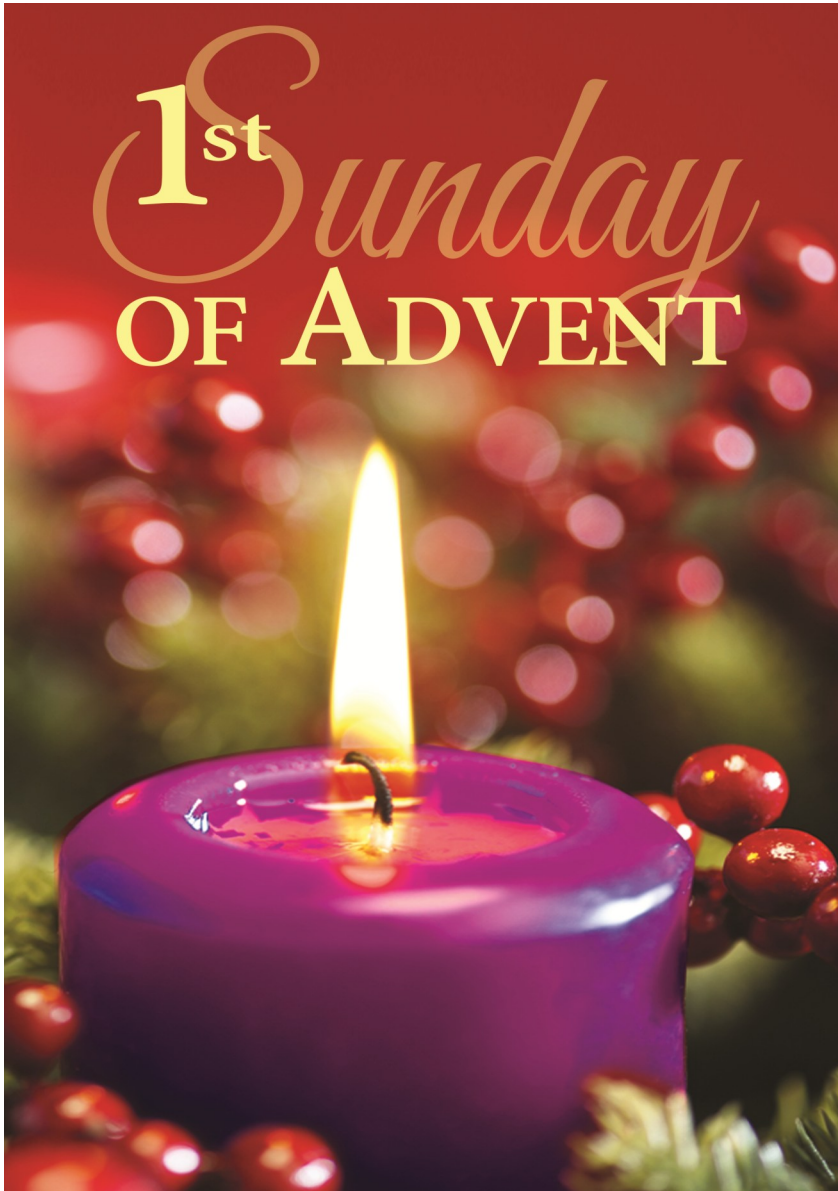




Saint Henry Catholic Church

5315 W. Main St., Belleville, IL 62226

November 30, 2025
First Sunday of Advent
Matthew 24:37-44



A few years ago, my house was broken into on Super Bowl Sunday. Turns out, it's a great day for burglars. If the TV isn't on, people are probably watching the game somewhere else, so ... easy pickins'. I'll never forget walking into my bedroom and realizing someone had been there. My stuff was thrown all over the floor. The closet was torn apart. It was disorienting and disturbing — someone had invaded the space I thought was secure. After that, I bought an alarm system. And every Super Bowl Sunday since, I'm extra careful to lock the doors and keep the lights on. That experience made me more alert. Not scared. Just attentive.

That's much like the spiritual place Jesus wants us to be on this first Sunday of Advent. He doesn't start the season with soft candlelight and cozy manger scenes. He starts with two brutal images: a flood and a thief. In other words, chaos and violation.

Why? Because life will flood us. Chaos *will* come. And in the midst of it, Christ will come like a thief — not to steal from us, but to steal us back. He is the intruder we should want. The one who breaks in, not to ransack, but to rescue.

Christ presents himself as the thief but also the new Noah. He builds the ark of the Church to carry us through the flood. And he invites us to join him. How? By participating fully in our parishes. By making our homes places of prayer. By guarding our hearts with truth. By refusing to let spiritual complacency leave us exposed. By repentance.

This Advent, don't just stay vaguely "awake." Prepare. Build. Watch. The flood will come. But so will he.

— *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
deaconjlw@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 (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
December 6th Saturday, 4:00 PM	Michelle Kujawa	Ivan Tepen Patti Tepen	Bobby Elam Marilyn Elam	Pat Visintine Janet Visintine	Trish Denton Kevin Effinger
December 7th Sunday, 8:30 AM	Peggy Hassel	Joyce Dierkes	Kathy Pajares	Bernadette Gadu Alvina Tippy	Daniel Broeckling George Mehochko
December 7th Sunday, 10:30 AM	Sue Bolen	Beth Regensberger	Need Volunteer	Lynne Fulte Dawn York	Jerry Ahrens Chris Knee

Respect Life Corner

In November, we join Pope Leo XIV in praying for his monthly intention for the prevention of suicide. Let us pray that those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts might find the support, care, and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life. Please also continue to pray for the defeat of SB 1950, which would legalize assisted suicide in the state of Illinois, and consider contacting Governor Pritzker's office at 312-814-2121, asking him to veto the bill.

Vocation Corner

"I had the great blessing of growing up in a family in which faith was lived in a simple, practical way. However, it was my paternal grandmother in particular who influenced my journey of faith. She was a woman who explained to us, who talked to us about Jesus, who taught us the catechism. The first proclamation is at home, in the family! And this makes me think of the love of so many mothers and grandmothers in the transmission of faith. One day in particular, though, was very important to me: Sept. 21, 1953. I was almost 17. It was "Students' Day." Before going to the celebration, I passed through the parish I normally attended, I found a priest that I did not know, and I felt the need to go to confession. For me this was an experience of encounter: I found that someone was waiting for me After making my confession, I felt something had changed. I was not the same. I had heard something like voice, or a call. I was convinced that I should become a priest."

Pope Francis; Vigil of Pentecost Address, May 18, 2013

Prayer for Advent – Arise

Bless God's Holy Name! Prepare our hearts for Your coming, Lord. Awaken them from any places that have become sleepy or despondent. Inspire us with new visions. Be with us as we climb closer to You.
Amen.

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READINGS OF THE WEEK

Readings for the week of November 30, 2025

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
Monday: Is 4:2-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 15:29-37
Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Mt 9:27-31
Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8
Next Sunday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 (see 7)/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

Observances for the week of November 30, 2025

Sunday: 1st Sunday of Advent
Monday:
Tuesday:
Wednesday: St. Francis Xavier, Priest
Thursday: St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church
Friday:
Saturday: St. Nicholas, Bishop
Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Advent
©LPi

Mass Intentions for the week of November 30, 2025

SUN 11/30	8:30 AM	For the People
	10:30 AM	Mary Adams
MON 12/1	8:00 AM	Curtis Wiley, Jr.
TUE 12/2	8:00 AM	Maria Pezzuto
WED 12/3	8:00 AM	Msgr. Daniel Jurek
	10:30 AM	ACHS Penance Service
THUR 12/4	8:00 AM	Ray Scheibel
FRI 12/5	8:00 AM	Memorial Donors
SAT 12/6	8:00 AM	Amann, Kreher, & Boeving Families
		Living & Deceased
	4:00 PM	For the People
SUN 12/7	8:30 AM	Doris Dunn
	10:30 AM	John Rensing

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

"You do not know on which day your Lord will come," Jesus says. He is reminding us that we do not know the mind of God. But we do know the heart of God, and we know that it is filled with mercy for those who heed the warning: Stay awake!

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(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - BENEATH THE SURFACE

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Mini reflection: Of course the world is ending. It has been ending forever. And the Son of Man is coming — but don't forget, he was already here, too. And His Spirit, even now, is renewing the face of the earth. "But how?" we ask. "And when? And where?"

Watershed Moments

In every life there are watershed moments.

I think of our time on this earth as resembling, in the beginning, a fine, firm sheet of metal, suspended with perfect balance in time and space. If a drop of water falls upon the sheet, it remains precisely where it lands.

But life goes on. We see things, we feel things, and in the seeing and the feeling, the flat, smooth metal sheet is nicked. The impacts created by those experiences are like BB pellets riddling armor; before long, the surface is pockmarked. A falling drop of water will drain or pool either in one way or the other, its action determined by the closest indentation.

A watershed has been created, a summit or valley that disrupts the smooth flatness of life. In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks about the end of the world. I'm no Biblical scholar, but I suspect the topic at hand is the Apocalypse (capital A). The big one. The explosion that upends the sheet itself and sends every drop of water crashing down. But I think, in a smaller way, it's also about all the indentations on the plane: those little apocalypses (lowercase a), the things that felt like the end of the world (or the beginning of a new one).

The loss of a job. The breakup of a relationship. The suffering of a loved one.

Of course the world is ending. It has been ending forever. And the Son of Man is coming — but don't forget, he was already here, too. And his Spirit, even now, is renewing the face of the earth.

"But how?" we ask. "And when? And where?"

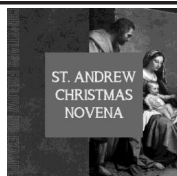
Without the chinks in the armor — without the watershed moments — there is tremendous smoothness, certainly. But there is also no movement.

So look to the watershed moments, these little (and big) apocalypses. In these moments that change us, for better or worse, God is there, working, waiting.

©LPi

Saint Nicholas of Myra

December 6th



St. Andrew Christmas Novena, Explained!

The St. Andrew Christmas novena is a prayer said from November 30, the Feast of St. Andrew, through Christmas Eve. Traditionally, it is recited 15 times each day.

The Gospel of John tells us that St. Andrew was a disciple of John the Baptist who heard John call Jesus "the Lamb of God." Andrew followed Jesus, curious about him, and realized that he was the Messiah, so he quickly found his brother, Peter, and the two became the first disciples.

In praying this novena, Christians follow the example of Andrew's prescient faithfulness throughout the season of Advent.

The prayer of the novena reads: "Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother. Amen." ©LPi

SPECIAL MASS TIMES

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."

Abby	Jackie	Marabeth
Albert	Jane	Mark
Alice	Joan	Michael
Ann	Joann	Mike
Bob	Joe	Naji
Cathy	Kathleen	Rachel
Chad	Kathy	Schaeffer Family
Cissell Family	Kay	Schmitz Family
Dian	Kayla	Shovlin Family
Eileen	Louise	Tom
George		

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.

Sunday, November 30, 2025 | First Sunday in Advent



****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 23rd will be printed in the December 7th bulletin.

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: What dog breed is named after a saint?

Answer: St. Bernard.

©LPi

Weekly Schedule

November 30, 2025

- Sunday** - 8:30 am Mass
Live Stream Mass 8:30 am
- 10:30 am Mass
- Monday** -
- Tuesday** -
- 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



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)

Weekly	Year to Date	Grand Total
118	6,205	16,243



©LPi **All

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

November 16, 2025

Envelopes/Loose	\$ 4,177.27
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 603.25
Guatemala	\$ 25.00
100 Year Jubilee Celebration Donations	\$ 15.00
Catholic Campaign for Human Development	\$ 851.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 25.00
Hurricane Melissa Victims	\$ 125.00

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**

WEEK 1 Advent

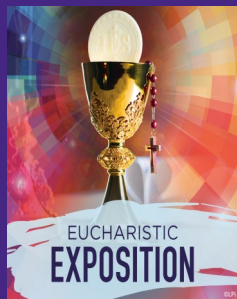
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Discernment Day of Recollection

All single young men ages 15–35 are invited to a Discernment Day of Recollection on Saturday, December 3, at St. Nicholas Parish in O'Fallon. The day will focus on the theme of "Spiritual Sonship and Fatherhood" and includes conferences, Holy Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, time for discussion, and lunch. Please email mskorch@diobelle.org if you have any questions.



Snows.org or call
618.397.6700



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.



Carol Blue	12/01	Javil Arzola	12/05
Lauren Borik	12/01	Toni Donovan	12/05
Allison Brutto	12/01	Randy Galati	12/05
Terry Noblitt	12/01	Nancy Jones	12/05
Connor Adams	12/02	Helen Fuhrman	12/06
Diane Hurst	12/02	Cathy Behrmann	12/07
Douglas Iler	12/02	Susan Haselhorst	12/07
Juana Palma	12/02		



**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!



Christmas DINNER

Thursday, December 25, 2025

SERVING 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

St. Henry Parish

Msgr. Voss Parish Center

5303 W. Main Street, Belleville

CALL 618-722-5024

BY DECEMBER 16

TO MAKE RESEVATIONS

No Carry-Outs Available

A meal delivery (up to three) is
available to the homebound

Sponsored by the Diocese of Belleville
and Catholic Charities of Southern Illinois



WINTER Coat Drive

Help families in need with your donations!

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!