Welcome to St. Mary Church

July 6, 2026 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

PARISH INFORMATION

Administrator: Fr. Larry Lemay
stmaryparish.anna@gmail.com
Trustees: Jackie Beatty
sjbeatty78@gmail.com
Jim Poletti
jim.sandy1@icloud.com
Parish Council:
Jeff Agne
JoElla Basler (Vice President)
Beth Dallas
John Schmidt (President)
jschmidtcpa@hotmail.com
Rachel Kell rachelannkell@gmail.com
Doug Vaughn
Faith Formation: Rhonda Schmidt
rschmidt00@hotmail.com
Weddings and Funerals: Mary Beth Hileman
Music Director: Rachel Kell
Parish Life Coordinator: Susan Belcher
Parish Secretary: Ellen Quertermous
stmaryparish.anna@gmail.com
Office hours Monday 9:30-12, Tuesday & Thursday 9:30-2

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

June 21, 2026

General Collection:	$1486.00
Building Fund:	$30.00
Peter's Pence:	$270.00

CSMA: Our goal for this year's campaign is $9726.00. We have reached 63% of our goal.

MASS READINGS
Week of July 5

Sunday: Zechariah 9:9-10; Psalm 145: 1-2,8-11,13-14; Romans 8:9,11-13; Matthew 11:25-30
Monday: Hosea 2:16,17c-18,21-22; Psalm 145:2-9 Matthew 9:18-26
Tuesday: Hosea 8:4-7,11-13; Psalm 115:3-10; Matthew 9:32-38
Wednesday: Hosea 10:1-3,7-8,12; Psalm 105:2-7; Matthew 10:1-7
Thursday: Hosea 11:1-4,8e-9; Psalm 80: 2-3,15-16; Matthew 10:7-15
Friday: Hosea 14:2-10; Psalm 51:3-4,8-9,12-14,17; Matthew 10:16-23
Saturday: Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 93:1-2,5; Matthew 10:24-33

GOT NEWS TO SHARE?

We'd love to put it in the bulletin. Deadline is Thursday each week.

WELCOME FR. LARRY!

Today we welcome Fr. Larry Lemay as our new parish adminstrator. Please join us in the Parish Hall after 8 AM Mass on Sunday for coffee & donuts and fellowship.

THERE WILL BE NO DAILY MASS ON TUESDAY JULY 7

Fr. Larry will be wrangling movers that day. Regular Mass schedule will resume on Thursday, July 9.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL SCHEDULE CHANGE

TUESDAY JULY 28 -THURSDAY JULY 30
5-8 PM
A LIGHT SUPPER WILL BE SERVED

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL DONATIONS NEEDED

We are in need of 35-40 cardboard flats like those used to display canned goods. They will be put to good use at VBS!!

DISTRICT 37 SUMMER ASSISTANCE FOOD BANK

Our next pickup date to help supply the grade school district with food items for needy families is **JULY 13.** Non-perishable items that children can easily prepare for themselves are the primary need – boxed meals, mac and cheese, pudding cups, dry cereal, shelf-stable milk, canned pasta meals, granola bars, and snack type foods are recommended. Our local families thank you for your generosity. Please bring your items to church or drop them off at the church office during office hours.

VOCATION CORNER

This weekend, we mark another anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. On the 51st anniversary, Charles Carroll, the only Catholic to have signed the Declaration and the last surviving signer, said, "God grant that this religious liberty may be preserved in these States to the end of time, and that all believing in the religion of Christ may practice the leading principle of charity, the basis of every virtue."

Today is a time for choosing how we will keep faith with the great accomplishments of our Catholic forebears as we seek to make our own contributions. If we or someone in your family is called by the Holy Spirit to a religious vocation, we should encourage and accept this challenge as we are all endowed by our Creator with life and liberty.

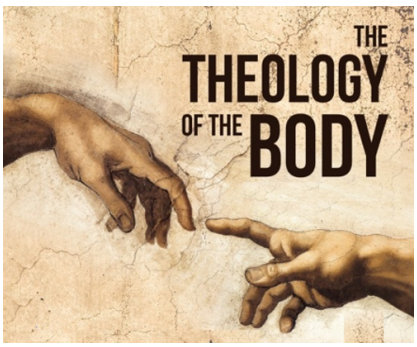
"Columbia, "Culture of Life", Oct. 2015, pg. 47.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Saturday July 4:
Lector: Cathy Belcher
Eucharistic Ministers: Jeff Agne, Paul Cairatti, Amy Ulrich
Sunday July 5:
Lector: Ellen Quertermous
Servers: Dallases
Eucharistic Ministers: Susan Belcher, Mary Ellen Ecker, Jim Poletti
Saturday July 11:
Lector: Janna Sweitzer
Eucharistic Ministers: Jeff Agne, Paul Cairatti, Joe Bierbaum
Sunday July 12:
Lector: Mary Beth Hileman
Servers: Marggrafs
Eucharistic Ministers: Susan Belcher, Mary Ellen Ecker, Ben Marggraf

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday & Sunday July 4th & 5th: For our country
Saturday July 11: Jack Sherwin
Sunday July 12: Mickey Stute Chaney



WORD OF LIFE

Man cannot fully find himself except through a sincere gift of himself." -St. Pope John Paul II

At the heart of every human person is the call to love. Young or old, single, married, widowed—we are each capable of becoming a gift to another. We become a self-gift when we sit beside a friend in need, offer our time in service, faithfully "show up" for our children, choose love when it is most difficult, and when husbands and wives give themselves to one another freely, totally, faithfully, and fruitfully. In giving ourselves away, we do not lose who we are; we discover who we were created to be. Through these daily acts of self-giving love, we reflect the very heart of God and His infinite, unconditional love for each of us. The call to become a gift of self lies at the heart of God's beautiful plan for marriage and family. Through St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body, discover the deeper meaning of authentic love. Scan the QR code to learn more.

AN INVITATION TO A DEEPER VIRTUE

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart;

Perhaps the most misunderstood text in all of scripture is the one where Jesus says to us: "Unless your virtue goes deeper than that of the scribes and the pharisees, you will never enter into the kingdom of heaven."

It's precisely here where Jesus' invites us "beyond", beyond natural reaction, beyond instinct, beyond giving back in kind, beyond legal rights, beyond strict justice, beyond the need to be right, beyond even the ten commandments, beyond the virtue of the scribes and pharisees.

Indeed the litmus-test for Christian orthodoxy is not the creed (Can you believe this set of truths?) but this particular challenge from Jesus: Can you love an enemy? Can you not give back in kind? Can you move beyond your natural reactions and transform the energy that enters you from others, so as to not give back bitterness for bitterness, harsh words for harsh words, curse for curse, hatred for hatred, murder for murder? Can you rise above your sense of being wronged? Can you renounce your need to be right? Can you move beyond the itch to always have what's due you? Can you forgive, even when every feeling inside of you rebels at its unfairness? Can you take in bitterness, curses, hatred, and murder itself, and give back graciousness, blessing, love, understanding, and forgiveness? That's the root invitation inside of Christianity and it's only when we do this that we move beyond "an eye for an eye".

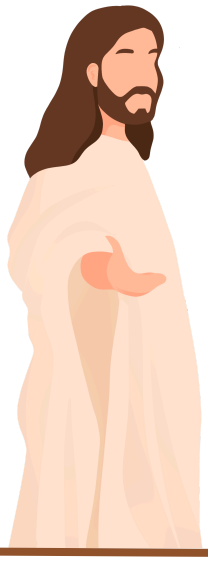
Admittedly, this isn't easy, either in theory or in practice. Much inside of conventional wisdom, pop psychology, and contemporary spirituality, will object to the very theory of it, pointing out that carrying tension isn't healthy for us, telling us that we have a duty not to enable abusive behaviour, and challenging us not to be doormats and victims, but mature persons who claim the legitimate space that's needed in order to be free, giving persons, responsible to God, others, and self apposite to developing our innate potentials and bringing our gifts to the world.

All of these objections are right, of course, though none of them negate Jesus' challenge. His invitation, cleansed from overly-simplistic interpretation, remains: Don't be a victim or a doormat or an enabler of abusive behaviour, but do consider, willingly and without resentment, laying down your life for others by living this more sublime challenge.

And it's exactly on this point, to do this willingly and without resentment, that its practice grows difficult. It's not easy to do this and not grow resentful and manipulative. More commonly, we carry others' crosses - but end up being bitter about it and sending them the bill. The scribes and pharisees had this down to an fine art. That too was part of their virtue. Growing resentful or manipulative while serving others is a perennial danger, though, as Goethe says: "The dangers of life are many and safety is one of them."

And so the invitation of Jesus to what's higher, more sublime, more noble, remains; as does the gentle, understanding, faithful, non-threatening, non-coercive, non guilt-inducing, but persistent and uncompromising, presence of God.

~Ron Rolheiser OMI
Excerpted from SLU Liturgy resources
www.slu.edu



On our country's 250th birthday, please pray that we continue to work to realize the ideals of liberty and justice for all that we invoked at our founding. May God bless America.