In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. John 14.2

Welcome to St. Mary Church

May 3, 2026 Fifth Sunday of Easter

PARISH INFORMATION

Administrator: Fr. Uriel Salamanca
stmaryparish.anna@gmail.com
Trustees: Jackie Beatty
sjbeatty78@gmail.com
Jim Poletti
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

April 19, 2026

General Collection:	$1816.00
Building Fund:	$60.00
Education Fund:	$10.00
Black & Indian Missions:	$25.00

April 26, 2026

General Collection:	$1528.00
Building Fund:	$30.00
Home Missions:	$245.00

CSMA: Our goal for this year's campaign is $9726.00. We have reached 54% of our goal.

MASS READINGS
Week of May 3

Sunday: Acts 6: 1-7; Psalm 33:1-2,4-5,18-19; 1 Peter 2:4-9; John 14:1-12
Monday: Acts a4:5-18; Psalm 115:1-4,15-16; John 14:21-26
Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28; Psalm 145:10-13,21; John 14:27-31a
Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6; Psalm 122:1-5; John 15:1-8
Thursday: Acts 15:7-21; Psalm 96:1-3,10; John 15:9-11
Friday: Acts 15:22-31; Psalm 57:8-10,12; John 15:12-17
Saturday: Acts 16:1-10; Psalm 100:1-3,5; John 15:18-21

MAY CROWNING

At 8 AM Mass this weekend, we will celebrate the tradition of crowning our image of the Blessed Mother with flowers. In Catholic tradition, May is devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary, presenting the opportunity to celebrate our love and reverence for the Blessed Mother through feasts, processions, and song.

IF YOU MISSED IT....

The Ordination and Installation of Fr. Godfrey Mullen as our Bishop was live streamed on both the Diocese's facebook page and YouTube channel, both listed as "Catholic Diocese of Belleville", and should be available for replay.

HOLYLAND ARTS

At this weekend's Masses, beautiful hand carved items made by Christian artisans in the Holy Land will be available for sale. The artists who create these items have had their livelihoods endangered by the conflict in the region that has severely limited tourism – their major source of income. So proceeds from your purchase will help these artists continue to provide for their families. Hint: they would make wonderful gifts for Mothers' Day next week.

BALD KNOB CROSS
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

A lot has been going on at the Bald Knob Cross – the Easter Sunrise Service was attended by roughly 1500 people, and work on expansion of the grounds surrounding the cross will be completed this summer. The cross receives a steady stream of visitors in the summer months, and volunteers are needed to enable the visitor center to be open each day. Volunteers can pick the days and hours they wish to work. Their duties include welcoming visitors, answering questions, and working the cash register. If you would like to volunteer, please call Reg at (618)319-2163/

VOCATION CORNER

Today our reading from the Acts of the Apostles declares the institution of the Diaconate ministry. This event calls forth seven men to assist the Apostles in spreading the Kingdom of God. We are blessed in this Diocese to have so many men who have accepted the call to the Diaconate." They are assigned by the bishop to ministries for which the bishop perceives a great need, and for which the deacon may have special gifts or talents. Most often, this will be within a parish setting, just as most priests serve in a parish. Once assigned to the parish, the deacon and any other clergy assigned to the parish minister are under the immediate supervision of the pastor. (USCCB)"

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday May 2:	Jason Lovell
Sunday May 3:	Stan Won
Saturday May 9 & Sunday May 10:	For all mothers

WORD OF LIFE

In honor of the 800th anniversary of Saint Francis of Assisi's death, Pope Leo XVI has proclaimed a Jubilee Year of Saint Francis. In this Year of Saint Francis, may he help us to see the beauty of life in all of creation, in particular, in the weakest and most vulnerable among us. Together, let us pray for the protection of human life and the courage to defend it.

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MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Saturday May 2:
Lector: Cathy Belcher
Eucharistic Ministers: Jeff Agne, Paul Cairatti, Luke Vaughn
Sunday May 3:
Lector: Ellen Quertermous
Servers: Marggrafs
Eucharistic Ministers: Mary Ellen Ecker, Ben Marggraf, **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**
Saturday May 9: JoElla Basler
Eucharistic Ministers: Jeff Agne, Paul Cairatti, Joe Bierbaum
Sunday May 10:
Lector: Mary Beth Hileman
Servers: Kells, Juliet Godinez
Eucharistic Ministers: Susan Belcher, Mary Ellen Ecker, Jim Poletti

Saint Francis: Visionary of Life

Read the full version at respectlife.org/francis-visionary-of-life.

Saint Francis proclaims that the created world reveals the glory of God himself.

This is particularly true for the human person, created in the image of God, whose life from conception to natural death is to be honored and protected. Among all creation, the human person has the unique capacity to praise God, highlighting the distinctive dignity of human life.

During this Year of Saint Francis, may we seek his intercession for the protection of human life and the courage to defend it.

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LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

Poverty through the Lens Of Catholic Social Teaching

Facilitated on Zoom by Sr. Elizabeth Greims, DC

Thursdays 10-11:30 a.m. CT

June 4, 11, 18, 25, July 2, 9, 16, and 30

Program Description: In a time of deep division and social inequity, this JustFaith Ministries program will return to the foundational principles of our Catholic faith as we discern how we are called to love one another, including and especially our neighbors experiencing poverty. The group will trace the development, significance, and impact of Catholic Social Teaching (CST) as it has responded throughout history and today to systems that have undermined human dignity and left millions without access to the resources they need to flourish.

Outside the Session Assignments: These are designed to take about 30 minutes each week: and include *Dilexi Te* (Pope Leo's recent encyclical), a brief weekly podcast, and online materials from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Program Features: Tools for civil dialogue, prayer, meditation, song, discussion, videos on each theme of CST, and an optional immersion experience.

Regarding Collaboration with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops: We've invited input from the USCCB Secretariat of Justice and peace on use of their materials and are in conversation about future collaboration.

SNAPSHOTS OF A GROWING CHURCH

In Acts, when Luke sketches scenes from the story of the early days of the Church in Jerusalem, he is not simply recording events. He is providing paradigms that portray something about the Church's nature.

The "Hellenists" are best understood as Greek-speaking Jews (probably people who grew up in the Diaspora and later emigrated to Judea). "Hebrews," then, would be Aramaic-speaking Jews. We have evidence, even as far back as the Maccabees, that there had long been tension between them.

The passage from Acts 6 (First Reading) lets us know that the infant Christian community of Jerusalem included Jews from both subgroups, and that becoming Christian did not automatically erase the "liberal/conservative" baggage that they brought with them. Luke informs us that the community had set up a daily distribution (of food?) to take care of the needy among them, especially widows. But the Greek-speaking widows were somehow being neglected.

Where did that neglect come from? A combination of scarcity and prejudice? Were the ("Hebrew") Twelve favoring their own kind? Were they too busy to oversee the distribution properly? Whatever the cause of the neglect, the Twelve chose to apply a familiar practical solution: they increased the staff. Too busy with the diakonia of the word to tie up their time with serving at table (or, in another valid translation, "keeping accounts"), they call the entire community together and mandate it to select seven good men to carry out this other diakonia. That the seven chosen all have Greek names suggests a kind of affirmative action on the part of the community: they chose Greek-speaking members, thereby assuring that the neglect of Hellenist widows would be remedied. This freeing up of the apostles led to continuing rapid growth of the Church, even attracting some of the Temple priests to the fold.

This vignette shows the Spirit-filled community facing a very human set of problems and acting practically and faithfully.

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