

June 14, 2026 • Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time



Sacred Heart Catholic Church

722 North Springfield Street
Virden, Illinois 62690
www.sacredheartvirden.com

Reverend James Palakudy, S.A.C. • *Pastor*

CONTACT INFORMATION...

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SACRED HEART PARISH OFFICE...

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YOUTH FAITH FORMATION...

Becca Yemm, *coordinator*
Phone: (217) 416-8297



DIOCESAN VICTIM ASSISTANCE...

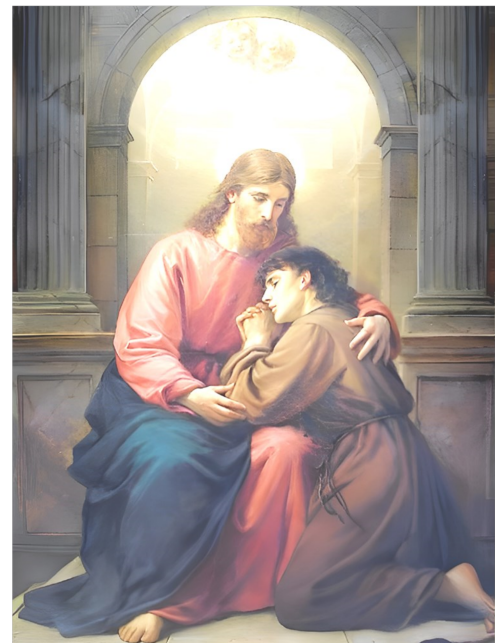
Child Abuse Reporting and Investigation number
(217) 321-1155



NATIONAL Eucharistic Pilgrimage

In honor of America's 250th year, the 2026 National Eucharistic Pilgrimage will carry the theme One Nation Under God. One Nation Under God is not a slogan—it's an invitation to realign our lives, communities, and country under the sovereignty of Christ.

**Pilgrims are currently in the
Diocese of Camden, New Jersey**



WE HAVE A PARISH APP!

To download, go to the app store and search "SPI Catholic" or scan the QR code. ("SPI" stands for Springfield Diocese.)

- When you log in the first time, you will be prompted to provide a Keyword. Enter "Virden".
- You will have the option to create a profile or skip.



MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, JUNE 13 • *The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Anticipated

4:00 p.m., Girard: John “Jack” Brennan (*Neff Family*)

5:30 p.m., Auburn: Millie Henry (*Marchizza Family*)

SUNDAY, JUNE 14 • *Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time*

8:15 a.m., Auburn: Abby Neisler (*Jerry, Dayna, Noah, Mia*)

10:15 a.m., Virden: + Frank Mathias (*Jim & Linda Kelleman*)

MONDAY, JUNE 15 • *Weekday*

No Mass

TUESDAY, JUNE 16 • *Weekday*

6:00 p.m., Auburn: + Jean Clevenger (*Gene & Mary Maley*)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17 • *Weekday*

7:30 a.m., Virden: In thanksgiving for the birth of Genevieve Diane Litzau (*Claire McGrath*)

THURSDAY, JUNE 18 • *Weekday*

7:30 a.m., Virden: Mary & Terry Little (*John Norris*)

FRIDAY, JUNE 19 • *Weekday* • *St. Romuald, Abbot*

7:30 a.m., Auburn: *Pro Populo*

SATURDAY, JUNE 20 • *Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Anticipated*

4:00 p.m., Girard: Bob Reiher (*Farley & Annette Cole*)

5:30 p.m., Auburn: + Edward J. Burg (*Family*)

SUNDAY, JUNE 21 • *Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

8:15 a.m., Auburn: + Margaret “Margo” Kaufman (*Family*)

10:15 a.m., Virden: + Linda Reiher (*Ron & Becky Swygman*)



Morning Offering Prayer

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer you my prayers, works, joys and sufferings of this day in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world. I offer them for all the intentions of your Sacred Heart: the salvation of souls, the reparation for sin, and the reunion of all Christians. I offer them for the intentions of our bishops and of all Apostles of Prayer, and in particular for those recommended by our Holy Father for this month. Amen.



JUNE INTENTION OF THE HOLY FATHER

For the values of sports. Let us pray that sports be an instrument of peace, encounter, and dialogue among cultures and nations, and that they promote values such as respect, solidarity, and personal growth.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SATURDAY (June 13)

4:00 p.m., Mass—Girard
5:30 p.m., Mass—Auburn

SUNDAY (June 14)

8:15 a.m., Mass—Auburn
Rosary before Mass
10:15 a.m., Mass—Virден

MONDAY

No Mass

TUESDAY

Parish Office Closed
6:00 p.m., Mass—Auburn

WEDNESDAY

7:30 a.m., Mass—Virден
24 Hour Adoration
Parish Office Closed
7:00 p.m., COR Meeting for Men—Virден

THURSDAY

7:30 a.m., Mass—Virден
Parish Office Closed

FRIDAY

7:30 a.m., Mass—Auburn

SATURDAY

9:00 a.m., Frassati Prayer Circle

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, JUNE 28

Blessing of Families/Individuals who have made a
Consecration to the Sacred Heart

SATURDAY, JULY 4

9:00 a.m., Mass at Virден Cemetery

SUNDAY, JULY 5

Parish Picture after Mass!

SUNDAY, JULY 12

Celebration of Dcn. Greg's 10th Anniversary

PARISH MINISTRIES

SUNDAY, JUNE 14 AT 10:15 A.M.

Servers	Jim McGrath Griffin Theel
Readers	Mark McGrath
Greeter	Annie Schnetzler
Ushers	Dave Hacker Volunteers



SUNDAY, JUNE 21 AT 10:15 A.M.

Servers	Nicholas Pitchford Lucy & Rowan George
Readers	Matt Allen
Greeter	Jill Murphy
Ushers	Rick Maguire Volunteers



CHURCH CLEANERS:

June 18: S. Pierce, T. Sharp, R. Sexton

June 25: S. Goeckner



PRAYER LINE:

If you or someone you know is in need of prayers, you may contact the prayer line. Call or text Marcella at (217) 503-5034.



SPECIAL COLLECTIONS:

Every month: Parish Tithe, Building & Grounds, &
Vocations Builder Collection

June 28: Peter's Pence

Let us respond to God's love with generous hearts.
The theme of God's unending love for us, his people, runs through our readings today. Saint Paul points out that Christ died for us *while we were still sinners*, and Jesus' *heart was moved with pity* when he saw the troubled crowd. Let us strive to imitate this great love by obeying Jesus' instruction in the Gospel: *Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give.*

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK: The parish office will be closed this week to allow for time to work on the annual budget for the parish. If you need to schedule a meeting, just call or email the parish office.

250 WORKS OF MERCY:

The United States Bishops are inviting parishes to participate in 250 Works of Mercy in preparation for the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

As a parish, we will be “collecting” your works of mercy as an act of love for Jesus!

Everyone can participate—even the kids!



How to participate:

1. Complete a corporal or spiritual work of mercy
2. Fill out the card & place it in the designated basket
3. Each card = one puzzle piece



Help us complete our 250 piece puzzle before July 4th!

Do you need some inspiration? We have a pamphlet available that describes the works of mercy. We also have picture booklets available for the younger crowd. You may pick the cards and booklets up in the vestibule.

WOMAN OF DISTINCTION MASS: Georgene Jones as our parish Woman of Distinction. Congratulations, Georgene! Every year, parishes in the Springfield Diocese are invited to choose one woman to represent all the outstanding women in their parish, and then at Mass they are acknowledged and receive their award. The Annual Woman of Distinction Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, June 27 at 10:00 a.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Springfield. Bishop Thomas John Paprocki will be the celebrant. You do not need a reservation to attend the Mass.

SAVE THE DATE: Deacon Greg celebrates his 10th Anniversary of Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate on June 25! We are planning a reception for him after Mass on Sunday, July 12—so mark the date on your calendars. More details will be available later.



250 HOURS OF ADORATION

The United States Bishops are inviting parishes to participate in 250 Hours of Adoration for our country in preparation for the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

While 250 hours seems like a lot, each person present constitutes an hour prayed...and this 250 Hours will take place over the next 10 weeks at our usual Wednesday Adoration (concluding on Wednesday, July 1).

We will have a booklet that will have a different prayer for each Wednesday.

This week, our prayers will be for peace.

COR MEETING FOR MEN: The next Cor meeting for men will be on Wednesday, June 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sacred Heart Parish Hall. Any men are invited to attend for fraternity, formation, and prayer!



FRASSATI PRAYER CIRCLE: The next Frassati Prayer Circle will be held on Saturday, June 20 at 9:00 a.m. in the Peace Room of the church. All are invited to attend as we pray for the needs of our parishioners, our friends & families, and our church!



CARLINVILLE CATHOLIC CHARITIES NOTRE DAME VS. RICE RAFFLE FUNDRAISER:

Carlinville Catholic Charities is now selling raffle tickets for this year's highly anticipated **Notre Dame vs. Rice football game** to take place at Notre Dame Stadium in South Bend, Indiana on **Saturday, September 12, 2026**. The fundraiser offers participants the chance to win 4 game tickets, a parking pass, and a special Notre Dame gift basket filled with Notre Dame themed merchandise. It also includes a \$100 American Express gift card.

Online raffle tickets are available for \$25 each and may be purchased at cc.dio.org/events/notre-dame-2026. The drawing will take place on Friday, August 14th at 3:00 p.m. at the Catholic Charities office.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

RAFFLE TO HELP WITH EXPENSES: To help defray some of the expenses for all the upcoming events and for various spiritual materials that we will have available for our upcoming celebrations, we will be holding a raffle!

- **For all:** We will be raffling a handmade Sacred Heart Rosary with Red Jasper & Fossil Jasper Beads and a Bronze Crucifix from Matt Peregrin's ViaOrationis Etsy Shop as well as a Chaplet of the Sacred Heart with Poppy Jasper & Fossil Jasper beads and a bronze Sacred Heart Medallion. Tickets for these are \$1 each. (Thank you to Matt Peregrin for his donation!)
- **For youth:** We will be raffling a Holy Family Rag Doll set from Shining Light Dolls (includes Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus) and a Priest Rag Doll (which includes all his vestments as well as a book). Tickets for these are 50¢ each.

Tickets will be available to pick up in the vestibule. Just fill out your ticket, indicating which drawing you are entering and then put your tickets and money in the envelope provided. These may be dropped in the collection basket or be brought to the parish office.

The drawing will be held after Mass on June 21.

To see images of the raffle items, check out the pictures on the bulletin board in the vestibule.

CONSECRATION TO THE SACRED HEART IN JUNE:

As we approach the great Consecration of the United States to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, let us take some time to reflect on ways we can better incorporate this devotion into our life. May this moment in the life of the Catholic Church also be significant in our own life as well. May we respond with a willingness to allow Jesus into our life as our King, Lord, Savior and Friend of our heart, home and invite Him to set up His Kingdom into our dwelling place. We are inviting everyone to consecrate their family and home to the Sacred Heart of Jesus during the month of June.

We have resources available—including booklets and certificates. We do have kits for families that have 3 small crafts in them—if you have more than 3 children, please contact Marcella to receive extra crafts.

On Sunday, June 28, Father will be blessing anyone who has made a consecration to the Sacred Heart.



250 HAIL MARYS FOR AMERICA

As we prepare to celebrate the 250th anniversary of our country on July 4, 2026, please join us in praying for our nation.

We are inviting everyone to join in offering 250 Hail Marys between June 10 and July 4.

You may choose to pray one decade of the Rosary each day, offering your own 250 Hail Marys, or pray one Hail Mary each day, contributing 25 Hail Marys to this prayer effort for our nation.

Everyone is invited to take part in this prayer effort—the youth are encouraged as well! We have cards available that have a checklist on the back—so pick up a card for each person in your family and use the checklist on the back to keep track of your prayers!

**Please help us spread this prayer effort
—pick up extra cards to share!
Mary Immaculate,
Patroness of Our Country - Pray for Us**



FULTON SHEEN: The Beatification Mass for Archbishop Fulton Sheen will be celebrated on Thursday, September 24, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. at The Dome at America's Center in St. Louis. Ticket information is expected to be released in June. Because demand is anticipated to be very high, those interested in attending are encouraged to join the Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen Foundation mailing list to receive updates when tickets become available. Go to www.celebratesheen.com.

TOTUS TUUS: Two parishes in the area will be holding "Totus Tuus" programs for youth this summer:

St. Katharine Drexel, Springfield:

June 14–June 19

Christ the King, Springfield:

July 12–July 17

Scan the QR code to register.



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JULY 18-23, 2026

go.dio.org/dx8

VILLA MARIA RETREAT CENTER - SPRINGFIELD

PARISH WOMAN OF DISTINCTION

This year, our Catholic Ladies Society have chosen Georgene Jones as our parish Woman of Distinction. Congratulations, Georgene!



Born and raised in this parish, Georgene Jones comes from a family deeply rooted in Catholic tradition. Her mother, a convert to Catholicism, embraced the faith wholeheartedly and passed on a love for the Church to her children. Her father offered a simple but powerful witness of devotion, kneeling each day to pray the Rosary while waiting for his ride to the coal mine.

In 1983, when Georgene's mother suffered a sudden cardiac arrest, Father Sperl had only recently arrived as pastor of the parish. Yet he quickly found their home and was able to anoint her mother. In that moment, Georgene witnessed firsthand the care of Christ through the ministry of His priest.

The care Father Sperl brought through the sacraments and his pastoral presence during that difficult time was a great comfort to Georgene. In the years that followed, she came to value both his friendship and his encouragement to become more involved in parish life. She recalls that whenever Father Sperl asked her to become involved in a ministry or project, she trusted that it was "somehow for my own good." Guided by his simple advice—"If it helps somebody, do it"—she willingly embraced opportunities to serve wherever she was needed.

Her involvement in parish life began as a young girl when she joined the choir and, as she likes to say, "never came back down." What started in the choir loft grew into a lifetime of service to the Church. A nurse for many years, caring for others came naturally to Georgene, both in her profession and in her parish. She has served the parish in many ways over the years, including leadership in the Ladies Society, parish dinners, the Finance Council, RCIA, Scripture studies, music ministry, and countless behind-the-scenes efforts. In 2017, she chaired the parish renovation project, a major undertaking that demanded significant time, planning, and leadership. She has also served on the Caruso-Sperl Trust Board since its founding, helping provide financial assistance to families seeking a Catholic education for their children.

Her commitment to service extended beyond the parish as well. Over the years, she has been active in a number of community organizations, including the St. Isidore School Board, the P.E.O., and leadership of the annual alumni banquet. She and her children also supported her husband, Marty, throughout his 30 years of service to the local fire department.



In the Gospel story of Martha and Mary, Jesus praises Mary for choosing the "better part" by sitting at His feet and listening to Him. Georgene's life reflects the importance of both—serving her parish and family while continually seeking time with Christ in prayer.

For Georgene, prayer and service is a response to the many blessings God has given her throughout her life. She is especially grateful for the faithful families and friends who walked alongside her in faith, encouraging one another in seeking what Jesus called the "better part." She also treasures the example and friendship of women such as Eileen Perks, Liz Sestak, and Catherine Murphy, whose lives have reflected a deep commitment to prayer, sacrifice, and trust in God's holy will. Among those who most influenced her faith was Father Sperl, whose favorite reminder—"We're all made for a better place"—encouraged her to live faithfully in this world while keeping her eyes fixed on heaven.

Daily Mass whenever possible, the Rosary, Eucharistic Adoration, and devotion to the Blessed Mother have become the heart of Georgene's spiritual life. She also has a deep love for the Church's sacred liturgy and the role that sacred music plays in leading people closer to Christ. In 2006, she was part of the group that began the parish's weekly 24-hour Eucharistic Adoration program and remains involved today. More recently, she helped establish the Seven Sisters Apostolate in the parish, recognizing the importance of loving, supporting, and praying for priests.

One of the great joys of Georgene's life has been witnessing the fruits of that prayer. She speaks with gratitude of her husband's full conversion to the Catholic faith and the



PARISH WOMAN OF DISTINCTION

blessing of seeing all four of her children living and sharing their faith. These blessings, she says, have been among the greatest gifts God has given her.

Alongside her love for the Eucharist, Georgene has long nurtured a deep devotion to the Blessed Mother. Through the Rosary, the Legion of Mary, and pilgrimages to Marian shrines in Mexico City, Fatima, Lourdes, and Medjugorje, she has found encouragement in Our Lady's constant invitation to prayer, faith, and trust in God. She has also participated in two World Youth Days—Denver in 1993 and Madrid in 2011—experiences that strengthened her sense of belonging to the universal Church.

It is this deep faith, rooted in prayer and expressed through generous service, that led our parish ladies to select Georgene Jones as this year's Woman of Distinction. Through both the service of Martha and the prayer of Mary, she continues to provide a beautiful witness of Catholic faith for all of us.

Georgene's four children have shared the following tributes:



From Rachel...My mother Georgene Jones is a true “Woman of Distinction” at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Virden, Illinois, her parish for over 70 years.

Her grandparents immigrated to Virden from Slovakia and were among those who helped build this beautiful church. My mom recently led a major renovation effort to preserve and beautify Sacred Heart, ensuring that future generations will continue to worship in the church that has meant so much to our family and community.

My siblings and I grew up in the choir loft while Mom served as volunteer choir director, sharing her deep commitment and love of music with the parish. My mom's legacy of impact extends to so many. At age thirteen, my mom taught me to cantor, beginning a lifelong involvement in music ministry that continues to enrich my faith today. That legacy continues as my own thirteen year old daughter is now a cantor at Holy Redeemer in Webster Groves MO!

Over the years, my mother has been the backbone of Sacred Heart in countless ways, from Music Ministry, to Parish Council, Finance Council, Ladies Society, and Youth Group. She has generously given her time, talent, and treasure as a leader of the parish.

Among her many contributions, she was instrumental in establishing and sustaining weekly Eucharistic Adoration. She has a great devotion to Mary and daily prayer. My husband and I and our five children find comfort in knowing that Mom/ “Baba” is faithfully praying for us and all those entrusted to her prayers.



From Sarah...My mom has shown us all how to walk by faith. She works hard and shows up in all ways to serve. She volunteers countless hours as the choir director, the chicken dinner coordinator, she helps with cleaning the church, holding her sign during the Marches for Life, hosting priests and pilgrims at her home, praying constantly, going to weekly adoration, and the list goes on. She has created a wonderful example for us to follow of what it truly means to be a faithful servant. She has given the great gift of our Catholic faith to my siblings and I. When my children are scared about an upcoming exam or project or trip, they always ask Baba to pray for them. They find so much comfort in her great faith, and they feel the presence of God through her prayers. She embodies the hands and feet of Jesus, and we are all so very proud of her.



From Jared...My Mom has always been our spiritual guide, prayer warrior, and endless Catholic resource. Every morning on our drive to Ursuline she would say the rosary and encourage us to join. She led by example and is the reason why I turn to Mary in times of trouble. Our church has always been a second home because of Mom. When I was deployed, attending Mass felt like a slice of home because I was well and truly raised in the church. She is humble in her service, and would never seek any recognition for her work but she deserves to be recognized for her unwavering contributions. We love you, Mom!



From Rebekah...My mom's faith has been a strong pillar for my love of the church, choir, and played an important part in finding my husband. As her children we all understood my mother's unconditional love for the church and Jesus. She had always been a strong woman in her faith which is inspiring for anyone. We're so proud of you and you have all our love from Kentucky and congratulations, mom!



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supports families
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Details found on website
www.sacredheartvirden.com
under the Parish Life/Parochial School tab



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