



Saint Henry Catholic Church

5315 W. Main St., Belleville, IL 62226

March 15, 2026
4th Sunday of Lent
John 9:1-41



4th Sunday OF LENT

"Jesus answered, 'Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him.'" Jn 9:3

If you are like me, it's easy to fixate on our shadows: failures, guilt, shame. Especially when we suffer, it is easy to want to blame ourselves or others. In this week's Gospel, Jesus' disciples ask about the blind man, "**Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents?**" (John 9:2) They, like us, focus on blame. But Jesus sees the entire situation differently: "**Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him.**" He does not deny sin, but he sees deeper — through the light of mercy, not the lens of judgment. The scene hinges on Jesus' strange claim: "**I am the light of the world**" (John 9:5). He sees things differently than everyone. They see shadows and light. He is the light.

Thought experiment: imagine you are the sun looking at everything on the earth. What do you see? Everything. What do you *not* see? Shadows. Everything is illuminated. If you see it, it is illuminated. For the light, nothing is dark.

Because he is the light, Jesus sees us in the glow of his redemptive love. Even our sin becomes a place where his glory can shine. The man's healing is not just about sight — it is about seeing as Christ sees. Lent is not a season of staring into darkness. It is a time to step into the light — to let Christ's gaze reframe how we see ourselves and one another.

Lenten challenge: Spend 10 quiet minutes this week asking Jesus to show you how he sees you. Not through shame or fear, but through the light of his mercy.

— *Father John Muir*
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PASTOR - (618) 233-2423

Reverend Kenneth J. York

DEACON

Deacon Gerald Bach dcaon1948@charter.net
Deacon James Law - (618) 406-5709 or
deaconjlaw@gmail.com

PARISH SECRETARY

Dawn Partington - sthenryc@peaknet.net

Organist & Choir

Robert Wojcik - (618) 610-0121

Parish Office Hours

Mon.-Fri. 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Lunch 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

P. S. R. Director

Kim Ahrens - (618) 540-8383

CREATIVE LEARNING CENTER

Jennifer Campbell - Director
Nicole Hettenhausen - Assistant Director
www.sthenryclc.com (618) 234-6061

ST. HENRY'S PRAYER CHAIN

Carol Lesko (618) 698-5838

Weekday Masses

Monday-Saturday 8:00 a.m.

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 4:00 p.m.
Sunday 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Liturgical Minister	Lector	Eucharistic Minister	Greeter	Gift Bearer	Usher
March 21st Saturday, 4:00 PM	Joyce Dierkes	Janet Visintine Jeannette Yelinek	Mary Jo Hanvey Virginia Miller	Patti Tepen Ivan Tepen	Mark Denton Kevin Effinger
March 22nd Sunday, 8:30 AM	Peggy Hassel	Gayle Bibee	Kathy Pajares	Bernadette Gadu Alvina Tippy	Daniel Broeckling Paul Schwartzhoff
March 22nd Sunday, 10:30 AM	Beth Regensberger	Kathleen DuMontier	Lynne Fulte	Bobby Elam Marilyn Elam	Jerry Ahrens Carol Tyler

Respect Life Corner

“To celebrate the Gospel of life means to celebrate the God of life, the God who gives life... In every child which is born and in every person who lives or dies we see the image of God’s glory. We celebrate this glory in every human being, a sign of the living God, an icon of Jesus Christ” (The Gospel of Life 84).

VOCATION CORNER

This Thursday, (March 19th), is the feast of the Solemnity of St. Joseph. “When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him.” (Matt 1:24). It was grace that moved Joseph to embrace his vocation as the guardian of Israel’s Messiah. It’s the same grace that empowers us to accept God’s call and wisdom for our lives. Joseph’s yes in faith changed the world. God also has a plan for your life. You don’t know where your yes might lead and how God might use it. Ask St. Joseph to help. Then, like Joseph, go out in faith to be a “doer of the word” (James 1:22). (The Word Among Us)

Blessing to See

Bless us, Lord, to see as You see. Remind us that heartbeats and hopes can outshine outward show. That quiet witness can overcome violence and darkness. That Your Light can break like the dawn. Amen.

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LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

The Pharisees refused to see what was in front of them. Their blindness was stronger than that of the man born without sight, because it was a blindness they chose for themselves. So what will it be for us? Do we choose blindness, or do we choose sight?

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Weekly Readings



Readings for the week of March 15, 2026

Sunday: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38
Monday: Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b/Jn 4:43-54
Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16
Wednesday: Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18/Jn 5:17-30
Thursday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12/Jn 7:40-53
Next Sunday: Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

Observances for the week of March 15, 2026

Sunday: 4th Sunday of Lent
Monday:
Tuesday: St. Patrick, Bishop; St. Patrick’s Day
Wednesday: St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Thursday: St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Friday:
Saturday:
Next Sunday: 5th Sunday of Lent

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Mass Intentions for the week of March 15, 2026

SUN 3/15	8:30 AM	Walter & Cecilia Turner, Sr. Diane Marie
	10:30 AM	For The People
MON 3/16	NO MASS	NO MASS
TUE 3/17	8:00 AM	Quentin Lauer
WED 3/18	8:00 AM	John Rensing
	10:20 AM	ACHS
THUR 3/19	8:00 AM	Bill Stroot, Scott Ballard
FRI 3/20	8:00 AM	Wayland Downen
SAT 3/21	8:00 AM	Curtis Wiley, Jr
	4:00 PM	For The People
SUN 3/22	8:30 AM	Mary Adams
	10:30 AM	David Hartenstein

**(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC -
RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR
ORDINARY MOMENTS**
By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Mini-reflection: I wonder what it was that made the blind man feel he could trust Jesus. Was it something in his voice? In his touch? We'll never know. But we do know this: the blind man's sight wasn't restored until he made a decision. A decision to be sent.

Sent

I don't know about you. But if I was a blind person sitting by the side of the road, minding my own business, and a stranger came along and rubbed spit-mud in my eye, I'm just salty enough that I would ignore his words out of spite.

Even though he was, admittedly, super-nice about the whole thing.

Obviously I would wash the mud out, because ... spit. But I wouldn't go to the Pool of Siloam. I would go to a pool on the *whole other side of town*, just to be contrary. I would make frustrated, grossed-out noises while I splashed water on my eyes: "Ugh! I can't believe this! People are the worst!" I would feel satisfied that I wasn't tricked or conned or taken advantage of.

And I would stay blind the rest of my life.

When Jesus performs a miracle in the Gospel, we sometimes think of it like a fireworks show. Something people point at — "Ooh! Aah!" — and move on from. But a miracle of Jesus is not a party trick. It is a commissioning.


And each of us, in our own way, has the choice of accepting it or not.

Nowhere in the Gospel story does it say that Jesus promised the man sight if he washed in the pool. I wonder what it was that made the blind man feel he could trust Jesus. Was it something in his voice? Was it something in his touch? Was it the humanity with which he spoke of the blind man to his disciples — a gentleness missing from most other interactions of his life?

We'll never know. But we do know this: the blind man's sight wasn't restored until he made a decision. A decision to be sent.

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Hope, Explained!

"Hoping against hope, he believed, and thus became the father of many nations." (Romans 4:18)

This is how Paul describes the hope of Abraham, who allowed himself to believe in and wish for what seemed like an impossible thing — all because it had been promised to him by God. In this same way, Christian hope "is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness" (CCC 1817), even as we recognize that our own strength and merit can never achieve this.

Hope, simply, is remembering that God keeps His promises.

A desire for happiness is a seed planted by God in each heart. The virtue of hope pours down like rain to nourish that seed, but a barrier has been created by original sin. The Holy Spirit removes the barrier, allowing the hope to pour forth upon the roots of our sprouting happiness in great abundance. ©LPi

**National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows
Visitors Center**

***Violence Divine: Overcoming the Bible's Betrayal of Its Non-Violent God* – a 4-week spring video study featuring John Dominic Crossan**


Facilitator: Fr. Mark Dean, OMI

Tuesdays, April 7, 21, 28, May 5, 2026 10 am – 12 Noon

In this four-part series, one of the world's foremost historical Jesus scholars helps the church rise above the greatest of Christian treasons: that everlasting peace can only be achieved through the onslaught of divine violence.

Cost: \$20 for series; \$5 per session

For more information, call 618-397-0584 Register online at <https://kh.snows.org/events/2026-spring-vs/>



PRAYER REQUESTS

"Heavenly Father, we offer all the prayer requests on our prayer chain to you. We ask that you would hear and answer each one according to your perfect will. We trust in your love, your power, and your grace. May your peace reign in our hearts and in the lives of those we are praying for."

Please keep in your prayers all who are ill, specially those listed below, their families and their caregivers.

Alex	Ilia	Mike
Cambree	Jean	Patty
Cassie	Jenna	Sharon and Ryan
Cathy	Jim	Sienna
Elaine	Jon	Sonia
Ellyn	Ken	Tanya
Huebner Family	Lanson family	
Ilia	Matt	

To add names to the Prayer List, please contact Carol Lesko by phone at 618-698-5838. If she unavailable to take your call please leave a message. Names will be published for 4 weeks unless we are notified to retain them longer.



****All parish support listed is from the week's collections, mailed in, and online donations.****

March 8, 2026

Envelopes/Loose	\$ 9,027.52
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 1,158.25
Guatemala	\$ 85.00
Black & Indian Mission	\$ 60.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 220.00
Catholic Relief Services	\$ 120.00
Palm Sunday	\$ 10.00

THANK YOU
to everyone who supports our parish through donations, prayer, and or service!



March 15, 2026

- Sunday** - 8:30 am Mass
Live Stream Mass 8:30 am
- 10:30 am Mass
- Monday** - NO MASS
- Tuesday** - Election Day
- Wednesday** - Eucharistic Exposition
2:30-4:30 pm
- Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm
- Thursday** -
- Friday** - Fish Fry 4:00 pm - 7:30 pm
- Saturday** - 4:00 pm Mass
- Sunday** - 8:30 am Mass
Live Stream Mass 8:30 am
- 10:30 am Mass



The Parish Rosary Program. Each week parishioners are requested to either email to the church secretary sthenryc@peaknet.net or drop a slip of paper in the collection basket with the number of rosaries they prayed this week. *(started February 12, 2023)*

Weekly	Year to Date	Grand Total
106	1,571	18,319

The 2026 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal
Those who are kind to the needy honor Him

On behalf of Father Godfrey Mullen, Diocesan Administrator, and diocesan ministries and programs, a most heartfelt thanks to all those who have already responded with a gift to the 2026 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal. If you have not done so as yet, there's still plenty of time. One-time donations or pledges – in any amount – are needed and can be made through your parish or at www.diobelle.org (click on "Giving to the Diocese"). Your generosity supports 17 agencies and programs that daily serve thousands of people. Please consider making your gift today or at any time you are able in the coming months. We also ask for your prayers for the success of this year's appeal and all those we serve. Thank you and may God bless you always.



Catholic Relief Services Collection

This week we take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection to **reveal Christ's love** to our brothers and sisters in need. This collection makes grants to six Catholic agencies that provide relief and support for struggling communities and work for peace and reconciliation among our marginalized brothers and sisters, both here and around the world. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection. Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.



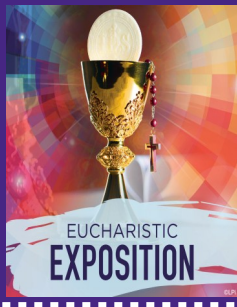
RENEW Catholic Retreats for Singles Late 50s and Above

Singles Late 50s and Above: Are you looking for a renewed sense of purpose & belonging? Register today for a life-changing RENEW weekend retreat at the Pallottine Retreat Center (30 min from downtown St. Louis), on April 10-12, 2026. Take a chance and get involved... you won't regret it! Visit www.RenewRetreats.org, e-mail renewretreat.stl@gmail.com, or call (314) 703-1002 for details.



The Diocese of Belleville's Cursillo in Christianity, a worldwide movement of the Catholic laity, is sponsoring a weekend for women, August 6-9, 2026, and for men August 20-23, 2026, at the King's

House at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville. If you long for a close life-long relationship with Jesus please prayerfully consider attending. For more information or to register please contact Cathy Lugge, 618-444-5822. It is truly an enjoyable weekend. An application is available at <http://bellevillecursillo.org/>.



The Chaplet of Divine Mercy is the most powerful prayer a person can say to obtain God's mercy!

If you have never experienced The Chaplet in song then you are in for an amazing experience.

Eucharistic Exposition every Wednesday from 2:30-4:30.

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT



Lenten fish fries, hosted by the Men's Club and the Ladies of St. Henry, are back beginning this **Friday, March 20**, from 4:00 to

7:30 pm in the Msgr. Voss Parish Center. Enjoy our hand-cut fried cod, baked salmon, shrimp, and many side items.

Homemade or store-bought items are always needed for our dessert table. If you would like to donate a dessert item, please bring it to the parish center on Friday afternoon.

Thanks for your support.



Martin Gramlick 3/16	Paul Munie 3/19
Alice McPherson 3/16	Annette Cook 3/20
John Stribling 3/16	Marian Patti 3/20
Shannon Wuller 3/16	Gary Frost 3/21
Virginia Brutto 3/18	Abigail Gray 3/21
Scott Hettenhausen 3/18	Yolanda Sanchez 3/21
Steve Jackson 3/18	Cami Cook 3/22
Jared Dumstorff 3/19	Robert Giedeman 3/22
Mary Messbarger 3/19	Bernard Haselhorst 3/22



Feeding Dreams in Timor-Leste

By participating in CRS Rice Bowl, we're helping young people in Timor-Leste find opportunities and support to fulfill their dreams of becoming leaders in their communities. Visit crsricebowl.org/week-4 to read about Adriana's dream of becoming a doctor in this week's Story of Hope.

Ladies please let Marilyn (618) 604-6340 know so Ladies Club can pay for your fees.

Our MEVCCW Spring Day of Prayer will be held on **Tuesday May 5 at Queen of Peace Parish, Belleville.**

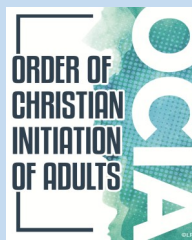
Events of the day will include (in no specific order):

- Registration at 8:15
- Eucharistic Celebration
- Fr. Godfrey Mullen, OSB speaking on Stewardship of Faith: Sharing the Gift We've Been Given
- Spiritual Exercise
- Pot of Gold (50/50) Drawing
- Basket Raffle
- Attendance prizes
- Empty Boxes of Joy pickup (be prepared to know how many you need for your council)
- Collection of personal care items for Our Brothers Keepers (cash donations also accepted)
- Short business meeting with installation of new officers and parish council reports

We will need to be finished by 2:00 in order to allow safe pickup for the Q of P students, so my goal is to keep things running on time.

The link for online registration <https://forms.gle/nWT9J8gob6Xcz1t39>

Please pray for the following people:



Nora Ayala
Matthew Felix
Quincy McGowan
Angelina Rodarte
Kialani Willingham
Kyman Willingham
Quandela Anani Zogolo

They are joining the Catholic church at the Easter Vigil.

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