

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...

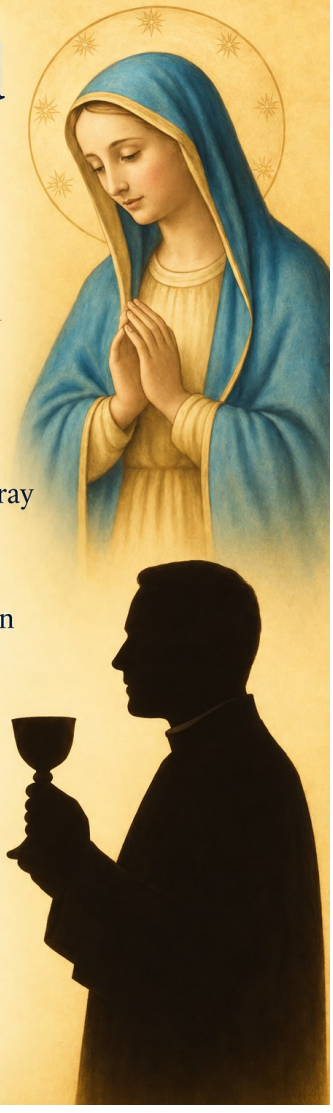
Child Abuse Reporting and Investigation number
(217) 321-1155

Pray for Vocations

God created each of us in His image with a unique purpose. He calls every person to holiness and gives each of us a vocation—the unique way we are called to love and serve Him. Whether through marriage, religious life, or the diocesan priesthood, He invites us to become saints. Through prayer, a relationship with Christ, and the guidance of His Church, we can discover the vocation He has lovingly prepared for us.

† Priesthood Sunday

Honoring Our Beloved Priests



Today, we pause with grateful hearts to honor the gift of the priesthood.

On this special Sunday, let us pray that our priests may be filled with Mary's love.

Let us also pray that young men may be inspired to answer the call to the priesthood.

"*Without the priest, the passion and death of our Lord would be of no avail. It is the priest who continues the work of redemption on earth.*"

— St. John Vianney

Mass Intentions

Saturday, September 26 • *Weekday* • *Sts. Cosmas & Damian, Martyrs*
Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Anticipated
4:00 p.m., Girard: John "Jack" Brennan *(Neff Family)*
5:30 p.m., Auburn: Deceased Family *(Jeannette Forgas)*

Sunday, September 27 • *Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time*
8:15 a.m., Auburn: Joe & Mary Kay Sandoval *(Dor' Lisa & Robert Sandoval)*
10:15 a.m., Virden: + Brett Maguire *(Rick & Jane Maguire)*

Monday, September 28 • *Weekday* • *St. Wenceslaus, Martyr* • *St. Lawrence Ruiz & Companions, Martyrs*
No Mass

Tuesday, September 29 • *St. Michael, Gabriel, & Raphael, Archangels*
6:00 p.m., Auburn: + Sal DiCarlo *(Margaret Hendricks)*

Wednesday, September 30 • *St. Jerome, Priest & Doctor of the Church*
7:30 a.m., Virden: + John & Pauline Miller *(Dave & Renee Miller & Family)*

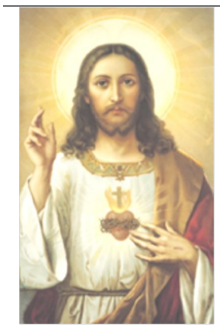
Thursday, October 1 • *St. Therese of the Child Jesus, Virgin & Doctor of the Church*
No Morning Mass
6:00 p.m., Virden (40 Hours of Adoration Mass): For an increase in vocations *(Jeff & Becca Yemm)*

Friday, October 2 • *Holy Guardian Angels*
7:30 a.m., Auburn: *Pro Populo*
6:30 p.m., Virden (40 Hours of Adoration Mass): Poor Souls

Saturday, October 3 • *Weekday*
9:00 a.m., Virden: (40 Hours of Adoration Mass): In honor of Fr. Daniel & Martin McGrath (Vicky Crye)

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Anticipated
4:00 p.m., Girard: Ruth "Darlene" Weller *(Chuck & Cindy DuBois)*
5:30 p.m., Auburn: Stanley Anjoski & Sally Anjoski *(Norbut Family)*

Sunday, October 4 • *Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time*
8:15 a.m., Auburn: Dolores A. Will *(John & Shiela Hemberger)*
10:15 a.m., Virden: + JoAnn Marsaglia *(Joe & Carol McGrath)*



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.

September Intention of the Holy Father

For the care of water

Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

Weekly Calendar

Saturday *(September 26)*
4:00 p.m., Mass—Girard
5:30 p.m., Mass—Auburn

Sunday *(September 27)*
8:15 a.m., Mass—Auburn
Rosary before Mass
CCD Classes
10:15 a.m., Mass—Virden

Monday
No Mass

Tuesday
8:00—11:00 a.m., Parish Office Open
6:00 p.m., Mass—Auburn

Wednesday
7:30 a.m., Mass—Virden
No Adoration *(because of 40 Hours starting Thursday)*
8:00—11:00 a.m., Parish Office Open

Thursday
No Morning Mass
6:00 p.m., 40 Hours Opening Mass—Virden

Friday
7:30 a.m., Mass—Auburn
6:30 p.m., 40 Hours Mass—Virden

Saturday
8:45 a.m., Benediction & Reposition
9:00 a.m., 40 Hours Closing Mass—Virden

Upcoming Events

Sunday, October 4
9:50 a.m., Rosary for Peace led by Parish Children

Tuesday, October 6
7:00 p.m., Ladies Society Meeting

Wednesday, October 7
5:40 p.m., Rosary for Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary

Sunday, October 11
Remembrance of Love before Mass

Tuesday, October 20
6:00 p.m., Catholic Funeral Seminar

Parish Ministries

Sunday, September 27 at 10:15 a.m.

Servers	Lauren Pierce Allison Bejster
Readers	Matt Allen
Greeter	Beth Smith
Ushers	Steve Maynerich Adam Edwards Volunteers

Sunday, October 4 at 10:15 a.m.

Servers	John Rosier Gabriel Maynerich Griffin Theel
Readers	Cassandra Hedges
Greeter	Carol McGrath
Ushers	Matt Maynerich Lance Hickey Volunteers

Church Cleaners:
October 1: L. Baines, J. Murphy, N. Siudyla
October 8: A. Schnetzler

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
August 30: Missionary Co-op Appeal
September 6: Catholic University of America
September 20: Church in Africa

Weekly Offering

September 20	Regular Weekly/Holyday: $1,414 Building & Grounds: $18 Vocations Builder: $19 Parish Tithe: $73

Parish Announcements

Did You Attend the Fulton Sheen Beatification Mass? We would love to hear from you! We are putting together a poster featuring photos and memories from this historic and inspiring celebration.
If you attended, please consider sharing a photo of yourself at the Beatification, photos you took during the celebration, and/or a few sentences about your experience—what stood out to you, what the day meant to you, or a special moment you will remember.
Please contact Marcella to share your photos and memories.

Ladies Society Meeting: The next Ladies Society Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 6 at 7:00 p.m. in the parish hall. All Ladies of the parish are invited to attend!

Our Lady of the Rosary: The Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is on Wednesday, October 7. We will be praying the Rosary at 5:40 p.m. that evening. Everyone is invited to attend. As an added bonus—Adoration will be going on during that time and this is an opportunity to spend time in prayer with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament!

Altar Server Training: If you missed the Altar Server Training this past Saturday, we will be holding a make-up training on Saturday, October 17 at 10:00 a.m. All new and current servers are invited to attend.



Catholic Funeral Seminar: At 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 20, we will hold a Catholic Funeral Seminar at our parish. Sister Mary George Brown, F.S.G.M. (Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George), Director of the Office for Divine Worship and the Catechumenate for the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois, will join us to explain the Catholic Funeral Policy and its recent updates, including guidelines regarding Vigils and eulogies.
The evening will also include helpful information about planning a Catholic funeral, such as choosing Scripture readings and sacred music, ways family members may participate, and what to expect during the funeral rites.
Whether you simply want to understand Catholic funeral practices better or would like to begin making plans for yourself or a loved one, this will be a helpful and informative evening. Lots of resources will be provided—and everyone will go home with a goodie bag!



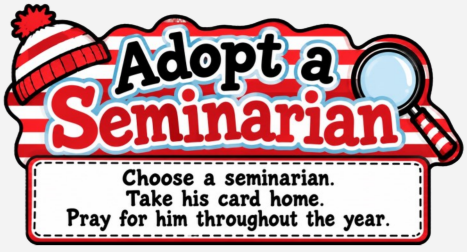
Today is Priesthood Sunday!
Priesthood Sunday is celebrated on the last Sunday of September! Priesthood Sunday seeks to reaffirm the priesthood of Jesus Christ and its central place in the life of the Church. This day also specifically honors priests, without whom the Holy Sacraments could not be conferred, for a single day out of the 365 days of the year during which they tirelessly serve their parishes. Celebrate and thank a priest today! Pray for your priests, pray for vocations, thank your priest, invite your priest to dinner, and/or send a card or letter to a retired priest.

Thank you, Father James,
for your ministry to our parish!
May God continue to bless you!

Consider Praying a Rosary for Priests Today: Offer the Rosary for your parish priest and the priests who have/will offer you the Sacraments. Here is an exercise recommended by Fr. Brett Brannen, author of To Save a Thousand Souls: A Guide for Discerning a Vocation to Diocesan Priesthood:

> When praying the rosary, offer the first decade for the priest who baptized you, the second for the priest who gave you first Communion, the third for the bishop who confirmed you, the fourth for the priest who witnessed your marriage or the bishop who ordained you (or will do so in the future), and the fifth decade for the priest who will anoint you at your death.

Adopt a Seminarian Campaign Begins Today: This Sunday, we will begin our Annual Adopt a Seminarian Campaign where you will be invited to choose a seminarian to pray for during the upcoming year. And don't forget to check out our "Where's the Seminarian" display in the vestibule! Can you find all the seminarians? **How do you "adopt" a seminarian**? Just pick a seminarian and pray for him this school year! You are welcome to send him a note to let him know you are praying for him!



40 Hours of Adoration

"Let the peace of Christ control your hearts."
Colossians 3:15

40 Hours of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Forty continuous hours of Adoration offered for peace, forgiveness, and an end to hatred and violence in our nation and throughout the world.

Sacred Heart Church, Virden
722 North Springfield Street

Thursday, October 1
6:00 p.m.—Opening Mass
Confessions following Mass

Friday, October 2
6:00 p.m.—Mass
Confessions following Mass

Saturday, October 3
8:45 a.m.—Benediction & Reposition
9:00 a.m.—Closing Mass

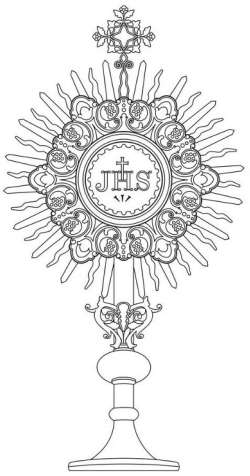
Visitors are welcome for Masses and Adoration!

Adoration will continue for 40 hours, and we need volunteers to help make sure someone is present with Our Lord throughout this time. Sign-ups begin this Sunday.

- **Sign up for an hour:** Simply choose an hour and come spend that time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Everyone is welcome! We will send you a reminder before your scheduled hour.
- **Regular adorers:** For the first 24 hours, our usual Wednesday Adoration schedule will be moved to Thursday. Please check the sign-up sheet this week and indicate whether your assigned hour works for you.
- **Come anytime:** You do not have to sign up for an hour to participate. Stop in at any time during the Forty Hours to spend some time with Our Lord.

Come to the Masses: Our Forty Hours of Adoration will be beautifully punctuated by the celebration of three Masses. Everyone is welcome—please join us!

KEEP WATCH WITH OUR LORD



For forty continuous hours, our parish will keep prayerful watch before Jesus Christ, truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. The devotion recalls the forty hours that Our Lord's Body rested in the tomb and invites us to remain close to Him in faith and love.

At the heart of Forty Hours is a simple act of love: we come to be with Jesus. We adore Him, thank Him for His mercy, make reparation for sin, and place before Him the needs of the Church, our families, our nation, and the world.

"Could you not watch one hour with me?"
Matthew 26:40

Whether you stay for an hour or stop in briefly, you are warmly invited to kneel before Our Lord, rest in His presence, and offer Him your prayer.

THE FOUR PURPOSES OF THIS DEVOTION

- **Adoration** - to worship Jesus, truly present in the Holy Eucharist
- **Thanksgiving** - to thank Him for His love, mercy, and countless gifts
- **Reparation** - to make amends for sin and indifference toward Our Lord
- **Petition** - to pray for the Church and the needs of the whole world

Come for Mass. Come for an hour.
Come and be with Jesus.

40 Hours Masses:
Servers & Readers Needed:

We are in need of the following volunteers for our 40 Hours of Adoration Masses:

Thursday, October 1 at 6:00 p.m.
2 Servers
1 Reader

Friday, October 2 at 6:00 p.m.
1 Server
1 Reader

Saturday, October 3 at 8:45 a.m.
2 Servers
1 Reader

If you can help with any of these roles, please contact the parish office.

Parish Announcements

Remembering with Love
Babies Lost Before Birth



During October, the month of Our Lady of the Rosary, we remember with love those precious little ones whose lives began at conception but who did not come to birth, as well as those whose lives after birth were all too brief.

On **Sunday, October 11**, we will have a special remembrance at Mass for these little ones.

If you have experienced a miscarriage or the loss of a child before birth—or know someone who has experienced such a loss—and would like a baby to be remembered, please submit the **number of babies you wish to remember by Thursday, October 8**. You may contact the parish office or place a note in the collection basket at Mass. **You do not need to give your name.**

At Mass on October 11, there will be **a flower and a candle for each baby remembered with love.**

As a parish family, we join in prayer with and for all parents, relatives, and friends who mourn the loss of a child—a grief that can remain in the heart even after many years. May Our Blessed Mother, who knew both a mother's tender love and sorrow, hold these little ones and their families close to her Immaculate Heart.



Save the Date: **On Sunday, November 8, we're teaming up with the Knights of Columbus for our annual Fried Chicken Dinner!** This is an important fundraiser for our parish, and **we'll need all hands on deck!** Start thinking now about how you might lend a hand. There will be plenty to do, and many hands make light work!

These parish dinners are about more than raising funds—they're a great chance to work together, enjoy one another's company, and welcome our neighbors with good old-fashioned parish hospitality.

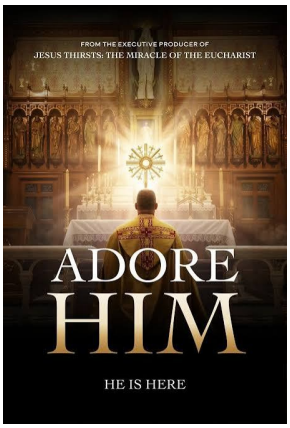
And the Basket Raffle is back! Start dreaming up a fun themed basket to donate. Get creative—the possibilities are endless!

Mark your calendar, bring your helping hands, and get ready for a fun day together!



Coming to Theaters! *ADORE HIM* is a new docudrama that invites you to enter the very presence of God.

Through cinematic reenactments that span salvation history and intimate modern-day interviews from around the world, this film explores the transforming power of meeting the Creator of the Universe face to face. From encountering the Ark of the Covenant as it traveled across the wilderness to bumping into Jesus as he taught in the marketplace, this story builds to a culmination in the Eucharist, and today millions are finding out how much God truly loves them as they adore Him in the Blessed Sacrament. He is here. Will you come?



The movie will be shown at Springfield's AMC 12 from October 4—8.

Catholic Education Update

A Letter from our Finance Council Chair:

Dear Sacred Heart Parishioners,

I am writing to share a possibility that the Diocese recently brought to Sacred Heart and asked us to explore.

Over the past several months, the Diocese has heard from families in our area who would welcome a local opportunity for their children to receive a Catholic education rooted in the faith and traditions of the Church. Such a school could offer an alternative to public education without requiring families to travel to Springfield. Based on that interest, the Diocese approached Father James to ask whether Sacred Heart would be open to exploring the possibility of a Catholic academy here at our parish.

To be clear, no decision has been made to establish a school at Sacred Heart. We remain firmly in the information-gathering stage. Our focus is on careful and prayerful discernment as we consider whether a school would be feasible and right for our parish and the wider community.

As a parish, we are called to support parents in forming their children in the faith and to help prepare the next generation to live as disciples of Jesus Christ. A Catholic school at Sacred Heart could be one way of furthering that mission. Our task is not to assume that a school is the answer, but to remain open to whether it may be one of the ways our parish is being called to serve our children and families.

Father James supports taking the time to learn more and carefully consider the idea. Marcella and I have had preliminary conversations with diocesan representatives, and the Finance Council has received an overview and begun reviewing the information available.

With assistance from the Diocese, several small working groups have now been formed to study curriculum and Catholic formation, possible building and facility needs, business and financial considerations, and prayer and spiritual discernment. We have requested meetings between these groups and diocesan representatives in early October so that the groups can better understand their roles and begin their work. Their formation is part of the discernment process, not an indication that a decision has been made.

We recognize that this possibility may bring excitement for some and questions or concerns for others. Both reactions are understandable, and honest questions and differing perspectives are important parts of genuine discernment. No one is being asked to reach a conclusion at this stage. We ask only that we approach the process prayerfully, speak with charity and respect, and remain open to what we learn.

Until the initial meetings take place and the working groups begin their work, please feel free to reach out to Marcella or myself with questions or concerns. Although we may not yet have many answers, we will share what is known and ensure that your questions are considered. Once the groups are active, they will take the lead in their respective areas and provide the parish with additional information and points of contact.

We will continue to keep the parish informed as meaningful information becomes available. In the meantime, we ask for your prayers—for wisdom, clarity, and openness to the Holy Spirit—as Father James, parish leadership, and everyone involved carefully discern what may come from these conversations.

Sincerely,
Matt Peregrin
Chair, Sacred Heart Finance Council



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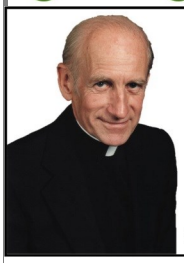
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The Caruso-Sperl
Irrevocable Charitable Trust
supports families
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Details found on website
www.sacredheartvirden.com
under the Parish Life/Parochial School tab

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