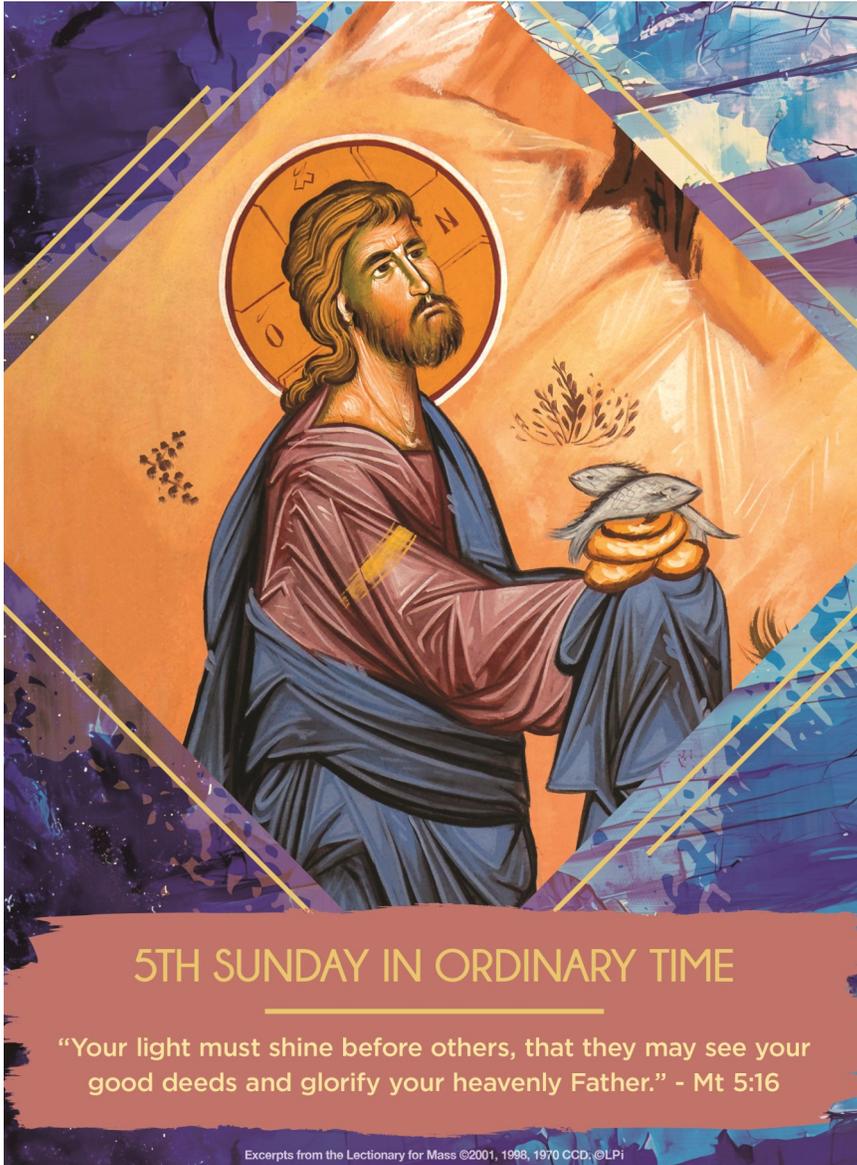




# Saint Henry Catholic Church

5315 W. Main St., Belleville, IL 62226



## 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.” - Mt 5:16

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

February 8, 2026  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Matthew 5:13-16

I recently learned why zebras have stripes. Scientists used to think it was for camouflage, but new research suggests something more interesting: the stripes help zebras blend in with one another. When a predator looks at a herd, the overlapping stripes make it hard to single out one animal. But if a researcher spray-paints a dot on just one zebra, predators lock on it and eventually attack. The lesson? In the wild, blending in is protection. Standing out can be dangerous.

Human beings are not so different. Most of us would rather blend in than stand out, especially when it comes to our faith. We know that giving bold witness to Jesus — through our words, values, or public choices — can make us targets for criticism, isolation, or judgment. That’s why Jesus’ words in today’s Gospel are so challenging: **“You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden” (Matthew 5:14).**

A city on a hill draws attention. It also draws fire. But that’s part of the cost of discipleship. Jesus doesn’t call us to be tribal or boastful. He calls us to stand in the open with humble confidence, so that people might see our good deeds and glorify our Father in heaven. Today, let’s ask for the courage not just to believe in Christ, but to be seen believing in him.

— *Father John Muir*

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### PASTOR - (618) 233-2423

Reverend Kenneth J. York

### DEACON

Deacon Gerald Bach - [dcaon1948@charter.net](mailto:dcaon1948@charter.net)  
Deacon James Law - (618) 406-5709 or  
[deaconjlaw@gmail.com](mailto:deaconjlaw@gmail.com)

### PARISH SECRETARY

Dawn Partington - [sthenryc@peaknet.net](mailto: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](http://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
<b>February 14<sup>th</sup> Saturday, 4:00 PM</b>	Janis LeChemin	David Bollman Ramona Effinger	Pat Visintine Janet Visintine	Patti Tepen Ivan Tepen	Mark Denton Trish Denton
<b>February 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday, 8:30 AM</b>	Lynne Fulte	Gayle Bibee	Kathy Pajares	Bernadette Gadu Alvina Tippy	Daniel Broeckling George Mehochko
<b>February 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday, 10:30 AM</b>	Jerry Ahrens	Joyce Dierkes	<b>Need Volunteer</b>	Dawn York <b>Need Volunteer</b>	Chris Knee Carol Tyler

### Respect Life Corner

“Married love differs from any other love in the world. By its nature, the love of husband and wife is so complete, so ordered to a lifetime of communion with God and each other, that it is open to creating a new human being they will love and care for together.”

USCCB, Married Love and the Gift of Life

### Vocation Corner

A sage once wrote that a good marriage is like a fire around which others come to warm themselves. So, as we celebrate World Marriage Day on this Sunday, we realize that no matter what our station in life - married, single or religious - we have benefited from this sacred covenant relationship whether through the example of our parents, grandparents, and other role models or through our own stewardship of the marriage covenant.

### Blessing of Mission

Bless us on our way, O Lord.  
Share with us as we share with others.  
Heal us as we help others to heal.  
Provide for us as we open our hands in charity.  
Every gift comes from You.  
You are at the heart of all that is good.  
Share that goodness with us today, abundantly.  
Amen.

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### LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Salt without flavor is no longer salt. Light that illuminates nothing is no longer light. As Christians, we must be what we have been made to be. So think about it, carefully: what stands between you and being who you were made to be?

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## Weekly Readings



### Readings for the week of February 8, 2026

Readings for the week of February 8, 2026

Sunday: Is 58:7-10/Ps 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/1 Cor 2:1-5/Mt 5:13-16  
Monday: 1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13/Ps 132:6-7, 8-10/Mk 6:53-56  
Tuesday: 1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30/Ps 84:3, 4, 5 and 10, 11/Mk 7:1-13  
Wednesday: 1 Kgs 10:1-10/Ps 37:5-6, 30-31, 39-40/Mk 7:14-23  
Thursday: 1 Kgs 11:4-13/Ps 106:3-4, 35-36, 37 and 40/Mk 7:24-30  
Friday: 1 Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19/Ps 81:10-11ab, 12-13, 14-15/Mk 7:31-37  
Saturday: 1 Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34/Ps 106:6-7ab, 19-20, 21-22/Mk 8:1-10  
Next Sunday: Sir 15:15-20/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34/1 Cor 2:6-10/Mt 5:17-37 or 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37

### Observances for the week of February 8, 2026

Sunday: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time; World Marriage Day  
Monday:  
Tuesday: St. Scholastica, Virgin  
Wednesday: Our Lady of Lourdes  
Thursday:  
Friday:  
Saturday: Sts. Cyril, Monk, and Methodius, Bishop; Valentine's Day  
Next Sunday: 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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### Mass Intentions for the week of February 8, 2026

SUN 2/8	8:30 AM	David Hartenstein
	10:30 AM	For the People
MON 2/9	8:00 AM	Maria Pezzuto
TUE 2/10	8:00 AM	Mary Adams
WED 2/11	8:00 AM	Joseph Hubbard
	10:20 AM	ACHS
THUR 2/12	8:00 AM	Wayland Downen
FRI 2/13	8:00 AM	SVDP Members, Donors
SAT 2/14	8:00 AM	Msgr. Daniel Jurek
	4:00 PM	Michael O'Malley, Frances Kozelink
SUN 2/15	8:30 AM	For the People
	10:30 AM	Walter & Cecelia Turner & Sr. Diane Marie



Sunday, February 8, 2026 | Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC -  
BENEATH THE SURFACE**  
By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

**Mini reflection:** The greatest saints in history were not great at holiness. The greatest saints in history were great at being who they were meant to be.

**Be Salty**

I want you to close your eyes. Are they closed? (I'm serious.) Okay. Now think of the greatest saint in history.

I don't care who you're thinking of. It's going to be different for everyone. Just think of that person. Think of his or her life. And answer the question: Why is he or she a great saint?

You're all thinking of different people, but the answer is the same for everyone. And it's not "Because he did great things for God" or "Because she sacrificed everything she had for the poor." Those answers show *evidence* of the reason. But the reason is something more.

The greatest saints in history were not great at holiness. God brought holiness about within them because (ding ding ding! Here's the answer!) the greatest saints in history were great at being who they were meant to be.

Not who they wanted to be. Not who they thought they *should* be. Who they were meant to be.

Simply put, they gave themselves to God. All of themselves. Flaws and all. And God took them, in their totality, and said: "Now watch this."

Just imagine if salt was ashamed of being salty. Imagine if it looked at the sodium content on its nutrition label and thought, "That's embarrassing," and decided it was going to stop being salt. Well, great. Now it's just a box of tiny rocks.

Wouldn't it have been better for the salt to trust the baker using it?

There is a plan for each of us. There is a path to holiness for each of us. This path doesn't bypass our flaws or our weaknesses; it incorporates them. It transforms them. It fulfills them.

So be salty. Be who you were meant to be.

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**Goodness, Explained!**

In the beginning, goodness was all there was. And in the end, only goodness will remain.

The word "good" is repeated so often in the first verses of Genesis that it has become almost cliché. God sees what He has made, and He calls all of it "good" (Genesis 1:31). Likewise, on the very first page of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, we read that God created man "in a plan of sheer goodness ... to make him share in his own blessed life." (CCC 1). When we see goodness, we cannot help but think of God (Wisdom 13:1).

In baptism, the Holy Spirit gives us the sanctifying grace of justification, which is, among other things, the ability to grow in goodness through an increase in moral virtue (CCC 1266). Baptism, therefore, disposes us toward goodness, and the more we ask the Holy Spirit for goodness, the more it will be possible for us.

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**WORLD *Marriage* DAY**  
Dia Mundial del Matrimonio ©LPi

**OUR LADY OF LOURDES**  
*PRAY FOR US!* ©LPi



**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	Joan	Suarez Family
Carol	Joann	Sylvia
Cathy	John	Tanya
David and Elissa	Kathy	Tracy
Deacon Gerry	Kelly	Ultiss Family
Deacon Jim	Leslie	
Debbie	Louise	Participants in
Domenica	Mary	Right to Life
Jim	Renee	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.

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



**Quest - a 2 day faith experience for Freshmen and Sophomores.**

Learn about your relationships with yourself, others and God in fun ways - February 28 - March 1 at St. Augustine Parish in Belleville.

Sign up at [www.bellevilletec.org](http://www.bellevilletec.org). Any questions, please contact [bellevillequest@gmail.com](mailto:bellevillequest@gmail.com).



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

**January 25, 2025**

**Envelopes/Loose \$ 4,482.27**  
**St. Vincent de Paul \$ 391.25**  
**Guatemala \$ 190.00**

**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.**

## Weekly Schedule

**February 8, 2026**

- Sunday** - 8:30 am Mass  
Live Stream Mass 8:30 am
- 10:30 am Mass
- Monday** -
- Tuesday** - Men's Club Mtg 7:00 pm
- 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



The Parish Rosary Program. Each week parishioners are requested to either email to the church secretary [sthenryc@peaknet.net](mailto: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
248	1,008	17,756

## WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

### Near-Death Experiences

#### Question:

Are near-death experiences real?

#### Answer:

There is a lot of curiosity and fascination with the idea of an afterlife and communicating with those who have died. In movies, television shows, and numerous books, people make claims about their ability to communicate with the dead, or having had a near-death experience. There is no objective way to verify any of this. While details about people and events can be surprisingly accurate, it is just circumstantial evidence that might be explained in other ways.

On the other hand, when people have unusual experiences, sometimes called near-death or out-of-body, it is real to them. They react with the emotions and thoughts that one would expect. At times, they report details they could not have known any other way, such as bits of conversation, or meeting people they had never known in this life. So certainly, to the person, they experience something. We believe in a life after death, we believe in the communion of saints. These things are not a contradiction to faith, but we should not base our faith on them, nor change our beliefs. They are unexplained and will likely remain so. ©LPi



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.**

Any St. Henry adult male, 18 years old or older, is welcome to take part. Our meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm. Come check out our next meeting. Our next meeting is **Tuesday, February 10, at 7:00pm in the Knights of Columbus Hall.** Snacks and drinks will be provided.

**All men of the parish are welcome.**

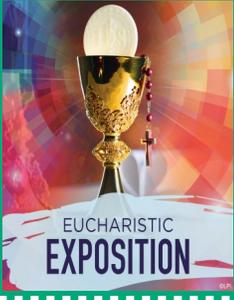


The Men's Club and the Ladies of St. Henry sponsor the first fish fry of the Lenten season this Friday, February 20 from 4:00 to 7:30 pm in the Msgr. Voss Parish Center. Our famous

fried cod, baked salmon, fried shrimp will be available along with various side items.

Dine-in and carry-outs will be available. If you would like to provide a baked item for the dessert table, please bring it to the parish center Friday afternoon.

Thanks for your help and patronage.



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

Brianna Buss	2/9	Rose Cullen	2/12
Briana Goodwin	2/9	Larry Ital	2/12
Miles Kujawa	2/9	Karen O'Dell	2/13
Gregory Lojacono	2/10	Mickey Scoville	2/14
Paul Lowery	2/11		



## 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](mailto:sthenryc@peaknet.net).



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 Hornberg 618 550-9685 for more information.

**A Pilgrimage of Peace to the Holy Land**  
**Prayer - Solidarity - Peace**  
**November 30-December 11, 2026**  
**Pilgrimage Leaders: Fr. Jim Nall, Deacon John Gomez, and Sue Huett Asbeck**  
**Hosted by: Catholic Relief Services in the Diocese of Belleville**

You are invited to join a Pilgrimage of Peace to the Holy Land for 12-days from November 30-December 11, 2026. The pilgrimage includes visits to Nazareth, Cana, Sea of Galilee, Mt. Tabor, Mt. of Beatitudes, Jericho, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, CRS Projects in the area, and much more! To get your name on a priority list for registration when it is available contact Cheryl Sommer, CRS Coordinator for the Belleville Diocese, at 618-624-2838 or send an email to [crsdiobelle@gmail.com](mailto:crsdiobelle@gmail.com).

*Happy Valentine's Day*



# Messenger Subscription Renewal Weekend

## February 7-8, 2026

Stay connected to our diocesan Church through The Messenger.

Renew by envelope or online at [bellevillemessenger.org](http://bellevillemessenger.org)

Print \$40 | Electronic \$35 | Both \$45