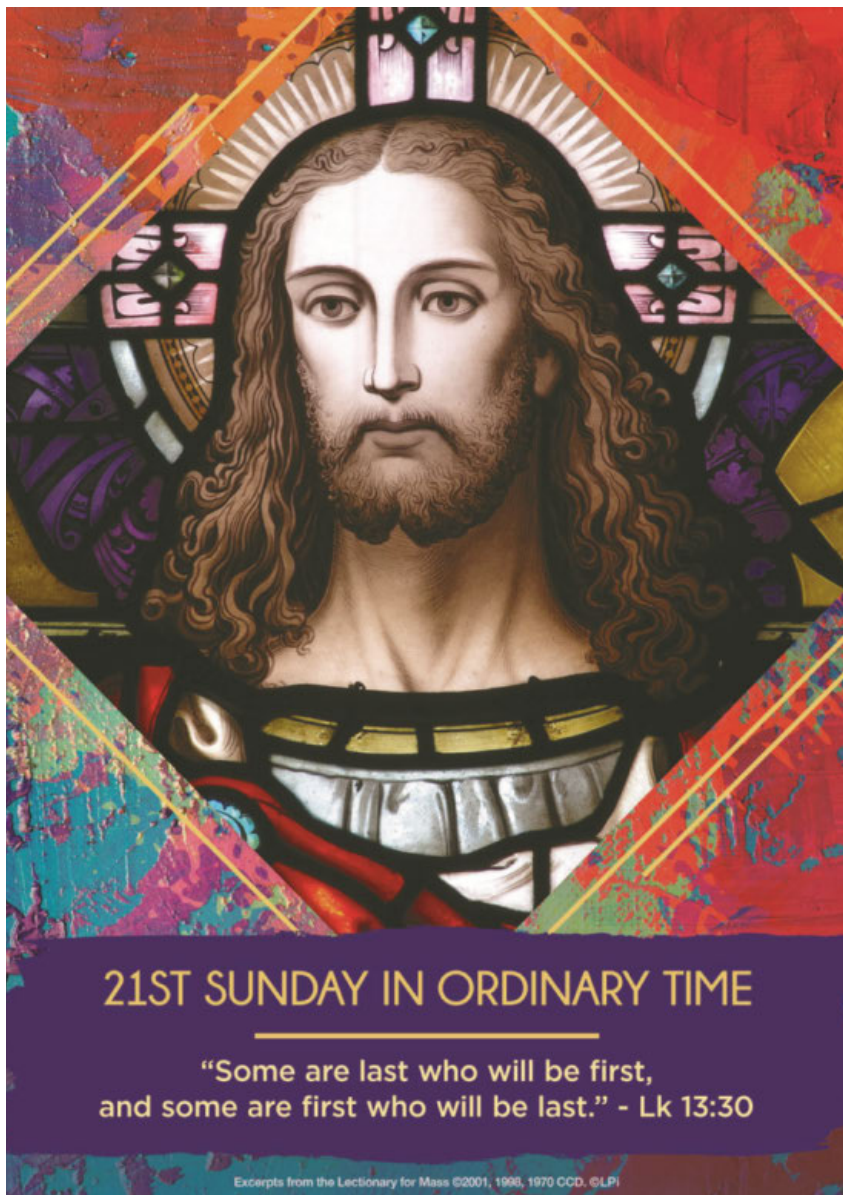




Saint Henry Catholic Church

5315 W. Main St., Belleville, IL 62226



August 24, 2025

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 13:22-30

I've been hiking Camelback Mountain in Phoenix, Arizona most of my life. It is a vigorous forty-five minutes to the top. Near the peak, the end suddenly appears much further away, and steeper. At that moment, a descending hiker often offers encouragement: "Keep going! The peak is right there. It's not as far as it looks. You can do it!" It usually works. After another five minute push, you summit and enjoy a glorious panorama of the Sonoran Desert in the Valley of the Sun.

When Jesus is asked about how many people are saved, he says: "**Strive to enter through the narrow gate**" (Luke 13:24). How many? Strive! Focus on your journey. What does heavenly census taking have to do with you or me? How would it help a hiker on a mountain to ask the others coming down, "How many people are going to make it to the top?" A normal response would be something like: "How is that a relevant question? Carry on!"

Jesus links one virtue directly to salvation: perseverance (cf. Matt 24:13; *hypomone* in Greek). Strive! Endure! Keep going! The one absolutely necessary virtue is perseverance, to not give up on our journey. The mountain we struggle to climb is often our own weakness, failures, and sins. Persevere in prayer. Keep celebrating the sacraments. Embrace daily duties. With God's grace, you are strong enough to keep going. Perhaps the peak is not as far away as you might fear. Keep going!

— Father John Muir

©LPi

PASTOR - (618) 233-2423

Reverend Kenneth J. York

DEACON

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

Judy Shovlin, -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 Ministers	Lector	Eucharistic Minister	Greeter	Gift Bearer	Usher
August 30th Saturday, 4:00 PM	Janis LeChein	David Bollman Betty Cerulli	Pat Visintine Janet Visintine	Patti Tepen Ivan Tepen	Kacie Denton Kevin Effinger
August 31st Sunday, 8:30 AM	Lynne Fulte	Joyce Dierkes	Cathy Lugge	Kathy Pajares Alvina Tippy	Daniel Broeckling George Mehochko
August 31st Sunday, 10:30 AM	Maureen Reed	Jerry Ahrens	Need Volunteer	Pat King Dawn York	Chris Knee Carol Tyler

Respect Life Corner

“Death is a decisive moment in the human person’s encounter with God the Savior. Helping the Christian to experience this moment with spiritual assistance is a supreme act of charity. It encompasses the patient with the solid support of human relationships to accompany them and open them to hope... While palliative care cannot entirely eradicate suffering from people’s lives, it provides an authentic expression of human and Christian care—allowing us to ‘remain’ at the side of a suffering person, as the Blessed Mother and the beloved disciple remained at the foot of the Cross.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
“The Witness of the Good Samaritan: Palliative Care and Hospice”

VOCATION CORNER

“I was born in a small town in Michoacan, Mexico. My mother, a woman of great faith, instilled in me and my five siblings trust in God and kindness toward others. When I turned 15, my family moved to California. It was difficult to leave home, but I soon got used to the new school, friends, and culture. One afternoon, I accompanied a friend to church, more out of duty than desire, and Jesus reminded me that had been waiting for me. I realized how much I had been moving away from him, how much I needed him, and I went to confession. I later encountered the Servants of Mary, Ministers of the Sick, who were visiting the parish. I began to discern, and after high school, I entered my postulancy. I am now a professed junior sister.”

Sister Maritza Madrigal; Servants of Mary, Ministers to the Sick; New York City; Columbia Magazine, June 2020

LIVE THE LITURGY INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

“Strive to enter through the narrow gate,” Jesus tells us. “Many will attempt...but will not be strong enough.” So let us never be so foolish that we rely on our own strength. Narrow does not mean unpassable — not if we ask for help.

©LPi

Readings *of the Week*

Readings for the week of August 24, 2025

Sunday: Is 66:18-21/Ps 117:1, 2 (Mk 16:15)/Heb 12:5-7, 11-13/Lk 13:22-30
Monday: 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/Mt 23:13-22
Tuesday: 1 Thes 2:1-8/Ps 139:1-3, 4-6/Mt 23:23-26
Wednesday: 1 Thes 2:9-13/Ps 139:7-8, 9-10, 11-12ab/Mt 23:27-32
Thursday: 1 Thes 3:7-13/Ps 128:1-2, 4-5/Mt 24:42-51
Friday: 1 Thes 4:1-8 (429)/Ps 97:1 and 2b, 5-6, 10, 11-12/Mk 6:17-29
Saturday: 1 Thes 4:9-11/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Mt 25:14-30
Next Sunday: Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5 (1a)/Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a/Lk 14:1, 7-14

Observances for the week of August 24, 2025

Sunday: 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: St. Louis; St. Joseph Calasanz, Priest
Tuesday:
Wednesday: St. Monica
Thursday: St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Friday: The Passion of St. John the Baptist
Saturday:
Next Sunday: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
©LPi

Mass Intentions for the week of August 24, 2025

SUN 8/24	8:30 AM	Denny Derfler
	10:30 AM	Patricia Pratt
MON 8/25	8:00 AM	Catholic Extension Intentions
TUE 8/26	8:00 AM	Anita Gazzine Becherer
WED 8/27	8:00 AM	Catholic Extension Intentions
	10:20 AM	Althoff H.S.
THUR 8/28	8:00 AM	Wayland Downen
FRI 8/29	8:00 AM	Catholic Extension Intentions
SAT 8/30	8:00 AM	Betty Sandy
	4:00 PM	Vic & Rose Behrmann, Jean Gass
SUN 8/31	8:30 AM	For the People
	10:30 AM	Sr. Diane Marie Turner SSND

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Mini reflection: Jesus' whole thing was that you *can* sit with us, whoever you are, wherever you're from and whatever you've done. But there are a lot of lunch tables in the world, and not everyone wants to be at one with rules like "repent" and "be good to that person you really don't like."

Heaven and Regina George

There are certain phrases that serve as a kind of shibboleth for millennials, a dog whistle that only ears formed between 1981 and 1996 can discern. "You can't sit with us!" is one of those phrases.

It's from the movie *Mean Girls*, (which, I hear from my younger family members, has now become cool with the kids again, so maybe my point about it being niche is incorrect). The character Regina George, merciless ruler of the cool kids, is rejected from the ultra-exclusive lunch table she herself formed when her minions, tired of her cruelty, serve her the most devastating words a teenager can hear in public: "You can't sit with us."

So passes earthly glory, as they say.

At first blush, this Gospel gives "Mean Girls" vibes. We have an image of the unlucky masses clamoring for entry into the kingdom of heaven as God locks the door against them, saying, "I do not know where you are from."

Very "you-can't-sit-with-us."

But we need to remember that the people pounding on the door of heaven in today's Gospel aren't people who wanted a seat at God's lunch table — at least, not until it was the only lunch table left, because they had Regina George'd their way out of all the other ones.

Jesus' whole thing was that you *can* sit with us, whoever you are, wherever you're from and whatever you've done. But there are a lot of lunch tables in the world, and not everyone wants to be at one with rules like "repent" and "be good to that person you really don't like." It's not always an easy table to sit at, especially when there are so many other options.

We have to choose heaven before heaven becomes our only choice. ©LPi

Prayer for Holiness

Good Shepherd, Guide me through the narrow gate.
Remove from me anything that distracts me from You,
Your love, Your invitation, Your mission. Keep me close to You, familiar at every step.

Amen.

©LPi



Ignatian Spiritual Exercises, Explained!

The Ignatian Spiritual Exercises are prayers and meditations developed by St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Society of Jesus (commonly referred to as the Jesuits).

St. Ignatius of Loyola (1492-1556) was born to a noble Basque family. In his youth, he spent time at the Royal Court of Castile and fought in the Spanish army. He experienced a profound religious conversion during a long period of convalescence following a battle injury. Living in a cave outside of Manresa, he began to keep the journal that became the basis of the famous Spiritual Exercises.

The Spiritual Exercises are meant to accompany souls on a journey toward deeper contemplation of God's love and a more meaningful understanding of his call to discipleship in the life of each person. Divided into four stages, or "weeks," the exercises focus on the interior movements of the heart to unveil the will of God. ©LPi

St. Henry Parish is looking for a full time MAINTENANCE /CUSTODIAN PERSON.

Benefits include paid vacation, health plan, retirement plan and more.
Please call The office (618) 233-2423 or email sthenryc@peaknet.net.

Sexual Abuse Hotline

Anyone wishing to report an allegation of sexual misconduct by a priest or other diocesan personnel please call hotline 1-800-640-3044

REQUIRED NOTICE: Under Illinois law, any suspected physical abuse, sexual abuse, or neglect of a child must be reported as soon as practical, to the State via the State Central Register Hotline at 1-800-25-ABUSE or 1-800-252-2873.



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."

Ann	Dennis	Lois
Barb	Don	Mary Ann
Barbara	Doug	Mike
Bob	Frances	Pat
Bob and Mary	Heather	Patricia
Cathy	Heidi	Patti
Charlie	Jennifer and family	Robin
Chris	Jim	Rose
David	John and Barb	Scott
Debra	Kayla	Shauna
Declan	Leslie	Tom

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

August 17, 2025

Envelopes/Loose	\$ 4,211.36
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 609.25
Guatemala	\$ 60.00
100 Year Jubilee Celebration Donations	
	\$ 80.00
The Assumption of Mary	\$ 716.00
Special Collection for Gazza	\$ 45.00

THANK YOU!

THE PASSION OF Saint John the Baptist

This Week

August 24, 2025

Sunday	- 8:30 am Mass Live Stream Mass 8:30 am - 10:30 am Mass
Monday	-
Tuesday	-
Wednesday	- Eucharistic Exposition 2:30-4:30 pm
Thursday	-
Friday	-
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
99	4,523	14,561

Ladies

To all the ladies of St. Henry. Please join your sister parishes of the Metro-East Vicariate in the MEV CCW Fall Day of Prayer/ Meeting to be held at St. Mary Parish Center, 116 W. Wood Ridge, Valmeyer, IL 62295 on Thursday, October 2. Registration is open at 8:30am. Fr. Linus Umoren C.M. will celebrate Mass. Our speaker will be Fr. Sebastian Ukoh C.M.. A brief meeting will follow lunch that is included in the registration fee of \$15. Registrations are required by **September 22**. For any questions, please call the president of your ladies' organization or Zoe Ann Schwarze, at 618-920-6546.

Please text or call Marilyn if you want to attend, The Ladies Club will pay your registration.



THE CORNERSTONE
Catholic Scripture Study

The Book of Acts of the Apostles

The Cornerstone Catholic Scripture Study, Study. Connect. Transform. These words describe the mission of The Cornerstone Catholic Scripture Study. We invite you to join us at St Clare of Assisi Catholic Church on Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:30 am for our upcoming study of The Book of ACTS of the Apostles, "Holy Boldness in the Church" beginning September 24 for a Visitors Session.

This study is for adults who wish to deepen their faith through an increased knowledge of the inspired Word of God, which can transform your heart and mind. Weekly meetings will be held from September 2025 thru April 2026.

For more information about our upcoming study please contact Cheryl 618-420-6800 or Marcia 618-977-2537 or see our website at www.thecornerstonescripturestudy.org

Childcare provided!



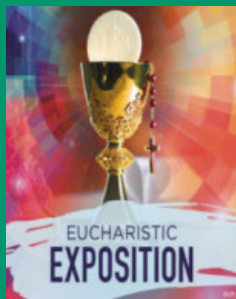
St. Henry Ladies Club is participating in the Box of Joy program. If you would like to help us, please grab a box and list to sponsor a child behind the pews in the back of church. Pick

up your boxes early and take advantage of all the Back-to-School sales. School supplies and clothing (t-shirts, blouses, & simple dresses) are "high priority" items. We will take care of the postage. The filled boxes may be dropped off to the Ladies Club meeting on September 16th or placed in the collection box in the vestibule in the back church by September 21st. The Boxes of Joy are being shipped on September 25th.

A Box of Joy is a Christmas shoebox that is donated and packed with toys, clothing, school supplies and other treasured items by U.S. parishes, schools and groups. Each child who receives a Box of Joy also receives a rosary and a booklet in their own language that tells The Story of Jesus. Box of Joy provides hope to children in need, each gift represents Christ's love and may be the only Christmas gift they receive.

We need a company or individuals to help pay the cost of \$9.00 per box for shipping.

Thank you for your support! If you have any questions, please contact Marilyn 618-604-6340



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.

The Messenger



Every fall The Messenger celebrates Priesthood Sunday and our diocesan priests with a special PRIEST

APPRECIATION ISSUE. This year's Priesthood issue falls on Sept. 11, 2024.

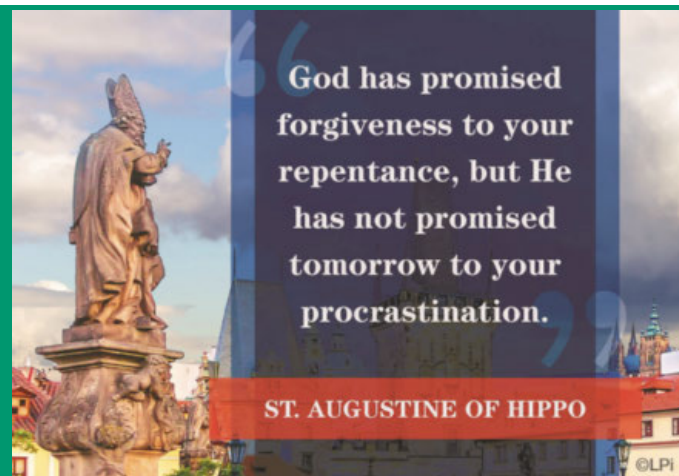
Our priests' pastoral ministries affect people's spiritual and personal lives in many ways, often at significant times: the baptism of children or adults; first Eucharist, confirmation, young couples preparing to be married in the church; visitations to a parishioner in the hospital or nursing home, receiving the anointing of the sick, a family funeral liturgy. These are all emotional times that can be made more meaningful or less difficult when a priest walks alongside a family or individual.

To celebrate the ministry of priests in our diocese, The Messenger invites parishioners to comment on how priests' pastoral ministries affect their spiritual and personal lives or the parish community.

Please send brief comments to: messenger@diobelle.org

Deadline: 5 p.m. Thursday, August 28.

Please note: The comments are free and separate from the Priest Appreciation paid advertisements. For Priest Appreciation paid advertisements contact Alyssa at The Messenger at 618-722-5047 or by email at advertising@bellevillemessenger.org.



ST. AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO



2025 Fall Family Festival is Saturday, September 20th after the 4:00 pm Mass



Birthdays

Bailey Martin-Giacalone	08/27	Gerald Maxim	08/27
	08/25	Carlene Kapshandy	08/29
Kory Schilling	08/25	Rita Morr	08/29
Robert Effinger	08/26	Kent Naumann	08/29
Jennifer Miller	08/26	Amy Young	08/29
Paul Schwartzhoff	08/26	Everett Bovinette	08/30
Andrew Wells	08/26	Jackie Poletti	08/30
Bernadine Case	08/27	Joseph Sandy	08/30
Mark Denton	08/27	Jacob Miller	08/31

SPECIAL COLLECTION TODAY

With the ongoing crisis in the Holy Land and Gaza, our Holy Father Pope Leo continues to call for a cease fire and that the basic elements for survival be provided for families and civilians who are struggling there. Today we will take a second collection to help provide humanitarian relief to our brothers and sisters in this war-torn area. If you are unable to participate today, you may also donate funds directly through Catholic Relief

Services: support.crs.org/donate/holy-land-conflict or by calling (877) HELP CRS -- (877) 435-7277.

Please offer your prayers and a donation if you are able; thank you so much.

-Very Rev. Godfrey Mullen, OSB,
Diocesan Administrator



AN INVITATION TO COME AND SEE ABOUT "BECOMING CATHOLIC"

"Becoming Catholic" gatherings will be starting soon! Now is the time, and it's never too late, to engage with those who have expressed interest in, or feel called to the

Catholic Church. We invite those from our parish to an informational discussion to "Come and See" what a journey of faith toward the Catholic Church looks like. The gathering dates are as follows:

Thursday, September 18th, at 7:00 PM and Thursday, September 25th, at 7:00 PM, in the Cathedral Undercroft. Located at 200 W. Harrison St. Belleville, IL, 62220, (at the corner of South Garfield & Third Street). Formation sessions will begin on **Thursday October 2, at 7:00 PM**, in the Undercroft.

If someone in your life has expressed interest in the Church, please invite them to "Come and See" how an everyday walk with Jesus enhances our lives and the lives of those around us. You or the inquiring person may contact us at (618) 233-2423 or email sthenryc@peaknet.net.

Please share this information with those you know.

May we join these inquiring pilgrims on this journey of faith through hospitality and prayer. **We encourage parishioners to take part in these gatherings.** In this way we share the joy we find in our friendship with Christ, enhance our own spiritual growth, and welcome those coming to the Church as our Brothers and Sisters in faith.

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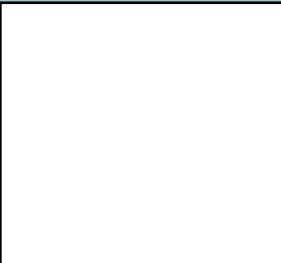
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