Welcome to St. Mary Church

May 17, 2026 Seventh Sunday of Easter
The Ascension of the Lord Celebrated

PARISH INFORMATION

Administrator: Fr. Uriel Salamanca
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Trustees: Jackie Beatty
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Jim Poletti
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Parish Council:
Jeff Agne
JoElla Basler (Vice President)
Beth Dallas
John Schmidt (President)
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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

May 3 2026

General Collection:	$2559.00
Building Fund:	$50.00
Flower Fund (Sweet Treats)	$103.00

CSMA: Our goal for this year's campaign is $9726.00. We have reached 58% of our goal.

MASS READINGS

Week of May 17

Sunday: Acts 1:12-14; Psalm 27:1,4,7-8; 1 Peter 4:13-16; John 17:1-11a.
Monday: Acts 19:1-8; Psalm 68:10-11,20-21; John 16:29-33j
Tuesday: Acts 20:17-27; Psalm 68:10-11, 20-21; John 17:1-11a
Wednesday: Acts 20:28-38; Psalm 68:29-30,33-36; John 17:11b-19
Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Psalm 16:1-2,5,7-11; John 17:20-26
Friday: Acts 25:13B-21; Psalm 103:1-2,11-12,19-20; John 21:15-19
Saturday: Acts 28:16-20,30-31; Psalm 11:4-5,7; John 21:20-25

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

This week, our PSR classes will pray a "rosary walk" around our campus (in case of rain, we will pray indoors!). Next weekend will the last meeting of our Faith Formation classes for this year. We will celebrate with a closing ceremony following 8 AM Mass.

CHANGES COMING

Last weekend we learned that Fr. Uriel's tenure as administrator of our parish will end July 1. He will continue as administrator at St. Joseph in Cobden, so he won't be far away! We will soon welcome Fr. Larry Lemay as our new pastor. He will be here full time. Fr. Larry has been serving St. Paul church in Vienna. This news is not easy to hear, as Fr. Uriel has been such a blessing to our church family, and we will miss him, but we can look forward to continued growth with Fr. Larry at the helm. For a priest's perspective on handling this change, check out this article from Catholic 365: *https://www.catholic365.com/article/38992/navigating-the-news-of-reassigned-priests.html*. Please pray for Fr. Uriel, Fr. Lemay, and for our church family as we move forward in faith.

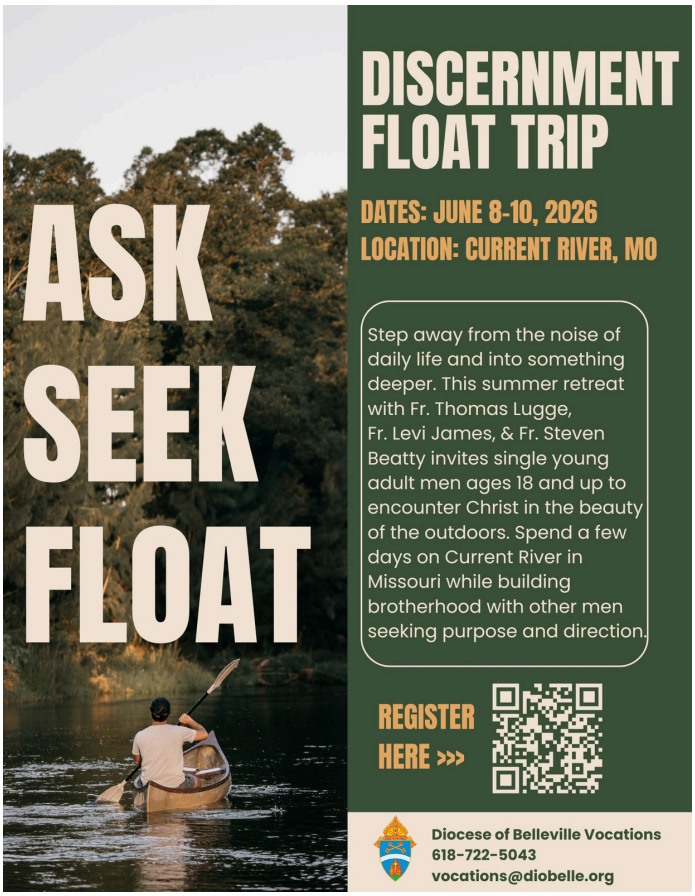
CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

This weekend we take up the collection for the Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC). Your support helps CCC fulfill its mission of love to share the gospel message of hope with people in the US using the internet, television, radio, and print media. Half the funds we collect remain here in the Diocese of Belleville to support local efforts. The other half supports the Communication activities of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops and other projects. Last year's activities included roundtable seminars for priests and bishops to educate them in responding to individuals suffering from mental health issues, daily broadcast scripture readings, and many other outreach projects.

VOCATION CORNER

"There was never a dull moment growing up with seven siblings. Little did I know that this experience would prepare me well for Benedictine life, a life of stability in community lived in the enclosure of the monastery. Would I have become a monk if my grandmother had not prayed that one of her grandsons would become a priest; if my dad had not told me, ""It doesn't hurt to give God the first option""; Nothing is more beautiful than encountering Christ. I didn't lose my family when I entered the monastery; I joined a family much larger than 10. I belong to God's family."

Fr. Caesarius Marple, OSB; Westminster Abbey, Mission, British Columbia; Columbia Magazine April 2020



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday May 16: Mary Ann Eblen
Sunday May 17: All high school and college graduates

Saturday May 23 &
Sunday May 24: For all Armed Forces members who lost their lives in the service of our country.

WORD OF LIFE

"The Lord says to us, 'Do not fear: I am with you' (Isaiah 41:10). He speaks these words not as one who merely observes our pain, but as one who experienced immense suffering. And the very wounds that bear witness to his suffering indicate the essence of our identity and worth: we are loved by God. Reflecting on the healed wounds of the Risen Christ, we see that even our most difficult trials can be the place where God manifests his victory. He makes all things beautiful. He makes all things new."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, "Be Not Afraid" NABRE © 2010 CCD. Used with permission

CONGRATULATIONS

To all those graduating from high school and college this year. May you have a safe celebration and may wonderful things await you in the next chapter!

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Saturday May 16:
Lector: Janna Sweitzer
Eucharistic Ministers: Jeff Agne, Paul Cairatti, Jackie Beatty
Sunday May 17:
Lector: Karl Sweitzer
Servers: Hoehners, Claire Flamm
Eucharistic Ministers: Lisa Hoehner, Jordan Jansen, Ellen Quertermous
Saturday May 23:
Lector: Jackie Beatty
Eucharistic Ministers: Jeff Agne, Paul Cairatti, Joe Wendling
Sunday May 24:
Lector: Jim Poletti
Servers: Kendall Sweitzer, Logan & Flynt Brumleve
Eucharistic Minsters: Jackie Beatty, JoElla Basler, Lisa Hoehner

The Mystery of Presence and Absence in Love

When Jesus was preparing his disciples for his ascension, he told them: "It is better for you that I go away! You won't understand this now. You will grieve and have heavy hearts, but, later, this will turn to joy and you will understand why I have to do this because, unless I go away, I can't send you my spirit."

The paradoxical interplay of presence and absence in love is a great mystery. We need to be present to each other physically, but we also need to be gone from each other at times. We bring a blessing both when we visit someone and when leave after the visit is over. Presence is partly predicated on absence and there is something of our spirit that we can only give by going away. Why is this so?

Because absence is sometimes the only thing that can purify presence. When we are physically present, there are always certain tensions, irritations, disappointments, flaws in our bodies, and faults in our character that partially block full love and blessing. That's why we rarely appreciate our loved ones fully, until they are taken away from us.

Absence can help wash clean. What the pain of absence does is stretch our hearts so that the essence, the beauty, the love, and the gift of the one who is absent can flow to us without being colored by the tensions, disappointments, and the flaws of everyday life. As well, the other's absence can work to stretch our hearts so that we can receive him or her in a way that more fully accepts and respects who he or she really is. That's why our children have to go away (and we have to feel that bitter heartache) before we can accept that they are no longer children, but adults like ourselves, with lives of their own.

The mystery of saying goodbye is really the mystery of the Ascension, the most under-understood mystery both inside and outside of religion. The Ascension is about going away so that our loved ones can fully receive our spirit. It's about the mystery of saying goodbye, when goodbye isn't really goodbye at all, but only love's way of taking on a different modality so that it can be present in a way that's deeper, purer, more permanent, less-clinging, and less-limited by the tensions, disappointments, inadequacies, wounds, and betrayals that, this side of eternity, forever make our intimacy a work in progress.

~ Ron Rolheiser, OMI SluLiturgy Resources (excerpted)