



# 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 21, 2025 ◆ 4th Sunday of Advent



Grace to you and peace from  
God our Father and the Lord  
Jesus Christ. (Rom 1:7)

## Mass & Liturgy Schedule

### 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

### 1030 a.m. at St. Mary Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent  
† Donald and Beverly Kelly † Dr. Charles Fischer  
Father George Mauck

### Tuesday, December 23, 2025

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

### CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

#### Wednesday, December 24, 2025

4:00 p.m. at St. Mary Church (Vigil)  
† Garland & Shirley Merrell † Mary Darin  
Father Steven Pautler & Deacon Dan

#### 6:00 p.m. at St. Lawrence Church (Vigil)

† Don Rohner † Mary Darin  
Father Deva & Deacon Dan

#### Thursday, December 25, 2025

12:00 a.m. at St. Mary Church (Midnight Mass)  
† Agnes & Lawrence Goebel † Harold "Bud" Miller  
Father Pat Peter

#### 10:30 a.m. at St. Mary Church (Midnight Mass)

† Bonnie Starr  
Father Michael Hussey

#### Friday, December 26, 2025

NO MASS

#### Saturday, December 27, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent  
4:00 p.m. at St. Mary Church  
† Crucephine Pierson † Florence Garnier  
Father Steve Pautler

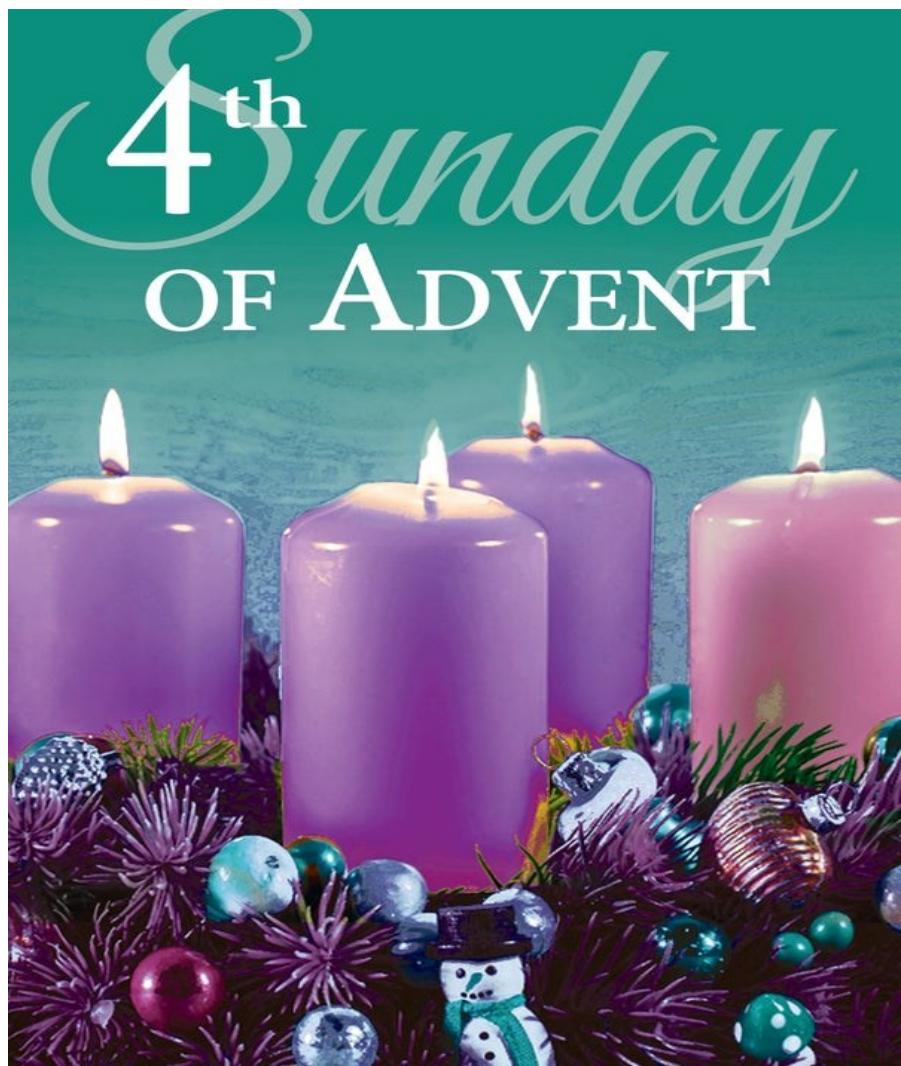
#### Sunday, December 28, 2025

8:30 a.m. at St. Lawrence Church, Sandoval  
† Deceased members of St. Lawrence  
† Don Rohner

Father Steve Pautler

#### 1030 a.m. at St. Mary Church

† Mary Jo Kluck † Verdeyen/Willenborg Families  
Father Steve Pautler



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

## Mass Schedule

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.

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

### 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 Men's Quiet Retreat

Friday, Jan. 9, to Sunday, Jan. 11, 2026  
Friday, Jan. 16, to Sunday, Jan. 18, 2026

### 2026 Women's Quiet Retreat

Friday, March 6, to Sunday, March 8, 2026  
Friday, March 13, to Sunday, March 15, 2026  
Friday, March 20, to Sunday, March 22, 2026  
Friday, March 27, to Sunday, March 29, 2026

### 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.

### Vocation Corners December 21

Today we hear of Joseph's call to be the Head of the Holy Family. What a wonderful act of selflessness - turning his whole life over to the will of God, even under some really stressful circumstances. This is the call for each one of us - to be "righteous". This should be our daily goal. Encourage everyone to follow their unique vocation to follow the Lord.

### Seminarian Prayers

Please keep our seminarians in your prayers as they continue their formation. If you feel called, consider sending them a note or card of encouragement. Your prayers and support mean so much.

<https://www.diobelle.org/vocations/seminarians>

## SMS CALENDAR WINNERS

DECEMBER 22, 2025

HOLLIE THOMAS - CENTRALIA  
SHERRY SHOEMAKER - ASHLEY

### 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 TO RESUME SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2026

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
27-Dec	Garrett Ford	Tina Biagi	Nolan Wolfe	Gene Gettinger	Paul Cozadd	Pickett Family
4:00 PM		Susan Niepoetter	Hunter Starr	Jim Opolony	Theresa Cozadd	
		Diane Uhls	Bliss Pickett			
	Bill Broda		Kylee Atchison			
28-Dec	Steve Miller	Manuela Maco	Charliegh Garren	Tom Holle	Gayla O'Brist	Garren Family
10:30 AM		GiGi Broughton	Maylie Garren		CeCe O'Brist	
		Pete Donnelly	Adrian Patterson			
	Tammy Miller	Paul Mocaby	Gabriella Uribe			
31-Dec	Pete Donnelly	Susan Niepoetter	Emma Burris	Gene Gettinger	Scott Becker	Ushers
4:00 PM		Paul Mocaby	Camden Williams		Lisa Becker	
New Years			Gracelyn Burris			
Eve	Bill Broda					



## MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

Father Steve Pautler

### ***Bethlehem, Main Street, and a Pastor Who Needed a Breather.***

Fourth Sunday of Advent brings a quiet steadiness. The candles burn low. Hearts lean forward. Schedules spin. I know the drill. Taking a few days away during Advent is not something I usually do. I broke a cardinal rule and tried to finish every Advent task before I slipped out of town last Sunday. It did not work and I am not shocked. Advent never bows to our timetables. Still, I stepped away, returned with some peace in my bones, and feel ready for Christmas.

My days away mixed rest with prayer. They also mixed prayer with four long days at the Magic Kingdom in Orlando. Yes, you read that correctly. The pastor ran off to see a giant mouse. I first visited the place when I was eleven and it had not opened yet. They called it a preview. I called it incredible. Since then, I have been hooked. This visit felt different. The whole park shimmered with Christmas spirit. Bright garlands. Towering trees. Carols drifting from every corner. They even make it snow on Main Street. I know it is soap and water, but at my age if it looks like snow and falls like snow, it is snow.

There was another detail that lingered with me long after the fireworks faded. The sheer number of people from every corner of the globe. I stood in line for a ride and heard five languages in six minutes. I watched families from Europe, South America, Asia, Canada, and every one of our fifty states. They stood with the same wide eyes. They saved their money. They made the trip. They hoped the experience would be worth the effort. These small things echoed in my heart.

The Gospel this Sunday draws us into another journey. Joseph wrestles with fear after learning Mary carries a child not his own. He tries to act with honor. He thinks in silence. Then in the stillness of night, God interrupts him. Joseph is told to take Mary into his home. He is told this child will save the world. He wakes with clarity. He obeys and begins a road that will take them from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

I watched crowds move through a theme park and thought of those ancient travelers. People crossing hills and valleys for a census. People carrying customs, accents, and stories. Joseph and Mary walked among them. Their journey held no fireworks. No artificial snow. Only trust and quiet courage.

As this final week of Advent opens, I hope you find rest. I hope you step back long enough to let the Lord steady your heart. Christmas is near. Let us walk toward Bethlehem together.



### **ST. MARY SCHOOL 2026 CALENDARS HAVE ARRIVED!**



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 are there different seasons like  
Ordinary Time, Lent, Christmas,  
Advent, and Easter?**

### **Answer:**

The Church's seasons are like a rhythm that keeps our faith alive and moving. Ordinary Time helps us grow in steady grace. Advent teaches us to wait in hope. Christmas bursts with joy and wonder. Lent pulls us back to prayer and penance. Easter celebrates victory and renewal. Each season tunes our hearts to a different note in God's great symphony. Without them, faith could get flat and dull, like singing "Alleluia" on repeat with no breaks. God knew we'd need both quiet and celebration to stay balanced.

## ADMINISTRATION AND PARISH INFORMATION

### Pastor

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

### Parochial Vicar

Fr. Devarajulu Ubbarapu

### 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

## 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 21, 2025

Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c, 10b)/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24  
Monday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56

Tuesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66

Wednesday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79

Thursday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/  
Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 (Lk 2:11)/

Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c)/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Friday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

Saturday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

**Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 (see 1)/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23**

## 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, December 14, 2025 - Not available this week.

Sunday, December 7, 2025

Sunday Envelopes	\$7,141.00	Mass Stipend	40.00
Online Collection	1,759.57	Candles	60.00
Loose Collection	384.45	Christmas Offering	260.00
School Collection	405.00	Solemnity of Mary	25.00
Building Fund	50.00	Flower Fund	637.00
Capital Campaign	225.00		

Total Collection \$10,987.02

— — — 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 311,339

Pledges to be received over time 24,120

Donations need to reach goal \$64,191

## NAME THE CHRISTMAS CAROL

— 1. All is calm, all is bright	A. The First Noel
— 2. Down where he lay	B. O Holy Night
— 3. Peace on earth and mercy mild	C. Joy to the World
— 4. Above thy deep and dreamless sleep	D. We Three Kings
— 5. Let Earth receive her King	E. Silent Night
— 6. Star with royal beauty bright	F. O Little Town of Bethlehem
— 7. Born is the King of Israel	G. Away in a Manger
— 8. The stars are brightly shining	H. Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

## Your Prayers are needed and requested for healing

### For those living in Care Centers

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

Helen Guinzy  
JoEllen Nannie  
David & Ida Guthrie  
Barbara Francois

### Requested prayers

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

### Those away at College Those serving in the military For those in need

Dylan Huether  
Throughout the World

## 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.

*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.*



## Stockings for Soldiers Soared with Heart and Strength.

The Stockings for Soldiers effort at SMS soared this year. The response arrived with a strength that speaks well of our families. With only a day's notice, parents, parishioners, friends and students filled carts, boxes, and every spare corner with more than 2,200 donated items. The halls looked like a small army of kindness had marched through. The children beamed with a sense of purpose. The teachers stood a little taller. The whole school showed what a community does when asked to lift someone who serves far from home. This simple request became a victory for generosity and a blessing for the soldiers who will open those stockings.

## St. Mary Youth Rise Again as Devin Meier Advances to College Play.

Congratulations to Devin Meier, who signed with Kaskaskia College to play basketball in 2026. Devin stands with Jaxson, a junior, and his brother Logan, an assistant coach, after a strong Orphans victory. Their smiles tell the story. Dedication pays off. Our parish takes real pride in watching our young people rise in sports, academics, and the arts. Devin's achievement adds another bright chapter. The photo, taken by Carrie, Jaxson's mom, continues the long-standing St. Mary tradition of capturing these milestones. Well done!



## SMS Christmas Program Rock' in time!

A full house gathered for the SMS Christmas Program and the students delivered with spirit. Our youngest performers stepped onto the stage with steady voices, bright outfits, and the kind of courage that makes parents smile for days. The room warmed as each class offered music and movement. The spotlight then shifted to Junior High. They rolled out A Rock and Roll Christmas inspired by the style of the fifties. The band played with confidence. The solos came through with strength. The dancers filled the gym with energy. Every group stepped up. The faculty guided them with care. The night showed the heart of our school.





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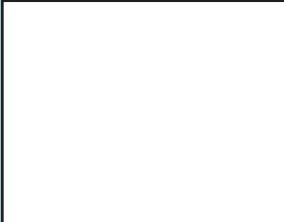
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