



December 17, 2023 | Third 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](https://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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023

Scott Williams - Centralia  
Beth Koester - Centralia

## FATHER STEVE'S OFFICE HOURS.

Week of December 18, 2023

### St. Mary Church, Centralia

Contact: 618-532-6291 (appointment)

Tuesday, December 19, 2023 - 9 am - 3 pm

Dec. 21st. - Care Center's & Homebound Visits.

### St. Mary Church, Mt. Vernon

Contact: 618-244-1559 (appointment)

Wednesday, December 20, 2023 - 9 am - 3:00 pm

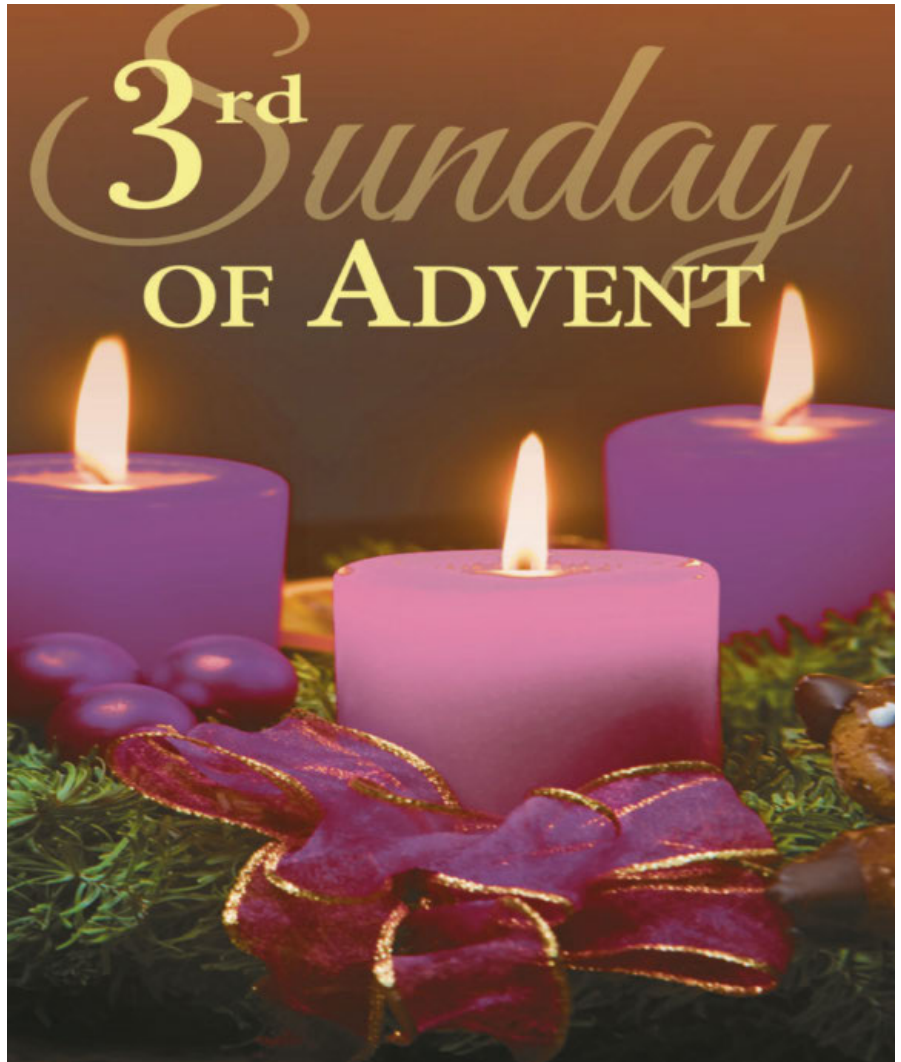
Dec. 22nd - Care Center's and Homebound Visits.

### SAINT MARY PRIEST SCHEDULE

Weekend Masses	4:00 p.m.	10:30 a.m.
December 16th - 17th	Fr. Benny	Fr. Steve
December 23rd - 24th	Fr. Benny	Fr. Steve
December 30th - 31st	Fr. Benny	Fr. Steve

### CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

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



## Sing a Long

Join us for an inspiring afternoon of Christmas caroling, hosted by The First Presbyterian Church, St. Mary Church, and First United Methodist Church. We are delighted to invite you

to this special event, to be held at the, **First United Methodist Church located at 103 S. Elm St, Centralia, on Sunday, December 17, 2023. The festivities will commence at 3:00 p.m.**

As we gather, our collective voices will rise in celebration of the festive season and to honor the Light of Christ. The program features a heartwarming selection of cherished Christmas carols, including "Oh Come All Ye Faithful," "Silent Night," and "O Holy Night," as well as various solo performances and instrumental pieces. A reception will follow.

**NOTE: PLEASE BRING A PLATE OF COOKIES**

## MASS INTENTIONS

**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

**Tuesday, December 19, 2023**

**8:30 a.m. St. Mary Church**

*Christmas Mass with SMS Students*

† Joan Wszelaki † Thomas Fiock

**Tuesday, December 19, 2023**

**12:00 p.m. St Mary Hospital Chapel**

† For Healing

**Wednesday, December 20, 2023 (NO MASS)**

**8:30 a.m. St. Mary Chapel**

†

**Thursday, December 21, 2023**

**5:30 p.m. St. Mary Chapel**

*5:00 p.m. Rosary*

† Henry & Anna Kehder

**Friday, December 22, 2023 (NO MASS)**

**8:30 a.m. St. Mary Chapel**

†

**Saturday, December 23, 2023**

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

† Linda Bauer † Jerry Beguelin

**Sunday, December 24, 2023**

**10:30 a.m. St. Mary Church**

† Joe & Louisa Marcum † Hope Marcum Harbin

**The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Vigil Mass**

**Sunday, December 24, 2023**

**6:00 p.m. St. Mary Church**

† Crucephine Pierson † Garland & Shirley Merrell

**The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Mass during the Night**

**Monday, December 25, 2023**

**12:00 a.m. (Midnight) St. Mary Church**

† Harold "Bud" Miller † Lawrence & Agnes Goebel

**The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Mass during the Day**

**Monday, December 25, 2023**

**9:00 a.m. St. Mary Church**

† Henry & Anna Kehder

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

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*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 11, 2023**

Envelopes	\$4,260.00
Online Envelopes	1,340.32
Loose Collection	458.15
Building fund	270.00
School Support	430.00
Christmas Flowers	320.00
Christmas Offering	285.00
Solemnity of Mary	25.00
Diocesan Christmas Collection	45.00
Mass Stipend/Candle	690.00
<b>Total Collections</b>	<b>\$8,123.47</b>

**Christmas**  
Begins with **Christ**

**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**





## MESSAGE FROM OUR ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Reverend Benny George

### A Journey with a Plan.

Little Johnny was all excited during the days of December. He helped his dad with the lights, his mom with the Christmas tree and the Nativity set below the tree. He even had his special ornaments for the tree. After all the works done he was pretty happy. Each day he will go to the tree to see the new items of gifts under the Christmas tree. His mom even asked about what gift he wanted for Christmas.

On the day of Christmas he was the first to get ready for the Church. He wanted to open the gifts once they return from the church. After all the celebrations at the Church they came home and gathered around the tree and started to open the gifts one by one. After all the gifts were open finding something missing Johnny started to cry. His mom came to him asking what happened. Did he not get what he wanted? Johnny replied "there is no gift for Jesus! It is his birthday".

We are preparing for Christmas. This is the third week and we just completed two weeks. A lot of preparations have taken place. Trees and lights lit up the homes and surroundings. Gifts are packed. Busy shopping done. Are we ready for Christmas?

Advent speaks about the coming. It is the coming of the Lord. It is a new season not only for the Church but also for the world. A new season for every person to look forward and say Jesus is coming we need to renew our lives.

The liturgy we celebrated on the first week was with the Advent wreath, the Scripture clearly spoke to us to be vigilant and be prepared. It has to be like the servants who stayed awake for the Master.

The second and third weeks help us to remember John the Baptist. He came proclaiming to be prepared. "Make straight the way of the Lord. Prepare the way for the Lord." This was the only Message with him for the world. He wanted to make sure that the people are vigilant and prepared for the Lord who is coming. He said, "The one who is coming is mightier than me I am not the Christ. I am the voice".

With our preparation we can never miss the reality. We are preparing for the Messiah to come. Christmas is all about Jesus. He is the Savior. He is the Lord. Like Johnny we have to be focused. It is The Birthday of Jesus Our preparations are for Him. Let us keep Jesus in the midst of all our preparations, all our celebrations, all our activities Christmas is because of Jesus who came to save us: Merry Christmas.

Thanks to you all for coming together to celebrate together as one family around Jesus with His Mother Mary and father Joseph: the Holy Family of Bethlehem.

## 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

To help cover the expenses of the candle, we offer the opportunity each month for individuals to dedicate an intention. A \$60.00 donation is requested. Please reach out to the Parish Office., to make your intention.



Following Mass on Sunday, December 10, 2023, Deacon Dan Laquet welcomed members of the RCIA to the Rite of Acceptance. The ceremony was held in St. Mary's Chapel. Pictured are Heather, Michael, Cindy, Jeannie, Mary, Tina, and Anna, alongside Deacon Dan.



Thanks to the St. Mary Altar Society for hosting a wonderful Parish Christmas Party, Sunday, December 10th. The food from Carlyle IGA was delicious. The fun and attendance prices were a great hit. But the highlight was the SMS Elves, who provided the entertainment. Merry Christmas!

## Readings for the week of December 17, 2023

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

Monday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25

Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25

Wednesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38

Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45

Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56

Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66

Next Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 (2a)/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

## Observances for the week of December 17, 2023

Sunday: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

Monday:

Tuesday:

Wednesday:

Thursday: St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Friday:

Saturday: St. John of Kanty, Priest

Next Sunday: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent; Christmas Eve

## 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.

## 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



## MATER DEI HIGH SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

900 North Mater Dei Drive  
Breeze, IL 62230

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023 - 6:00 P.M.

SMS, PTO  
ALTAR SOCIETY  
QUILT RAFFLE

WINNERS

1st place-Brian Hubbard  
2nd place-Cathy Geiger - 3rd place-Jerry Budde

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

Date	Reader	Euch Min	Servers	Ushers	Greeters	Offertory	Cantor
23-Dec 4pm	Steve Miller	Dcn Dan Laquet Sem. Luke Natalia Guerrero Jo Warren Bill Broda	Nolan Wolfe Josh Cimera	Paul Pierson Gene Gettinger Mike Stock	Paul & Theresa Cozadd	Steve & Leslie Beard	
24-Dec 10:30AM Sunday Mass	Don Litteken	Dcn Dan Laquet Sem. Luke Braeden Wms Mary Miller Patty Williams	James Burris Angela Smith Michael Davis	Tom Holle Tom Ballagh	Todd & Kim Davis	Ushers	
24-Dec 6PM Christmas Eve	Bill Broda	Dcn Dan Laquet Sem. Luke Sr Andrea Diane Uhlis James Burris	Carson Pigg Charleigh Garren Layne Garren Manuela Maco	Doug Pahnke Mike Timmons	Florence Peters	Mike & Ellen Stock	Paulette Pahnke
25-Dec Midnight Mass	Steve Miller	Dcn Dan Laquet Sem. Luke Pete Donnelly Mary Miller Paul Mocaby	Bill Broda Devin Meier Logan Meier Nolan Pryor	Tom Holle	Vicki Laquet	Todd & Kim Davis	Tammy Miller
25-Dec 9AM Christmas Day	Don Litteken	Dcn Dan Laquet Sem. Luke Bill Broda	Nolan Wolfe Josh Cimera Julie Siegler Allison Siegler	Paul Pierson Gene Gettinger Jim Opolony	Vicki Laquet	Sally Tiemann Usher	





Thank you, Macz Funeral Home, for providing our students with such a fun Christmas activity! We are thankful for you! Each class had the opportunity to add to the Ginger Bread House. I wonder how many gum drops, M & M actually became decorations.







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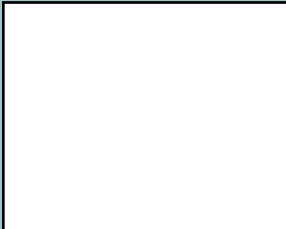

**Misty Rollinson**  
Director of Marketing & Sales  
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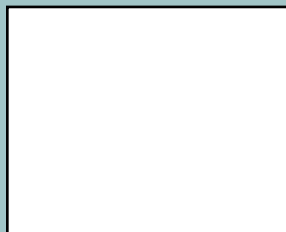
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