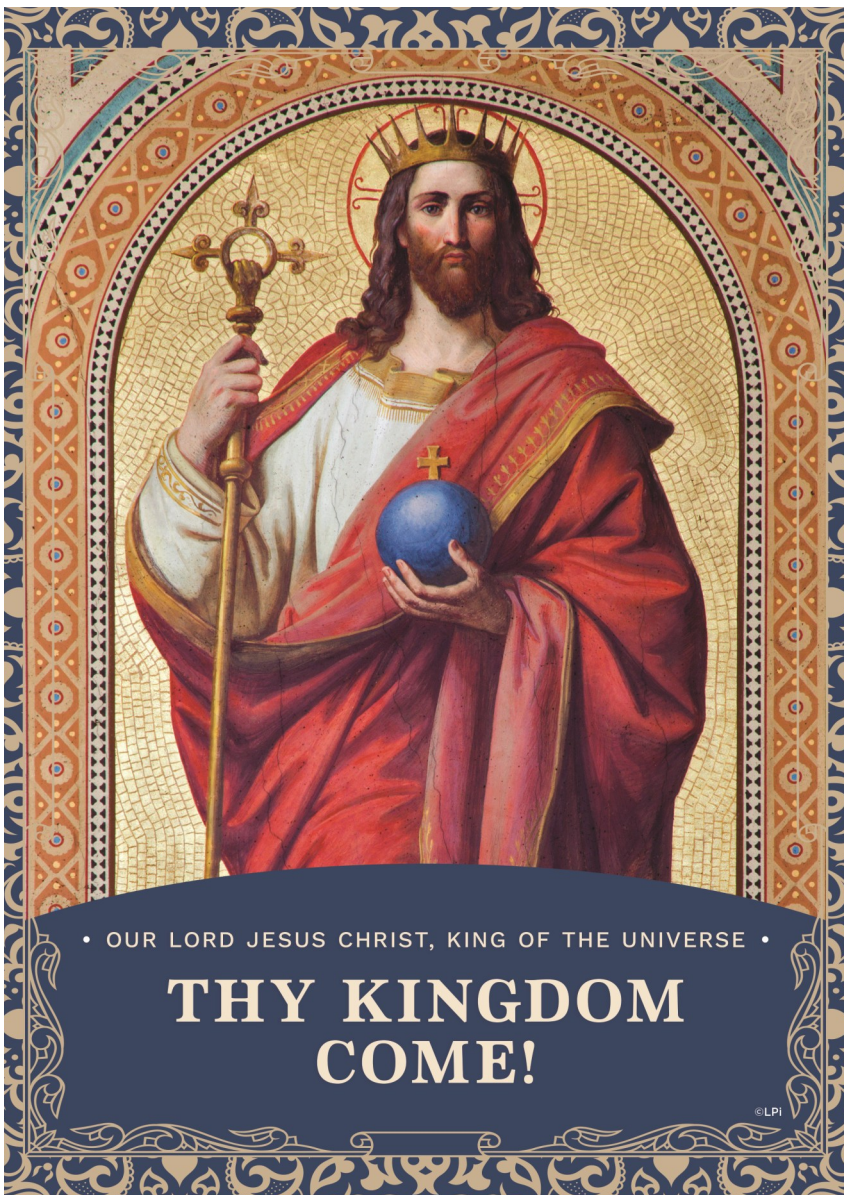


# Saint Henry Catholic Church

5315 W. Main St., Belleville, IL 62226



• OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE •

## THY KINGDOM COME!

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**November 23, 2025**  
**Our Lord Jesus Christ,**  
**King of the Universe**  
**Luke 23:35-43**

Not long ago, I was called to a hospital to anoint a woman in her early 80s. She was dying, and visibly in pain. But what struck me most wasn't her suffering — it was the atmosphere in the room. She had eight children and 30 foster kids, and many of them were gathered around her. You'd expect sorrow, fear, maybe even despair. But the room was filled with something else entirely — a quiet strength, a kind of sweetness. It was as if she was suffering not just with them, but for them. And they, in love, were suffering for her. The pain was real. But so was the peace. I didn't want to run. I felt as if I was in a little paradise, beeping machines and all.

I think of that moment when I hear today's Gospel. Jesus, hanging on the cross, doesn't look like a king. But one of the crucified, dying men beside him sees through the suffering and says, "**Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom**" (Luke 23:42). That word — *remember* — literally means to make someone a member again. He's asking to be joined to Christ, to become part of his Body. And Jesus says, "**Today you will be with me in paradise.**"

He doesn't say, "I'll take your suffering away." He says, "**You will be with me.**"

That's the strange power of Christ the King. He doesn't rule by avoiding suffering. He reigns by entering into it, and transforming it with love.

What are you suffering right now in your life? Likely you want it to stop. But if we are willing to suffer with him — paradise begins even today.

— Father John Muir

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### **PASTOR - (618) 233-2423**

Very Reverend Kenneth J. York

### **DEACON**

Deacon Gerald Bach  
dcaon1948@charter.net

Deacon James Law - (618) 406-5709 or  
dcaonjlaw@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.sthenryc.com](http://www.sthenryc.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>November 29<sup>th</sup> Saturday, 4:00 PM</b>	Janis LeChein	David Bollman Betty Cerulli	Mary Jo Hanvey Virginia Miller	Bobby Elam Marilyn Elam	Kacie Denton Susan O'Malley
<b>November 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday, 8:30 AM</b>	Karen O'Dell	George Mehochko	Kathy Pajares	Bernadette Gadu Alvina Tippy	Daniel Broeckling Paul Schwartzhoff
<b>November 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday, 10:30 AM</b>	Maureen Reed	Jerry Ahrens	<b>Need Volunteer</b>	Pat King <b>Need Volunteer</b>	Chris Knee Carol Tyler

### Respect Life Corner

"Having received the gift of the Gospel of Life, we are the people of life and a people for life. It is our duty to proclaim the Gospel of Life to the world. To proclaim Jesus is to proclaim life itself. Gratitude and joy at the incomparable dignity of the human person impel us to bring the Gospel of life to the hearts of all people and make it penetrate every part of society."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities  
"The Gospel of Life: A Brief Summary"

### Vocation Corner

This coming week we celebrate a National Day of Thanksgiving. We, Catholics, give even greater thanks for all the gifts that God has bestowed on us and for us to share. Each one of us has been given a unique calling to Holiness. Each one is to serve the Lord in her/his own "called" way. A vocational calling is asking us to surrender our talents to God so that they may be sanctified and produce fruit for the Kingdom.

### Jesus is King

Dear Jesus,

I see the kingdom you love, the one full of the broken and forgotten. I see the crown you wear — thorns out of love for me. I pick you as my King. Mold my heart to be a worthy member of your kingdom.  
Amen.

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### LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Our king wears a crown of thorns, not a crown of gold. His glory is not in riches but in suffering. His law is written in his own blood, shed for the love of us. Do we understand the gift that it is, to be subject to such a king?  
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## READINGS OF THE WEEK

### Readings for the week of November 23, 2025

Sunday: 2 Sm 5:1-3/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5 (see 1)/Col 1:12-20/Lk 23:35-43  
Monday: Dn 1:1-6, 8-20/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/Lk 21:1-4  
Tuesday: Dn 2:31-45/Dn 3:57, 58, 59, 60, 61/Lk 21:5-11  
Wednesday: Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28/Dn 3:62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67/Lk 21:12-19  
Thursday: Dn 6:12-28/Dn 3:68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74/Lk 21:20-28  
Friday: Dn 7:2-14/Dn 3:75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81/Lk 21:29-33  
Saturday: Dn 7:15-27/Dn 3:82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87/Lk 21:34-36  
Next Sunday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44

### Observances for the week of November 23, 2025

Sunday: Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe  
Monday: St. Andrew Dũng-Lạc, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs  
Tuesday: St. Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin and Martyr  
Wednesday: Thanksgiving Day  
Thursday: Thanksgiving Day  
Friday: Thanksgiving Day  
Saturday: Thanksgiving Day  
Next Sunday: 1st Sunday of Advent  
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### Mass Intentions for the week of November 23, 2025

SUN 11/23	8:30 AM	Dolly Evans, Joseph Hubbard
	10:30 AM	For the People
MON 11/24	8:00 AM	Lynne Schwartzhoff
TUE 11/25	8:00 AM	Jeannette Barks
	9:00 AM	ACHS/ Thanksgiving Mass
WED 11/26	8:00 AM	Judith Marchand
THUR 11/27	<b>9:00 AM</b>	For The People
FRI 11/28	8:00 AM	Wayne Adams
SAT 11/29	8:00 AM	William Eckmann
	4:00 PM	Frances Koszelink, Quentin Lauer
SUN 11/30	8:30 AM	For the People
	10:30 AM	Mary Adams

*Saint*  
**CATHERINE of ALEXANDRIA**  
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Sunday, November 23, 2025 | Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe



## (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - BENEATH THE SURFACE

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

**Mini reflection:** It's taken me a few hundred read-throughs of this Gospel passage to finally understand a painful truth: I am Gestas, "the bad thief." I am as close to Jesus as he was, and I ask for all the wrong things.

### The King Who Hangs Beside Us

We love to hate the bad thief.

Ancient Christian tradition has called him by the name "Gestas." In contrast to Dismas, "the good thief" who recognized and repented of his own sins, Gestas goes down bitter and swinging. With his last breaths he taunts Jesus, poking fun at the absurdity of a deity who allows himself to be crucified by mortals. "Are you not the Christ?" he sneers.

But his final words betray an undercurrent of desperation. Of terror. In the end, Gestas just wants Jesus to save him.

It's taken me a few hundred read-throughs of this Gospel passage to finally understand a painful truth: I am Gestas. I hang from my own cross — we all do, in this life. But I'm lucky enough that my cross is right beside Jesus, because the sacraments bring him as close to me as he was to Gestas — closer, even. How unfathomable is the mercy of God.

And yet, I am not grateful. I don't rejoice at my proximity to my Lord, to the flesh and blood that have bought my salvation. I don't do what I should do, and what Dismas does. I don't say, "Wherever you are King, please, let me be your subject. Wherever you are going, please, take me with you."

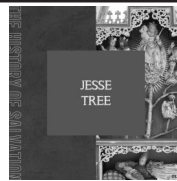
"Are you not the Christ?" I say instead. And what I mean is exactly what Gestas meant: "Get me down. Take this cross away. I don't want it. I can't take it."

What a tragedy it would be, if all Christ had to offer us was an easier life.

None of this looks like anyone thought it would. The long-foretold Messiah, whose majesty and might would eradicate violence and establish peace. The guy who was going to make everything okay again. The King of the Jews. And here he hangs: bleeding and dying and doing what looks like nothing. Staring at Gestas. Staring at me. Staring at you.

What will you say to him?

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### Jesse Tree, Explained!

The Jesse Tree is an Advent practice which recounts the history of salvation by tracing the lineage of Christ — the foretold "shoot from the stump of Jesse" who will bring peace and unity to the people of God (Isaiah 11:1).

In a way, creating a Jesse tree is the telling of one big story — the redemption of man — through the telling of many smaller stories — the fall of Adam, God's promise to Abraham, the wandering of the Israelites, the greatness of David and the humble submission of Mary. A Jesse tree is adorned with symbols of these various people and stories, with the earliest ones hung from the topmost branches, progressing downward.

There are different versions of the Jesse Tree featuring different Old Testament figures and stories, but all begin with Adam and end with the birth of Jesus. It is an easy tradition to practice at home — all you need is a tree, paper, markers, scissors, string and a Bible.

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## SPECIAL MASS TIMES

Thanksgiving Day Mass at 9:00am

### 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."*

Aaron	Felipe	Kay
Albert	George	Kayla
Ann	Gilbert	Louise
Bob	Jackie	Marabeth
Cathy	Jane	Mark
Chad	Joan	Michael
Cissell Family	Joann	Rachel
Dian	Joe	Schaeffer Family
Don	Kathleen	Shovlin Family
Eileen	Kathy	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.



**\*\*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 November 16th will be printed in the November 30th bulletin.**

## CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

**Question:** What's the difference between a disciple and an apostle?

**Answer:** Disciples are "called," and apostles are "sent."  
©LPi

## Weekly Schedule

**November 23, 2025**

- Sunday** - 8:30 am Mass  
Live Stream Mass 8:30 am  
- 10:30 am Mass
- Monday** -
- Tuesday** -
- Wednesday** - \*\*Parish Office Closed\*\*  
Eucharistic Exposition  
2:30-4:30 pm
- Thursday** - \*\*Parish Office Closed\*\*  
- Thanksgiving
- Friday** - \*\*Parish Office Closed\*\*
- 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

## Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) Collection

Thank you for your generous support last week for the collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development! One example is WePower, a Metro-East organization that brings together local residents to create better structures for supporting families with young children. If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give! You may use the CCHD envelope in your envelope packet or donate online.

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

On behalf of the ministries and programs funded by the Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal and those they serve, we thank you for your prayers and continued generosity to the 2025 campaign. May you and your families feel the warmth of God's love and the comfort of His peace at Thanksgiving and always.

Advent Day of Reflection with  
Sr. Barb Smith, ASC

*Advent's Deepening Call to Welcome  
the Tender Grace of God-with-Us!*



## Kings House at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows Visitors Center

**Advent's Deepening Call to Welcome the Tender  
Grace of God-with-Us!**

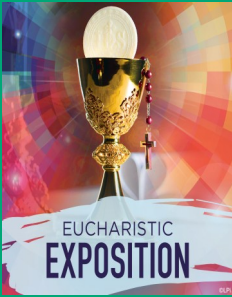
**Presenter: Sr. Barb Smith , ASC**

Saturday, December 6, 2025, from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm at  
the Shrine Visitors Center Cost: \$60.00 (lunch included)

How do we honor this graced time of Advent when our lives are brimming full of activities, pre-Christmas parties, choosing the right gift for those we love, baking and preparing for the Christmas holidays while trying to "fit in" time for embracing those in-between times of quiet, longing and attention to how God is already in our midst. This day will welcome the desire of our hearts for stillness, for breathing space and simply finding the gift of God-with-us .

**To register call 618-397-0584, or visit the website  
<https://kh.snows.org/events/smithasc-dor-2025/>**





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

Bradley Kramkowski 11/24	Daniel McEvilly 11/27
Catherine Luge 11/24	JoAnn Naumann 11/27
Michael Zimmer 11/24	Thomas Schmidt 11/27
Patricia Fitzwater 11/25	Dan Arzola 11/29
Herbert Ripperda 11/25	Glenn Choate 11/29
Michael Cook 11/26	James Schweiss 11/29
Mike Wachtel 11/26	Patricia Snyder 11/29
Jane Brown 11/27	Delia Grosse 11/30
Amber Gaither 11/27	Lauren Phillips 11/30



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

Starting the first day of  
Advent, November 30th,  
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, on  
November 30.

Thank you for your generous donations, they are  
greatly appreciated!



The St. Henry Parish Christmas party is Sunday,  
December 7th after 10:30 A.M. Mass, in the Msgr.  
Voss Parish Center, for the WHOLE parish.  
Sponsored by the Men's Club and Ladies Club.  
Reservations are required! Please call Marilyn Elam  
618-604-6340 or Dawn at the rectory 618-233-2423  
x10 before November 28th.

All are welcome!



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!



May the beauty &  
blessings of  
Thanksgiving  
bring warmth &  
peace to your home  
this season.

Happy  
Thanksgiving!