



Saint Henry Catholic Church

5315 W. Main St., Belleville, IL 62226



THE HOLY FAMILY

He went and dwelt in a town called Nazareth,
so that what had been spoken through the
prophets might be fulfilled. - Mt 2:23

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

December 28, 2025
**The Holy Family of Jesus,
Mary and Joseph**
Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

When I was ten, my dad gathered our family around the table in small-town Vermont and told us we were moving to the big desert city of Phoenix, Arizona. We were leaving behind family, friends, and everything familiar. None of us knew what to expect.

But something beautiful happened. As we made the move together, our family grew closer. In retrospect, I'm amazed at my parents' courage to go on that adventure. Even as a kid I realized our family found, in that challenge, a deeper unity and mutual love.

In today's Gospel, Joseph is told: **"Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee..." (Matthew 2:13, 20).** First to Egypt, then later to Israel. The Holy Family is frequently challenged to move and change, to adapt to God's will for them, in order to find safety in the midst of threat. It's not just an idiosyncratic story about survival. It's a spiritual pattern for all of us. Every Christian family is called to be a kind of sanctuary, especially in a world full of noise, busyness, and fear.

May I make a practical application for us? The Lord's Day, Sunday, is perhaps the most practical way we imitate this dynamic we see in Joseph and his family. Sunday is not meant to be just like every other day, filled with errands and stress. It's meant to be a day set apart; a holy "escape" into rest, worship, joy, and peace. A day to rise, take your family, and flee, into God's presence.

— Father John Muir

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Very Reverend Kenneth J. York

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PARISH SECRETARY

Dawn Partington - (618) 233-2423 or
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Parish Office Hours

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

CREATIVE LEARNING CENTER

TBD-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
January 3rd Saturday, 4:00 PM	Joyce Dierkes	Mark Denton Trish Denton	Pat Visintine Janet Visintine	Patti Tepen Ivan Tepen	Kacie Denton Kevin Effinger
January 4th Sunday, 8:30 AM	Peggy Hassel	Gayle Bibee	Need Volunteer	Kathy Pajares Alvina Tippy	Daniel Broeckling George Mehochko
January 4th Sunday, 10:30 AM	Sue Bolen	Jerry Ahrens	Need Volunteer	Lynne Fulte Dawn York	Chris Knee Need Volunteer

Respect Life Corner

“Dearest St Joseph... Help us to faithfully commit ourselves to the service and defense of human life —especially where it is vulnerable or threatened. 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
(www.respectlife.org/prayer-to-st-joseph)

Vocation Corner

“The priestly vocation is essentially a call to sanctity, in the form that derives from the Sacrament of Holy Orders. Sanctity is intimacy with God; it is the imitation of Christ, poor, chaste, and humble; it is unreserved love for souls and self-giving to their true good; it is love for the Church, which is holy and wants us to be holy, because such is the mission that Christ has entrusted to it. Each one of you must be holy also in order to help your brothers pursue their vocation to sanctity.”

– St. John Paul II, October 9, 1984

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

God created the Holy Family with a great sense of purpose, because he knew that Jesus would be defined by the woman and man who raised him. Who is our “Holy Family” — the people who will define us? Who has God placed within our lives for a specific purpose?

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Family Blessing

May God bless, protect, unite, mend, and renew our family. Help us to be instruments of healing and holiness, breaking generational curses, rewriting scripts, overcoming tribulation, joining in gratitude, and growing in joy ... together. Amen.
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READINGS OF THE WEEK

Readings for the week of December 28, 2025

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23
Monday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35
Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40
Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/Jn 1:1-18
Thursday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
Friday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28
Saturday: 1 Jn 2:29-3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34
Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Observances for the week of December 28, 2025

Sunday: The Holy Family
Monday:
Tuesday:
Wednesday: St. Sylvester I, Pope; *New Year's Eve*
Thursday: Mary, The Holy Mother of God, New Year's Day, World Day of Peace
Friday: Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church
Saturday: The Most Holy Name of Jesus
Next Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord
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Mass Intentions for the week of December 28, 2025

SUN 12/28	8:30 AM	John Rensing
	10:30 AM	For the People
MON 12/29	8:00 AM	Carol Gallagher
TUE 12/30	8:00 AM	Rita & Jim Pajares
WED 12/31	8:00 AM	Jean Gass
THUR 1/1	9:00 AM	For The People
FRI 1/2	8:00 AM	Memorial Donors
SAT 1/3	8:00 AM	Ray Scheibel
	4:00 PM	Eileen O'Brien
SUN 1/4	8:30 AM	Curtis Wiley, Jr.
	10:30 AM	For the People



THE HOLY FAMILY
LA SAGRADA FAMILIA ©LPi

Sunday, December 28, 2025 | The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - BENEATH THE SURFACE

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Mini-reflection: If any four-word sentence encapsulates what we can expect from the Christian life, it is this: God had other plans.

Other Plans

I don't know exactly what kind of life Mary and Joseph envisioned when they were first betrothed — back in those simple times when they were just like any other couple who had hopes, dreams and no angels telling them what to do.

Whatever their plans were, I think it's safe to say that the future God had in store for Mary and Joseph was not one either of them expected. I would imagine they both anticipated something a little quieter. A little more stable (no pun intended). A little less tumultuous.

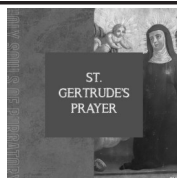
It exhausts me simply to read through the chaos of their movements in today's Gospel. Flee to Egypt, return to Israel (but not Judea! Herod's son is there! Divert to Galilee! Divert!). Settle in Nazareth (let me remind you, this is all happening with a baby in tow, and without the aid of a minivan). Take a deep breath, but don't get too comfortable — now it's almost time to lose your kid in Jerusalem. Then you'll have about 20 years off before he starts raising people from the dead, and that's when things start to get *really* crazy.

The story of the Holy Family is the ultimate example of the phrase "God had other plans." If any four-word sentence encapsulates what we can expect from the Christian life, it is this.

I thought I was meant for that job, but God had other plans. I thought I would live in this place, but God had other plans. I thought I was supposed to become this person, but God had other plans.

We can do all the right things. We can make all the right choices. We can say, over and over again until our voice wears out, "Thy will be done." But all we can know for sure is that God has other plans.

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St. Gertrude's Prayer, Explained!

St. Gertrude's Prayer is a petition said on behalf of the Holy Souls of Purgatory, offering the Blood of Christ in reparation for the sins of the departed.

St. Gertrude, often called "St. Gertrude the Great," was a Benedictine nun who lived in 13th-century Saxony, present-day Germany. A mystic, she received visions of Christ beginning at the age of 25. She was also a prolific writer and devotee of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and is often invoked as an intercessor for the Holy Souls of Purgatory. Her feast day is celebrated on November 16.

The St. Gertrude Prayer reads: "Eternal Father, I offer You the most precious blood of thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal Church, for those in my own home, and in my family. Amen."

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Bible Study

Please join us as we complete the final 10-week study of **The Acts of the Apostles**, Ch. 13-28.

There are **2 Visitor Session** dates and times available:

Wednesday, Jan. 21, 9:15-11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall at **St. Clare of Assisi** or **Thursday evening Jan. 22, 6:30-8 pm** in the parish hall at **Corpus Christi in Shiloh, IL.**

For more information, please call: Cheryl 618-420-6800, Marcia 618-977-2537 or Tanja 210-863-4156.



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."

Abby	Diane	Margaret
Alice	Gruenewald Family	Mike
Barb	Gwendolyn	Naji
Bob	Jane	Pat
Cathy	Joe	Schmitz Family
Coleman	Kayla	Sue & Andrew
Cooper	Lidia	Tanya
David		

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.****

Due to an Early Bulletin Deadline the Weekly contributions for the weekend of December 28th will be printed in the January 11th bulletin.

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: Which saint is the patron saint of priests?

Answer: St. John Vianney

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Weekly Schedule

December 28, 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
- Office Closed
- Thursday** - Office Closed
- Friday** - Office Closed
- 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
116	6,710	16,748



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December 14, 2025

Envelopes/Loose	\$ 5,209.27
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 698.25
Guatemala	\$ 140.00
Retirement fund for the Religious	\$ 1,369.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 60.00
Christmas Offering	\$ 500.00
Christmas for the Needy	\$ 25.00

THANK YOU

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

King's House at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows Visitors Center-"From the Tower of Babel to Pentecost: Embracing our Differences, Praising in Unity"

Presenter: Danielle Harrison

Monday, February 16, 2026, from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm at the Shrine Visitors Center Cost: \$60.00 (lunch included)

This day of reflection will look at the stories of the Tower of Babel and Pentecost to see what the Spirit is saying to the Church at this moment. How can we embrace what Francis de Sales calls, "Uni-Diversity"? And what is the work that our souls must have in order to help bring God's Kingdom on earth?

For information, please call 618-397-0584 or go to <https://kh.snows.org/events/harrison-dor-2026/>

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

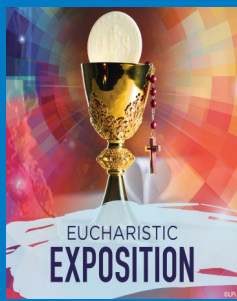
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¡FELIZ AÑO NUEVO!

**The 2025 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal
Hope in the Lord**

May God's blessings pour upon you and grant you and your loved ones a healthy, prosperous and joyful new year. Heartfelt thanks to all of you for your support of the Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal and our Belleville Diocese in the past year. You are remembered always in our prayers.

*Ministries and Programs Funded by
The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal*



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

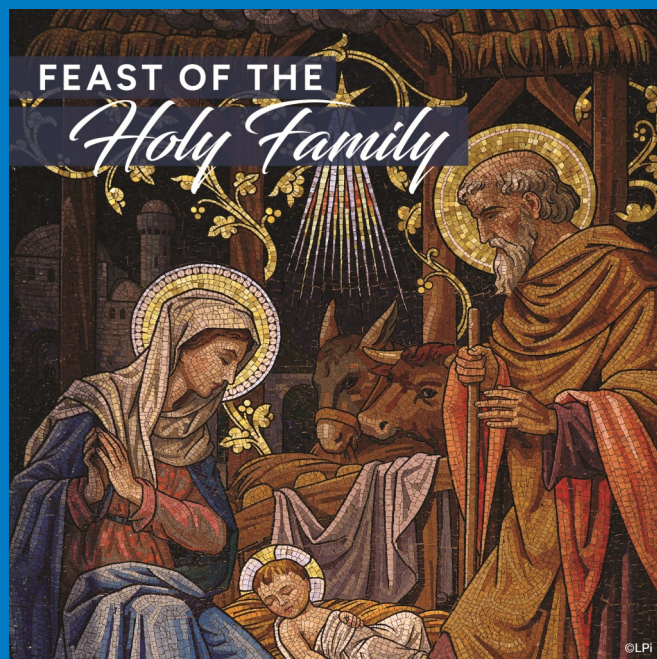
If you have never experienced The
Chaplet in song then you are in for an
amazing experience.

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



Kathy Dougherty 12/29
Michael Louth 12/29
Robert Reed 12/29
Joy Zimmer 12/29

Stephanie Wall 1/1
Timothy Padgett 1/2
Rebecca Choate 1/3
Joan Springer 1/3
Petrina Giacalone 1/4



Holy Days of Obligation

Holy Day of Obligation

Solemnity of Mary (January 1st) at 9:00 am

Congratulations on your

Confirmation!

May you hold the love for Jesus Christ
in your heart forever!

Alexandra Kohl

Isabella Kohl

Marie-Rose Tonoukoin



WINTER
Coat Drive

Help families in need with your donations!

Last Weekend to donate coats!!

St Henry Ladies Club is sponsoring a new and used
coat drive for toddlers through Seniors.

Please place clean coats in the gray trash cans in the
back of church.

They will be donated to Hubbard's Haven.
Thank you for all your support!

HAVE A BLESSED
new year

Thank you to all who made our Christmas celebration
special this year.

A special thanks to Bob Wojcik and our Choir, for our
beautiful music.

Thanks to all our Liturgical Ministers, Extraordinary
Ministers of Communion, Readers, Ushers, and Greeters,
you are greatly appreciated all year long.

Special thanks to Bob Wojcik for the beautiful
decorations in the Church. Also to Linda & George
Mehochko for helping Bob Wojcik with the decorations.

Thank you to Jill O'Donnell, who keeps the planters
filled with beautiful decorations all year long.

Thanks to all of you for your beautiful cards, delicious
cookies, & candies, gifts, heartfelt prayers, and the
kindness you have shown to Shadow and me.

God bless you and your loved ones in the coming year.
Father Ken