Welcome to St. Mary Church

August 30, 2026 22nd 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 23, 2026

General Collection: $1489.73
Building Fund: $40.00
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
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

It's time to sign up for Faith Formation!

Classes will begin September 13th at 9:00am

Please add your child's/children's names to the list at the entrance to church so we can plan for books and supplies accordingly.

Due to rising costs, there will be a fee of $40.00 for each child up to a max of $100 for a family enrolling three or more children. *No child will be excluded based on the ability to pay.* ALL ARE WELCOME!

Sponsoring a child or donating for the Education Fund is always welcome and appreciated! See Rhonda Schmidt or Ellen in the church office for more information or to donate.

STEWARDSHIP MEETINGS

In case you missed the insert in the bulletin last week, Bishop Godfrey has announced a schedule of stewardship workshops as part of his pastoral plan for the Diocese. He as asked for lay representatives from each parish in the Diocese to attend one of these workshops. The closest one to St. Mary is in Vienna at St. Paul Church at 2020 State Rt. 146 E on **Friday, October 16, 9AM-12 noon.** The meeting will begin with a Mass, and continue with a presentation by Bishop Godfrey. If you are interested in representing St. Mary parish, please contact the church office or Fr. Larry. A copy of the Bishop's letter is on the ledge at the entrance of Church, and his full pastoral plan can be seen at www.diobelle.org.

INTERESTED IN LEARNING ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH? (Or in sharing yours?)

St. Mary's OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults) class will meet at 6:30 each Thursday night. Anyone interested in learning more about the Catholic faith is welcome to attend. We also welcome people willing to share their faith journey and experience with our inquirers, and anyone who would like to provide light refreshments for the meetings. Contact Amy Ulrich for details.

FROM FATHER LARRY'S DESK:

Greetings once again, last week I asked what one should do in order to make a good confession. It should be fairly obvious that in order to make a good confession, you need to be aware of what you've done, so to do that, you need to examine your conscience as thoroughly as possible. With regards to the Sacrament, I think the hardest part for some is coming to a priest and confessing personal things. They most likely see the priest as one of them, just another schmuck trying to make it through life the best way they can. The big question they have is: "Why do I have to go to another human being for absolution?

The short answer is: because Jesus set it up that way, and because we need it. But the fuller pastoral explanation is:

1. God heals us through human instruments. Throughout all of Scripture, God uses human beings to carry out divine work: the prophets, the Apostles, and the Church all worked to continue God's mission, so, naturally Sacraments likeConfession would follow the same pattern**.**

2. Sin harms relationships, so healing happens in relationship. Sin is never purely private, even hidden sins distort our interior life, our relationships, and our communion with God and because it damages our connection to others, it is fitting that reconciliation involves someone who represents both Christ and the Church we have wounded.

3. We need to hear forgiveness spoken aloud. We don't just think forgiveness; we need to receive it. Hearing the words of absolution spoken by a priest gives clarity, certainty, and peace that private prayer alone cannot provide.

4. Confession breaks the power of self-deception. Because we are experts at rationalizing our behavior, speaking our sins aloud to another person forces honesty and dismantles the excuses, the half-truths, and the self-protective fog that keeps us stuck in sin.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday August 29:	Bill Eblen
Sunday August 30:	Ann Gardner
Saturday September 5:	Fr. Federico Higuera
Sunday September 6:	For all workers and those seeking work

WORD OF LIFE

If you or someone you know has had an abortion, be assured that it is never too late to seek God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Additionally, other confidential, compassionate help is available. Select "Find Help" from the menu on www.hopeafterabortion.org to find the diocesan Project Rachel Ministry near you. *USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, "Bridges of Mercy for Healing after Abortion" www.usccb.org/bridges-of-mercy*

5. The priest stands in the place of Christ, not as "another schmuck," but as a sacramental instrument. Yes, priests are human and they struggle, like everyone else does with sin, but in the confessional, they act in persona Christi, in the person of Christ, so in reality, their humanity doesn't weaken the sacrament; it actually mirrors the Incarnation and strengthens the whole experience for the Penitent. We have talked in length about the saving effects of Reconciliation, but there is another Sacrament that the Church regards as a healing Sacrament: Do you know what that Sacrament is called?

Diocese of Belleville
Seminarians 2026 - 2027

Lord Jesus, guide our seminarians in their studies and formation. Grant them wisdom to understand complex concepts, discernment to make sound decisions, and the courage to persevere in the face of challenges. May their intellectual growth be balanced by deepening faith and charity. Amen.

~Diocese of Belleville Flocknote 30 August 2026

FROM POPE LEO

"The primacy of divine love implies that human action is carried out not for self-interest or reward, but as a manifestation of a love that transcends ritual norms and find expression in authentic worship. To serve one's neighbor is to love God through deeds."

~ Pope Leo XIV

VOCATION CORNER

"I have a vivid childhood memory of my mom and dad kneeling to pray after receiving Communion. They first taught me how to pray, and their marital witness continues to teach me about fidelity to one's vocation. Years later, at my first Mass, I told my father that I hoped my spiritual fatherhood would reflect his fatherhood – and I still hope for that. I wouldn't be a priest without my parents. Likewise, I wouldn't be a priest without the good men who witnessed to the joy of the priesthood, or the parishioners whose ceaseless prayers and encouragement sustained me. There was also the religious sister who taught me not just calculus, but what it means to leave home and everything behind to follow Jesus. And it was a close friend's offhand remark – "You'd make a good priest" – that sparked a period of serious self-reflection and prayer that led me to the seminary. The Church teaches that a vocation is discovered, nourished, and accepted within one's community."

Fr. Christopher Murphy; Diocese of Providence, Riverside, Rhode Island Columbia Jan/Feb 2026

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

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, Claire Flamm
Eucharistic Ministers: Susan Belcher, Mary Ellen Ecker, Ben Marggraf
Saturday September 5:
Lector: Cathy Belcher
Eucharistic Ministers: Paul Cairatti, Joe Beirbaum,
VOLUNTEER NEEDED
Sunday September 6:
Lector: Mary Beth Hileman
Servers: Dallases
Eucharistic Ministers: Susan Belcher, Mary Ellen Ecker, Jordan Jansen