



Saint Henry Catholic Church

5315 W. Main St., Belleville, IL 62226

February 22, 2026
1st Sunday of Lent
Matthew 4:1-11



In my second-to-last year of seminary, I woke up one September morning to devastating news: two beloved classmates had died in a car crash. I was overwhelmed with grief and anger like I had never known. I entered therapy for the first time and had intense conversations with my spiritual director. For months I felt lost in a spiritual wilderness. But something unexpected happened: I encountered Christ there. The fear and sorrow didn't destroy me. In fact, that spiritual desert was a time of intense growth in faith.

Today's Gospel begins: "Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil" (Matthew 4:1). The word "led" denotes a gentle, humble submission to the Spirit. Jesus does not send himself into this desolate place where wild beasts roam and Satan tempts. Who wants to be around roaming, wild beasts? The Church Fathers saw them as symbols of our inner chaos: fears, temptations, wounds. The Spirit leads us there, sometimes against our wishes. But those same Fathers also saw that this deserted place is also where angels ministered to Jesus, amidst his great trial and temptation.

Lenten Challenge: This Lent and throughout life's struggles, the Spirit leads you and me into the wilderness. Name one "desert" into which the Spirit has led you: perhaps grief, fear, silence, change, disappointment. Ask for the grace to go there willingly. The beasts may be real, but they will not harm you. There, the angels are waiting to minister to the Christ living in you, who always goes where the Spirit leads.

— *Father John Muir*

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

"The tempter approached and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread.' He said in reply, 'It is written: One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.'" Mt 4: 1-4

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

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PASTOR - (618) 233-2423

Reverend Kenneth J. York

DEACON

Deacon Gerald Bach dcaon1948@charter.net
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deaconjlaw@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 Minister	Lector	Eucharistic Minister	Greeter	Gift Bearer	Usher
February 28th Saturday, 4:00 PM	Trish Denton	Patti Tepen Ivan Tepen	Bobby Elam Marilyn Elam	Kathleen Dinan Terry Starwalt	Mike Louth Anne Louth
March 1st Sunday, 8:30 AM	Joyce Dierkes	Gayle Bibee	Lynne Fulte	Bernadette Gadu Kathy Pajares	Daniel Broeckling George Mehochko
March 1st Sunday, 10:30 AM	Maureen Reed	Jerry Ahrens	Need Volunteer	Dawn York Need Volunteer	Chris Knee Need Volunteer

Respect Life Corner

“The essence of our identity is that we are created in God's image and likeness and loved by Him. Nothing can diminish the priceless worth of any human life. Every person is cherished.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities Respect Life Reflection: Cherished, Chosen, Sent
usccb.org/cherished-chosen-sent-reflection

Vocation Corner

“From a young age, I desired to be noticed by Jesus in a particular way. By age 13, Good Friday left me with an ache to suffer with the crucified Lord. At age 16, I read the Song of Songs and declared “I want a love like that.” Jesus became my first love. Though I was open to religious life, I also love the idea of marriage. In college, I replaced Jesus as the center of my life with the man I thought I’d marry. Deep down, I felt Jesus’ claim on my life and fought against Him for it, in restless pursuit of a tangible spouse. But Jesus brought me to surrender. In the Eucharistic presence of the divine bridegroom the attraction of all earthly bridegrooms faded away. Jesus gave himself entirely for me on the cross. I now yearned to give my whole self to him. Today, as a Passionist nun, I stand at the foot of the Cross, wedded to Redeeming Love. Jesus crucified does not disappoint. He is the fairest bridegroom of all.”

Sr. Maria Faustina Carmichael; Passionist Nuns of St. Joseph Monastery; Columbia Magazine Oct. 2025



Weekly Readings



Readings for the week of February 22, 2026

Sunday: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17/Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19/Mt 4:1-11
Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mt 25:31-46
Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/Lk 11:29-32
Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8/Mt 7:7-12
Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8/Mt 5:20-26
Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-48
Next Sunday: Gn 12:1-4a/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22/2 Tm 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9

Observances for the week of February 22, 2026

Sunday: 1st Sunday of Lent
Monday: St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr
Tuesday:
Wednesday:
Thursday:
Friday: St. Gregory of Narek, Abbot and Doctor of the Church
Saturday:
Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Lent

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Mass Intentions for the week of February 22, 2026

SUN 2/22	8:30 AM	William Pranaitis
	10:30 AM	Judith Marchand
MON 2/23	8:00 AM	William Eckmann
TUE 2/24	8:00 AM	John Rensing
WED 2/25	8:00 AM	Jean Gass
	10:20 AM	ACHS
THUR 2/26	8:00 AM	Ray Scheibel
FRI 2/27	8:00 AM	Wayland Downen
SAT 2/28	8:00 AM	Curtis Wiley, Jr.
	4:00 PM	Quentin Lauer
SUN 3/1	8:30 AM	Carol Gallagher
	10:30 AM	For The People

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Our Lord is so humble that he allows us to see him experience temptation. The vulnerability of this moment is awesome to behold. Let us learn from Jesus’ interaction with the devil, and be transformed by it. Let us say, with him: “Get away, Satan.”

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Sunday, February 22, 2026 | First Sunday of Lent

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

Mini reflection: There are many reasons why the Word became flesh. But I think one of the most important reasons must have been that God wanted to show us that He knows, intimately, how easily the devil exploits our physical experience of this world.

Into the Desert

When we first got married, I wanted to know everything my husband was thinking, exactly when he was thinking it.

Thirteen years later, I still want to know it all. But I want to know it after he's had a snack.

I think he still wants to know what I'm thinking, too. But he wants to know it after I've had 10 minutes without hearing the word, "Mommy!"

Life has taught us, you see, that it's hard to be a good person, a nice person, a gentle person, when your body doesn't feel good or nice or gentle. When you're hungry. When you're exhausted. When you're anxious.

It's not impossible, of course. It's just ... *hard*.

We're entering a penitential season, a time in which we purposefully deprive ourselves in certain ways. During Lent, we intentionally enter into the desert of physical hunger and weakness. Why, in preparation for Easter and in an effort to spiritually purify ourselves, do we go to this place where it's *so hard to be good*? Why do we go to the desert?

Because Christ has shown us that the desert is where decisions are made.

There are many reasons why the Word became flesh to accomplish God's plan for our salvation. But I think one of the most important reasons must have been that God wanted to show us that He knows, intimately, how easily the devil exploits our physical experience of this world. We see it in today's Gospel: Jesus, hungry and weary. Jesus, taunted and tempted.

We see him. We recognize him. We are him.

And we hear his voice, even though it trembles with fatigue: "Get away, Satan!"

Today, we enter the desert. Because the desert is where decisions are made.

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Understanding, Explained!

"I believe, in order to understand," said St. Augustine. "And I understand, the better to believe."

The virtue of understanding, which is a gift conferred by the Holy Spirit, shows us that there is no such thing as "blind faith." Faith, by its very nature, seeks to better understand the object of that faith.

It is important to know that understanding is a process — the Holy Spirit is always willing to give a gift over and over again! "The same Holy Spirit constantly perfects faith by his gifts, so that Revelation may be more and more profoundly understood," we read in *Dei verbum*, the dogmatic constitution on divine revelation.

Understanding is the "food" of faith. We must constantly ask the Holy Spirit for greater and more profound understanding, for though understanding proceeds from faith, it in turn nourishes that faith. "A more penetrating knowledge will in turn call forth a greater faith, increasingly set afire by love," says the Catechism (CCC 158).

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Lenten Blessing

Bless us in Your mercy, Lord, as we enter these 40 Days of Lent. Use this time to call, anoint, bind, strengthen, and inspire us anew. Like a good shepherd, teach us Your voice, and give us the strength to follow. Amen.

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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."

Andy	Elaine	Ken
Carol	Ellyn	Lanson family
Carolyn	Ilia	Mike
Cassie	Jean	Patrick
Cathy	Jenna	Sharon and Ryan
Christy	Jim	Tanya
Dakota	Joe	Tracy
Debbie	Kelly	Vera

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 is unavailable to take

your call please leave a message.

Names will be published for 4 weeks unless we are notified to retain them longer.

FIRST WEEK OF LENT

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

February 15, 2026

Due to a family emergency the Weekly contributions for the weekend of February 15th will be printed in the March 1st bulletin.

Weekly Schedule

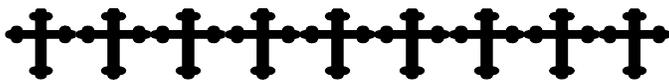
February 22, 2026

- Sunday** - 8:30 am Mass
Live Stream Mass 8:30 am
- 10:30 am Mass
- Monday** -
- Tuesday** - Ladies Club Mtg 5:00 pm
- 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

When you have the opportunity to do good, do not let it go by.

St. Polycarp

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Black and Indian Mission Collection

Today, our parish will take up the 142nd annual National Black and Indian Mission Collection. Our support of this collection helps build the Church in African American, Native American, and Alaska native communities from coast to coast, Schools, parish religious education programs, and diocesan ministries depend on your generosity to help them spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ! You can help meet unmet needs with a generous contribution today. Thank you for your support.

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: According to the Acts of the Apostles, who was selected to replace the Apostle Judas?

Answer: St. Matthias.

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The Diocese of Belleville's Cursillo in Christianity, a worldwide movement of the Catholic laity, is sponsoring a weekend for women, August 6-9, 2026, and for men August 20-23, 2026, at the King's

House at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville. If you long for a close life-long relationship with Jesus please prayerfully consider attending. For more information or to register please contact Cathy Lugge, 618-444-5822. It is truly an enjoyable weekend. An application is available at <http://bellevillecursillo.org/>.

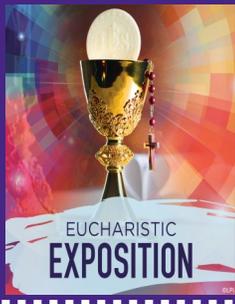
The Metro-East Vicariate Council of Catholic Women (MEV CCW)

The Metro-East Vicariate Council of Catholic Women (MEV CCW) is seeking a President Elect. Do you have room in your life for something more... yearn to use your God-given talents to serve a greater purpose? Like to lead? Let's talk. There are a variety of opportunities to join your sisters in Christ in local and vicariate Councils of Catholic Women. Roles range from member in the local ladies' group to leader at the national level. "There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens." (Eccles 3:1). Is this the time to deepen your relationship with God while working side by side with other Catholic ladies? Text Maggie at 618-792-4644 to get started on a new and inspiring life-changing journey.



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)

Rosary totals will be in the next bulletin



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.

Birthdays

Helen Carty	2/23	Kristella Barcinas	2/27
Amy Marchand	2/23	David Hassel	2/27
Tara Schilling	2/23	Angeline Bakkila	3/1
Barbara Bleich	2/24	Amy Feldt	3/1
Joseph Poletti	2/25	Christopher Feldt	3/1
Marcella Schulte	2/25		

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT



Lenten fish fries, hosted by the Men's Club and the Ladies of St. Henry, are back beginning this **Friday, February 27, from 4:00 to**

7:30 pm in the Msgr. Voss Parish Center. Enjoy our hand-cut fried cod, baked salmon, shrimp, and many side items.

Homemade or store-bought items are always needed for our dessert table. If you would like to donate a dessert item, please bring it to the parish center on Friday afternoon.

Thanks for your support.

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.



CRS Rice Bowl brings Catholics across the United States together each Lent to respond to global hunger and poverty through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. During this holy season, let us recommit to sharing bread for life with our global family so that all people can reach their God-given potential. Visit crsricebowl.org/week-1 to read this week's Story of Hope.



WITH HEARTFELT SYMPATHY

We offer our deepest sympathies and prayerful support to the families of

Patricia Hunter
Jean Muntan

May our prayers be of comfort to their families in their time of loss and sorrow.

Lenten Disciplines of Fasting & Abstinence

Catholics in good health ages 18 to 59 are required to fast and to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Fasting consists of eating only one meal, with the possibility of two smaller snacks that do not add up to a single full meal.

Catholics age 14 and older are to abstain from meat on all Fridays in Lent.

**LENT
PREPARE
THE WAY OF
THE LORD**

