Welcome to St. Mary Church

August 2, 2026 18th 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

July 26, 2026

General Collection:	$1198.00
Building Fund:	$45.00
Education Fund:	$5.00

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

OUR PRAYER LIST

Susan Kern

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

Would you like to serve as a Lector or Eucharistic Minister? Please let the church office or Fr. Larry know – we would love to have you serve in these ministries.

COFFEE AND DONUTS
(with a tropical twist)

Please join us in the Parish Hall after 8 AM Mass for coffee and donuts and fellowship. There's a bonus this week – you'll get to see the wonderful decorations we had for VBS.

Many thanks to all who worked so hard to transform our Parish Hall into a tropical island, and to lead our young explorers to "Discovery on Adventure Island: Quest for God's Great Light" at this year's Vacation Bible School. It truly takes a village to accomplish the creation of this experience for our children – teachers, cooks, crafters, group leaders, musicians, helpers, people who donate money, food, and above all their time and talent to make it happen. Special thanks to Rhonda Schmidt for putting it all together.

OFFICE PHONE OUTAGE CONTINUES

The office phone is still out of commission. To get a message to the office, please email stmaryparish.anna@gmail.com or call Ellen's cell at 618-697-5161. For **emergency pastoral care needs only** you can call 618-525-4468.

FROM FR. LARRY'S DESK

August 2, 2026

The question from the previous week's bulletin asked what the person who is actively studying the Catholic Faith for Baptism and Full-Communion into the Church called? If you answered with Catechumen, you are correct. A catechumen is an unbaptized person who is learning the Christian faith with the goal of getting baptized and joining the Church. The word comes from an old Greek term meaning "one being instructed orally". Some of the key aspects of the process is that a catechumen goes through a period of learning called the catechumenate, where they study church teachings, morals, and prayers. A distinction should be made between the two other groups of people involved in this process, the "inquirers" (who are only just looking into the faith) and "candidates" (who are already baptized in another Christian church but want to join the Catholic communion). Some background information that may surprise some of you is that in the early Christian church, this preparation period often lasted multiple years to make sure the person was truly ready and committed before baptism.

The catechumenate is the traditional period of instruction, formation, and preparation that unbaptized adults undergo before joining the Catholic Church through baptism. It functions as a guided apprenticeship in the Catholic faith rather than just a simple classroom course. The core elements of the process include three basic areas: Instruction, Spiritual Practice, and Liturgical Rites. Through instruction (Catechesis), the person learns basic Christian teachings, the Creed, scripture, and church traditions. By participating in daily spiritual practices like daily prayer, fasting, worship, and moral living under the guidance of a mentor or priest, the person learns there is more to living their faith than just sitting in a church on Sunday. In participating in the liturgies regularly held throughout the year, the person actually sees the manifestation of the Body of Christ in the special blessings, prayers, and services within the local church community. Until recently, this process has been known by another acronym, but it was decided that was too misleading because of all the special things that are done for each particular person involved in this process of initiation, it has to be more of an Order of things, rather than a specific Rite.

What is this process now called?

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday August 1:	Larry Lovell
Sunday August 2:	The Gerry Basler and Barbara Stute Families
Saturday August 8:	Norbert Stadelbacher
Sunday August 9:	Mickey Stute Chaney

WORD OF LIFE

A Trinity of Love: Where God Enters the Picture

Soon-to-be beatified Archbishop Fulton Sheen used a simple image of a triangle to describe marriage: husband and wife are two points at the base, but God is the third point at the top, and their love for one another must first rise toward Him before it can bear fruit between them. When a couple struggles with infertility, it can feel like that fruitfulness is being withheld, and that pain is real; it is rightly called a cross. But even here, God remains in the midst of the marriage, and the "children" born of a couple's love don't always take the form expected. Sometimes they are spiritual children, works of mercy, or a fruitfulness the couple could not have planned. This month, we begin exploring Restorative Reproductive Medicine, a faithful, medically sound path that seeks healing for couples facing these crosses. Join us as we walk through it together.

Seeking Volunteers for The Beatification of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

An historic moment for the Catholic Church in the United States that will bring together thousands of pilgrims from across the country to celebrate the life and legacy of one of America's most beloved Catholic evangelists. This extraordinary event in St. Louis, Missouri, will only happen once, and we are looking for volunteers to help make it a joyful and welcoming experience for everyone who attends.

Whether you have a few hours or several days to give, there are a variety of volunteer opportunities available before and during the celebration.

Beatification Mass & Expo
Thursday, Sept. 24, The Dome at America's Center, St. Louis, MO

To volunteer, go to.
https://www.celebratesheen.com/volunteer

VOCATION CORNER

"Growing up on the east coast of Canada, I was involved in my family's parish, but my faith remained lukewarm. A vocation to the priesthood never crossed my mind. Instead, my attention was captured by the insights in the natural world provided by science, which eventually led me to pursue a doctorate in chemistry at a university in California.

During my Ph.D. research, the Holy Spirit led me to ask deeper questions that could not be answered by chemistry alone. As a result, I came to believe the Catholic faith firmly and sought to live it intentionally. During this time, I sensed an unexpected call to the priesthood. The priests serving in campus ministry helped my discernment, and in time I heard God calling me home as a diocesan priest. After my doctorate, I entered seminary and was ordained in 2016.

Fr. James Fleming; Archdiocese of St. John's, Torbay Newfoundland and Labrador
Columbia Nov 2025

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Saturday August 1:
Lector: Cathy Belcher
Eucharistic Ministers: Jeff Agne, Paul Cairatti, Luke Vaughn
Sunday August 2:
Lector: Jim Poletti
Servers: Hoehners, Claire Flamm
Eucharistic Ministers: Susan Belcher, Mary Ellen Ecker, Lisa Hoehner
Saturday August 8:
Lector: JoElla Basler
Eucharistic Ministers: Jeff Agne, Paul Cairatti, Amy Ulrich
Sunday August 9:
Lector: Mary Beth Hileman
Servers: Dallases
Eucharistic Ministers: Lisa Hoehner, Jordan Jansen, Luke Vaughn