Welcome to St. Mary Church

August 23, 2026 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

PARISH INFORMATION

Administrator: Fr. Larry Lemay
frlarrylemay@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

August 16, 2026

General Collection:	$2173.00
Building Fund:	$35.00

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

OUR PRAYER LIST

Susan Kern
Jeff Agne
Giovanni James Poletti

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. A small donation is customary for each Mass. We will do our best to schedule your Mass on the date requested.
stmaryparish.anna@gmail.com

Catechists/Teachers Needed for Faith Formation

Our church family is growing, and we need you to help them grow in faith!
We are currently seeking dedicated catechists for three of our combined Faith Formation classes this year:

- Kindergarten & 1st Grade
- 3rd & 4th Grade
- 5th & 6th Grade

We use the Word of Life curriculum, which makes lesson planning straightforward and takes the guess work out of preparing for a class. Each lesson plan is based on Scripture and the Catechism. You do not need a degree in theology or teaching to be a catechist—just a heart that loves Jesus and a willingness to share your faith with the next generation. Classes will begin in mid-September so there is plenty of time to get prepared. We ask that you prayerfully consider becoming part of our catechist team.
Please contact Rhonda Schmidt at 618-697-0440 to learn more or volunteer.

CATECHIST MEETING

There will be a meeting of all Faith Formation leaders in the Parish Hall **after 8 AM Mass Sunday, August 23.** If you are a Faith Formation teacher, or would like to be, please plan to attend.

INTERESTED IN THE CATHOLIC FAITH?

Inquiry Session 6:30 PM
Parish Hall
All are welcome!

RIDES TO MASS NEEDED

We have several parishioners who would love to be able to attend weekend Masses, but are in need of transportation. If you are able to provide a ride to Church, please contact Amy Ulrich.

From Father Larry's Desk

Greetings! Can you believe that it is half way through August already. It is that time of year where our already jam-packed schedules get fuller and more demanding with school work and other extracurricular activities with our kids, not to mention the social obligations of the various organizations we belong to that demand even more of our precious time. Of course, as an adult, we also have to find time to work possibly forty hours or maybe more on shifts that run around the clock. Needless to say, we are busy. However, that busyness can create a world of problems for us if we are not careful. Since we are human, we stand the risk of falling from Grace in the blink of an eye, either by something we said or did or a complete lack of action one way or another. Given the fact that we are more likely to be in Venial Sin at some point in our life by telling small "white lies" or gossiping. Maybe we show minor impatience, anger, or disrespect to others, or we fail to pray regularly or allow ourselves to be deliberately distracted during Mass.
Can you think of any minor acts of selfishness or excessive focus on material things like jewelry or other luxuries? So, my question to you is rather complex: **When preparing to make a good confession, should one do a penance, an examination of conscience, or an act of charity?**

The answer to last week's question is One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. This line refers to the Four Marks of the Church taken from the Nicene Creed. When we say the Church is One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic, we mean the Church is united because believers share: One faith, One baptism, One Lord, and One spiritual family.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday August 22: Mary Ann Eblen
Sunday August 23: Austin Davidson
Saturday August 29: Bill Eblen
Sunday August 30: Ann Gardner

WORD OF LIFE

"Death is a decisive moment in the human person's encounter with God the Savior. Helping the Christian to experience this moment with spiritual assistance is a supreme act of charity. It encompasses the patient with the solid support of human relationships to accompany them and open them to hope… While palliative care cannot entirely eradicate suffering from people's lives, it provides an authentic expression of human and Christian care—allowing us to 'remain' at the side of a suffering person, as the Blessed Mother and the beloved disciple remained at the foot of the Cross."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "The Witness of the Good Samaritan: Palliative Care and Hospice"

The Church is Holy because God is holy, Christ is its head, and the Holy Spirit dwells within it. Catholic means universal, so the Church is for All people, All cultures, and All times. Apostolic means the Church is rooted in the mission Christ gave the Apostles, so we preserve their teaching, continue their ministry and maintain continuity through apostolic succession. This mark emphasizes faithfulness to the original Gospel and the authority Christ entrusted to the Apostles. I hope you all have a great week and God bless!

A Gathering of Prayer, Formation, and Fellowship

SEPTEMBER 26, 2026 ✦ 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

CATHEDRAL OF ST. PETER UNDERCROFT
200 W. HARRISON STREET BELLEVILLE, IL 62220

Bishop Godfrey warmly invites all the faithful to join us as we mark National Migration Week, reflecting on the Church's call to welcome, protect, accompany, and serve migrants and immigrants, especially children and families.

Featuring:

✦ Prayer & Reflection ✦ Personal Testimonies ✦ Putting Faith in Action
✦ Catholic Social Teaching on Migration ✦ Closing Prayer Service

Special Invitation

Clergy, religious, diocesan and parish leaders, social service agencies and ministries, and all who accompany and serve Hispanic and immigrant communities are especially encouraged to attend.

Cost: $10 per person
Includes light breakfast and lunch
For more information, please contact:
Lucia Barragan 618-722-5050
Lbarragan@diobelle.org

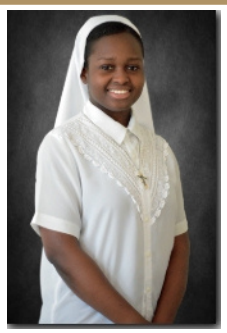
To register scan QR code or go to:
https://secure.acceptiva.com/?cst=YxxChb

Scholarships available

Diocese of Belleville Office of Hispanic Ministry Immigration Commission

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Saturday August 22:
Lector: Jackie Beatty
Eucharistic Ministers: Paul Cairatti, Amy Ulrich,
VOLUNTEER NEEDED
Sunday August 23:
Lector: Mary Beth Hileman
Servers: Kells
Eucharistic Ministers: Lisa Hoehner, Jordan Jansen, Ellen Quertermous
Saturday August 29:
Lector: JoElla Basler
Eucharistic Ministers: Paul Cairatti, Luke Vaughn
VOLUNTEER NEEDED
Sunday August 30:
Lector: Ellen Quertermous
Servers: Kendall Sweitzer, Juliet Godinez, Sophia Vaughn
Eucharistic Minsters: Susan Belcher, Mary Ellen Ecker, Ben Marggraf



VOCATION CORNER

"In early 2020, I returned to the United States from a visit to Ghana. My family stayed behind, and I expected them to follow a week later. But the next day, the airports closed due to the onset of COVID-19. As I prayed for their safe and swift return, I grappled with the fear of the unknown in my work as a registered nurse. Amid daily silence at home, I turned to Jesus, whom I knew had the answers. My relationship with Him deepened, and I invited Him into every aspect of my life. I will always cherish my first "date" with Jesus – setting the table for two and sharing a delightful supper. That evening, the Holy Spirit led me to watch a film about Venerable Henriette DeLille, who founded the Sisters of the Holy Family. Moved by her courage and perseverance, I discerned a call to religious life and entered the community in 2021. I now serve at the oldest Catholic nursing home in the country.
Sr. Seyram Mary Adzokpa; Sisters of the Holy Family, New Orleans, Columbia Dec. 2025

In Memoriam
Francis X . Scherer

November 28, 1934 - August 15, 2026

A funeral Mass was offered Thursday, August 19, 2026 at 1 PM with Celebrant Fr. Larry Lemay at St. Mary. Visitation was held prior to the Mass. Interment followed the Mass at Anna City Cemetery. We pray for the repose of his soul and peace for his family.