



# 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



**December 7, 2025 ♦ 2nd Sunday of Advent**

### Mass & Liturgy Schedule

**\*Saturday, December 6, 2025 (Vigil)**

Second Sunday of Advent  
4:00 p.m. at St. Mary Church  
† Mary Louise Elliston † Mary White  
Father Pat Peter

**\*Sunday, December 7, 2025**

8:30 a.m. at St. Lawrence Church, Sandoval  
Second Sunday of Advent  
† Deceased members of St. Lawrence  
† Dorothy Niepoetter  
Father Pat Peter

10:30 a.m. at St. Mary Church  
† Doe and Louisa Marcum  
† Anthony and Margaret Pautler  
Father Pat Peter

**Monday, December 8, 2025**

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (Holy Day)  
8:30 a.m. at St. Mary Church (School Mass)  
† Bonnie Starr  
Father Steve Pautler

12:00 p.m. at St. Mary Hospital Chapel  
For those suffering from pain  
Father Steve Pautler

6:30 p.m. at St. Lawrence, Sandoval  
† Shaun Ford † Steve Ulm  
† William Gerrish  
Father Pat Peter

**Tuesday, December 9, 2025**

8:30 a.m. at Felician Chapel  
Rosary, Novena, and Exposition  
Deacon Dan Laquet

**Wednesday, December 10, 2025 (Class Mass)**

8:30 a.m. at Felician Chapel  
† Dr. Charles Fischer  
Father Steve Pautler

**Thursday, December 11, 2025**

8:30 a.m. at St. Lawrence, Sandoval  
† Edward Lyons † Shaun Ford  
† Steve Ulm † William Gerrish  
Father Steve Pautler

**Friday, December 12, 2025**

No Mass

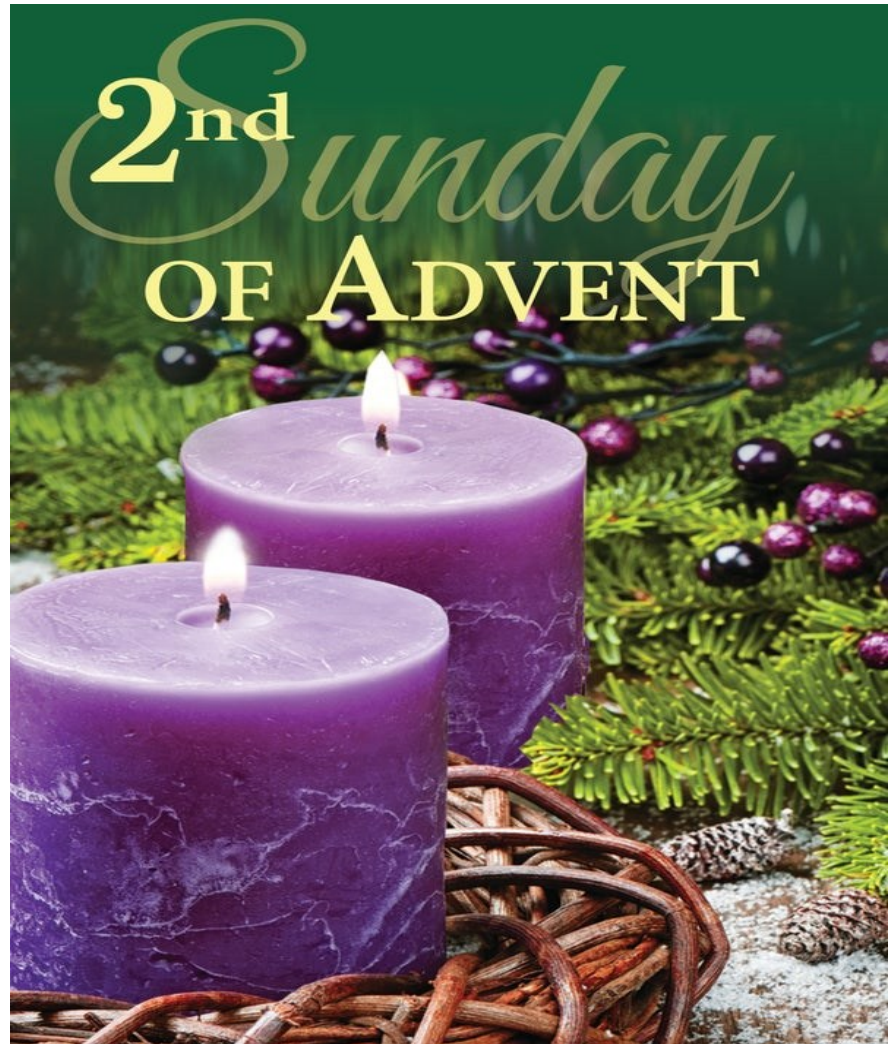
**\*Saturday, December 13, 2025 (Vigil)**

Third Sunday of Advent  
4:00 p.m. at St. Mary Church  
† David Schwartz † Roy Szatkowski  
Father Steve Pautler

**\*Sunday, December 14, 2025**

8:30 a.m. at St. Lawrence Church, Sandoval  
Third Sunday of Advent  
† Deceased members of St. Lawrence  
† Ron Clark  
Father George Mauck

10:30 a.m. at St. Mary Church  
† Holy Souls in Purgatory  
Living and † Deceased of the Pautler Family  
Father George Mauck



**PLEASE NOTE: THERE HAVE BEEN SOME CHANGES TO MASS TIMES!**



### Mass Schedule



**Monday, December 8th (Holyday)**

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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

St. Mary Hospital Chapel - 12:00 p.m. (noon)

St. Lawrence, Sandoval - 6:30 p.m.

**SEASON OF CHRISTMAS**

NATIVITY OF THE LORD

St. Mary Church - Children's Mass - 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 24, 2025 - Vigil Mass

St. Lawrence, Sandoval - Children's Mass - 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 24, 2025 - Vigil Mass

St. Mary Church - 12:00 a.m. - Midnight Mass

Thursday, December 25, 2025 - Christmas

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

Thursday, December 25, 2025 - Christmas

**THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS**

St. Mary Church

Saturday, December 27, 2025 (Vigil) - 4:00 p.m.  
Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

St. Lawrence, Sandoval

Sunday, December 28, 2025 - 8:30 a.m.  
Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

St. Mary Church

Sunday, December 28, 2025 - 10:30 a.m.  
Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

St. Mary Church - (Vigil - New Year)

Wednesday, December 31, 2025 - 4:00 p.m.

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

New Years Day Mass - St. Lawrence

January 1, 2026 - 8:30 a.m.

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

St. Mary Church - (Vigil - Epiphany)

Saturday, January 3, 2026 4:00 p.m.

St. Lawrence Church, Sandoval - Epiphany

Sunday, January 4, 2026 - 8:30 a.m.

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



### Annual Way of Lights at the Shrine

Join us for the Way of Lights at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows from November 21 through December 31. The grounds glow each evening from 5 to 9. This visit steadies the heart and reminds us why the season matters. 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. 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. 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.

### Day of Discernment and Recollection

Join us for a Discernment Day of Recollection on Saturday, December 20, 2025, from 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM at St. Nicholas Parish in O'Fallon, IL. This day will focus on the theme of "Spiritual Sonship & Fatherhood" and will include prayer, reflection, fraternity, Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, conferences, and lunch. It's open to single Catholic men ages 15-35. For more information: [Email:mskorch@diobelle.org](mailto:Email:mskorch@diobelle.org)

### 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

**WINNERS AVAILABLE  
NEXT WEEK!**

### 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. Come 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
8-Dec	Bill Broda	school will provide	school will provide	NA	NA	school will provide
8:30 AM						
Holy Day						
	Tammy Miller					
13-Dec	Bill Broda	Tina Biagi	Callen Williams	Gene Gettinger	Diane Uhls	Williams Family
4:00 PM		Susan Niepoetter	Keegan Williams	Jim Opolony	Chris Kirk	
		Diane Uhls	Elizabeth Hanson			
	Tom Hawkins		Max Alton			
14-Dec	Lisa Guthrie	Manuela Maco	Angela Smith	Tom Holle	Kim Davis	Smith/Davis Families
10:30 AM		GiGi Broughton	Michael Davis	Carson Pigg	Todd Davis	
		Pete Donnelly	Brody Kasban			



## MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

Father Steven Pautler

***“Straight Talk, Camel Hair,  
and Uncle Joe’s Advent Wake-Up Call.”***

Every family has at least one person who speaks with the subtlety of a freight train rolling through a quiet town. You know the type. They sit at the Thanksgiving table with a plate of turkey in one hand and a full opinion in the other. Some of you sat across from that person a few days ago. Uncle Joe never hesitates to tell you what he thinks about the country, the city council, how chewy the turkey is, or the color of the new stoplight. You learn to keep your mouth shut unless you want to set off a fire alarm that rings through Advent and into Lent.

John the Baptist carried that same brand of honesty. He stepped out of the wilderness with camel hair on his back, locust crumbs on his breath, and thunder in his voice. He did not bother with small talk. He did not worry about charm. He looked a crowd straight in the eye and dropped the line no one at Thanksgiving wants to hear. You brood of vipers. That will silence a room.

John was bold because he knew the moment was serious. Something sacred approached. He felt the weight of it and refused to let anyone drift through life half-awake. Prepare the way of the Lord. Clear out the junk. Straighten the path. Advent has no patience for sleepy hearts. John was not trying to embarrass anyone. His bluntness was an act of charity. When truth is spoken without spin, without varnish, it shakes you awake in a way soft words cannot. He wanted people ready for the One who stood among them. He wanted them alert. He wanted them hungry for the Messiah who carried fire that would not burn them, but refine them.

Advent asks for the same from us. A little straight talk. A little honesty. A little courage to admit where the road has gotten crooked. It is easy to glide through December on cinnamon rolls and Christmas movies. Advent calls for more. It calls for a heart that knows why we wait.

Maybe you hear John’s voice echoing somewhere in your life. Maybe he sounds like that friend who pulls you aside and tells you the truth. Maybe he sounds like that relative who says what everyone else is afraid to say. Maybe he sounds like your own conscience nudging you to quit stalling and take a step toward grace.

John points to Christ and steps out of the way. His voice wakes us, but it is the Lord who heals us. He comes with mercy stronger than our excuses, with hope steady enough to guide us through the darkest stretch of winter. So let Uncle Joe talk. Let John shout. Let the truth jolt us awake. Advent has arrived. Straighten the path. The Lord draws near.

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

### 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
February 2027	Open

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

### Nall-Hollern-Duty Families

January 2026	Corinno & Anna Leeta Darin
February 2026	Alfredo & Carmen Coronado
March 2026	Roger Morton
April 2026	Anthony & Margaret Pautler
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
January 2027	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)*

## Lighting and Blessing of the Courtyard Nativity Scene

**Sunday, December 7, 2025 - 4:45 p.m.**

**Christmas Party begins at 5:00 p.m. in the Parish Center**

**ADVANCE TICKET REQUIRED TO ATTEND THE CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**Join us before the Parish  
Christmas Party as we  
gather for the Blessing  
and Lighting of the  
Courtyard Nativity Scene  
and the Christmas lights.  
Lift your voices as we sing  
beloved Christmas carols  
to welcome the season of  
joy and light.**



**Through the generous gift of  
time and treasure from  
several of our parishioners,  
the Courtyard will shine  
bright with Christmas lights  
this year. Come and see the  
beauty of the season come  
to life—you won't want to  
miss it!**

**Just in  
time for Christmas!**



## 2026 CALENDARS ARE HERE

You can now pick up your 2026 SMS Christmas Calendar from any St. Mary School student. It keeps the warmth of Christmas humming long after the lights come down and makes a strong gift for friends and family. Contact a student you know or reach out to the School Office at 618-532-3473 or the Parish Office at 618-532-6291. Students receive credit for each calendar sold. Two names will be drawn every Monday in 2026. Each winner receives twenty five dollars. Winning tickets return to the basket for more chances. An extra ticket is drawn in May and another in November for five hundred dollars each. Thank you for supporting St. Mary School.



## This week's question:

**Advent's supposed to be a quiet,  
prayerful time. But between shopping,  
parties, and parish fundraisers, I feel  
like I need an Advent for my Advent.  
Help!**

## Answer:

You're not alone. Advent often looks more like a marathon than a retreat. The key isn't escaping the season but finding little pauses within it. Pray while waiting in line. Light your Advent wreath before dinner. Skip one event and use that time to breathe with God. The desert of Advent isn't always sand and silence. It's choosing calm in the chaos. Christ came quietly, and He still prefers to arrive that way.



## 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 December 7, 2025

Sunday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 (see 7)/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/Mt 18:12-14

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

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

Next Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 (see Is 35:4)/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2

### Observances for the week of December 7, 2025

Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Advent

Monday: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Tuesday: St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin

Wednesday: Our Lady of Loreto

Thursday: St. Damasus I, Pope

Friday: Our Lady of Guadalupe

Saturday: St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

**Next Sunday: 3rd 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: [stmarycentralia.org](http://stmarycentralia.org)*

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.

Sunday, November 23, 2025		Sunday, November 30, 2025	
Sunday Envelopes	\$3,902.00	Sunday Envelopes	\$5,427.00
Online Collection	929.57	Online Collection	990.57
Loose Collection	401.00	Loose Collection	371.00
School Collection	550.00	School Collection	135.00
Building Fund	125.00	Capital Campaign	125.00
Capital Campaign	900.00	Christmas Offering	20.00
Mass Stipend	190.00	Solemnity of Mary	20.00
Candles	60.00	Human Dev.	60.00
<b>Total Collection</b>	<b>\$7,057.57</b>	<b>Total Collection</b>	<b>\$7,363.57</b>

— — — *Capital Campaign* — — —  
*Harvest of Blessings: Sowing Seeds for Tomorrow*  
**To give: [stmarycentralia.org](http://stmarycentralia.org) or contact Father Steve**

<b>Total Campaign Pledges</b>	<b>\$335,809</b>
<b>Total pledges received</b>	<b>311,464</b>
<b>Pledges to be received over time</b>	<b>24,345</b>
<b>Donations need to reach goal</b>	<b>\$ 64,191</b>

## SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



"Behold, I am the servant of the Lord.  
 Let it be done to me according to your word."  
 Luke 1:38

**Monday, December 8, 2025**  
**Celebration of Holy Mass**

7:30 a.m. - St. Mary, Carlyle  
 8:30 a.m. - St. Mary, Centralia  
 12:00 p.m. - St. Mary Hospital, Centralia  
 6:30 p.m. - St. Lawrence, Sandoval  
 6:30 p.m. - St. Teresa, Marydale

## 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

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.*



Santa's elves need backup, so bring your best cookies (8 dozen) for the December 16 cookie trays and turn the kitchen into a festive little workshop of joy!

**DROP OFF TIMES**  
 Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup>  
 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
 Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>  
 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

**Come to the Office Door**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo**

You are invited to bring a Christmas bell to the 4:00 p.m. Children's Mass on Wednesday, December 24. During the Gloria in excelsis Deo, lift your voice by ringing your bell. Small or large. New or antique. Let every sound honor the newborn Christ and echo the song of the angels who praised him in Bethlehem.

**St. Mary School Annual Christmas Concert**  
**Wednesday, December 10, 2025**  
 St. Mary Parish Center - 6:00 p.m.  
*Get there early seats fill up quickly!*

**Grateful Nod to Gaetti Sports Academy!**  
 Gaetti Sports Academy stepped in with steady support for our Food Drive and it showed in the smiles on our students' faces. Their presence beside our kids gave the whole effort a boost. They backed the work with a spirit of teamwork and service our school respects. Saint Mary School Centralia gathered 1,452 items and we are proud of every student and staff member who lifted a box or stacked a can. I am thankful for Gaetti Sports Academy for standing shoulder to shoulder with us. Their kindness strengthened our outreach and reminded our young people that strong communities grow when good folks pitch in.

**Looking for that special way to say...**  
**Merry Christmas**  
**Send a Holiday Tray!**  
**ST. MARY SCHOOL**  
**CHRISTMAS COOKIE/CANDY TRAY SALE**

*St. Mary elves will special deliver a variety of homemade cookies and candies to that special someone, tastefully wrapped with a personalized card!*  
**Great idea for businesses, clients, friends, and relatives!**

**TRAYS WILL BE DELIVERED**  
**Tuesday, DECEMBER 16, 2025.**

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT  
 Sarah Alton at s.ford1987@gmail.com  
 or call (618) 322-6459

**PLEASE PLACE ORDERS BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2025**

**ST. MARY SCHOOL COOKIE/CANDY TRAY SALES ✦ PRE-ORDER FORM**  
**How to Order:** Drop in the Collection Basket, Mail or Drop Off Order Form to St. Mary School: 424 E Broadway, Centralia, IL 62801 or e-mail to s.ford1987@gmail.com or call (618) 322-6459

**Please make selection (s)**

_____ Large Tray	\$50	5-6 dozen mixed cookies and candies
_____ Small Tray	\$25	2-3 dozen mixed cookies and candies

From: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

To: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address for Delivery: \_\_\_\_\_

or ☐ I prefer to pick up my tray at St. Mary School Tuesday, December 16 after 3:00 PM

**Check Enclosed Payable to "St. Mary School" Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**



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

**News Release! Padre Support Kitty Takes Florida By Storm!**

Ok, now wait a minute. Stop the press because Father Steve looked at me with his serious pastor stare and said, Fluff, I need to talk to you, and my ears shot straight up. I thought he found the Snickers I hid behind the chair, but instead he announced his return trip to Florida on Sunday, December 14. I launched into action. I dragged my nap blanket across the floor like a heroine on a mission, stuffed two cans of Kitty Cuisine, into my tiny travel sack, scooped up my emergency Snickers, and declared I am going! Father Steve paused with the expression of a man who knows he lost the argument before he started. He promised to see if I would be able to receive official status as his "Support Feline." After years of loyal service, I deserve the title. First, I will surprise Sister Grace with a dramatic entrance. I will ride Guardians of the Galaxy with my fur flying in every direction. I will eat cookies until I reach a spiritual level few kittens ever see. I will drink hot chocolate until my tail twitches. A proper vest is next. I want "Padre Support Kitty" across the back with twinkle lights bright enough for every guest in Florida to notice. I even decided to track down the big mouse in charge. It is time he met a feline with purpose. With a little charm, I might secure a spot on a parade float. Or maybe a seat next to Cinderella as she glides from her castle. A holy kitten deserves a moment of honor, and I plan to claim mine with confidence and a full belly. **Arrivederci...**

**Sister Fluff, F.D.M. Feline of Divine Mischief**







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