

**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
parishoffice@ihmcatholic.church
Secretary: Jill Franklin

Pastor: Fr. Michael Pica
309-270-1052
pastor@ihmcatholic.church
Parish website:
ihmcatholic.church

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 Sixteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time July 19, 2026

Mass Intentions & Liturgy Schedule

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

The Sixteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time July 18-19

Saturday Vigil	4:30pm	SMC	Pro Populo
Sunday	8:00am	ICC	+Howie Heilstedt
	10:30am	SMC	Miho & Dragica Staresinic

Weekday Masses

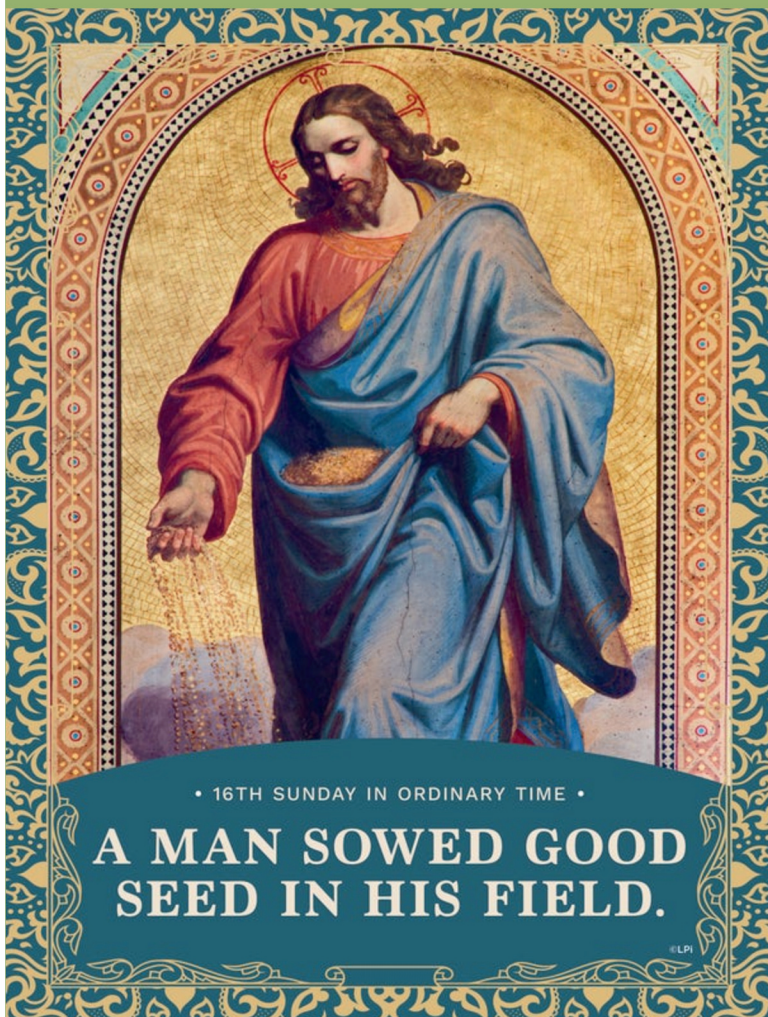
Mon. July 20	8:00am	SMC	+Mike Bogner
Tues. July 21			No Mass
Wed. July 22	5:30pm	ICC	+Augustyn Sloan
Thurs. July 23	7:30am	SMC	+Nedra Bischler
Fri. July 24	8:00am	ICC	+Gerald Phillips

NEXT WEEKEND :July 25-26

Saturday Vigil	4:30pm	SMC	+Sam Maupin
Sunday	8:00am	ICC	+Sandy Condon
	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 July 25-26**Lector EMHC Altar Server****4:30 p.m. - SMC - Saturday July 25, 2026**

Coleen Bogner Betty Shearer Smiths

8:00 a.m. - ICC - Sunday, July 26, 2026

Katie Bogner Liz Nunley Larry

10:30 a.m. - SMC - Sunday, July 26, 2026

Alicia Aguire Bob Eckert 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 Make 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 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**

Looking Ahead at IHM Parish

July 19 IHM Youth Group @SMC 4-5:15 pm

July 20 IHM Parish Council @IC Hall 6:00pm

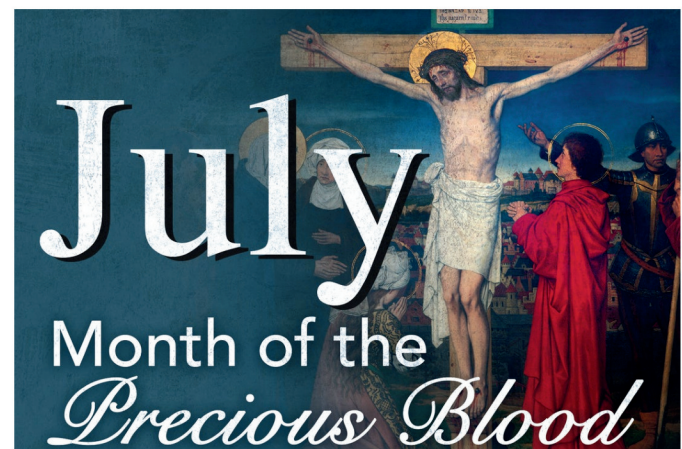
July 24 *Faith & Family Night @Peoria Chiefs Game Dozer
Park 7:05pm*

July 25 St. Joseph Men's Group @SMC 7-8am

"The most important person on earth is a mother... She has built something more magnificent than any cathedral a dwelling place for an immortal soul, the tiny perfection of her baby's body."

~ Joseph Cardinal Mindzenty

Prayer For Life: Dear Heavenly Father, I thank my Mom and Dad for my birth. I love life, I love living. In Jesus name I pray. Amen



Let us pray, - Almighty and eternal God, you have appointed your only-begotten Son the Redeemer of the world, and willed to be appeased by his Blood. Grant we beg of you, that we may worthily adore this price of our salvation, and through its power be safeguarded from the evils of the present life, so that we may rejoice in its fruits forever in heaven. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Online Giving!******New to Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish!***

Give Online now, or set up weekly or monthly online giving. Use the QR Code with your phone!

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

	July 12, 2026	YTD	YTD Budget
Actual Collection	\$3,156	\$7,874	\$8,077
[Weekly Budget: \$4,038]			(\$203)
Bldgs. & Grounds	\$130	\$930	\$462
[Weekly Budget: \$231]			(\$468)
Capital Campaign	\$450	\$1,265	\$3,846
[Orange Env. Bdgt. \$1,923]			(\$2,581)

+MJ+

Dear Parishioners,

Praised be Jesus Christ! -Now and forever!

Below Pope St. John Paul II, in Chapter III, *Dies Ecclesiae- The Day of the Church*- describes how the Sunday Obligation came to be part of the Universal Law of the Catholic Church. As you will read, the Sunday obligation was not an imposed obligation, but rather a custom throughout the practice of the Christian life that became a normative Law of the Church, only when apathy and ignorance began to be more common. In our day and age, tragically some have become apathetic or negligent in the practice of the faith and the catechizing of their children and so the Sunday Obligation, may be seen by some as an imposed obligation. This belief and practice, however, contradicts the reality that the Church is our Mother, and she desires our good always, and so, just as when one is sick a Mom will nourish the sick patient with chicken broth or soup, so too does our Mother call us to live according to the Gospel as has been handed down to us through Divine Revelation, namely, Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition, and the Magisterium of the Church- and so Sunday Mass and Mass on Holy Days of Obligation we are obliged to attend Mass under penalty of grave sin.

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 Sunday obligation

46. Since the Eucharist is the very heart of Sunday, it is clear why, from the earliest centuries, the Pastors of the Church have not ceased to remind the faithful of the need to take part in the liturgical assembly. "Leave everything on the Lord's Day", urges the third century text known as the Didascalia, "and run diligently to your assembly, because it is your praise of God. Otherwise, what excuse will they make to God, those who do not come together on the Lord's Day to hear the word of life and feed on the divine nourishment which lasts forever?".(75) The faithful have generally accepted this call of the Pastors with conviction of soul and, although there have been times and situations when this duty has not been perfectly met, one should never forget the genuine heroism of priests and faithful who have fulfilled this obligation even when faced with danger and the denial of religious freedom, as can be documented from the first centuries of Christianity up to our own time.

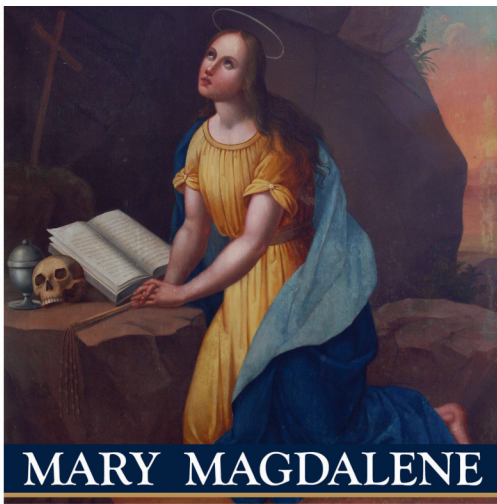
In his first Apology, addressed to the Emperor Antoninus and the Senate, Saint Justin proudly described the Christian practice of the Sunday assembly, which gathered in one place Christians from both the city and the countryside. (76) When, during the persecution of Diocletian, their assemblies were banned with the greatest severity, many were courageous enough to defy the imperial decree and accepted death rather than miss the Sunday Eucharist. This was the case of the martyrs of Abitina, in Proconsular Africa, who replied to their accusers: "Without fear of any kind we have celebrated the Lord's Supper, because it cannot be missed: that is our law": "We cannot live without the Lord's Supper". As she confessed her faith, one of the martyrs said: "Yes, I went to the assembly and I celebrated the Lord's Supper with my brothers and sisters, because I am a Christian". (77)

47. Even if in the earliest times it was not judged necessary to be prescriptive, the Church has not ceased to confirm this obligation of conscience, which rises from the inner need felt so strongly by the Christians of the first centuries. It was only later, faced with the half-heartedness or negligence of some, that the Church had to make explicit the duty to attend Sunday Mass: more often than not, this was done in the form of exhortation, but at times the Church had to resort to specific canonical precepts. This was the case in a number of local Councils from the fourth century onwards (as at the Council of Elvira of 300, which speaks not of an obligation but of penalties after three absences)(78) and most especially from the sixth century onwards (as at the Council of Agde in 506).(79) These decrees of local Councils led to a universal practice, the obligatory character of which was taken as something quite normal. (80)

The Code of Canon Law of 1917 for the first time gathered this tradition into a universal law. (81) The present Code reiterates this, saying that "on Sundays and other holy days of obligation the faithful are bound to attend Mass". (82) This legislation has normally been understood as entailing a grave obligation: this is the teaching of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, (83) and it is easy to understand why if we keep in mind how vital Sunday is for the Christian life.

¡Viva Cristo Rey!

Father Pica



MARY MAGDALENE

St. Mary Magdalene is one of the greatest saints of the Bible and a legendary example of God's mercy and grace. The precise dates of her birth and death are unknown, but we do know she was present with Christ during his public ministry, death and resurrection. She is mentioned at least a dozen times in the Gospels.

Mary Magdalene has long been regarded as a prostitute or sexually immoral in western Christianity, but this is not supported in the scriptures. It is believed she was a Jewish woman who lived among Gentiles, living as they did.

The Gospels agree that Mary was originally a great sinner. Jesus cast seven demons out of her when he met her. After this, she told several women she associated with and these women also became followers.

There is also debate over if Mary Magdalene is the same unnamed women, a sinner, who weeps and washes Jesus' feet with her hair in the Gospel of John. Scholars are skeptical this is the same person.

YOU'RE INVITED TO A MARIAN CONFERENCE

A Day of Faith, Mercy & Inspiration

THEME: "Fear is Useless,
What is Needed is Trust."



FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION
AUGUST 15, 2026
8:30 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

L-P TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
541 Chartres St.
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FEATURED SPEAKERS



FATHER CHRIS ALAR

National Provincial
Superior of the
National Shrine of the
Divine Mercy in
Stockbridge,
Massachusetts
(via: recorded video)



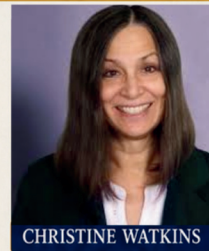
LIZ KELLY STANCHINA

Community Leader for
the Women's Foundation
at Bishop Barron's
Word on Fire Institute,
and internationally
recognized and award
winning author/co-author
of more than a dozen books.



FATHER DAN REEHIL

Priest and Exorcist
for the Diocese of
Nashville,
Tennessee
(via: recorded video)



CHRISTINE WATKINS

Founder of
Queen of Peace Media
(via: recorded video)

WHAT TO EXPECT



ADORATION
& CONFESSIONS



ROSARY



TESTIMONY ON THE
POWER OF THE ROSARY
AND THE CHAPLET OF
DIVINE MERCY
(via: recorded video)



CHAPLET OF
DIVINE MERCY



BOOKS WILL BE
AVAILABLE
FOR SALE



JOIN US FOR A DAY TO GROW IN FAITH AND DEVOTION

To Jesus through Mary!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 779/201-0544



Join IHM Parish for
Faith & Family Night
with the Peoria Chiefs
Friday, July 24, 2026
Dozer Park, Peoria

Peoria Chiefs v. W. Michigan
Whitecaps
Gates open: 5:30 pm
First pitch: 7:05 pm
Seats in Section 103
Hawaiian Tee Shirt Giveaway
Fireworks after the game



Tickets \$12 each
Call Chuck (312-282-8953) or
Brady (309-643-9101)



St. Joseph
Men's Group*

Saturday, July 25
7:00-8:00am

at St. Mary Center

*2nd & 4th Saturdays
of the Month

IHM Parish Youth
Fellowships

THE SEARCH
FROM FORMED.ORG

What is the meaning of life?

@ ST MARY CENTER
JULY 26 @ 4-5:15 PM

Faith

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