

**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 Twenty-Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time September 27, 2026

Mass Intentions & Liturgy Schedule

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

Twenty-Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time Sept. 26-27

Saturday Vigil	4:30pm	SMC	+Jim Vizgirda
Sunday	8:00am	ICC	+Sam Maupin
	10:30am	SMC	Pro Populo

Weekday Masses

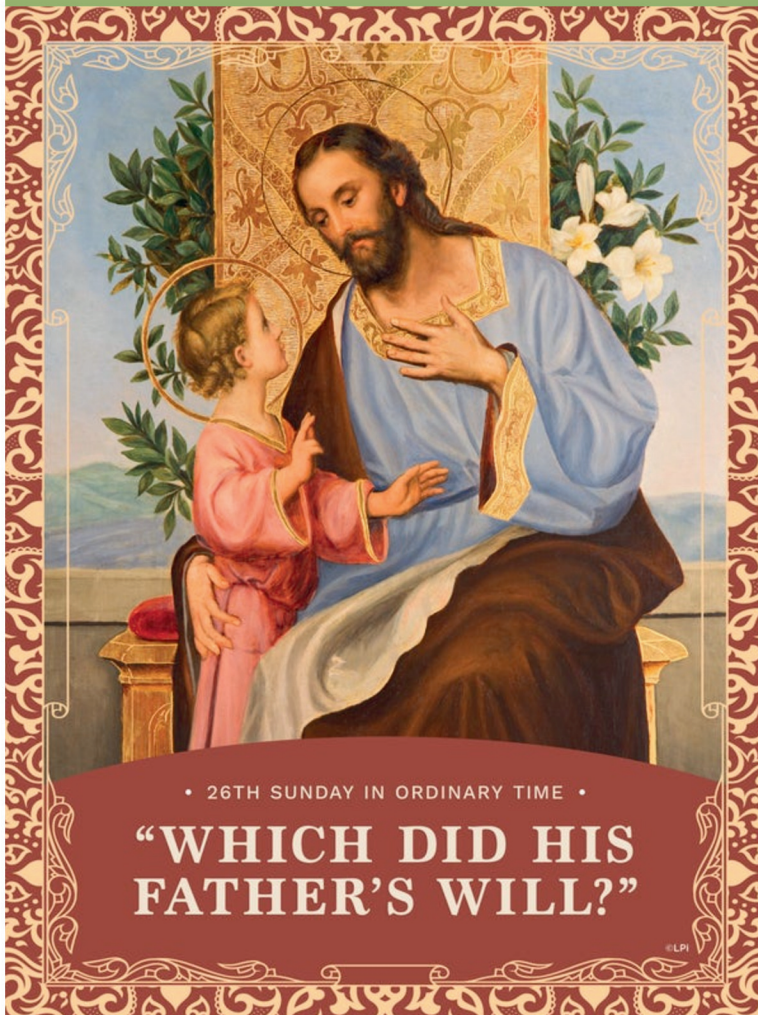
Mon. Sept. 28	8:00am	SMC	+Sandy & Russ Ziegler
Tues. Sept. 29			No Mass
Wed. Sept. 30	5:30pm	ICC	+Leonard & Ester Balensiefen
Thurs. Oct. 1	7:30am	SMC	+Algis Norvaisas
Fri. Oct. 2	8:00am	ICC	+Eugene & Mary Klein
Sat. Oct. 3	8:00am	SMC	+Sue Neuhaften

NEXT WEEKEND : Oct. 3-4

Saturday Vigil	4:30pm	SMC	+Joan Kaliher
Sunday	8:00am	ICC	+Marlene Gauwitz
	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 Oct. 3-4

Lector	EMHC	Altar Server
4:30 p.m. - SMC - Saturday Oct. 3, 2026		
Pam Waldschmidt	Father Pica	James
8:00 a.m. - ICC - Sunday, Oct. 4, 2026		
Gwen Balensiefen	Stephen Martinek	Larry
10:30 a.m. - SMC - Sunday, Oct. 4, 2026		
Alicia Aquire	Margy Mattern	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 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

Sept. 27	CCD - SM Center 9:15am IHM Youth Group: SM Center 4:00-5:15pm
Oct. 1	1 st Friday Preparation: SMC Adoration & Confession 6:00-8:00pm
Oct. 2	1 st Friday Preparation: ICC Confessions 7:15am Adoration 8:30-10:00am
Oct. 7	Knights of Columbus World Day of Prayer for Peace at ICC 8:00am-6:00pm Mary's Heart Women's Meeting IC Hall 6:00pm
Oct. 8	Catholic 101: Come & See 6:00pm SM Center

***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!

	Sept. 20, 2026	YTD	YTD Budget
Actual Collection	\$2,999	\$39,982	\$48,462
[Weekly Budget: \$4,038]			-\$8,480
Bldgs. & Grounds	\$105	\$2,870	\$2,769
[Weekly Budget: \$231]			\$101
Capital Campaign	\$2,650	\$11,267	\$23,077
[Orange Env. Bdgt. \$1,923]			-\$11,810

+JM J+

Dear Parishioners,

Praised be Jesus Christ! -Now and forever!

Chapter IV, *Dies Hominis- Sunday: Day of Joy, Rest and Solidarity*- So, how are we as Catholics called to live Sunday differently? What does it mean to enter into the Sabbath Rest? In the paragraphs below, Pope St. John Paul II describes how we are called to enter into the Sabbath rest and you will find that it is very counter-cultural! Highlighting his words: *[Christians] are obliged in conscience to arrange their Sunday rest in a way which allows them to take part in the Eucharist, refraining from work and activities which are incompatible with the sanctification of the Lord's Day, with its characteristic joy and necessary rest for spirit and body.* These are powerful words and as we seek to live by them, we will provide a great witness to family, friends, neighbors, and our communities!

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.

66. Finally, it should not be forgotten that even in our own day work is very oppressive for many people, either because of miserable working conditions and long hours — especially in the poorer regions of the world — or because of the persistence in economically more developed societies of too many cases of injustice and exploitation of man by man. When, through the centuries, she has made laws concerning Sunday rest, (109) the Church has had in mind above all the work of servants and workers, certainly not because this work was any less worthy when compared to the spiritual requirements of Sunday observance, but rather because it needed greater regulation to lighten its burden and thus enable everyone to keep the Lord's Day holy. In this matter, my predecessor Pope Leo XIII in his Encyclical *Rerum Novarum* spoke of Sunday rest as a worker's right which the State must guarantee. (110)

In our own historical context there remains the obligation to ensure that everyone can enjoy the freedom, rest and relaxation which human dignity requires, together with the associated religious, family, cultural and interpersonal needs which are difficult to meet if there is no guarantee of at least one day of the week on which people can both rest and celebrate. Naturally, this right of workers to rest presupposes their right to work and, as we reflect on the question of the Christian understanding of Sunday, we cannot but recall with a deep sense of solidarity the hardship of countless men and women who, because of the lack of jobs, are forced to remain inactive on workdays as well.

67. Through Sunday rest, daily concerns and tasks can find their proper perspective: the material things about which we worry give way to spiritual values; in a moment of encounter and less pressured exchange, we see the true face of the people with whom we live. Even the beauties of nature — too often marred by the desire to exploit, which turns against man himself — can be rediscovered and enjoyed to the full. As the day on which man is at peace with God, with himself and with others, Sunday becomes a moment when people can look anew upon the wonders of nature, allowing themselves to be caught up in that marvellous and mysterious harmony which, in the words of Saint Ambrose, weds the many elements of the cosmos in a "bond of communion and peace" by "an inviolable law of concord and love". (111) Men and women then come to a deeper sense, as the Apostle says, that "everything created by God is good and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for then it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer" (1 Tim 4:4-5). If after six days of work — reduced in fact to five for many people — people look for time to relax and to pay more attention to other aspects of their lives, this corresponds to an authentic need which is in full harmony with the vision of the Gospel message. Believers are therefore called to satisfy this need in a way consistent with the manifestation of their personal and community faith, as expressed in the celebration and sanctification of the Lord's Day.

Therefore, also in the particular circumstances of our own time, Christians will naturally strive to ensure that civil legislation respects their duty to keep Sunday holy. In any case, they are obliged in conscience to arrange their Sunday rest in a way which allows them to take part in the Eucharist, refraining from work and activities which are incompatible with the sanctification of the Lord's Day, with its characteristic joy and necessary rest for spirit and body. (112)

68. In order that rest may not degenerate into emptiness or boredom, it must offer spiritual enrichment, greater freedom, opportunities for contemplation and fraternal communion. Therefore, among the forms of culture and entertainment which society offers, the faithful should choose those which are most in keeping with a life lived in obedience to the precepts of the Gospel. Sunday rest then becomes "prophetic", affirming not only the absolute primacy of God, but also the primacy and dignity of the person with respect to the demands of social and economic life, and anticipating in a certain sense the "new heavens" and the "new earth", in which liberation from slavery to needs will be final and complete. In short, the Lord's Day thus becomes in the truest sense the day of man as well.

First Saturday
Mass
Oct. 3, 2026
8:00am SMC



*¡Viva Cristo Rey!
Father Pica*

Meet Our Seminarians



Henry Karduck

Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary: Entered 2026, Class of 2034

Why did you become a seminarian?

Although I grew up Catholic and always went to Sunday Mass, I wasn't close with the Lord until later in high school. Since middle school, I desired greatness and fulfillment, so I pursued good things offered by the world, like academic excellence, sports, and Scouting, but I never found what I truly longed for. In my junior year of high school, a good priest-friend invited me to help lead a Confirmation retreat for eighth-graders, where I experienced prayer and Catholic fraternity like never before. I became inspired to consistently attend daily Mass, where the Lord profoundly revealed Himself to me, and it was He whom I truly longed for. For the remainder of high school, I grew to desire God's will for my life instead of my own, knowing that He has bigger plans for me than I can even imagine. I knew that seminary was the best place to discern God's call, and after months of spiritual direction and overcoming my fears, I decided to give the Lord a shot, confident that He will reveal His plans for my life and excited about the possibility of priesthood.

What did you do before seminary?



Ben DeMarlie

Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary: Entered 2026, Class of 2034

Why did you become a seminarian?

The priesthood has been on my heart for quite some time. Shortly after my confirmation, I prayed for an increase in vocations, and God surprised me by speaking directly to my heart: "You!" Over time, I set this call aside, until my sophomore year of high school, when I was invited to visit the seminary. On that trip, I fell deeply in love with God and His Bride, the Church, and began seriously discerning a vocation to the priesthood. The inspiration and encouragement I received from holy priests played a pivotal role in my journey, helping me recognize that one of the greatest gifts I could offer the Father was my youth.



World Day of Prayer for Peace

-Wednesday, October 7-

The Lacon Knights of Columbus and the Henry Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a Day of Prayer for World Peace.

- **Eucharistic Adoration:** Begins at 8:00am and Benediction at 5:15pm
 - If you would like to commit to an Adoration Slot, please talk to Richard Dubois 309-369-1186
 - **Rosary:** 5:00 p.m.
- All denominations of faith are invited to participate in this day of prayer
- Stop by the church anytime throughout the day to pray for peace throughout the world.
- **Mass: 5:30pm** - celebrating *Our Lady of the Rosary*



On behalf of the Parish Council thank you everyone who helped celebrate the Harvest Mass and Dinner on Saturday, September 12th.

A very special thank you goes out to the ladies of the parish who donated baked goods for the dinner. Your generosity is much appreciated. Please continue to pray for a safe and bountiful harvest for our farmers!

~Margy Mattern, Vice President of the Parish Council

CCD Family Day



Harvest Dinner



First Friday Preparation



Adoration + Confession

Thurs., Oct. 1

6:00-8:00pm at SMC
(Adoration & Conf.)

Friday, Oct. 2

7:15-7:45am at ICC
(Confession)
8:30-10:00am at ICC
(Adoration)



Catholic 101:

Come and See!



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MORE ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH?

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