Welcome to St. Mary Church

June 28, 2026 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

PARISH INFORMATION

Administrator: Fr. Uriel Salamanca
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:	$1542.25
Building Fund:	$50.00
Education Fund:	$55.00

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

MASS READINGS
Week of June 28

Sunday: 2 Kings 4:8-11,14-16a; Psalm 89:2-3,16-19; Romans 6:3-4,8-11; Matthew 10:37-42
Monday: Acts 12:1-11; Psalm 34:2-9; 2 Timothy 4:6-8,17-18; Matthew 16:13-19
Tuesday: Amos 3:1-8,4:11-132; Psalm 5:4-8; Mathew 8:23-27
Wednesday: Amos 5:14-15;21-24; Psalm 50:7-13;16-17; Matthew 8:28-34
Thursday: Amos 7:10-17; Psalm 19:8-11; Matthew 9:1-8.
Friday: Ephesians 2:19-22; Psalm 117:1-2; John 20:24-29
saturday: Amos 9:11-15; Psalm 85:9-14; Matthw 9:14-17 or readings from the Mass "For the Country or a City"

FATHER URIEL

This weekend, Father Uriel will celebrate his last Masses here at St. Mary. We thank him for all he has done for us and we will miss him! We will be accepting cards and gifts for him at the entrances of Church – monetary gifts are preferred to help him with his travel expenses as he visits family in Colombia this summer.

Next week, Fr. Larry Lemay will join us as our parish administrator. We are looking forward to what he will bring to our church. Please make him welcome!

NO DAILY MASS TUESDAY JUNE 30

WELCOME OUR NEWEST CATHOLICS

This Sunday we will receive Meredith Frey and her daughter Naomi into full fellowship in the Catholic Church. They will receive the Sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation at 8 AM Mass. We are delighted to welcome them!

VBS STAFF MEETING
FOR ALL TEACHERS AND VOLUNTEERS
SUNDAY JULY 5 AFTER 8 AM MASS

If you cannot attend, please contact Rhonda Schmidt at (618)697-0400

FOOD BANK DONATIONS FOR JULY

Our next scheduled delivery date for donations to the Anna District 37 Summer Assistance food bank will be July 13. Items can be placed in the boxes at the entrance of Church or brought to the office during office hours. Items most needed are foods easily prepared by children, such as heat and eat meals, mac and cheese, canned pasta or soup, shelf-stable milk (available at Dollar Tree), cereal, granola bars, non-refrigerated pudding cups or fruit cups, toaster pastries, and snack type foods. Your generous donations last month were greatly appreciated.

VOCATION CORNER

"Growing up as a Protestant in southern Michigan, I was incredibly blessed to have parents who took seriously their responsibility of raising me with faith. I didn't think there was anything missing in my life until I met joyful Catholics for the first time when I was a teenager. Through their witness and friendship, I learned more about the faith – and found myself surprised by truth. These friends invited me to attend a Catholic family camp, and it was there I first came to believe in the true presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, learned to pray the rosary, and felt called to religious life. There was only one problem – I wasn't even in RCIA yet! I was received into the Church about a year later, and I kept my heart open to the Lord's call. He led me to the Queenship of Mary Community in Ottawa, Ontario. I made my final vows in 2016."

Sr. Philomena, Daughter of Mary; Columbia Magazine Dec. 2024

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Saturday June 27:
Lector: Jackie Beatty
Eucharistic Ministers: Jeff Agne, Paul Cairatti, Luke Vaughn
Sunday June 28:
Lector: Karl Sweitzer
Servers: Sophia Vaughn, Claire Flamm
Eucharistic Ministers: JoElla Basler, Mary Ellen Ecker, Ellen Quertermous
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.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday June 27: Jason Lovell
Sunday June 28: The Gerry Basler and Barbara Stute families
Saturday July 4 & Sunday July 5: For our country.

WORD OF LIFE

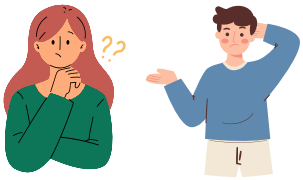
Prayer for the Protection of Religious Liberty

O God our Creator, from your provident hand we have received our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. You have called us as your people and given us the right and the duty to worship you, the only true God, and your Son, Jesus Christ. Through the power and working of your Holy Spirit, you call us to live out our faith in the midst of the world, bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gospel to every corner of society. We ask you to bless us in our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty. Give us the strength of mind and heart to readily defend our freedoms when they are threatened; give us courage in making our voices heard on behalf of the rights of your Church and the freedom of conscience of all people of faith.

Grant, we pray, O heavenly Father, a clear and united voice to all your sons and daughters gathered in your Church in this decisive hour in the history of our nation, so that, with every trial withstood and every danger overcome—for the sake of our children, our grandchildren, and all who come after us—this great land will always be "one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

USCCB, "Prayer for the Protection of Religious Liberty"

He Said What?



Had you ever noticed the number of flat-out contradictions in scripture? For example,

- the last shall be first;
- lose your life to find it;
- take the lowest seat if you want to have the highest;
- the Son of Man came to serve, not to be served;
- a virgin will conceive;
- an old woman with an old husband will give birth to a child; and so on.

We might have said that if we want to be first, we would have to get into the front of the line, not the end. And, if we want to be alive, we must make some moves not to lose our lives. And so on. These are common sense, aren't they?

Instead, this Sunday's readings are introducing us, gently and partially, to ways in which such common sense opinions do not go deep enough. Try this on: We have to be like lifeless, empty earthen vessels, so that God can pour life and love into us.

In the First Reading a distinguished lady in the little village of Schunem shows great hospitality to the prophet Elisha, even to the point of building and furnishing a little room on the second floor of her house, with a bed, table, chair, and lamp for him for whenever he visits. Another contradiction: she is childless, yet Elisha promises that in one year she will be fondling her own baby son. She is shocked. But the promise comes true. Then, when the boy becomes a young man, he suddenly dies (2 Kings 4:18-37). Elisha comes from twenty miles away and brings him back to life. Life is given twice where there was no hope of life: death triumphing but life restored. It is contradictory, but is this the way of the Lord?

Then in the Second Reading, St. Paul writes to the Church in Rome that they are baptized into Christ's death and are buried with him! A grim statement. But then Paul says, if we die with Christ, we shall also live with him, shall live a life in God (Second Reading).

Die in order to live?

In the Gospel Jesus makes a most enigmatic, not to say contradictory, statement: "Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." No matter how we try to explain away that statement and neuter its content, it still means what it says. Losing your life is the only way to possess it. Letting go is the only way to hold on. How can such contrary claims simultaneously be true?

I want to suggest a metaphor. A glass has to start out empty in order to succeed as a glass. If it is sealed up, or if it is solid, or if it is already full, nothing can be poured in.

Does this sound like one more contradiction? No. A container has to be empty if it is to be filled.

The same goes for us. We have to be like empty earthen vessels, so that God can pour life and love into us. This is the source of all the "contradictions" in the Gospels and certainly in the readings this Sunday.

We have to empty out if we are to be filled up so that God can pour life and love into us.

This is the source of all the "contradictions" in the Gospels and certainly in the readings this Sunday.

We have to empty out if we are to be filled up with God's gifts.

~ John Foley, SJ
www.slu.edu