



The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) - CYCLE

December 25, 2022

# SAINT MARY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

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



Let us pray,  
O God, who have made  
this most sacred night  
radiant with the splen-  
dor of the true light,  
grant, we pray, that we,  
who have known the  
mysteries of his light on  
earth, may also delight  
in his gladness in  
heaven. Who lives and  
reigns with you in the  
unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever  
**AMEN**



## SMS CALENDAR WINNERS

**December 19, 2022**

Wayne Marshall  
Centralia

Terry Kays  
Iuka

**December 26, 2022**

Lynn Ann Pigg  
Centralia

Nicole Garren  
Centralia

## SCRIPTURE

**January 1, 2023**

Numbers: 6:22-27

PSALM: 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8

Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 2:16-21



*For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,  
who is Christ the Lord.*



# MASS Intentions

**PLEASE NOTE:**  
— **NO BULLETIN** —  
**SUNDAY (NEW YEARS)**  
**JANUARY 1, 2023**

**NO WEEKDAY  
MASSES**  
**TUESDAY  
DECEMBER 27TH  
THRU  
FRIDAY  
DECEMBER 30, 2022**  
**ST. MARY OFFICE  
WILL BE CLOSED**



January 1, 2023 (New Year)  
Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin  
Mary, the Mother of God  
Saturday (Vigil) 4:00 p.m. (SM)  
Sunday 8:30 a.m. (SL)  
Sunday 10:30 a.m. (SM)  
January 8, 2023  
The Epiphany of the Lord  
Saturday (Vigil) 4:00 p.m. (SM)  
Sunday 8:30 a.m. (SL)  
Sunday 10:30 a.m. (SM)

Please call Mary Miller, if you have a prayer intention needing to be added to the prayer chain, phone 618-292-1229. The prayer chain also needs more prayer warriors if you can volunteer.

**DECORATE**  
the Church

St. Mary Parish is looking for a individual or group of people who would take on the task of adorning our worship space during the change of seasons.

This would include decorating for Winter, Lent/Easter, Spring, Summer, Fall and Advent/Christmas. This would be a great ministry to assist all of us, and enhance our Church. If you are interested please contact Vicki Laquet at the Parish Office 618-532-6291. Thank you!

## Prayer Intentions

For those who are sick, homebound, in the hospital or suffering in any way, especially: **Blain Loll, Robin Cimera, Waylon Vick, Natasha Lang, Fr. Gary Gummersheimer, Brian "Gooter" Gurthrie, Ruby Stratmann, Deb Steward, Brian Logsdon, The suffering of Ukraine and all Covid19 patients.**

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

For those serving in the Armed Forces especially: **Dylan Huether** or away at College...



visit: [stmarycentralia.org](http://stmarycentralia.org)

**give online**

GOD'S TITHES & YOUR OFFERINGS

**SHARING  
GOD'S  
GIFTS**

**Thank you for supporting  
St. Mary Parish and School**

You may place your envelope in  
the basket at St. Lawrence or St. Mary and  
Your gift will be credited to you.

### ST. MARY PARISH SUPPORT (12/18/2022)

Envelopes / Online Giving	\$4622.00
Loose	210.00
School Support	315.00
Improvement Fund	180.00
Campaign for Human Development	5.00
Christmas Flowers	90.00
Parish Christmas	115.00
Diocesan Christmas	125.00
Children's Offering	23.64
Outdoor Nativity	150.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5835.64</b>

— **NO BIBLE STUDY** —  
**DECEMBER 26, 2022**  
**JANUARY 2, 2023**

— **NO RCIA OR PSR** —  
**DECEMBER 25, 2022**  
**JANUARY 1, 2023**

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	11:30 a.m. Until 1:00 p.m.	RCIA Vicki Laquet 618-532-6291	Right of Christian Initiation of Adults - Joining the Catholic Church.
Every Monday	6:00 p.m. Until 7:00 p.m.	Pete Donnelly Scripture Class Parish Office	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

## St. Mary Church

The Sanctuary Candle for the month of December burns

in loving memory of...

**Nall, Hollern & Duty Family**

*In Loving Memory*



January 2023	Corinno & Anna Leeta Darin
February 2023	Alan & Rosalie Thomas
March 2023	Elliston & Garnier Families
April 2023	Wayne & Mary Decker
May 2023	Roy Szatkowski
June 2023	Richard, Michael, Megan & Jacob Neff
July 2023	Donoho & Metzger Families
August 2023	Verdeyen & Willenborg Families
September 2023	Gene Uhls
October 2023	David Schwartz
November 2023	Harold "Pete" Aydt
December 2023	Bill Nall & Carol Hollern
January 2024	OPEN

## St. Mary Chapel

The Sanctuary Candle for the month of December burns

in loving memory of...

**Roy Szatkowski**

*In Loving Memory*



January 2023	John Johnson
February 2023	Rosie Timmons
March 2023	Henry Verdeyen
April 2023	OPEN
May 2023	OPEN
June 2023	OPEN
July 2023	OPEN
August 2023	Mary Louise & Gordon Elliston
September 2023	Robert & Gary Kabat
October 2023	OPEN
November 2023	OPEN
December 2023	OPEN
January 2024	OPEN

### December 25, 2022 CHRISTMAS

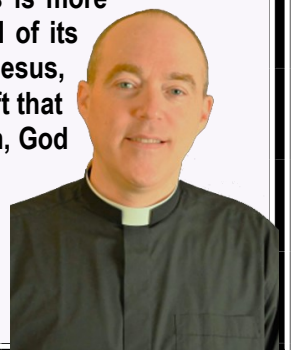
It's still dark outside. Eyes are full of sleep. There's a chill in the house. (Why hasn't the furnace kicked on yet? Ugh!) Pure joy and exhilaration fill little minds and bodies (and some big ones, too!) as the morning has finally arrived – THE morning. Christmas. Sweet, glorious Christmas morning is here.

Do you remember just how excited you used to be? Do you remember how happy your children could get? Have you seen the joy on your grandchildren's faces and heard their laughter on Christmas? There is just simply nothing like it in this life. Finally receiving that fancy, expensive bike or doll set or video game system that you full well knew would probably always be out of your reach. Normal trips to the store never resulted in purchases of the coolest and most expensive things. They never did.

But on this morning, on this day, reality is somehow suspended; the normal rules do not apply. On Christmas morning magic happens...

Now, maybe some believe the experience of Christmas morning is problematic; that Christmas is more about selfishness and greed than giving. But I contend the magic of Christmas morning, with all of its dreams, all of its excitement, and all of its "stuff," is precisely right. For you see, the message of Jesus, the central meaning of Christianity, involves a great gift. It is a gift that must be RECEIVED. It is a gift that must result in great JOY and LOVE. For on this day, many years ago, a babe was born in Bethlehem, God himself! And He came to save us.

May we realize that our Christmas traditions are grounded in this gift of God from God. May we receive it with joy. Our eternal lives depend on it. May God bless you this Christmas! Thank you for being here. Pax Christi, Robb





## CHRISTMAS AND THE EUCHARIST

19 December 2022

As I write this column, we are getting ready for Christmas which will be celebrated on a Sunday this year. Christmas 2022 will likely see the most crowded Sunday Masses in southern Illinois in at least three years, given how we were impacted so much by the coronavirus. I am praying that this Christmas Sunday will be for many of our faithful the rebirth of our regular practice of participating in the Sunday Mass, and that those who have lapsed for whatever reason will resume attending Mass regularly.

But it is not just a matter of trying to return to where we were at Christmas in 2019. Because even then we were seeing the widening erosion of attendance at Mass as we discovered more and more baptized Catholics were struggling with their doubts. In our communities today there are many people who have doubts: doubts about God, doubts about the Church, and doubts about the future. I am particularly mindful of the people who are baptized Catholics who express doubt that Jesus Christ is truly and really present in the Holy Eucharist. I frequently think about the Risen Christ appearing to "doubting Thomas" the apostle and saying: "Do not persist in unbelief but believe." But how do we help our brothers and sisters come to faith and believe?

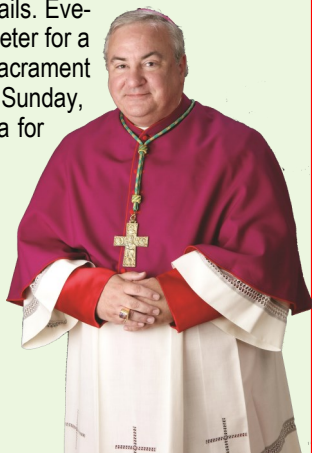
As Catholics, we believe that during the Mass, ordinary bread and wine are changed and Jesus Christ becomes really present: body, blood, soul, humanity and divinity. How can we open the hearts and minds of the many people who doubt that Jesus is actually present in the Holy Eucharist? I think more people will come to believe that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist, when we, who receive Jesus in Holy Communion, change so much for the better in our lives that people can see the presence of Jesus in us through our compassion, forgiveness, generosity and selflessness. There is a deep Catholic belief that when we receive Jesus in the Holy Eucharist, we become what we have received. When our lives and actions reflect the vital force of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, we become the living proof of his real presence. When Jesus has obviously taken hold of our lives, and the pattern of our living is a mirror of the pattern of his life, Christ is making the miracle of the Eucharist credible through us.

Dear friends, it should not be lost on us that Jesus was born in Bethlehem, a name that means "House of Bread". It should not be lost on us that the Virgin Mary placed the infant Jesus in a manger or feeding trough, because the Christ Child would one day become the Bread of Life for humanity that is starving for communion with God. As we receive Jesus in the Eucharist this Christmas, let us then be the proof of the real presence of Jesus by our very lives; allowing God to make each one of us a living sign of the power and presence of Jesus to our waiting world.

In the New Year, we will have numerous events as part of the national Eucharistic Revival to help each of us grow in appreciation of the miracle of the Eucharist. I will be visiting each region of our diocese to give a talk on the Eucharist and celebrate Mass with the people. Watch The Messenger in January for more details. Everyone is invited to the Cathedral of St. Peter for a Holy Hour of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament featuring beautiful choral music on Sunday, January 29 at 2:00pm. Watch our media for up-to-date information.

I extend to you and your families my best wishes for a joyful, peaceful Christmas.

Merry Christmas!  
Bishop Michael McGovern



# RESPECT LIFE



## THEY MAY HAVE LIFE

### The Christian Message Concerning Life

"The life was made manifest, and we saw it (1 Jn 1:2): with our gaze fixed on Christ, "the Word of life"

Faced with countless threats to human life, one can feel overwhelmed by sheer powerlessness. During such times, the People of God is called to profess its faith in Jesus. The Gospel of life is not simply a reflection on life or merely a commandment to change society. The Gospel of life is something concrete and personal, for it consists in the proclamation of the very person of Jesus. Through the words, actions, and person of Christ, we are given the possibility of knowing the complete truth concerning the value of human life. In Jesus, the Gospel of life is definitively proclaimed and fully given. This Gospel can be known in its essential traits by human reason, having been written on the heart of every man and woman and echoing in every conscience.

With our attention fixed on the Lord, we wish to meditate anew on the Gospel of life. In Jesus, the "Word of life", God's eternal life is thus proclaimed and given. Thanks to this proclamation and gift, our physical and spiritual life acquires its full value and meaning, for God's eternal life is the end to which our living in this world is directed and called. *Saint John Paul II, The Gospel of Life*



## Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, Christmas

"And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us..." John 1:14

God made us to be in relationship with Him. He loves each of us individually. Through sin, our relationship with God was broken. He gave us Jesus to restore our relationship. Being a disciple of Jesus we are given the model to obtain eternal life in Heaven. Christmas isn't about the material gifts we receive, it's about the love that God, Our Father, gave us by giving us His Son, Jesus – the best gift we could ever receive.



## Welcome to St. Mary's Church

We want to keep in contact with you! If you are not a member of our parish family, or if you would like to receive the weekly bulletin in the mail please complete the below information and return it to the parish office.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I would like to join St. Mary Parish, please send me information on how to register.

I am requesting the following:

- ☐ Please mail the weekly Bulletin to me.
- ☐ Add me to the quarterly Newsletter mailing list.
- ☐ I am homebound, I would like to receive communion.
- ☐ I am interest helping the parish financially.
- ☐ I would like Father Steve to visit or call me.

**DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE  
CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE  
1-800-640-3044**

### SAINT MARY PARISH NEW OFFICE HOURS

**THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE  
CLOSED ON MONDAY.**

**(Office Hours) TUESDAY - FRIDAY 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
LUNCH 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

## 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.

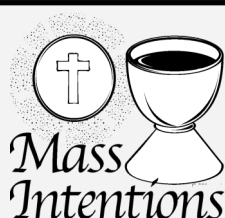
**Sacrament of Matrimony:** The engaged couple should contact the Parish Office, six months prior to the intended date.

**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.

*In  
Loving  
Memory*

**Sanctuary Candles burn for one month in memory of a departed loved one. We are asking \$60.00 per month to cover the cost of the candle. For more information and to secure a date contact the Parish Office 532-6291**



Mass Intentions are \$10.00 per Intention.  
Please call: 532-6291

## CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING DATES

Initial Child Protection Policies and Trainings for new volunteers and employees are available online at: [www.diobelle.org/faith-formation/child-protection](http://www.diobelle.org/faith-formation/child-protection). All volunteers must follow diocesan guidelines to participate in parish activities with minors.

## St. Mary Roman Catholic Church Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary REVEREND STEVEN M. PAUTLER - PASTOR

*Mr. Robert Dodson - Seminarian*

Office: 618-532-6291 ♦ School: 618-532-3473 ♦ Rectory: 618-532-5041  
Email: [parish@stmarycentralia.org](mailto:parish@stmarycentralia.org) ♦ Website: [www.stmarycentralia.org](http://www.stmarycentralia.org)

**Parish Trustees - Greg Schwartz & Patty Williams**

*Mrs. Maria Pryor, Principal*

*Theresa Hacker - Business Manager*

*Vicki Laquet - CRE*

*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, Jack Graham, Dr David Knowles, Dan Laquet, Steve Pigg, Nancy James, Rodney Resch, Theresa Hacker.*

## MASS SCHEDULE

LIVESTREAM can be found on the St. Mary Catholic Church – Centralia, Illinois  
FACEBOOK PAGE

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

Tuesday Mass 12 Noon St. Mary's Hospital

Thursday 8:30 a.m. St. Lawrence Church

Friday Mass 8:30 a.m. at St. Mary Chapel

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

Sunday Mass, St. Lawrence 8:30 am / Sunday Mass, 10:30am

December 31st and January 1st	4:00 PM	10:30 AM
Lector:	B. Broda	G. Ford
Extra-Ordinary Minister Eucharist	J. Warren	P. Williams
Altar Servers	A. Pracht J. Cimera N. Wolfe	J. Burris M. Davis A. Smith
Ushers:	P. Pierson G. Gettinger M. Stock	T. Holle T. Ballagh Brian & Jaxson H
Greeters:	F. Peters	Jerry & Joan B
Offertory	T Bell, L. Pugh, M Frickbone	M. Miller
Cantor:	T. Miller	D. Litteken





**We welcome back Nine88 for a Blue Grass Mass, Saturday, January 14, 2023 for the 4:00 p.m.**



**ONE OF THE BEST THINGS YOU CAN DO FOR THE NEW YEAR! Do YOU EVER DREAM OF A WORLD WITHOUT HUNGER OR POVERTY?**

Would YOU seriously like to make this world a reality? "FAITH AND POVERTY: A GLOBAL RESPONSE" should help you do just that. It is a prayer-filled and heart changing course cosponsored by JustFaith and Catholic Relief Services. We will meet at Mater Dei High School for 8 Sessions on the first and third Thursdays of each month beginning on Thursday, January 5th from 7 to 9 PM. For questions or to join us, please call Helen Essenpreis (618-980-1875), Fran Etter (618-971-8886), or Myrt Rollins (314-707-7063).

You may also register online directly at:  
[iustfaith.org/faith-and-poverty-a-global-response-st-louis-winter-2023-small-group-catholic/](http://iustfaith.org/faith-and-poverty-a-global-response-st-louis-winter-2023-small-group-catholic/)

### Defender's Boys Basketball 2022-2023

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Fri. Dec. 9	Patoka	Home	6:00
* Tues. Dec. 13	Odin	Home	6:00
Thurs. Dec. 15	North Wamac	Home	6:00
Mon. Jan. 2	Kell	Away	6:00
Jan. 4 - 8	Holy Cross 7th Grade Tourn.	Collinsville	TBA
Mon. Jan. 9	Selmaville	Away	6:00
Tues. Jan. 10	TSJ/Okawville	Away	6:00
Thurs. Jan. 12	Breese All Saints	Away	6:00
Tues. Jan. 17	Willow Grove	Away	6:00
Thurs. Jan. 19	Trinity Edwardsville	Away	6:00
Jan. 24 - Jan. 31	Class S Regionals	TBA	TBA
Feb. 4 - 11	Class S State	Rend Lake	TBA

\* = 8th Grade Night

All Home Games @ St. Mary's Centralia

## RALPH & BERNICE SPREHE ST. MARY PARISH/KASKASKIA COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP TRUST

**SPREHE SCHOLARSHIPS:** Sprehe Scholarship applications are available for registered members of St. Mary Parish for the 2023-2025 Kaskaskia College Scholarships and the 2023-2024 Baccalaureate Scholarships. Baccalaureate applicants must be Kaskaskia College graduates who are attending or will be attending a four-year university. You may contact Nikki Burmester by phone: 618-367-4565 or by e-mail: [nburmester@centraliahs.org](mailto:nburmester@centraliahs.org) to make arrangements for receiving an application. All signed applications are to be returned to Nikki Burmester at 1937 Dogwood Lane, Centralia, IL 62801 or by e-mail at [nburmester@centraliahs.org](mailto:nburmester@centraliahs.org) no later than **4 pm, Tuesday, March 7, 2023**. All applications must be signed and those submitted by e-mail must be in pdf. format.

**Every Gift Matters**

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**ONLINE giving**

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[stmarycentralia.org](http://stmarycentralia.org)








Love God  
Love each other  
Transform our world

# Saint Mary School

## *The Cardinal Express*





**Merry Christmas!**  
**from**  
**St. Mary School**



**Faculty and Staff!**

## RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

SATURDAY  
JANUARY 8th.

Epiphany of the Lord  
Mr. Roy Kroesan



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Contact: Paige Lauder

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Jack Graham, Agent

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Centralia, IL  
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Bus 618-533-2757



[Jack.graham.hr4b@statefarm.com](mailto:Jack.graham.hr4b@statefarm.com)  
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**Parker M. Timmons, President**

email: [soilagsolutions@gmail.com](mailto:soilagsolutions@gmail.com)

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