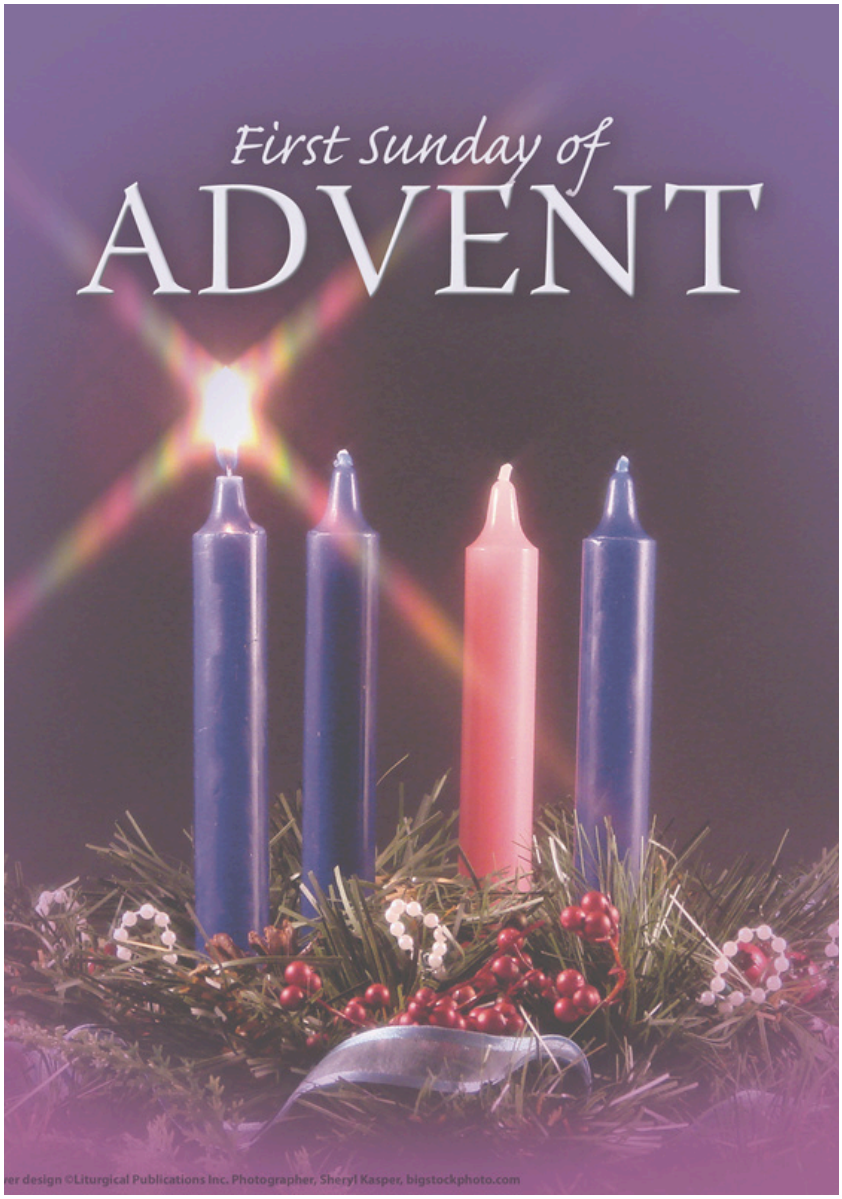
Saint Henry Catholic Church

5315 W. Main St., Belleville, IL 62226



November 29, 2026
First Sunday of Advent
Mark 13:33-37

A friend once told me, "When I was young, I was so broke, I couldn't even pay attention." It's a clever line. Even when your pockets are empty, you can still be attentive. And yet, we often find creative ways to spend our attention on anything but what matters most.

We begin the season of Advent with Jesus' words about how we maintain our attention. He says, **"What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'" (Mark 13:37).** He describes servants waiting for their master's return. Their task is simple: stay alert. Be ready to open the door, welcome him, and serve. That is why they're there. Advent reminds us that this is the purpose of our lives, too. God is coming to us. The question is whether we are awake and ready to receive him.

How do we train our attention for God? One powerful way is the age-old Christian practice of vigils. Praying in the quiet stillness of night — free from all distraction — focuses the heart and awakens a deeper awareness of God's presence. This Advent, watch for the coming of the Lord by the practice of vigils. Not in theory, but concretely. The Lord is coming. The awake, attentive heart will recognize Him.

— Father John Muir
©LPi

PASTOR - (618) 233-2423

Very Reverend Kenneth J. York

DEACON

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 Canpbell -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
December 5th Saturday, 4:00 PM	Janis LeChein	David Bollman Janet Visintine	Kathleen Dinan Terry Starwalt	Virginia Miller Jennifer Roberts	Mark Denton Trish Denton
December 6th Sunday, 8:30 AM	Greg Mehochko	Gayle Bibee	Joyce Dierkes	Lynne Fulte Kathy Pajares	Daniel Broeckling George Mehochko
December 6th Sunday, 10:30 AM	Maureen Reed	Marilyn Elam	Chris Knee	Dawn York **Need Volunteer**	Jerry Ahrens **Need Volunteer**
December 8th Tuesday, 6:30 PM	Trish Denton	Betty Cerulli	Nick Kujawa	Sue Kaltenbronn Tristan Kujawa	**Need Volunteer** Paul Schwartzhoff

Respect Life Corner

"Dearest St. Joseph… We praise God that as their faithful protector, you never hesitated to sacrifice for those entrusted to you. May your example inspire us also to welcome, cherish, and safeguard God's most precious gift of life… Obtain for us the grace to do the will of God in all things."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
"A Prayer to St. Joseph, Defender of Life"

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Are our eyes drooping? Are we drifting off? Jesus wants us awake. He wants our eyes open. He wants us ready. Advent is the season of staying awake, of splashing water in the face of our soul. Wake up — and watch!
©LPi

Vocation Corner

"I had the great blessing of growing up in a family in which faith was lived in a simple, practical way. However, it was my paternal grandmother in particular who influenced my journey of faith. She was a woman who explained to us, who talked to us about Jesus, who taught us the catechism. The first proclamation is at home, in the family! And this makes me think of the love of so many mothers and grandmothers in the transmission of faith. One day in particular, though, was very important to me: Sept. 21, 1953. I was almost 17. It was "Students' Day." Before going to the celebration, I passed through the parish I normally attended, I found a priest that I did not know, and I felt the need to go to confession. For me this was an experience of encounter: I found that someone was waiting for me… After making my confession, I felt something had changed. I was not the same. I had heard something like a voice, or a call. I was convinced that I should become a priest."

Pope Francis; Vigil of Pentecost Address,
May 18, 2013

Readings for the week of of November 29, 2026

Sunday:	Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37
Monday:	Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/Mt 4:18-22
Tuesday:	Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday:	Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 15:29-37
Thursday:	Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday:	Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Mt 9:27-31
Saturday:	Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8
Next Sunday:	Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

Observances for the week of November 29, 2026

Sunday:	1st Sunday of Advent
Monday:	St. Andrew, Apostle
Tuesday:	
Wednesday:	
Thursday:	St. Francis Xavier, Priest
Friday:	St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church
Saturday:	
Next Sunday:	2nd Sunday of Advent

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Mass Intentions for the week of November 29, 2026

SUN	11/29	8:30 AM 10:30 AM	Deacon Gerald Bach Jean Muntan
MON	11/30	8:00 AM	Lynne Schwartzhoff
TUES	12/1	8:00 AM	Joe Gruenewald
WED	12/2	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Joan Wilbret ACHS Penance Service
THURS	12/3	9:00 AM	Catholic Extension Donor Intentions
FRI	12/4	8:00 AM	Memorial Donors
SAT	12/5	8:00 AM 4:00 PM	Dolly Evans Rose Cullen
SUN	12/6	8:30 AM 10:30 AM	For The People Dr. Paul Biegler

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

Filling up on Advent

I've learned the hard way to keep Saltines on the top shelf, far out of the kids' reach.

Saltines are a perfectly lovely little snack, but they're so light and salty and full of air that my children consume entire sleeves of them without realizing it. "I'm not hungry — I ate a bunch of Saltines!" they protest when I call them to the table for dinner.

I think I'm going to have it tattooed on my hand, just so I don't have to keep saying it: what fills you up doesn't necessarily feed you.

This, unfortunately, is so often how I am with Advent. I gorge myself on the nonsense that looks, sounds, and tastes like Christmas — but never really feels like it. It all appears harmless — light and full of air — these decorations, these social engagements, these consumeristic spirals of gift-giving, these drive-through light shows. I don't even realize it's happening until, on December 25, I find myself so tired I can barely drag myself across the finish line.

The lie at the heart of all that excess is the same as the lie at the heart of any evil: I am empty, and all this nothing can fill me up.

Because December 25 isn't the finish line, is it? It's the beginning. Advent is supposed to be the time of preparation, the time of stillness and calm, of watching and waiting, reflection and renewal. A time that — gasp! — reenergizes you, so that when the lord of the house comes, he won't find you passed out in a pile of tinsel and cookie dough.

So be watchful. Be alert.

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HOLY DAY OF
OBLIGATION

DECEMBER 8TH

Solemnity of
the Immaculate Conception



Compassion, *Explained!*

Compassion flows from the virtue of mercy, or "heartfelt sympathy for another's distress," writes St. Thomas Aquinas (Sum. II:II, 30, 1). Compassion could be described as the active form of mercy — we are "moved" by the suffering of another, as the heart of Christ was "moved" with pity" for the crowds who followed him, seeking a shepherd (Matthew 9:37).

Compassion is also a means by which we can bring healing to a broken relationship, says the Catechism: "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). In this way, we reflect God's divine compassion for us: "The Lord is good to all, and compassionate to all your works. All your works give you thanks, Lord, and your faithful bless you" (Psalm 145:9-10).
©LPi

Blessing for Advent Week 1

Dear Lord,
As this Advent season begins, pour Your blessing upon us. Bless our Advent wreaths and readings, our retreats and reconciliations. You are our God and our guide; be with us as we journey.
Amen.
©LPi



"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."

All have safe	Becky	Jack	Louise
travel over	Bill	Jim	Naji
the holidays.	Bob	Jim and Shirley	Peggy
	Carol	Judy	Pope Leo XIV
Alice	Cathy	Keith	Raymond
Amanda	Cindy	Kennedy	Rhonda
Andrew	Dan	Laura	Sophie
Andy	David	Lillian	Susan
Bach Family	Greg	Linda	Tanya

Please keep in your prayers all who are ill, specially those listed, 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.

November 15, 2026

Envelopes/Loose	**$ 3,777.15**
St. Vincent de Paul	**$ 245.30**
Guatemala	**$ 45.30**
All Saints Day	**$ 10.00**
Catholic Campaign for Human Developemnt	**$ 1,114.30**
Christmas Flowers	**$ 40.00**

THANK YOU

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



November 29, 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
Wednesday	8:00 AM MASS 10:20 ACHS Penance Service **Eucharistic Exposition** 2:30-4:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30 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
98	6,288	23,036

Save the Date for Camp Ondessonk's Enchanted Forest Gala Section header

Save the Date for Camp Ondessonk's Enchanted Forest Gala on Saturday, March 6, 2027, at the Regency in O'Fallon, Illinois. Join us for dinner, silent and live auctions, and fellowship in support of Camp Ondessonk. Your generosity helps campers build friendships, grow in confidence and faith, and discover the joy of the outdoors. For event details and ticket updates, visit **ondessonk.com/gala-2027.**



Warm Heads, Warm Hands, Warm Hearts!

The Saint Vincent de Paul Society of St. Henry Parish is reaching out to our compassionate community for support. We are seeking donations of children's and adults' mittens, gloves, hats, scarfs, and socks to keep those in need warm during the cold months ahead. Additionally, The Saint Vincent de Paul District office is requesting used men's jeans to help provide comfort and shelter for those less fortunate.

The unwrapped donations may be placed in the Mittens Box, which will be in the back of church.

Thank you for your generous donations, they are greatly appreciated!

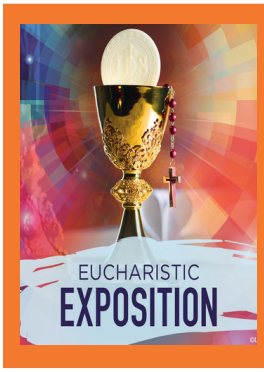
St. Andrew Christmas Novena

The St. Andrew Christmas novena is a prayer said from November 30, the Feast of St. Andrew, through Christmas Eve. Traditionally, it is recited 15 times each day. (See next page for St. Andrew Prayer)

The Gospel of John tells us that St. Andrew was a disciple of John the Baptist who heard John call Jesus "the Lamb of God." Andrew followed Jesus, curious about him, and realized that he was the Messiah, so he quickly found his brother, Peter, and the two became the first disciples.

In praying this novena, Christians follow the example of Andrew's prescient faithfulness throughout the season of Advent.

The prayer of the novena reads: "Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother. Amen." ©LPi



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.

PRAYING FOR SEMINARIANS

Please pray for our Diocesan Seminarians. Each week, we will feature one of our 11 seminarians. Please consider dropping them a note of support. At the very least, a simply prayer would be helpful.
For this week:



Terry Marmion
Mundelein Seminary
1000 E. Maple Ave.
Mundelein, IL 60060



Delia Grosse 11/30
Lauren Phillips 11/30
Allison Brutto 12/01
Lauren Borik 12/01
Monica Sobczak 12/01
Terry Noblitt 12/01
Connor Adams 12/02
Diane Hurst 12/02
Douglas Iler 12/02
Juana Palma 12/02
Toni Donovan 12/05
Javier Arzola 12/05
Nancy Jones 12/05
Randy Galati 12/05
Helen Fuhrman 12/06



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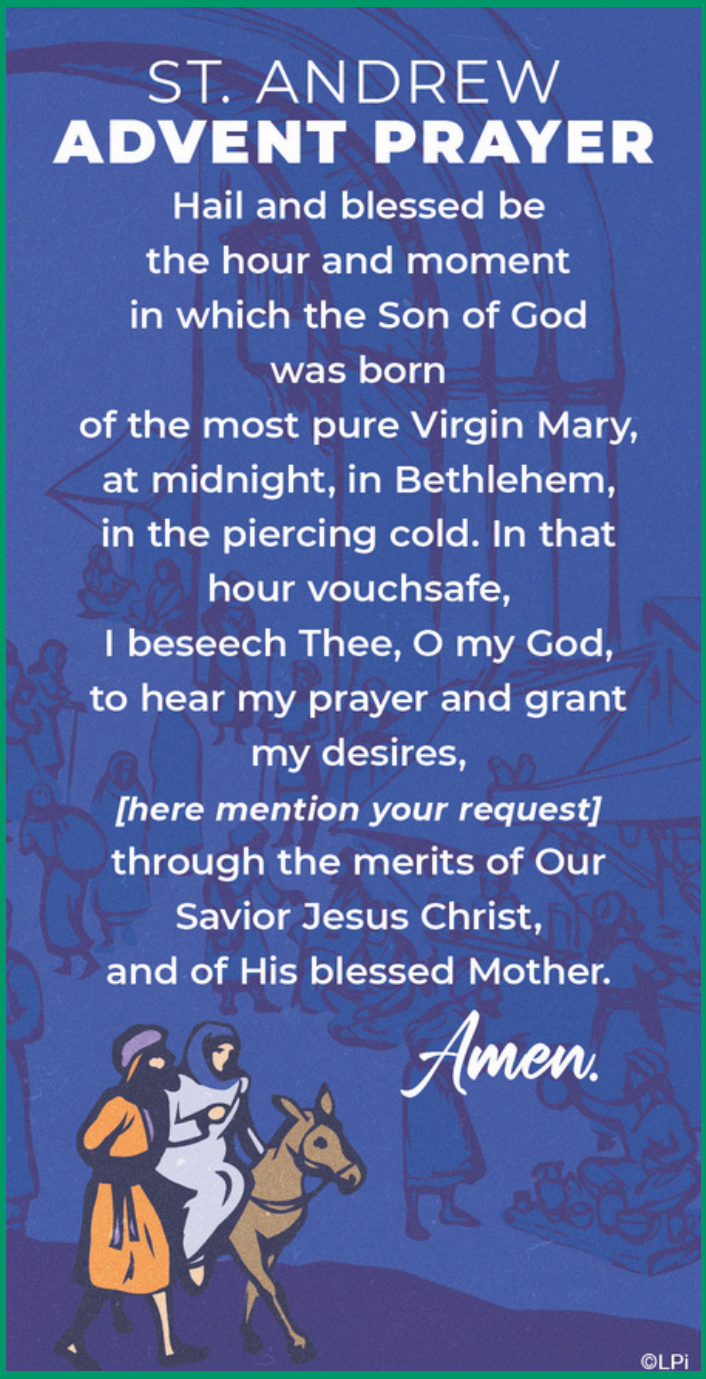
We DO NOT have class on Sunday, November 29 due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.

We are now beginning to practice for the Stations of the Nativity that will be our Family Gathering on Sunday, December 20 from 8:45 – 10:10 AM.

"Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God"
(Corrie ten Boom).

Sister Theresa Markus, S.S.N.D.
Coordinator of the Parishes School of Religion
tmarkus@ssndcp.org or 618-550-9903

Connie Woods
Administrative Assistant for PSR
Connie.woods@bellevillepsr.org or 618-722-2366



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