

Saint Mary
Church
401 South Street
Henry, IL 61537



Immaculate Conception
Church
412 N. Center Street
Lacon, IL 61540

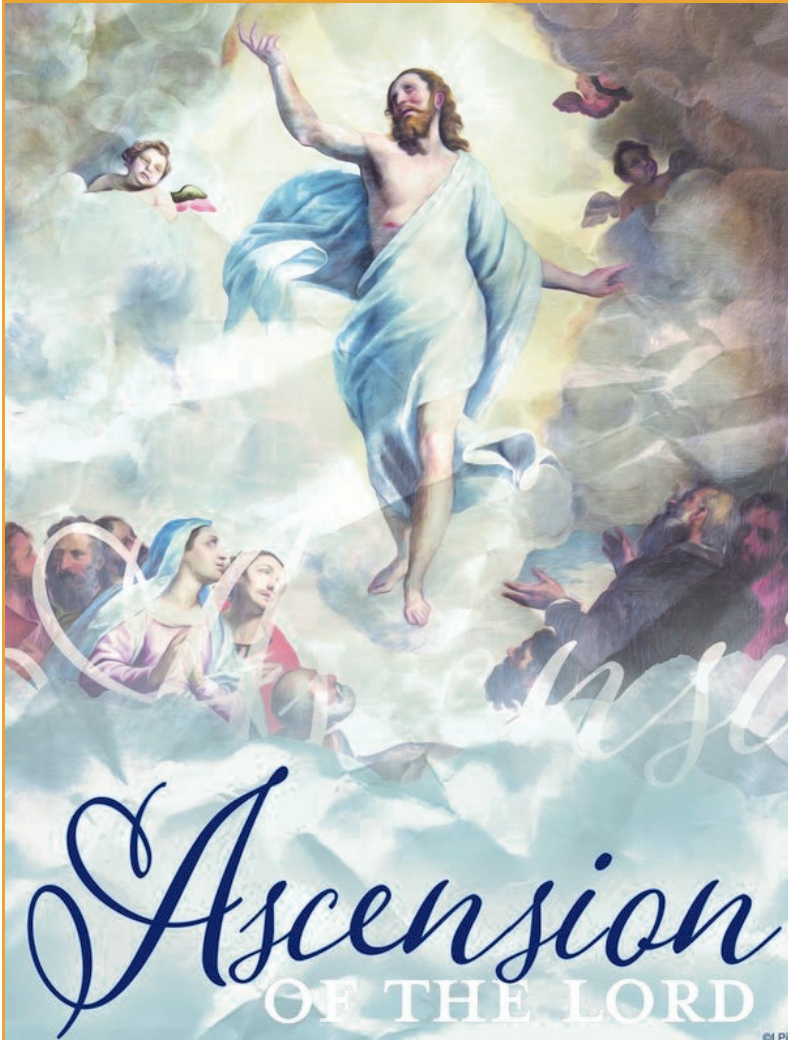
IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY PARISH

Parish Office: Monday-Thursday: 9am-3pm
415 N. High Street, Lacon, IL 61540
309-246-5145 **NEW Email:**
parishoffice@ihmcatholic.church
Secretary: Jill Franklin

Pastor: Fr. Michael Pica
309-270-1052 **NEW Email:**
pastor@ihmcatholic.church
Parish website:
iccclacon.org

Parish Staff Directory:
Director of Religious Education: Christy Beall
309-238-3394 CCD (Sept-Apr) Sundays 9:15-10:15am
St. Mary Center Manager (Henry)
Dawn Glenn: 309-364-2011

The Ascension of the Lord May 17, 2026



Mass Intentions & Liturgy Schedule

*SMC=St. Mary Church, Henry
ICC=Immaculate Conception Church, Lacon
(Pro Populo—Mass for the People of the Parish)*

The Ascension of the Lord: May 16-17

Saturday Vigil	4:30pm	SMC	+Mildred Neuhalten
Sunday	8:00am	ICC	+ Leonard & Katherine Waldschmidt
	10:30am	SMC	Pro Populo

Weekday Masses

Mon. May 18	8:00am	SMC	+Grace & Virgil Bogner
Tues. May 19			No Mass
Wed. May 20	5:30pm	ICC	+David Bilot
Thurs. May 21	7:30am	SMC	+Sharon Chapman
Fri. May 22	8:00am	ICC	+Silvio Capponi Family

NEXT WEEKEND : May 23-24

Saturday Vigil	4:30pm	SMC	+Mike Bogner
Sunday	8:00am	ICC	+Rosie Wunder
	10:30am	SMC	Pro Populo

NEED A SUNDAY EVENING MASS?

5:00pm at St. Thomas, 904 E. Lake Ave, Peoria Heights
5:30pm at Queen of the Holy Rosary, 529 4th St, LaSalle
7:30pm at St. Philomena, 1000 W. Albany, Peoria

Lay Ministry Schedule for Next Weekend

<u>Lector</u>	<u>EMHC Minister</u>	<u>Altar Server</u>
4:30 p.m. – SMC – Saturday, May 23, 2026		
Betty Shearer	Father Pica	Declan
8:00 a.m. – ICC – Sunday, May 24, 2026		
Katie Bogner	Stephen Martinek	Hattans
10:30 a.m. – SMC – Sunday, May 24, 2026		
Alicia Aquire	Amy Anderson	Browns & Mikey

Daily Mass: 6:30am at the Convent in Lacon (Monday-Friday)
 7:00am at the Convent in Lacon (Saturday)
 11:00am at the Lacon Nursing/Rehab (Sunday)

Sacraments

Baptism:

Please contact the Parish Office at least one month in advance to schedule the Baptism preparation. Both parents and godparents are required to attend a Baptism class prior to the Baptism.

Matrimony:

Please contact the Parish Office at least eight months in advance to schedule the wedding and begin the marriage preparation program.

Confessions:

Wednesdays: ICC Lacon 4:15pm-5:15pm
 Saturdays: SMC Henry 3:15pm-4:15pm
 Thursday before First Friday:
 SMC Henry 6:00pm-8:00pm
 First Friday: ICC Lacon 7:15am-7:45am

Other times by appointment with a priest.

Anointing of the Sick:

Please contact the Parish Office to schedule. If admitted to the hospital, please be sure at check-in to register your faith and your parish. In case of medical emergency, please call Fr. Pica at any time and follow automated directions for emergency calls.

Christian Stewardship

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish is a family of families. And as a Parish Family we are asked to be faithful stewards of the gifts God has given each of us. Please share your faith and prayers, your time, your talents, and your treasures as we seek to faithfully live the Gospel; *to Go and Mike Disciples of All Nations.*

Are you New or Just Visiting? Welcome to Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish! We are glad you are here with us. I hope to personally welcome you after Mass if you are able to say hi! May God reward you! ~ Father Pica

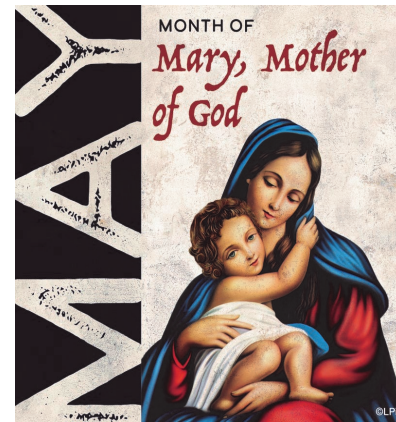
Bulletin Deadline: Submit items in writing or email by noon on Monday at the Parish Office in Lacon, IL.

Online bulletin: www.parishesonline.com

If hospitalized or homebound, please notify our Parish office 309-246-5145 or Fr. Pica 309-270-1052.

PRAYER LINE: If you have a need for special prayer, please contact the Office at 309-246-5145.

- May 17 IHM Youth Group @SM Center 4:15-5:15pm
- May 18 IHM Parish Council Meeting @ IC Hall 6:00pm
- May 21 Henry Knights of Columbus @SM Center 7pm
- May 23 St. Joseph Men’s Group @SM Center 7-8am



Mary, Mother Of God

Question:

If God is eternal and infinite, how can He have a mother? Why don’t we call Mary just the mother of Jesus?

Answer:

The title of “Mary, Mother of God” can be confusing. We aren’t implying that Mary existed from eternity or that she is divine herself. We aren’t promoting some kind of Marian superpowers. The Church has fought for this title throughout the centuries for one simple reason: Christ’s identity is at stake.

As the Church grew in the early centuries, theologians wrestled with what it meant for Jesus to be both God and man. Many distortions of his identity began to emerge. One of these was propagated by a man named Nestorius. Nestorius and his followers denied that Jesus’ human nature and his divine nature were inseparable. Following that logic, Mary could have only conceived Jesus’ *human* nature. But people don’t give birth to a “nature.” They give birth to a whole person. For Jesus, his whole person is both human and divine. In 431 A.D. the Council of Ephesus denounced Nestorius. The bishops affirmed that Jesus is both fully human and fully divine and proclaimed Mary *Theotokos*. Translating the Greek to English, that means “God-bearer.” Note that this isn’t “God-generator” or “God-creator.” Mary bore Jesus, God and man, in her womb and gave him birth. She is mother to the whole person, the whole Jesus, and therefore Mother of God.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Support
Thank you for your generosity!

	May 10, 2026	YTD	YTD Budget
Collection	\$3506.	\$162,185	\$ 194,326.75 (32,141.75.)
Bldgs & Grounds (Blue envelope)	\$115.	\$ 16,215	\$16,215
SM Resolution (Orange Envelope)	\$510.	\$ 40,200.	\$58,750. (18,550.)

+MJ+

Dear Parishioners,

Christ is Risen! Alleluia! (He is Risen, Indeed! Alleluia!)

Below St. John Paul II, concludes Chapter II of the Encyclical: Day of Christ's Resurrection and Gift of the Holy Spirit by speaking of Sunday as the day of Faith. It is the day of Faith because each Sunday we profess anew the Faith professed at our Baptism and because of this it is an indispensable day for us as Christians.

From *Dies Domini (1998)*- an Apostolic Letter to the Bishops, Clergy, and Faithful of the Catholic Church on Keeping the Lord's Day Holy- Pope St. John Paul II.

The day of faith

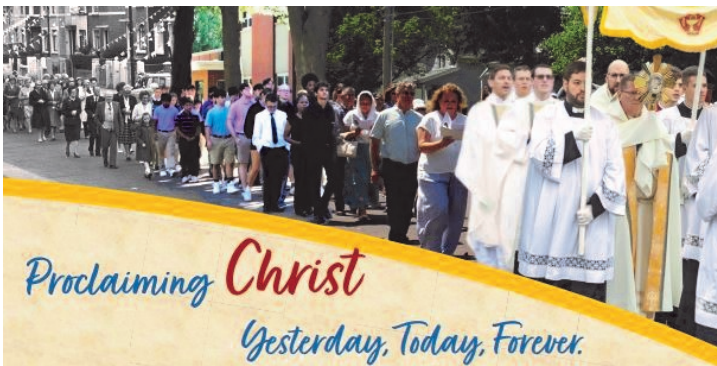
29. Given these different dimensions which set it apart, Sunday appears as the supreme day of faith. It is the day when, by the power of the Holy Spirit, who is the Church's living "memory" (cf. Jn 14:26), the first appearance of the Risen Lord becomes an event renewed in the "today" of each of Christ's disciples. Gathered in his presence in the Sunday assembly, believers sense themselves called like the Apostle Thomas: "Put your finger here, and see my hands. Put out your hand, and place it in my side. Doubt no longer, but believe" (Jn 20:27). Yes, Sunday is the day of faith. This is stressed by the fact that the Sunday Eucharistic liturgy, like the liturgy of other solemnities, includes the Profession of Faith. Recited or sung, the Creed declares the baptismal and Paschal character of Sunday, making it the day on which in a special way the baptized renew their adherence to Christ and his Gospel in a rekindled awareness of their baptismal promises. Listening to the word and receiving the Body of the Lord, the baptized contemplate the Risen Jesus present in the "holy signs" and confess with the Apostle Thomas: "My Lord and my God!" (Jn 20:28).

An indispensable day!

30. It is clear then why, even in our own difficult times, the identity of this day must be protected and above all must be lived in all its depth. An Eastern writer of the beginning of the third century recounts that as early as then the faithful in every region were keeping Sunday holy on a regular basis.(36) What began as a spontaneous practice later became a juridically sanctioned norm. The Lord's Day has structured the history of the Church through two thousand years: how could we think that it will not continue to shape her future? The pressures of today can make it harder to fulfill the Sunday obligation; and, with a mother's sensitivity, the Church looks to the circumstances of each of her children. In particular, she feels herself called to a new catechetical and pastoral commitment, in order to ensure that, in the normal course of life, none of her children are deprived of the rich outpouring of grace which the celebration of the Lord's Day brings. It was in this spirit that the Second Vatican Council, making a pronouncement on the possibility of reforming the Church calendar to match different civil calendars, declared that the Church "is prepared to accept only those arrangements which preserve a week of seven days with a Sunday".(37) Given its many meanings and aspects, and its link to the very foundations of the faith, the celebration of the Christian Sunday remains, on the threshold of the Third Millennium, an indispensable element of our Christian identity.

Viva Cristo Rey!

Father Pica



IHM 2025 Annual Diocesan Appeal				
<i>April Update</i>				
Goal	Pledged	Received	To be Pledged	# of Donors
\$50,457.	\$42,037.50	\$39,802.50	\$2,235.00	86

St. Edward’s Preschool – Now Enrolling

St. Edward’s Catholic School is now enrolling for our growing 2026–2027 preschool program.

We offer a warm, nurturing, and faith-filled environment where young children are known, loved, and supported each day. With small class sizes and a strong sense of community, students grow academically and socially here at St. Edward’s.

Flexible options are available, including two-and-a-half-hour, half-day, and full-day programs, 3- or 5-day schedules, and before and aftercare from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. We truly want to meet the needs of all families! Financial assistance is available to help make a St. Edward’s education accessible to families.

If you or someone you know has a child who will be 3 or 4 years old, we would love to connect with you.

To learn more or schedule a visit, please get in touch with the school office at 309-274-2994 or lcusack@sainted.org. We encourage interested families to reach out soon, as we begin forming next year’s class.



St. Rita of Cascia

There are three unique things for which St. Rita is identified. The first is the **wound on her forehead**, which occurred when St. Rita was about 60 years old and was praying before the Crucifix. She became a stigmata from then on. The second is a very profound expression of how Christ’s passion was stamped on her life, **the roses**. They represent what happened toward the end of her life when one of her cousins visited her. Her cousin asked if she could bring St. Rita a gift from her old house, and St. Rita requested that she bring her a rose. Being the month of January in Cascia, that was a practical impossibility, but upon getting home, she was amazed to find a single rose fully grown in the garden, which she brought to St. Rita. The third is the **photo of bees**, which was an experience St. Rita had shortly after her baptism in infancy. While she slept, her family observed white bees going into her mouth and coming out without hurting her. It was a mystical experience for her family, and from then they knew her life would be a great example of virtue and devotion.

Known as the unofficial patroness of baseball, St Rita together with St. Jude Thaddeus and St. Philomena, are known as saints of impossible situations. She is equally addressed as the patron saint of those suffering from sterility, as well as abuse victims, lonely people, difficult marriages, widows, the sick, bodily ill, wounds, and parenthood.



THE SEARCH
FROM FORMED.ORG

What is the meaning of life?



St. Joseph Men’s Group

Saturday May 23
7:00-8:00am

St. Mary Center



Pray Like St. Joseph A Day of Reflection for All Fathers

*Learning to trust God in the
silence*

Father Pica - Retreat Master

6 June, 2026 – 10:00 AM - 2:30 pm

Sacré-Coeur Retreat Center

8508 county rd 100 north , Magnolia, IL

Cost \$35.00



RSVP Here



What to Expect:

Join us for a peaceful and prayerful day inspired by St. Joseph, a man of deep faith, quiet obedience, and unwavering trust in God.

Contact Sister Clare Key, DSF (309) 218-3714
for more information

Novena with Our Lady's Beatitudes

Our Lady's Beatitudes starts on May 18 with Hallow! Join Bishop Lou as he guides us in a Novena with Our Lady's Beatitudes. Each day, Bishop Lou will incorporate words from Fulton Sheen, who often reflected that when we look at Mary, we see the possibility of becoming more than we are today — of becoming holy.

Watch our Diocesan social media for more information, or download the Hallow app to start praying today. Sign up using our code. Go to Hallow.com/redeem. Use the code: **PeoriaFree2627**. Follow and complete the prompts to redeem your complimentary subscription!



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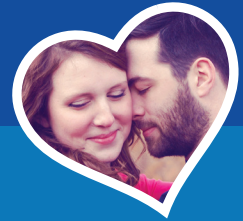


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