



Saint Henry Catholic Church

5315 W. Main St., Belleville, IL 62226

February 1, 2026
4th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Matthew 5:1-12a

A priest I know was once falsely accused of a terrible crime. The claim was wild and easily disproved, but for a while, it didn't matter. In the atmosphere shaped by the abuse crisis of the early 2000s, the public assumption was guilty until proven innocent. His name was dragged through the mud, and his ministry placed on hold. I had the privilege — and the burden — of walking closely with him during that time.

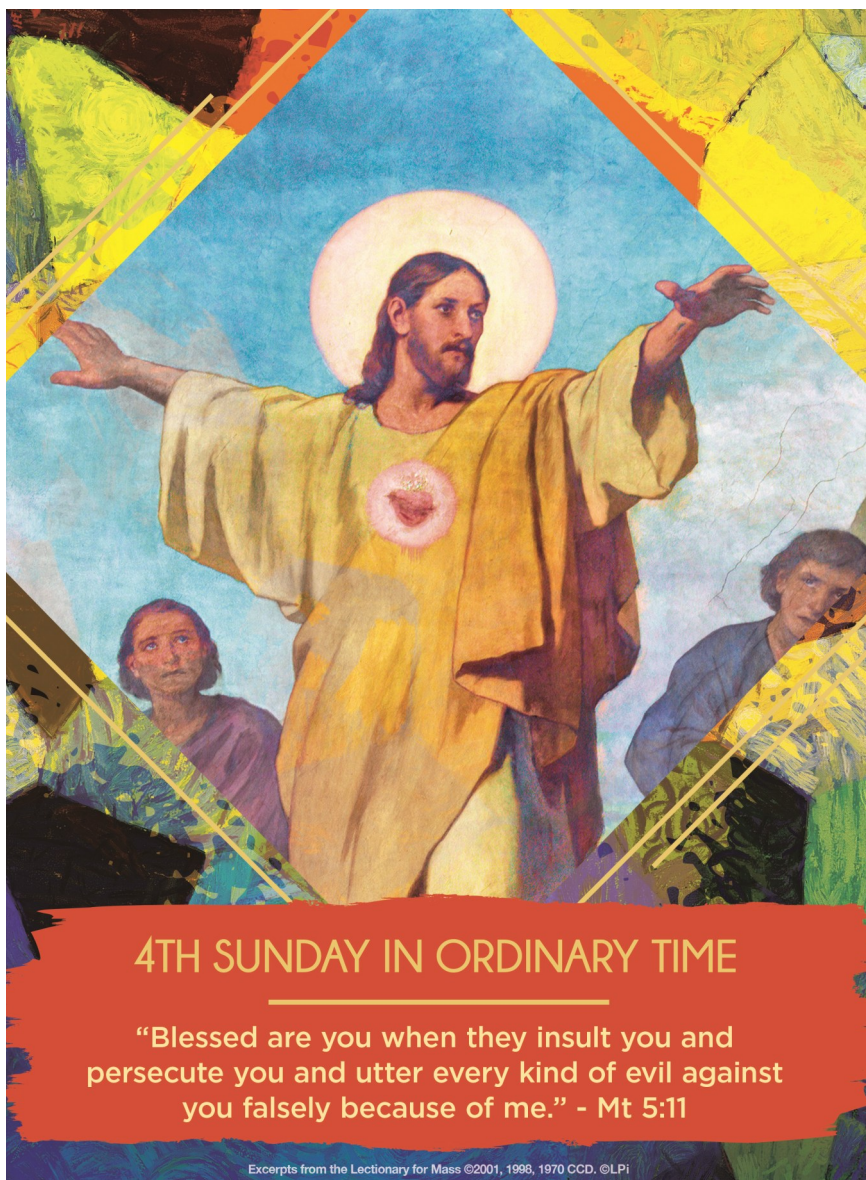
He was angry. He was confused. He felt abandoned and deeply disoriented. The last thing on his mind was the words of Jesus in today's Gospel: **"Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me ... Rejoice and be glad"** (Matthew 5:11-12). Rejoice? He felt anything but.

And yet... something holy slowly grew in him. Not overnight, and not without pain. But as the truth came to light and his name was cleared, I watched him become more Christlike — more patient, more compassionate, more detached from human approval.

Maybe you haven't faced something so dramatic. But where do you feel judged? Misrepresented? Overlooked? Maybe someone else got the credit or the promotion. Maybe someone you love isn't getting their due. In those moments, the Cross of Jesus is near. When we feel accused, that's when we ask him for the grace not just to endure, but somehow, mysteriously, to rejoice and be glad.

-Father John Muir

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4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me." - Mt 5:11

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

PASTOR - (618) 233-2423

Reverend Kenneth J. York

DEACON

Deacon Gerald Bach - deacon1948@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

Jennifer Campbell - 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
February 7th Saturday, 4:00 PM	Michelle Kujawa	David Bollman Janis LeChein	Bobby Elam Marilyn Elam	Kathleen Dinan Terry Starwalt	Mike Louth Anne Louth
February 8th Sunday, 8:30 AM	Peggy Hassel	George Mehochko	Need Volunteer	Bernadette Gadu Kathy Pajares	Daniel Broeckling Paul Schwartzhoff
February 8th Sunday, 10:30 AM	Maureen Reed	Beth Regensberger	Chris Knee	Joyce Dierkes Lynne Fulte	Jerry Ahrens Carol Tyler

Respect Life Corner

"A society is all the more human to the degree that it cares effectively for its most frail and suffering members, in a spirit of fraternal love. Let us strive to achieve this goal, so that no one will feel alone, excluded or abandoned."

Pope Francis, Message for the 29th World Day of the Sick 2021 © 2020, Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

Vocation Corner

In 1997, Pope Saint John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life. This celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd (Candlemas Day). Let us make it a point to begin saying "THANK YOU" to our Sisters and Brothers who have made sacrifices for us by accepting God's call. Let them know how important they are in the life of your church and how they help you to honor and pray to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Bless Us, Lord

Jesus, You are good and gracious, every moment of every day. You invite us to be meek, merciful, clean of heart, peacemakers. Give us the grace to seek these virtues, and to seek you. May your blessing accompany us on our way. Amen.

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LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Blessed are the poor, the meek, the persecuted. These are radical words in a world that insists the opposite: blessed are the wealthy. Blessed are the forceful. Blessed are the comfortable. Do we have what it takes to be radical?

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Weekly Readings



Readings for the week of February 1, 2026

Sunday: Zep 2:3; 3:12-13/Ps 146:6c-7, 8-9a, 9b-10/1 Cor 1:26-31/Mt 5:1-12a
Monday: Mal 3:1-4/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32
Tuesday: 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mk 5:21-43
Wednesday: 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7/Mk 6:1-6
Thursday: 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12/1 Chr 29:10, 11ab, 11d-12a, 12bcd/Mk 6:7-13
Friday: Sir 47:2-11/Ps 18:31, 47 and 50, 51/Mk 6:14-29
Saturday: 1 Kgs 3:4-13/Ps 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14/Mk 6:30-34
Next Sunday: Is 58:7-10/Ps 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/1 Cor 2:1-5/Mt 5:13-16

Observances for the week of February 1, 2026

Sunday: 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: The Presentation of the Lord, World Day for Consecrated Life
Tuesday: St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr; St. Ansgar, Bishop
Wednesday: St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr
Thursday: St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs
Friday: St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs
Saturday: St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs
Next Sunday: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time; World Marriage Day

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Mass Intentions for the week of February 1, 2026

SUN 2/1	8:30 AM	Judith Marchand
	10:30 AM	John Rensing
MON 2/2	8:00 AM	Pat King, Wayland Downen
TUE 2/3	8:00 AM	William Eckmann
WED 2/4	8:00 AM	Kevin Smith
	10:20 AM	ACHS
THUR 2/5	8:00 AM	Ray Scheibel
FRI 2/6	8:00 AM	Memorial Donors
SAT 2/7	8:00 AM	Patricia Pratt
	4:00 PM	Dolores Gantt, Quentin Lauer
SUN 2/8	8:30 AM	David Hartenstein
	10:30 AM	For the People



(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - BENEATH THE SURFACE

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Mini reflection: How similar we all are in sin. How similar we all are in potential. How different we look to the world. And yet, how wondrous it is that we are all offered the same hope: "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in Heaven."

What Stays the Same

Somewhere, there is a monk whose life is very quiet and who devotes long hours to prayer. And somewhere there is a nun, cloistered in a life of contemplation, who speaks very little except to God.

Somewhere, there is a father whose days are filled with noise, who hasn't finished a Rosary in years because he keeps falling asleep. Somewhere there is a mother whose voice is weak with giving direction and offering counsel.

Somewhere, there is a teenage girl with much to say, but few people to listen — fewer, at least, than she would like.

Somewhere there is a woman who holds a positive pregnancy test in one hand and a phone in the other, and somewhere there is a man on the other end of that phone who waits for her to speak.

In the Beatitudes, Jesus utilizes a literary device called anaphora. Both as a reader and a writer, I love anaphora. It's a clean, unfussy way to communicate a point. By repeating the same word or phrase at the beginning of successive clauses, you're basically saying the same thing over and over again, just a little bit differently each time. Those small differences tease at your audience's brain, gently highlighting the consistencies.

Discipleship is a lot like anaphora. It's the differences — those little aberrations from person to person, life to life — that so beautifully illustrate what remains the same across the broad spectrum of what it means to live out the Beatitudes.

Me. You. The monk. The nun. The father. The mother. The lonely girl. The man and woman who decided their own future without realizing it. How similar we all are in sin. How similar we all are in potential. How different we look to the world.

And yet, how wondrous it is that we are all offered the same hope: "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in Heaven." ©LPi

Jornada Mundial de
la Vida Consagrada

World Day for
Consecrated Life



Kindness, Explained!

In the modern lexicon, the quality of "kindness" is often equated with politeness — but real, virtuous kindness is so much more. Virtuous kindness is a way of seeing others through the eyes of God.

God is not polite — God is kind, and His kindness is abundantly evident in all of creation. It was suspicion of this divine kindness that precipitated the fall of Adam and Eve (CCC 214), and it was this unfailing kindness that facilitated our own adoption as God's children, conformed to the image of His son (CCC 257).

Also known as benevolence or beneficence and derived from the theological virtue of charity, kindness is a fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22) and is a central theme in the famous parable of the Good Samaritan. In practicing kindness and seeking the good of another without prejudice or condition, the Samaritan reflects God's own plan of loving kindness for us.

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Calling all volunteers!!

Fish fry meeting Sunday, February 1st after 10:30 am Mass. We will discuss pricing, our need for workers, and other items

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: Who were the very first people to visit Jesus after he was born?

Answer: Two local shepherds who were told about Jesus by an angel.
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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."

Amy	Heilig/Cox Families	Mary
Betty	Jim	MaryAnn
Bob	Joan	Renee
Carol	Joann	Rosalie
Cathy	Joanna	Suarez Family
Daryl	John	Sylvia
David and Elissa	Kathy	Tanya
Deacon Gerry	Ken	Ultiss Family
Deacon Jim	King Family	Participants in
Debbie	Leslie	Right to Life
Domenica	Louise	program in D.C.

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.



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

January 18, 2025

Envelopes/Loose	\$ 2,744.51
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 242.00
Guatemala	\$ 45.00
Christmas Offering	\$ 250.00

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



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

January 25, 2025

Envelopes/Loose	\$ 3,177.54
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 221.50
Guatemala	\$ 174.00

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

When writing a check for a donation to St. Vincent DePaul please make checks payable to St. Vincent DePaul NOT St. Henry Parish.

All others collections please make the check out to St. Henry Church



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)

2 weeks

Weekly	Year to Date	Grand Total
156	760	17,508



February 1, 2026

- Sunday** - 8:30 am Mass
Live Stream Mass 8:30 am
- 10:30 am Mass
- Monday** - SVDP Mtg 9:00 am
- Tuesday** -
- Wednesday** - Eucharistic Exposition
2:30-4:30 pm
- Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm
- Thursday** -
- Friday** -
- Saturday** - 4:00 pm Mass
- Sunday** - 8:30 am Mass
Live Stream Mass 8:30 am
- 10:30 am Mass

LADIES' CLUB

St Henry's Ladies Club will be collecting items for the Pregnancy Care Center.

All baby items are needed, as well as diapers, wipes, and clothing through size 5.

We will collect these items through February 22nd. The collection box will be in back of Church.

Your parish generosity will be very much appreciated.

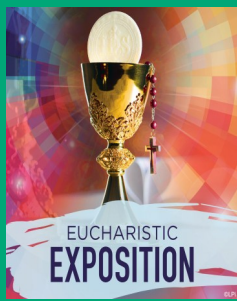
Save THE Date!

Save the date! St. Henry's Fish Frys start on February 20th . We need a lot of volunteers. More information coming out soon.



Is God calling you to be a Sister of Providence?

Come and See how the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana, live out lives of authentic meaning – centered on God and serving others. Single Catholic women ages 18-42 are invited to the retreat, scheduled to begin at 4 p.m., on Friday, March 27, and conclude at 2 p.m., on Sunday, March 29. Meet with different sisters and hear their stories about their call and their lives today while learning more about the Congregation and its foundress, Saint Mother Theodore Guerin. Spend a weekend exploring with others who are examining religious life. For more information, visit Events.SistersofProvidence.org, call 361-500-9505 or email jluna@spsmw.org.



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.



David Hagelstein 2/2	Betty Tate 2/6
Taylor Martin-Giacalone 2/2	Brendan Templin 2/6
Meaghan Carty 2/3	Patricia Visintine 2/6
Louise Hoppenjans 2/3	Michael Bovier 2/7
Carolyn Powell 2/4	Robert Buhr 2/7
Larry Sanderson 2/4	Servio Garcia 2/7
Alexander Gaither 2/5	Joan Hormberg 2/7
Payton Schilling 2/5	Gregory McCall 2/8

Contribution Statements for 2025

Contribution statements will be sent out **BY REQUEST** again this year. If you would like a contribution statement for your taxes, please let Dawn know at 618-233-2423 or email sthenryc@peaknet.net.

WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

Vocation or Calling

Question:

Can you explain what we mean by a vocation or calling? I have heard this term used in many different contexts and am not sure what it means. Does it apply to religious life?

Answer:

A vocation or calling refers to a spiritual experience whereby a person senses within oneself the closeness of God and what he is asking in one's life. It is a realization of what one's part in God's plan could be. Vocation comes in all kinds of ways. Some are as dramatic as St. Paul's, being knocked off his horse, blinded, and hearing God's voice. Others are less dramatic, often occurring over time through little events and personal interests. Others happen in a hurry, accompanied by great spiritual insight or conversion. We often think that this applies to religious vocation, but in fact, every Christian has a vocation, a calling to serve others in and through the church. Whether married or single, religious or lay, we are all called to live out our baptismal commitment to preach and teach the Gospel message. Each of us has our role to play in God's plan, and we become coworkers with God in the work of redemption. With a little confidence, a willing spirit and God's grace, we can and will respond to his unique call.

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February: month of the HOLY FAMILY



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Through the generosity of our St. Henry parishioners, our St. Vincent de Paul Society Conference is able to assist those within our parish boundaries with utility, sewer and water bills and other needs.

Currently, we are seeking parishioners to assist in this ministry by volunteering to answer the SVdP help line and direct assistance to those in need. The time commitment can be as little as one day a month in the comfort of your home. There is no personal contact with those seeking help.

Please consider participating in this very worthwhile ministry. Contact Keith Painter 618 398-0017 or Janet Hormberg 618 550-9685 for more information.

Saint Meinrad

Study is a work of prayer. Visit **Saint Meinrad** for the **Graduate Theology Program Open House**, Feb 14-15. Tour campus, attend class, pray at liturgy, and meet professors and students. Learn more

about our flexible and affordable offerings and register at saintmeinrad.edu/openhouse. All are welcome.

