

February 7, 2021

# SAINT MARY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

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

Email: [parish@stmarycentralia.org](mailto:parish@stmarycentralia.org) ♦ Website: [www.stmarycentralia.org](http://www.stmarycentralia.org)  
YouTube: St. Mary, Centralia ♦ Facebook: St. Mary Catholic Church - Centralia



**St. Mary School**  
(618) 532-3473



Office Hours: 9am - 4pm  
Weekdays

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK



## ASH WEDNESDAY

### LENTEN DISCIPLINES: FASTING AND ALMSGIVING

For these Forty Days we are conscious of how we must sharpen our senses and focus mind and heart on the Reign of God. We are, above all, aware of those waters in which we were baptized into Christ's death. We died to sin and evil and began a new life in Christ. The waters of Baptism wait at Lent's end for the catechumens, but we are called to renew our Baptism as well. The Church asks us to give ourselves to prayer and to the reading of Scripture, to fasting and to giving alms.

**Receiving Ashes during the Pandemic**  
Reception of Ashes will be offered at Mass on  
Wednesday February 17, 2021.

**St. Mary Church - 12:00 p.m.**  
**St. Lawrence Church 6:00 p.m.**

Please call the St. Mary Parish Office  
to reserve a seat **618-532-6291**

**Open Seating at St. Lawrence**  
There is no need to register

**For those who do decide not to attend, Ash Wednesday Mass, or  
if you are homebound, there will be small bags of blessed  
ashes that you may take home, after Mass February 20th - 21st.**





# Mass Intentions

**Saturday, February 6, 2021**

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

†Kevin Kern

†Chris Craney

†Alan & †Rosalie Thomas

**Sunday, February 7, 2021**

10:30 a.m. St. Mary's Church

†Morris Taylor & †William Taylor

†Virgil & †Barb Steele

**Saturday, February 13, 2021**

4:00 p.m. St. Mary Church

†Sr. Suzanne, CSSF

†Fred LaGiglia

**Sunday, February 14, 2021**

10:30 a.m. St. Mary's Church

†Joe Marcum

†Roy Sztkowski

†Bud Miller and †Lawrence & †Agnes Goebel

## Lent & Spring Schedule

Saturday, February 6th - St. Mary Church - 4:00 p.m. **REGISTER**

Sunday, February 7th - St. Lawrence 8:30 a.m. **WALK IN**

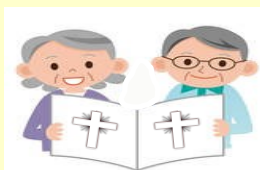
Sunday, February 7th - St. Mary Church 10:30 a.m. **REGISTER**

**\*\*No need to register for Mass at St. Lawrence, sufficient room is available.**

**Registration for St. Mary 618-532-6291**

**THURSDAY MASS STARTING FEBRUARY 18TH**

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



St. Lawrence Parish  
No need to pre-register!

Sunday Liturgy and Missal  
\*\*This Mass satisfies your  
Sunday oblation

## 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: Waylon Vick, Ann Dunn, Natasha Lang, Susan McTall, Fr. James Margasan, Fr. Gary Gummersheimer, Father Joe Rascher, and all Covid-19 patients.**

**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.**



**Thank you for your support of our Parish and School**

You can support your Parish with your weekly envelope

Sign-up for Online Giving: [stmarycentralia.org](http://stmarycentralia.org)

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

## ST. MARY PARISH SUPPORT

Total of all collections 1/31/21	#	AMOUNT
Envelopes / Online Giving	57 / 9	\$4,182.00
Loose		\$23.00
Capital Improvements	5	\$110.00
School Support	4	\$80.00
Altar Society	6	\$105.00
Black & Indian Missions	1	\$50.00
The Messenger	2	\$50.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>\$,4,600.00</b>

Please call Blanche Flanigan, if you have a prayer intention needing to be added to the prayer chain, phone **618-532-1153**. The prayer chain also needs more prayer warriors if you can volunteer.



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 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,

Life can be challenging, but God is always good!

We often hear people say they would like a little "peace and quiet." I think we can all say a hearty "amen" to that, especially with all that is taking place in our world right now. Yet, I wanted to take a few moments to encourage you today on this thought of "peace." At times, we have wrongly concluded that peace is simply the absence of conflict of any kind, yet we forget that Jesus came into a world filled with political and moral turmoil. Yet, He was, and IS the Prince of Peace!

The gospel story begins with Jesus going with his disciples James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. He has barely entered when they confide to him their worries and concerns, petty though they may seem. Simon's mother-in-law has gone to bed with a fever. Jesus did not hesitate, he went straight away to her bed, took her by the hand, and the fever left her, and she began to wait on them. Jesus' present healing involves only a gesture – he grasped her hand and helped her up. That healing action of Jesus was enough to set the town on fire, and by evening everyone who was sick or afflicted in any way was at Simon's doorstep. Whenever people hear of a healer, there are hordes of people who seek the magical touch. What's wrong with seeking a miracle?

The Gospel tells us the crowds kept increasing; they wanted more miracles. By morning crowds were milling around waiting for Jesus, but he was nowhere to be found; he disappeared. The apostles could not understand. This was the moment Jesus should have capitalized on his popularity, yet he disappeared, and when they found him, he was alone by himself praying. Jesus needed a little "peace and quiet."

By refusing to be what the people wanted him to be: a magical Savior, Jesus was making a point that good health does not necessarily enhance the quality of life, and ill-health does not necessarily detract from it. Rather than carry on with the healing, Jesus insisted on leaving the crowds and heading off to other places to preach the good news. We can imagine it was hard for Jesus to leave the people, yet that was the Father's will revealed to him in prayer, and that is what he did. He had come not to do what the people wanted him to do but to do the Father's will. Suffering, a deep part of human existence and an essential part of estrangement from God, was also a means of purification and returned to God. Jesus did not ignore the pain but did not seek to avoid it either.



**Altar Society Meeting in the cafeteria  
Tuesday, February 23 at 7pm.  
Masks are required!**

The BCMW would like to thank everyone for making Christmas special for less fortunate families this past holiday season. Your kindness and generosity provided Christmas toys and warm clothing to 577 children from 215 families. They received over \$32,000 in cash donations from 91 different entities. Their program operates entirely on the donations of our generous communities. Thank you for participating in this special program.



## MEMORIALS



In Loving Memory

*Kathryn Francois* \$25 (SMS)

*Bernice Schmidt* \$730.00 (SMS)

*Shirley Merrell* \$515 (SMS) \$275 (Church)

Just a Thought or Two

### What advice would you give a man considering a vocation to the priesthood?

Don't be afraid! The call to priesthood will often come in a moment when you least expect it, and that can be overwhelming and stressful at times. But trust in God! If this is where He is calling you, there's a reason for it. God will never lead you somewhere harmful or somewhere He doesn't want you to be. Be open to where He is calling you, and pray about it often. It is also helpful to talk to someone about it, whether that be your pastor or another priest, one of our seminarians, or your family or friends. Talking about your vocation out loud can often give you an idea of where you are and where you want to be, and where God wants you to be. There's a lot of great information out there about vocations, and our vocation office has several books, information brochures and prayer cards that can tell you anything you want to know about the vocation to priesthood or any other vocation! In the words of Fr. Josh Livingston, "If this is what God is calling you to, then it's such a joyful life."

*Spencer Gregory Our Lady of Providence Seminary (1st Year College Seminarian)*

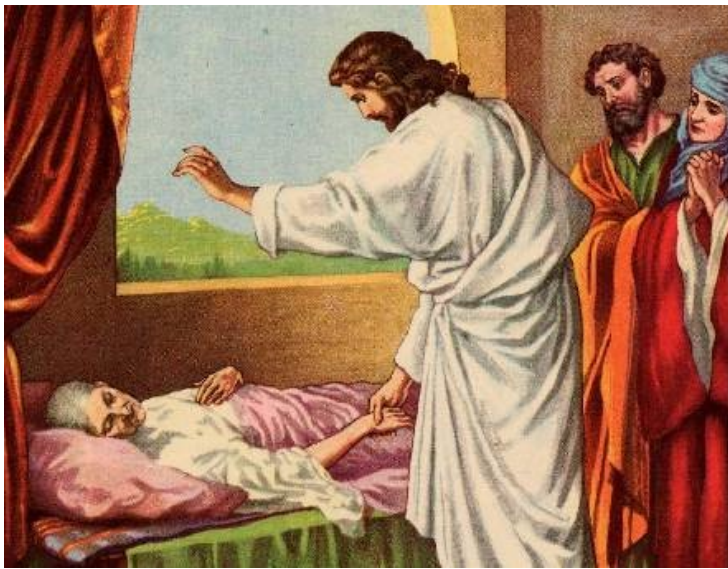
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults  
**RCIA**  
RCIA AND 2ND GRADE PSR  
HAVE RESUMED CLASSES  
FOR INFORMATION CALL  
Call Vicki Laquet 618-532-6291

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

**PLEASE REGISTER FOR MASS  
AT ST. MARY PARISH!**








**Pursuing Jesus.** After curing Simon's mother-in-law, Jesus, standing at the door, is teaching, healing, and casting out demons. Then, leaving at dawn, he goes off alone. Simon and the boys, pursuing him, find him praying and plead: "Everyone is looking for you."

- Since I am looking, where will I find Jesus this week?
- What teaching of his do I need to hear? What healing?
- Where and when will I make time for praying?



## RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Give blood.  
Give life. ♥


FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2021

Available Times 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

ST. LAWRENCE CATHOLIC CHURCH

311 W. MISSOURI AVE,  
SANDOVAL, IL 62882

EMERGENCY NEED



Blood donations are going  
to hospitals as quickly as  
they come in.

<https://www.redcross.org/give-blood.html>

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### SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR FEBRUARY 14

Reading 1    Leviticus 13: 1—2, 44—46  
 Reading II   1 Corinthians 10: 31—11: 1  
 Gospel        Mark 1: 40—45

**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, 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

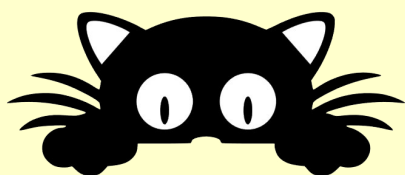
**Anointing of the Sick:** Contact Father Steve or a neighboring Priest. Anointing is also available the First Friday of each month following the Chapel Mass, and the First Sunday, (every three months), following the 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Mary and 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Lawrence.



## **STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FUND**

the **Student Financial Assistance Fund**. 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**

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



## Curious Kitty Meows From Sister Gracie

The big cat that I spend the night with, Ms. Vicki, hasn't been taking me to the Office this week! I have been spending time at her house, with my Brother Blaise. This past Wednesday, I was enjoying a nice piece of fish, and I got a bone stuck in my throat. I tried to hack it up, but just couldn't. My brother Blaise, smacked me with his paw, and just like that it was gone. He must be some type of miracle worker or something! Rumor around the office is Father Steve is taking a vacation! How dare him leave me behind. Gracie is not having any of that! I have my treats packed, my toys and my favorite cuddly blanket. I will fit nicely in his carry on bag. Can't wait to see his face when he opens it. Meow! I heard there is employment for cats like me at Disney World chasing those pesky mice. Might check it out.

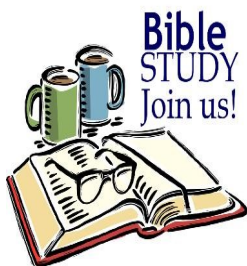
See you when I get back.  
Sister Gracie!

**Cousin Gracie, just hop in  
Father Steve's carry on, he  
won't notice, see you soon!  
Cousin Felix, Orlando, FL**



**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/>



**Bible  
STUDY**  
Join us!

**PRESENTLY ON HOLD**  
**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**

**STARTING FEBRUARY 7TH**

### REMINDER:

**The Parish Office hours are  
9am to 4pm  
Monday thru  
Friday. Registrations for  
Mass should be made during  
this time at 532-6291. The Parish Office is not open on the weekends.  
Thank You!**

## In Remembrance of Sanctuary Candle, Monthly Memorial

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, Dave Schwartz  
November, Harold "Pete" Aydt  
December, Nall, Hollern & Duty Families  
January, OPEN  
February, Alan & Rosalie Thomas  
March OPEN

PLEASE CONTACT RENE' AT THE  
PARISH OFFICE FOR DETAILS.

618-532-6291

## In Loving Memory

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

**Alan & Rosalie  
Thomas**

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

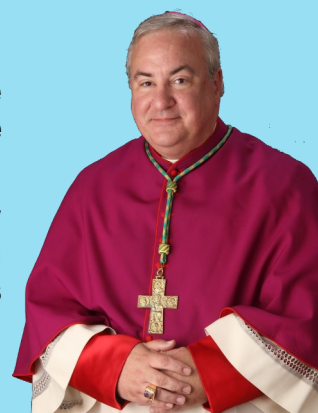


(Facebook message from Bishop McGovern, Tuesday, February 2, 2021)

The Presentation of Jesus in the temple shows him to be the firstborn Son who belongs to the Lord. Jesus is recognized as the long-expected Messiah, the "light of the nations" and the "glory of Israel." (CCC, no. 529)

Also, World Day for Consecrated Life will be celebrated in the parishes today. Please pray for all those who have made commitments in the consecrated life and be sure to thank them on their special day! It's Catholic Schools Week! I'm grateful for all of our wonderful teachers and students who contribute so much to the life of the children they work with.

Bishop McGovern's Message can be found at: <http://www.facebook.com/BishopMichaelMcGovern>





## PREGNANCY CARE CENTER IT'S BOTTLE TIME!



### PREGNANCY CARE CENTER BABY BOTTLES

Due to COVID we were unable to give bottles out Mother's Day to Father's Day in 2020. The new plan was Thanksgiving to Christmas but with the holiday chaos that did not work for us here at St. Mary. Thanks to those who took a bottle when they were set out. The insert says December 20, 2020, but please return by **February 14, 2021 to the basket in church or the parish office.** As always fill with change, cash or check. Thanks for your generosity.

We presently have candidates for the Principal Position for SMS. If you know of anyone who would like to apply, inform them of the opening. Candidates must be willing to assume the responsibility for the day-to-day administration of the school as well as assist in developing long range goals. Candidates should possess excellent communication skills and an enthusiasm for developing and maintaining relationships. Ability to grow an academic program and Catholic identity is a must. A minimum of five years educational experience or equivalent, and a commitment to pursue a certification as a School Administrator, is required. Send resume to: **Father Steven Pautler, 424 E. Broadway, Centralia, IL 62801** or email: [fr.steve@stmarycentralia.org](mailto:fr.steve@stmarycentralia.org).

### Sacraments & Preparation

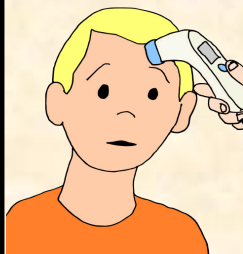
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**PLEASE NOTE:** During cold weather, the digital thermometer is showing **low temperature**. This is due to your skin being exposed to the cold air. **Please check your temperature before you arrive for Mass.** Remember to contact the Parish Office and register for the Mass you plan to attend. With our move back to our Church building, space is limited. We are also in need of individuals to assist with sanitizing after Mass. Please call the Parish office by Wednesday of each week to register!



**TO REGISTER:  
618-532-6291**

## SURPRISE CARD SHOWER

Parishioner Jo Dene Nall turned 90 YEARS YOUNG on January 31. Her family has asked that we surprise her by having birthday cards mailed to her for this special day: They can be mailed to:

Mrs. Jo Dene Nall, P O Box 99  
Centralia, IL 62801

Parishioner Mary Mann will turn 90 YEARS YOUNG on February 9. Her family has asked that we surprise her by having birthday cards mailed to her for this special day: They can be mailed to:

Mrs. Mary Mann, 5 Orchard Drive  
Centralia, IL 62801



Friday, February 19th  
- Friday, March 26th



### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

February 6/7...Communal Blessing of Throats

**February 17...Ash Wednesday**  
+ 12:00 p.m. - St. Mary Church, Centralia  
6:00 p.m. - St. Lawrence Church, Sandoval  
(note: ashes will be placed on the top of your head)

# THE MESSENGER RENEWAL WEEKEND

## Subscribe Today

Mail this form to The Messenger:  
2620 Lebanon Ave., Belleville, IL 62221

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Please make checks payable to The Messenger.  
Include check number here \_\_\_\_\_

*Each year the Lord Jesus calls the entire Church to a special season of penance and renewal. As we begin this holy time of Lent, we should reflect on our need for conversion of heart, prayer, charitable works and penance. The season of Lent extends this year from Ash Wednesday, February 17, to the Mass of the Lord's Supper, April 1, inclusive.*

1. Everyone 14 years of age or over is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all Fridays of Lent.
2. Everyone 18 years of age and under 59 years of age is also bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
3. On these two days of fast and abstinence, only one full meatless meal is allowed. The other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to one's needs, but altogether they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted on these two days, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices are allowed.
4. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the obligation of the law is modified. Those that are excused from fast and abstinence outside the age limits include the physically or mentally ill including individuals suffering from chronic illnesses such as diabetes. Also excluded are pregnant or nursing women. In all cases, common sense should prevail, and ill persons should not further jeopardize their health by fasting.
5. Because Lent is a special season for all Christians, we should not lightly excuse ourselves from these penitential practices.

## Your Lenten alms change lives globally and in your own community.

### WE ARE CALLED

Join our faith community—and more than 12,000 Catholic communities across the United States—in a life-changing Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl. Pick up your family's CRS Rice Bowl at the entrance to St. Mary Church the 1st Sunday of Lent. During the 40 days of Lent, we will reflect on how hunger and malnutrition affect our human family, and on the need to take action to end this global injustice. Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) to learn more.



Starting February 20, 2021

CRS Rice Bowl

Your donations help provide lifesaving support to more than 159 million people in more than 100 countries.

## FATHER STEVE WILL BE AWAY FROM THE PARISH SUNDAY FEBRUARY 7TH · FRIDAY FEBRUARY 12TH

*I will be taking a few days off after the 8:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, February 7, 2021. Father Nick Junker, Pastor of St. Mary Parish, Mt. Vernon will preside at the 10:30 a.m. Mass.*



*Father Joel Seipp, Associate Pastor of St. Mary, Mt. Vernon, will preside at the ALL School Mass, Wednesday, February 10, 2021.*

*In the event of a Sacramental emergency please contact Father Nick or Father Joel at St. Mary 618-244-1559 or the Parish Office 618-532-6291.*

*Thanks, Fr. Steve*



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



## MASS FOR THOSE IN CONSECRATED LIFE, FEBRUARY 2, 2021



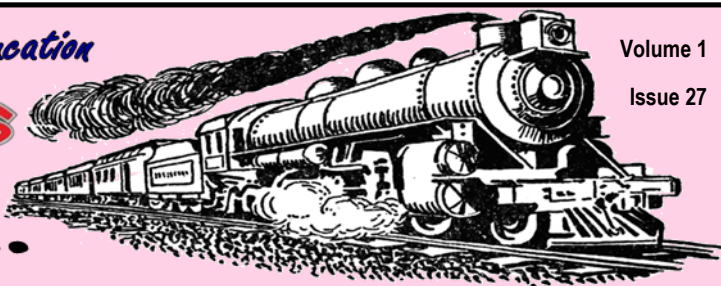
“The Church must be attractive. Wake up the world! Be witnesses of a different way of acting, of living! It is possible to live differently in this world.... It is this witness I expect from you!” ~Pope Francis



Sharing our faith through Christian Education



# Cardinal Express...



Volume 1

Issue 27

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## SPREHE SCHOLARSHIPS



Sprehe Scholarship applications are available for members of St. Mary Parish at the Centralia Branch of the US Bank Wealth Management for the 2021 – 2023 Kaskaskia College Scholarships and the 2021 – 2022 Baccalaureate Scholarships. Baccalaureate

applicants must be Kaskaskia College graduates who are attending or will be attending a four-year university. You may contact Pam Prather at the US Bank at her direct line 618-545-1219 or by e-mail [pame-la.prather@usbank.com](mailto:pame-la.prather@usbank.com) to make arrangements for receiving an application. The Bank Lobby may be closed. All applications are to be returned to Pam Prather at the US Bank in Centralia no later than Tuesday, March 9, 2021. Applications may be dropped off at the Drive-Up Facility. If the envelope is too bulky, the application can be placed in the Night Depository. The envelope must be clearly marked to Pam Prather's attention.



During Catholic School's Week, the St. Mary and Willow Grove Wildcards were recognized for their SIJHSAA, State Girls Softball champions for 2020! The team members from St. Mary School received the banner, that will be proudly placed along Route 161 to recognize their outstanding achievement Making the presentation is Interim Principal Patty Williams. Congratulations Wildcards! Another win in 2021!

 ShopWithScrip®



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

**Scrip cards available in the office: Alongi, AMC, AutoZone, Chillis, Dominos, Dunkin Donuts, Krispy Kreme, Pizza Hunt, Red Robin, Taco Bell**

## February SMS CALENDAR WINNERS

Feb 1

Feb 15

Tony DeBernardi—Centralia  
Mike Gibson—Chicago

Feb 8

Feb 22



# Catholic Schools Week

Join Us as We Celebrate Communities  
of Faith, Knowledge & Service!



**Griffin, 3rd. Grade**  
**Son of David & Heather**

'My name is Griffin Knowles. I am 8 years old and in the 3rd grade at St. Mary School. I have a really good Catholic Education. I am really lucky my parents decided to send me to SMS. My teachers are nice and care about students like me. The teachers spend a lot of time planning lessons and making sure we have fun while learning. I have good friends that never encourage me to do bad things.

We are lucky to have Fr. Steve. Fr. Steve is a very nice priest. He is really good with kids like us. I have a really close bond with God because Fr. Steve helps me learn about the Gospel, Jesus's childhood, and his many miracles through his amazing homilies. Our teachers teach us new things daily, and they help us excel in life. I learn about being a Christian kid and how to be closer to God. I look forward to learning much more about God and other things as I continue to grow at St. Mary's. Thank you.



**Kylie, 8th. Grade**  
**Daughter of Anthony & Lana**

Going to St. Mary's has given me so many opportunities that I never would have ever dreamed of. So many doors have opened for me here. I have been at St. Mary's since my 5th grade year, and this my 8th grade year. I have met new people, done some things I never would have done in a normal school, and most of all, I have become a better person. I have learned a lot more about God and my faith as well as learning more respect for others.

Although this year has been a struggle for everyone, our school has tried to make the best of this difficult time. This year the softball team had their best record yet! The last three years that I was on the team, we were the team everyone already knew they were going to beat. This year that changed; we ended up winning regionals and then state with an 11-1 record. Our team never gave up, we worked very hard, and we achieved our greatest goal. This is what our school is all about: team work, determination, and striving for success.

St. Mary has many other qualities as well. We do many things for our community, help those in need, and are taught many life lessons. Thank you.





**Blessing the First Responders and Heathcare Workers**



Listening to a message from Seminarian Levi James on kickoff day.  
Thank you, James Burris, for providing the awesome big screen!



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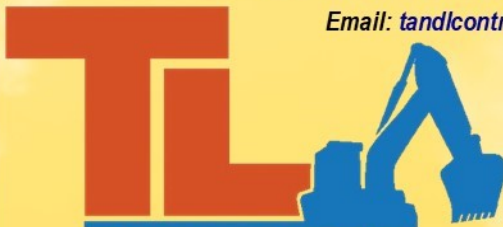
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# RESPECT LIFE

In the Gospel of Mark 1:29-39, "Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed." Simon and the other disciples began looking for Jesus early in the morning after a night of healing in Capernaum. They told him that everyone was looking for him. Jesus immediately says that they will go to the nearby villages to preach and to heal. That very morning, Jesus began his mission to bring spiritual salvation and blessings on all people. For the next three years, Jesus went from town to town preaching the kingdom of God. **Learn, Act, Connect and Pray**-Today we have many advantages over the people of Capernaum. We know that Jesus really is Our Lord and Savior. We know how the Lord came to change lives and how He comes today to change our lives. So today, let's ask ourselves if we are living as Christ calls us to live. Do we equate holiness with happiness? We can discover the peace and joy of living in faith when we explore the beauty of the Catholic faith and how to apply faith to our daily life.

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