Fifteen years. I was fifteen years ago that my mother went into the hospital for a somewhat routine surgery and never came back home. I was at my parents’ house when I got the call. The woman I had just walked the hallways of the hospital with earlier that day was barely hanging on to life due to a massive heart attack, probably brought on by complications with painkillers. I had to make the call to remove life support because my father and sister could not face the situation. It was reality crashing on us all. A person can feel so lost when life takes a sharp turn toward tragedy. If you live long enough, everyone finds himself or herself wandering and wondering how life can change so fast. Within the last fifteen years, both my sister and father have both passed away as well. I read a book about how one can feel abandoned when parents or family die, almost like an orphan. It doesn’t matter your age. How you have identified yourself from birth is now gone, because Jesus liked to use parables to hammer home the promise that if the reality is that at these moments we can lose our identity, but there still is a Shepherd looking for his sheep. There is still someone who is looking for you or will run to you upon your return. The point: it is God’s very nature to relent, to exude compassion, to run to us, to love us. *How can I be like God today?* *For whom will I plead today?* *Who will run to embrace me?*

Saturday, October 1, 2016 – Annual Respect Life Mass, Rosary Walk & Luncheon, Holy Family Parish in Granite City. Mass starts at 9:00am & the luncheon ends about 1:30pm. Luncheon guest speaker – Brian Webstroe, Coalition for Life-St. Louis. Come and pray for an end to abortion. Flyer with more information is located at [http://dio.org/plsm/events.html](http://dio.org/plsm/events.html)

50 or More Years of Marriage Anniversary Mass, Saturday, September 25, 2016 – We will again host a Diocesan celebration for couples who have been married 50 years or more. The celebration will be at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on September 25, starting at 1:45 p.m. with a musical Prelude. Holy Mass will follow at 2 p.m. with a reception afterward. If you have been married 50 years or longer (or will be by December of this year), contact the father on your certificate today! Register by calling (217) 321-1139 or online at [www.dio.org/familylife/annual-masses.html](http://www.dio.org/familylife/annual-masses.html).

Divorce Ministry – Catholic’s DIVORCE HEALING Program – St. Mary’s Parish is pleased to announce the ministry to men & women who have suffered from divorce: The Catholic’s DIVORCE SURVIVAL Guide. The 12-week program features 30-minute DVD shows each week that cover topics of shock, denial, anger, guilt, forgiveness, money, the court, the kids, the ex-spouse, annulment, dating, sexuality, spirituality, & much more. Whether you got divorced 10 days ago or 10 years ago, the program offers valuable insight for everyone. Where: St. Mary Parish, 1802 E Madison Avenue, Edwardsville, IL 62025. When: Every Monday beginning 12 Sep, for 12 weeks. Contact: Lisa Murphy [lpmurphy382@yahoo.com](mailto:lpmurphy382@yahoo.com), Deacon John Murphy [jhmurphy@yahoo.com](mailto:jhmurphy@yahoo.com), or (618) 459-2101.

Sacrament of Marriage

Please contact our office at least 9 months before your anticipated wedding date to begin your spiritual preparation. One or both persons must be registered and actively living their faith at IC, STN or STG for at least 6 months to celebrate their marriage here. All couples planning to be married at our parishes must attend a Pre-CanA Conference or participate in an Engaged Encounter. For those who were former members here, they must be registered and actively living their faith at the parish where they reside.

Sacrament of Baptism

Baptisms are celebrated during Mass on Sundays (not in Lent). A family must be registered and actively living their faith at IC, STN or STG for 6 months to assure faith will be shared with the new born child. Godparents must also be registered in a Catholic parish or other Christian church & actively living their faith. A Pre-Jordan Class is held and is required for all parents. We ask that both parents attend this class together. Godparents are also encouraged and welcome to attend. For more information, please call Jane Dakupis at 669-2444.
IC Parish Support
September 4 Regular Collection
50 envelopes $ 1,800.00
Loose $ 37.00
Total $ 1,837.00
Sister Parish $ 15.00 Candles $104.00 Cemetery $20.00
Building Fund $150.00

Regular Support Weekly Goal (Budget) $212.00
Weekly surplus/deficit - $75.00
Cumulative Support Needed (Budget) $22,120.00
Cumulative Support Actual $20,348.88
Surplus/Deficit (YTD) - $1,779.12

STG Parish Support
September 4 Regular Collection
33 envelopes $ 1,105.00
Loose $ 3.00
Total $ 1,108.00
Maintenance $125.00 Sister $25.00 Cemetery $75.00
Regular Support Weekly Goal (Budget) $1,019.00
Weekly surplus/deficit $ - 89.00
Cumulative Support Needed (Budget) $10,190.00
Cumulative Support Actual $9,901.00
Surplus/Deficit (YTD) $ - 289.00

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR SEPTEMBER 17 & 18, 2016
Sat., Sept. 17 @ 4:30 pm STN
Reader: Barb Kniepmann
Servers: Jane Dapkus
Offertory: Barbara & Larry Weiss
Euch. Min.: Pat Kamprath & Kathy Frey
Ushers: Denny Gobble & Larry Weiss
Greeters: Joan Goblick & True Luber
Sun., Sept. 18 @ 8:00 am IC
Reader: Carole Sauls
Servers: Katrina Knebel & Nathaniel Stronbe
Offertory: Kenneth Korsmeyer & Nathaniel Strachne
Euch. Min.: Ben Davenport & David def
Ushers/Greeters: Skip Dickshot & Bryan Rutz
Sanctan: Danne Leitschuh
Sun., Sept. 18 @ 9:30 am IC
Reader: PAPAYA Youth Group
Servers: PAPAYA Youth Group
Offertory: PAPAYA Youth Group
Ushers: PAPAYA Youth Group
Rosary Leader: Jim & Terry Potthast

ALL SOULS Mass of Remembrance
All Souls Mass of Remembrance will be held Wednesday, November 2nd at 7:00PM in St. Jerome Church. If you have lost a loved one this year and would like to have them remembered at this All Souls Mass please contact the parish office by October 23rd. Those whose funeral was held at one of our 3 churches will automatically be included.

STN Parish Support
September 3 Regular Collection
21 envelopes $ 799.00
Loose $ 37.00
Total $ 836.00
Sister Parish $ 10.00 Capital Improvements $50.00
Regular Support Weekly Goal (Budget) $787.00
Weekly surplus/deficit - $26.00
Cumulative Support Needed (Budget) $8,770.00
Cumulative Support Actual $9,228.00
Surplus/Deficit (YTD) + $458.00

PULLING OUR Pegs in PRAYERS
Members of our parish families who are recovering in the hospital & at home, for their strength and patience each day, and for all those who ask for our prayers for health or financial issues.
Russell "Dewey" Apel, Renee D’Amico,
Don Dakpus, Teresa Dickman, Jean Fields,
Gabriel Frey, Karen Grabowski, Cory Humphrey,
Gene Jolliff, Clara Knebel, Randy Kort,
David Kuehn, Carol Martin, Alex McColl,
Cody Neal, Barb Rakers, C.C. Romero,
Keita Salantai, Ginger Sanders, Randy Schrage,
Ted Schrage.

FOR OUR PARISHIONERS IN NURSING HOMES:
Doris Burke, Vincent Klostermann, Norbert Knebel,
Wilberta "Toots" Knobloch, Joetta Korte,
Dolores Weiss & special people in our families.

FOR THOSE CURRENTLY SERVING IN THE MILITARY:
Adam Canfield, Tim Doll, Quinn Frey,
Tom Frey, 2LT Adam Kalous, Chad Knebel,
Michael Knebel, Don Korte, Solon McCull,

For those who are members of our military:
Joseph Schatte, Rickie Schuster, Greg Spina,
T.J. Waddington, Jessie Weiss, Zach Weiss,
Wendy Wendinger.

If you would like to have someone added to the prayer list please call the parish office.

THANK YOU
Thanks to all who included you in your prayers and I am happy to tell you I received a good report. Thank you again! Betty Shenkel

COAT DRIVE — St. Joseph’s Hospital, Highland — Collecting new or gently used coats & jackets, new hats, mittens, gloves, scarves & socks. Donations accepted until Oct. 1st. Immaculate Conception Parish is a donation site. Box is at the back of church.

ST. NICHOLAS BLOOD DRIVE
St. Nicholas Parish
Saturday, Sept. 24th
2:30 to 6:30 PM

FAITHFUL DEPARTED
Prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of
Willie Weiss; husband of Annie (Wille) Weiss, father of Mary Kampwerth & granddaughter of Katie & Sarah Kampwerth and brother of Cecelia Kampwerth & Frances Lujohlan of our parish family. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the Weiss family and friends. Eternal life grant unto him, O Lord.

We congratulate the parents of and welcome
Reese Lynn Goestenkors daughter of Travis & Natalie (Lappe) Goestenkors who will be baptized at St. Nicholas Church this Saturday, September 10th, 2016. Godparents are Tiffany Munie & Nathan Schone

Women of Mercy
Pope Francis has challenged every diocese to establish a lasting tribute to the Year of Mercy. Our Diocesan Director for Catholic Religious Women, Vicki Grogan, writes, “I have seen the many wonderful ways that CRS has been the merciful face of Jesus around the world. Women and children in developing nations are especially vulnerable and in need of assistance. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if we could establish a way for women in the US church to reach out in solidarity and support to lift up women and children living in poverty? This could be our lasting tribute to the Year of Mercy.”

Women of Mercy will meet once a month for prayer, scripture reflection, and to learn about a specific CRS project. We’ll eat and socialize and a basket will be set out for women to drop in any donation they can to support CRS project.

When Vicki wrote to me about her idea, I enthusiastically responded, “Sign me up, I’ll be the facilitator at my local parish.” We are piloting Women of Mercy at Our Lady of the Pines in Carlyle and at St. Jerome Church at St. Nicholas Church.

Women of Mercy will provide you with a CRS project for each month. We will try to pick a project that women are most interested in supporting. Do you want to help lift up Women in Bangladesh or children in Africa? You can help support a CRS project. For more information, please contact Vicki.

Women of Mercy is a Ministry of Women of Mercy of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

WOMEN OF MERCY, RCW
St. Jerome Church, Greenville Annual Chicken Dinner
Saturday, September 11th: Serving to 8 PM. Adults $ 9 Childrens (5-12) $5.00. Kids under 4 FREE

St. Felicitas Church, Beaver Prairie Chicken Dinner
13322 Church Road, Carlyle—September 19th, 11 AM to 4 PM—Mexico Chicken & Rigatoni. Contact Cy (Delores) Weis for more information.

St. Nicholas Blood Drive at St. Nicholas Parish Hall on Sunday Sept. 13th
2:30 to 6:30 PM

St. Felicitas Church, Beaver Prairie Chicken Dinner—13322 Church Road, Carlyle—September 18th, 11 AM to 4 PM—Mexican Chicken & Rigatoni. Contact Cy (Delores) Weis for more information.

IC Parishioners: Please remember that all photos will be due for our Capital Campaign Report by the end of September 2016. Thank you!

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THANKS TO ALL WHO INCLUDED YOU IN YOUR PRAYERS AND I AM HAPPY TO TELL YOU I RECEIVED A GOOD REPORT. THANK YOU AGAIN! BETTY SHENKEL