Welcome to St. Mary Church

September 20, 2026 25th 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

September 13 2026

General Collection:	$4137.00
Building Fund:	$32.50
Education Fund:	$2.50
Retired Priests:	$700.00

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
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

FAITH FORMATION

All Faith Formation classes meet this Sunday!
September 20th 9:00am—10: 15am
Registration is still taking place. Forms will be available in the hall.

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.

LADIES' NIGHT OUT

6 PM Thursday September 24
Quatro's in Carbondale
ALL ARE WELCOME!

RIDES NEEDED

We still have several parishioners living in Anna who would like to attend Mass but are unable to for lack of transportation. Walking is not an option for them. If you can provide a ride, please let Father Larry know.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Saturday September 19:
Lector: JoElla Basler
Eucharistic Ministers: Paul Cairatti, Luke Vaughn VOLUNTEER NEEDED
Sunday September 20:
Lector: Janna Sweitzer
Servers: Kells
Eucharistic Ministers: Lisa Hoehner, Ben Marggraf, Ellen Quertermous
Saturday September 26:
Lector: Jackie Beatty
Eucharistic Ministers: Paul Cairatti, Joe Wendling, VOLUNTEER NEEDED
Sunday, September 27:
Lector: Karl Sweitzer
Servers: Dallases
Eucharistic Ministers: Joe Bierbaum, Jordan Jansen, Ellen Quertermous

FROM FATHER LARRY'S DESK

Greetings once again, last week I asked your thoughts on the present order of reception of the Sacraments of Initiation in the Diocese of Belleville and I was curious as to what you think about the present order being: Baptism, Eucharist, and then Confirmation as opposed to what some other dioceses are offering with receiving the Eucharist last after reception of Baptism and Confirmation.

I realize that this is not a subject one will dwell on to any great length, but it is one of the more meaningful conversations that is happening across the Church today. It is meaningful because it concerns the order in which our young people receive the Sacraments of Initiation. Here in our Diocese, the pattern is familiar: Baptism, then First Eucharist, and then much later, Confirmation. Yet many dioceses have restored the ancient order—Baptism, Confirmation, and finally Eucharist—a sequence that emphasizes the unity of these sacraments and the fullness of grace they offer.

Why does this matter? Because the way we celebrate the sacraments shapes how we understand them. When Confirmation is delayed until adolescence, it can feel like a "graduation" from religious education rather than what it truly is: the strengthening of baptismal grace and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. When Confirmation is restored to its earlier place, the Eucharist becomes the summit—the moment when a fully initiated Christian receives the Body and Blood of Christ with the strength of the Spirit already given.

There are beautiful theological reasons behind both approaches, and faithful Catholics can appreciate the richness of each. But I'm genuinely interested in how you experience this in your own family, your own faith journey, and your hopes for our parish children. Do you think the current order helps young people grow in faith? Do you think that restoring the traditional order would deepen their understanding of the sacraments? How do you see the Holy Spirit at work in these moments of grace? Your insights matter. They help us grow as a parish that listens to the Spirit and to one another. If you'd like to share your thoughts, I'd be grateful to hear them: frlarrylemay@gmail.com. May God bless you and continue to strengthen our parish family in faith, hope, and love.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday September 19: Mickey Stute Chaney
Sunday September 20: Ryan Haire
Saturday September 26: Jason Lovell
Sunday September 27: Gerry Basler and Barbara Stute families

WORD OF LIFE

"When we have lost our way and find ourselves brought low by sin and suffering, we can know with confidence that the Lord will never abandon us. No matter what sins we have committed or how many times we have chosen to separate ourselves from the flock, we can know that Christ's mercy and kindness await us. There is nothing we can do, no sin so great, that cannot be overcome with the infinite mercy of Christ." *USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, "Hope After Abortion"*

ST. MARY
BELIEVERS AND ACHIEVERS

Faith Formation Kickoff

We had a great turn out for the start of our 26-27 Faith Formation year. Father Larry welcomed everyone with encouraging words by demonstrating how God knows each person intimately, creates them with a unique purpose, and brings out their hidden potential when they are filled with His Holy Spirit. The children were captivated by how he showed them that no two people in God's Kingdom are meant to be exactly alike. Each one has different spiritual gifts, distinct talents, and purpose, but it is the same Spirit empowering all of us to build up God's Kingdom together. Ask one of our youth to tell you about Fr. Larry's presentation!

The 2026 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal

Those who are kind to the needy honor Him

YOU have the opportunity to support the eleven men you have answered "YES" to God's call to serve the Priesthood of Jesus Christ in our Belleville Diocese. The annual cost for each of our seminarians is over $50,000. Funding from the Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal helps support the expenses of our seminarians and Vocation Office: your pledge or one-time gift is truly and investment in our faith and the life of the Church here is southern Illinois. Please continue to pray for vocations and consider making your gift today!

VOCATION CORNER

"I once believed that becoming a priest was a fate worse than death! I always wanted to get married, have a family, and own a golden retriever. My plan was to become a doctor, and I was studying for a degree in science when I had an honest conversation with my childhood pastor. Without coercing me, he affirmed that I would be a great doctor, husband, father – or priest. "The most important thing," he said, "is to seek God's will, because that is where you will find true peace and happiness". Days later, I prayed as I had many times before: "God, I'll do anything you want me to do." But this time I added, "And if you want me to be a priest, I'd love to!" Immediately, I felt afraid, hoping no one had overheard me. Simultaneously, I felt a profound peace from the Holy Spirit. That fall, I decided to join the Companions of the Cross and found that God's plan fit like a glove."

Fr. Simon Lobo; Companions of the Cross; Halifax, Nova Scotia, Columbia Magazine June 2022

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:

GREG KASSEN
Mundelein Seminary
1000 E. Maple Ave.
Mundelein, IL 60060