



SAINT MARY

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

424 E. BROADWAY, CENTRALIA, IL 62801
618-532-6291 - stmarycentralia.org

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



January 4, 2026 ♦ The Epiphany of the Lord



"Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." (Matthew 2:2)

Mass & Liturgy Schedule

Saturday, January 3, 2026

Epiphany of our Lord (Vigil)

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

† Donald & Beverly Kelly † Dr. Charles Fischer
Father Devarajulu Ubbarapu

Sunday, January 4, 2026

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

Epiphany of our Lord

† Deceased members of St. Lawrence

† Ron Clark

Father Devarajulu Ubbarapu

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

Epiphany of our Lord

† Bonnie Starr † Roy Thormond

Father Devarajulu Ubbarapu

Tuesday, January 6, 2026

8:30 a.m. at Felician Chapel

Rosary, Novena, and Exposition

Deacon Dan Laquet

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

8:30 a.m. at Felician Chapel (Class Mass)

† Dr. Jerry Beguelin † Mary Darin

Father Steve Pautler

Thursday, January 8, 2026

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

† Barb Steele † Beannie & Rita Lusch

† Joe Resch † Kaden & Mary Lyons

Father Steve Pautler

Friday, January 9, 2026

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

† Mary Darin

Father Steve Pautler

Saturday, January 10, 2026

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

The Baptism of the Lord

† Sherry Logullo † Steve Schwartz

Father Steve Pautler

Sunday, January 11, 2026

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

The Baptism of the Lord

The living and † Deceased members of St. Lawrence

† Bobby Hill

Father Steve Pautler

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

The Baptism of the Lord

The living and † Deceased members of St. Mary

† Dr. Jerry Beguelin † Roy Szatkowski

Father Steve Pautler



SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY THE BLESSING OF HOMES AND THE CHALKING OF DOORS

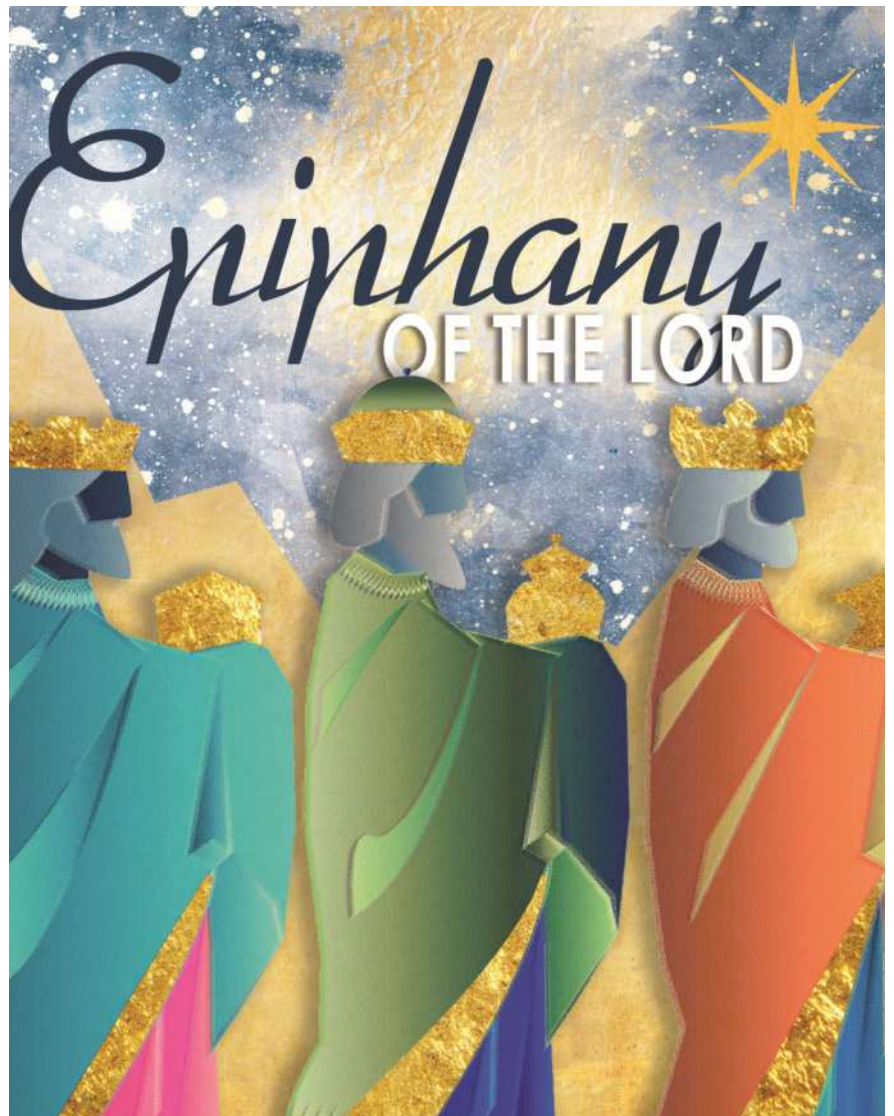


20 + C + M + B + 26

On the Solemnity of the Epiphany, you are invited to take blessed chalk home and mark your door in prayer. This simple act places Christ at the center of your home and asks his protection and peace upon all who enter. It remembers the Magi who welcomed the Lord and confessed their faith without hesitation. A marked doorway speaks quietly and firmly. This house belongs to Christ.

How to bless your house: After Epiphany Mass, take home the blessed chalk. A family member, priest or deacon traces on the door lintel: a cross (+), the current year (20+C+M+B+26 for 2026), and C+M+B (*Christus mansionem benedicat*: "May Christ bless this house"). This invokes Christ's protection via the Magi's intercession, often with children in procession and offerings for charity.

Leader: "Be present, O Lord, to your servants who dwell in this house and humbly beg your blessing, that they may feel you a refuge as they dwell in it, rejoice in your companionship as they go out from it, and enjoy you as their guest when they return, until they come happily to the home you have prepared for them in the house of your Father. Who live and reign forever and ever. **R. Amen.**"



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.

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 Corner January 4

What a wonderful Gospel account of the Magi traveling to meet the Lord. They followed the star - their "call" - to come and offer their gifts to the Lord. But the question arises as to how the Magi noticed a star at night and no one else really did. Perhaps we need to embrace the "night," the stillness, to "see and hear" our call. How are we doing in discerning our call to Holiness - in living our vocation as man, woman, or child; married or single; priesthood or religious - of being called to something beyond ourselves.

Steubenville HS Retreat July 17th - July 19th

High school youth are invited to join the Mt. Vernon group for the Steubenville Youth Conference this summer, July 17 to 19 at Missouri State University. Thanks to youth ministry funds, many students will attend with most costs covered. This weekend offers prayer, strong Catholic community, and time away to grow in faith. Space is limited. Please send names by January 24 to frthomaslugue@gmail.com

**CALENDAR WINNERS AND
MINISTER LISTS AVAILABLE
NEXT WEEK!**

JOIN MARY'S MERRY QUILTERS

MONDAY AT 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.

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 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



Keep in touch
with us via
email & text

EASY TO SIGN-UP!

TEXT: 84576

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

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

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



Diocese of Belleville

**YOUNG ADULTS
PRESENTS**

BIBLES AND BREWS

Young adults ages 21 to 35 are invited to Bibles and Brews on Wednesday, January 14, presented by the Diocese of Belleville Young Adults. Join Dcn. Eugene Logusch at Gräv Bistro and Wine Bar in Belleville for an evening of good conversation, community, and faith, with a focus on Byzantine Catholicism. Social time begins at 6:30 pm, followed by the program at 7:00 pm. Bring your curiosity and a friend.



MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

Father Steve Pautler

*"Epiphany. When the Music Stops,
and God Keeps Talking."*

Epiphany has arrived, which means Christmas ends in the most official unofficial way possible. The Kings show up, gifts in hand, and many of us think, well, that's it. Lights come down. Trees get hauled out. Somewhere in the house a box of Valentine hearts waits quietly, wherever we hid it last year.

I hope your Christmas brought rest, laughter, and time with people who matter. I enjoyed a first this year. Christmas dinner outside, gathered around a picnic table, with a s'mores fire working hard. It was seventy degrees. December felt confused. Nobody complained.

Our family adds another celebration to Christmas. My nephew Travis was born on Christmas Eve, so Jesus and Travis share the spotlight every year. Travis handles it well, which makes him easy to tease. His uncle Steve takes that responsibility seriously. Each year I look for something new. This year delivered.

I found a birthday card with a special feature. Once opened, it sings Happy Birthday. Loudly. Repeatedly. It does not pause. It does not rest. It does not forgive. The only solution involved the s'mores fire. Even then, it took time. Family laughter followed. Travis survived. Christmas memories secured.

Epiphany reminds us God often speaks after the noise settles. No crowds. No announcements. The Magi notice. They kneel. They offer what they brought. Then they leave changed, thinking differently and choosing a new direction. Epiphany invites us to do the same as the year begins. Pay attention. Give what you have. Move forward with clearer purpose.

Epiphany also marks the moment when the nonstop Christmas soundtrack finally ends. Parties wrap up. Shopping bags disappear. Next week we remember the Baptism of the Lord, and Ordinary Time begins. Life returns to its steady rhythm, faithful and familiar.

Our journey does not stop with Christmas decorations packed away. God keeps working. Grace keeps nudging. Faith keeps growing. Much like that birthday card, the message does not shut off easily. It keeps going, sometimes louder than expected, often longer than planned. The difference is this message brings life. Welcome to the new year. Keep your eyes open. God is still revealing himself. And if someone hands you a singing birthday card, head for the fire without delay.

**THANK
YOU!**

Thank you to our parishioners and friends for the beautiful Christmas gifts, phone calls, texts, personal messages, and steady love. It means so much to me. Sharing this journey together brings deep joy, and serving alongside you remains one of the great blessings of my priesthood. God bless you each day, and may His peace stay close to your homes and hearts. - Fr. Steve

Ralph and Bernice Sprehe St. Mary Parish/Kaskaskia College Scholarship Trust

Sprehe Scholarship applications are available for registered members of St. Mary Parish for the 2026-2028 Kaskaskia College Scholarships and the 2026-2027 Baccalaureate Scholarships. Baccalaureate applicants must be Kaskaskia College graduates who are attending or will be attending a four-year university. You may contact Nikki Burmester by phone: 618-367-4565 or by e-mail: sprehescholarship@gmail.com to make arrangements for receiving an application. All signed applications must be completed via Google Form and submitted no later than Tuesday, March 4, 2025. Applicants must also submit school transcripts to the above email or by mail to 1937 Dogwood Lane, Centralia, IL 62801.



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

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	Decker & Wilson Families
February 2027	Open
March 2027	Will, Loretta Pedtke, Rob, Lorene Langenfeld

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

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
February 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**

This week's question:

***Our manger scenes show three kings
front and center. When I searched the
Bible for their big entrance on Christ-
mas night, I came up empty. Where do
the Magi appear, and why do they
seem to run late?***

Answer:

*The Magi appear in Matthew chapter
two, not on Christmas night. By the time
they arrive, Jesus is living in a house,
not resting in the manger, which ex-
plains why the wise men stand off to the
side in many nativity scenes. Epiphany
celebrates seekers who take their time
and reminds us life needs quiet mo-
ments and joyful ones to stay balanced.
It tells us faith grows through showing
up and paying attention.*

ADMINISTRATION AND PARISH INFORMATION

Pastor

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

Parochial Vicar

Fr. Devarajulu Ubbarapu

Permanent Deacon

Deacon Dan Laquet | Ext. 301 | daniel.laquet@yahoo.com

Parish Receptionist

Rosamaria Villagomez | Ext. 301 | parish@stmarycentralia.org

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

Maria Pryor | Ext. 303 | mariapryor@stmarycentralia.org

Treasurer/Bookkeeper

Susan Niepoetter | Ext. 305 | sniepoetter@stmarycentralia.org

Coordinator of Religious Education

Mike Klosterman | Ext. 306 | cre@stmarycentralia.org

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

Lynn Featherling | Ext. 302 | lynn@stmarycentralia.org

Office Hours:

Tuesday - Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Closed for Lunch: 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. (Closed Monday)

Parish Phone: 618-532-6291

School Phone: 618-532-3473 **Fax:** 618-352-2010

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 January 4, 2026

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22-4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52

Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19-5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/Lk 4:14-22a

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/Jn 3:22-30

Next Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10/Acts 10:34-38/Mt 3:13-17

Observances for the week of January 4, 2026

Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord

Monday: St. John Neumann, Bishop

Tuesday: St. André Bessette, Religious

Wednesday: St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest

Thursday:

Friday:

Saturday:

Next Sunday: The Baptism of the Lord

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

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 28 and Christmas Collection available next week!

Sunday, December 21, 2025

Sunday Envelopes	\$4,453.00	Sanctuary Candle	60.00
Online Collection	1,598.07	For the Needy	27.00
Loose Collection	425.00	Christmas Offering	265.00
School Collection	980.00	Solemnity of Mary	50.00
Building Fund	-0-	Flower Fund	45.00
Capital Campaign	560.00		

Total Collection \$ 8,463.07

— — — Capital Campaign — — —
Harvest of Blessings: Sowing Seeds for Tomorrow
To give: stmarycentralia.org or contact Father Steve

Total Campaign Pledges	\$336,809
Total pledges received	313,369
Pledges to be received over time	23,440
Donations need to reach goal	\$63,191

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COLLEGE III
ST. MARY MAGDALEN, TODD'S HILL



GRANT FENDER
COLLEGE I
ST. CLARE, N'FALLON

Your Prayers are needed and requested for healing

For those living in Care Centers

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
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.



A Church Full of Joy, Children, Families, and Faith at Christmas.

Christmas Eve at the parish drew a standing room only congregation, a joyful mix of children, families, and longtime parishioners gathered to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Voices of every age filled the church in song and praise, creating a scene both reverent and warm. During the homily, the children were invited forward and the story The First Christmas Night was shared, with altar servers reading different parts and bringing the telling to life. Inspired by the familiar rhythm of The Night Before Christmas, the story spoke clearly of love and light entering the world. At the conclusion of Mass, the children brought forward their gifts to God and were met with grateful smiles and a sweet treat. All Christmas Masses were well attended, and the parish extends sincere thanks to parishioners, visiting family members, and friends who came together to celebrate the greatest gift given to humanity.



Purrs from the Pew, Sister Fluff of Divine Mischief

Happy New Year from me, Sister Fluff. Professional napper. Guardian of the PreK3 classroom.

Happy New Year from me, Sister Fluff. I was asleep on the window ledge in the PreK3 classroom, the warm spot near the secret treats, when boom and bang shook my whiskers and rattled my nap. I sprang into action, grabbed a rosary with my tiny teeth, and prayed with deep focus because loud noises deserve serious prayer. For a moment I thought angels were bowling in the sky, then I learned it was New Year's Eve and big and small humans celebrate with bright, noisy colors, the same ones I once watched at Disney World while remaining unimpressed. After a few prayers, a stretch, and a judgmental stare out the window, I went back to sleep dreaming of catnip, shiny shoes left unattended, and a school free of mysterious crumbs. When morning arrived, I spotted the calendar with a bold circle around January 5, which means the little humans return to my classroom, my chairs, my rugs, and my personal walking paths. I paused, reflected, and accepted my vocation. The little humans laugh loudly, drop snacks generously, and attempt to catch me with slow hands. I hide under tables, dash behind shelves, and supervise all activities with holy seriousness. I sit near the cross, nap during quiet prayer time, and listen closely during stories about Jesus, who seems very kind and probably likes cats. I patrol the room like a tiny guardian and keep order through presence alone. Break time ends soon, little humans. Sister Fluff remains alert, fluffy, prayerful, and fully in charge! Happy New Year! **Sister Fluff, F.D.M. Feline of Divine Mischief**





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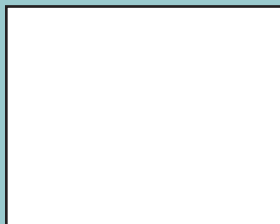
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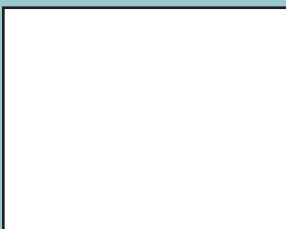
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