Welcome to St. Mary Church

October 4, 2026 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

PARISH INFORMATION

Administrator: Fr. Larry Lemay
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Trustees: Jackie Beatty
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Parish Council:
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JoElla Basler (Vice President)
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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

September 27 2026

General Collection: $987.0
CSMA: Our goal for this year's campaign is $9726.00. We have reached 63% of our goal.

OUR PRAYER LIST

Susan Kern
Linda White

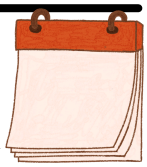
If you would like to be included in the list, please contact the office. We ask that the person being prayed for contact the office personally, as it is important to protect people's privacy.

If you would like a Mass said for a loved one, please contact the office with the name and date requested. We will do our best to schedule your Mass on the date requested.
stmaryparish.anna@gmail.com

NO DAILY MASSES
TUESDAY OCTOBER 13 & THURSDAY OCTOBER 15

Fr. Larry will be attending the annual Priest Convocation.

CALENDAR CORRECTION



The start times for Faith Formation classes were listed incorrectly on the October calendar. Classes begin at 9 AM, immediately after Mass on Sundays. Apologies for the error.

BISHOP GODFREY'S STEWARDSHIP WORKSHOP

Bishop Godfrey has asked that each parish send representatives to one of five stewardship workshops he is hosting. The closest one to St. Mary will be at St. Paul in Vienna on Friday, October 16 from 6-8 PM. We need to make sure St. Mary is represented, so if you plan to attend, please let Fr. Larry or the church office know. If you'd like to attend, but can't make that time work, there are 4 other options that would require a bit more driving. Contact the church office for details, stmaryparish.anna@gmail.com, or 618.697.5161.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who helped put together our annual game day breakfast for the AJ Wildcats football team this year.

COFFEE AND DONUTS

Please join us in the Parish Hall for coffee and donuts and conversation after 8 AM Mass on Sunday. All are welcome .

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

"Perhaps your hearts are also restless, searching for meaning and fulfillment, and for direction in your lives. The answer is found in a person. The Lord Jesus alone brings us true peace and joy, and fulfills every one of our deepest desires." | *Pope Leo XIV*

FROM FR. LARRY'S DESK

A Question at the Heart of the Sacraments

Every time we celebrate a sacrament, something quietly astonishing takes place. We see water poured, bread broken, oil traced on a forehead, hands extended in blessing. These are the visible signs, simple, earthly actions we can witness with our eyes, but beneath them lies an invisible reality: What God gives to us in the Sacraments. Grace moves, heals, strengthens, restores, and sends us forth, even though we cannot "see" it the way we see the outward sign. The Church teaches that the sacraments were entrusted to us by Christ himself; seven moments where heaven touches earth and God's life is poured into our life. They initiate us, heal us, and send us on mission. They make us holy so that we can help make the world holy. But here is the question worth pondering this week:

If every sacrament is a moment where God gives us this life, how deeply do we allow that gift to change us?

It is one thing to receive a sacrament; it is another to let its grace shape our choices, our relationships, our priorities, and our witness in the world. The Eucharist calls us to become what we receive. Reconciliation invites us to forgive as we have been forgiven. Confirmation strengthens us to live boldly as disciples. Marriage and Holy Orders send us forth in sacrificial love. Anointing of the Sick unites suffering with Christ's own. So perhaps the real spiritual work is not only celebrating the sacraments, but letting them transform us. As you come to Mass this Sunday, carry that question with you. Let it settle into your prayer. Let it challenge you. Let it open your heart to the grace God is already offering. May the sacraments we celebrate become the life we live.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday October 3:	Marge Profilet Harper
Sunday October 4:	Ann Gardner
Saturday October 10:	Faye Eaves
Sunday October 11:	Marie Sweitzer

WORD OF LIFE

"When the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary to tell her that she would conceive and bear a son, Mary responded with her fiat, "May it be done to me according to your word" (Lk 1:38). Mary conceives Christ in her womb, becoming the mother of God, the mother of Jesus. Jesus himself tells us that he is "the way and the truth and the life" (Jn 14:6). In becoming the mother of Jesus, Mary becomes the mother of life. Mary's acceptance in this unforeseen moment demonstrates how each of us must welcome the gift of new human life, even when that gift is unexpected or calls us to make sacrifices." *USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities Respect Life Reflection: "Mary: Mother of Life"*

Every October, the Church in the U.S. celebrates Respect Life Month. We reflect on the gift of every human life and how to build a culture that protects life from conception to natural death

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Saturday October 3:
Lector: Cathy Belcher
Eucharistic Ministers: Paul Cairatti, Amy Ulrich, VOLUNTEER NEEDED
Sunday October 4:
Lector: Ellen Quertermous
Servers: Marggrafs
Eucharistic Ministers: Susan Belcher, Mary Ellen Ecker, Luke Vaughn
Saturday October 10:
Lector: Janna Sweitzer
Eucharistic Ministers: Paul Ciaratti, Joe Bierbaum, Joe Wendling
Sunday October 11:
Lector: Mary Beth Hileman
Servers: Hoehners, Juliet Godinez
Eucharistic Ministers: Susan Belcher, Mary Ellen Ecker, Lisa Hoehner

Serving in these ministries is an experience that allows us to participate more fully in the celebration of the Mass. We would love to include more people in this opportunity to serve the Church and her people. Please contact Father Larry or the Church office if you would like to help.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH RETREATS

The Diocese of Belleville offers retreat options for high school students this winter. Quest is a fast-paced 33-hour Christian experience for high school freshmen and sophomores. It is a time to come together to find out about God, friendships, and self in a fun-filled, thoughtful, and carefree surrounding. A time to meet new people while praying, playing, singing, and sharing with them.

TEC (Teens Encounter Christ) is an opportunity for a special time in a young person's life. In the three-day weekend of TEC, you can experience being part of a vibrant, loving, and supportive faith community in which the friendship of Jesus Christ becomes a real possibility that makes sense. Team members of adults and youth share some of the struggles, joys, and feelings they have experienced in their own lives. TEC provides a space to reflect upon one's own ideals, hopes, dreams, and problems; to discover a God that you can believe in . . . a Christ you can encounter as risen and alive in your midst. See www.bellevilletec.org for details.

VOCATION CORNER

"God inscribed in the humanity of man and woman the vocation of love and communion. Love is therefore the fundamental and innate vocation of every human being."
– St. John Paul II

PRAYING FOR SEMINARIANS

Please pray for our Diocesan Seminarians. Each week, we will feature one of our 11 seminarians. Please consider dropping them a note of support. At the very least, a simply prayer would be helpful.

For this week:
Clinton Rauch
St. Meinrad Seminary
200 Hill Dr.
St. Meinrad, IN 47577

"I have thought about the priesthood off and on over the years, but when I graduated high school, I thought I would follow societal norms and be married by the time I was 25, and then have a kid or two by the time I was 30. When I turned 30 and none of that had happened, I felt kind of lost and 'behind' in life. I then started feeling the call to the priesthood more strongly than I ever had before, but I pushed it out of my head. Then, about a year later, I felt the call again, and this time it was very persistent. Finally, I decided to reach out to the vocation director and find a way to explore this possibility. Once I started opening myself up to the will of God, rather than my self-imposed timeline and objectives, I felt more at peace. I started realizing that maybe the priesthood was a real possibility for me."