

SAINT MARY

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

424 E. BROADWAY, CENTRALIA, IL 62801 618-532-6291 - stmarycentralia.org

Partnered with Saint St. Mary, Carlyle, St. Lawrence, Sandoval, and St. Teresa of Avila, Marydale



August 24, 2025 ♦ Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time



"I know their works and their thoughts, and I come to gather nations of every language; they shall come and see my glory. (Is 66:18)

*Saturday, August 23, 2025 4:00 p.m. at St. Mary Church (vigil) Holy Souls in Purgatory †Henry & Dorothy Verdeyen †Steve Schwartz Father Steve Pautler

*Sunday, August 24, 2025 8:30 a.m. at St. Lawrence Church, Sandoval Living and † Deceased members of St. Lawrence † Don Rohner † Dorothy Niepoetter † Roger Grasher Father Steve Pautler

Sunday, August 24, 2025
10:30 a.m. at St. Mary Church
Living and † Deceased members of St. Mary
† Brenda Pennington † Roy Szatkowski
Father Steve Pautler

Tuesday, August 26, 2025 8:30 a.m. at Felician ChapelRosary, Novena, and Exposition
Deacon Dan Laquet

Wednesday, August 27, 2025 8:30 a.m. at Felician Chapel † Mary Darin Father Steve Pautler

Thursday, August 28, 2025 8:30 a.m. at St. Lawrence, Sandoval † Charles Voss Sr. † Clarence Beckmann † Evelyn Willoughby † Joseph Altadonna Father Steve Pautler

Friday, August 29, 2025
12:00 p.m. at St. Mary Hospital Chapel
† Donald & Beverly Kelly † Mary Darin
For St. Mary Hospital Staff & Patients.
Father Steve Pautler

*Saturday, August 30, 2025 4:00 p.m. at St. Mary Church (vigil) Holy Souls in Purgatory † Crucephine Pierson † Garland & Shirley Merrell Father Pat Peter

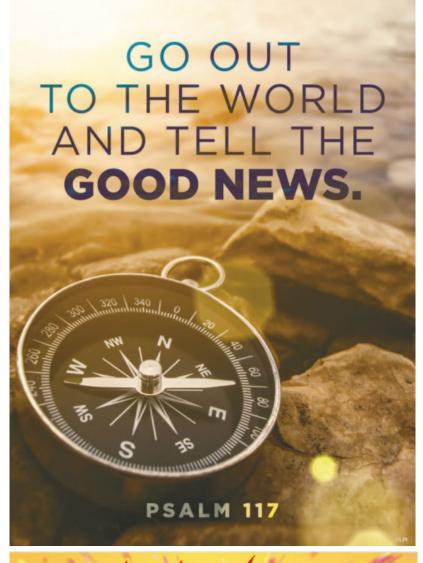
*Sunday, August 31, 2025 8:30 a.m. at St. Lawrence Church, Sandoval Living and † Deceased members of St. Lawrence † Don Rohner † Tom & Teddy Holstlaw Father Pat Peter

Sunday, August 31, 2025 10:30 a.m. at St. Mary Church Living and † Deceased members of St. Mary † Drew Nibert † Phil Altadonna Father Pat Peter



"A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars."

– Revelation 12:1





NEWS AND

EVENTS...

Autumnfest 2025 Needs

Autumnfest is coming up, and we need your help to make it a success! We're asking for donations of stuffed animals for the kids' games, baskets for the basket raffle, cakes for the cake walk, and desserts for the Chicken Dinner. Gilster-Mary Lee has generously donated cake mix and icing—these will be available soon at the back of church if you'd like to bake a cake. Not sure what to give? Cash donations are always appreciated and go a long way in supporting the event. A volunteer sign-up sheet will be available online and at the back of church. We need many hands to keep things running smoothly. Thank you for helping us make Autumnfest great!

Saint Carlo Acutis Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit

St. Dominic Catholic Church in Breese will host the Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit on Saturday, August 23rd from 3–7 p.m. and Sunday, August 24th beginning at 9 a.m. at the All Saints Academy Gym, 3rd Street, Breese. Created by soon-to-be Saint Carlo Acutis, this powerful exhibit features over 150 Church-approved Eucharistic miracles, presented through photos and descriptions that affirm the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Admission is free, open to all faiths, and includes activity pages for children. Come be inspired-all are welcome!

The Way of Lights & Wreaths event is seeking volunteers to create handcrafted wreaths for a silent auction benefiting The Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows. The event runs from November 21 to December 17, 2025, and entries are tax-deductible. Wreath designs will be seen by over 160,000 visitors and featured online at snows.org/wreaths. Beth at 618-397-6700 or email: wreaths@snows.org.

Pre-Cana at St. Mary, Mount Vernon

Are you preparing for marriage? Join us for Pre-Cana, a special day designed for those seeking to get married. The session will take place in the Fellowship Room at St. Mary Immaculate Conception Church in Mt. Vernon on Saturday, September 13, 2025. Registration will begin at 9:00 am and the program will run from 9:30 am until the 5:00 pm Mass. The cost is \$75.00, which includes materials, lunch, and pizza to go after Mass. To register or for more information, please contact Deacon Mark Kabat at 618-316-8027 or by email: mark.kabat@farmcreditil.com.

SMS CALENDAR WINNERS

MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 2025 ALYSSA BOYCE - CENTRALIA GARY COUGHRON - GRANITE CITY

MEETINGS AND INFORMATION...

HARVEST OF BLESSINGS, Sowing Seeds for Tomorrow.

Our Harvest of Blessings Capital Campaign supports vital improvements to our parish and school, including completed projects like the new school flooring, playground shade structure, and parking lot fence upgrades. Your generosity will help replenish savings used for these projects and fund future needs like HVAC systems and flooring. Every gift, no matter the size, strengthens our community and ensures a lasting legacy. Thank you for your support in making this campaign a success! To donate visit, stmarycentralia.org

JOIN MARY'S MERRY OUILTERS MONDAY ST. LAWRENCE PARISH - 9:00 A.M.

In the tapestry of life, it's the threads of love, faith, and fellowship that make the most beautiful patterns. We hope you'll consider weaving your unique thread into our quilting group. Com for the quilting, the community, or both, know that a warm welcome awaits you. Contact Sally Tiemann, 618-830-7604 or visit us at St. Lawrence.

MONDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY 6:00 P.M. - PARISH OFFICE MEETING ROOM

Whether you're new to the Bible, seeking to rekindle your relationship with the Word, or looking for a community to share in your spiritual journey, our Monday Evening Bible Study welcomes you with open arms. For additional information please contact Pete Donnelly.

DISCOVER THE CATHOLIC FAITH WITH US.

Curious about the Catholic faith? Longing to join the Church? OCIA is open to those who want to learn more, become Catholic, complete their Sacraments, or reconnect with the richness of the Church. We especially invite spouses and family members who attend Mass but are not Catholic—this is a beautiful opportunity to ask questions, grow spiritually, and share in the life of the Church with your loved ones. Sessions begin Sunday, September 14, right after the 10:30 a.m. Mass in the Parish Meeting Room (11:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m.). To sign up or learn more, contact the Parish Office at 618-532-6291 or Deacon Dan Laquet at daniel.laquet@yahoo.com. Come as you are—everyone is welcome!

PSR BEGINS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH

Our Parish School of Religion (PSR) will begin on Sunday, September 14th at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish School. This program provides essential faith formation for our parish youth, helping them grow in their knowledge and love of God. More details about registration will be shared soon. For more information, contact Mike Klostermann at cre@stmarycentralia.org or call the Parish Office at 618-532-6291. See you in September!

Welcome to St. Mar We want to keep in family, or if you wou complete the inform Name:	contact with you! If uld like to receive th	e weekly bulleting	n in the mail, please
Address:			
City:		State:	Zip:
Phone:	Email:	0	ther:
☐ I would like to joir information on how		ase send me	
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 interested in helping the parish financially. ☐ I would like Father Steve to visit or call me. Please return to the Parish Office			

	Lector	I				
Date	Cantor ©	Euch Min	Servers	Ushers	Greeters	Offertory/Gifts
30-Aug	Bill Broda	Tina Biagi	Shylaa Campbell	Gene Gettinger	Diane Uhls	Campbell Family
4:00 PM		Susan Niepoetter	Aubrey Kuder	Jim Opolony		
		Sharon Pierjok	Elizabeth Hanson			
	Don Litteken	Diane Uhls	Arabella Hudspeth			
31-Aug	Pete Donnelly	Manuela Maco	Charleigh Garren	Tom Holle	Tom Holle	Garren Family
10:30 AM		Devin Meier	Maylie Garren	Tom Ballagh		
		Logan Meier	Adrian Patterson	Carson Pigg		
	Rose Ross	Carson Pigg	Alayna Lauder			



Message From our Pastor

Reverend Steven Pautler

The Sofa and the Narrow Door

Have you ever bought that perfect new sofa? I'm talking about the one that practically calls your name in the furniture store. It's the exact color, the exact style, the exact "sit down and forget the world exists" kind of comfort you've always wanted. You call up your buddy, borrow his truck, load it up with the kind of grunts and groans that make you question how old you've gotten, and finally haul it home. You pull up to the house, full of hope and coffee, ready for that glorious moment when it takes its rightful throng in your living room. But then

You pull up to the house, full of hope and coffee, ready for that glorious moment when it takes its rightful throne in your living room. But then—oh no—you meet the front door. And suddenly, you realize the door and the sofa are not on speaking terms. You try everything. Remove the legs. Tilt it sideways. Stand it on end. Give it a good shove (and a few unholy words you instantly regret). The door remains unmoved, smug even. No matter how much you push, pull, or plead, that sofa isn't getting in.

In Luke 13:22-30, Jesus paints a picture not too different from our sofa saga, except the stakes are much, much higher. "Strive to enter through the narrow door," He says, "for many will try to enter and will not be strong enough." It's a sobering image. We tend to think, "Well, I'm basically a good person, I should fit just fine." But then the Lord reminds us, this door isn't about squeezing our big, cushy life in with all its baggage. It's about being transformed so we can pass

through.

If my sofa could repent of its wide, overstuffed arms and bulky frame, maybe it would fit through my door. But it can't. And if I want to pass through God's door, I need to let Him reshape me, maybe by stripping away pride, selfishness, grudges, and the "extras" I've piled on that have nothing to do with the Kingdom.

Jesus warns that it's not about name-dropping, "Lord, we ate and drank in your company!"—but about living in a way that truly knows Him and reflects Him. It's not about looking the part or hauling around a faith that's comfortable but oversized with distractions. It's about letting Him trim, refine, and slim down my soul to what's essential: love, mercy, humility, and obedience.

So, maybe next time you're stuck in a doorway with something that won't fit, you'll think of the narrow door Jesus talks about. He's not trying to make it hard, He's trying to make it holy. And the truth is, the narrower the door, the less junk you can drag in.

Better to get rid of what won't fit now, because eternity is worth more than

any sofa.



STRAIGHT FROM THE COLLAR PADRE STEVE, WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH...

Got burning questions, holy curiosities, or just want to stump your parish priest? Send them to spautler@stmarycentralia.org and I'll give it my best shot—collar, coffee, and a sense of humor included!

This week's question: What happens if we're all gathered for Sunday Mass, waiting for it to begin, and the priest doesn't show up?

Answer: If a priest is unexpectedly unable to celebrate Sunday Mass, due to illness, emergency, or another serious reason. the Diocesan Administrator advises that canceling Mass should be avoided if at all possible. If there's a way for the faithful to attend Mass at a nearby parish, that is the preferred solution, even if it means leaving one parish to go to another.

While it may feel unusual or inconvenient, this follows the Church's guidance and ensures the faithful still have access to the Eucharist. According to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), when Mass is missed due to circumstances beyond your control, such as a priest not arriving, no sin is committed, and the Sunday obligation is not required. In these moments, the Church encourages prayer, unity, and trust in God's grace, even in the unexpected.

RECONCILIAITON

St. Mary, Centralia - Saturday: 3:15 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. St. Mary, Carlyle - Saturday: 3:45 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. St. Lawrence, Sandoval - Sunday: 8:00 a.m. - 8:15 a.m.

or by appointment 618-532-6291 x307

To offer a Mass for loved ones or special intention, Please contact the parish office at 618-532-6291

*Live stream: www.facebook/TimFergPhotosStm

During the month August the Sanctuary candle in our parish church burns in loving memory of:

Ethel Porter

September 2025 October 2025	Gary & Robert Kabat Dr. Charles Fischer
November 2025	Kabat & Tomaszewski Families
December 2025	Donald Kelly
January 2026	Verdeyen/Willenborg Families
February 2026	Alan & Rosalie Thomas
March 2026	Elliston & Garnier Families
April 2026	Steve Schwartz
May 2026	Ralph & Bernice Sprehe
June 2026	David Schwartz
July 2026	Donald & Beverly Kelly
August 2026	Mary Ballagh
September 2026	Gene Uhls
October 2026	Dr. Charles Fischer

During the month of August the Sanctuary candle in the Felician Chapel burns in loving memory of:

Mary Ballagh

October 2025	Joe & Louisa Marcum
November 2025	Harbin & Jack Marcum
December 2025	Nall-Hollern-Duty Families
January 2026	Open
February 2026	Alfredo & Carmen Coronado
March 2026	Roger Morton
April 2026	Open
May 2026	John, Elizabeth & Paul Peters
June 2026	Open
July 2026	Pearl Hamilton
August 2026	Mary Louise & Gordon Elliston
September 2026	Robert & Gary Kabat

Gene Uhls

September 2025

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.



AUTUMNFEST SIGN-UP
LOCATED AT THE BACK OF CHURCH

ADMINISTRATION AND **PARISH INFORMATION**

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

Associate Pastor

Fr. LourdhuRaj Kodikala | Ext. 308 |

Permanent Deacon

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

Parish Receptionist

Rosamaria Villagomez | Ext. 301 | parish@stmarycentralia.org

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

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

Treasurer/Bookkeeper

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

Coordinator of Religious Education

Mike Klosterman | Ext. 306 | cre@stmarycentralia.org

St. Mary School Secretary (618-532-3473) Lynn Featherling | Ext. 302 | <u>lynn@stmarycentralia.org</u>

Tuesday - Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 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

Diocese of Belleville Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-640-3044

SACRAMENTS AND 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 OCIA 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, automatically forward to his cell phones.

Readings for the week of August 24, 2025

Sunday: Is 66:18-21/Ps 117:1, 2 (Mk 16:15)/Heb 12:5-7, 11-13/Lk 13:22-30

Monday: 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/Mt 23:13-22

Tuesday: 1 Thes 2:1-8/Ps 139:1-3, 4-6/Mt 23:23-26

Wednesday: 1 Thes 2:9-13/Ps 139:7-8, 9-10, 11-12ab/Mt 23:27-32

Thursday: 1 Thes 3:7-13/Ps 128:1-2, 4-5/Mt 24:42-51

Friday: 1 Thes 4:1-8 (429)/Ps 97:1 and 2b, 5-6, 10, 11-12/Mk 6:17-

Saturday: 1 Thes 4:9-11/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Mt 25:14-30

Next Sunday: Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5 (1a)/Heb

12:18-19, 22-24a/Lk 14:1, 7-14

Observances for the week of August 24, 2025

Sunday: 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday: St. Louis; St. Joseph Calasanz, Priest

Tuesday:

Wednesday: St. Monica

Thursday: St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Friday: The Passion of St. John the Baptist

Saturday:

Next Sunday: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

PRINTED HOMILY / HOMILÍA IMPRESA

The homily for this weekend is available at the entrance of the church in both English and Spanish. Thank you for taking a moment to reflect. La homilía de este fin de semana está disponible en la entrada de la iglesia, tanto en inglés como en español. Gracias por tomarse un momento para reflexionar.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARISH SUPPORT

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

For the week of August 17, 2025

Envelopes	\$ 5,567.00
Online Collection	982.82
Loose Collection	369.00
School Support	390.00
Building Fund	-0-
Capital Campaign	170.00
Mass Stipend	10.00
Food Pantry	-0-
Cemetery	-0-
Total	\$ 7,488.82

Capital Campaign, Harvest of Blessing - Update 08/04/2025

Total Campaign Pledges	\$	229,879
Total Pledges received		197,819
Pledges to be paid		32,060
Goal \$400.00 (needed)	\$ 9	\$171,121

Revised Mass Schedule Beginning September 1, 2025

No Mass on Monday Tuesday - Prayer Service, Felician Chapel, 8:30 a.m. Wednesday - Mass, Felician Chapel, 8:30 a.m. (Class Mass) Thursday - Mass, St. Lawrence, 8:30 a.m. Friday - Mass, St. Mary Church, 8:30 a.m. (All School) Friday - Mass, St. Mary Hospital 12:00 p.m. Saturday - (Vigil), St. Mary Church, 4:00 p.m. Sunday - St. Lawrence Church, 8:30 a.m. Sunday - St. Mary Church, 10:30 a.m.

Heavenly Father,

We come before You to lift up those who are sick; grant them healing and strength. Comfort the homebound with Your presence and peace. Ease the burdens of all who are suffering, and surround them with Your love. Guide college students in their studies and daily lives, filling them with wisdom and perseverance. Protect the brave men and women in the military; keep them safe and bring them home soon.

For those living in Care Centers

JoDene Nall Jane Greene Shirley Kabat Claricé Moran Carol Orrell Barbara Parrot Mike Kennett Mike Taylor Jerry Grasher

For those who are homebound

Helen Guinzy JoEllen Nannie David & Ida May Guthrie Barbara Francóis

Requested prayers

Blain Loll Robin Cimera Waylon Vick Natasha Lang Deb Steward Mark Schwartz Michael Willimzig Adam Brandt Dorothy Jenkins **Bart Robbins** Jana Martin

Those away at College Those serving in the military Dylan Huether

For those in need Throughout the World

Please call the Parish Office at 618-532-6291 to add or remove prayer requests. To be added to the prayer chain, contact Mary Miller at 618-292-1229.





From First Steps to Final Strides: Kicking Off a New School Year at SMS!

The halls of SMS are buzzing with excitement as our littlest learners in PreK3 begin their very first school adventure, while our eighth graders kick off their final year as the leaders of the pack! From tiny backpacks to big dreams, it's a full-circle moment under the colorful "Welcome Back" balloon arch. Here's to a year full of learning, laughter, and making memories—from first steps to final strides!













A Joyful Feast of Faith and Family

Friday we celebrated the Solemnity of the Assumption—our parish feast day—and what a beautiful way to begin the school year! For the first time, all 100 plus students from kindergarten through 8th grade gathered for Holy Mass. Afterward, the children processed with roses, placing them lovingly at the feet of Mary's statue, honoring her Assumption. Their voices joined in the Memorare, full of trust and joy. Father Steve blessed the statue and all present with holy water, reminding us that through Mary's prayers, we are led to her Son. A grace-filled start, wrapped in love and devotion.

Purrs from the Pew Sister Fluff of Divine Mischief

Holy Whiskers! The Kids Are Back

The hallways are alive again. Backpacks thump, sneakers squeak, and lunchboxes clatter like a marching band with no conductor. My once-quiet kingdom is officially a zoo, and I, the resident lion, am on patrol.

Of course, I remain unseen. Stealth is my art. The children may whisper, "Where's Sister Fluff?" but I slip past them like a holy breeze under the crucifix.

They'll never know how close I am.

Now, let's talk about the cafeteria, my sacred hunting ground. Corn dogs abandoned under benches, half a peanut butter sandwich left behind, and once...a perfectly untouched jelly packet. Divine providence! Some people find grace in prayer; I find it in snack time.

This week Aunt Sister Gracie phoned from her Florida retirement. She reminded me that I inherited her post as the school's official "critter patrol." I told her the mission is secure: no mouse, moth, or rogue cricket dares trespass. As for the children? That's another battle entirely.





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Jack.graham.hr4b@statefarm.com



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