



December 10, 2023 | Second Sunday of Advent

SAINT MARY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



PARISH FAMILY OF ST. MARY, CENTRALIA & ST. MARY, MT. VERNON

424 E. BROADWAY, CENTRALIA, ILLINOIS 62801 | 618-532-6291 | STMARYCENTRALIA.ORG

WELCOME MASS SCHEDULE

St. Mary, Centralia

Saturday (Vigil): 4:00pm*
Sunday Mass: 10:30am

*Live-Stream Saturday Vigil
www.facebook.com/TimLFergPhotosStM

St. Mary, Mt. Vernon

Saturday (Vigil): 5:00pm
Sunday Mass: 10:30am

RECONCILIATION

St. Mary, Centralia

Saturday: 3:15pm - 3:50pm
or by appointment
618-532-6291 x307

St. Mary, Mt. Vernon

Saturday: 4:00pm - 4:30pm
or by appointment
618-244-1559

SMS CALENDAR WINNERS

\$500 NOVEMBER
Rose Linnemann - Bartelso

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2023

Nelson Nguyen - Centralia
Mary Kay Robbins - Carlyle

FR. STEVE'S OFFICE HOURS.

Week of December 11, 2023

St. Mary Church, Centralia

Contact: 618-532-6291 (appointment)
Tuesday, December 12, 2023 - 9 am - 3 pm
Friday, December 15, 2023 - 9:30 am - 3:00 pm

St. Mary Church, Mt. Vernon

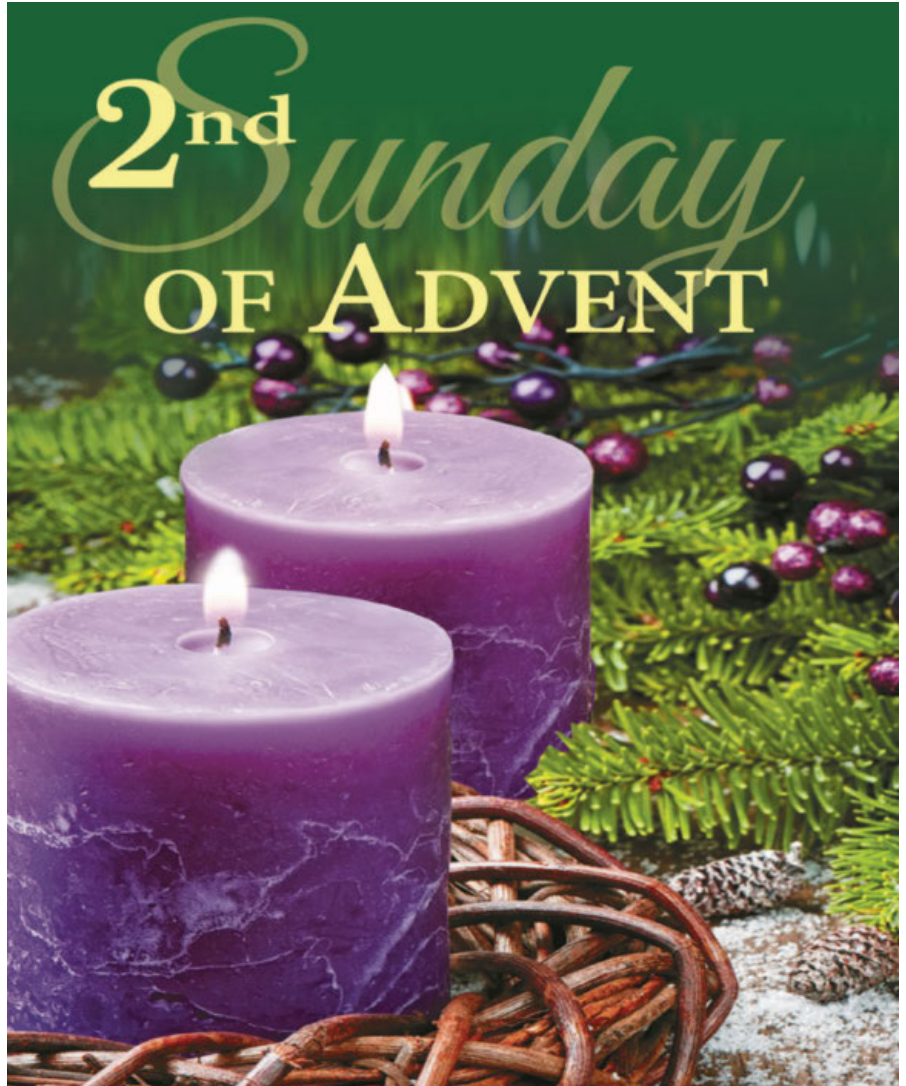
Contact: 618-244-1559 (appointment)
Wednesday, December 13, 2023 - 9 am - 3:00 pm
Thursday, December 14, 2023 9:30 am - 3:00 pm

SAINT MARY PRIEST SCHEDULE

Weekend	4:00 p.m.	10:30 a.m.
December 9th - 10th	Fr. Benny	Fr. Steve
December 16th - 17th	Fr. Steve	Fr. Benny
December 23rd - 24th	Fr. Benny	Fr. Steve

CHRISTMAS MASSES

December 24th	6:00 p.m. (Vigil)	Fr. Steve
December 25th	Midnight Mass	Msrgr. Darin
December 25th	9:00 a.m.	Msrgr. Darin



St. Mary Church in Mt. Vernon invites the community to join the celebration of the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Tuesday, December 12, 2023. This special event will feature a Spanish language Mass at 3:00 p.m., enhanced by the lively sounds of a mariachi band, honoring the Patroness of the Americas in a culturally rich and spiritual manner. The church welcomes everyone, regardless of their cultural background or religious affiliation, to this vibrant celebration that blends faith, tradition, and community spirit. Join us at St. Mary Church for this meaningful and joyful occasion.

Welcome back to the Mette Family Singers to St. Mary, Mt. Vernon.

St. Mary Parish in Mt. Vernon is excited to welcome back the Mette Family, a renowned group of Catholic musicians, for an evening of music and praise on Sunday, December 17, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. Following their well-received performance last year, the family will once again bring their unique blend of contemporary Christian music and traditional hymns to the parish. Guaranteed to be a spiritually enriching experience.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 9, 2023

4:00 p.m. (Vigil) St. Mary Church

† Mary Louise Elliston

Sunday, December 10, 2023

10:30 a.m. St. Mary Church

† Roy Szatkowski

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

12:00 p.m. St Mary Hospital Chapel

† For Healing

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

8:30 a.m. St. Mary Chapel (Class Mass)

† Dr. Charles Fischer

Thursday, December 14, 2023

5:30 p.m. St. Mary Chapel

5:00 p.m. Rosary

† Kathryn Conaway

Friday, December 15, 2023

8:30 a.m. St. Mary Church (All School Mass)

† Verdeyen & Willenborg families

Saturday, December 16, 2023

4:00 p.m. (Vigil) St. Mary Church

† Michelle Lehman † Larry Pickett

Sunday, December 17, 2023

10:30 a.m. St. Mary Church

† David Schwartz

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
ST. MARY CHURCH
MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023
6:30 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
FOUR PRIESTS AVAILABLE

HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST

OR NEED A PASTORAL VISIT?

Please contact Prayer Chain Leader Mary Miller if you have a prayer intention 618-292-1229. If you would like to have an intention added or removed, or a visit from the Pastoral Team please contact the Parish Office 618-532-6291.

Requested Prayers

Blain Loll
 Robin Cimera
 Waylon Vick
 Natasha Lang
 Brian "Gooter" Gurthrie
 Ruby Stratmann
 Deb Steward
 Mark Schwartz
 Father Jim Dougherty
 Those away at College

Serving in the Military

Dylan Huether

Living in a Care Centers

JoDene Nall
 Jane Greene
 Jeff Alig
 Nancy Herrera
 Shirley Kabat
 Red Schwartz
 Deloris Meador
 Bertha Huehne

Clarice Moran

Barbara Parrot
 Carol Orrell
 Betty Boxx
 Kay Gunther
 Mike Kennett
 Mike Taylor
 Jerry Grasher

Living at Home

Dolores Sanders
 Mary Darin
 Mary Jean Martinelli Warner
 Helen Guinzy
 JoEllen Nannie
 David & Ida May Guthrie
 Barbara Francois
 Loretta Pedtke

For the suffering

In Ukraine
 In the Holy Land
 Throughout the World

GIVE ONLINE TODAY!

Online parish donations offer the ease of contributing even when you're not present. It's a convenient solution for those who've relocated, are on the move, or having discovered our parish online. Join us today.

Go to our website: stmarycentralia.org



You can drop your weekly contribution in the collection basket at any neighboring parish. It will be sent to St. Mary's and your gift will be credited to you!

STEWARDSHIP

FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 3, 2023

Envelopes	\$7,710.00
Online Envelopes	1,108.95
Loose Collection	342.00
Building fund	335.00
School Support	705.00
Christmas Flowers	772.00
Christmas Offering	145.00
Solemnity of Mary	150.00
Annual Diocesan Christmas Collection	10.00
Catholic Campaign for Humanity	10.00
Mass Stipends	30.00
Total	\$11,272.95

MASS INTENTIONS \$10.00
PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH
OFFICE FOR INFORMATION 618-532-6291

Traditional Christian Christmas Carols

Sing-a-Long

Sunday, December 17, 2023
First United Methodist Church
 103 S Elm St, Centralia, IL - 3:00 p.m.

Social and Reception following

The Ecumenical Traditional Christian Carols Sing-a-long is sponsored by:
 First Presbyterian Church, St. Mary Church and First United Methodist Church

ST. MARY CHURCH - MT. VERNON

ADVENT MISSION

DECEMBER 17TH

6:30 PM

An Evening of Hope
 with Michael and Michelle Mette



FROM THE DEACONS DESK

Deacon Dan Laquet

During Advent, the Church invites us in a special way to focus on the great figure of John the Baptist. Every detail of John's story is meant to produce an attitude of repentance in us, for it is only through repentance that we are ready to receive the Lord.

Many times, we allow our spiritual lives to be neglected by distractions and diversions. We distance ourselves in a thousand different ways from the big questions: Who is God? What is God's plan for me? What is the quality of my spiritual life? How is sin affecting me? Where do I stand in pursuit of eternal life? Instead, our culture conspires to blind us to these questions and offers a vast array of excuses to avoid facing them.

Now, in today's Gospel passage, we hear that John the Baptist appears in the desert. What does the desert represent to us? The desert is the place where our distractions are stripped away. We return to the basics of life where we are forced to confront the truth about ourselves. This is where the Baptist meets us, and his theme is simple: Repent! He implies that we are so self-absorbed that we will miss what should be the most important to us, preparing ourselves for the coming kingdom of God. God's way of ordering things has arrived, and we need to wake up, to pay attention. For 2,000 years the Church has echoed John's message, telling the world to pay attention to Jesus, to see what needs to be seen, to hear what needs to be heard. Jesus is infinitely more than an inspiring teacher or moral example. God has come to meet us now in a flesh-and-blood reality.

We hear that "Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him and were being baptized in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins." Down through the centuries, and up to the present day, the call to confession is attractive. Deep down, we all know that we are sinners in need of repentance, therefore, the need to confess should not be repulsive to us, but alluring and compelling. A cleansing for us that frees God's graces to flow through us. It mends our relationship with Him and allows us to grow spiritually. It seems that in recent decades the Church has focused less and less on sin and its impact on us and society. It hasn't stressed the importance of repentance and redemption nearly enough. As a result, the practice of the Sacrament of Reconciliation has dwindled to very little participation by the members of the Church even though we know in our hearts that confession is good for the soul.

John also presents us with some stark and harsh images in other passages. Don't be afraid of them, they are meant to give us life. John says, "Even now the axe lies at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." For those of us who are gardeners, we know that plants must be pruned, maintained, and cared for if they are to thrive. Left alone, plants can be subject to elements that destroy it, and these must be dealt with promptly and decisively. It is the same for our souls. What needs to be cut down and burned in us? Hatred, violence, racism, resentment of others, the inability to forgive, meanness of spirit, lack of compassion for those less fortunate than us? All kinds of diseases grow around the good plant of our spiritual lives and threatens to choke off God's life in us. Allow God's grace to cut down and burn away all that needs to be destroyed in you. And so, this Advent, we should hear the message of John the Baptist, and like the throngs from Jerusalem and Judea, we should repent and seek forgiveness. This is a perfect time to go to confession, especially if you haven't been for a while.



DECEMBER SANCTUARY CANDLE ST. MARY CHURCH INTENTION

—Bill Nall & Carol Hollern—

January 2024	Corinno & Anna Leeta Darin
February 2024	Alan & Rosalie Thomas
March 2024	Elliston & Garnier Families
April 2024	Michelle Lehman
May 2024	Ralph & Bernice Sprehe
June 2024	Henry, Dorothy, Theresa Verdeyen
July 2024	Dr. Jerry Beguelin
August 2024	Mary Ballagh
September 2024	Gene Uhls
October 2024	David Schwartz
November 2024	Dr. Avelino & Sequndina Lazo
December 2024	Nall, Hollern, & Duty Families
JANUARY 2025	Henry, Dorothy, Theresa Verdeyen

SAINT MARY'S CHAPEL INTENTION

—Donald Kelly—

January 2024	Louisa Marcum
February 2024	Craney & Crouse Families
March 2024	Roger Holley
April 2024	Kabat & Tomaszewski Families
May 2024	Virobik, Held, & Cozadd Families
June 2024	Hope Marcum Harbin
July 2024	Joe Marcum
August 2024	Gordon & Mary Louise Elliston
September 2024	Robert & Gary Kabat
October 2024	Joe & Louisa Marcum
November 2024	Holy Souls in Purgatory
December 2024	Richard, Michael, Megan & Jacob Neff
JANUARY 2025	OPEN

Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Below is a list of area parishes that will be offering the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent. You may schedule the Sacrament of Reconciliation by contacting the Parish Office 618-532-6291.

DATE	TIME	PARISH
12/10/23	3:00 p.m.	St. Mary, Carlyle
12/10/23	5:00 p.m.	St. Boniface, Germantown
12/11/23	6:30 p.m.	St. Mary, Centralia
12/12/23	7:00 p.m.	St. Rose, St. Rose
12/13/23	12:30 p.m.	St. Mary, Centralia
12/13/23	7:00 p.m.	St. George, New Baden
12/14/23	12:30 p.m.	St. Mary, Mt. Vernon
12/14/23	7:00 p.m.	St. Anthony, Beckemeyer
12/17/23	3:45 p.m.	St. Charles, Dubois
12/17/23	3:00 p.m.	St. Francis, Aviston
12/17/23	6:00 p.m.	St. Michael, Radom
12/18/23	6:00 p.m.	St. Mary, Mt. Vernon

Readings for the week of December 10, 2023

Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 (8)/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30

Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab/Mt 11:11-15

Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Next Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 (Is 61:10b)/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Observances for the week of December 10, 2023

Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Advent

Monday: St. Damasus I, Pope

Tuesday: Our Lady of Guadalupe

Wednesday: St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

Thursday: St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Friday:

Saturday:

Next Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent

SACRAMENTS & PREPARATION

INFANT BAPTISM

Attend a Baptismal Preparation Class. One parent must be registered as an active member of the parish.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Please contact the Parish Office six months prior to the intended date. Please schedule a date and time with Father Steve.

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Please contact Deacon Dan Laquet or Father Steve. RCIA classes are ongoing.

ANointing OF THE SICK & HOME VISITS

Anointing of the Sick is offered the First Friday and First Saturday of each month. For Sacramental Home visits please contact the parish office. In the event of an emergency call 618-532-6291 x307, for Father Steve. After hours calls go to his cell phone.

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

PARISH STAFF

OFFICE HOURS: TUESDAY - FRIDAY 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

CLOSED FOR LUNCH 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. (CLOSED MONDAY)

Parish Phone: 618-532-6291

School Phone: 618-532-3473 - Fax 618-352-2010

Pastor

Fr. Steven Pautler | Ext. 307 | spautler@stmarycentralia.org

Associate Pastor

Fr. Benny George | Ext. 000 | frbenny@stmarymtvernon.org

Deacon

Dn. Dan Laquet | Ext. 301 | daniel.laquet@yahoo.com

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

Maria Pryor | Ext. 303 | mariapryor@stmarycentralia.org

Treasure/Bookkeeper

Susan Niepoetter | Ext. 305 | sniepoetter@stmarycentralia.org

Parish Receptionist

Vicki Laquet | Ext. 301 | parish@stmarycentralia.org

Coordinator of Religious Education

Cassandra Groff | Ext. 306 | cassandra.groff.cre@gmail.com

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

Lynn Featherling | Ext. 302 | lynn@stmarycentralia.org

Seminarian

Luke Fitzgerald | Ext. 301 | jccomingback@gmail.com

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.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS - PLEASE GET A REPLACEMENT IF YOU ARE NOT AVAILABLE

Date	Reader	Euch Min	Servers	Ushers	Greeters	Offertory	Cantor
16-Dec	Linda Schwartz	Dcn Dan Laquet	Julie Siegler	Paul Pierson	Diane Uhls	Siegler	
4pm		Sem. Luke	Allison Siegler	Gene Gettinger		Family	
		Mike Stock		Jim Opolony			
		Sr Andrea					
		Nolan Pryor					
17-Dec	Martina Maco	Dcn Dan Laquet	James Burris	Tom Holle	Sally Tiemann	Davis	
10:30AM		Sem. Luke	Emma Burris	Tom Ballagh		Family	
		Devin Meier	Camden Wms	Brian Hancock			
		Logan Meier	Shylaa Campbell	Jaxson Hancock			
		Manuela Maco					



MESSAGE FROM OUR BISHOP

Most Reverend Michael McGovern

history. Both the daily Eucharist and the Liturgy of the Hours (Morning Prayer & Evening Prayer) contain prayers, readings and antiphons that give us much to reflect upon.

When I was a seminarian preparing for the priesthood, I enjoyed Advent because I had more time for prayer and could absorb the themes of hope, expectation and promise that are key elements of the season. As a priest and now as a bishop, I find I have to try harder to dedicate time for quiet prayer lest Advent end up as a blur before Christmas. If you also struggle with entering into Advent, permit me to suggest praying the Rosary frequently or even daily during the Advent Season.

Reflecting on the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary (The Annunciation, Visitation, Nativity, Presentation and Finding in the Temple) can deepen our union with Jesus and Mary. As we meditate on these mysteries, we are impressed by the fidelity of God who made a promise to the people of Israel and fulfilled that promise so magnificently that the whole human race receives hope for salvation.

As this column goes to print, I anticipate creating a podcast that listeners can join with me in praying the Rosary frequently during Advent. Look for more information about the podcast on our diocesan website (www.diobelle.org) or the Bishop McGovern Facebook page.

If you own a rosary, I encourage you to keep your beads close at hand to facilitate prayer. Place a rosary on your nightstand, in the car, at the kitchen table, in your purse or pocket. Even if you can pray a decade or two on any given day, it will help Advent to take shape in your spiritual life. If you have an Advent wreath in your home, and can safely light a candle, you might pray the rosary at home in the glow of the Advent wreath.

May the weeks of Advent 2023 be rich in prayer for all of our readers. May the Virgin Mary place each of you close to Jesus her Son.

Blessed Advent!
Bishop Michael McGovern



2nd grade celebrated Friendsgiving! Each student brought something to share. Before they began, they said a prayer, and each student said something they were thankful for.

Dear Friends in Christ,

Advent is a rich season of preparation for the celebration of the Lord's birth as well as a period of anticipation of the Second Coming of Christ at the end of



ATTENTION CHRISTMAS COOKIE BAKERS!

To ensure the success of our sale, we are reaching out to our talented church community bakers to contribute cookies or candies. We kindly request that these homemade treats be brought to the school on Thursday, December 14th, or first thing in the morning on Friday, December 15th. In addition to baked goods, we are also seeking volunteers among our skilled church ladies to craft bows for the trays. Don't worry about materials; we will supply the ribbon, which

I can deliver to either the Parish office or the school office. Your support in baking and bow-making is invaluable to us. For any questions or further information, please don't hesitate to contact Sarah Alton at 618-322-6459. We are deeply grateful for your participation and look forward to making this event a sweet success. Thank you so much! – SMS, PTO.

DECEMBER 24TH

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

REGULAR MASS SCHEDULE - 4 PM (VIGIL) SUNDAY 10:30 AM

SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS DECEMBER 25TH

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

(VIGIL) DECEMBER 24TH - 3:30 P.M. (MTV)

(VIGIL) DECEMBER 24TH - 6:00 P.M. (SM)

(MID-NIGHT MASS) DECEMBER 25TH - 12:00 A.M. (MTV)

(MID-NIGHT MASS) DECEMBER 25TH - 12:00 A.M. (SM)

(MASS ON CHRISTMAS) DECEMBER 25TH - 9:00 A.M. (MTV)

(MASS ON CHRISTMAS) DECEMBER 25TH - 9:00 A.M. (SM)

OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

NO WEEKDAY MASSES - DECEMBER 26TH - 29TH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31ST.

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

REGULAR MASS SCHEDULE - 4 PM (VIGIL) SUNDAY 10:30 AM

MONDAY, JANUARY 1ST. (NEW YEARS DAY)

— NOT A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION IN 2024 —

SOLEMNITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

MONDAY, JANUARY 1ST - 9:00 A.M.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7TH

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

REGULAR MASS SCHEDULE - 4 PM (VIGIL) SUNDAY 10:30

Christmas
Begins with Christ

SEASON OF ADVENT

FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT BEGINS - DECEMBER 3

SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT BEGINS - DECEMBER 10

THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT BEGINS - DECEMBER 17

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 24

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE MARY

— HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION —

(VIGIL) THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7TH - 5:30 P.M. (SM)

FRIDAY DECEMBER 8TH - 8:30 A.M. (SM)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8TH 12:00 P.M. (HOSPITAL)

RECONCILIATION

SATURDAYS DURING ADVENT 3:15 P.M. - 3:50 P.M.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11TH - 6:30 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. (SM)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13TH - 12:30 P.M. (SM)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18TH - 6:30 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. (MTV)

or by appointment, call 618-532-6291 x307



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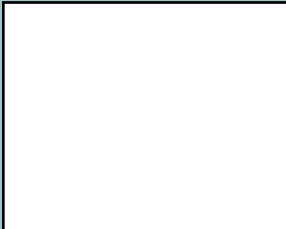

Misty Rollinson
Director of Marketing & Sales
marketing@hw-centralia-slf.com
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Josh Neff
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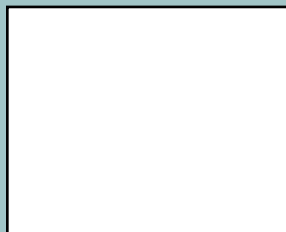
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- Work-life balance
- Full-Time with benefits
- Serve your community



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