



# 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 14, 2025 ◆ 3rd Sunday of Advent

### Mass & Liturgy Schedule

#### Saturday, December 13, 2025

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

#### Tuesday, December 16, 2025

8:30 a.m. at Felician Chapel

Rosary, Novena, and Exposition

Deacon Dan Laquet

#### Wednesday, December 17, 2025

8:30 a.m. at Felician Chapel

Word and Eucharist Service

Deacon Dan Laquet

#### Thursday, December 18, 2025

8:30 a.m. at St. Lawrence, Sandoval

Word and Eucharist Service

Deacon Dan Laquet

#### Friday, December 19, 2025

St. Mary School Christmas Mass

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

Living and † Deceased members of SMS

† Mary Darin

Father Steve Pautler

#### Saturday, December 20, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent

4:00 p.m. at St. Mary Church

† Dr. Jerry Beguelin † Linda Bauer

Father George Mauck

#### Sunday, December 21, 2025

8:30 a.m. at St. Lawrence Church, Sandoval

Fourth Sunday of Advent

† Deceased members of St. Lawrence

† Marc Ohemke † Rosetta Shaffer

† Shirley Brady

Father George Mauck

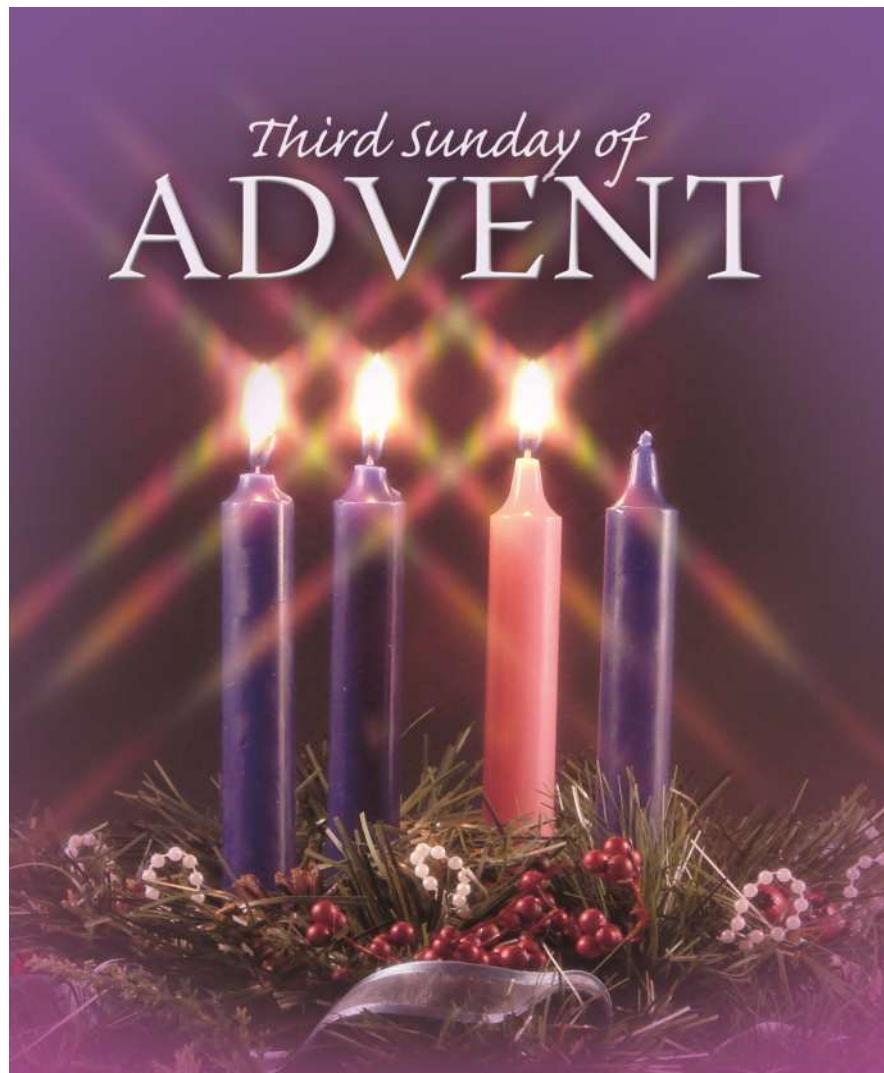
10:30 a.m. at St. Mary Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent

† Donald and Beverly Kelly † Dr. Charles Fischer

Father George Mauck

Father Steve will be away from the Parish Sunday, December 14, 2025 - Thursday, December 18, 2025. If you need a priest please contact Father Pat Peter, or Msgr. David Darin.



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, Janaury 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:mskorch@diobelle.org)

### Illinois Right To Life

Illinois Right to Life believes Governor Pritzker plans to push a constitutional amendment securing abortion through all nine months of pregnancy. He signaled this in his 2023 inaugural address, and the effort appears to be moving closer. We launched the 2025 Ground Zero Tour to prepare pro lifers across Illinois, yet nationwide giving has dropped and we face a serious deficit. Steady support is essential for our outreach, media efforts, pro life march, aid to mothers, and rapid response team. Your monthly gift of thirty seven dollars strengthens this work and brings hope to a difficult moment. For questions or to begin a monthly pledge, contact President Mary Kate Zander at:

[marykate-illinoisrighttolife.org@shared1.ccsend.com](mailto:marykate-illinoisrighttolife.org@shared1.ccsend.com)

## SMS CALENDAR WINNERS

DECEMBER 1, 2025

KAREN ROGERS - CENTRALIA  
DAX GARRISON - AVISTON

DECEMBER 8, 2025

LAYNEE TIMMONS - CENTRALIA

### 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**.



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
Date	Lector Cantor ☺	Euch Min	Servers	Ushers	Greeters	Offertory/Gifts
21-Dec 10:30 AM	Paulette Pahnke	Doug Pahnke	Bryden Hall Patty Williams	Tom Holle Reid Hall	Sally Tiemann	Sipe Family
		Mary Miller	Carl Koger			
	Rose Ross	Mike Timmons	Evan Sipe			
24-Dec 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Childrens Mass	Steve Miller Bill Broda Manuela Maco Paulette Pahnke Doug Pahnke Tammy Miller	Susan Niepoetter Patty Williams Manuela Maco Paulette Pahnke Doug Pahnke Mike Timmons	Julie Siegler Allison Siegler Tucker Aydt Turner Aydt	Gene Gettinger	Ellen Stock	Siegle Family
25-Dec 12:00 AM Midnight Mass	Paul Mocaby Mary Miller Pete Donnelly Don Litteken	Emma Burris Camden Williams Logan Meier Devin Meier	Tom Holle	Tom Holle		Meier Family



## MESSAGE FROM OUR DEACON

Deacon Dan Laquet

On this Gaudete Sunday, this gospel invites us to reflect on something unique as the foundation of the source of our joy: Sharing what we have as a source of God's love for the poor.

Today, the third Sunday of Advent, let us remind ourselves that the true sense of joy is sharing what we can with those in need.

In the gospel of Luke, the crowd asks the prophet John the Baptist, "What should we do?" the prophet responds by inviting them to stop amassing unnecessary things as they wait for Jesus' coming, and to share what they have. Jesus modeled that for us by giving of himself to help those who were in need, the sick, the lame, the blind, the poor.

We are invited to make this advent the most spiritual season of our lives, where we can learn how to wait and meet Christ in others. In his apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, which means the Joy of the Gospel, Pope Francis says, "Whenever we encounter another person through showing them love and giving of ourselves, we learn something new about God. We become closer to God, and therefore, we are happier."

This Advent reminds us that the coming of our Lord requires a certain emptying on our part. We must let go of our attachments, get closer to Christ, and free ourselves of everything holding us back. It is challenging to live a life of giving and not possessing but doing so can bring us great joy. In our faith, we can still be child-like, trusting in God to give us what we need and allowing us to share what we have with others. We might not immediately understand the spiritual reason behind what God is asking of us, yet, if we pray, if we have faith, hope, and love, we can discover that joy.

This sense of joy that Advent invites us to is not easy to achieve. It requires work to learn to detach ourselves from whatever is holding us back from meeting our Lord. Advent is about waiting, sharing, and love. Let us share what we have as we wait for the one who is coming. While we wait, let us make this time the most joyful experience of our faith. The church invites us to pray and to reflect this Advent season. We may want to pray with the following questions: What is holding me back in this season? How can I best prepare myself to receive the Lord? How would I feel if I found that my reluctance to share what I have would diminish Christ in the life of someone in need? In this season of waiting and giving may our greatest joy come from receiving Jesus through our giving and sharing with others.

# 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 2026 CALENDARS HAVE ARRIVED!**

May	June	July	August
September	October	November	December
2026			

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.

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	Will, Loretta Pedtke, Rob, Lorene Langenfeld
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.

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

## This week's question:

Why does the Church have Midnight Mass on Christmas? I love it, but why so late or early?

### Answer:

Midnight Mass goes back to the early Church in Bethlehem, when Christians gathered at night to honor the birth of Christ at the very hour He entered the world. It's meant to mirror that sacred stillness when heaven touched earth. The darkness reminds us of the world before Christ's light broke in. Sure, it's tough to stay awake, but there's something powerful about stepping into the cold night and hearing "Glory to God in the Highest" right as a new day and the Savior arrive.

## 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 14, 2025

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

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23/Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17

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

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

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

Next Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c, 10b)/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

### Observances for the week of December 14, 2025

Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent

Monday:

Tuesday:

Wednesday:

Thursday:

Friday:

Saturday:

Next Sunday: 4th 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.

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTION WILL BE AVAILABLE NEXT WEEK!

— — — Capital Campaign — — —

Harvest of Blessings: Sowing Seeds for Tomorrow

To give: [stmarycentralia.org](http://stmarycentralia.org) or contact Father Steve

Total Campaign Pledges \$335,809

Total pledges received 311,464

Pledges to be received over time 24,345

Donations need to reach goal \$ 64,191

### Sister Fluff's Pilgrimage to the Land of the Gaudy Mouse!

Sister Fluff of Divine Mischief reporting before takeoff. Father Steve is circling the rectory with the expression of a man asked to escort a relic through customs. He worries about traveling with a Feline Support Kitty, and I reminded him the early martyrs handled lions, so he will manage one small nun in fur. I persuaded him to bring me on his long-awaited trip to Florida, home of the oversized over dressed mouse. Aunt Sister Gracie secured lodging for me in her lofty feline condo atop Cinderella's Castle, insisting it reflects proper monastic dignity, though I have doubts. I packed all essentials including favorite snacks, emergency Snickers, and a prayer card for when turbulence tests Father Steve's composure. He gets Seat A1 because he is pastor, and I shall claim A2 with seasoned pilgrim calm. The weather promises seventy four and sunny. Father Steve mentioned I might sit quietly by the pool, and I offered a polite nod that convinced no one. He spoke of an Uber to the Magic Kingdom, and I pretended deep understanding. Once we arrive, I intend to enjoy the sun with modest discipline or mild chaos. More adventures soon!



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

Your Prayers are needed and requested for healing and strength.

### For those living in Care Centers

### 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

### For those who are homebound

### 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.



## Advent Sparkles at St. Mary School and Parish

The Advent spirit at St. Mary blooms with steady joy. The Holly Jolly Christmas Pajama Party brought bright faces, warm laughter, and enough sugary fuel to keep every child wide awake well past bedtime. The Altar Society Christmas Party followed with the familiar rhythm of friendship at long tables filled with stories, good food, and a few playful moments that reminded everyone why these gatherings matter. Every seat held a person who showed up with heart.

The lighting of the nativity scene and courtyard drew parishioners outdoors as the figures in the manger stood quietly under the evening sky. Families lingered, talked, and took in the gentle glow before heading inside for more celebration. The SMS girls stepped forward as the entertainment for the Christmas party and delivered with confidence. Their voices and presence lifted the room. Advent at St. Mary stands rooted in community, steady faith, and the simple strength of people coming together.



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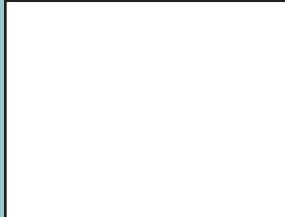
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