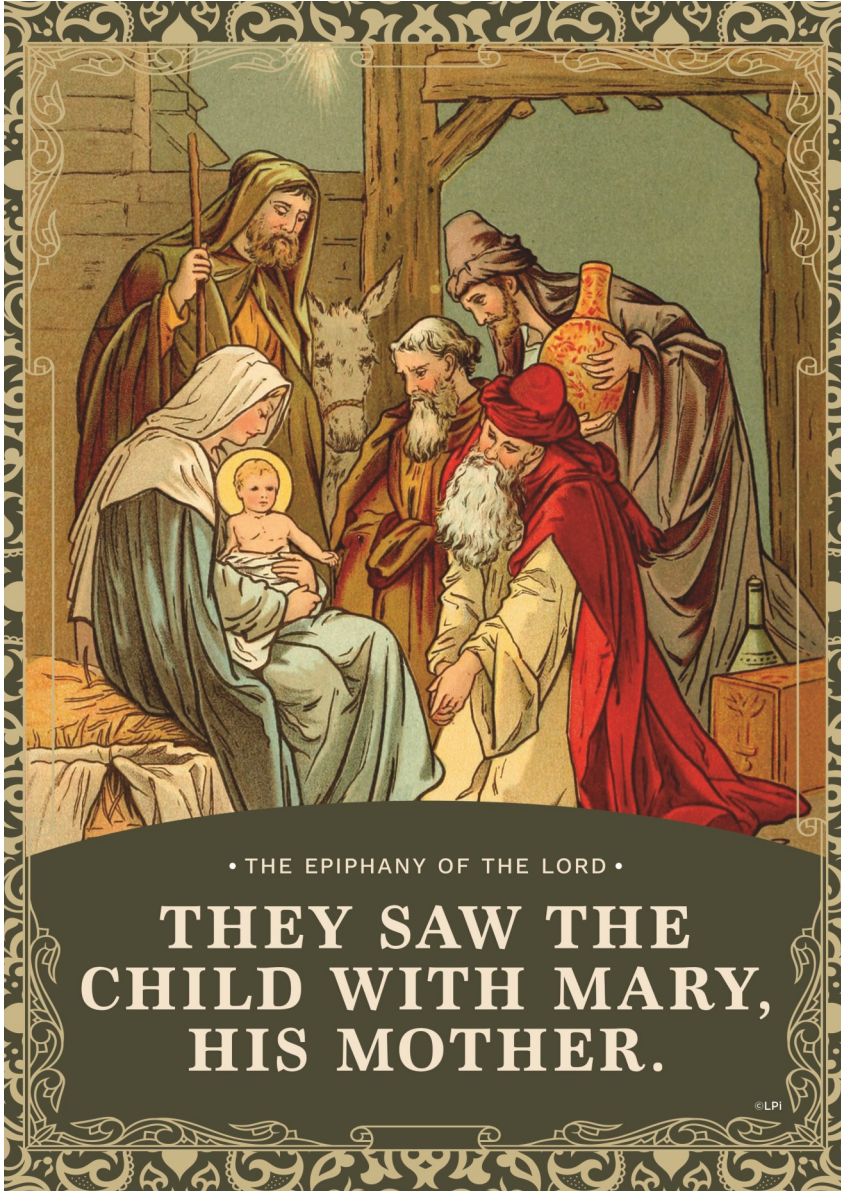




# Saint Henry Catholic Church

5315 W. Main St., Belleville, IL 62226



**January 4, 2026**  
**The Epiphany of the Lord**  
**Matthew 2:1-12**

When I was 22, I went on a pilgrimage to Rome for the Jubilee Year of 2000. I was traveling light with just a backpack, one blue shirt and black pants, little money, and no Italian. I had a few close friends and one goal: to reach the Eternal City. Despite the challenges and deprivations, I felt alive in a way I had never known before.

When do you feel most alive? I'd wager it's not when you're most comfortable or surrounded by stuff. Rather, it's when your life is aimed at something great; when you're on a meaningful and challenging journey with good friends.

That's the image the Magi give us in today's Gospel. They set out from the East not with certainty, but with hope. They study the signs, discipline their attention, and journey together, offering the best they have when they find the newborn King.

The Church gives us their story at the start of the year to reawaken something in us. We are not meant to drift. We're meant to journey as pilgrims. The Jubilee Year of 2025 may have ended, but our pilgrimage has not. Like the magi, the closer we get to Christ, the more alive we become.

— *Father John Muir*

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**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](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>January 10<sup>th</sup> Saturday, 4:00 PM</b>	Karen O'Dell	David Bollman Jeannette Yelinek	Nick & Michelle Kujawa	Betty Cerulli Sue Kaltenbronn	Mike Louth Anne Louth
<b>January 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday, 8:30 AM</b>	Peggy Hassel	George Mehochko	Kathy Pajares	Bernadette Gadu Alvina Tippy	Daniel Broeckling Paul Schwartzhoff
<b>January 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday, 10:30 AM</b>	Beth Regensberger	Dawn York	Pat King	Joyce Dierkes <b>Need Volunteer</b>	Jerry Ahrens Carol Tyler

### Respect Life Corner

How do we live out the message of Christmas in the New Year, rather than pack it away with the ornaments? Each year, the Octave Day of Christmas falls on the first day of the New Year, on which we also celebrate the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. Her open heart and courageous “yes” to God show us how to live year-round—with hearts open to the Lord, following where He leads. We are called to place our trust in Him, to enter compassionately into the suffering of others, and to love one another as Christ loves us. Like Our Blessed Mother welcomed Jesus, we are called to cherish and protect the gift of human life, at every stage and in every circumstance.

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### LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

The journey of the Magi reflects how treacherous our Christian life on earth can be. Always, evil works against us — Satan lays traps. He sows confusion. May we, like the Magi, recognize the will of God as our guiding star.

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### Epiphany Blessing

Dear God,  
It was You who inspired the Magi to follow the star to find You. Inspire us to seek You, as well. Bless our homes and families this season, make them places where we can encounter You through prayer and community.  
Amen.  
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## READINGS OF THE WEEK

### Readings for the week of January 4, 2026

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  
Monday: 1 Jn 3:22-4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25  
Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44  
Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52  
Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19-5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/Lk 4:14-22a  
Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16  
Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/Jn 3:22-30  
Next Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10/Acts 10:34-38/Mt 3:13-17

### Observances for the week of January 4, 2026

Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord  
Monday: St. John Neumann, Bishop  
Tuesday: St. André Bessette, Religious  
Wednesday: St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest  
Thursday:  
Friday:  
Saturday:  
Next Sunday: The Baptism of the Lord

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### Mass Intentions for the week of January 4, 2026

SUN 1/4	8:30 AM	Curtis Wiley, Jr.
	10:30 AM	For the People
MON 1/5	8:00 AM	Patricia Pratt
TUE 1/6	8:00 AM	Maria Pezzuto
WED 1/7	8:00 AM	Wayland
	10:30 AM	ACHS
THUR 1/8	8:00 AM	Dolores Gantt
FRI 1/9	8:00 AM	SVDP Members, Donors, & Volunteers
SAT 1/10	8:00 AM	David Hartenstein
	4:00 PM	For The People
SUN 1/11	8:30 AM	Eileen O’ Brien
	10:30 AM	Joseph Hubbard

EPIPHANY



BLESSINGS!

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## (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - BENEATH THE SURFACE

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Mini reflection: Of all the stars you could follow, which one does the voice — that one deep within you — tell you to chase? Point to it. And go forth.

The Stars We Follow

Everyone follows a star.

It is human nature to seek. If we are rich, we want to be richer. If we are smart, we want to be smarter. If we are powerful, we want to be more powerful.

We cannot stay in one place, so to speak — to say, “I am what I am, I have what I have, and it is enough.” Even the very act of maintaining a status quo, be it health or wealth or spiritual goodness, requires action. It requires effort. It requires movement. This is human nature. There is nothing wrong with it. When we stop seeking, we die.

But what are we looking for? Where are we going?

I often wonder if the Magi knew what they were seeking — really, truly knew. They were seeking “the newborn king of the Jews,” yes, but did they understand who he was? What he was? I don’t see how they could have. They were wise men, but they were not prophets. They simply knew this was an endeavor they had to undertake. They knew it in their souls.

There really is very little that we know for certain about the Magi. We don’t know how many of them there were. We don’t know their religion. We don’t know where they came from. All we know for certain is that they listened to a voice they heard deep within themselves. And, heeding that voice, they went forth.

And what did they find? They found what we all seek, even if, foolishly, we seek it in riches or power.

They found the face of the Child.

So tell me this. Of all the stars you could follow, which one does the voice — that one deep within you— tell you to chase?

Point to it. And go forth.

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# St. John Neumann

*Bishop*



## Love, Explained

If you’ve ever been a guest at a Christian wedding, chances are you have heard 1 Corinthians 13:4-8: “Love is patient, love is kind ... love never fails.”

But what and who we love is just as important as how we love. Loving God, we know, is the greatest commandment of Jesus Christ, followed by loving others (Matthew 22:37-40). We are called to exhibit this love even — and, perhaps, especially — when it is difficult, when it demands we sacrifice our own preferences, our own desires and our own prejudices (Matthew 5:46).

In doing this, we “no longer stand before God as a slave, in servile fear, or as a mercenary looking for wages, but as a son responding to the love of him who ‘first loved us.’” (CCC 1828)

So yes, love is patient, and love is kind — and, when practiced correctly, love is also freedom.

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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."*

Barb	Gruenewald Family	Margaret
Becky	Gwendolyn	Mike
Cathy	Jane	Pat
Coleman	Jim	Rose
Cooper	Joan	Scott
Dakota	Kayla	Sue & Andrew
David	Lidia	Tanya
Diane	Marabeth	

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 21st will be printed in the January 11th bulletin.**

## CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: Who are the four Gospel authors?

Answer: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

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## Weekly Schedule

**January 4, 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  
-
- 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)

Due to an Early Bulletin Deadline  
Rosary totals will be in the next bulletin



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

**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/>**

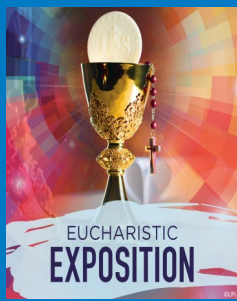
## The 2025 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal Hope in the Lord

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

## Sisters 'Virtual Guided Meditation' series begins in January

Join the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana, for the first installment of the "Virtual Guided Meditation" series, scheduled to take place from 7-8 p.m., on Thursday, Jan. 22. Begin the year with a renewed sense of rest and connection while enjoying a serene space to deepen your listening to the Spirit and fostering your connection with God. Register online at [Events.SistersofProvidence.org](https://Events.SistersofProvidence.org) or by calling 812-535-2946 or by emailing [lrobinette@spsmw.org](mailto:lrobinette@spsmw.org).



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

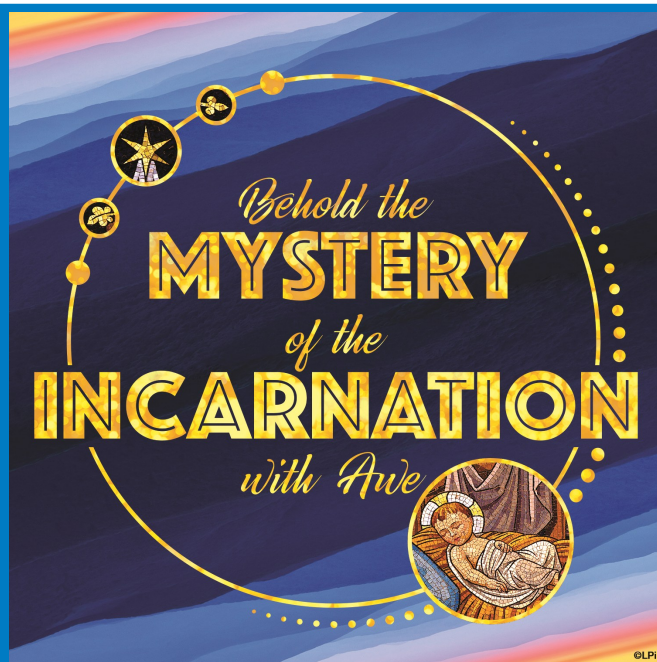
If you have never experienced The  
Chaplet in song then you are in for an  
amazing experience.

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

## BIRTHDAYS

Denise Douglas 1/5  
John Carty 1/6  
Chris Taylor 1/6  
Dustin Ventimiglia 1/6  
Gerald Wiegiers 1/6

William Gantner 1/7  
Jeff Ledee 1/8  
Angelina Sanchez 1/9  
Tyler Clarke 1/10  
Jackson Dauphin 1/10  
Scott Flood 1/11



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

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

##### Confessing Sins

##### Question:

If I go to the Sacrament of Penance and end up repeating the same sins, does that mean I do not have a strong enough intention to amend my life?

##### Answer:

There is a popular expression that says, "Be patient. God isn't finished with me yet!" Growing in faith and holiness is an ongoing, life-long project, and our struggle with sin is at the heart of it. As St. Paul says, the good he intends to do, he does not do. The evil he does not intend, he does! It is not always a lack of intention, but more often the allure of evil that makes it difficult to change.

When we confess our sins, we are to come with a fully contrite heart. You need to reflect on your true feelings toward your actions before approaching the sacrament. After confession, there are strategies you can make to avoid falling into the same traps of sin. First, pray for and seek out strength and perseverance through multiple sacraments, charitable work, and personal sacrifice. Second, avoid occasions of sin when you might fail or be sorely tempted. In doing these things, remind yourself daily that it is a spiritual war we wage, and with God's grace, we will succeed.

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##### The Three Wise Men

##### Question:

Magi, Three Kings, Three Wise Men...who were they?

##### Answer:

We sing songs, give gifts, and move three mysterious men into our manger scenes. There's a rich heritage in the Catholic Church of celebrating the magi, but their origins are steeped in mystery. The original Greek calls these men *magoi*. The word is translated elsewhere in Scripture to mean "magician," but a similar word was used in ancient history to describe an entirely different set of people altogether. In what is now modern-day Iran, the ruling empire had a wealthy priestly caste known as the Magi. At the time of Christ, the Magi formed one of the ruling councils of the Parthian Empire. These priests interpreted dreams and read the stars to anticipate major events that could affect the fortunes of the empire.

We're not exactly sure where the magi of the Gospels traveled from. Matthew simply says "the east." History tells us that the ancient regions of Persia, Assyria, and Babylon all had a magi priesthood at the time of Christ. Whichever region they hailed from, they likely traveled over one thousand miles over the course of several months to arrive at the Holy Family. Unfortunately for the classic song, there is no concrete evidence these men were themselves kings, though they did bear gifts "from afar" at the prompting of their astronomical calculations.

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