

NEWS AND EVENTS...

Reminder: Please Return Your Baby Bottle by Sunday, September 28th
Thank you for participating in this year's Baby Bottle Campaign! Each filled bottle helps the Pregnancy Care Clinic support local moms, dads, and babies. This is a friendly reminder to please return your bottles by Sunday, September 28th. Your generosity truly makes a difference—thank you for helping us share hope with families in need!

Famous Drive through Chicken Dinner
St. Teresa Church in Marydale will host a Drive-Thru Chicken Dinner on Sunday, September 28, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Meals are \$15 each and include ½ fried chicken (4 pieces), dressing, mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans, and slaw—all packaged and ready to enjoy. A hand-made quilt raffle will also be featured. The church is located six miles north of Carlyle on Route 127; simply follow the signs. Stay connected and follow updates on Facebook at @MarydaleStTeresa.

Blessed Art from the Holy Land.
Blest Art will be visiting St. Mary Parish on the weekend of October 11–12, 2025, after each Mass, offering beautifully hand-carved olive wood art from the Holy Land. These pieces—nativity sets, crucifixes, rosaries, and more—are created by Christian families struggling to survive amid ongoing violence and economic hardship in the region. Every purchase directly supports them and helps preserve the Christian presence in the land where Jesus walked. Cash, checks, credit cards, and post-dated payments are accepted. Please consider supporting this vital mission.

Pork Sausage Dinner at Carlyle
The St. Mary, Carlyle Pork Sausage Dinner will be held on Sunday, October 12, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. This will be a drive-thru only event, with pick-up located on the north side of the Parish Center off Clinton Street.

Rummage Sale at Trenton
St. Mary Parish Center in Trenton will host a Rummage & Bake Sale on October 1, 2, and 3 at 325 S. Jefferson. Hours are Wednesday, October 1 from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.; Thursday, October 2 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and again from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. (half-price sale); and Friday, October 3 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (\$3 bag day).

Chicken Dinner at St. Dominic Breese
St. Dominic Church in Breese will have a Chicken Dinner on Sunday, October 5, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 345 N. Clinton St. This is carry-out only, with limited seating available. Meals are \$15 each.

SMS CALENDAR WINNERS

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2025
MICHELLE SCHULTE - CENTRALIA
GINA EDWARDS - CENTRALIA

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 QUILTERS 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 HAS BEGUN! STILL TIME TO REGISTER

Our Parish School of Religion (PSR) is held on Sunday, starting 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. 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 information below and return it to the parish office.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____ Other: _____

☐ 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 interested in helping the parish financially.
- ☐ I would like Father Steve to visit or call me.

Please return to the Parish Office

Date	Lector Cantor ©	Euch Min	Servers	Ushers	Greeters	Offertory/Gifts
4-Oct	Don Litteken	Tina Biagi	Brylynn Gierten	Gene Gettinger	Paul Cozadd	Pickett Family
4:00 PM		Susan Niepoetter	Elizabeth Hanson	Jim Opolony	Theresa Cozadd	
		Diane Uhls	Arabella Hudspeth			
	Rose Ross		Bliss Pickett			
5-Oct	Paulette Pahnke	Mary Miller	Michael Davis	Tom Ballagh	Todd Davis	Bauer Family
10:30AM		Doug Pahnke	Angela Smith	Tom Holle	Kim Davis	
		Paulette Pahnke	Esperanza Villagomez			
	Tom Hawkins	Mike Timmons	Max Bauer			



MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

Reverend Steve Pautler

Smartest Bet You'll Ever Make!

How many of you like a good wager? We bet on sports, we bet on card games, some of us even bet on whether the Cardinals will ever make the playoffs again. Blaise Pascal, a French philosopher, made one of the boldest bets of all time. He said, **"If you believe**

in God and He exists, you win everything. If He doesn't exist, you lose almost nothing. If you don't believe and He does exist, well, you've lost it all." Now that's high-stakes poker, eternal style!

The Gospel today lays that wager out in living color. Jesus tells the story of the rich man and poor Lazarus. One lived in luxury, the other longed-for scraps. One was clothed in purple robes, the other in sores. And in the end? Their fortunes were flipped. Eternal life wasn't about fine dining or sharp outfits; it was about mercy. I think about that every time I pass someone sitting on a park bench, riding a bike with everything they own in a backpack, or sleeping on the steps of a church. When I was assigned at the Cathedral of St. Peter, it wasn't unusual to find five or six folks sleeping under the east portico before the 6:45 a.m. Mass. At first, I wasn't sure what to do. Do I step over them like the rich man walked past Lazarus? Or do I at least stop, smile, hand over a granola bar, and maybe even a bottle of water? My theology books didn't cover that one.

Let's be honest, it's uncomfortable. Sometimes it feels risky. Sometimes it even feels a little crazy. Mental illness, addiction, or just plain awkwardness make us hesitate. But today Jesus reminds us that heaven's doors aren't measured by comfort. They're measured by mercy.

Sometimes the smallest acts feel like they hardly matter. One smile, one "good morning," one granola bar. Yet in God's economy those little moments add up to eternity. The rich man wasn't condemned for wearing purple robes. He was condemned for ignoring the man on his doorstep. Mercy doesn't ask for grand gestures. It asks for open eyes and a willing heart.

And mercy doesn't always mean solving every problem. Sometimes it's as simple as noticing, smiling, handing over a snack, or offering a kind word. Sometimes it's daring to treat the Lazarus in our path not as an inconvenience, but as a brother or sister. Pascal would say that's a smart bet. You give up a granola bar and maybe a minute of your time. But you gain the joy of knowing you've stepped into God's mercy. And who knows? Maybe you'll find yourself someday in heaven, welcomed by the very person you once greeted with a smile. ***That's a wager I'm willing to take.***

This week's question:

**The other day at work, someone asked me if I was saved.
How do I answer?**

Answer:

Smile and say, "I am being saved." Catholics see salvation not as a one-time "I checked the box" event, but as a lifelong adventure with Jesus. He saved us on the Cross, He claimed us at Baptism, and He keeps drawing us closer through faith, the sacraments, and daily choices. Salvation isn't a single moment, it's a journey with Christ, and He walks every step with us.

RECONCILIATION

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 September the
Sanctuary candle in our parish church
burns in loving memory of:*

Gary & Robert Kabat

October 2025	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
November 2026	Kabat & Tomaszewski Families

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

Gene Uhls

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
October 2026	Becker & Rensing Families

*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.*



**"I was a stranger and you
welcomed me." - Matthew 25:35**

ADMINISTRATION AND PARISH INFORMATION

Pastor

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

Associate Pastor

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 | lynn@stmarycentralia.org

Office Hours:

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.

WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES

Readings for the week of September 28, 2025

Sunday: Am 6:1a, 4-7/Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 (1b)/1 Tm 6:11-16/Lk 16:19-31

Monday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12ab/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 4-5/Jn 1:47-51

Tuesday: Zec 8:20-23/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/Lk 9:51-56

Wednesday: Neh 2:1-8/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6/Lk 9:57-62

Thursday: Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12 (458)/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/Mt 18:1-5, 10

Friday: Bar 1:15-22/Ps 79:1b-2, 3-5, 8, 9/Lk 10:13-16

Saturday: Bar 4:5-12, 27-29/Ps 69:33-35, 36-37/Lk 10:17-24

Next Sunday: Hb 1:2-3; 2:2-4/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 (8)/2 Tm 1:6-8, 13-14/Lk 17:5-10

Observances for the week of September 28, 2025

Sunday: 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Priesthood Sunday

Monday: Sts. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels

Tuesday: St. Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Wednesday: St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

Thursday: The Holy Guardian Angels

Friday:

Saturday: St. Francis of Assisi

Next Sunday: 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Respect Life Sunday

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 September 22, 2025

Envelopes	\$ 3,336.00
Online Collection	1,056.82
Loose Collection	459.10
School Support	315.00
Building Fund	-0-
Capital Campaign	705.00
Mass Stipend	20.00
Retired Religious	120.00
Cemetery	-0-
Total	\$ 6,606.92

Capital Campaign, Harvest of Blessing - Update 9/23//2025

Total Campaign Pledges	\$ 230,879
Total Pledges received	202,284
Pledges to be paid	29,595
Goal \$400,00 (needed)	\$ 169,121



Keep in touch
with us via
email & text

EASY TO SIGN-UP!

TEXT: 84576

FOR SAINT MARY PARISH TYPE: ORPHANS
FOR SAINT LAWRENCE PARISH TYPE: BLACKHAWKS
(AFTER SENDING JUST FOLLOW THE EASY DIRECTIONS)

YOU CAN CONNECT ONLINE BY GOING TO:
stmarychurch16.flocknote.com

Contact the parish office 618-532-6291 for assistance!

**Your Prayers are needed
and requested for healing
and strength.**

For those living in Care Centers

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

Requested prayers

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

For those who are homebound

Helen Guinzy
JoEllen Nannie
David & Ida May
Guthrie
Barbara Francois

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.**



Restoring Beauty and Honoring Tradition: Scott Becker's Gift to the Stations of the Cross, Following in His Father's Footsteps

Many of you have noticed the red truck parked near the courtyard—it belongs to Scott Becker, who has quietly given his time, sweat, and heart to care for our parish grounds. Without being asked, Scott repainted the yellow safety stripes on the stairs, refreshed the landscaping, and most beautifully, restored the Stations of the Cross in our courtyard. With patience and care he focused on each station, scraping, washing, repairing, and painting them until they shone with new life. These Stations, donated years ago when they were moved from St. Mary Hospital, now stand radiant once again through his dedication. Scott follows in the footsteps of his father, Gene Becker, who served our parish for many years as maintenance man and custodian with the same quiet humility and devotion. We owe Scott deep gratitude for his faith, humility, and perseverance; the restored Stations are not only a



A Special Place for Shade, Study, and Rest

We are happy to provide shade for SMS students during their recess, thanks to the generous support of the SMS PTO and a meaningful gift in memory of Anthony and Margaret Pautler. The canopy, along with the picnic table and umbrella, offers a comfortable space where students can catch up on homework or simply take a break.



This past Friday, I had the joy of welcoming two of our eighth-grade students from St. Mary School, Charleigh and Griffen, to assist at Mass in the St. Mary Hospital Chapel. Both are preparing for Confirmation this winter, and by serving at the altar and ambo, they're earning service hours—and more importantly, gaining confidence in their faith. Griffen served as our altar server, while Charleigh beautifully proclaimed the readings and led us in the Prayers of the Faithful. They're trailblazers, as each Friday, I'll be joined by more young people on their Confirmation journey. We invite you to join us each Friday at 12:00 p.m. at the hospital chapel. Mass is kept brief—just twenty minutes—so our hospital staff, volunteers, and visitors can pray and still make it to lunch. Charleigh and Griffen were surprised by how short it was. I told them, "We keep it short. Jesus knows you're on the clock."

Purrs from the Pew Sister Fluff of Divine Mischief

Sister Fluff and the Blessing of Beasts!

My dear parish friends, this Friday morning my sacred domain will be under siege. I've been hearing nonstop about the "Blessing of Animals." The little humans are beside themselves, talking about parading in dogs, cats, rabbits, hamsters, and even a goat or two. All of this chaos, thanks to some man in a brown robe with a haircut that looks like he lost a bet. They call him St. Francis. I call him the reason my quiet morning nap will be disrupted.

Now, I am not opposed to blessings. In fact, I demand one. Yes, I too want to be blessed. I am Sister Fluff, Feline of Divine Mischief, keeper of pews, defender of windowsills, and expert crumb hunter. My only condition is simple. Please, let the holy water be warm. A cold splash on this fur and you will witness an unscheduled sprint through the sanctuary that no one will forget.

Still, I suppose it is fitting. Scripture tells us that God declared all creation "very good." That means the yappy terrier, the drooling Labrador, the jittery rabbit, and even the ferret that looks like it crawled out of someone's sock drawer. If the Lord can call them good, then I can tolerate them for one morning.

So let them come. I will purr from my perch, accept my blessing, and pray that every creature remembers the Creator who made us all. Even the poodles with bows!

*Purrs and prayers,
Sister Fluff, F.D.M.*





**Jack Graham Insurance
Agency, Inc.**

**Jack Graham
Agent**



426 W. Broadway
Centralia, IL 62801
Bus: 618-533-2757

Jack.graham.hr4b@statefarm.com
Providing Insurance and Financial Services



HANSON'S
• LAWN CARE •
MOWING • EDGING • HEDGE
WEEDING • TRIMMING • FREE
618-694-3359 ESTIMATES
hansoslawncare@outlook.com

Your project, our solutions.



TLA
T&L CONTRACTING INC.
A Division of T&L Construction
Email: tandlcontracting.inc@gmail.com
Contact: Paige Lauder
1705 State Route 161, Centralia, IL 62801
Tel: 618-533-0758 | Fax: 618-533-0784

SOUTHERN IL AG SOLUTIONS



Parker M. Timmons, President
email: soilagsolutions@gmail.com
1705 State Route 161, Centralia, IL 62801
Office: 618-533-0758
Cell: 618-367-0624
MAXIMIZING POTENTIAL

HOLMES



CONSTRUCTION

618-367-3716

IF YOU LIVE ALONE

MDMedAlert!™ STARTING AT

\$19⁹⁵
/mo.

✓ Ambulance ✓ Police/Fire
✓ Family/Friends ✓ GPS & Fall Alert

CALL NOW! 800.809.3570

md-medalert.com



**TATE'S
PLUMBING, LLC**

571 Race Track Road, Centralia, IL
618-532-2057
License: 058-196115



Sutherland-Garnier
Funeral & Cremation Services
Serving St. Mary Church
Since 1874

"Our Family Serving Area Families
For Four Generations"

Now Offering Floral Services

235 N. Sycamore Street
Centralia, IL 62801 Phone (618) 532-3523

Edward Jones®



Andrea Williams
Financial Advisor

301 South Poplar
Centralia, IL
Bus. 618-533-5611

andrea.williams2@edwardjones.com

Scott Williams, AAMS®
Financial Advisor

330 E McCord St Suite B
Centralia, IL
Bus. 618-533-3449

scott.williams@edwardjones.com



**WE APPRECIATE OUR
ADVERTISERS!**

**COLDWELL BANKER
ALLEN & GEARY
REAL ESTATE**



DENNIS J. KRUPP
Broker
618-545-6597 Mobile
adkrupp@charter.net
Office: 618-532-7300
117 North Hickory
Centralia, IL 62801

Each office is independently owned and operated

**Place Your Ad Here and
Support our Parish!**

Instantly create and
purchase an ad with

AD CREATOR STUDIO



4lpi.com/adcreator



**SHORT
STAFFED?**

Place an ad here to find
new local talent for
your business.



**CALL
800-950-9952**

LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS

Place Your Ad Here
and Support Our Parish!

**CONTACT ME
Brandy Stivers**

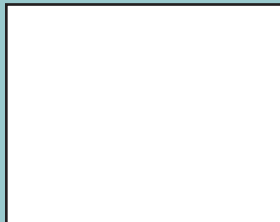
bstivers@4LPi.com
(800) 950-9952 x2609

F.C.L.E.
Fabricating, Welding,
& Machine Shop
No Job Too Small or Too Big!
Jim Danielwicz, Parishioner
T. 618-907-4052
C. 708-552-7003

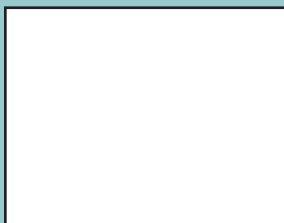
Gerry's
GRILL & BAR
618-533-9197
835 S. Wabash
Home of fine foods
& great service

**HOLLYWOOD
Hair**
1325 E. McCord • Centralia
618-532-8861

**FREE
AD
DESIGN**
with
purchase
of this
space
**CALL
800-950-9952**

**SUPPORT
OUR
PARISH**

**Smith Artisan
Floors**
Finely crafted hardwood floors
Install, Repair, Refinish
618-267-4354



**Industrial Mechanical
Contractors**
**PLUMBING • HEATING
PROCESS PIPING**
501 N. Franklin • Centralia
618-532-4703



SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!



For ad info. call 1-800-950-9952 • www.4lpi.com

St. Mary Roman Catholic Church, Centralia, IL A 4C 01-1661