

SAINT MARY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish Partnership of St. Mary, Centralia & St. Lawrence, Sandoval

**424 E. Broadway
Centralia, Illinois 62801
(618) 532-6291**



St. Mary School
(618) 532-3473

Office Hours 9am - 4 pm
Weekdays

Email: parish@stmarycentralia.org ♦ Website: www.stmarycentralia.org
YouTube: St. Mary, Centralia ♦ Facebook: St. Mary Catholic Church - Centralia



**His Eminence,
Wilton Cardinal Gregory**
Arch-Bishop of Washington D. C.
November 28, 2020

Let us pray, for Cardinal Wilton Daniel Gregory, Archbishop of Washington, that God may strengthen him with the Holy Spirit's gifts for his episcopal ministry and his service to our Holy Father and the Universal Church. Amen.

Virtual Giving

During these next few weeks of Virtual Mass, please take advantage of On-line Giving. You can find it at our website stmarycentralia.org. You may drop your envelope at the office or use USPS.



The Student Council along with Mrs. Klosterman, Student Council sponsor, loaded the food that was collected for the Salvation Army Food Pantry in Centralia. The Truck was heaping with food items that will help area families have a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner! Thanks to all who contributed to this successful drive.

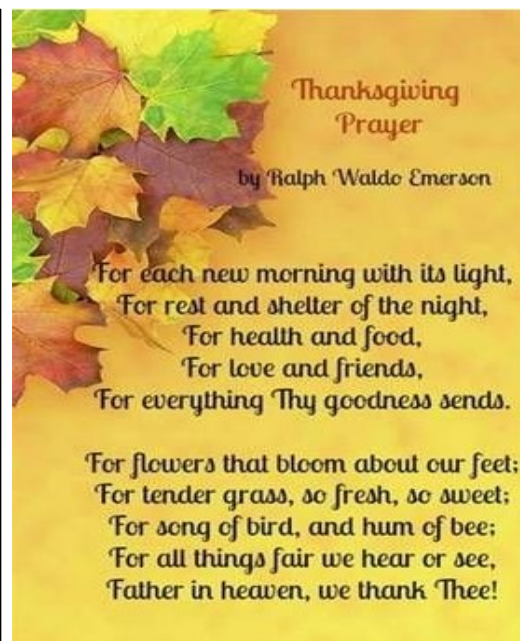
GOING VIRTUAL

I want to thank so many of you for your prayers, and input. It was not an easy decision to go virtual for the next few weekends. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, we will be back together the 3rd. Sunday of Advent, December 13, 2020.

Please continue to do what you can to support our Parish Family. The Holy Day, The Immaculate Conception, will be celebrated on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 in the Church at 6:00 p.m. Please call the Parish Office to make reservations 618-532-6291.

May God's blessing be with you during Advent and Christmas.

Blessings, Father Steve



First Sunday of Advent

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning." (Mark 13:33-35)



Mass Intentions

Saturday, November 28, 2020

4:00 p.m. St. Mary's Church

†Hope Marcum Harbin

†Crucephine Pierson

†Leo Seger

Sunday, November 29, 2020

10:30 a.m. St. Mary Church

†Michelle Huether;

†Dave Schwartz

†Ladislada Villagomez

Saturday, December 5, 2020

4:00 p.m. St. Mary Church

†Mary White

Sunday, December 6, 2020

10:30 a.m. St. Mary Church

†Lloyd, †John, & †Joe Siegfried

Prayer Intentions

Prayer requests will be listed for one month. To submit a prayer request, please contact, Rene' at the Parish Office.

*For those who are sick, homebound, in the hospital or suffering in any way, especially: **Ann Dunn, Natasha Lang, Susan McTall, Fr. James Margasan, Fr. Gary Gummshheimer, Father Joe Rascher, and Father Larry Lemay.***

For those in Care Centers, and Specialized Living Centers...May they stay safe and healthy.

For those serving in the Armed Forces or away at College...May the Holy Spirit guide them.

Don't Get Left Out in the
Cold 618-532-6291

Mass will be Virtual Only!
Weekend of November 29th.
and December 6th.



65 and OVER MASS
THURSDAY 8:30 A.M.

St. Lawrence Parish Center
No need to pre-register!

Sunday Liturgy and Missal
**This Mass satisfies your
Sunday obligation



Stewardship

Thank you for your support of our Parish and School

You can support your Parish with your weekly envelope

Sign-up for Online Giving: stmmarycentralia.org

Mail your gift to: St. Mary Parish, 424 E. Broadway, Centralia, IL 62801

ST. MARY PARISH SUPPORT

Envelopes / Online Giving	52 / 9	\$6,102.00
Loose		\$51.00
Capital Improvements	11	\$270.00
CCHD	2	\$45.00
Propagation of the faith	2	\$40.00
TOTAL	76	\$6,508.00

*In
Loving
Memory
of*

MEMORIALS

Dave Schwartz \$100 SMS

Date	Time	Event/ Contact	Details
Every Sunday	9:00 a.m. until 10:15 a.m.	Vicki Laquet Parish School of Religion (PSR)	Check schedule for details of when individual classes meet in person and classroom location.
Every Sunday	Following the 10:30 a.m. Mass	Vicki Laquet, CRE Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)	Those interested in joining the Church or who seek information are invited to join us.
Every Monday	6:00 p.m. Until 7:00 p.m.	Scripture Class Pete Donnelly	Join us for discussion of Holy Scripture, Bible reading and more.
Every Monday	9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Quilting Sally Tiemann	St. Lawrence Parish Center, until further notice, contact Sally

Message from Father Steve,

Those who have worked at the same job know the feeling of being trapped. We find ourselves doing the same thing repeatedly, and we lose that spark of excitement that we once had. These feelings can reflect on our productivity and how we give back to the company that employs us. It is at this moment that we get called into the supervisor's office to discuss our future. Keeping a level of excitement in our lives makes things easier. I worked for the same employer for over 30 years, and yes, I began to feel that sense of routine and boredom. After spending a few days on a retreat, it hit me. It's not the job; it's me! So I changed things. Each day, I targeted someone I encountered (I traveled for my job) and tried to learn something about them. If they had kids, grandkids, what was their favorite hobby, how long were they employed? Amazingly, I found I was much more alert and found joy in what I was doing.

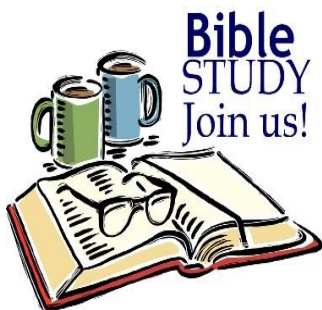
Today's gospel has a short parable about the householder who has servants to whom he assigns particular tasks before he sets off on a journey. He singles out the doorkeeper with a special warning. "Be on your guard then, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming. What I say to you, then, I say to all: Watch!" If we were to focus our gaze on the doorkeeper alone, we would realize that perhaps the greatest danger facing him is not so much that he may fall asleep on the job as that he may grow so accustomed to it that it will become just a job and nothing more. We know that gate-keeping can become dull, and routine can take over in the best of circumstances. We can get used to anything; we can get used to the sacred as well, we can get used to God, and then smugness, skepticism creeps into our lives. We can become Christians by habit and routine, and we can keep up the external ritual and exercise, but we don't encounter God anymore but only our emptiness. We know Jesus is continually coming into our lives.

Each of us is the doorkeeper, whom God has put in charge of our own lives and the lives of our community, our church, and our society. Advent calls us to stand ready. We stay alert by living the values of the Redeemer in our own time. We can only welcome Jesus into our life if we are alert and attentive to Him. "The spiritual life is, first of all, a matter of being awake," said Thomas Merton.



INITIAL CHILD PROTECTION CLASS REFRESHER.

NOTE: Those who have already taken the Initial Class, filled out paperwork and are on the "approved - compliant" listing will need to complete this school year's 2020-2021 Adult Education Refresher Course: <https://safeandsacred-diobelle.org/login/index.php>



**Bible
STUDY**
Join us!


*Join us each Monday
Evening at SMS School
for one hour of Bible
Study*

6:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.

Contact Pete Donnelly

Just a Thought or Two

"After graduating from college, I moved to Mississippi to begin a career as a sports journalist. I then got involved in my local parish where I was asked to join the Knights of Columbus. I was blown away by the dedication of these men to their faith and the Church, and it made me think about what really matters in life. One day at Mass, I felt ... a powerful call to bring others to Christ and the Church. Nurtured by the encouragement of a good pastor and by the example of faithful parishioners, I entered the seminary. We are all called to holiness, and when that holiness is lived out, vocations result." Fr. Nicholas Adam; Diocese of Jackson *Columbia Magazine*, May 2019



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
RCIA

Instruction has begun, if you are interested please contact Vicki. If you know of someone who wants to join the Church this is the time!

Call Vicki Laquet 618-532-6291

LITURGICAL CALENDAR THROUGH JANUARY 1ST

Reconciliation, please call the Parish Office
To Schedule Reconciliation

Immaculate Conception (Holy Day)

Tuesday, December 8, 2020 - *All School Mass* - 8:30 a.m.
St. Mary Church - 6:00 p.m. (Holy Day)

Christmas - Birth of Jesus

Vigil - St. Mary, December 24, 2020 - 3:00 p.m.

Vigil - St. Lawrence, December 24, 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Day - St. Mary, December 25, 2020 - 9:00 a.m.

New Year's Day - Solemnity of Mary

December 31, 2020 - St. Lawrence 4:00 p.m.

January 1, 2021 - St. Mary 9:00 a.m.





Be Alert! Watch! We begin this new liturgical year as the old one ends: alert, on the watch, looking to the end time (that is, the return of Jesus Christ) while still living in this middle time of grace. In our watching, we make the words at the center of the Isaiah reading our own: "Would that you might meet us doing right." Let us be faithful gatekeepers – of our thoughts and of our acts – actively looking for the face of the Lord.

- How will I maintain hope as I wait for Jesus Christ?
- What will I say?
- What will I do? The Works of Mercy can be a start.

NOVEMBER

SMS CALENDAR WINNERS

November 23, 2020
Henry Verdeyen, Altamont
Lucas & Jana Waters, Benton

November 30, 2020
Linda Himkamper, Quincy
Janet Bray, Centralia

Please contact the parish office if you or someone you know would like Communion brought to their home. Father Steve or a minister will schedule a time. 618-532-6291

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SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NOVEMBER 29

Reading 1 Isaiah 40: 1—5, 9—11
 Reading II 2 Peter 3: 8—14
 Gospel Mark 1: 1—8

Reverend Steven M. Pautler - Pastor
Parish Trustees - Greg Schwartz & Patty Williams
Mrs. Patty Williams - St. Mary School Administrator
Theresa Hacker - Business Manager
Vicki Laquet - CRE
Rene' Aydt - Parish Secretary / Receptionist
Patty Williams & Tim Ferguson, School Administrators
Lynn Featherling - St. Mary School Secretary

—Pastoral Council—

Joan Beguelin, Pete Donnelly, Garrett Ford, Lisa Guthrie, Wayne Houser, Nancy Lukasik, Vicki Laquet, Manny Maco, Martina Maco, Mary Miller, Greg Schwartz, Nicole Sandahl, Mike Stock, Tina Suarez, and Patty Williams.

—Finance Council—

Greg Schwartz, Patty Williams, Dr. Jerry Beguelin, Louis Curl, Tom Feig, Jack Graham, Sue Gherardini-Pas, Steve Schwartz, Theresa Hacker.

MASS SCHEDULE

LIVESTREAM on the

St. Mary Catholic Church – Centralia, Illinois

FACEBOOK PAGE

<https://www.facebook.com/TimLFergPhotosStM/>

Thursday 8:30am 65 + Older at St. Lawrence Parish Center

Saturday (vigil) Mass, St Mary 4:00 p.m.

Sunday Mass, St. Lawrence 8:30 a.m.

Sunday Mass, 10:30am

Sunday Mass will be UPLOADED to our FB Page

Sacraments & Preparation

Sacrament of Baptism: Attend a Baptismal Preparation Class. At least one parent must be a registered active & practicing member of the Parish. Please make arrangements by calling the Parish Office.

Sacrament of Matrimony: The engaged couple should contact the Parish Office, six months prior to the intended date.

RCIA: (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) Please contact Vicki Laquet, CRE or Father Steve for information about joining the Church

Anointing of the Sick: Contact Father Steve or a neighboring Priest. Anointing is also available the First Friday of each month following the Chapel Mass, and the First Sunday, (every three months), following the 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Mary and 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Lawrence.



STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FUND

the *Student Financial Assistance Fund*. Covid-19 has impacted our way of life, and St. Mary School is not immune. We are working on a comprehensive reopening plan. St. Mary School provides outstanding education for the students. If you are considering making a gift, endowment, memorial or one-time pledge to St. Mary, I'm asking that you consider the *Student Financial Assistance Fund*. Some of our families have been especially impacted by Covid-19. Your generous gift would assist School families at their time of need. If you need more information please contact Business Manager, Theresa Hacker or Father Steve at the Parish Office. **Thank you! Father Steve**

RESPECT LIFE

"Yet, O Lord, you are our father; we are the clay and you are the potter: we are all the work of your hands." In Isaiah 63, the First Reading, Catholics around the world mark Advent with a fervent prayer for a restored relationship with God. We call out to God amidst our concerns with our health and safety during the pandemic knowing that He makes our return to Him a source of blessing. When we sin, we separate ourselves from God. He never leaves our side, it is our perspective that changes as sin clouds our vision of faith. Yet God has already poured His grace into you. He has given you every spiritual gift imaginable as you wait for Jesus to reveal himself to you this Advent season. Be hopeful and know that God is calling you this Advent season into fellowship with His Son. **Learn, Act, Connect and Pray-** Let's pray together to experience this season and what it is all about. "Father, help us to experience your blessings as we wait and watch this Advent season. Help us to prepare by spending time with you in prayer and thanking you for your faithfulness to us. Amen."



In Loving Memory

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE FOR THE MONTH
OF NOVEMBER BURNS IN MEMORY OF:



**Ray & Maggie
Bruemmer**

*May their souls and all the souls
of the faithfully departed
through the mercy of God,
Rest in Peace. Amen*



WAY of LIGHTS

NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS

November 20 – December 31, 2020

The lights are on...Come Drive Through! Can't Come Inside but take a Ride... Camel Ride, Carriage Ride or ride in your own car. Experience the beauty of over one million white lights and take a Journey to Bethlehem.

More information...Snows.org/wayoflights



Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Mrs. Kathryn Francois who passed away on Saturday, November 21, 2020, and was buried from St. Mary on Wednesday, November 25. Eternal rest grant to her Lord. May She rest in peace. Amen.

Keep Christ in Christmas

In Remembrance of: Sanctuary Candle, Monthly Memorial

December, Bill Nall Family
January, Spoken for
February, Alan & Rosalie Thomas
March, Elliston & Garnier Families
April, Schwartz Family
May, Virobik, Held, Cozadd
June, Harold "Bud" Miller
July, Joe Marcum & Hope "Marcum" Harbin
August, Carolyn Meador & Gene Miller
September, Gene Uhls
October,

PLEASE CONTACT RENE' AT THE PARISH OFFICE FOR DETAILS.



Curious Kitty Meows From Sister Gracie

Well, Thanksgiving came and went and my waistline is no larger for it...they were pretty stingy with the meal and the leftovers (even with my cute face). I guess we are out of church again for a few weeks because of the corona virus pandemic (something you tall cats are passing around I think); hopefully we will make it back for the rest of Advent and Christmas. Speaking of Christmas, please don't forget our nursing home residents and monetary donations for the BCMW appeal. (you don't even have to shop this year). I will be speaking with Santa soon as to my list which will include an end to this pandemic so we can all hug each other again.

Meow!
Sister Gracie

ST MARY PARISH SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE GIVING TREE

How to Donate: Drop in the Collection Basket, Mail or Drop Off at St. Mary Parish, 424 E Broadway, Centralia, IL 62801 or Email theresa@stmarycentralia.org or call the office (618) 532-6291

Please make selection (s)

\$_____ Cash Donation Make checks payable to:
"BCMW"

**FOR THE SENIOR MEMBERS
OF OUR COMMUNITY**

_____ Adult Items - For Residents of Nursing Homes and Care Centers.

Non-perishable item ONLY! They must be wrapped and labeled, with the contents. Items not labeled will not be accepted. You may drop them off at Church or bring them to the Parish Office.



ST. MARY SCHOOL COOKIE TRAY SALES ❖ PRE-ORDER FORM

How to Order: Drop in the Collection Basket, Mail or Drop Off Order Form to St. Mary School: 424 E Broadway, Centralia, IL 62801 or Email theresa@stmarycentralia.org or call (618) 532-6291

Please make selection (s)

_____ Large Tray	\$50	5-6 dozen mixed cookies and candies
_____ Medium Tray	\$25	2-3 dozen mixed cookies and candies
_____ Small Tray	\$15	1 dozen mixed cookies and candies

From: _____ Phone: _____

To: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

_____ I prefer to pick up my tray curbside at St. Mary School Friday, December 11th after 3 PM

Personalized Christmas Note:

Check Enclosed Payable to "St. Mary School" Amount: _____

Please place orders by Friday, December 4th.



Buy gift cards from your favorite brands to use for your daily purchases. It's the easiest way to create opportunities for your organization and the people that matter most to you. No extra money spent. No extra time wasted.



Your purchase benefits St. Mary School.
Contact the Parish Office for information
or: <https://www.shopwithscrip.com>

Sacraments & Preparation

Sacrament of Baptism: Attend a Baptismal Preparation Class. At least one parent must be a registered active & practicing member of the Parish. Please make arrangements by calling the Parish Office.

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Anointing of the Sick: Contact Father Steve or a neighboring Priest. Anointing is also available the First Friday of each month following the Chapel Mass, and the First Sunday, (every three months), following the 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Mary and 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Lawrence.

ST. MARY SCHOOL COOKIE DOUGH AND PIES
PLEASE CALL THE SCHOOL OFFICE TO RESERVE
YOUR CHOICE 618 532-3473

St. Mary School PTO has some extra pies, cheesecake and cookie dough remaining from recent sale. If you would like to purchase any of the remaining items, please contact the St. Mary School office for pickup. They are going quickly! Great for Thanksgiving!

12 Slice Variety Cheesecake \$26 3 remain
Apple Pie \$17 3 remain

Oatmeal Raisin Cookie Dough \$20 2 remain
Triple Chocolate Cookie Dough \$20 1 remain
Snickerdoodle Cookie Dough \$20 2 remain
Reese's Pieces Cookie Dough \$20 3 remain

Mass will be **LIVESTREAMED** Check the bulletin for times.

Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas Mass

Please indicate your preference and return this form to the Parish Office. OPTIONS: You may place it in the Sunday Collection Basket, drop it off at the Parish Office during business hours, or send it by USPS, St. Mary Parish, 424 E. Broadway, Centralia, IL 62801 or St. Lawrence Parish, 311 W. Missouri Avenue, Sandoval, IL 62882. For further information contact: St. Mary 618-532-6291 or St. Lawrence 618-247-3300.

DEADLINE FOR CHRISTMAS MASS REGISTRATION IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2020

CHRISTMAS MASS OPTIONS

St. Mary Church

☐ 3:00 p.m. St. Mary Christmas Eve,
(number attending)

☐ 9:00 a.m. St. Mary Christmas Day
(number attending)

St. Lawrence Church

☐ 5:00 p.m. St. Lawrence Christmas Eve
(number attending)

☐ 6:00 p.m. Immaculate Conception, Tuesday,
December 8, 2020 - St. Mary Church
(number attending)

If you do not register in advance we cannot
guarantee there will be room at the "Inn!"

Please notify us if your plans have changed!

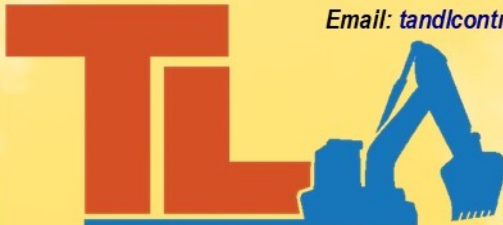
Family/Individual Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____



☐ I will need assistance

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Phone (618) 532-3523

Christmas

Giving
Tree

Parker M. Timmons, President

email: soilagsolutions@gmail.com

1705 State Route 161
Centralia, IL 62801

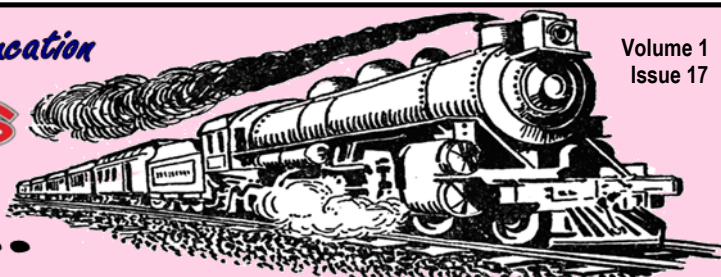
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SOUTHERN IL AG SOLUTIONS



MAXIMIZING POTENTIAL

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Saint Mary School • 424 E. Broadway • Centralia, IL 62801 • Phone 618- 532-3473



During the All School Mass, November 24, 2020, students, faculty and staff, celebrating birthday's during November and December were recognized. They received a full sized Snickers to celebrate! Happy Birthday to all!

The neatly stacked food items that were collected by the students and given to the Centralia Area, Salvation Army. This year particularly, more families a struggling. Thanks students for your help and concern. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.



COOKIE BAKING TIME HAS ARRIVED!

- We are asking **families, church members, & friends** to bake 6 dozen of their favorite holiday cookies and/or candies. (This is one of the required PTO fundraisers for SMS families)

Please complete the bottom of this page and return to the school by **Tuesday December 1st!**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!!

Name: _____ PHONE: _____

Yes! I will bake _____ (type of cookies or candies).

Please bring cookies to school by Friday, December 11th, 8 am.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!!

Any questions please contact: Sarah Alton 618-322-6459

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



Through Kindergarten Magic, Ms. Kellie class traveled to the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade! Before their virtual trip, they made a book. "Cooking Thanksgiving with SMS Kindergarten..."

Arabella says..."I would make rice by scooping rice into a bowl. Next, I would open the bag of ramen, put in water and mix. Then I would make chicken and put it in the microwave for 2 minutes. I would make the cookies from school.

Arai shares her recipe..."First I would make the turkey by putting it on the grill for one hour. Next I would put corn on the grill for 2 minutes. Last, I would buy fruit from Dollar General."

Breez has a plan..."First, I would make the turkey by cooking it for 2 hours. Next, I would pour water for people to drink. Then I would cut up fruit. Last, I would make ham by putting it in the over on 80 degrees for 10 minutes."

Brody shares his plan..."First, I would put the turkey in the over for 8 minutes on 5 degrees. Next I would make the bacon and put the strawberries out. Then I would make mac n cheese with salt, cheese and noodles. Last, I add blackberry's."

Evan prepares his meal from start to finish... First I would make pumpkin pie by squishing the pumpkin and getting the juice out. Then I would heat it up. Next, I would make the turkey. I will catch the turkey and the feathers, legs, head and wings. Then I would grill it."

Hannah is planning healthy... "First, I would make turkey by putting it in the grill for one hour. Next, I would make a salad with lettuce, cheese, ranch and carrots. Then, I would make rice by putting rice and butter together and let it sit for 3 minutes."

Max has one kick 'in plan..."First I would make the bacon and put it on the stove for 12 minutes. Next, I would make the hot dogs on the stove for 12 minutes. Last, I would pour milk to drink."

Sofia say's let's start with dessert..." First I would make hot fudge strawberry sundae. Next, I would make cherry pie with half hot chocolate and half cherries. Then, I would make chicken and roll into balls. Last, I would make turkey for 3 minutes on the grill.

Lastly, Zayden says..."First, I would make the turkey by putting it in the over for 8 minutes. Next, I would grill fish. Last I would get the blueberries and hot dogs out.



Raylynn-life, water, dood, education, family, friends, God and Jesus

Griffin-God, food, my house, drink, my family, friends, teachers, toys

Rylan-God, church, shelter, food, parents

Harper-family, pets, veterans, food, water, school, teachers, my house

Charlotte- sports, my life, water, food, God and Jesus, teachers, education,

Reid-family, home, food, water, school, friends, and God

Blaise-food, friends, my life, family, toys, and my house

Kathryn, my church, my friends and family, animals, my school, and my life

Lauren-food, water, friends, family, God, and my school

Nolan-food, family, friends, my home, pets, water, God and Jesus

Tucker-friends, family, baseball, basketball, soccer, and my life

Charleigh-friends, family, nature, my cousins, my school, and our teachers

"...in everything *give thanks*;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus
for you." 1 THESSALONIANS 5:18

5th - 8th grades completed 30 days of gratitude writing. Each day they had a prompt to which they had to respond to. This helped them focus on all of the aspects of life that we forget to appreciate often.

A person I'm glad to have in my life is Amelia because she is like a sister to me. I've known her since kindergarten. She has always been there for me and vice versa. Olivia 6th

Something I find comfort in is making a huge difference with my grades between my fifth grade year and my sixth grade year because my grades my fifth grade year were not good. Now, I'm making good grades such as A's and B's. Hayden 6th

My favorite part of the morning is eating breakfast. Eating breakfast is my favorite part of the morning because I haven't eaten in however long I slept plus a couple hours. Also breakfast food is really delicious. Ceci 8th

A hidden blessing in a difficult situation for me is that during the coronavirus, we all had to stay home and quarantine for a couple months. I find that there is a blessing in this situation because even though I wanted to hang out with my friends and go out and do something, I got to spend a lot of time with my family. My family and I started having more meals together since we were always in our house together. Rylie 8th

An opportunity I'm grateful for would be the fact that I get to go to a private school and get to have a good education throughout my life. Not every kid in the world is able to go to school, let alone a private school. This Thanksgiving I will be thankful for that. Audrey 8th

A life lesson I have learned is to work for what you want. In life, nothing is going to get handed to you. You have to work hard if you want something. It is wonderful to set a goal to strive for because when you achieve that goal, it makes you feel proud. You always enjoy something more if you work hard for it instead of just getting it handed to you. Audrey 8th

The biggest gift in my life right now is not being sick because during Covid it would be very hard to get my tasks done at home. If I got sick, I wouldn't be able to do many of the activities I am doing now. I am grateful that I'm not sick because I could get others sick and I would hate to get everyone sick. Olivia 8th

My favorite memory is when I used to lay on the floor at my grandpa's house and play tractors all day long. Sadly he passed away a long time ago when I was about 3 or 4 years old. I just wish that I could see him again. We used to go outside, and I would always ride with him in his tractor, and we would get home just in time for dinner. I always hated leaving though. I always wanted to stay and keep playing. Bryden 7th

My favorite area in my home is my bedroom because I can have privacy from my family that bugs me sometimes, and I have my comfortable bed to sleep on at night. In the day besides privacy, I have all my possessions in it. I can watch tv on my phone or laptop, play video games, and read my books. Paul 7th

My favorite area in my home is the basement because we get to go fight, play ping pong, and also kind of make it our man cave. The reason we get to make it our man cave is because when my brother and I fight, my mom makes us go down there. It is also very cozy and roomy down there. Nolan 7th

A memory that makes me smile is when I found out that my mom was going to have my little brother. Laynee 6th

Something beautiful I have seen today is my Christmas tree because it is covered with lights and ornaments. Cooper 6th

My favorite part of the evening is spending time with my family and watching TV. I like to do this because I think it is fun, and it makes me smile. Amelia 6th

Something I love about my dad is that he always tries his best to help my family. He has a job that makes him unable to see my family and me a lot, but with that job he provides for my family and me. Reese 5th

Something positive about my body is that I have strong muscles. I use them to swim fast and hit a baseball far away. Dad is always impressed. Carson 6th

A challenge that I am grateful for is the challenge I had going to state for school softball. I am grateful for this because some people never even get this chance, and I got it as a fifth grader! That is why I'm so grateful to have had a challenge like that. Emrie 5th

A compliment that made me feel good is, "You're a wild kid, but you're also a nice kid" because it is true. I am wild, but I also do a lot of things. I am not elephant wild, but I'm calm and gross wild, but a lot of people say I'm nice. My best friend's mom said that to me. Josh 6th

The best gift I've ever received is my new cat because I just got her like 3 weeks ago, and now I am attached to her. Zoey 6th

An item I treasure the most are my two 3 on 3 trophies that I won in Flora. I won both the 14u and 11u championships. On the 14u team, I didn't play much because I was on another team, and I would have a game on that team and then right after that I would have a game for 14u team. On the 14u team I played with Logan, Riley Mays, and Matt Slover. On the 11u team, I played with my

dad's work buddies' kids. One game on the 11u team, we were down by 2 and I hit a fade away 3 pointer and stole the ball from them on the next possession to win the game. Devin 7th

The people who mean the most to me are my family. They are always there for me no matter what, and then support me through everything. Also they are fun, funny, and nice. They mean the most to me. Maddy 8th

My favorite part about nature is the bright blue sky that occasionally appears on sunny or cool days. This is because it gives off this nice and calming vibe, or feeling. In my opinion, it is the most miraculous piece of nature that exists. The best part about the sky is that it keeps us from looking beyond it where it hides a lot of mysteries beyond our thinking in the expanding infinite universe. Thomas 8th

A book I loved reading was Girls of Paper and Fire. It was very suspenseful, and it was a very unusual theme for a love story to have. It intrigued me, and I never wanted to put it down. Madilyn 6th

A freedom I am grateful for is to live in America. I love my country and would love to serve it in my future. So many people have died for our country so we can sleep in peace at night. We should be grateful for those who have served and have died for our country. Many other countries are not as organized and civilized as America is. People need to know how lucky we have it here because we live in the greatest country in the world. We even have a document saying all of our freedoms. I'm very grateful to live in America and to be free. Kylie 8th

I am thankful for this life that I get to live. It is filled with faith, family, friends, happiness, sadness, pleasure, and guilt. It is perfectly imperfect, and I wouldn't want my life any different than it is. Mrs. Pryor

