



Saint Henry Catholic Church

5315 W. Main St., Belleville, IL 62226



15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*"Whoever has ears ought to hear."
- Mt 13:3, 7-9*

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPi

**July 12, 2026
15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Matthew 13:1-23**

Sometimes I feel capable of absorbing almost anything except God's Word. My mind soaks up song lyrics, sports trivia, and endless online content. But what was the reading at Mass this morning? I struggle to recall. That realization discourages me, and it leads to an uncomfortable question. What is my heart really for? Is it shaped for constant information and distraction, or is it truly designed for God? Am I capable of deeply receiving His Word?

Jesus speaks directly to this today with a simple image. **"The seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it."** By comparing the Word of the Kingdom to a seed, Jesus reveals something hopeful about us. The human heart is made for that seed. Soil and seed belong together. No matter how compacted, rocky, or overgrown the ground has become, the Sower never stops sowing.

God loves our hearts. He sees them as a farmer sees his fields, full of potential. Human hearts can indeed **"understand the Word."** Understanding does not mean mastering information. It means letting the Word sink in, interacting with it, and giving it a home. It means trusting that, beneath the surface, God is at work in quiet and hidden ways.

When we allow the Holy Spirit to loosen the soil of our hearts through prayer, repentance, and simplicity, the same Word that created the universe begins to bear fruit in us, 30, 60, even a hundredfold.

Lord Jesus, Sower of life, soften the soil of my heart. Let Your Word take root in me again, and bring forth the fruit You desire. Amen.

— Father John Muir
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PASTOR - (618) 233-2423
Very Reverend Kenneth J. York

DEACON
Deacon Gerald Bach
dcaon1948@charter.net

Deacon James Law - (618) 406-5709 or
deaconjlaw@gmail.com

Organist & Choir
Robert Wojcik - (618) 610-0121

Parish Secretary
Dawn Partington - (618) 233-2423 or
Email : sthenryc@peaknet.net

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

Creative Learning Center
Jennifer Campbell - Director
Nicole Hettenhausen - Assist. 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 Ministers	Lector	Eucharistic Minister	Greeter	Gift Bearer	Usher
July 18th Saturday, 4:00 PM	Maureen Reed	David Bollman Betty Cerulli	Virginia Miller Need Volunteer	Kathleen Dinan Terry Starwalt	Anne Louth Mike Louth
July 19th Sunday, 8:30 AM	Peggy Hassel	Joyce Dierkes	Kathy Pajares	Lynne Fulte Bernadette Gadu	Daniel Broeckling George Mehochko
July 19th Sunday, 10:30 AM	Jerry Ahrens	Marilyn Elam	Kathleen Dumontier	Dawn York Need Volunteer	Chris Knee Carol Tyler

Respect Life Corner

2026 Natural Family Planning Campaign Week 2

“Discover the Power of Natural Family Planning” NFP is a church-approved, scientifically validated system of fertility awareness that honors your marriage vows to love Freely, Totally, Faithfully, and Fruitfully. But how many children should you have? The Church leaves that to your prayerful discernment through “responsible parenthood”—balancing a generous heart with a prudent look at your life circumstances. NFP also empowers ALL women by decoding the body's natural signs. It provides deep insight into reproductive health, helps uncover underlying medical issues, and fosters true marital connection. Follow the QR code to learn about several different methods of NFP, Responsible Parenthood, and more. Contact mejoost@gmail.com for more help in finding the right method for you.



LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Our hearts are fertile ground for the Word of God, but we must be careful gardeners. Be conscious of what damages and depletes the soil of your heart. Pay attention to what nourishes it, so that the goodness of the Word can bloom forth into the world.

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READINGS OF THE WEEK

Readings for the week of July 12, 2026

Sunday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 65:10, 11, 12-13, 14/Rom 8:18-23/Mt 13:1-23 or 13:1-9
Monday: Is 1:10-17/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mt 10:34-11:1
Tuesday: Is 7:1-9/Ps 48:2-3a, 3b-4, 5-6, 7-8/Mt 11:20-24
Wednesday: Is 10:5-7, 13b-16/Ps 94:5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 14-15/Mt 11:25-27
Thursday: Is 26:7-9, 12, 16-19/Ps 102:13-14ab and 15, 16-18, 19-21/Mt 11:28-30
Friday: Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8/Is 38:10, 12abcd, 16/Mt 12:1-8
Saturday: Mi 2:1-5/Ps 10:1-2, 3-4, 7-8, 14/Mt 12:14-21
Next Sunday: Wis 12:13, 16-19/Ps 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16/Rom 8:26-27/Mt 13:24-43 or 13:24-30

Observances for the week of July 12, 2026

Sunday: 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: St. Henry
Tuesday: St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin
Wednesday: St. Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Thursday: Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Friday: St. Camillus de Lellis, Priest
Next Sunday: 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
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Mass Intentions for the week of July 12, 2026

SUN	7/12	8:30 AM 10:30 AM	Curtis Wiley Jr. John Rensing
MON	7/13	8:00 AM	Catholic Extension Donor Intentions
TUES	7/14	8:00 AM	Jean Gass
WED	7/15	8:00 AM	Catholic Extension Donor Intentions
THURS	7/16	8:00 AM	Joe Guenewald Bill Stroot
FRI	7/17	8:00 AM	Living & Deceased Members of the Amann, Kreher, & Boving Families
SAT	7/18	8:00 AM 4:00 PM	Maria Pezzuto Living & Deceased Members of the Martindale Family
SUN	7/19	8:30 AM 10:30 AM	For The People Mary Adams

Sunday, July 12, 2026 | Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

The Gardener and the Soil

I began writing this piece by googling “how do you make soil fertile?” which should tell you everything you need to know about my own abilities as a gardener.

I remember seeing a packet of seeds in the store one summer as a child and convincing my mother to buy them. They were delphiniums, which bloom into a beautiful cone shape if you know what you’re doing. Alas, I didn’t. I chose for my garden a particularly dry spot of earth right next to my backyard playset, scattered the seeds, congratulated myself, and went on my merry way. I returned occasionally to water the area, but only when I remembered to.

Nothing grew, not even a little sprout. I was more than heartbroken — my faith was shaken. I had planted these seeds! I had watered them! (A little.) There was sunlight! All my childhood books and rhymes said this was all you needed. Was it all a lie?

Of course it wasn’t a lie. Seeds need soil, sunlight, water, and oxygen — good soil, adequate sunlight for whatever the plant is, and consistent water.

So what seeds need more than anything is a gardener. (At least, delphiniums do.)

When I hear the parable of the rich soil and the rocky ground in the Gospel of Matthew, I often miss the point. I think Jesus is trying to give me a message about how I should be. “Be better.” That’s what I think he’s telling me.

I forget that I am only the soil. I cannot enrich myself; all my efforts to do so will come to nothing. What he is telling me is to ask the gardener: “Make me what I need to be.”

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Green Mount Catholic Cemetery Flower Policy

Attention: Updates to the flower/decor policy for Green Mount Catholic Cemetery were made effective July 1, 2026. New signage is posted at the entrance with basic regulations. Please remove any items you wish to keep in your possession by the grace period, August 1, 2026.

To view the new policy, please visit:
<https://cathedralbelle.org/green-mount-catholic-cemetery/>

Forgiveness, Explained!



The virtue of forgiveness is described to us in detail by Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 18, when he tells Peter that he must forgive his brother “not seven times, but seventy-seven times” before relating the parable of the unforgiving servant. Here we see that exercising forgiveness is an absolute requirement of the Christian life. What we have received from God through no merit of our own, we must likewise extend to others.

Forgiveness is love in action — and as is the case with most virtues, if we find it hard to practice, that means we’re doing it right. The Catechism says that forgiveness “bears witness that...love is stronger than sin” (CCC 2844) and points out that it “is not in our power not to feel or to forget an offense; but the heart that offers itself to the Holy Spirit turns injury into compassion and purifies the memory in transforming the hurt into intercession.” (CCC 2843)

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Blessing for Abundant Growth

Dear God,
Bless our efforts in Your Name. Help us to understand Your will. Allow us to follow the invitation You have provided. We want to be rich soil — help us respond deeply and abundantly to every place You call.
Amen.

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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."

Andrea	Janet	Rosalie
Barb	Kathleen	Rosemary
Brook	Linda	Santa-Cruz Family
Cáceres family	Marilyn Family	Tanya
Cathy	Mary Ann	Tom
Fred	Matt	Tom
Gustavo	Phyllis	Vicki
Heidi	Rios & Alonso Families	

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

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.****

June 28, 2026

Envelopes/Loose	\$ 3,570.35
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 399.00
Guatemala	\$ 90.00
World Mission	\$ 20.00
Catholic Home Mission	\$ 20.00
Mission Co-Op	\$ 20.00
Diocese of Onitsha, Nigeria	
Peter's Pence	\$ 766.80

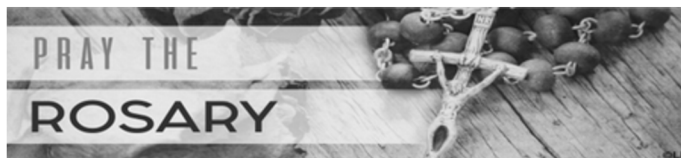
THANK YOU

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



July 12, 2026

Sunday	8:30 AM Mass Live Stream 8:30 AM Mass 10:30 AM Mass
Monday	8:00 AM Mass
Tuesday	8:00 AM Mass Men's Club Mtg 7:00 PM
Wednesday	8:00 AM Mass Eucharistic Exposition 2:30-4:30 pm
Thursday	8:00 AM Mass
Friday	8:00 AM Mass
Saturday	8:00 AM Mass 4:00 PM Mass
Sunday	8:30 AM Mass Live Stream 8:30 AM Mass 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
2 weeks	317	3,587	20,335



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

July 5, 2026

Envelopes/Loose	\$ 4,421.85
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 516.60
Guatemala	\$ 195.00
Ascension of The Lord	\$ 10.00
Peter's Pence	\$ 120.00

The 2026 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal

Those who are kind to the needy honor Him

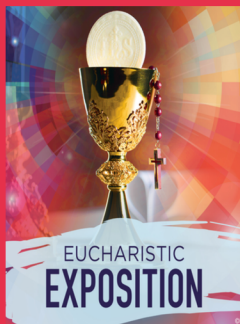
Did you know YOUR GIFT to the 2026 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal can be made online? Visit your Belleville Diocese's website at www.diobelle.org and click on "Giving". It's that simple! Every donation – large or small – is needed to continue our diocesan ministry to those in need. We are counting on YOU. Please visit www.diobelle.org today!

Vocation Corners

"I grew up loving two things: our family farm and sports. There was a basketball hoop in the haymow of our barn, and during breaks from working with the cattle, I would play pickup games with my brothers and cousins. I grew to love football, too, and was even blessed to play quarterback at the collegiate level for a year. But over time, another love quietly grew in my heart: a love for Christ and his Church. My parents instilled in me a strong work ethic and an unswerving trust in the Lord. My parish priest provided an example of real eucharistic amazement, an intense prayer life, and filial devotion to our Blessed Mother. Through their influence, I discovered that the greatest joy of my life was when I could draw others closer to our Savior. To all those discerning their vocations: Let His love conquer!"

Fr. Thomas J. Haan; Diocese of Lafayette, Ind. Columbia, September 2022

Sunday, July 12, 2026 | Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



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.



BIRTHDAYS

Pamela Frost 07/13	Janis Mease 07/16
Mike Maxwell 07/13	Brent Amann 07/17
Jeanne Lachmiller 07/14	Chloe Amann 07/17
Trish Denton 07/15	Connie Lugge 07/17
Carol Fritz 07/15	Nancy Ledee 07/18
Paul Amann 07/16	Nancy McCall 07/18
Agnes Barcinas 07/16	Pamela Fitzpatrick 07/19

MEN'S CLUB

The Men's Club will meet this Tuesday,
July 14, at 7 pm in the Knights of Columbus Hall
to watch the Major League Baseball All-Star
Game.

Food and drinks will be provided.
All men of the parish are welcome!

83rd Annual

Healing and Hope Novena
to Our Lady of the Snows



The National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows
83rd Annual Healing and Hope Novena
to Our Lady of the Snows

Finding Healing and Hope through Our Lady's
Intercession

Join us in prayer for any or all of these nine evening
Masses,

(Tuesday, July 28, through Wednesday, August 5, 2026,
7:00 p.m. nightly) as we pray for our own needs and
those of our world.

For the schedule of themes and more information, visit
snows.org/Novena

WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

Sharing Your Faith

Question:

My friend has never heard of Christ and I want to share the Gospel
with her but I'm afraid to. How do I share my faith?

Answer:

There are a lot of ways to bring up the topic of religion, without
being judgmental or pushy. Begin by asking what her thoughts are
about religion, or what her experience was growing up. Finding
common ground is often easier than you think, because the
questions and problems we have about God, the presence of evil,
our purpose in life, and our relationship with God are universal
concerns.

Why are you afraid? If you do not want to insult or offend
someone, don't be pushy or judgmental. If you are uncertain about
how to explain your own faith, do a little reading or practice with a
friend. If you measure success only by this person converting, focus
your attention more on beginning the conversation, not on bringing
it to a perfect close! Faith is a journey of many acts of belief, many
discussions about God, and many choices about how we practice
what we preach. In some we will have great success; in others we
will need forgiveness and perseverance. The most important thing
to keep in mind is that the Holy Spirit is always at work and our
most humble efforts can bear great fruit. Have faith in God because
he has faith in you!

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Sunday, July 12, 2026 | Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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