



# SAINT MARY

## ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

424 E. BROADWAY, CENTRALIA, IL 62801  
618-532-6291 - [stmarycentralia.org](http://stmarycentralia.org)

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



**November 23, 2025 ♦ Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**



One of the criminals said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." (Luke 23:42-43)

**\*Saturday, November 22, 2025 (Vigil)**  
**Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**  
4:00 p.m. at St. Mary Church  
† Dr. Jerry Beguelin † Henry Verdeyen  
Father Pat Peter

**\*Sunday, November 23, 2025**  
8:30 a.m. at St. Lawrence Church, Sandoval  
**Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**  
† Deceased members of St. Lawrence  
Father Pat Peter

**Sunday, November 23, 2025**  
**Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**  
10:30 a.m. at St. Mary Church  
† Deceased members of St. Mary  
† Harold "Bud" Miller † Lawrence & Agnes Goebel  
Father Steven Pautler

**Tuesday, November 25, 2025**  
8:30 a.m. at Felician Chapel  
Rosary, Novena, and Exposition  
Deacon Dan Laquet

**Wednesday, November 26, 2025 (No Mass)**  
8:30 a.m. at Felician Chapel

**Wednesday, November 26, 2025**  
**Gathering in Thanksgiving**  
6:30 p.m. at St. Lawrence, Sandoval  
† Bill & Lola Resch  
Father Pat Peter

**Thursday, November 27, 2025**  
**Gathering in Thanksgiving**  
9:00 a.m. at St. Mary Church  
† Bonnie Starr  
Father Steven Pautler

**Friday, November 28, 2025 (No Mass)**  
8:30 a.m. at St. Mary Church

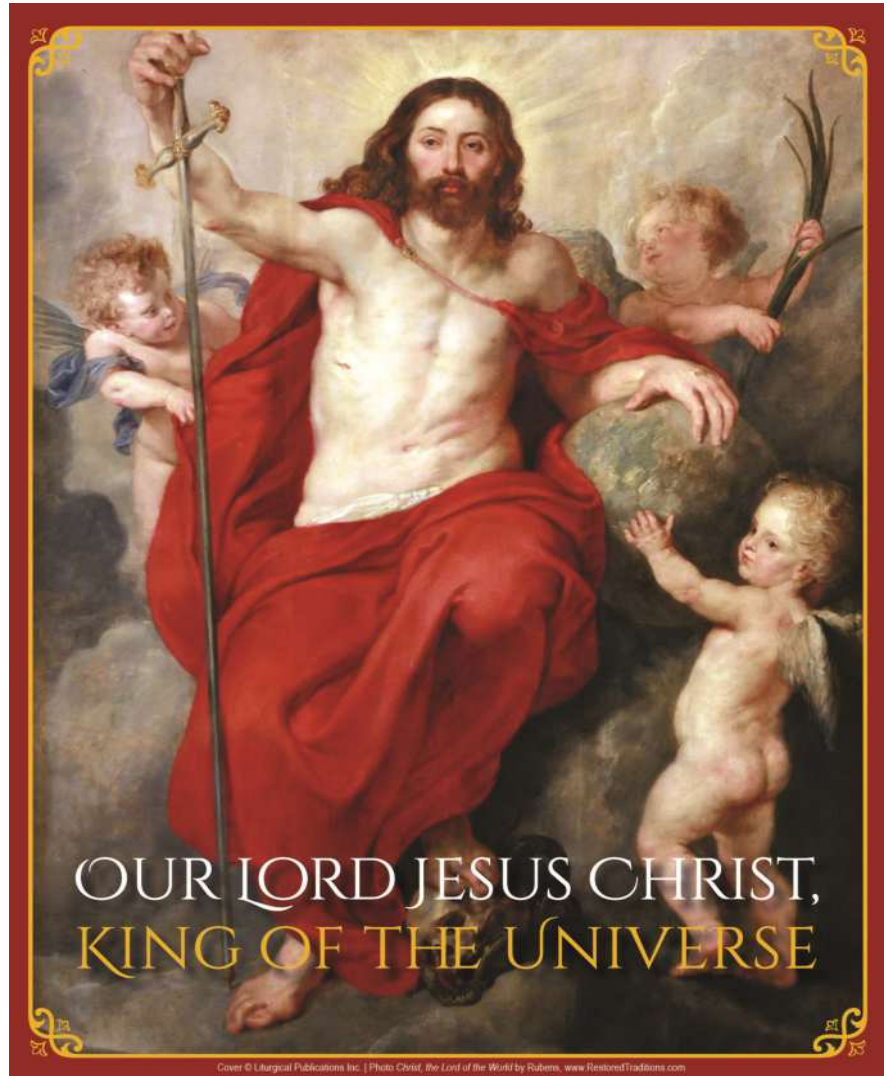
**Friday, November 28, 2025 (No Mass)**  
12:00 p.m. at St. Mary Hospital Chapel

**\*Saturday, November 29, 2025 (Vigil)**  
**First Sunday of Advent**  
4:00 p.m. at St. Mary Church  
† Crucephine Pierson † Mary Jo Kluck  
Father Steven Pautler

**\*Sunday, November 30, 2025**  
8:30 a.m. at St. Lawrence Church, Sandoval  
**First Sunday of Advent**  
† Deceased members of St. Lawrence  
† Robert Oehmke † Ron Clark  
Father Steven Pautler

**Sunday, November 30, 2025**  
**First Sunday of Advent**  
10:30 a.m. at St. Mary Church  
† Deceased members of St. Mary  
† Dr. Jerry Beguelin † Louis & Emma Willenborg  
Father Steven Pautler

**Compassionate God, embrace our departed loved ones with your tender mercy. Forgive their sins, heal their wounds, and grant them the light of your presence. May they rest in your eternal peace and rise in the Glory of your kingdom. Amen.**





## St. Mary Parish Christmas Party

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7TH**  
**ST. MARY PARISH CENTER**  
Fellowship 5:00 p.m. Dinner 6:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$15.00 and can be purchased after masses on November 21/22 and November 28/29, or at the church office. Please note that the deadline to buy tickets is December 1st.

**Tickets - 618-532-6291**

### Annual Way of Lights at the Shrine

The Way of Lights is a beloved annual event that draws tens of thousands of visitors, offering a magical Christmas experience filled with lights, activities, and community performances. This year, you're invited to showcase your talents and make your ensemble part of the celebration. For more information, visit [snow.org/wayoflights](http://snow.org/wayoflights) or call 618-397-6700.

### King's House at the Shrine - Retreat Schedule

The Spring Quiet Retreat season at King's House Retreat Center, Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows, runs from November 1, 2025, to May 1, 2026. The theme, Dilexit Nos ("He loved us"), invites reflection on healing and love in the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Men's retreats will be held January 9-11, January 16-18, and May 1-3, while women's retreats are scheduled for March and April. Days of Reflection and Spiritual Cinema will take place from February through May. For details, contact 618-397-0584 or visit [kh.snows.org](http://kh.snows.org).

### 2026 SMS Calendars now available!

If you thought Santa delivered excitement only once a year, our 2026 SMS Calendar is here to prove him wrong. Every page brings a fresh splash of color from our students and a chance to win a little something that keeps the year moving. It's Christmas cheer that refuses to pack up and go home. Contact the School Office 618-532-3473. Donation \$25.00

### Advent Reconciliation Services 2025

Prepare your heart this Advent season by attending one of the scheduled parish reconciliation services.

Date	Parish	Time
Sunday, November 30, 2025	St. Lawrence, Sandoval	1:00 PM
Monday, December 1, 2025	St. Mary, Centralia (School)	1:00 PM
Tuesday, December 2, 2025	St. Anthony, Beckemeyer	7:00 PM
Wednesday, December 3, 2025	St. Damian, Damiansville	1:00 PM
Thursday, December 4, 2025	St. Rose, St. Rose	7:00 PM
Friday, December 5, 2025	St. Mary, Carlyle	6:30 PM
Saturday, December 6, 2025	St. Theresa, Salem	6:30 PM
Sunday, December 7, 2025	St. Stephen, Flora	6:30 PM
Monday, December 8, 2025	St. Boniface, Germantown	3:00 PM
Tuesday, December 9, 2025	St. Francis, Aviston	6:00 PM
Wednesday, December 10, 2025	St. George, New Baden	7:00 PM

## SMS CALENDAR WINNERS

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2025**  
**ALYSSA BOYCE - CENTRALIA**  
**MARY TROSTEL - ST. PETERS, MO**

### 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 or seeking to complete your Sacraments? Join us for OCIA beginning Sunday, September 14 after the 10:30 a.m. Mass; to sign up, contact the Parish Office at 618-532-6291 or Deacon Dan Laquet at [daniel.laquet@yahoo.com](mailto:daniel.laquet@yahoo.com) !

### 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. More details about registration will be shared soon. For more information, contact Mike Klostermann at [cre@stmarycentralia.org](mailto:cre@stmarycentralia.org) or call the Parish Office at **618-532-6291**.



## BAPTISM PREPARATION

*Second Tuesday of Each Month*

St. Mary Parish will offer Baptism Preparation classes for new parents on the second Tuesday of each month in the Parish Office Meeting Room from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. These sessions are intended for first-time parents. To register, please contact Rosa at the Parish Office.

618-532-6291

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

Tuesday, June 9, 2026

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Tuesday, August 11, 2026

Tuesday, September 8, 2026

Tuesday, October 13, 2026

Tuesday, November 10, 2026

Tuesday, December 8, 2026

### 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
<b>27-Nov</b>	Bill Broda	Bill Broda	Emma Burris	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>9:00 AM</b>		James Burris	Camden Williams			
<b>Thanksgiving</b>			Gracelyn Burris			
<b>mass</b>	<b>Rose Ross</b>					
<b>29-Nov</b>	Garrett Ford	Tina Biagi	Callen Williams	Gene Gettinger	Lisa Becker	Williams Family
<b>4:00 PM</b>		Susan Niepoetter	Keegan Williams	Jim Opolony	Scott Becker	
		Diane Uhls	Kylee Atchison			
	<b>Rose Ross</b>		Nolan Wolfe			
<b>30-Nov</b>	Pete Donnelly	Paul Mocaby	Tucker Aydt	Tom Ballagh	Sally Tiemann	Sipe Family
<b>10:30 AM</b>		Mike Timmons	Turner Aydt	Tom Holle		
		Mary Miller	Evan Sipe			
	<b>Cathy Benson</b>	Patty Williams	Aria Quandt			



## MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

Father Steven Pautler

***"The Thanksgiving That Taught Me  
Where Real Kingdoms Are Found."***

I remember that Thanksgiving morning as if it were stitched into the fabric of my heart. The hospital hallway felt still. The kind of stillness you sense when life stands at a crossroads. Mom and I sat beside my grandmother Lillie as she slept. The doctor stepped in, glanced at the chart, and delivered news that dropped like a stone. Immediate surgery. Mom's voice trembled when she answered. ***"But it's Thanksgiving."*** The doctor didn't flinch. They were prepping her within minutes. Our plans, our family gathering, the food waiting at the American Legion, all of it faded behind one truth. Grandma Lillie needed help, and we were staying put.

The hours dragged. That late morning hunger set in. I found myself thinking of turkey, dressing, potatoes, and the kind of feast you look forward to all year. Mom and I wandered to the cafeteria. The cook placed two round slices of processed turkey on the griddle. A scoop of stuffing from a box. Mashed potatoes made from flakes. A slice of pumpkin pie that leaned a little to the right. We carried our trays back upstairs. Mom sat across from me. The food wasn't fancy. The moment was. I looked at her and thought, this is the best Thanksgiving meal of my life! Not because of flavor. Because of love. Because we were exactly where we needed to be. Grandma came out of surgery and opened her eyes with fire. ***"Take me home!"*** she said. And we laughed with relief.

The readings for the Solemnity of Christ the King speak with the same clarity. They draw us away from distractions and set our eyes on what matters. In Second Samuel, the tribes come to David and recognize something deeper than earthly power. They acknowledge the one chosen to shepherd them. The psalm lifts a song of joy as the people go up to the house of the Lord. They know where their true center lies. Paul tells the Colossians to give thanks to the Father who delivered us from darkness and brought us into the kingdom of his beloved Son. In Luke's Gospel, the dying thief turns to Jesus with a final plea. And Jesus, bruised and mocked yet reigning from the wood of the cross, gives a promise stronger than death. ***"Today you will be with me in Paradise."***

Christ our King stands at the center of these readings with a strength no earthly throne delivers. David is anointed over all Israel and entrusted with shepherding the people. His kingship points forward to the One who reigns forever. The psalm urges the tribes to journey to the Lord's house where judgment, peace, and unity rise from His presence.

Paul proclaims Christ as the image of the invisible God. The firstborn of all creation. The One through whom everything holds together. On the cross, Luke shows the world's true King crowned not with gold but with sacrifice. Every reading gathers itself around one truth. Christ rules with love stronger than sin and a power that restores every broken place. Thanksgiving invites us to see His hand in the quiet corners of our lives. The small mercies. The steady presence of God. The love that holds us. And the King who never leaves His people.

### Anecdote!

After a long and draining day, the hospital door opened and in walked my brother Brian, my sister in law Alice, my niece Heather, and my nephew Travis. They took one look at Grandma resting peacefully and said it was time for real food. Off we went to Ryan's Steak House. The moment we stepped in, the smell alone lifted our spirits. Turkey with flavor. Potatoes with substance. Stuffing that did not come from a scoop. We filled our plates and laughed like people who had survived something heroic. It was a meal fit for a king, and after the day we had, it felt earned. ***Happy Thanksgiving, Fr. Steve***



**Giving Thanks for God's Blessings**

**Wednesday, November 26th**  
St. Lawrence, Sandoval - 6:30 p.m.  
St. Teresa, Marydale - 6:30 p.m.

**Thursday, November 27th**  
St. Mary, Carlyle - 7:30 a.m.  
St. Mary, Centralia - 9:00 a.m.

**You are welcome to bring food or  
drink you will serve at your  
Thanksgiving Dinner to be blessed  
during Mass.**

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

### 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
December 2026	Nall, Hollern & Duty Families
January 2027	Open

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

### 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
November 2026	Open
December 2026	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.*

## 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.com/TimFergPhotosStm](http://www.facebook.com/TimFergPhotosStm)**

### This week's question:

***A man from our parish, who came to  
Mass with his family every week, was  
deported. His wife and children are still  
here, and I feel heartbroken. Is there  
anything I can do?***

### Answer:

Yes, there is. First, pray for them. Prayer isn't a small thing, it's strength when words fall short. Then, reach out to the family. Bring a meal, offer rides, help with Faith Formation, or simply listen. The Church teaches that we are one body in Christ. When one member suffers, we all do. You can also ask your pastor or parish office if there's a diocesan immigration ministry or Catholic Charities contact. Your compassion and presence speak the Gospel louder than any homily ever could. Poor. Beauty lifts the soul. Charity feeds it. The Church is called to do both.

## ADMINISTRATION AND PARISH INFORMATION

### Pastor

Fr. Steven Pautler | Ext. 307 | [spautler@stmarycentralia.org](mailto:spautler@stmarycentralia.org)

### Associate Pastor

### Permanent Deacon

Deacon Dan Laquet | Ext. 301 | [daniel.laquet@yahoo.com](mailto:daniel.laquet@yahoo.com)

### Parish Receptionist

Rosamaria Villagomez | Ext. 301 | [parish@stmarycentralia.org](mailto:parish@stmarycentralia.org)

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

Maria Pryor | Ext. 303 | [mariapryor@stmarycentralia.org](mailto:mariapryor@stmarycentralia.org)

### Treasurer/Bookkeeper

Susan Niepoetter | Ext. 305 | [sniepoetter@stmarycentralia.org](mailto:sniepoetter@stmarycentralia.org)

### Coordinator of Religious Education

Mike Klosterman | Ext. 306 | [cre@stmarycentralia.org](mailto:cre@stmarycentralia.org)

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

Lynn Featherling | Ext. 302 | [lynn@stmarycentralia.org](mailto: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

Baptism preparation classes are held the second Tuesday of each month in the Parish Office Meeting room. Contact the Parish Office 618-532-6291 to sign up.

### 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 phone.

### Readings for the week of November 23, 2025

Sunday: 2 Sm 5:1-3/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5 (see 1)/Col 1:12-20/Lk 23:35-43

Monday: Dn 1:1-6, 8-20/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/Lk 21:1-4

Tuesday: Dn 2:31-45/Dn 3:57, 58, 59, 60, 61/Lk 21:5-11

Wednesday: Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28/Dn 3:62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67/Lk 21:12-19

Thursday: Dn 6:12-28/Dn 3:68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74/Lk 21:20-28

Friday: Dn 7:2-14/Dn 3:75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81/Lk 21:29-33

Saturday: Dn 7:15-27/Dn 3:82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87/Lk 21:34-36

Next Sunday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44

### Observances for the week of November 23, 2025

Sunday: Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Monday: St. Andrew Dũng-Lạc, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs

Tuesday: St. Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin and Martyr

Wednesday:

Thursday: Thanksgiving Day

Friday:

Saturday:

**Next Sunday: 1st Sunday of Advent**

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

**For the week of November 16, 2025**



*Sorry for the inconvenience  
Available Next Week*

## Reconciliation

**Sunday, November 30, 2025**

**St. Lawrence, Sandoval**

**1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

**Four Priests Available**

**Wednesday, December 3, 2025**

**St. Mary, Centralia**

**1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

**Four Priests Available**

**Wednesday, December 10, 2025**

**St. Mary, Carlyle**

**6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

**Four Priests Available**

## Book of Remembrance

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

### For those living in Care Centers

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

### For those who are homebound

Helen Guinzy  
JoEllen Nannie  
David & Ida Guthrie  
Barbara Francois

### Requested prayers

Mary Mann  
Tom Ballagh  
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.*



### Wildcards Bring Home the Glory!

Our winning streak continues. Congratulations to the St. Mary and Willow Grove Wildcards on claiming the OBC Conference Tournament Championship. You played with grit, heart, and a steady confidence that belongs to a team that knows exactly who they are. Your teamwork spoke louder than any scoreboard. Your determination carried every quarter. Your effort honored your coaches, your schools, and every fan who cheered until their voice gave out. Well done, Wildcards. Keep charging forward.



### When the Resch pilots took flight, Turner launched a full Tucker transformation!

Dress as a Family Member Day brought out the full circus at SMS and everyone enjoyed it. The Resch kiddos walked in looking like they had a connecting flight to Charlotte. Three miniature pilots. Sharp ties. Captain hats set at the perfect tilt. Their dad, First Officer JJ, and their grandpa, Captain Rodney, probably wondered if they still had a job or if these three staged a takeover.

Then there was Turner. Good grief. When Turner commits, he does not tiptoe in. He dives headfirst. While most kids slipped into Mom's shirt or Dad's boots, Turner transformed into Tucker, his freshman brother, with such devotion you would think he was preparing for a documentary. He matched the clothes. He copied the smile. He even dyed his hair. That is not imitation. That is dedication.

The halls were packed with every character imaginable. Nurses with proud stethoscopes. Little ones in onesies honoring their baby siblings. Construction gear. Caution vests. Security badges. Policemen. Even a few pint-sized lawyers ready to object to recess ending.

## Harvest of Blessing

### Sowing Seeds for Tomorrow

*Cash Donation*  
*Stocks or Bonds*  
*Recurring Monthly Gifts*  
*Planned Giving / Bequests*  
*In Memory or Honor*  
*Matching Gifts*  
*Gifts of Real Estate*  
*IRA Charitable Distribution*  
*Donor-Advised Fund*  
*Pledge & Pay Over Time*

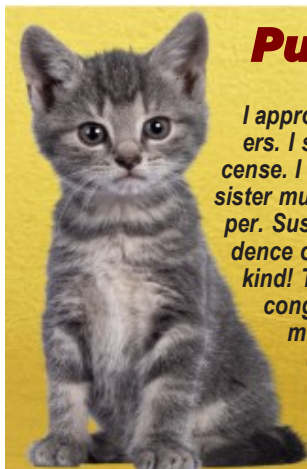
*Give today and help us reach our \$400,000 goal by the end of 2025. Every contribution, large or small, strengthens the foundation of faith and community we're building together. Your generosity today ensures that St. Mary Parish continues to grow, serve, and inspire for generations to come.*

### ST MARY PARISH CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Make checks payable to: St. Mary Capital Campaign  
Give online at: [stmarycentralia.org](http://stmarycentralia.org) - Contact Susan or Father Steve 6185-532-6291



### THE CASE OF THE MISSING ORGAN!



### Purrs from the Pew, Sister Fluff of Divine Mischief

#### Sister Fluff and the Case of the Missing Organ

I approached the church this week with the confidence of a seasoned detective. A kitten of prayer. A sleuth with whiskers. I slipped inside for my morning patrol and nearly fainted. The organ was gone. Vanished. Evaporated into thin incense. I sat there on the sanctuary floor, tail twitching, certain the apocalypse had arrived. Then my training kicked in. A sister must stay steady. Panic never solved a mystery. I began gathering clues. Near the choir loft I found a candy wrapper. Suspicious. On a pew I discovered cough drops. Even more suspicious. Then, by the door, the most alarming evidence of all. Something that appeared to be the remains of a sandwich. I gasped. Sandwich-eating critters are the worst kind! They have no respect for sacred spaces or proper liturgical diet. I sniffed around, convinced an entire woodland congregation had staged a heist. My mind raced. Maybe squirrels struck first. Their little paws love mischief. Or a mouse with a taste for tuna decided to upgrade to sacred music. I prepared my report for Father. I noted every crumb with great seriousness. Eventually the humans explained the organ was taken away for renovation. I blinked. Renovation is not nearly as thrilling as a daring critter conspiracy. Still, I suppose the Lord prefers accuracy in all things. I gave the empty loft a final look, lifted a paw in blessing, and headed off to complete my rounds. Paws steady, prayers steady, **Sister Fluff, F.D.M. Feline of Divine Mischief**



**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



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A Division of T&L Construction  
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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](mailto:soilagsolutions@gmail.com)  
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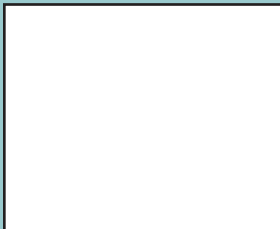
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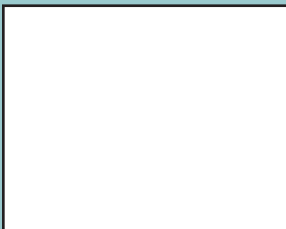
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