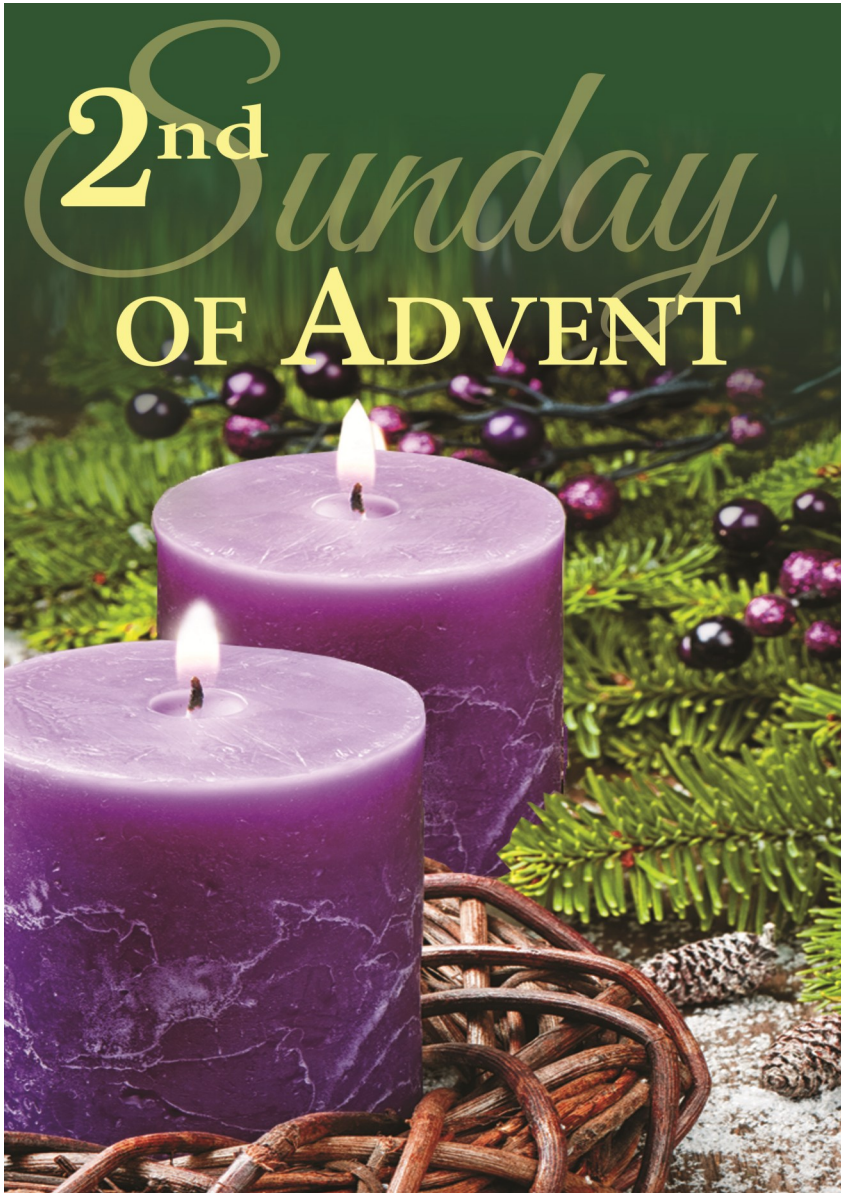




Saint Henry Catholic Church

5315 W. Main St., Belleville, IL 62226

Dec. 7, 2025
Second Sunday of Advent
Matthew 3:1-12



This week we hear that John the Baptist is out in the wilderness eating “locusts and wild honey” (Mark 1:6). It’s not just a strange historical detail. It’s a symbolic expression of a healthy spiritual diet. The path to Christ includes both the hard and the beautiful, the gritty and the sweet. We have to learn to gulp the locusts and savor the honey.

I remember working with a young couple preparing for marriage. They were sincere, but raw — barely beginning to discover faith. Part of me wanted to rush them ahead, to fill in all the gaps, to bombard them with scripture and church documents. I swallowed that instinct. It was like eating locusts.

But I also recall them light up as they spoke about each other, about their first child, then their second. And they wanted to be close to God. Something innocent and beautiful was unfolding. That was the honey. I knew God was asking me to savor it.

This Advent, maybe we’re each being invited to accept both locusts and honey. Maybe it’s time to stop avoiding the difficult parts of faith — prayer that feels dry, the call to repentance, the patience with the troublesome. It’s time to eat some locusts.

But we also need to notice the small gifts God gives us: a peaceful moment, a good conversation, the joy of serving someone else, new life, good intentions of our friends. That’s the honey. Savor it!

John didn’t avoid either. He took it all in. And so can we. What are your locusts? Your honey? If we let God feed us with both, we’ll be ready — really ready — for the coming of Christ. — *Father John Muir* ©LPi

PASTOR - (618) 233-2423
Very Reverend Kenneth J. York

DEACON
Deacon Gerald Bach
deacon1948@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
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
December 13th Saturday, 4:00 PM	Michelle Kujawa	Mark Denton Trish Denton	Mary Jo Hanvey Virginia Miller	Sue Kaltenbronn Tristan Kujawa	Mike Louth Anne Louth
December 14th Sunday, 8:30 AM	Need Volunteer	Gayle Bibee	Joyce Dierkes	Kathy Pajares Alvina Tippy	Daniel Broeckling Paul Schwartzhoff
December 14th Sunday, 10:30 AM	Maureen Reed	Marilyn Elam	Pat King	Lynne Fulte Need Volunteer	Jerry Ahrens Chris Knee

Respect Life Corner

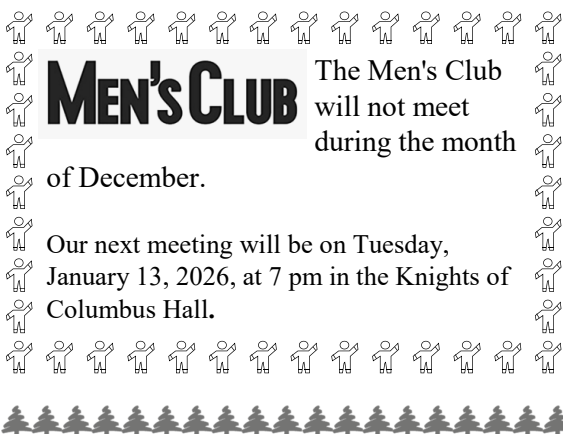
"Perhaps one of your friends has become pregnant unexpectedly. As someone who has been there, I encourage you to support your friend in her new journey of being a mother." Learn how at respectlife.org/support-her.

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
"10 Ways to Support Her When She's Unexpectedly Expecting"

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

The story of Advent is a story of repentance. John the Baptist held up a mirror to the chosen people. He urged them to look at what they saw there. This Advent, will we look in the mirror? Will we choose repentance?

©LPi



Prayer for Advent - Peace

Come, Lord Jesus!
Bring your peace to our world. Inspire reconciliation, heal divisions, bind wounds, rewrite scripts. You are the Prince of Peace, bring that light into every space.
Amen.

©LPi

READINGS OF THE WEEK

Readings for the week of December 7, 2025

Sunday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 (see 7)/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12
Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30
Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab/Mt 11:11-15
Friday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Next Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 (see Is 35:4)/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

Observances for the week of December 7, 2025

Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Advent
Monday: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Tuesday: St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin
Wednesday: Our Lady of Loreto
Thursday: St. Damasus I, Pope
Friday: Our Lady of Guadalupe
Saturday: St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr
Next Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent
©LPi

Mass Intentions for the week of December 7, 2025

SUN 12/7	8:30 AM	Doris Dunn
	10:30 AM	John Rensing
MON 12/8	9:00 AM	For The People
	6:30 PM	at St. Augustine of Canterbury
TUE 12/9	8:00 AM	Carol Gallagher
WED 12/10	8:00 AM	Wayland Downen
THUR 12/11	8:00 AM	Jean Gass
FRI 12/12	8:00 AM	SVDP Members, Donors, & Volunteers Bill Stroot, JoAnn Bauer, SSND
SAT 12/13	8:00 AM	Patricia Pratt
	4:00 PM	Therese Painter, Vic & Rose Behrmann
SUN 12/14	8:30 AM	Dolores Gantt
	10:30 AM	For the People

The Immaculate Conception of Mary
December 8

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - BENEATH THE SURFACE

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Mini reflection: It is so, so beautiful to be culturally Catholic. But actions, rituals, traditions, sentiments, nostalgia — none of it matters unless it bears the fruit of a transformed heart.

Culturally Catholic

Catholic culture is so thick, you could spread it on a scone. Or a baguette. Or a slice of ciabatta bread. Or naan (Wait, do you put butter on naan? I would, because I'm Midwestern, but I sense that this is, perhaps, incorrect).

Okay, maybe my comparison is imperfect, but what I'm saying is this: Catholic culture is delicious, it's versatile, and it's nourishing. It's the same everywhere, even though it also looks and feels totally unique in every place. The Day of the Dead in Mexico, Simbang Gabi in the Philippines, St. Patrick's Day in Ireland, Meskel in Ethiopia, Semana Santa processions in Spain: these are all touchstones of Catholic culture.

It is so, so beautiful to be culturally Catholic. But today, when I hear John the Baptist's words to the Pharisees and the Sadducees, I am reminded that Catholicism is so much more than just cultural expression.

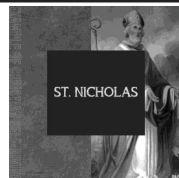
The Pharisees and Sadducees were loyal sons of Abraham and scrupulous observers of the law of Moses. Their culture, you could say, was strong. But John the Baptist is telling them — and he's telling us — that culture isn't enough.

Actions, rituals, traditions, sentiments, nostalgia — none of it matters unless it bears the fruit of a transformed heart.

It's something to remember especially as we approach Christmas, a time when culture and cultural rituals become so (beautifully) prominent. In the cultural practice of Christmas, we are like the Wise Men approaching the manger, bearing our gifts. But how terrible would it have been if the wise men had hurried away, their culture expressed, their ritual complete, and gone back to the world unchanged by the gaze of the Infant?

So be culturally Catholic. Bring these gifts to the Christ Child — but linger there. Reflect. And then when you return to the world, you will bring Catholic culture with you.

©LPi



St. Nicholas, Explained!

St. Nicholas was a fourth-century Christian bishop who lived in modern-day Turkey. There is minimal historical scholarship dating to the period of his life, but stories and traditions that developed after his death emphasize his profound spirit of generosity, especially towards the poor.

One particularly famous oral tradition tells that St. Nicholas saves three young women from a life of destitution and ruin by secretly giving them a dowry so they could marry. His popularity increased in the centuries following his death, and by the medieval period he was a beloved model of Christian charity invoked in a particular way during the seasons of Advent and Christmas.

On his feast day, Dec. 6, children often wake up to find small gifts or treats in their shoes or Christmas stockings, a tradition which has variations across different ethnic groups. In the United States, St. Nicholas gift-giving practices are especially popular in places where large numbers of German and Dutch immigrants settled.

©LPi

SPECIAL MASS TIMES

Holy Day of Obligation

Immaculate Conception (December 8) at 9:00 am
And at St. Augustine of Canterbury at 6:30 pm

Holy day of Obligation

Christmas Mass Eve Mass at 4:00pm
Christmas Day Mass at 9:00am



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	Jackie	Margaret
Albert	Jane	Mark
Alice	Joan	Michael
Ann	Joann	Mike
Bob	Joe	Naji
Cathy	Kathleen	Rachel
Chad	Kay	Schaeffer Family
Cissell Family	Kayla	Schmitz Family
Diane	Louise	Shovlin Family
Eileen	Marabeth	Tom

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.

SAINT JUAN DIEGO
December 9 ©LPi

Sunday, December 7, 2025 | Second Sunday of Advent



****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 7th will be printed in the December 14th bulletin.

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: What are the names of the three biblical archangels?

Answer: Gabriel, Michael, and Raphael.

©LPi

Weekly Schedule

December 7, 2025

Sunday

- 8:30 am Mass

Live Stream Mass 8:30 am

- 10:30 am Mass

Monday

- Immaculate Conception

Tuesday

- NO Men's Club Mtg

Wednesday

- Eucharistic Exposition
2:30-4:30 pm

- Choir Rehearsal 6:30 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
139	6,344	16,382



©LPi

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November 23, 2025

Envelopes/Loose	\$ 4,931.27
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 1,116.25
Guatemala	\$ 95.00
Catholic Campaign for Human Development	\$ 96.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 325.00
Assumption of Mary	\$ 20.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 0.00

THANK YOU

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

Next week is the collection for Retirement Fund for Religious

A lifetime of service deserves care in return. "Thanks to your generosity, we can provide the very best care to the sisters in our community," says Sister M. Stephanie Belgeri, 73, a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George in Alton, Illinois. Donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious provide housing, medical assistance, and essential support for thousands of aging religious. Please consider giving next week.

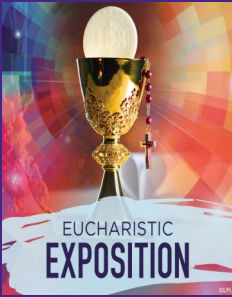
The 2025 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal Hope in the Lord

Your contribution to the Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal enables the Office of Education to impact the lives of over 9,140 students at 23 Catholic grade schools, three Catholic high schools and in PSR (Parish School of Religion) classes throughout our Belleville Diocese. If you haven't already done so, we prayerfully ask you to consider making a gift to the 2025 Appeal today...no amount is too large or too small! Thank you.

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.



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.

Happy Birthday

Donna Brutto	12/08	Mary Nowak	12/11
Berta Perez	12/08	Carol Tyler	12/11
Susan Gray	12/09	Anthony Clarke	12/13
Christopher Knee	12/09	Jandrew Nguyen	12/13
Caroline Lowery	12/09	Ryleigh Winkelmann	12/13
Mary Myatt	12/09	Dennis Crocker	12/14
Joseph Wallis	12/09	Marlie Dresch	12/14
Diane Briesacher	12/10	Thomas Figura	12/14
Michael Nowak	12/10	John Gagne	12/14



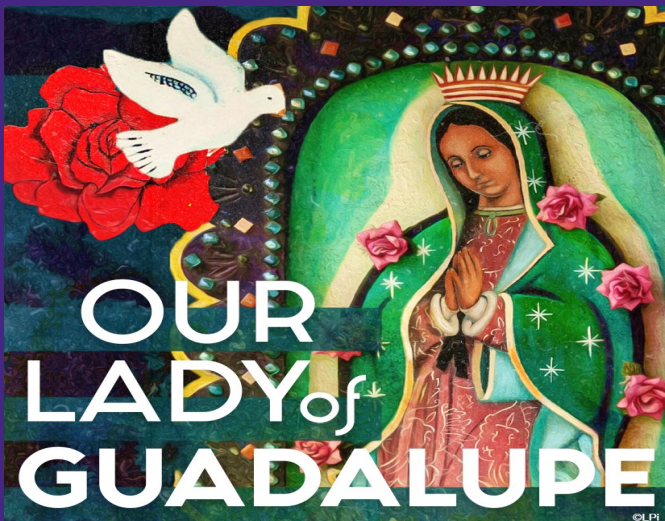
**Warm Heads, Warm
Hands, Warm Hearts!**

The Saint Vincent de Paul
Society of St. Henry Parish is
seeking for donations of
children's and adult's mittens
or gloves, hats, caps and

socks for those in need during the cold winter
months. Your unwrapped donations will be
collected during Advent.

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!



Christmas DINNER

Thursday, December 25, 2025

SERVING 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

St. Henry Parish

Msgr. Voss Parish Center

5303 W. Main Street, Belleville

CALL 618-722-5024

BY DECEMBER 16

TO MAKE RESEVATIONS

No Carry-Outs Available

A meal delivery (up to three) is
available to the homebound

Sponsored by the Diocese of Belleville
and Catholic Charities of Southern Illinois

That mourns in lonely
exile here, Until the
Son of God appear.

WINTER Coat Drive

Help families in need with your donations!

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

We are collecting the coats through December.

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!