coming to our diocese for the first time from his homeland—and Catholics across Illinois are invited to this rare spiritual encounter. The relic will be available for public veneration at two locations: the Sanctuary of the Sorrowful Mother in Vandalia on October 7–8 (Mass at 5 p.m., veneration from 4–8 p.m. both days) and the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield on Sunday, October 19, following the 10 a.m. Mass. Additional relics of holy men and women—including St. Padre Pio, St. Carlo Acutis, the three Fatima children, and a piece of the True Cross—will also be present. Come bring your intentions and experience the powerful intercession of the saints. No RSVP required. For more information, visit OSMM.org or email KeckVanessa7@gmail.com.

Food Pantry Donations

Collection of nonperishable items are being donated to Quincy Catholic Charities and Liberty Food Pantry. You may drop your items in the church vestibule. Items will be taken every month. Thank You for your generosity!

Quincy Deanery Andrew Dinner

Calling all men juniors in high school and above! Join Bishop Paprocki and Priests of the Diocese for an Andrew Dinner at 5:00pm on Sunday, September 28 at St. Rose in Quincy. The Andrew Dinner is a simple/low key gathering where we will pray, share a meal, and have conversations about Priesthood and how best to discern what vocation God is calling you to. If you would like to attend, sign up at this link: <https://forms.gle/TbvXG6959K4fM77f6> or email Fr. Zach Samples at zsamples@dio.org. We hope to see you there!

Sacred Music Concert Series

St. Peter Church, Quincy, IL presents
*The Fall Portion of the 2025-2026 First Annual
Sacred Music Concert Series*

Concerts at St. Peter Church are free and open to the public. All concerts take place at St. Peter Church (2600 Maine Street, Quincy, IL 62301). Freewill offerings are accepted at each performance, and are much appreciated to continue the mission and ministry of the St. Peter Concert Series, which brings parishioners and the Quincy community together through the gift of Sacred Music. Thank you for your generosity and support! *Artists and Concert Dates subject to change.*

Sunday September 7, 3:00 pm

Solo Organ Recital

"The Organ Through the Ages: A Historical Recital"
Jesse Mose, Organist

Wednesday October 22, 6:00 pm

Fall Choral Concert

The University of Notre Dame Men's Glee Club
Daniel Stowe, Director

Sunday November 2, 3:00 pm

All Souls Day Parish Memorial Concert
"Lux Aeterna: A Concert for All Souls"

*Featuring Sacred Choral Works and the Gabriel Fauré
Requiem Mass*

Friday December 19, 5:00 pm

Christmas Choral Concert

"See Amid the Winter's Snow"

The Choirs of St. Peter Church & Guest Musicians

Springfield Diocesan Council of Catholic Women 2025 Convention

All women are invited to the Springfield Diocesan Council of Catholic Women's annual convention on Wednesday, October 1, at St. Paul's Church and Trinity Hall, 1411 Main St., Highland, IL. The day begins with registration and refreshments from 8:00–9:00 a.m., followed by the convention from 9:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m., including Mass at 11:00 a.m. with Bishop Thomas John Paprocki. This year's theme is "*Let Yourself Be Loved*" and will feature speaker Claire Dwyer, author of *This Present Paradise: A Spiritual Journey with St. Elizabeth of the Trinity*. Hosted by the Alton Deanery Council of Catholic Women. Registration forms are available at the parish office or dio.org/events and are due by September 14. For more information, email sdccwinil@gmail.com or call SDCCW President Janet Zimmerman at 217-494-4743.

Surviving Divorce

Surviving divorce helps a person move through the emotions of loss to acceptance, healing & forgiveness. The program is a 12-week hope and healing process. Surviving Divorce is being offered on Monday evenings beginning September 8, 2025 from 6:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament. The group will meet in the gathering space. The last session will be November 24, 2025. There is no charge to attend. Participants do not have to be Catholic. For questions: please call Nancy Weede @ 217-740-3993.

St. Anthony Ladies Society Fall Craft/Vendor Show

If you are interested in being a vendor at our craft/vendor show on Saturday, October 4th, at St. Anthony Parish Hall please contact Janet Bick (rjbick@comcast.net or 217-430-7256) or Tawny Benz (rtbenz77@gmail.com or 217-257-0847). Booth space (10'x10') is \$25. You may furnish your own tables or rent 8' tables for \$5 each.

St. Anthony Men's Society Chicken Dinner

Mark your calendars for the St. Anthony Men's Society Chicken Dinner on Sunday, September 21st, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

National Catholic Youth Conference 2025

The National Catholic Youth Conference is a powerfully unique three-day experience of prayer, community, evangelization, catechesis, service, and empowerment for Catholic high school teens and their adult chaperones. NCYC is the premier Catholic youth event on a national scale that gathers people from across America for a life-changing encounter with Christ. The theme for this year's event is "I Am | Yo Soy" and will be held November 20-22, 2025, at the Indiana Convention Center and Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, IN. The 2025 theme, I Am | Yo Soy, will reflect on the time God appeared to Moses through the burning bush and explore how the Sacraments are the living story of God's love, uniting us with Him through Jesus and the Church. Through the Sacraments, we encounter the fullness of salvation and the tangible presence of Immanuel—God with us. Registration is being coordinated through the Office for Catechesis. Contact Kyle Holtgrave at (217) 698-8500, ext. 154, or email kholtgrave@dio.org for details.

**There is money available to help youth of our parishes attend.

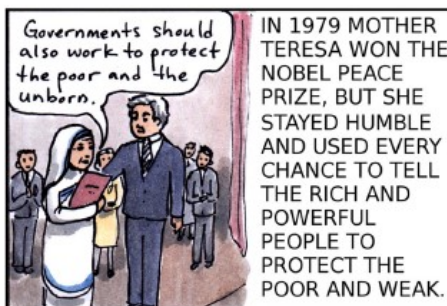
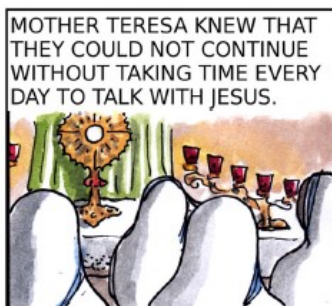
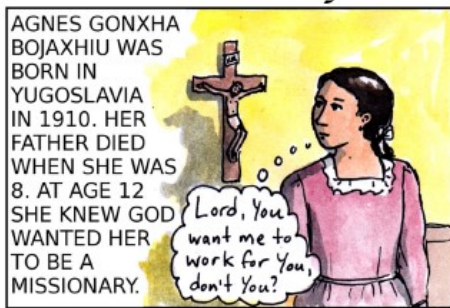
ST. BRIGID – ST. EDWARD – ST. JOSEPH PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION (PSR)



DATES TO KNOW

- Sept. 7: St. Joseph first day PSR
- St. Edward (5-8) first day PSR
- Sept. 10: St. Brigid first day PSR
- Sept. 14—St. Joseph Children's Mass
- Sept. 21—Catechetical Sunday
- Sept. 27—St. Brigid Children's Mass
- Sept. 30—3rd Grade Parent Meeting @ St. Joseph at 6 pm

Saint Teresa of Calcutta September 5



SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA DIED ON SEPTEMBER 5TH, 1997. WE CAN LEARN FROM HER TO DEFEND AND HELP THOSE WHO CAN'T HELP THEMSELVES, ESPECIALLY THE POOR AND UNBORN CHILDREN. WE ALSO LEARN FROM HER EXAMPLE THAT WE NEED TO SPEND TIME IN PRAYER WITH JESUS EVERY DAY.

Family and Friends or God?



In today's Gospel reading, Jesus says, "If any one comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple."

You probably thought that God doesn't want us to hate anyone, right? Well He doesn't! What Jesus was saying was that we should love God more than we love the people closest to us. He means that we should be ready to do what God wants even if that means losing our family or best friends.

Normally God wants us to stay close to the people we love, but what if you had to choose between doing the right thing or keeping your friends? Are you ready to give up anything or anyone that would stop you from loving God?



The Boy from Milan | Trailer

You may have heard of him, the sneaker-wearing, computer-loving "gamer saint" of our time. But beyond the headlines and hashtags, the real story of Carlo is something deeper, something the world desperately needs to hear. Known for his deep love of God, devotion to the Eucharist, and quiet acts of charity, Carlo's life was a testament to everyday holiness.

Our parish has a Formed subscription.
Visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.
Scan the QR code to download the Formed app to your phone.

