

1857 SESQUICENTENNIAL 2007

# St. Mary's Catholic Church

Centralia, Illinois



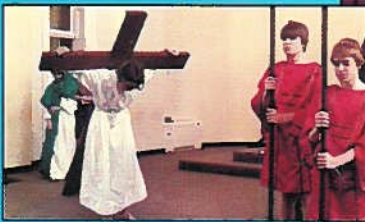




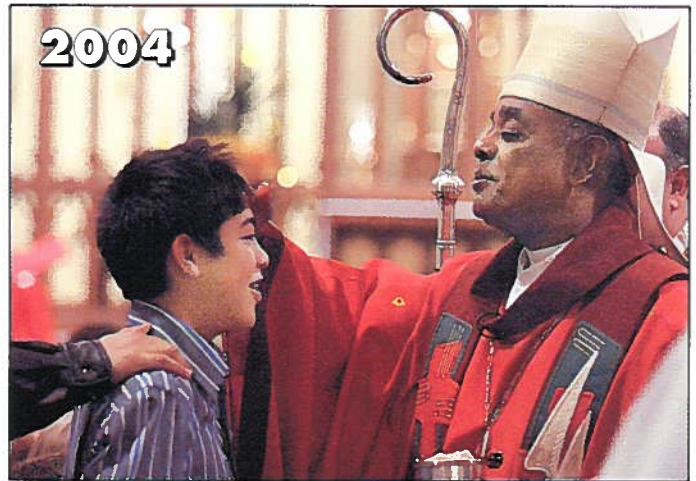
Students from St. Mary's presented the Living Stations of the Cross. Participants include Jayson Bauer, LEFT, as Simon and Steven Breeze as Jesus.

# 1984

Participants also include, IN THE PHOTO BELOW, Wes Monken and Jed Richardson as Roman soldiers



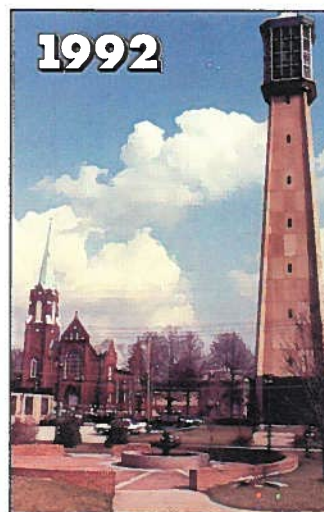
The cast also includes Jenny Weldman (Mary), Kenny Ludwa (John), Keith Gebke (Pontius Pilate), Nick Schwartz (Pilate's servant), Jenny Beaty (Veronica), Sarah Bell, Tracy Hutchison and Joan Grabowski (women of Jerusalem), and Michelle Berry and Robbie Harris (narrators).



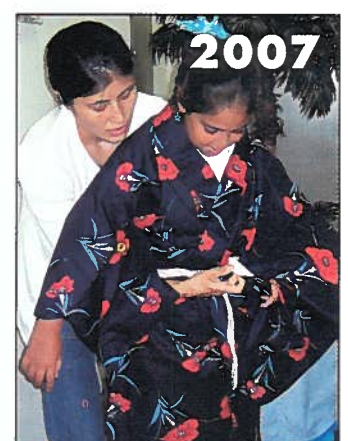
Talman Stedelin is anointed with chrism by the Most Rev. Wilton D. Gregory during the Sacrament of Confirmation held Nov. 10, 2004 at St. Mary's Church in Centralia.



Father A.B. Schomaker baptizes infant Jan Aydt as proud parents Harold and Phyllis Aydt look on.



Summer view of St. Mary's and her towering neighbor.



Atsuko Iida from Japan assists Micaela Maco in trying on a kimono during Vacation Bible School.





**1990s**  
 Danny Darin is dressed as jolly ol' St. Nicholas as he passes out treats.



**1982**

Elizabeth Kelly submitted this photo, ABOVE, of her son, Steven, and his friend Matt walking past the church during the big snow in February 1982. Elizabeth wrote that Steven "is married now and has three children and fighting cancer."

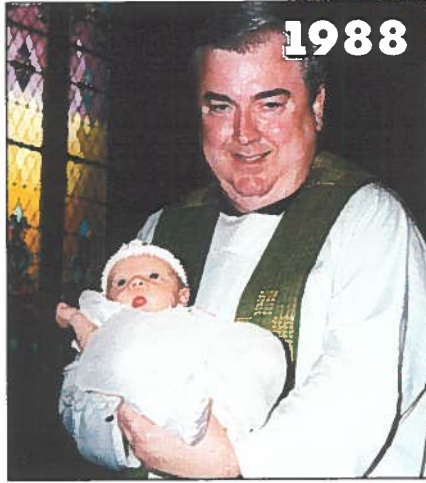
Father James Dougherty holds Annamarie Gherardini-Pas at her Baptism on May 2, 1998; at FAR LEFT, she can be seen during her first Holy Communion, 2006.



Pete Donnelly Jr. and sister Pamela, outside St. Mary Church.



**2006**



**1988**



**1979**

The First Communion Class of 1979 includes, from left, FRONT ROW, Rusten Upchurch, Francis Isidoro, Tim Boling, Daniel Fischer, Amanda Stites, Sheri Gubbel, Debra Ruvelish, Denise Hanning, Juli Schwartz, Renae Guthrie, Shannon Greene, Kelly Chambers, Wendy Mount, Moureen Grundman, Jennifer Eckhardt, Lori Profancik. SECOND ROW: Greg Harris, John Schwartz, Scott Eckhardt, Christie Connelly, Monica Tomaszewski, Kelly Loepp, Leena Cornell, Bridget Somers, Jennifer Francois, Staci Ward, Gretchen Vonderheide, Daniel Lyons, Mike Donoho and Jeremiah Pate. THIRD ROW: Chad Snyder, Louis Hernandez, Greg Savage, Mario Hodge, Shannon Alton, Jason Kuberski, Nancy Lackey, Andrew Wilson, Steve Kelly and Paul Rusiewski. BACK ROW: Sister Mary Agnese, Rev. Patrick Peter, Rev. Gerald Miriani, Jean Ferrari.





Above is the earliest known color photograph from St. Mary's history. It shows the sanctuary as it appeared in 1953 before renovations that began the following year.



St. Mary School Graduation



Theresa Hacker, auction co-chair, poses with 'friend.'



Rita Vaccaro  
May Queen 1978



Members of the confirmation class of 1987 were, FRONT ROW, from left: Tena Altadonna, Tammy Nolte, Michael White, Alan Sanders, Denise Hannig, Bishop James P. Keleher, Aileen Isidoro, Chris Craney, Jennifer Littell and Melissa Starr; SECOND ROW, from left: Tammy Tabor, Sara Pierceall, Shannon Greene, Wendy Mount, Doug Merrell, Scott McCullough, Michael Zibby, Corey Miller, Lynn Ann Waggoner, Melissa McDaniel Schwartz, April Ray and Lori Profancik; THIRD ROW, from left: Renee Guthrie, Christopher Durian, Deborah Rulevish, Jennifer Francois, Jim Francois, Matt Berry, Jason Kuberski, Joe Reincke, Greg Essenpreis, Stay Tyska, Tammy Leeman, Scott Marckley and Lynn Elliston; BACK ROW, from left: Jeanna Wooden, Laura Pickett, Cheryl Jones, Monica Tomaszewski, Matthew Lackey, Steven Kelly, Nancy Lackey, John Schwartz, Paul Rusieswski, Shannon Altadonna, Gretchen Vonderheide, Bridget Somers and Christie Connelly.



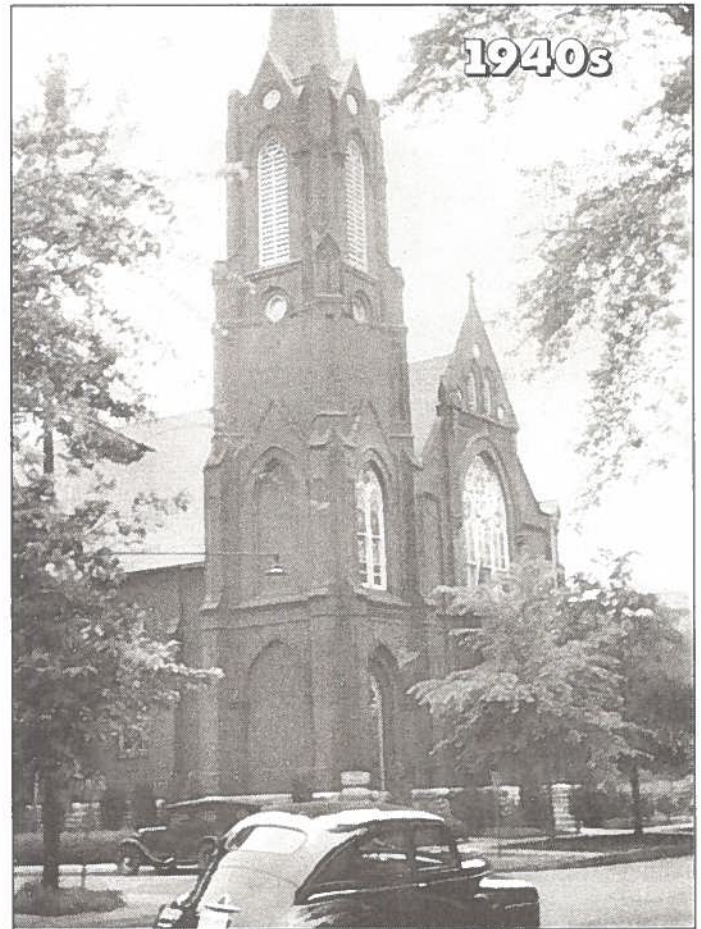
# ST. MARY'S PARISH: 1857-2007

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Priests of the Parish .....	6
History of the Parish .....	10
History of the School .....	17
St. Mary's Hospital .....	20
Catholic Daughters of America .....	22
Altar Society .....	23
Knights of Columbus .....	25
Calvary Cemetery .....	27
History of the Belleville Diocese .....	28
The Early Years .....	29
Decade of the 1940s .....	32
No. 5 Mine Disaster .....	38
Decade of the 1950s .....	40
Decade of the 1960s .....	58
Kennedy Assassination .....	66
Decade of the 1970s .....	74
May Fete .....	84
Decade of the 1980s .....	85
James S. Brady .....	88
Decade of the 1990s .....	98
School Plays .....	104
Decade of the 2000s .....	106

### Acknowledgements

St. Mary's parish would like to thank all those who submitted photos and recollections for this publication. Special thanks also go out to the following contributors: Gary Altenbaumer, David Darin, Mary Ashby, Phyllis Aydt, Toni DeBernardi, Pete Donnelly, Betty Flanders, Bee Garnier, Conchitta Grabowski, Nancy James, Sister Annette Kaba, Mrs. Anthony Kaney, Elizabeth Kelly, Margaret Loomis, Dolores Mabry, Louise Marcum, JoDene Nall, Sue Gherardini-Pas, Yvonne Rusiewski, Becky Russell, Anne Carl Schwartz, Pauline Schwartz, Josephine Smith, Fay Vaccaro, Melody McGuire Vezzoso, Patricia Williams, Marie Wilkinson, Marilyn Wilkinson, Joannetta Wood.



A very special thanks is extended to...

### MERCEDES CAMPBELL

...and her family. For four decades, Mercedes kept scrapbooks on the life of the Centralia community and in particular, St. Mary's church. This extensive collection has led to the bulk of the photos found within these pages, many of them retrieved from the negative archives of the Centralia Sentinel.



1950



2007



# PASTORS OF OUR PARISH

## PASTORS WHO HAVE SERVED OUR PARISH:

Rev. Rudolph Heimerling	1857-1959
Rev. Thomas Cusak	1859-1862
Rev. John Vahey	1863
Rev. John Mark	1863-1865
Rev. Thomas Walsh	1865-1867
Rev. G. Mockenhaupt	1867-1868
Rev. Charles Klocke	1868
Rev. P. Maly	1868-1869
Rev. Theodore Wegmann	1869-1871
Rev. Jacob Stremmer	1872
Rev. J. Stick	1872
Rev. Herman Hegemann	1872-1876
Rev. James Eckerle	1876-1881
Rev. Philip Becker	1881-1896
Rev. Otto Meier	1896-1902
Rev. John H. Bruns	1902-1919
Rev. Emil M. Chuse	1919-1922
Rev. C.J. Eschmann	1922-1924
Rev. George Lohman	1924-1932
Rev. Eugene Fix	1932-1953
Rev. Fred M. Halbig	1953-1956
Rev. A.B. Schomaker	1956-1969
Rev. J. Ralph Arnold	1969-1972
Rev. Dennis F. Voss	1972-1977
Rev. Gerald C. Miriani	1977-1988
Rev. Jim Dougherty	1988-1998
Rev. David M. Darin	1998-2007
Rev. Michael Mbonu	2007-present
Rev. Justin Olisaemeka	2007-present



### Fr. Charles Klocke

The only priest stationed on the Illinois Central Railroad from Effingham to Cairo, he attended the missions of Pinckneyville, DeSoto, Dubois, Radom, Centralia, Odin and Sandoval, he preached in German and English. He served St. Mary's from August 2 until November 15, 1868.



### Fr. Philip Becker

Born in Jacksonville, Ill., on May 15, 1856, he was assigned to St. Mary's parish following his ordination on July 29, 1881 by Bishop Joseph Baltes. He was described in one account as a "forcible and eloquent speaker, an extensive reader and a close observer." He served St. Mary's parish from September 25, 1881 until January 26, 1896. See page 29.

### Fr. Otto Meier

Served St. Mary's from April 6, 1896 until Aug. 18, 1903. One parishioner described him as "warm-hearted, lovable and devout, a hard worker and a very practical economist."



## Parish MEMORIES

**F**ranks Francois graduated from St. Mary's School in about 1899. Frank and Phoebe had six children, all of whom attended and graduated from St. Mary's and were also married there. Of their 20 grandchildren, 12 graduated from St. Mary's. Five great-grandchildren have graduated from St. Mary's and at present there is one great-great-grandchild attending St. Mary's. Two great-grandchildren were married at the church. Dean and Kathryn celebrated their 60th anniversary at St. Mary's ... what a happy time. Our collective memories of St. Mary's was and is a place of memories, some sad, but mostly happy occasions of our Catholic faith, recalls Mrs. Francois.

## The following priests have served St. Mary's as assistant pastors:

Rev. Frank Kaiser  
Rev. Francis Hodapp  
Rev. W. E. Hanagan  
Rev. H.J. Freese  
Rev. Charley Havey  
Rev. Vincent Tikuisis  
Rev. Joseph Pico  
Rev. Thomas Driscoll

Rev. A.B. Schomaker  
Rev. John O'Keefe  
Rev. John S. Walsh  
Rev. Joseph B. Stenger  
Rev. Joseph Strzelac  
Rev. Victor Sulkowski  
Rev. Michael Podrasky  
Rev. Stephen J. Boros

Rev. Leonard S. Goewert  
Rev. Charles R. Kribs  
Rev. Robert G. Wesselmann  
Rev. Edward J. Ratermann  
Rev. Ronald Glennon  
Rev. Barry Jones  
Rev. Raymond C. Orlet  
Rev. John J. Vogt

Rev. Donald Cismowski  
Rev. James Blazine  
Rev. Robert Gore  
Rev. James Dougherty  
Rev. Edward Schaefer  
Rev. Patrick Peter  
Rev. David Braun  
Rev. Stephen Rudolph



**Fr. John H. Brun**

Fr. Brun was born near Borken, Prussia, on June 30, 1870. In the days of his boyhood, his parents and the rest of the family emigrated to America, and settled near Pinckneyville, Perry County, Ill. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 16, 1895. For eight years he was assistant at the Cathedral in Belleville, before coming to Centralia. Father Brun was instrumental in realizing a longtime vision of establishing a hospital in Centralia. Served from Aug. 23, 1903 until Oct. 12, 1919. "Charity loves man for God's sake," Fr. Brun once said. "Charity tells us to see in our neighbor, the child of God. Hence, if we love the Father, we must also love His children. Charity is universal, not national, racial, or sectarian."

**Fr. Emil M. Chuse**

When war was first declared in April 1917, the National Catholic War Council was formed "in order to promote spiritual and temporal well-being for the men in the armed forces." To do this, it provided chaplains. Among those serving from the Belleville diocese was Fr. Emil Michael Chuse, who would serve St. Mary's in Centralia from Nov. 2, 1919 until April 6, 1922.

**Fr. Eugene Fix**

Fr. Fix was born at Belleville, the son of Joseph and Theresa (Zimmerman) Fix. He graduated from Quincy College and Kendrick Seminary in St. Louis. He was ordained in Belleville on Dec. 21, 1918, by the Most Rev. Henry Althoff, D.D., Bishop of Belleville.

He came to Centralia on June 23, 1932, as pastor of St. Mary's. Before coming to Centralia, he was assistant pastor at St. Dominick's Church in Breese, pastor of St. Henry's Church in East St. Louis, pastor of St. Leo's Church in Modoc and St. Mary's Church in Harrisburg.

Rev. Father Fix was a fourth degree Knight of Columbus, secretary of the Aviston Deanery Conference and past secretary of the clergy aid.

Father Fix observed his 25th year in the ministry in 1944 and was honored at a silver anniversary Solemn High Mass on Jan. 5 that year at the church. He was also honored at a banquet attended by about 50 priests of the area.

Fr. Fix died June 9, 1953, still officially the pastor of St. Mary's, although he had been in failing health for about 2 years. He was survived at the time of his death by his mother and a brother, Hugo Fix of Belleville.

**Fr. Fred M. Halbig**

Fr. Halbig was the son of Bernard and Mary Halbig and was born at Mt. Carmel on Sept. 3, 1906. He attended St. Mary's parochial school there and attended high school and college at Jasper College and St. Meinrad Preparatory Seminary. He studied philosophy and theology at Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis.

Fr. Halbig was ordained by the Most Rev. Henry Althoff, D.D., on June 7, 1931, at St. Peter's Cathedral in Belleville. He said his first Mass at St. Mary's Church, Mt. Carmel. Fr. Halbig served as assistant professor at four churches early in his career, St. Elizabeth's, St. Patrick's and Sacred Heart, all in East St. Louis, and St. Luke's in Belleville.

For a brief time he was administrator of St. Francis Church in Carbondale and then was appointed pastor of St. Patrick's Church in Enfield in 1936. He was there until 1941, when he became a chaplain of the Civilian Conservation Corps in the sixth corps area of Southern Illinois for five months. He became pastor of St. Ann's Parish in Nashville before assignment to St. Mary's in August of 1953, following the death of Fr. Fix Aug. 8, 1956.

On April 1, 1956, Fr. Halbig celebrated his silver jubilee as a priest. Shortly afterward, he departed on a trip through several European countries. When he returned he was ill and for a time was hospitalized at East St. Louis, where he underwent an operation. Only 49 years of age, he departed this life on Aug. 7, 1956, at St. Mary's Hospital.

**Fr. Alphonse Bernard Schomaker**

Born the son of Martin and Theresa (Brockhoff) Schomaker of Damiansville, he was educated at St. Meinrad Preparatory Seminary at St. Meinrad, Ind., and Kenrick Seminary Webster Groves, Mo. He was ordained to the priesthood by the Most Rev. Henry J. Althoff in St. Peter's Cathedral in Belleville on June 10, 1934. He served as assistant pastor at St. Mary's and was later assigned to the parish as full time pastor following Fr. Halbig's death in August 1956. Fr. Schomaker served the parish until his death in 1969.

*See more on Fr. Schomaker on pages 54 and 71.*

**Fr. J. Ralph Arnold**

Father Arnold served St. Mary's parish from 1969 until 1974.







### Fr. Dennis F. Voss

Fr. Voss was born May 30, 1938 in Germantown, son of Lawrence B. and Marie (Schomaker) Voss. He attended St. Boniface Grade School in Germantown and St. Henrys Preparatory Seminary in Belleville. He went on to study at St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 16, 1964 at St. Boniface Church in Germantown.

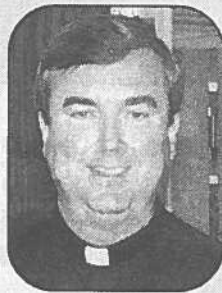
### Fr. Gerald C. Miriani

Fr. Gerald C. Miriani celebrated 25 years of priesthood in 1987. He was ordained on June 2, 1962, by Bishop Albert R. Zuroweste at St. Peter Cathedral in Belleville. Fr. Miriani was born in Herrin on March 7, 1935, the only child of Lena and Mike Miriani.



Fr. Miriani spent one year at St. Henry's Preparatory Seminary studying Latin and Greek and then entered the major seminary at St. Meinrad Archabbey, St. Meinrad, Ind. After finishing his undergraduate work in philosophy and secondary education, he continued for four additional years of Theological Studies at St. Meinrad Seminary.

After ordination, he served as associate pastor of St. Patrick's Church in East St. Louis, St. Cyril in Edgemont and St. Teresa in Belleville. During these years as associate pastor, he also served as a part-time instructor at St. Theresa Academy in East St. Louis and Notre Dame High Academy and Althoff High School in Belleville. He then returned to St. Meinrad for further studies and began to work full time at Gibault in Waterloo. From Waterloo, he moved to Mater Dei High School in Breese, where he worked for eight years, until 1977 when he came to Centralia to serve as pastor of St. Mary's. He served here until 1988.



### Fr. James Dougherty

Born in Cairo, Illinois, Oct. 8, 1942, the son of John and Stephanie (Flamm) Dougherty, Fr. Dougherty studied at St. Henry Seminary, Belleville, and at St. Meinrad Seminary in Indiana. He was ordained June 1, 1968. Among his career duties, he has served as associate

pastor at St. Joseph in Olney and Holy Childhood in Mascoutah; chaplain of St. Joseph Hospital Murphysboro, St. Mary's Hospital in Centralia; pastor of St. Edward's in Fairfield, St. Joseph in Lebanon, and is currently at St. Mary in Trenton. He served as assistant pastor at St. Mary's Church in Centralia and chaplain at the hospital from 1973 to 1975. He later served as the full time pastor of St. Mary's from 1988 until 1998. Many parishioners fondly recall Fr. Dougherty and his mother from their years here.

### Fr. David Darin

Fr. David Darin, a native Centralian, was assigned as the new pastor at St. Mary's Catholic Church in July, 1998.

The son of Danny and Mary Darin of Centralia, he is a 1978 graduate of St. Mary's School, a 1982 graduate of Centralia High School, a 1984 graduate of Kaskaskia College, a 1986 graduate of College of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn., earning a bachelor of arts in communications degree, and a 1991 graduate of the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, earning a master of divinity.

Before attending the University of St. Mary of the Lake, he took a year off from school and worked for his parents at their family restaurant, Pinky's in Central City.

His first assignment was assistant pastor at St. Peter's Cathedral in Belleville, where he served for four years. He next was pastor at St. Agatha in New Athens for three years before being assigned to the Centralia parish.

Darin succeeded Fr. James Dougherty, who was pastor of St. Mary's when Darin celebrated his first Mass as a priest on June 2, 1991, the day after he was ordained in Belleville.

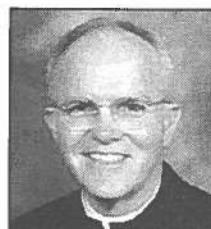
Darin spearheaded the many activities surrounding the parish's sesquicentennial observation before being assigned as pastor of St. Luke and St. Teresa parishes in Belleville in July 2007.



### Some assistant pastors of St. Mary's:



Fr. James Blazine



Fr. David Braun



Fr. L. S. Goewert



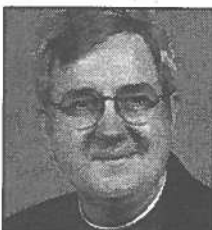
Fr. Robert Gore



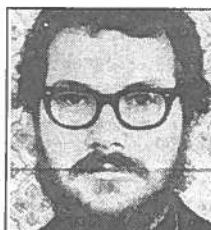
Fr. Raymond Orlet



Fr. Mike Podrasky



Fr. S. Rudolphi



Fr. Ed Schaefer



Fr. John Vogt





### Fr. Michael Mboru

The Rev. Fr. Michael Mboru was born on April 10, 1965, to the family of Lawrence and Cecilia Mbonu of Awka-Etiti in Idemili L.G.A of Anambra State. He entered seminary and was ordained on July 15, 1995, by Most Rev Dr Albert Kanene Obiefuna, then Archbishop of Onitsha. His brother priest, Fr. Justin, is from the same diocese in Nigeria.



### Fr. Justin Olisaemeka

The Rev. Fr. Justin Obunike Olisaemeka was born on July 15, 1972, to the family of Frederick and Veronica Olisaemeka in Anambra State, Nigeria, Africa. He entered seminary at the age of 12 and was ordained a Catholic Priest for the Archdiocese of Onitsha, Nigeria, on Aug. 4, 2001. He left seminary work for mission work in the United States in May of 2007.

## Vocations

Vocations to the Priesthood and religious life are a sign of a vigorous Catholic life in a parish. In St. Mary's first 150 years, God extended His choicest blessings to the following native sons and daughters.

#### Sons of the Parish:

- Rev. Robert R. Boyle, Society of Jesus, ordained 1950.
- Rev. Thomas W. Parrott, Con-

gregation of Missions, ordained 1950.

- Rev. Joseph C. Hays, ordained 1951.

● Brother Camilus Pollock, Congregation of the Adorers of the Most Precious Blood.

- Rev. James Nall, ordained 1986.

- Rev. David Darin, ordained 1991.

#### Daughters of the Parish in Religious Life:

- Sister Berthulda Garnier, Poor Handmaid, professed in 1894

- Sister Amelia Garnier, Poor Handmaid, professed in 1894

- Sister Dolores Atkinson, Poor Handmaid, professed in 1913

- Sister Antonella Tillman, Poor Handmaid, professed in 1914

- Sister Godoleva Klein, Poor Handmaid, professed in 1915

- Sister Mary Paul Foley, Ursuline, professed in 1916

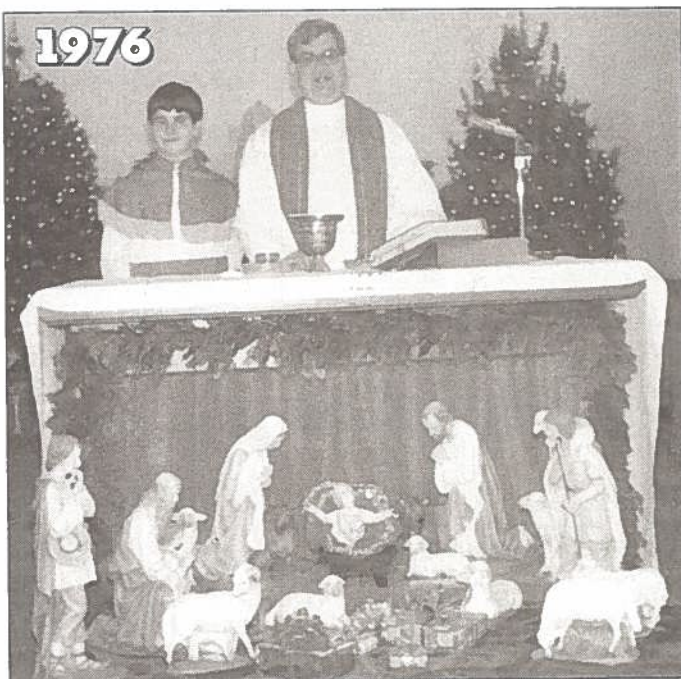
- Sister Stephen Brueggemann, Poor Handmaid, professed in 1949

- Sister Antonette Feldhake, Dominican, professed in 1952

- Sister Raineldis Addison, Felician, professed in 1953



Father David Darin is joined by the servers at his first Mass at St. Mary's in 1991.



David Darin & Father Voss — 1976



David Darin is joined by Sister Geraldine, Sister Cecilia and Sister Claudine at his 1978 graduation from St. Mary School.



# HISTORY OF ST. MARY'S PARISH

In the decade prior to this nation's great Civil War, the Illinois Central Railroad cut a path through the Prairie State and in doing so, founded and named the town of Centralia in 1853.

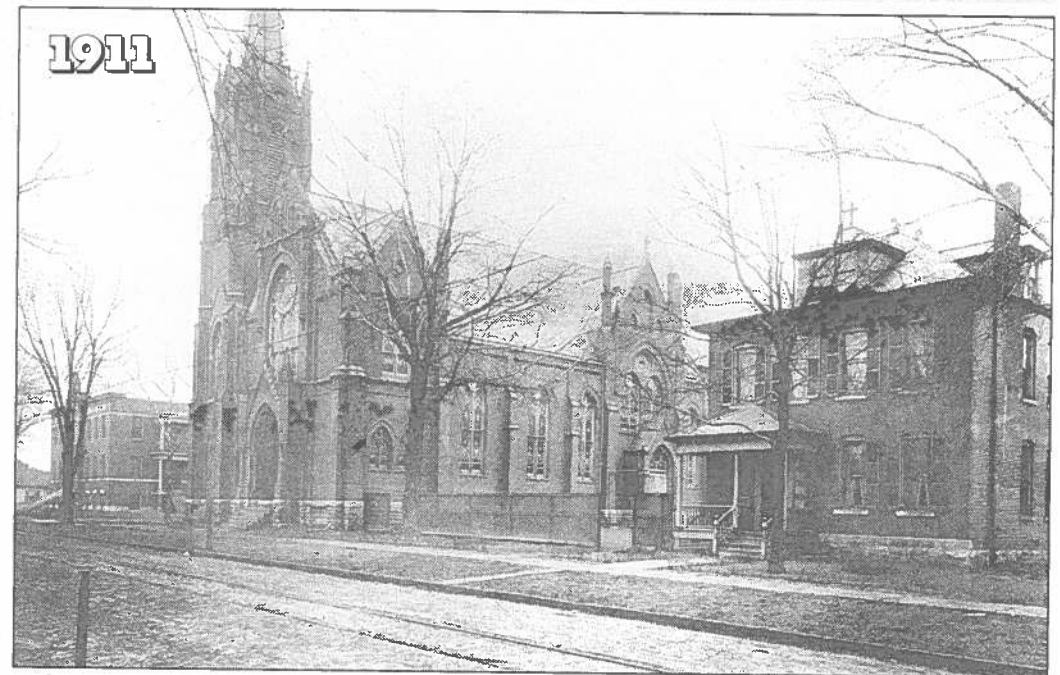
Scattered among the settlers brought here by the Illinois Central construction was a group of Catholics. Because of their small number, the spiritual needs of this infant flock were ministered by visiting priests, and not by a resident pastor. From extant record we find that prominent among these early missionary priests was Father Rudolph Heimerling, who made regular trips from nearby Shoal Creek, now Germantown, to minister to the needs of Centralia's Catholics. It was he who later became the first resident priest in Centralia.

Familiar to many present day members of our parish are the names of the early Catholic immigrants who followed the construction of the railroad. Among others, the following were the early Catholic settlers in our city — Thomas Cummings,

**The original church cost nearly \$1,000 and could seat about 100 people.**

Daniel Delaney, Frank Dowd, Joseph Doyle, Martin Dwyer, John Jacob Egger, Jacob Garnier, Michael Gleeson, John Graney, William Green, Thomas Green, Sam Thompson, Thomas Whalen, Fredolin Spinner, Terrance Byrnes, Wm. Casson, Jacob Oswald, Nicholas Scheriger, Dennis Driscoll, Thomas Dougherty, Henry Vogt, Wendelin Spinner, Andrew Schoening, John Kaney, Henry Merkel, John Pendergrast, John Zick, Conrad Bills, John Hold, Edward O'Conner, John Marsh, Joseph Friant, Louis Thouveneau and John Hediger.

Since there was no Catholic Church in Centralia during these early years, Father Heimerling



**St. Mary's Catholic Church as it appeared circa 1911.**

celebrated Holy Mass in the homes of the native Catholics. Records show that the Holy Sacrifice was frequently offered in the homes of William Green in nearly Central City and in the home of John Graney in Centralia.

During the administration of Father Heimerling, lots 9 and 10 in block 17 of the Original Town of Centralia were acquired. The first Church, a simple frame structure, was built on lot number 9 and was dedicated to Our Lady under the title of the Assumption. It was this church which for many years served the needs of the faithful of Centralia and Central City. It had a seating capacity of 100, and stood on the site where the rectory later stood for many years. The cost of the building was about \$1,000. To this original structure a belfry was added in 1879. This modest building also served as a school for the parish from 1892 to 1899, when it was sold.

The site of the present church, lot number 10, became parish property in 1859. As the parish grew in size, more parochial property became imperative. Accordingly, lots number 1,

2, 3 and 4 on the east side of the same block were acquired. They are occupied by the school, convent, playground and rental property today (1957). Lot number 8 was also acquired and is at present occupied by the custodian's home.

On the east side of block 17, St. Mary's hold title to all lots with the exception of lot 45. All of these are now devoted to the school, recreational facilities and the Sisters' home.

The first recorded baptism is that of Sophie Reinhardt on Oct. 5, 1857, administered by Father Heimerling. The first death in the parish occurred on Dec. 27, 1857. The first recorded marriage was that of Matthew O'Brien and Anna Mason on Aug. 16, 1858.

It was not long, however, before the original church provided inadequate. The steadily growing parish demanded better and larger facilities. On Sept. 28, 1896,

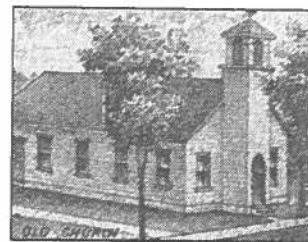
during the pastorate of Father Phillip J. Becker, the cornerstone for the new church was laid. The humble frame church, which had served the parish so faithfully for so many years, now gave way to an imposing brick church better suited to the needs of the expanding parish. The new gothic structure measured 111 by 41 feet. It accommodated some 400 parishioners and was constructed for about \$30,000.

The debt incurred by the necessity of the new church

weighed heavily on the struggling parish. However, through the zealous and tireless efforts of Father Otto Meier, who served St. Mary's as pastor from 1896 to 1903, the

parish debt was greatly reduced.

Under the stewardship of Father John Bruns, a steam heating plant was installed in 1905. The interior was frescoed, new side altars and pews were added in

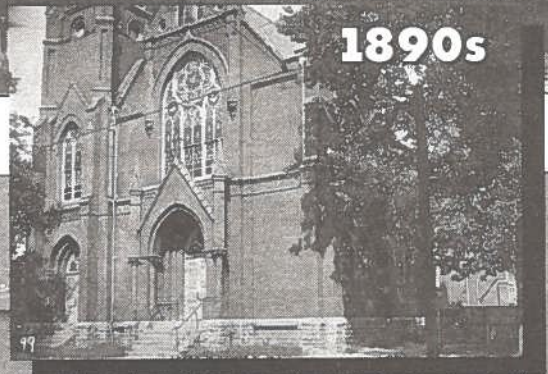


**Sketch of first church as seen in the late 1850s.**





Earliest view of the Interior of the church (pre-1940).



1890s



This photo shows Fr. Otto Meier with the school children of the 1896/97 school year.



1907. Finally, a new pipe organ was obtained for about \$1,500 in 1916.

An assistant pastor was appointed to Centralia when the hospital facilities were enlarged during the pastorate of Father Chuse and Eschmann. He also assumed responsibility of the two missions of Salem and Kinmundy, which were attached to St. Mary's. These missions were cared for by Centralia's assistant pastors until 1940, when the first resident pastor was appointed to Salem, who then assumed the care of the mission at Kinmundy.

**The oil boom of the 1940s brought another wave of parishioners to the church.**

A significant note in our history is that many early members of St. Mary's parish were immigrants. The flourishing mining industry was especially instrumental in bringing many Italians, Polish, Lithuanian and other European nationalities to our area. They settled, to a great extent, in Glenridge, then a part of our parish, and in Wamac.

Influential, too, on the history of St. Mary's Parish was the discovery of oil in and around Centralia. Oil was first produced in our midst in commercial quantities in 1936, and hit its peak in 1941-42. The oil industry brought many people to Centralia, from virtually every state in the union, but especially from the South and Southwestern part of the country. Among them were many fine Catholics who swelled the membership of our parish. Many are still among us today.

Dear to the heart of the faithful of St. Mary's is their love and devotion to the Blessed Mother. Ever mindful of her powerful intercession before the throne of her divine Son, it is a common and pleasing experience to see them kneel before her image.

Their loyal devotion to Mary culminated in the inauguration of the devotion to Our Mother of Per-



This photo from 1907 is the earliest confirmation photograph to have surfaced from St. Mary parish's 150 years of service to the Catholic community of Centralia.



This photo shows Fr. John H. Brunns with the altar boys of the day.





This undated photo from the pastorate of Rev. John H. Brun (1902-1919), shows students from St. Mary's school. Elizabeth Kaney is standing next to Fr. Brun in the photo.



Rolland Kaney's First Communion Class from 1923 is joined by the parish priest. Rolland is in the fourth row, third from right. The photo also includes John D. Freeman, fourth row, second from left; Mazine Heick, first row, second from left; Mary Haggarty, second row, first on left; Ralph Degaspere, third row, third from right; Tom Maloney, third row, fourth from right; Grover Humbles, fourth row, fourth from right; and Stip Remacle, fourth row, second from right.

-petual Help. This devotion was established at St. Mary's by Father Emil Chuse, who placed the first shrine in her honor in the Church in fulfillment of a promise made to Mary while he was serving as a chaplain in the Army with the American Expeditionary Force. We pray that this year of sesquicentennial will inspire all to rededicate their lives to Our Heavenly Mother whose patronage we joyfully claim.

After nearly half a century of service, the church began to show the ravages of time. The first renovation was carried out the genial Father Eugene Fix. Among the many extensive improvements made by him were the complete water proofing of the church's exterior, and the replacing of the slate shingles of the lofty and beautiful spire of the church with copper sheathing. He also refurbished the interior, enlarged the sanctuary, remodeled the altars and put in padded kneelers for the comfort of the people.

When Father Fred Halbig was named pastor of St. Mary's in 1953, the church was again in need of extensive repair. Therefore, he immediately undertook the task of renovating the church and rectory. Because of the ever increasing needs of the parish, the balcony of the church was extended to provide additional seating facilities.

**Father Emil Chuse served as a U.S. Army chaplain during World War I.**

New pews were obtained; the old altars were replaced; new lighting was installed; and the entire interior of the church was refinished and redecorated in attractive colors. And hidden away in the basement of the church, making its presence felt only in the cold of winter and the heat of summer, is the new heating plant and an air conditioning system capable of producing the comfort of a 100-ton unit. This renovated edifice stands today as a



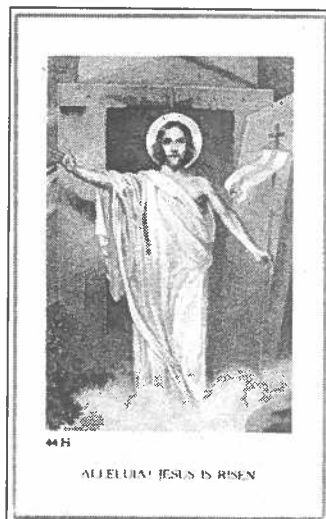


Photo above shows Fr. John H. Brunson with the confirmation class of 1914.

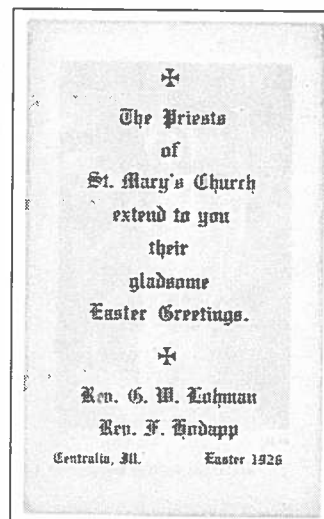
living memorial to the loyalty and cooperation of her faithful.

The rectory, too, was completely remodeled. In 1951, Father Fix initiated the work, adding additional facilities to the old building. Father Halbig completed the entire work of renovation in 1956.

During the pastoral care of Father Fred Halbig, 1953 to 1956, more renovations took place. Because of the need for additional seating, the balcony of the church was extended. This also allowed the organ to be expanded. New pews were given by the Knights of Columbus Council. A new main altar and side altars were a gift from the parish Altar Society. New lighting in the Gothic theme was installed, a gift from the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court. The entire interior of the church was redecorated. The most outstanding addition to the structure of the church was the large art glass window



over the entrance depicting Our Lady of the Assumption. All other art glass windows were re-leaded and reinforced. Large murals were affixed to the walls above the side altars and in the baptistery. A new staircase to the balcony was constructed, which provided easier access. And hidden



away in the basement of the church, a new gas fuel heating system and a 100-ton air conditioning unit was installed, making St. Mary's the first air conditioned church in the Diocese. The cost of all this renovation was approximately \$80,000, or almost three times the original cost of the church

building. These new heating and air conditioning units would serve their purpose for almost 30 years, being replaced in 1992 for a cost of \$100,000.

Thirty years would pass without any more major renovations, but in 1983, during the pastorate of Father Gerald Miriani, the church was again extensively remodeled. A new parquet floor was installed in the sanctuary and the side pews were removed from the sanctuary area. The existing altar and pulpit were reworked with matching wood trim and the tabernacle was placed along the back. Some of the most distinguishing additions to the interior were the construction of a wooden screen separating the tabernacle area from the altar, the addition of wood molding around the side entrances and the back wall of etched glass, creating an entrance area to the church, where the baptismal font and East-



er candle are placed. Eugene Becker created the Easter candle holder and the Cross which is suspended from the sanctuary ceiling by cables. The organ console was moved to the south sanctuary area and a grand piano would later be added to the north sanctuary area. The church was rededicated by Bishop Keleher on Oct. 5, 1986.

Under the pastorate of Father Jim Dougherty, 1988-1998, the parish purchased the Savings and Loan building in 1990, located at 400 E. Broadway, and renovated it into a day care facility, Mary's House. Approximately 100 children, ages 6 weeks to 12 years, were enrolled during its operation. The daycare facility was sold by the parish in June 2000 and the facility was rented to



**Dorothy Connaway and Marie Kaney making their solemn communion.**

and renovated by People's Bank. A courtyard on the south side of the church was created and the north entrance of the church was renovated. The church offices were moved from the rectory to the unused convent at 424 E. Broadway. The chapel in the convent was also renovated. Eugene Becker created much of the artwork in the chapel. Sister Cheryl Pautler, A.S.C., served as pastoral associate during a portion of Father Jim's pastorate.

In 1998, Father David Darin, a native son of the parish, became pastor. With

the hiring of Sister Jacklyn Pritchard, CDP, as principal, the second floor of the convent was renovated as living quarters. Also the basement area was converted to a room for the quilters, along with a new restroom. A home was purchased at 645 S. Lincoln Blvd. to serve as the rectory. The existing rectory was demolished, increasing the size of the south courtyard area. Sister Annette Kaba, OSF, was hired as pastoral associate in July 2001. She too moved into the living quarters above the parish offices. A new principal was hired for the 2001-2003 school year, and Sister Jacklyn commenced service as parish life coordinator to St. Lawrence Parish in Sandoval, while also serving as coordinator of religious education for St. Mary.

In the fall of 2001, the outdoor Stations of the Cross were presented to St. Mary as a gift from the Felician Sisters and St. Mary Good Samaritan Hospital. The Stations were installed on new brick pedestals in the courtyard by the Knights of Columbus and parish volunteers, and were then refinished with concrete texturing paint. In the spring of 2002, additional trees, shrubs and flora were added to the landscaping of the courtyard. A new slate roof, replacing the badly deteriorating original slate roof, was added in the fall of 2002.

In 2003, Sister Carol Markus, SSND, became full-time director of religious education. Sister Carol took an out-of-state position after one year and Sister Annette became interim director of religious education for the 2004-2005 year. Sister Marlene Buese was hired full-time as director of religious education in July of 2005.

Major renovations to the church interior began in the fall of 2005. The interior was completely repainted; granite-look vinyl tile replaced the downstairs carpeting; and the upstairs carpeting was replaced with new carpet; the Stations of the Cross on the wall and the suspended crucifix were repainted in jewel tones;



**In 1959, Father Schomaker celebrated Jubilee, his 25th year of ordination, at St. Mary's in Centralia.**



**Fr. Gerald Miriani, LEFT, chats with Leo Huene, who was honored in 1977 for 50 years of service to St. Mary's Church and School. Miriani was one of seven pastors with whom Huene had worked during his five decades as parish custodian.**



**Conchitta Grabowski directed the 3rd- and 4th-grade plays for 20 years, beginning in 1984. Above is a scene from *Rumpelstiltskin*, 1991.**



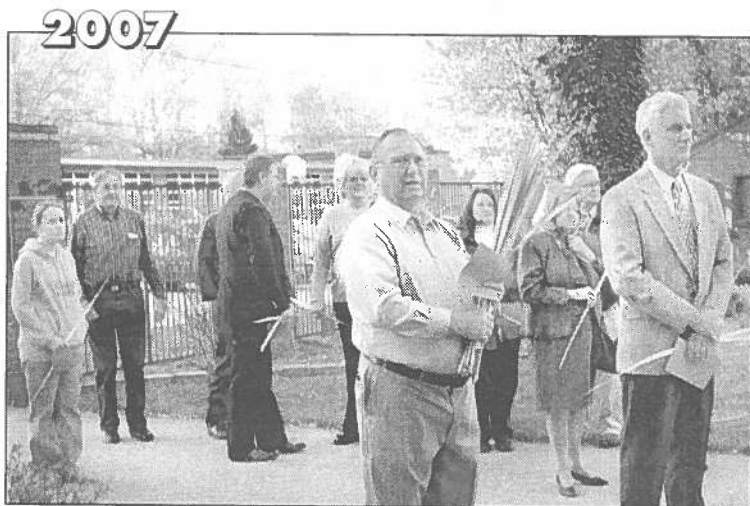
## Scenes from St. Mary's Sesquicentennial Year, 2007



The May crowning of the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary



Adult volunteers assist children with crafts during this summer's Vacation Bible School, which visited the cultures of Japan, the Philippines and Peru.



Parishioners stand in the courtyard reflecting during Palm Sunday services held outdoors.



The quilting group from St. Mary's gathers for fellowship and to create beautiful works of art.

two rows of wooden pews were replaced with padded chairs with movable kneelers, for better handicap access; the remaining pews were refurbished to match; the chairs in the sanctuary were recovered; two confessionals were taken out to make for a larger entryway into the church; the altar servers' sacristy was converted into a single confessional; a handicap access ramp was installed in the sanctuary; and an access panel was put into the floor of the main entrance foyer for future installation of a new baptismal font. These renovations were completed in the fall of 2006.

The fall of 2006 began the re-leading and repair of the stained glass windows. An outer safety glass has been added to the windows to prevent further weather damage.

St. Mary began its sesquicentennial year in January of 2007. Many activities were undertaken, including an outdoor Mass/picnic held in June of 2007. New perennials and flora were added to the courtyard in the spring of 2007.

Father David Darin was reassigned to St. Teresa and St. Luke Parishes in Belleville. Fathers Michael Mbonu and Justin Olisaemeka were welcomed to St.

Mary on July 10, 2007.

Thus, in this sesquicentennial year, St. Mary's reviews its sesquicentennial of growth. Its heart is filled with prayerful gratitude to Almighty God for the bountiful blessing He has showered upon it from its inception 150 years ago. St. Mary's, too, remembers the loyal and zealous priests whose lives of sacrifice and love for their spiritual children were always an inspiration. With hearts brimming with love and gratitude on this centennial day, we pause to honor their treasured memory.

No historical account of a parish is complete without a

tribute to its parishioners. Certainly, St. Mary's stands today as living monument to the faith and loyalty of its people. There were times in its history which presented a trying challenge. Sacrifice, courage and generosity characterized our heroic forbearers. Only an undying faith and a steadfast devotion to the Church could have brought them triumphantly through the struggles which at times harassed their beloved parish.

Our prayer today is that Almighty God will continue to shower His richest blessings on the priests and faithful of St. Mary's parish.



# HISTORY OF ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

**C**atholic parochial education began in Centralia in 1867 when the first Catholic school, a frame building, was constructed through the efforts of Father Thomas Walsh. The original school was under the care of lay teachers.

The first Sisters took over the teaching in our school in 1889. The first three Sisters, Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, who came to Centralia were Sister M. Henrica, superior; Sister M. Gregory, teacher; and Sister M. Leonilla, who did private nursing.

When the Sisters took charge of the school, it was a one-room frame building occupying the site of the present church. In 1893 another classroom was added to the school and a second teacher was added to the staff, Sister M. Adelheide.

In 1899, a new school was erected. It was a two-story structure, situated to the rear of where the rectory stood for many years (now home to the church courtyard). In 1907, an addition was made to the school and facilities by this time included four classrooms and a large assembly room which was also used for special gatherings. The Sisters who taught at the school at this time were Sisters Borgia, Rigorberta, Clementine and Claudia.

During the pastorate of Father George Lohman, plans for a new school were formulated. In 1927, under his supervision, the modern school was erected for approximately \$60,000. The



The second St. Mary's School building was erected in 1899.

school contained six classrooms on the second floor, the first floor was occupied by a kitchen and parish hall.

Until 1939, the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ had charge of the school. In that year, the operation of the school was transferred to the Felician Sisters, who also assumed charge of the administration of St. Mary's Hospital. The first teachers of the new community were Sister M. Leonella, Sister M. Polycarp, Sister M. Theodora and Sister M. Cordia. The Sisters who staffed the school in the parish's centennial year of 1957 were Sister M. Louise, Sister M. Vitalia, Sister M. Adelma, Sister M. Alphonsanetta and Mrs. Hazel Hamm. The enrollment of St. Mary's School in 1957 was 219 pupils. The 2006-07 enrollment stood at 77 pupils.

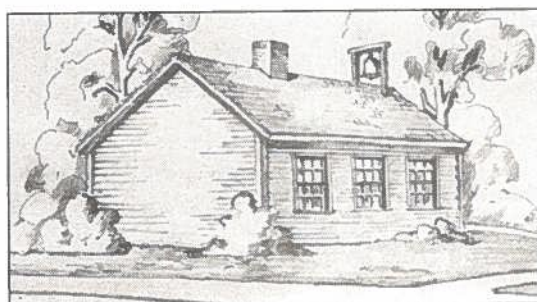


This May 7, 1974 photo shows principal Sister Cecilia with St. Mary's students as they present their "Send A Mouse to College" donation envelopes to Charles Luer, drive director.



St Mary's school building 1927 to 1963

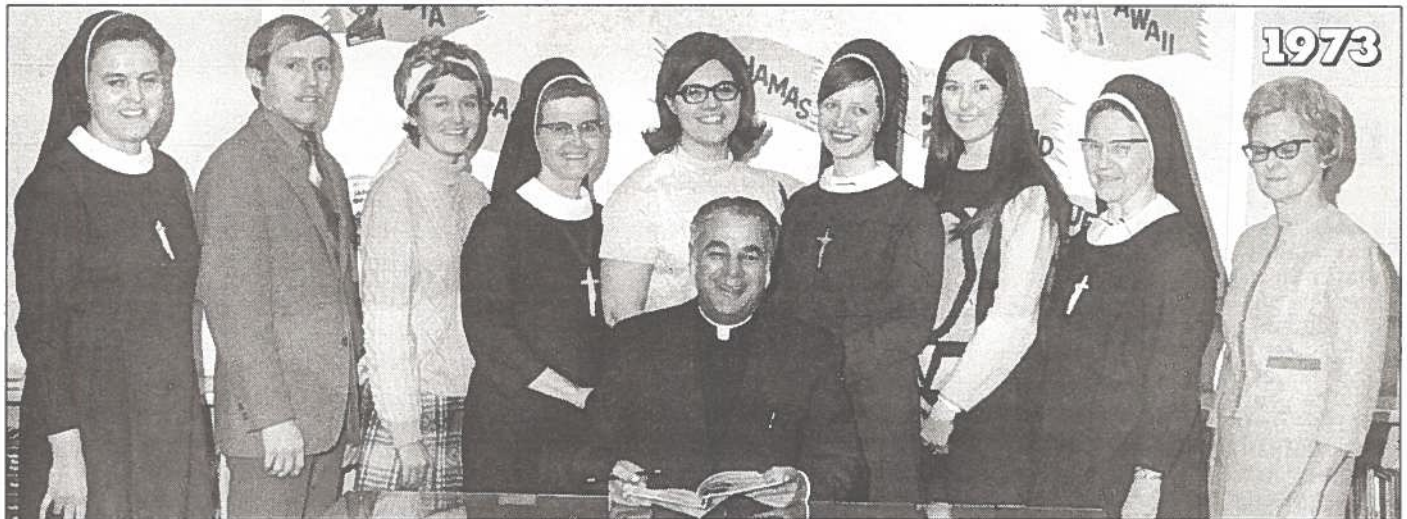
At  
RIGHT is  
a sketch  
of the  
first  
school,  
built in  
1867.











Above photo from the Feb. 15, 1973 Sentinel shows the faculty of St. Mary School. **SEATED:** The Rev. Ralph Arnold, pastor and teacher of religion for grades six to eight. **STANDING:** Sister Mary Cecilia, principal and eighth-grade teacher; Russell Fletcher, sixth grade; Nancy Fletcher, fifth grade; Sister Mary Amicia, fourth grade; Doris Brinkman, third grade; Sister Mary Maureen, seventh grade; Karen Wiediger, first grade; Sister Mary Geraldine, second grade; and Bertha Mena, science teacher for grades six to eight.



Lined up outside the school building in fall of 1893 are, **FROM LEFT, FRONT ROW,** Dick Meagher, August Langenfeld, Rance Byrnes, Christy Wright, Ira Garnier, Claude Ray, Harry Lordan, Willw Smithers, Walter Egger and Berthold Lordan. **SECOND ROW:** Edwin Hollander, Charles Meagher, James Francis Smithers, J.T. Curran, Willie Meagher, Jim Stoddard, Tony Kaney, Murtha Doyle and Lawrence Ettwein. **THIRD ROW:** Annie Schleich, Mary Foss, Julia Foss, Lena Snyder, Maggle Lusch, Lena Egger, Josie Freant, Mattie Foley, Millie Daugherty and Katerina Becker. **FOURTH ROW:** Mollie Byrnes, Annie Foss, Grace Daugherty, Frances Langenfeld, Mary Spinner, Barbara Roar, Lizzie Kaney, Mamie Lordan, Annie Spinner and unknown (lived with the Schleich family). **FIFTH ROW:** Stosla Meagher, Ida Lordan, Minnie Lusch, Violet Stoddard, unknown, Rosie Gile, Rosie Kaney and \_\_\_ Hayes. **BACK ROW:** Christina Ettwein, Minnie Schleich, Joe Langenfeld, Gertie Curran, Frank Traynor, Sister Adelaid, teacher, and Mrs. Herman, priest's housekeeper.



# ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL

**T**he Catholic Church has always subscribed to the adage that a sound mind lives in a healthy body. Realizing that man is composed of a body as well as a soul, the church has never neglected the material part of man. She has always been anxious to provide institutions which provide care for God's afflicted children.

This same realization accompanied the Catholics to Centralia. It soon became evident that the city of Centralia, its population swelled by the coming of the railroad, industry and mining, stood in need of some provisions to care for the needs of the sick and infirm. The necessity of a hospital within its limits became apparent.

**The original two-story 1909 hospital structure had a bed capacity of only 22**

In March of 1905, during the pastorate of Father Bruns, St. Mary's Parish purchased the plot of ground at the corner of Elm and Noleman streets for a hospital. The Business Men's Association set about soliciting funds for the project. However, since the necessary support was lacking, the idea of a hospital was temporarily put aside.

In 1908 the hospital project was again revived. A new subscription list was circulated by a special committee of L.M. Bostwick, president; Dr. W.A. Stoker, vice president; Father John Bruns, treasurer; Dwight F. Haussler, secretary; E.A. Tartman, Dr. J.W. Armstrong and Dr. Otto Diehl. The cornerstone was laid in 1909. When completed, the hospital was a two story structure with a bed capacity of 22. The hospital was solemnly dedicated on Thanksgiving Day, 1909, by Bishop Janssen of Belleville.

The original hospital soon became too small for the needs of a growing com-



The first St. Mary's Hospital, ABOVE, was erected in 1909, with additions being made in 1911 and 1922. The building was in use until 1959.



Mrs. Ira Garnier Jr., LEFT, and Mrs. James Fowler helped the hospital transfer March 10, 1958, by moving babies in private cars. They are pictured as they leave the old hospital with little Lynn Ann Hayden and Michael Heseman.



Sr. Mary Miranda



Sr. Clarette



Presenting an American flag to St. Mary's Hospital in this June 23, 1958 Sentinel photo are members of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 446. FROM LEFT are Mrs. Anthony Demljan; Sister Paschalisa, administrator of the hospital; Mrs. Clarence Onyett; Mrs. Judson Copple; and Bob Langenfeld of the Knights of Columbus, which erected the flag pole.



nity. In 1911, a thirteen bed wing was added, and in 1922, during the pastorate of Father Chuse and Father Eschmann, another wing was added, bringing the total bed capacity to 86.

During those years, the hospital was owned by the Diocese of Belleville. It was staffed by the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ until 1939, when Bishop Henry Althoff requested that the Felician Sisters assume operation of the hospital. On Aug. 27, 1947, ownership of St. Mary's Hospital was transferred from the Diocese of Belleville to the Felician Sisters.

From the beginning, the spiritual needs of the hospital were looked after by the priests of the parish. In order to give more efficient spiritual care to both the patients and the Sisters, Father Edward J. Ratermann was appointed the first resident chaplain in June of 1955 by the Most Rev. Bishop at the request of the Sisters.

Increasing difficulties in providing the best medical care for the community with the present facilities made a new hospital imperative. Thus, with the hope that they could some day build a new modern hospital in Centralia, the Sisters purchased in 1948 a 20-acre site on the west side of Pleasant Avenue between Rexford and McCord streets. The Sisters asked the people of the community to contribute \$250,000 toward the \$3,000,000 hospital as a token of their good will. A financial drive was initiated, and the interest of the citizens was reflected in their response to the project.

The groundbreaking ceremony took place on Nov. 21, 1955. The first spade of earth was turned by the coordinated efforts of His Excellency, Bishop Albert R. Zuroweste, Bishop of Belleville, the Honorable Herbert Blankchard, Mayor of Centralia, and Sister Mary Paschalisa, administrator of the hospital. The construction of the hospital began in February of the following year. The cornerstone was laid by the chaplain, Father Ratermann, on Sept. 12, 1956.



These March 11, 1979 Sentinel photos show first-grade students at St. Mary School experiencing the pediatric orientation program at St. Mary's Hospital. Students assumed roles of doctor, nurse, patient and parents.



St. Mary's School 'patient' Chris Durian is served a meal by Marsha Currie, R.N.



With help from Bev Boettch, R.N., Alan Sanders plays surgeon to Lynn Elliston's nurse.



Doug Merrell and Shelly Ferrari, LEFT, play the concerned parents come to visit their 'son,' fellow St. Mary's pupil Chris Durian.



# CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS

**C**ourt of St. Theresa No. 788, Catholic Daughters of America, was established in St. Mary's Parish in 1923, with 53 charter members. In 1957, the court counted 181 members.

During the court's history in Centralia, it has contributed to the religious and social affairs of the community. It has conducted study clubs, days of recollection, and donated financially to the church, school and hospital.

A singular honor came to the court in 1938, when Mrs. J.T. Boyle, a charter member, was elected State Regent of the State of Illinois.

In 1940, the court organized the junior Catholic Daughters, whose three-fold program of spiritual, charitable and recreational activities aimed to stimulate Catholic ideals, to encourage the habit of serving others and of providing wholesome recreation under Catholic leadership.

In 1952, Mrs. Huey White, grand regent of the Court, was selected to be one of eight state delegates to the National Catholic Daughters of America convention, held in Lake Placid, NY, that year. White had attended the state convention that year, along with Catherine Ducci, Mercedes Campbell, Mrs. Leo Bieser and Mrs. Agnes Boyle. The chapter's scrapbook took top honors at state.



Mrs. Huey White

The Court has had two members who entered the religious life as nuns.

The first Grand Regent was Theresa Dieckman. The Grand Regent for the church's Centennial Year in 1957 was Mercedes Campbell and Grand Regent for 2007, the church's Sesquicentennial Year, is Sue Gherardini-Pas.



CDA members in 1987 included, **FRONT ROW**, from left: Anita Brueggeman, Alma Rogers, Dolores Baldrige and Gladys Lenzini; **BACK ROW**, from left: Mercedes Campbell, Marie Wilkinson, Marie Jenetten, Father Charles Tuttle, Dolores Mabry, Rita Harris, and Ophella Huff.



The Centralia Catholic Daughters of the Americas chapter celebrated its 55th anniversary in 1980. Participants include, **SEATED**, from left, Mrs. Leo Bieser, Mrs. Leo Lordan, Mrs. Huey White, Mrs. Louise Hudson, Mrs. P.I. Norris, Mrs. Ira Garnier Sr. and Miss Catherine Spinner, who were also recognized for being 50-plus year members and charter members. **BACK ROW**: Miss Mercedes Campbell, Mrs. Grover Wilkinson, Mrs. Matthew Meyer, Mrs. Walter Denzler, Mrs. Gale Baldrige, Mrs. Harold P. Aydt and Mrs. James Allen, court officers. Garnier, Hudson, Norris and Spinner were charter members.





St. Theresa's Court of the Catholic Daughters of America held installation of officers in 1951. Among those shown are Catherine Ducci, vice regent (sixth from left); Mrs. Huey White, new grand regent (holding gavel); Mercedes Campbell, retiring grand regent; and Anna Marie Lunne-man, district deputy (fourth from right). Also in photograph are Mrs. T.J. Boyle, Shirley Bleser, Veronica Mordini, Mary Remacle and Mrs. Harvey Thomas.

## Grand Regent of 1961

Mrs. Anna George, RIGHT, was installed as grand regent of Court St. Theresa of Catholic Daughters of America in this May 23, 1961 Sentinel photo. She was installed by Mrs. Fred Schaeter, of Vandalla, CENTER, district deputy, and Mrs. Carl Huff, retiring grand regent. Mrs. George died in 2007, after having been a member of the Court for more than 50 years.



## ALTAR SOCIETY

**T**he Altar Society is one of the oldest parish societies, dating back beyond the memory of any living parishioner, as noted in the 1957 St. Mary Centennial history. The primary work of the organization consists in providing for the needs and furnishings of the altar. However, the society is always prepared to share in other parochial activities. The 1957 history noted that, "in recent years, it has made substantial financial contributions toward the new St. Mary's Hospital, toward the renovation of our church, toward a new

set of vestments and toward the recent project of renovating and rebuilding the church organ."

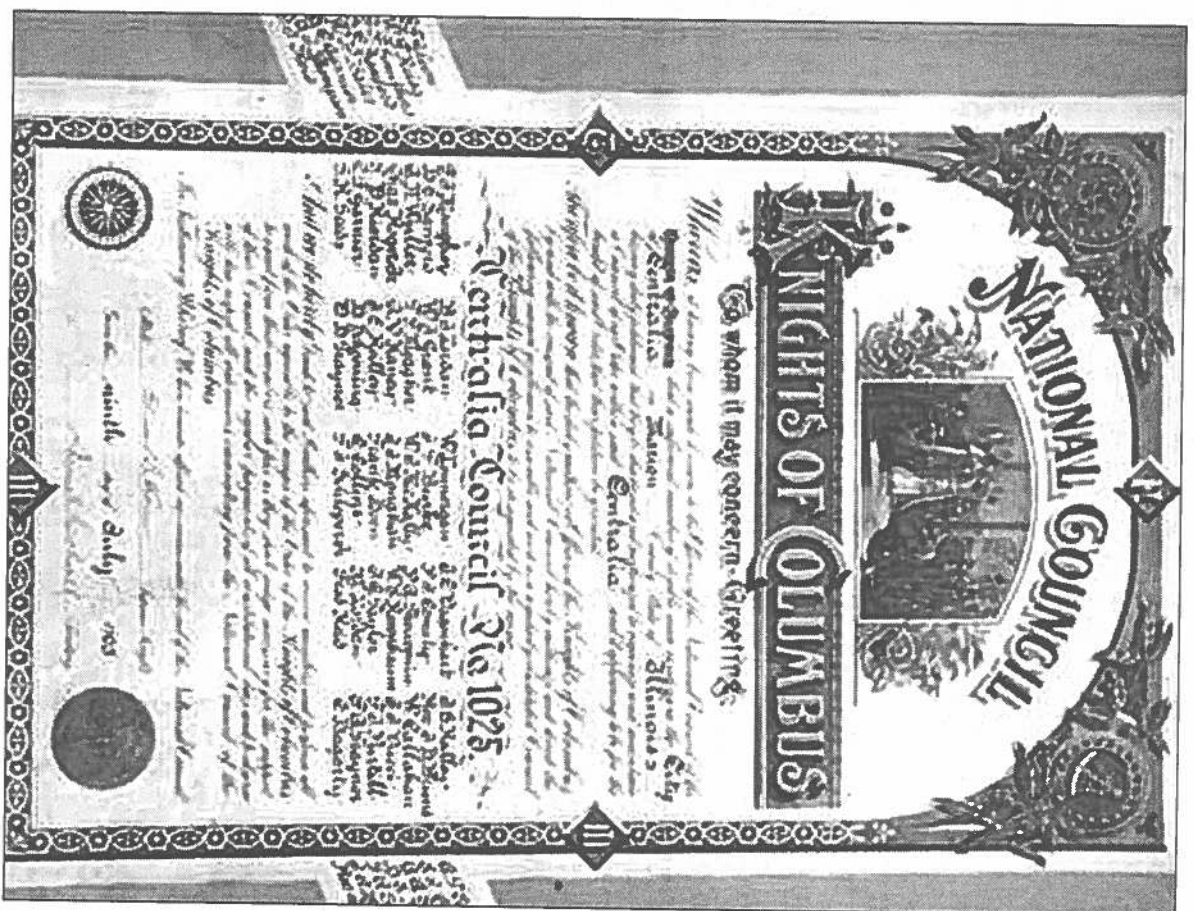
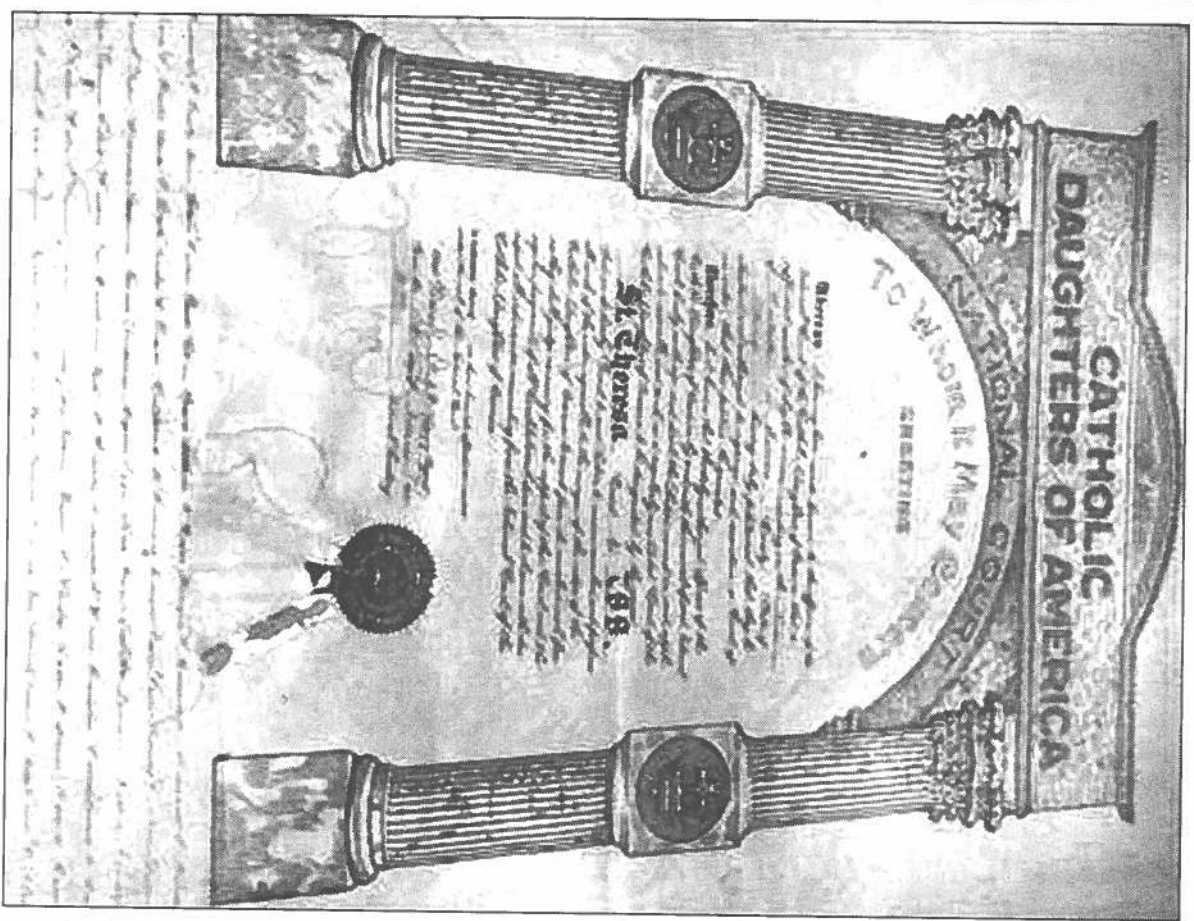
The society is the result of a merger of the original society with the St. Ann's Guild. The two organizations were consolidated during the pastorate of Father George Lohman.

In St. Mary's Centennial Year of 1957, Altar Society officers were Mrs. Ira Garner Sr., president; Mrs. Harvey Thomas, vice president; Mrs. Al Scheidt, secretary; and Mrs. Frank Wehrle, treasurer. At that time, there were more than 200 members in the society.



St. Mary Altar Society held installation of officers in June 2004. Dolores Mabry was installing officer, assisted by Delores Schulz. Officers installed were Diane Armony, president; Joan Wszelaki, vice president; Jane Meier, recording secretary; Bernice Schmidt, treasurer; and Ann Sturman, financial secretary.







## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

**T**hrough the efforts of James L. Brady and Michael O'Brien, members of the Jacksonville Council, T.J. Dempsey and J.E. Dempsey of Canton Council in Ohio, D.A. Ryan of Murphysboro and Frank J. Clettenberg of DeSmet Council in St. Louis.

The then resident pastor, Rev. John H. Bruns, was prevailed upon to invite the then State Chaplain, Rev. William J. Healy to come to Centralia and explain the Order to the Catholic men of the vicinity.

While the field was a difficult one, the visit of Father Healy brought good results, and a short time thereafter, Maurice V. Joyce of East St. Louis, then District Deputy for the territory, was invited to assist in the preliminary work, and after a brilliant address by Mr. Joyce, over 30 applications were signed and a date was set for the institution.

In the meantime, the men above mentioned succeeded in bringing the list of candidates up to 53.

At the institution, officers of Effingham Council conferred the first degree, East St. Louis the second and District Deputy Maurice V. Joyce and staff the third.

This was one of the greatest days in the history of Catholics in Centralia.

A large procession was formed downtown and marched to Mass. Dinner was served to the candidates in the school hall, and they were kept together until the completion of the ceremonies, after which an elaborate banquet was served in a downtown hall.

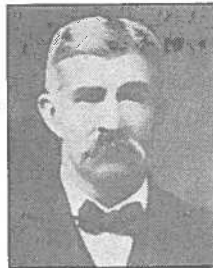
A number of charter members of the Centralia Council were residents of DuQuoin and for a time, the DuQuoin members constituted a semi-auxiliary to Centralia's Council, but local pride prevailed and shortly after, they withdrew to become charter members of the DuQuoin Council. Carlyle Council is likewise an offshoot of the Centralia Council.



James L. Brady



Fred A. Schultz



G. A. Garnier

James L. Brady, ABOVE LEFT, was instrumental in the creation of the local chapter; Schultz, CENTER, served as the chapter's first treasurer and G.A. Garnier served as a Grand Knight.

While Centralia never organized a first or second degree team, a year or so after its institution, Frank

A. Traymor, who was afterwards Grand Knight, was appointed District Deputy by State Deputy Lewis E.

Sauter, and took an active part in a large number of degrees in Illinois and Indiana, and he and his assistant, J.L. Brady, were well known in Southern Illinois.

For some years, the membership diminished through transfers and withdrawals, but there was a revival of interest with new and young blood infused.

Out of a membership of 58 at the time of the outbreak of the First World War, 18 went in the service.

The Council did its full share in the home war work and the members took a prominent part in the war activities of the community.

### *K of C marked half-century in 1955*

**F**or God and Country" was the general theme of speeches and remarks made Oct. 13, 1955 at the Golden Jubilee banquet of the Centralia Council of the Knights of Columbus.

Approximately 260 Knights of Columbus members, families and friends gathered at the American Legion Cottage at 8 p.m. for the banquet, following Pontifical Low Mass said at St. Mary's Church by Bishop Albert Zuroweste of the Belleville Diocese.

Toastmaster James E. Hudson introduced special guests and local Grand Knight William Remacle gave the welcoming address. George Griffin, state K of C secretary of Chicago, followed Remacle on the program and pointed out the accomplishments made by the local council and all the other councils in connection with the Catholic Church. George Zimmerman, district deputy, congratulated the local chapter for their 50 years of accomplishments.

Congressman Charles Vursell praised members of the Knights of Columbus as the "right arm of the Catholic Church" and congratulated the local council on service to God and country. State Sen. Dwight Freidrich pointed out that not only had the organization promoted activities for the good of their church, but also had promoted good citizenship.

Prior to the main address by Bishop Albert Zuroweste, Mayor H.B. Blanchard extended congratulations to the K of C Council from the Centralia City Council and the people of Centralia.

Bishop Zuroweste related the history of



Local Knights of Columbus Grand Knight William Remacle, LEFT, receives congratulations from Bishop Albert Zuroweste in honor of the 50th anniversary of the local council. Also seen, CENTER, is Fr. Fred M. Halbig, chaplain.

the local council and spoke of the growth of the Catholic Church in this country. He said, "this Centralia Council has observed 50 good years because of the men, known to their non-Catholic neighbors and friends as well as their fellow Catholics as good men, have worked hard to make the years good ones. And if the local council is to have another 50 good years, it will be because of the same type of men."

The Rev. F.M. Halbig gave the benediction following group singing.



From an original charter membership of 55, Council 1025 grew to a membership of about 300 members in 1957. During the group's centennial year of 2005, membership was at about 140.

In 1950, the local council established its own home in Centralia, purchasing for \$25,000 the Knights' Home with its modern furnishings and facilities. The council now has headquarters on Centralia's south side.

Charter officers were Rev. J.H. Bruns, chaplain; James E. Reilley, grand knight; F.A. Traynor, deputy grand knight; F. Meagher, chancellor; Michael Lordan, recorder; H.E. Meagher, financial secretary; F.A. Schultz, treasurer; H.J. Thompson, lecturer; John Dagenhart, advocate; Philip Thouvenin, warden; Chas. Hagerty, inside guard; Chas. Collins, outside guard; and Wm. Lonnergan, T.D. Rioridan and John Reilley, trustees.

#### 1905 Charter Roster

Charter members were Rev. J.H. Bruns, Rev. J.B. Henken, W.J. Bates, J.A. Birtchold, James L. Brady, J.F. Burke, Wm. Callahan, F.M. Clettenburg, Chas. Collins, P.J. Conaty, E.J. Connors, J.C. Dagenhardt, J.E. Dempsey, T.J. Dempsey, J.J. Ducci, A.T. Egger, C.E. Garnier, Edw. Garnier, Wm. J. Grant, E.F. Green, Chas. Hagerty, Frank Horn, A.V. Kaney, Wm. Lonnergan, B.J.

#### Members took a prominent part in the war activities of the community.

Lordan, Michael Lordan, W.J. McNally, F.J. Meagher, H.E. Meagher, T.F. Meagher Jr., J.J. Monahan, Michael O'Brien, T.J. Purtill, Fred Reid, J.J. Reid, James E. Reilley, John Reilley, Wm. Reiss, Chas. Rogers Jr., W.E. Rosenbaum, H.E. Sanford, S.C. Sanford, T.J. Schleper, Jr., A.A. Schoening, Fred Schultz, S.R. Seeds, J.F. Smithers, J.C. Taylor, H.J. Thompson, P.A. Thouvenin, D.H. Traynor, F.A. Traynor, A.L. Wuller.

#### Officers in 1957

Officers in 1957 were Rev.



In this Aug. 10, 1962 photo, Grand Knight Esteban Mena presents to the Rev. A.B. Schomaker a check for \$5,000, fulfilling a pledge toward the construction of the new school and convent. FROM LEFT are L.B. Story, Clarence Zahner, George E. Hays, C.M. Broughton, A.W. Brueggeman and Depty Grand Knight Joseph M. Morin.

A.B. Schomaker, chaplain; Carl Huff, grand knight; Robert Langenfeld, deputy grand knight; Edgar Erbes, chancellor; Richard Bieser, recorder; Al Profancik, financial secretary; Ira J. Garnier Sr., treasurer; Al Guizzetti, lecturer; Edward Bost, advocate, Leo Isaak, warden, Peter Donnelly, inside guard; Mace Fairchild, outside guard; and William Remacle, Louis Logullo and C.M. Broughton, trustees.

#### Officers in 2005

Officers in the K of C Council's Centennial Year of 2005 were the Rev. David Darin, chaplain; Ronnie Langenfeld, grand knight; Steve Brink, deputy grand knight; Mike Stock, chancellor; David Ford, recorder; Steve Beard, financial secretary; Jim Lavin, treasurer; Joe Marcum, lecturer; Jim Opolony, advocate; Phil Quandt, warden, Shane Quandt, inside guard; Chris Zelasko, outside guard; and Jack Graham, Gary Altenbaumer and Richard Neff, trustees.

#### Grand Knights of the Council

Grand Knights serving from 1905 to 2007 were E.J. Connors, James E. Reilley, F.A. Traynor, Dr. H.J. Frein, Dr. Julius Kissel, Robert Gephart, G.A. Garnier, Fred Busse, W.A. Mathis, Ira Garnier, W.J. McCloskey, P.I.



Knights of Columbus officers in this June, 1984, photo included, FROM LEFT, George Pracht, trustee; Dale Stevenson, deputy grand knight; William Lorenzini, treasurer; Mike Zibby, chancellor; Jim Lavin, trustee; Richard Neff, retiring grand knight; Dan Dreas, financial secretary; Carl Pracht, inside guard; Rick Neikes, grand knight; Don Williams, outside guard; Dave Schulte, warden; and Danny Bayer, district deputy.

Norris, S.C. Mitchell, Earl Waggoner, Nello Lenzini, R.S. Mattingly, Otto Bieser, P.T. Curley, Huey White, Dr. R.G. Kelley, Matthew Schwartz, C.A. Pautler, C.M. Broughton, Fred Seip, Wm. Remacle, Ernest Kadane, Frank Phee, Clarence Zahner, Phil Capellupo, Louis Logullo, Carl Huff, Leo Bieser, Dr. Michael Zibby, W.E. Erbes, Lee Story, Esteban Mena, Howard Smith, Harold Watterson, Warren Loughran, Bill Gerrish,

Charles Schwartz, Harold Monken, Larry Knipping, Richard Wesling, Richard Chambers, Steve Brink, Allen Elliott, James Lavin, Dennis Pracht, George Pracht, Richard Neff, Rick Neikes, Dale Stevenson, Dr. Michael Zibby, Don Dreas, Robert Schmidt, Joe Marcum, Don Dreas, Bill Gerish, Bill Broda, Dale Stevenson, David Ford, Gary Altenbaumer, Jack Graham, Ronnie Langenfeld, 2006 and 2007.





This July, 1972, photo shows Knights of Columbus officers for 1972-73, FROM LEFT, Father Ralph Arnold, chaplain; Bill Garrish, trustee; Rick Chambers, advocate; Larry Knipping, chancellor; Chuck Husmann, district deputy; Harold Monken, grand knight; Lewis R. Logullo, inside guard; Pete Pelaez, deputy grand knight; Danny Fischer, outside guard; Mike Kamman, financial secretary; Steve Kinder, warden; Larry Matousek, treasurer; Charles Schwartz, trustee; and Rev. Jim Dougherty, assistant chaplain. Jack Seats was recording secretary.

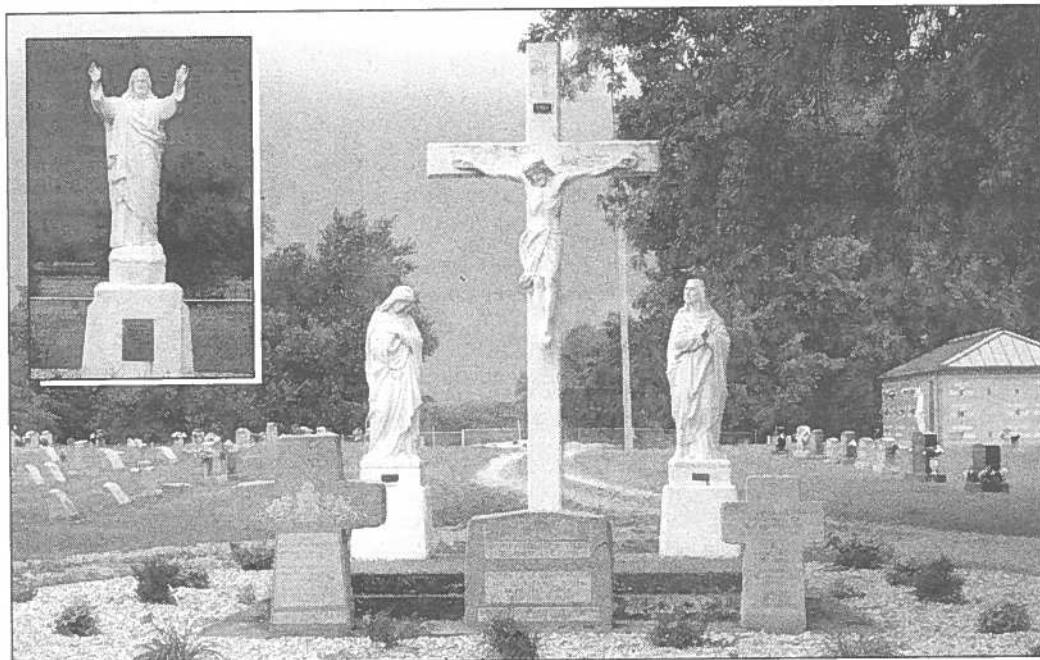
## CALVARY CEMETERY

**R**everence for the dead is a main Christian hallmark. In her maternal solicitude to provide suitable burial for the deceased members of Christ's Mystical Body, the Church has always set aside special resting places for the deceased. Ever mindful that in life the body of man was a temple of the Holy Spirit, destined to share the joys of heaven, it is easy to see why Christians during all ages exercised great care in providing for their beloved departed.

Inspired by this same lofty motive, the Catholics of St. Mary's in 1906, during the pastorate of Father Bruns, purchased a plot of land which they designated as the hallowed resting place of their beloved dead.

Prior to this time, Centralia's Catholics were buried at the city cemeteries. The first to be buried in the new cemetery was Anthony Rindokis on May 1, 1907.

The 1957 St. Mary Centennial book notes that Calvary ranks favorably with all Catholic cemeteries in the diocese of Belleville. In 1955, Father Halbig undertook the work of beautifying



The statuary at Calvary Cemetery is the result of the dedication of past parishioners and pastors of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Centralia.

the cemetery. he erected a large crucifix in the center. The Calvary group was completed by Father Schomaker, who added the statues of Our Lady and St. John.

The terra cotta statues of the Virgin Mary and St. John are the fruits of Mrs. Frances Duty and Mr. and Mrs. A.J. Scheriger.

The monument to Father

Halbig located in front of the crucifix was donated by the parishioners.

The parishioners of St. Mary's indicated their desire that a new priests' burial plot be set aside around the Calvary group. Former pastors of St. Mary's to be buried here are Father Halbig and Father Schomaker.

Through the efforts of Father Schomaker and the support of parishioners, a life-size statue of the Sacred Heart graces the cemetery. It was erected as a memorial to Father Eugene Fix, who gave many fruitful years of his priestly life to the service of St. Mary's parish.



# HISTORY OF THE BELLEVILLE DIOCESE



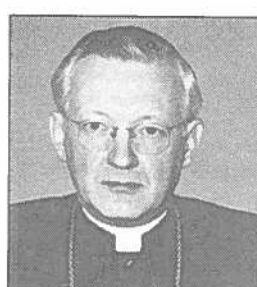
**Bishop Janssen's  
coat of arms**



**Bishop Henry  
Althoff**



**Bishop Althoff's  
coat of arms**



**Bishop Albert R.  
Zuroweste**



**Bishop Zuroweste's  
coat of arms**



**Bishop John Janssen**

**I**n 1790, Fr. John Carroll of Baltimore was named the first bishop of the United States. His diocese included all of the United States, including the Illinois country. In 1803, the Illinois territory was put under the authority of the newly-created diocese of Bardstown, Kentucky. For a time Illinois was divided between the dioceses of St. Louis (created in 1827) and Vincennes, Ind., until the diocese of Chicago was created in 1843. The Alton diocese was created in 1857, under the leadership of Bishop Henry Juncker. Fr. Peter Joseph Baltes succeeded Juncker as bishop upon his death in 1868. Baltes died in 1886 and the following year a new new diocese — the diocese of Belleville — was created.



**Bishop Althoff at his desk. Born in Aviston in 1873, Bishop Althoff guided Southern Illinois Catholics through two world wars and the Great Depression.**

## The Bishops of the Diocese of Belleville since its inception:

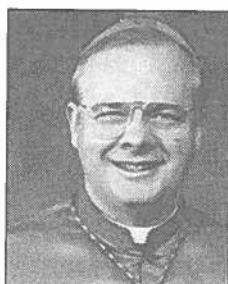
Most Rev. John Janssen ..... 1886-1913  
Most Rev. Peter Althoff ..... 1913-1947  
Most Rev. Albert R. Zuroweste . 1948-1976  
Most Rev. William M. Cosgrove . 1976-1981  
Most Rev. John N. Wurm ..... 1981-1984  
Most Rev. James P. Keleher ..... 1984-1993  
Most Rev. Wilton D. Gregory ... 1993-2005  
Most Rev. Edward K. Braxton 2005-present



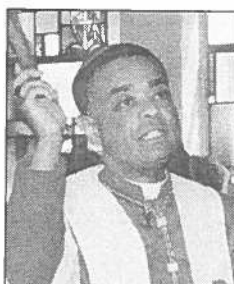
**Bishop William  
M. Cosgrove**



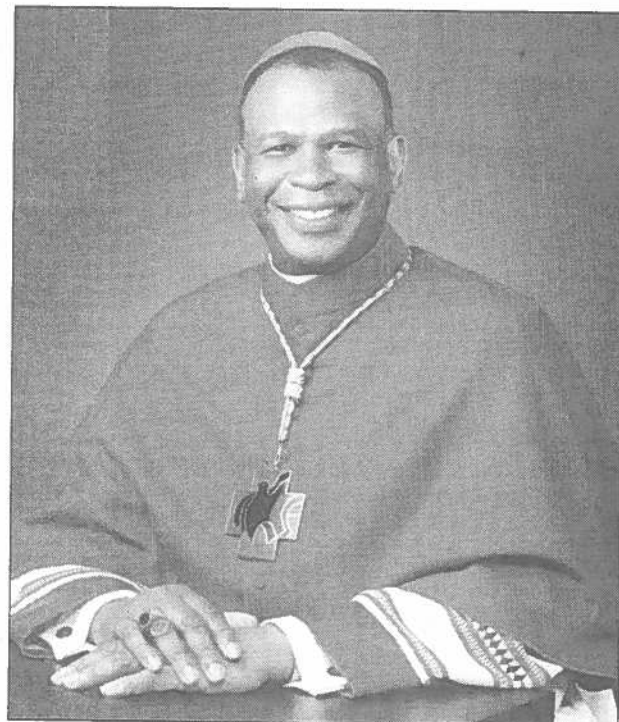
**Bishop John  
N. Wurm**



**Bishop James  
Patrick Keleher**



**Bishop Wilton D.  
Gregory**



**Bishop Edward K. Braxton**



## THE EARLY YEARS

# 1936 letter recounts dedication of early St. Mary's pastors

The following was a letter addressed to Rev. Eugene Fir, pastor of St. Mary's Church in Centralia from a D. A. Ryan, address 6617 Minerva Ave., Chicago. The letter was dated the 18th (month illegible) 1936.

Reverend dear Father:

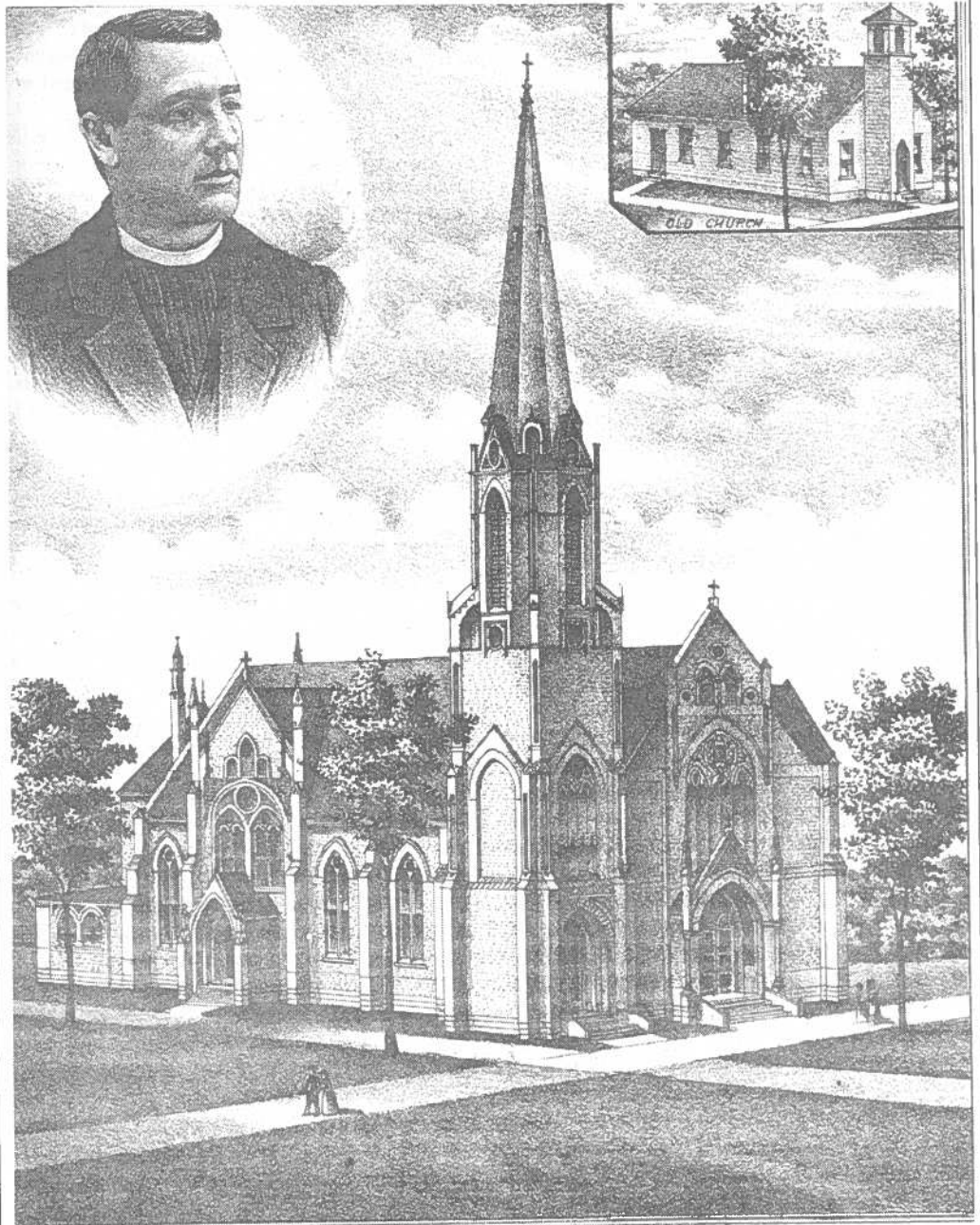
For a long time it has been my intention to write you in regard to a picture I made several years ago of the original church sanctuary of Centralia, my native parish - where I was Baptised and received my first Holy Communion and was Confirmed by Bishop Baltes from before Belleville was an Episcopatus See.

Very few are remaining who will remember the old church and fewer who will remember the struggle and hardships borne by the priests of those days when the Sunday collections totaled an average of .85 to \$1.25, the latter amount when reached being an occasion for thanksgiving.

**"Winter mornings ... the water would freeze in the cruet because there was neither coal or wood to make a fire in the old stove."**

When if a Bazaar or Fair of those nights netted \$125 there was rejoicing and gratitude beyond measure. I served mass for 8 years - winter mornings when the water would freeze in the cruet, because there was neither coal or wood to make a fire in the old stove, that was minus one leg and 3 bricks at one corner to act as a substitute for the missing leg.

When, Father Becker morning after morning had



CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, B. V. M., CENTRALIA, ILL.  
REV. P. J. BECKER, RECTOR.

*P. J. Becker*



1932



### 1932 St. Mary's Communicates

In this photo, submitted by Lucy Metzger, the communicates of St. Mary's Church are pictured with the "angels" at the ceremony. First row, left to right, are "angels" Leona Zimmerman, unknown, Martha Rose Merritt, Clara Huff, Joan Scheribel, Colleen Ryan, Anna Leeta Mordini, Peggy Smith, Jane Waggoner, Mary Louise Hanlon and Helen Feldhake. The communicates are, second row, Helen Stanwyck, Lorene Aydt, Agnes Zimmerman, Dorothy Bauer, Helen Oberhausen, Lucille Spinner, Mary Louise Garnier, Dorothy Spinner and Rose Betti; third row, Father Fix, Richard Pollock, Lawrence Schwartz, James Earle and August Aydt; and, back row, Robert Nelms, Norbert Brueggeman, Raymond Mordini, James Scheriger, Wilbur Huff, Ernest Spinner, William Gramlick and John Huffman.

1920s



### MEMORIES

**D**ottie Hartley remembers that "on Holy Thursday, April 18, 1935, I was to make my First Holy Communion with my second-grade class. But it was not to be. On April 16, I fell from a swing on St. Mary's playground and broke my arm and sustained several bruises. Although I didn't join my class on Holy Thursday, I made my First Holy Communion with all of St. Mary's parishioners on Easter Sunday in my little white dress, white head wreath — and my arm in a spanking white sling."



only dry bread and coffee for his breakfast and many days unless someone brought in something in the way of food that constituted the menu for the day. He had 5 parishes and was subject to call for sick calls in the surrounding towns that had no churches. He had Centralia, Sandoval, Odin (they had a church), Kinmundy and Patoka. No hard roads nor automobiles and I positively know of his going on foot 4 or 5 miles through slush and mud and in winter through snow at night to administer the Last Sacraments to some who never thought of him only at such a time. I can see him yet starting out with an old railroad lantern as his only bit of equipment and returning at daylight with his clothes frozen to the waist line. He never refused to go. He never complained. What wonder, if he later weakened under the strain and disappointments which I know were his, for I was very close to him for many years. He gave everything he had — physically, mentally, spiritually — only to be rewarded here with ingratitude and criticism. It was he, who laid the foundation of what the parish is enjoying today. I knew his dreams and his ambition to lift the parish from the stigma of being the poorest in the diocese — which it then was — to a higher and more worthwhile position. May God in his omniscient Justice and Love give him peace and Eternal rest — He earned it.

His successor Otto Meier was certainly a wonderfully fine and devout priest. Poor man, to him fell the task of completing the church which was only enclosed. He also found a more than depleted treasury and personally made a begging tour — not borrowing — through the Diocese. He would I know rather have had all his teeth pulled as he was a retiring soul, in no sense ostentatious, but warm

hearted, lovable and devout, a hard worker and a very practical economist. I was a co-worker when he built the rectory which he didn't want — not because he didn't need it — but because he was willing to live in the old shack where he sat all day — that is, what spare moments he had all day — in the kitchen with his mother in order to save fuel. He didn't want to burden the parish with any additional debt. I've always thought the years he spent in Centralia took two for one from his life span, for he was always frail. He too has many years since gone to the reward he so greatly merited. God grant him eternal happiness.

Then came Father Bruns, churchman, educator and "go getter" organizer and disciplinarian — with the courage of his convictions — under all circumstances and no reticence about defending them at any time or on any occasion. God never made them any better than he. High minded, energetic,

ambitious for God, not self, it is my opinion that his effort, his spirit, his democratic policies, vitalized and animated the people of the parish into a closer unity of purpose and effort than had existed at any time previous. I moved here (to Chicago) during his pastorate, but always kept up our friendship and correspondence until his death in Carlyle some years since. God grant him Eternal rest.

I am proudly interested in the Catholic progress of Centralia. The thirty two happiest years of my life were spent there and on my recent short sad visit there I marveled at the marvelous development of Catholicism and its beautiful group of institutions, contrasted with those of the picture I am sending you. When at that time — the late 70s and 1880s, to acknowledge being a Catholic was almost as popular as being a victim of

## Commencement Exercises

### St. Mary's School

At St. Mary's Auditorium — Friday, June 2, 1933  
AT 8:00 O'CLOCK P. M.

#### PROGRAM

Processional	Graduates
Salutatory	Gertrude Tillman
Song—"Alma Mater"	Graduates
Valedictory	Raymond Lenzini
Address and Awarding of Diplomas	Rev. Pastor
"Rufus"	A Specialty

#### "THE PARISIAN MUSIC BOX" (A Comedy in Three Scenes)

##### Cast of Characters

The Judge	Harold Schultz
Ronald	Robert Nelms
Charles	John W. Patton
Robert	Richard Pollock
Gerald	Paul Clifford
Fred	Joseph Scherger
Leo	Jack Berger
Mr. Surneyer	Raymond Lenzini
Mr. Meyer	Walter Berard
Finnegan the Policeman	Ralph Spinner

#### Violin and Piano Selection

Violins	Robert Boyle, Theresa Boyd
Piano	Harriet Lewis

#### "THE MAY QUEEN" (Cantata in Two Scenes)

##### Cast of Characters

Bertha	Moss Rose	Germline Osterero
Lucy	Daisy	Gertrude Tillman
Agnes	Forget-me-not	Marie Buehne
Dora	Chrisanthemum	Dorothy Duty
Gertie	Buttercup	Lorene Aydt
Fannie	Lily	Helen Oberhausen
Tessie	Pink	Virginia Langenfeld
Amy	Violet	Dorothy Spinner
Hattie	Penny	Agnes Zimmerman
Princess Goodwill		Mildred Zimmerman
Fairy Subjects		Girls of Grades 3 and 4
Charity, the May Queen		Dorothy Bauer
Chorus Girls		Girls of Grades 5 and 6

Scene I:—Woodland Scene, Flower Maidens and Chorus Girls seeking their May Queen.

Saxophone Selections:—Raymond Lenzini and Jack Berger.

Scene II:—With the aid of Princess Goodwill, the Flower Maidens and Chorus Girls succeed in choosing their May Queen.

Violin and Piano Selection { Piano—Mrs. A. P. Heller  
Violin—John H. Patton

The Minims Plan	Grades 1 and 2
The Eastern Band	Boys of Grades 5 and 6
Famous Singers	Boys of Grades 3 and 4
A Surprise Packet	Robert Nelms

smallpox. This is true.

My congratulations to you Father and the other priests whose tireless unselfish work has made this growth possible in the last 30 years. May God spare you for many, many years to come, to continue His work here on earth, which you are effectively doing.

Now please forgive me for this intrusion on your time and mayhap your patience as well. God forbid. Tony Kaney and Lin were here to see us yesterday. I told him I intended

sending the picture. He approved. I was given the original key to the old church when it was disposed of and locked for the last time.

Mrs. Dickman — Julia Garnier — Alvina Freant — will perhaps remember the old set up.

With best wishes and a hope to be remembered in your prayers.

I remain sincerely,  
D.A. Ryan



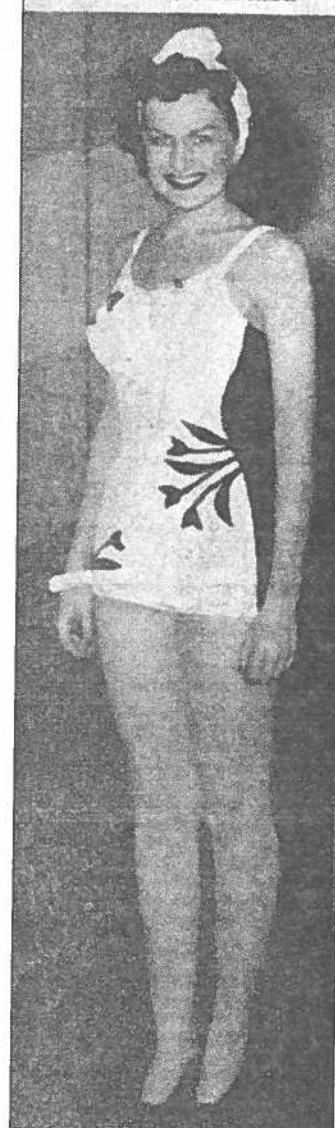
## DECADE OF THE 1940s

### 1946



Shown in this Holy Communion photo from 1946 are **FIRST ROW:** Father Kribs. **SECOND ROW,** from left: Virginia Langenfeld, Mary Lee Ward. **THIRD ROW:** Carmelia Casey, Toney Kaney, unidentified, Barbara Nettles, Phillip Huff, Phyllis Huff. **FOURTH ROW:** Richard Beatty, Ralph Mittendorf, Tony Tillman and Paul LaFoe. **FIFTH ROW:** Ronald Zinkus, Schwartz. Angels are, clockwise from left: Judy Ward, unidentified, Casey, Elsie Gilmore, unidentified, Schwartz and Virginia Langenfeld's sister.

### Miss Centralia



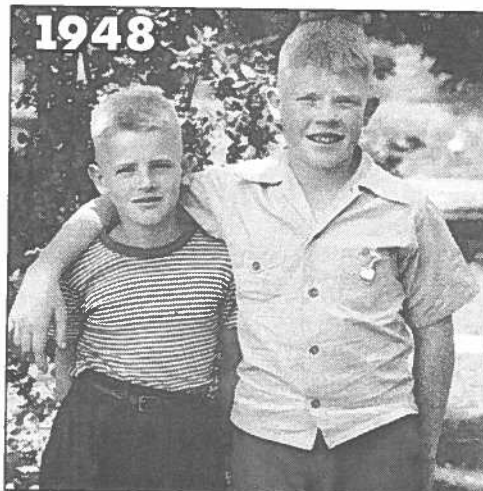
Marilyn Duty of Centralia received the first prize of \$25 in the bathing beauty contest, June 30, 1942, at the American Legion homecoming in Fairview Park.

### 1942



Mr. and Mrs. Fred Monken of 116 East Rexford celebrated their 47th wedding anniversary on May 1, 1942 with a family dinner.

### 1948



Scout Charles Schwartz and his younger brother Billy, **LEFT**, whom he rescued from deep water in a stock pond near their farm home. After applying artificial respiration, Billy was none the worse for his experience, according to this 1948 Sentinel photo caption.





**St. Mary School Class of 1945 includes, FRONT ROW, from left, Father Mike Podrasky, Pastor Eugene Fix. SECOND ROW: JoDene (Hollern) Nall, Jean (Hudson) Sarran, Joan (Shedelbower) Hails and Mary (Huff) Mann. THIRD ROW: Dorothy Curry, Anne (Wehrle) Heckel, Mary Lee Hardy. FOURTH ROW: Marilyn (Taylor) Difani, Bill Hafeli, Howard Remacle, Jimmie Johnson, and Rosemary (Brueggeman) Wallace. FIFTH ROW: Francis Bieser, James Norris, Paul Langenfeld and Charles Francois.**



**When the Centralia Township High School Class of 1949 (known as the CTHS 49'ers) gathered for its 50-year reunion in 1999, these members, AT LEFT, of the St. Mary Grade School Class of 1945 reunited as well. Classmates are, from left, FRONT ROW, Joan Shedelbower Hails, Jean Hudson Surran and Anne Wehrle Heckel. BACK ROW: James M. Norris, Marilyn Taylor Difani, Mary Huff Mann, JoDene Hollern Nall, Al Sturman and Howard "Bud" Remacle.**

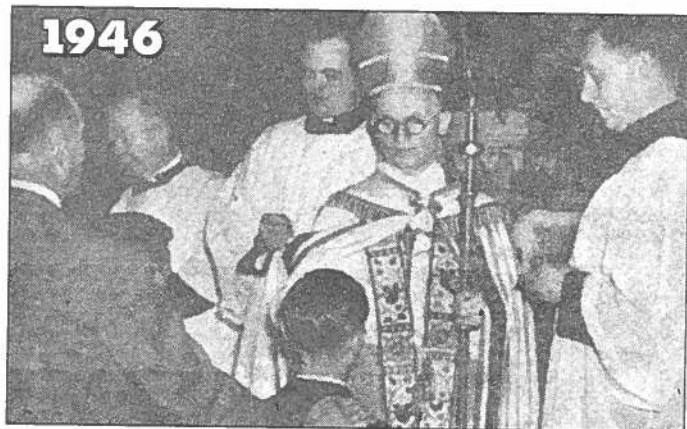




Patrol boys at St. Mary's school display new rain gear presented for their use by the local Knights of Columbus lodge. Pictured are, FROM LEFT, Charles Schwartz, John Tillman, Robert Peifer and Robert Bieser. With the boys are the Rev. L. Goewert, Knights of Columbus chaplain, and Past Grand Knight W.J. McCloskey.



Pvt. Paule E. Mathieu and Jane Waggoner, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Waggoner were married in St. Mary's church in August, 1944.



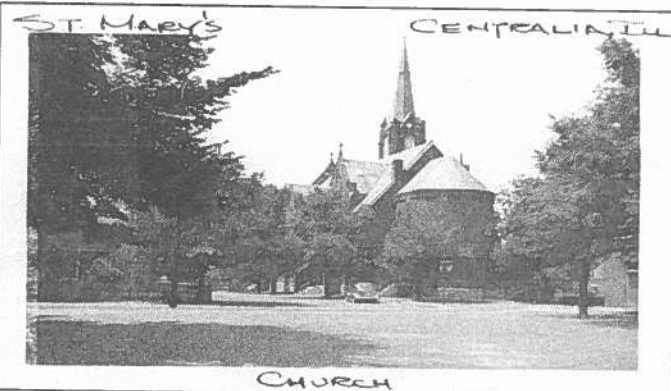
Bishop Althoff confirms St. Mary's student Charles Mordini in this May 5, 1946 photo. Assisting the bishop are Father Eugene Fix, Fr. Elmer Holtgrave of Carlyle and Fr. A.B. Schomaker, then of Salem. Nello Lenzini, with hand on shoulder of boy, was Mordini's sponsor.

## Parish MEMORIES

**A**nn (Oakes) Dunn shares that her favorite memories are, "of grade school days, mostly involving the nuns, namely Sister Claudette, Sister Carmelita and Sister Felicissima — what wonderful teachers they were. But what I remember most are the processions in church for Forty Hours, Corpus Christi and Holy Thursdays. The girls had special dresses made — I wore one that was blue organdy and one that was yellow dotted Swiss. It was always so exciting at the close of Forty Hours, when many visiting priests were here, to wonder how forceful and loud the visiting celebrant would begin to chant, 'Pange Lingua Gloriosi!' That truly brought goosebumps. Another thing I like to remember is how very beautiful in white and gold the north side of the Altar was on Holy Thursday for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and making that special Holy Hour and how wonderful that old Christmas Nativity background scene was, reaching high up the south side Altar wall.



Ann Oakes Dunn



View of the parish grounds, looking northwest from the school building.





Boy Scout service, St. Mary's Church.

### The Pilgrim Virgin - 1949

In an effort to unite and encourage the world's Catholics, Pope Pius XII declared 1950 a Holy Year. It began with solemn ceremonies at noon on Dec. 24, 1949, initiating a five-year period of unusual piety and devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The Belleville Diocese had begun to deepen its devotion to Mary even before Holy Year, with a peace pilgrimage. In 1949, the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima came to Southern Illinois, and made a stop in Centralia on Oct. 17.

According to the Sentinel, an estimated 500 Catholics from the area attended the services held at St. Mary's that day. The Pilgrim Virgin was one of two images blessed by the bishop of Fatima at the Portuguese shrine in 1947.

Revealing the tensions that had already appeared in the young Cold War, Bishop Zuroweste commended the diocese's response to the Pilgrim Virgin, then went on to say, "When the atom bombs start to fall, I would like to be in Belleville Diocese, for she [Our Lady] certainly will shower her blessings and graces and favors there."

Children from St. Mary's formed an escort for the statue, which was borne on a litter. Fr. Eugene Fix placed a gold crown on the head of the statue and Rosary services followed.

The image, handcarved from Portuguese cedarwood, stems from the appearance of the Virgin Mary before three shepherd children near Fatima, Portugal, in 1916.



This photo shows the pilgrim Virgin statue at Cairo, Illinois.





Margaret Remacle, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Remacle, had the honor of placing a crown of flowers on the head of the statue of the Blessed Virgin to climax the May Day Procession at St. Mary's Church, May 10, 1947. Shown are, FROM LEFT, first row, Margaret Ring, Elsie Gilmore, Anna Casey, Shirley Behnen, Ann Seip, Joan McCain, Julia Lordan, Patty Tillman, Jermlae Bumgardner, Beatrice Bieser; second row, Dolores Chapman, Mary Williamson, Lolly McCance, Alice Huene, Norma Hoose, Jerome Heick; third row, Dorothy Pollack, Mary Jo Smith, Margaret Remacle, Leola Bieser, Carolyn Langenfeld, Alice June Gordon and Jane Wehrle.



Mathew and Pauline Schwartz were united in marriage on Feb. 14, 1941 at St. Mary's Church.



1940s



View of church grounds looking west on Noleman Street, circa 1940s.

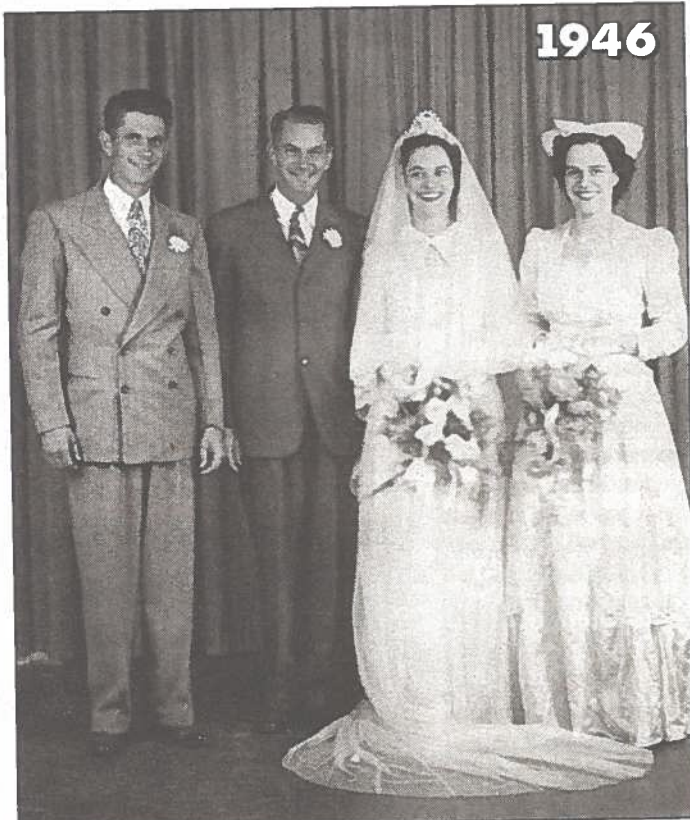


Photo of Sister Mary Carmelita, the organist for many years.



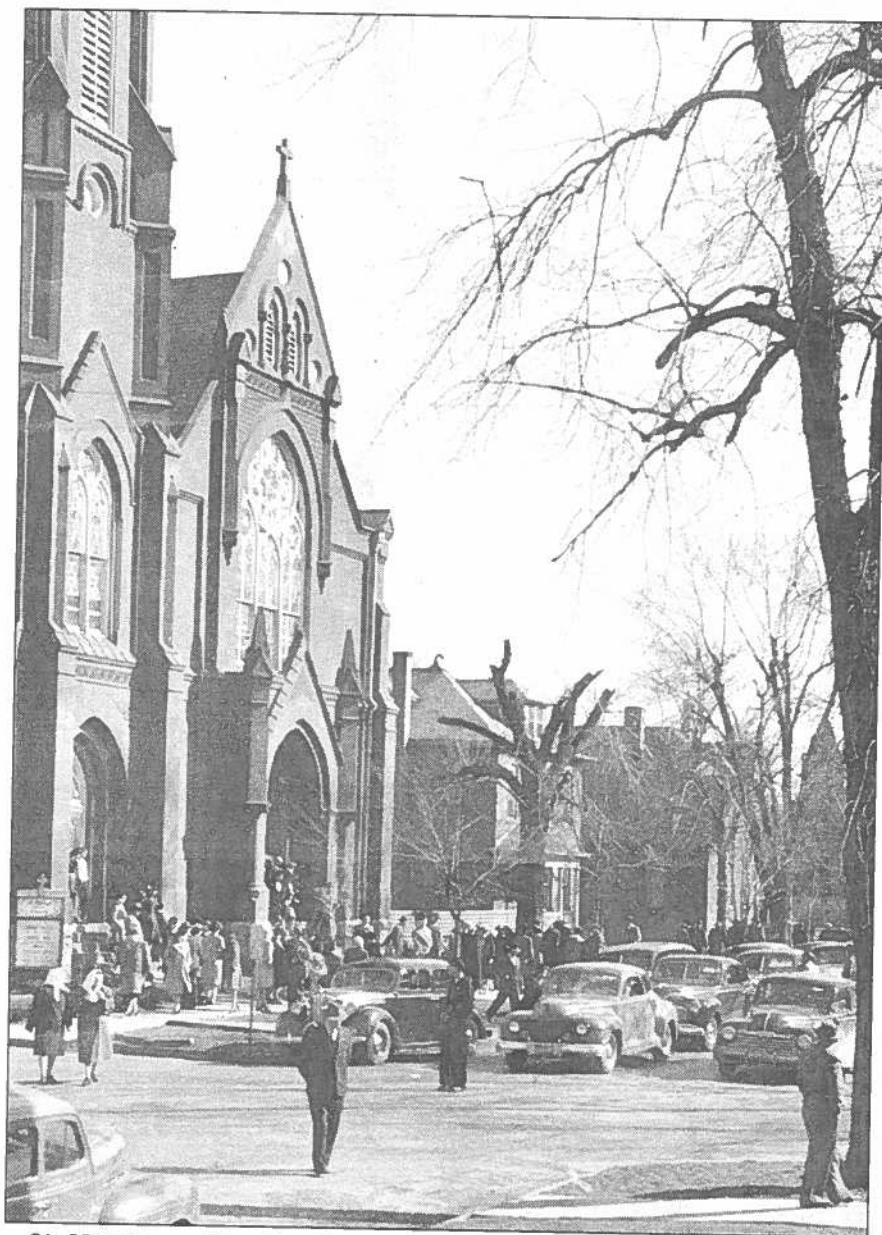
View of the parish rectory, circa 1940s.

1946



Joseph and Dolores (Campbell) Kluck were married on Aug. 21, 1946, at St. Mary's. Their wedding party includes Lloyd Kluck and Mercedes Campbell.

## NO. 5 MINE DISASTER — 1947



St. Mary's was the site of a memorial service in 1947.

A visiting senator looks over an early edition of the *Sentinel* from that fateful day. The senator was in Centralia for the congressional hearings that took place investigating the catastrophe.



Perhaps no other single event has impacted the parish of St. Mary's as did the terrible tragedy that occurred on March 25, 1947. The *Sentinel* described it as "the worst catastrophe in Centralia history."

It was the explosion deep inside the No. 5 Mine in Wamac on March 25, 1947, which killed 111 men. There were only 31 survivors.

The tragedy, which has come to be known simply as the "mine disaster," touched not only the average Centralian, but in particular the Catholic Centralian, for very many of those poor souls were immigrants or sons of immigrants, and members of St. Mary's parish.

How did it happen? A shot charge — a charge intended to loosen coal — created a flash of flame that ignited suspended coal dust. It was mid afternoon, and the shift was nearly done. There was a brief, deafening explosion, which overturned railroad cars used to haul coal and threw miners against the walls of the mine and against the overturned cars.

Those who survived the blast 545 feet underground then faced another peril — deadly black damp — the poisonous gas that seeped down the mine's corridors after the explosion.

Rescuers arrived from Benton, Belleville, West Frankfort, Springfield, Herrin, Eldorado, Benld and Du Quoin, but with the exception of the very first local rescue workers who entered the mine, the efforts to find any miners still alive were futile.

Among the first on the scene were Fr. Michael Podrasky and seven Felician Sisters of the hospital. Joined later by Fr. A.B. Schomaker of Salem and several other area priests, they watched and prayed and aided rescue attempts.

As the bodies were removed from the mine, workers took them to temporary morgues. The Kavanaugh Bus Service garage on East McCord Street was the main morgue. For some of the surviving miners, the Community Center on Walnut Street was used as an emergency ward.

Funeral homes were overwhelmed by the magnitude of the disaster. Orders were placed for dozens of extra caskets. Funeral services were held in homes, and in many cases, the funeral homes' services included as many deceased miners and their families as could be accommodated at one time.

A day after the explosion, Bishop Althoff visited the area. The Knights of Columbus distributed food to rescue workers.

The disaster had left 99 widows and 78 children younger than 18 without fathers.

Six days after the No. 5 Mine disaster, a still stunned Centralia learned that 12 of the miners who died had written notes in their dying moments as the gas reached



### Victims of the No. 5 Mine Disaster:

Joe Altadonna	Martin Freeman, Sr.	Walker Pelker
Rodrigo Alvarez	Martin Freeman, Jr.	Alva Petrea
Joe Ballantini	Albert Friend	Peter Plasse
Pietro Ballantini	Bruno Gaertner	Julius Piazzi
Alvin Barnes	Angelo Gallassini	Louis Piazzi
Martin Basola	Tony Giovanini	John Pick, Sr.
Nick Basola	John Grotti	John Placek
Domenick Beneventi	Louis Grotti	Alfredo Pollacci
Harry Berger	Adolph Gutzler	George Powell
Celso Biagi	John H. Gutzler	Richard Privette
Harold Jack Bryant	John W. Gutzler	Glen Purcell
Joe Bryant	Henry Hoelnghaus	Nick Reggio
Edward Bude	Edward Hofstetter	Jacob Rethard
Otto Buehne, Sr.	Gustave Hohman	Forrest Rhodes
Raymond Buehne	Ned Jackson	Carl Rohde
Tom Bush	Warrie Jackson	Daniel Sanders
John Busse	Henry Knicker	Archie Schofield
Charles Cagle	Phillip Knight	Jacob Schmidt
Theodore Cariaux	Joseph Koch	Lee Gerald Shaw
Arthur Carter	Charles Kraus	Anton Skrobol
Joseph Cerutti	Fred Laughunn	Clarence Smith
Domenic Cervi	Domenico Lenzini	Ray O. Smith
Anton Chiarottino	Peter Lenzini	Andrew Spinner
Paul Comper	John Mazeka	Joseph Spinner
Clifford Copple	Miles McCollum	Alfred Stevens
Frank Copple	Charles McGreavey	H.W. Sundermeyer
Leo Dehn	Clarence McHenry	James Tabor
Eugene Erwin	William Mentler	Anthony Tickus
George Evans	Fred Moore	Stanley Tickus
Frank Famera	Elmer Moss	Anton Tillmann
Andrew Farley	Henry Niepoetter	Emmet Uhls
Walter Fetgatter	Charles Oestreich	Dude Vancil
John Figielki	George Panceroff	Joe Vancil, Sr.
William Fortmeyer	Frank Paulauskis	Mark Watson
Ray Fouts	John Pawlisa	Joe Zinkus
Odla Lee Francis	Charles L. Peart	Max Zonarin
Luther Frazier	Joseph H. Peller	



Centralians gathered outside the Sentinel office for the latest bulletins on the mine disaster.



Mrs. Pollacci and family await word on the fate of the father, Alfredo Pollacci. He would not survive.



them. They were notes of farewell to their families.

Among the notes left by the miners was this one: "Well hon, it looks like this is the end. Please tell mom and dad I still love them. Please get the baby baptized and send (name) to the Catholic school. Well, I love you all, and please take care of them and raise them a good Christian. I love them all. Love to all of you."

On March 25, 1997, a special Mass was held at St. Mary's, just as a community

service had been held here in 1947.

During the 1997 service, 111 candles burned on the altar. Each represented a coal miner who died in the No. 5 Mine explosion, more than half of whom were Catholics, not just at St. Mary's, but at other Catholic churches in the area, including Sandoval's.

Rev. Wilton Gregory, bishop of the Diocese of Belleville, was the main speaker at the 1997 Mass.

"Fifty years ago on this very day, Southern Illinois

became a national symbol of sorrow," Gregory said. "Fifty years ago, families in Southern Illinois were united in grieving the loss of husbands, fathers, uncles, brothers, relatives and neighbors in this terrible tragedy. Common sorrow drew them together. Religious differences were less different, for a moment, than the bonds of sorrow that united families. It is to be hoped that this bond has endured the passage of time. It has shown us just how much we need

one another."

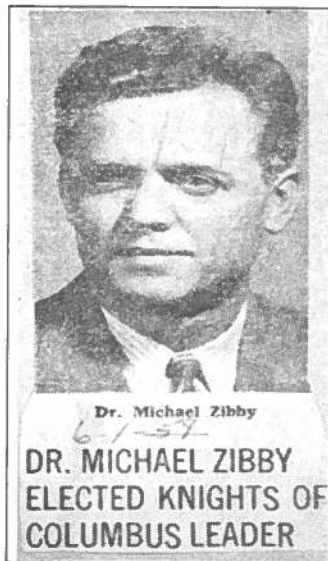
He said, "We commend these men into the shelter of God's care." He also told the area residents attending the Mass, "We must keep solidarity and unity as our legacy."

The 50th anniversary Mass was open to all members of the Centralia community.

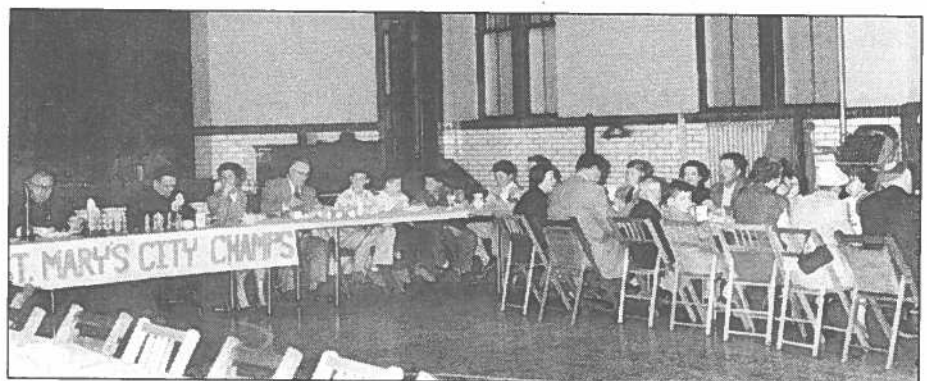
"We hope that survivors of any of the victims, Catholic or not, will feel most welcome to attend," Rev. James Dougherty said in advance of the service.



## DECADE OF THE 1950s



It wasn't until the 1950s that parochial schools such as St. Mary's were allowed to play against the city schools in basketball competition. ABOVE and RIGHT, St. Mary's parents and parishioners celebrate the school's achievement as city champions in 1954.



This touching tableau prepared by the staff of St. Mary's Hospital won first place in the schools and churches division of the Centralia Centennial parade held Aug. 24, 1953. Girls and boys dressed in appropriate garb depicting nurses, patients, doctor and priest.



"I've got him eating out of my hand," so seems to say Jan Kaney in this April, 1953 Sentinel photo.





Thousands gathered in May 1951 for a May Day rally that was attended by 17 parishes in Southern Illinois.



This photo of the 1951 May Day float shows parish children dressed as angels.

### Sharon Kaney selected Queen of the May

Sharon Kaney, eighth-grade student at St. Mary's School, has been selected Queen of the May. She will participate in the Catholic May Day rally May 6 [1951] at The Bowl in Foundation Park.

Sharon, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Kaney, was selected by the student body of the parochial school and will reign throughout the year.

The queen and her attendants will march in the procession from the church to the outdoor theatre, immediately following the float titled "Mary, Assumed Into Heaven."

Upon arriving at The Bowl, the May Queen will place a gold crown upon the head of a statue of the Virgin Mary, while assembled Catholics sing "Bring Flow-

ers of the Rarest."

The crowning ceremony is symbolic of the love, devotion and filial piety of the group.

A Living Rosary will precede the float in the procession from the church to the park. It will consist of seven boys to form the cross and boys for each "Our Father."

The decades of the rosary will be formed by the girls of St. Mary's school — ten in yellow, ten in white, ten in blue, ten in red and ten in green.

Commenting on the spectacle, Rev. Leonard S. Goewert said that a spectator once seeing the Living Rosary said it was "as though a rainbow shattered itself and drifted down to earth, to bring a little warmth of heaven to a bitter earth."



Young children from the various parishes, followed by the Felician Sisters, enter into Foundation Park.



These rarely-seen photos, ABOVE and BELOW, were reconstructed from damaged Sentinel negatives. They show a float and processional from the 1950 May Day rally held by St. Mary's parish.





1950



## *Solemn High Mass*

The Rev. Robert R. Boyle is surrounded by part of the procession at his first Solemn High Mass offered at St. Mary's Church and featured in this June 18, 1950 Sentinel photo. The Rev. Boyle, son of Mrs. T.J. Boyle of Centralia was ordained on June 14, 1950, in the chapel of the Immaculata at St. Mary's, Kan. He was a member of the Society of Jesus.







**Jan. 11, 1952 —** Twins Phillip and Phyllis Huff, children of Mr. and Mrs. A.H. Huff, were 7th graders at St. Mary's school in this Jan. 11, 1952 photo.



Elizabeth Kaney seems to have selected a Cinderella everglaze cotton dress for her first day of school at St. Mary's in this August, 1954, Sentinel photo. The dress was available at Osborne Dry Goods and was available in a variety of colors with light blue collar, cuffs and a belt trimmed with rhinestones, according to the Sentinel caption. The dress was also touted as washable and wrinkle resistant.



The St. Mary School Class of 1951 includes, **FRONT ROW**, from left, The Rev. Leonard Goewert, Christina Perkins, Eugene Gettinger, Sharon Kaney and Rev. Eugene Fix. **SECOND ROW**: Bertha Huene, Gerry J. Buehne and Rosemary Bieser. **THIRD ROW**: Pat Langenfeld and Geraldine Sheid. **FOURTH ROW**: Peggy Heick, Richard Stamer, Frank Lennarly, James Schwartz and Peggy Gibboney. **FIFTH ROW**: Cheryle Ellwell, Gary Francois, Jim Gilmore, Vernos Sanders and Betsy Seip.



Steve Zibby, **LEFT**, and John Green of St. Mary's school hold trophies earned during the annual CYO Christmas basketball tourney held in 1959.



**ARTISTS AT WORK —** These three girls from St. Mary's School seem to enjoy being artists for the afternoon on the window of Ballard's Jewelry Store. They were painting windows for the annual Halloween contest. The girls are Joann Connaway, background, Nancy Scheriger and Coleann Blowers. The photo ran in the Oct. 27, 1954 issue of the Centalla Sentinel.





First Communion service from 1956. See detail, BELOW, RIGHT.



This five-generation family was featured in the May 3, 1958 Sentinel. Members are, SEATED, from left, Nettie Haney and Mrs. Lyle Marcum holding her son Tony Kent Marcum. STANDING: Mrs. R.L. Langenfeld and Mrs. S.L. Cherry, all of the Centralia area. Twenty years before, the three older women posed for a four-generation picture when Mrs. Marcum was the babe in arms.

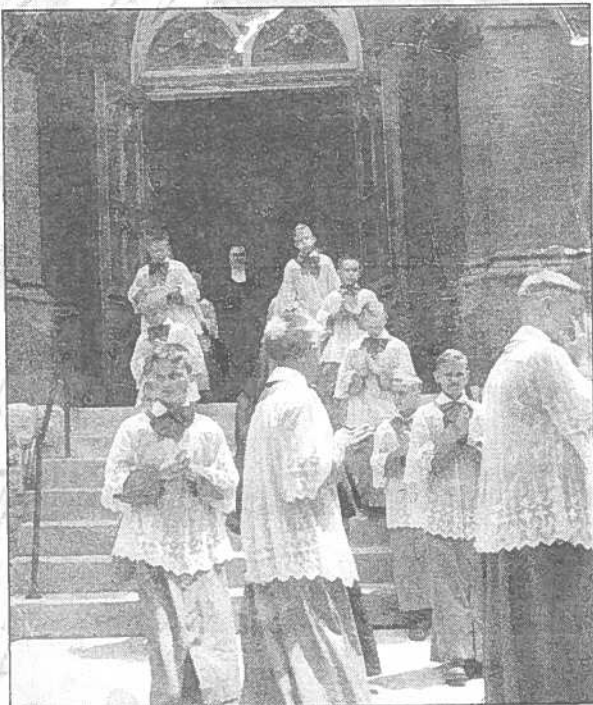




## Parish MEMORIES

**T**ony Kaney shares that, "right after I started school at St. Mary, I went to school one day wearing blue jeans and Sister said that I looked like a workman and wasn't fit to be in class so she sent me to the basement to spend the day helping the janitor. I thought it was great fun.

"When they showed the movie 'My Blue Heaven' at the Illinois Theatre in about 1952, we were ordered by the nuns not to see it; it had been banned by the church because they used the word 'virgin' in it [I'm not making this up!]. So naturally we were all determined to go see it anyway, and many of us did [all boys, I remember]. However, unknown to us, Sister had posted one of her little 'spies' [a teacher's pet] to stand on the corner on Saturday afternoon and make a list of all the kids from school who she saw going into the theatre for the matinee. On Monday, Father Pastor came into class and gave us all a sermon and made us stand in the back all day. Once again, mom blew her stack and went in and gave Sister a lecture about how she and only she decided which movies I could see. Of course, I stood there smirking and loving it, but got no more static from sister about movies after that."



Tony Kaney is in the top row, far right, in this 1949 photo taken of a group of boys coming down the front steps of the St. Mary's Catholic Church.

## Native son honored by parish – 1951

**A** reception honoring Father Joseph C. Hays was held at St. Mary's Hall Sunday evening (May, 1951) and attended by friends and family members of the parish. Mrs. Huey White, Mrs. T.J. Boyle and Mrs. Robert Peifer poured. Miss Shirley Bieser was in charge of the guest book.

Rev. Hays was ordained to the priesthood on May 15 in the Cathedral of St. Peter in Belleville. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph C. Hays Sr. of Evansville, Ind., former residents of this city.

In the morning following the Solemn Mass, a breakfast was served to the visiting clergy and immediate members of Father Hays' family.

In the evening, a dinner was served to about 60 relatives and friends of the newly ordained minister. The Very Rev. John E. Taylor, O.M.I., Ph.D, presided as the toastmaster. Other clergy present at the dinner were the Revs. Eugene Fix, Leonard Goewert, John V. Fellner, Arthur Niemeyer, Michael Podrasky, A.B. Schomaker, John O'Keefe, E. Schumacher, and John Walsh. Short addresses were given by Fathers O'Keefe, Fix and Hays.

The serving tables for the breakfast dinner and recep-

tion were beautifully decorated with spring flowers and silver candelabra. Baskets of flowers decorated the hall for the occasion.

In the procession in the morning were Peggy Phee dressed as a bride and carrying the pall encircled by a wreath of flowers on a satin pillow. Her train bearers were Louis Logullo and Thomas Hayes. The wheatbearer was Jerry Louis Heise, nephew of



Rev. Joseph Hays

Father Hays. Bridesmaids were Martha Ward, Jo Ann Connaway, Theresa Virobik and Joyce Zimmerman. They were dressed in pastel colored formals and carried colonial bouquets. Others in the processional were the flower girls in pastel colored formals, boys in white suits and pages in blue and gold.

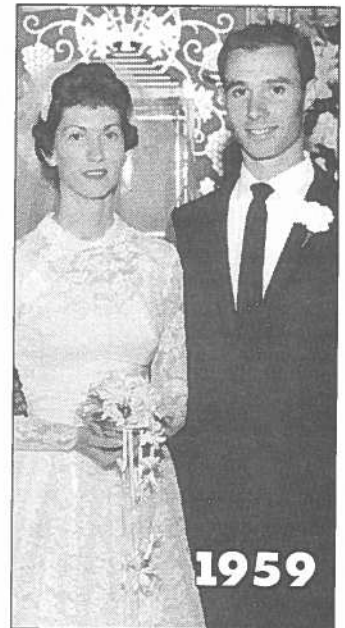
Ushers for the Mass were C.M. Broughton, James Broughton, Charles Buehler and Ray Durbin.

These affairs were sponsored by the Catholic Daughters of America, Altar Society and the Knights of Columbus.

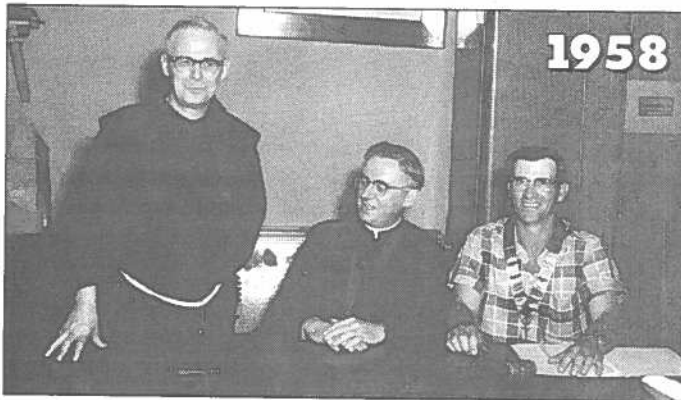




**1954**  
Dolores Marie (White) and Robert W. Sanders were united in matrimony on June 5, 1954. They are joined by their mothers, Olive White and Bertha Sanders and attendants Beatrix Bieser, Walter Monken and Jane Monken.



**1959**  
Charles and Daphene Mordini were united in marriage on Oct. 16, 1959.



**1958**  
Rev. Fulgence Gross, LEFT, who was a prisoner of the Communists in Red China for six years, spoke to a meeting of the Knights of Columbus in May 1958. According to the Sentinel, Rev. Gross related his experiences with physical and mental torture used in an attempt to extract a confession that he was a spy. He called on "men of spiritual vision" to stop inroads of Communism. The Rev. A.B. Schomaker and Robert Langenfeld, Grand Knight of Council 1025, are at the head table with the Rev. Gross.



**1954**  
Redecoration of the interior of St. Mary's Catholic Church was featured in this Aug. 27, 1954 Sentinel photo. The caption reported that "the work brings out the beautiful lines of the church. Colors of the interior have been lightened and new paintings have been installed. The Rev. Fred. M. Halbig, pastor, expects the work to be completed in the next two months. Besides having a complete refurbishing, the church is to be air conditioned."



### **Court of Honor for Troop 59**

**1955**  
Michael "Mickey" Scheriger, 14, Eagle Scout, stands beside his mother, Mrs. Joseph F. Scheriger, after receiving the Eagle badge from her. Mickey, a member of the freshman basketball team, also displays the Order of the Arrow sash on his Explorer uniform in this Feb. 4, 1955 Sentinel photo. Mickey received the award at a

Court of Honor for Troop 59 at St. Mary's School. Jack Tyler received his Life Scout Award and seven merit badges, six apprentice Explorer awards and one emergency service award were presented. Scoutmaster Harold Seggelke presented most of the awards and Fred Schulz, committee chairman, presided over the court.





St. Mary's First Communion Class of 1956.

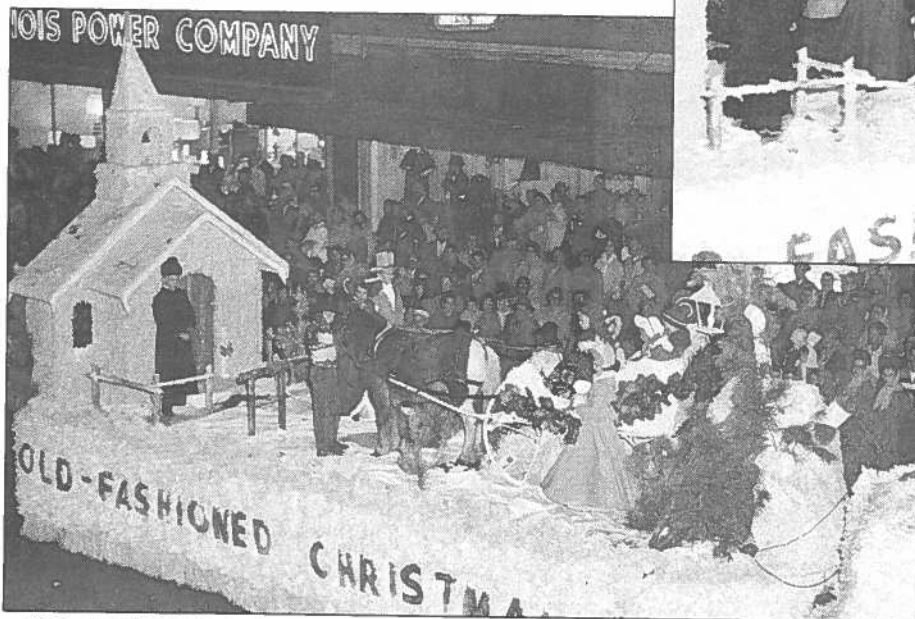


St. Mary's First Communion Class of 1958 includes 36 children. FROM LEFT, front row, Patricia Holtkamp, Jan Darin, Melinda Harris, Nancy Bost, Sandra Scott, Donna Difalco, Linda Aydt, Susan Francois, Jan Kaney, Martha Garnier, Ann Darin and Cathy Schaefer. SECOND ROW: Michael Pierceall, Jim Went, Louis Castellari, Larry Gettinger, Hilary Murray, Ralph Faught, John Altadonna, Gregory Huff, Joyce Voss, Linda Warnock, Janelle Mueller, Jane Keeley, Melody McGuire, Nancy Neudecker, Carol Berger, Mary Jean Martinelli and Ruth Schwartz. THIRD ROW: David Harris, Steve Glibreath, David Holtkamp, Donald Heser, Nancy Schmidt, Patricia Steinmann, Vickie Tune and Myra Davis. FOURTH ROW: Orest Szpur, Kevin Pelaez, Nancy Voss, Judy Mabry, Barbara Harris and Rosemary Fairchild. FIFTH ROW: Billy Sprehe, Charles Phee, The Rev. A.B. Schomaker, Jan Snake, Janet Hampton and Janice Hampton.





**St. Mary's School Class of 1958** includes girls Diane Smith, Pat Swanson, Carol Colon, Maryann Rogers, Susan Freeman, Blanche (Langenfeld) Flanigan, Mary Ellen Walsh, Cheryl Buehne, Pat (Meyer) Kuder, Theresa (Virobik) Williams, Nancy (Schaeffer) Kern, Margaret Phee, Charlene Reicter, Jan (Matousek) Payne and Anne (Carl) Schwartz. Boys are Louis Logullo, John Murray, Dean Francois, Larry Jones, John Bieser, Don Knipping, Steve Gilmor, Don Demijan, Michael Jackson and Tom Hayes.



**OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS** — St Mary's School was top winner in the suburban and parochial schools division with their float, an "Old Fashioned Christmas," October 1958.



Parishioner James Broughton presents a bouquet of roses to Miss Centralia of 1954, Miss Nancy Ford.





St. Mary's School took first place in the miniature float division with their armed services entry, shown in this Oct. 29, 1958 Sentinel photo. Each wagon represented a branch of the service, including the Army, Navy and Red Cross nurses. Nearly a dozen floats were entered in the contest.



Children from St. Mary's School participated in a poetry contest sponsored by Court St. Theresa of the Catholic Daughters of America. Winners featured in the April 13, 1959 edition of the Sentinel are, FROM LEFT, Pat Freeman, Mary Ann Monken, Buddy Davis, Susan Barr, David Pierceall and Marilyn Findlay.



As a kickoff to the March of Dimes Drive in Centralia, women of St. Mary's Parish sent letters asking for donations to the campaign. Shown addressing envelopes in this March 12, 1958 Sentinel photo are, Trudy Colon, Mary Remacle, Grace Broughton, Mary Louise Meagher, Anna George, Mercedes Campbell, Kay Colon and Nell Barr.



## ST. MARY'S CENTENNIAL 1957

**S**t. Mary's parish celebrated her centennial in 1957 with a pontifical high mass at the Pit-tenger Band Shell. Celebrant of the Mass was the Most Rev. A.R. Zuroweste, bishop of Belleville, who also delivered the sermon.

An evening banquet followed 4 p.m. Mass to close the centennial observance. The banquet featured an address by Mark R. Holloran, St. Louis business executive and holder of Papal honors. The banquet was held at the American Legion hall under the co-chairmanship of Ira Garnier Sr. and Mrs. Marie Wehrle. Bishop Zuroweste and Msgr. George Lohman, the only living former pastor at that time, were the honored guests. The public was invited.

The local council Knights of Columbus was in charge of processional arrangements from the church to the bandshell for the afternoon ceremonies.

Erwin Fickinger and Elmer Gherardini were co-chairmen of the program booklet committee.

Following the Sunday observance, a Requiem High Mass was held Monday morning for the deceased members of the parish.

The program for the Sunday event was as follows: celebrant — Most Rev. A. R. Zuroweste; arch presbyter — Rt. Rev. Msgr. George W. Lohman, dean, pastor of St. Francis, Aviston; Deacon of the Mass — Fr. Thomas W. Parrott, C.M., DePaul University, Chicago; Sub-deacon of the Mass — Fr. Joseph C. Hays, assistant at St. Patrick's, East St. Louis. Fr. Hays was a former parishioner of St. Mary's before entering the priesthood; Deacon of Honor — Fr. Michael Podrasky, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes, Sparta (former assistant pastor of St. Mary's); Sub-deacon of Honor — Fr. Charles Kribs, assistant pastor at Holy Angels Parish, East St. Louis (former assistant pastor of St. Mary's); Master of Ceremonies — Fr. Melvin Haas, St. Peter's, Belleville.



This Feb. 14, 1957 Sentinel photo, ABOVE, encourages the community to attend the open house on Feb. 24. A house to house canvass was conducted to invite local residents to tour the church. The open house committee was also in charge of arrangements for the event and team captains planned the open house as part of St. Mary's observance of National Brotherhood Week. Participants include, FROM LEFT, front row, William Remacle, Olive White, Mercedes Campbell, Father A.B. Schomaker, C.M. Broughton, A.W. Brueggeman and William McCool. SECOND ROW: Gordon Elliston, Bertha Lamsecyk, Jack Tyler, Helen Logullo, Ed Bost, Joe Mondino, Vince Sindelar, Elmer Gherardini, Fred Schultz and Leo Bieser. BACK ROW: Harry Ricker, Winston Connaway and Father Raymond Oriet. BELOW: A group of Centrallians enters St. Mary's in this Feb. 24, 1957 Sentinel photo to join one of the guided tours through the church held continuously throughout the open house day.

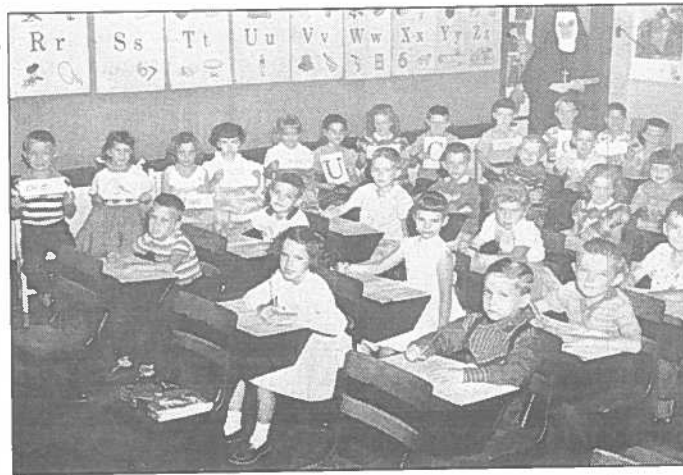




A photo of the altar boys from St. Mary's centennial year (1957).



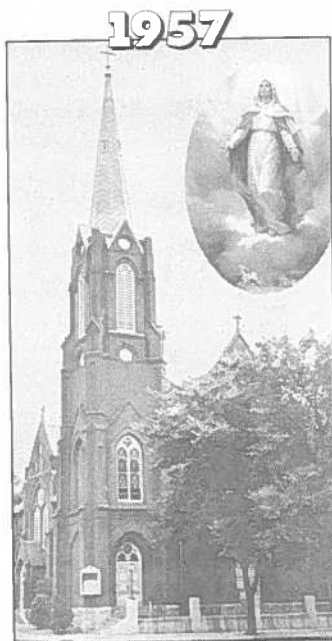
A photo of St. Mary's Church sanctuary as it appeared in the centennial year (1957).



A photo of the first grade class of St. Mary's school from the parish's centennial year (1957).



Grades 2 and 3 from the centennial year (1957).



Cover illustration for the 1957 history book.



St. Mary School Centennial Class of 1957 included Linda Lee Dunbar, Carol Betourne, Mary Jane Sprehe, Gay Fickinger, Walter Gilmore, Douglas Huff, Darrell Jansen, Herbert Schwartz, Edward Walsh, Robert Sindelar, Ronald Zborek, Jerry Barr, Jay Garnier, Fred Monken and Joe Altadonna.





St. Mary's Grade School Class of 1954 includes, FROM LEFT, front row, Wally Denzler, Bob Dunbar, Ramona Monaghan, Phil Ford, Joyce Zimmerman, David Heich, Bill Boswell and John Branch. SECOND ROW: Mike Griffin, Jim Brady, Carolyn Carl, Nancy Wollett, Dianne Betourne, Cara Davidson, Ron Schwartz and Jack Tyler. THIRD ROW: Bob Jansen, Mick Scheriger, Delane Buehne, Ed Fortag, Ken Matousek, Winston Connoway and Tony Tillman. They are joined by Father Halbig.







Poetry contest winners shown in this 1958 photo are, FROM LEFT, Judy Kern, third place; Barbara Bost, second place; Mary Ellen Walsh, second place; Phil White, first place; and Donald Knipping, first place. Bost and White placed in the 4th, 5th and 6th grade category. The contest was sponsored annually by the Catholic Daughters of America.



These St. Mary's school students received prizes in the 1959 Poppy Poster Contest sponsored by the VFW Auxiliary. FROM LEFT are Mrs. Rufina Clawson, poppy chairman; Edward Mabry, Clarence Davis, Mary Elizabeth Huff, the Rev. A.B. Schomaker, Michael Schwartz, Jacqueline Warnock, Katherine Mena and Mrs. Laura Mayes.

1958

Miss Elizabeth Ann Peifer was united in marriage with Kenneth James McCaleb August, 1958, at St. Mary's Church in Centralia. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Peifer of Centralia.



## John Capellupo Receives Highest Scouting Award



Left to right: Mrs. Capellupo, Rev. Leonard Goewert, Chaplain of the Troop, John Capellupo, Mr. Harry Broughton, Scoutmaster, and the youth's father, Philip Capellupo.

CENTRALIA—At a special ceremony held last week in St. Mary's School hall, Centralia, John Capellupo, son of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Capellupo, was awarded the Eagle Scout Badge. John is a member of Troop No. 59 of St. Mary's Church.

Mr. Ray Francois, committee chairman, presided at the presentation ceremony. He was assisted by the following members of the committee: Rev. Leonard Goewert, chaplain; Mr. Clarence Zahner, Mr. George Gilmor, Mr. Claude Edmundson, Mr. Nick Babare, Mr. Bill Stock and Mr. Bill Stevens. The actual presentation was made by Mr. Paul Young, scout executive of the Kaskaskia District of Belleville, to Mrs. Philip Capellupo, who in turn pinned the medal on her son, John.

Guests included Rev. Eugene Fix, pastor of St. Mary Church, Mr. C. M. Broughton, a member of the Executive Board of the Council, and Mr. Bill Stevens, a local scout executive.

Preceding the ceremony, a potluck supper was held for all the Boy Scouts and their families. About seventy people attended.

The Rosary was recited by the entire group, led by five scouts. Later a movie entitled "Trails to Citizenship" was shown by Mr. Paul Young.

Troop No. 59 of St. Mary's parish is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council No. 1025.

1959



Past Grand Knights of Columbus 1025 were honored at a dinner held in April, 1959. Pins and certificates were presented by Deputy Grand Knight Dr. Michael Zibby. Fraternal Activity Chairman Matthew Schwartz arranged the program. Past Grand Knights are, FROM LEFT, front row, Matthew Schwartz, Phil Capellupo, Earl Waggoner, Council Chaplain the Rev. A.B. Schomaker, Ira Garnier Sr., Otto Bieser, Nello Lenzini and C.M. Broughton. BACK ROW: Grand Knight Leo Bieser, Frank Phee, Clarence Zahner, Dr. R.G. Keeley, Fred Seip, C.A. Pautler, Carl Huff, William Remacle and Lou Logullo. Past Grand Knights also included W.J. McCloskey, P.I. Norris and P.T. Curley.



# Fr. Schomaker celebrates Jubilee

From the June 8, 1959 issue of the Sentinel:

**T**he Rev. A.B. Schomaker, pastor of St. Mary's Church for three years, will celebrate the silver anniversary of his ordination June 7 and 8. In order to accommodate the crowds and make possible 100-percent parish participation, Solemn High Masses will be held on both days, at 10 a.m. Sunday and 10:30 a.m. Monday. A reception will be held Sunday afternoon at the St. Mary's school hall honoring the jubliarian.

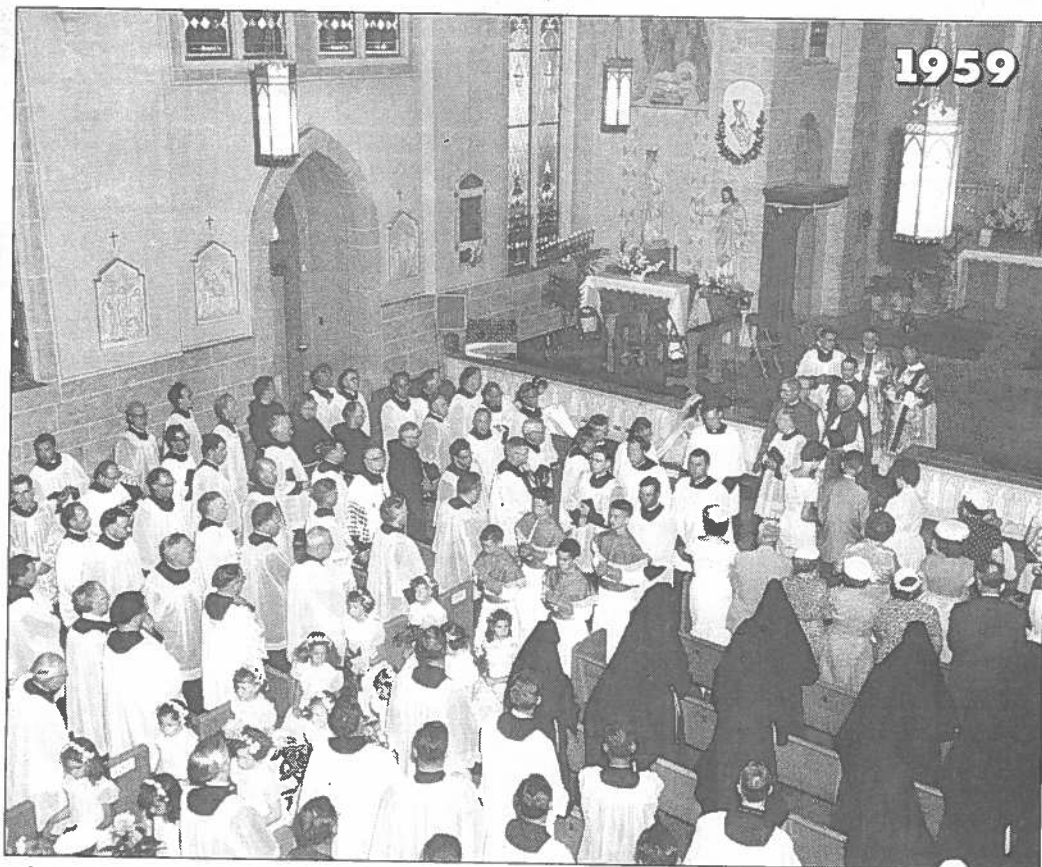
The sermon Sunday will be delivered by the Rev. Peter Behrman O.S.B. of St. Meinrad Seminary. The sermon Monday will be by a former classmate of Father Schomaker, Rev. Robert Peet of St. Patrick's Church, St. Louis.

A banquet will follow the Mass on Monday and speakers will be His Excellency Albert R. Zuroweste, D.D., Bishop of Belleville, C.M. Broughton, a trustee of St. Mary's Church, Father Schomaker and Rev. Charles Hellrung of Waterloo, who will serve as toastmaster.

Officers of the Mass on Sunday besides the celebrant and speaker will be the Rev. Charles Hellrung, subdeacon; Stephen Schwartz, master of ceremonies; and the officers Monday will be the Rev. G.H. Netemeyer, deacon; Rev. William H. Brandmyer, subdeacon; Rev. Raymond C. Orlet

and Rev. Melvin B. Haas, masters of ceremonies; and Rev. E.J. Raterman and Rev. Joseph P. Mueller, chaplains to Bishop Zuroweste.

The reception Sunday afternoon will be held from 3 to 6 p.m. A 35-minute playlet will be put on by the children of the parish, after which Father Schomaker will greet his parishoners and other friends while the women of the parish serve



In June, 1959, Father Schomaker celebrated Jubilee, his 25th year of ordination at St. Mary's in Centralia.

cookies and punch. Background organ music will be played by Mrs. Lon Bartello.

The jubliarian is the son of Martin and Theresa (Brockhoff) Schomaker of Damiansville. He was born there and was educated at St. Meinrad

Preparatory Seminary at St. Meinrad, Ind., and Kenrick Seminary Webster Groves, Mo.

He was ordained by the Most Rev. Henry J. Althoff in St. Peter's Cathedral in Belleville, June 10, 1934.

During the early years of his priesthood, he was assistant pastor at St. Peter's Cathedral in Belleville, St. Mary's in Chester, Sacred Heart in East St. Louis and St. Mary's in Centralia.

While he was an assistant in Centralia, he began to organize the parish at Salem

and in 1940 he became the first resident pastor of St. Theresa's Church in Salem. During his pastorate there, the present rectory was purchased, the new St. Theresa's Church was built and the property was acquired on which he erected St. Theresa's new school, convent and parish hall.

Attached to the parish at Salem was the mission parish of Kinmundy and in 1950 he built a new parish church there.

In 1955, Father Schomaker was named pastor of the Immaculate Conception Church at Columbia and one year later he became pastor of St. Mary's Church following the death of the Rev. Fred Halbig.

With the exception of the year spent at Columbia, Father Schomaker has been a resident of Marion County since 1939.



**Father Schomaker originally served as an assistant pastor under Fr. Halbig**





1959

The Lenten season was ushered in at St. Mary's Church with the distribution of ashes by Father A.B. Schomaker, as seen in this Feb. 13, 1959 Sentinel photo.



1959

JoDene (Hollem) and William W. Nall Jr. were wed on June 3, 1950. Maid of honor was Joan (Shedelbower) Hails, bridesmaids were Dizie Malone, Joan (Reichmann) Huff, Ann (Thomas) Byrd and Marilyn (Nall) Stewart, flower girl was Carol Rae (Grigg) Brock, best man was Bob Woolbright and groomsmen were Billy Joe Thomason, Marshall Jones and Cliff Neudecker. Roland Sachtleben was also in the party.



1950



1959

Mr. and Mrs. Robert DeBernardi were married Jan. 10, 1959 in St. Mary's Church. Mrs. DeBernardi is the former Miss Antoinette Darin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tony (Pinky) Darin of Central City. The bridegroom's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Charles DeBernardi of Glenridge. Antoinette and Bob DeBernardi are shown with their wedding party at St. Mary's. The party includes Adolph Turchi, Mary Darin, Catherine Darin, Fred Fabris, Danny Darin and Eugene Wurm.



## DECADE OF THE 1960s



A group of 26 children received their First Holy Communion at St. Mary's Catholic Church in May of 1960. They are pictured with their attendants. Attendants are, FROM LEFT, front row, Sharon Mabry, Glenda Peleaz, Marilyn Matousek, Diana Harris, Glenda Langenfeld, Deborah Manfucci, Mary Pugh, Mary Ann Morin and Charlene Sprehe. SECOND ROW: Mary Mann, Kathy Pokojski, Marianne McCool, Ann Comper, Susan Schmidt, LuAnn Kaney, Victoria Hamilton, Martha Faught, Jean Marie Braun and Susan Curtin. Members of the First Communion class are, THIRD ROW: Michael Story, Carolyn Schultz, Teresa Vaccaro, Kathy Heckenkamp, April Marcum, Deborah Huff, Judith Gilbreth, Kathy Carl, Laurie Warnock and Donna Burge. FOURTH ROW: Tom Kaelin, William Buehne, James Peterson, Arthur Mena, Edmund Curtin, Patricia Starr, Irene Schaefer and Ann Butler. FIFTH ROW: Thomas Wente, Michael Steinmann, Harold Kalla, Victor Metzger, Barbara Kalla, Elizabeth Elliston, Mary Ann Holtkamp and Rev. A.B. Schomaker.



Thomas Lind Broughton, son of Mr. and Mrs. James B. (Marietta) Broughton, was the New Year's Baby Derby winner for 1960.



Nancy Davis meets mayor Lewis Bain. Sept. 1964.



New members of St. Mary's Parish were welcomed at a garden party held at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Noland White on Melrose Avenue. Shown in this June 4, 1962 Sentinel photo are, SEATED, officers of St. Mary's Sodality, the organization sponsoring the party, FROM LEFT, Mrs. Orvis Crane, treasurer; Mrs. Rose Smith, president; Mrs. Douglas Findlay, vice president; and Mrs. Paul Myers, a member of the committee in charge. Other committee members and guests of honor are standing behind the officers.





**1965**  
FRESHMAN CLASS OFFICERS for the 1965-66 school year are FROM LEFT, Donna Lashbrook, secretary-treasurer; Pete Donnelly, president; and Jan Kaney, vice-president.



**1961**  
Pictured ABOVE are members of a Brownie troop from St. Mary's School, standing beside the Christmas tree in the Sentinel business office.

### Making Way for a new school



**1962**

The Rev. A.B. Schomaker of St. Mary's Church turns over the first shovel of dirt on Jan. 8, 1962, for the new St. Mary's School. Watching are parish members, school officials, the building committee and trustees. The one-story school and a two-story convent cost \$332,238. In the photo below, Sister Louise, RIGHT, principal of St. Mary's School, breaks ground of the convent. She is joined by Sister Joanne, LEFT, and Sister Cecilia, SECOND FROM RIGHT.



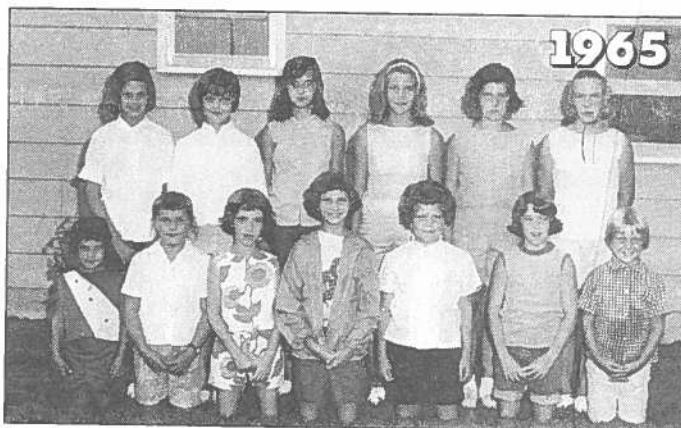
The Rev. A.B. Schomaker, eighth-grade graduates of St. Mary's School and church officials are shown in this May 27, 1962 Sentinel photo during cornerstone laying ceremonies at the new school. The cornerstone was filled with souvenirs including newspapers carrying stories of the new school.







Letter Awards were made at St. Mary's School in this June 11, 1963 Sentinel photo. Honorees are, FROM LEFT, Bill Sprehe, Charles Phee, the Rev. John Vogt, Tom Freeman, Larry Gettinger, Robert Mahlandt, Ralph Faught, Tim McCance, Kevin Pelaez, Coach Wayne Faught and Tom Schwartz.



St. Mary's 5th and 6th-grade softball champions in this Aug. 20, 1965 Sentinel photo include, FRONT ROW, from left, Rita Vacarro, Rhoda Krausz, Jeanne Shelton, Karen Burge, Cindy Niles, LuAnn Kaney and Mary Jane Vacarro. BACK ROW: Cathy Burge, Jo Vaccaro, Martha Faught, Susie Chapman, Nancy Elliston and Ann Comper.

### Centralia becomes the Center of Population, USA - October 1961



The following article was published in a 1961 edition of the Sentinel Newspaper:

Centralia will distribute magic dirt — soil samples from the exact Center of Population, USA — far and wide next week as a feature of the combined Center of the Population and Halloween Parade celebration on Oct. 30. Small packets of the soil will be sent to the governors of all 50 states and be used as table favors when mayors of 40 nearby communities dine here with Gov. Otto Kerner before the Halloween parade. Pictures similar to these were sent to news and photo services for use in newspapers throughout the country. THE TOP, RIGHT PHOTO shows Centralia salwarts digging from around the marker placed by government surveyors on the Fred Kleiboeker farm, four miles northwest of Centralia in Clinton County. FROM LEFT, Kleiboeker, J.T. Foster, president of the Chamber of Commerce wielding the spade, Rolla Malan, chairman of the C of C Committee on Center observance and Centralia Mayor Walter Shipp. PHOTO AT RIGHT shows Girl Scouts of Troop 18 from St. Mary's School filling small sacks with a teaspoon of the soil and affixing cards which state, "Soil Sample from the Center of Population, USA." Troop leaders are Mrs. William Butler and Mrs. Ray McGuire. 500 sacks were prepared as soil samples. TOP, LEFT PHOTO was taken especially for the Associated Press wire service and features Melody McGuire and Karen Butler filling sample sacks with soil.



## 3,000 Witness 1963 Dedication of St. Mary's School

Bishop Albert R. Zuroweste of Belleville dedicated the new St. Mary's Catholic Grade School and Convent in Centralia on March 16, 1963, before a crowd of approximately 3,000 persons.

Also participating in the Sunday afternoon dedication ceremonies were the Rev. A.B. Schomaker, pastor of the local church, and the Rev. John J. Vogt, assistant pastor.

Bishop Zuroweste dedicated the 10-room grade school and spacious convent to culminate the efforts of many local Catholics. The buildings were erected at a cost of \$338,238.

Students total 277 and there are five sisters.

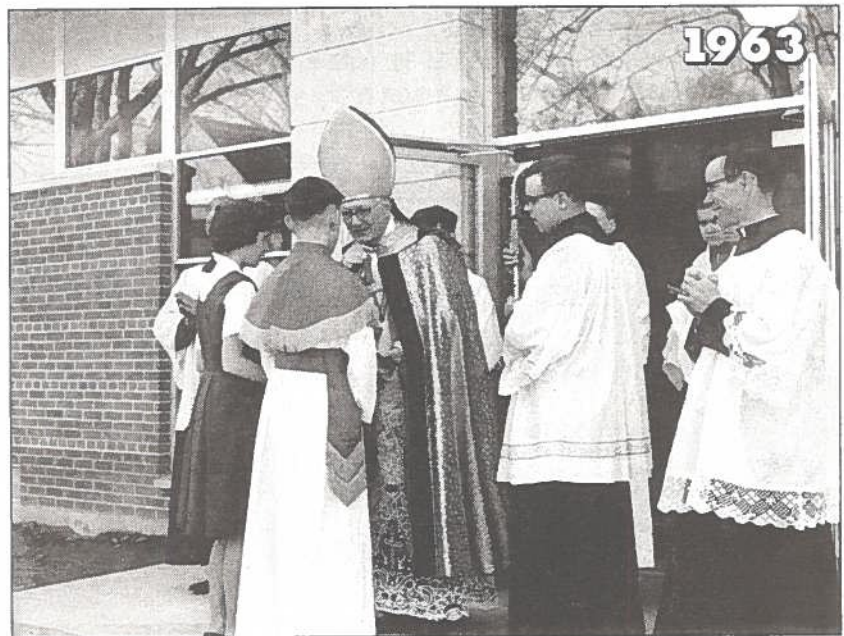
Following the dedication, an open house was held in the school for inspection by the general public.

Building Committee members included Louis Logullo, Gordon Elliston, Joe Mondino, Matthew Schwartz, Fred Seip and Ralph Sprehe.

The school replaced a 1927 structure which was erected for \$60,000. The new school had many extra features, such as heat-resistant glass, adequate blackboards and was built of haydite brick in a contemporary style.



Bishop Albert R. Zuroweste of Belleville is presented with a bouquet of roses, **BELOW**, following the dedication of the grade school and convent by Miss Judy Schultz and David Pugh, two students at the school. Looking on are the Rev. Edwin Arentsen of Sandoval, **RIGHT**, and the Rev. Walter Barr of Belleville.



Palm Sunday, April 1960.

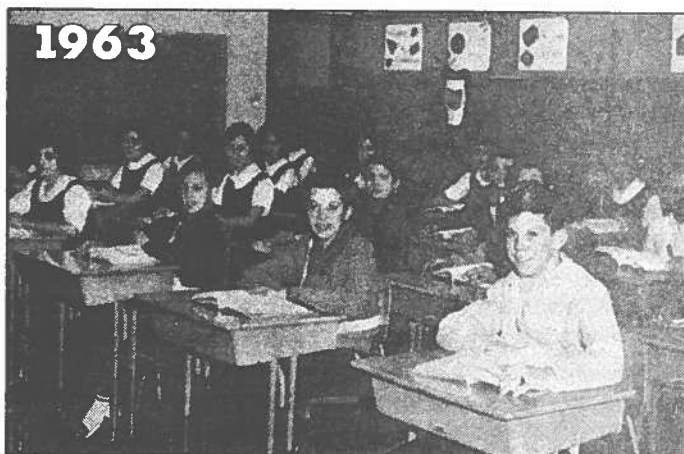




Teaching sisters seen inside of trailer that served as the temporary convent from August 1961 until February 1963. Shown are Sister Mary Beatrix, Sister Mary Cecilia, Sister Mary Joanne, Sister Mary Louise and Sister Mary Adelma.



Various views of the new St. Mary's school.

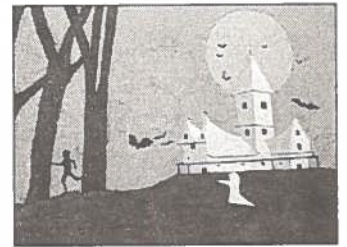
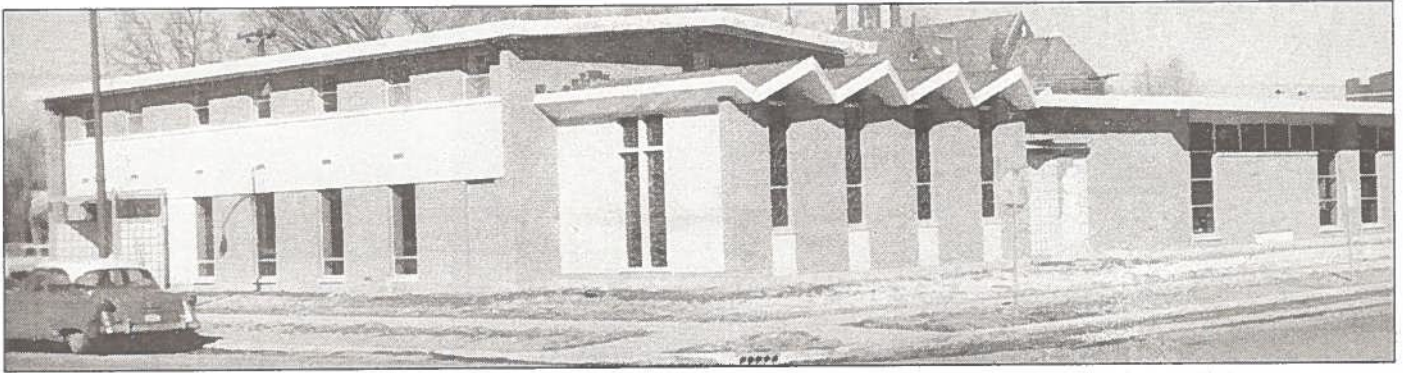


Poetry winners are shown in this March 19, 1962 Sentinel photo. First row, FROM LEFT, Ann Butler, Mike Pierceall, and Nancy Bost; second row, FROM LEFT, Martha Gamler, Richard Sindelar and Margaret Langenfeld. Their poems were selected for entry in a state Creative Writing Contest sponsored by Catholic Daughters of America.



Out of the old and into the new! January 30, 1963.





"The Haunted House," painted by Pete Donnelly, Nancy Bost, Jan Darin and Dinah Wood, earned top honors, October 1964.



Officers of the Parish Library at St. Mary's Church in May of 1965 were, FROM LEFT, Catherine Spinner, Mrs. Lloyd Wert and Anna B. Smith. SEATED is Mrs. Clarence Wehrle, founder and library director.



This Confraternity of Christian Doctrine Class met in the spring of 1969. The eight-week course was conducted at St. Mary School hall by Rev. Roger Karban and Rev. Jack Freker. Students include, from left, FRONT ROW, Theresa Stephen, Mary Ashby, Isabelle Chagerban, Al Scheid, Ethel Scheid, Adrena Murray, Kathryn Butler, Mary Miller and Pat Cleary. STANDING: Father Freker, Joanne Wszelaki, Barbara Reynolds, Bernice Schmidt, Bob Schmidt, Woodson Mabry, Pat Wessling, Ann Dunn, Dolores Mabry, Kay Colon, Helene Freeman, Sharon Stover, Ed Stover, Robin Oakes, Leona Stover, Dolores Sanders, Bob Sanders and Father Karban.



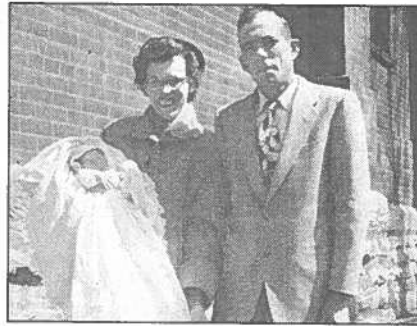
Jerry and Jan Payne were married on May 9, 1964.



# ONE FAMILY, MANY BAPTISMS AT ST. MARY'S



**Leonard & Cecilia Aydt**



**These photos show the Baptisms of the children of Harold "Pete" and Phyllis Aydt:**

**Linda, 1951  
Harold Pete II, 1954**

**Mary Jo, 1957  
Mark, 1958  
Jan, 1960**

**Cindy, 1967  
Lori, 1970**

Leonard and Cecilia Aydt moved from Dahlgren to Centralia in 1910 to start their married life. To them eight children were born — Edward, Amelia, Mary, August, Lorene, William, Robert and Harold "Pete."

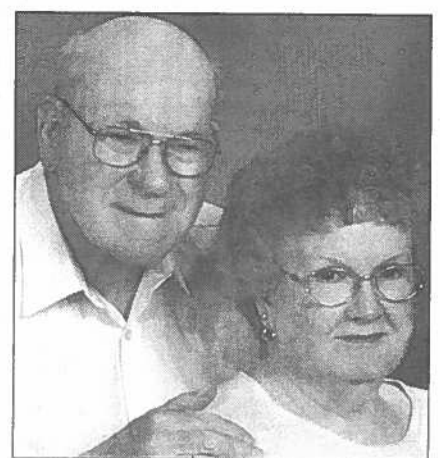
In 1951, Harold "Pete" was married to Phyllis Organ at the St. Mary's rectory by the Rev. Fix. They have lived on Greenview Road in Centralia since 1953. They were blessed with seven children — Linda and husband Jim Moergen, Harold Pete II and wife Rhonda (Burge), Mary Jo and husband Rick Jones, Mark and wife Rene' (Jackson), Jan and husband Dan Budde, Cindy and husband Scott (Wobbe) and Lori. All seven children were baptized, had their First Communion and First Confirmation at St. Mary's Church. They are all also graduates of St. Mary's Grade School. All but Cindy and Lori still live in Centralia — Cindy lives in Collinsville and Lori resides in Terre Haute, Ind. Their family also includes 14 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.



**Harold 'Pete' & Phyllis Aydt, 1951**



**Harold 'Pete' & Phyllis Aydt  
& Family — 1965**



**Harold 'Pete' & Phyllis Aydt, Today**



## Angels of Mercy from our Parish



Ann Marie Virobik - 1960



Theresa M. Virobik - 1965



Katherine Mena—1967



Ruth Zborek— 1967



Judith Schultz — 1969



**Oct. 20, 1963 — PRE-SENTING A CHECK for \$500 to Father Schomaker is Clarence Zahner, member of the local Knights of Columbus. The check was given by the KC's for the purchase of new playground equipment (In background). Also at the presentation were, from left to right, J.M. Morin, Mike Kamman, Zahner and Father Schomaker, Esteban Mena and C.M. Broughton.**



**St. Mary's students sing Christmas carols in the Sentinel business office, December 1965.**



**The Knights of Columbus entered this float, themed the "Legend of Sleepy Hollow," in the 1967 Halloween Parade.**



# ASSASSINATION OF A PRESIDENT



Fr. John Vogt, front pew, nearest to casket, is seen at a memorial service for President John Fitzgerald Kennedy held at St. Mary's Church, Nov. 25, 1963.







**ALTAR AND CASKET** representing the casket of President Kennedy are shown at St. Mary's Church prior to the public memorial service held there yesterday (Nov. 25, 1963). Charles Phee, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Phee, lights candles for the service.



Solemn Requiem Mass was held at 8 and 11 a.m.



1963

## Parish MEMORIES

**A**nne Carl Schwartz recalls this from the time of the death of the President Kennedy — "It was very emotional. The church was crowded, so they allowed us to stand on the side, in the aisles. I was present, wearing a black mantilla. It was a really hard time for everybody. Because Kennedy was Catholic, it was determined to hold the service at St. Mary's. All other denominations were invited. And the dignitaries too. It was not an actual Mass, it was a memorial service for the president."



## Contest Winners

Mrs. William Linkon, president of the St. Mary's Hospital Auxiliary, presents awards to winners of the poster contest for students in grades seven and eight at St. Mary's School in this Nov. 7, 1963 Sentinel photo. The posters publicized the Auxiliary's bazaar and bake sale. Winners are, FROM LEFT, Laurie Warnock, Patty Steinmann, Dinah Wood, Donna DiFalco, Judy Mabry, Rosemary Fairchild and Elizabeth Elliston.



Taking their first Holy Communion shown in this May, 1965 photo were first row, FROM LEFT, Meta White, Becky Tune, Cynthia Rogers, Chris Jumper, Daniel Mulvin, Edward Hanlon, David Heinrichsmeyer, Edwin Basch, Ray Anderjeski, Mary Jo Aydt, Mary Jane Vaccaro, Mary Castellari; second row, FROM LEFT, Ronna Maxfield, Cynthia Schwartz, Mary Stevens, David Terry, Kirk Richards, Paul Holtkamp, Greg Fowler, David Taylor, Michael DeBroeck, Margaret Elliston, Cathy Langenfeld and Maria Profancik; third row, FROM LEFT, Beth Butler, Sara Schwartz, David Pelaez, Tom Stock, Rev. Schomaker, Curtis Moore, Michael Betourne, Chris Connaway, Brad Niles and Patricia Broughton.



Back to school scenes from St. Mary School in 1962.





**1966**  
**NU MU CHAPTER PLEDGES** of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority shown in this Nov. 20, 1966 Sentinel photo, included, **FROM LEFT, Terry Bell, Theresa Williams and Jan Monken.**



**ST. MARY'S SCHOOL**  
**1963-64**



**1967**  
**Sister Mary Joanne, teacher, LEFT, joins in the fun at the annual school picnic. Sister and eighth grade girls played London Bridge after their game of Ring Around the Rosy. The picnic, held Friday, June 2, 1967, celebrated the last day of school.**

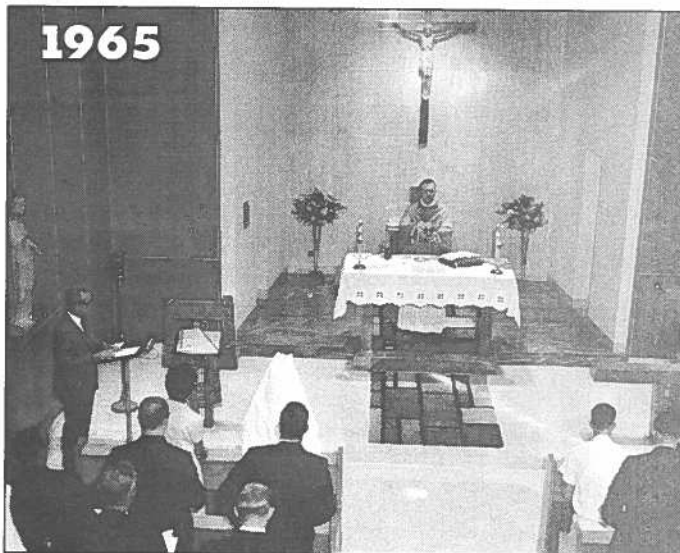


**ST. MARYS SCHOOL**  
**1966-67**  
**GRADE 6**  
**MRS. MURRAY**

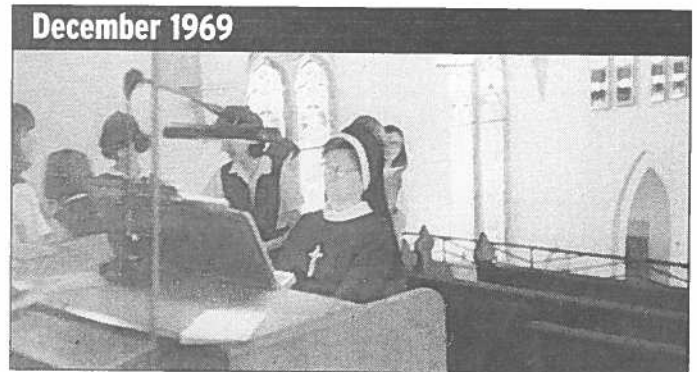
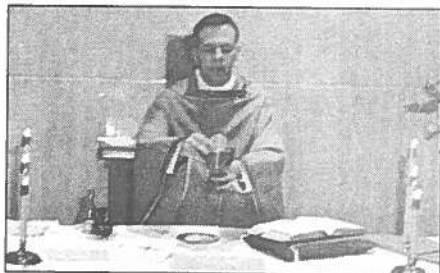




The First Communion class of 1968 includes, from left, front row, Peggy White, Delores Keenan, Jan Aydt, Dori Ann Gutherie, Paul Poninski, Perri DeBernardi, Mario Aedo, Tom Palazzolo, Mark Yarbrough, Christine Loughran, Ann Baccallo, Nancy Mulvin and Laura Aedo. SECOND ROW: Vickie Boatwright, Judith Williams, Theresa Ashby, Daniel Gutherie, Paul Shy, James Nall, Robert Sanders, Michael Garren, Tom Broughton, Lou Ann Peterson, Michelle Smith and Rita Vaccaro. THIRD ROW: Christine Holway, Joan Sebright, Kris Kourdevelis, John Somers, Martin Deerhake, Dean Cameron, Michael Sindelar, Pat Terry, Theresa Oakes, Terry Brown and Melanie Merrell. BACK ROW: Rev. A.B. Shomaker.



**PRIEST FACES CONGREGATION.** Rev. Donald Cismowski, assistant pastor of St. Mary's Parish, faces his congregation, Oct. 19, 1965, while celebrating the annual White Mass at St. Mary's Hospital, marking the first time in Centralia that a Roman Catholic priest has faced the congregation while celebrating Mass. The White Mass was in honor of St. Luke, the patron of physicians. AT LEFT is the commentator and lector, Dr. Michael Zibby, DDS, a layman. In another departure from traditional Catholic practices, hymns were sung in English. A luncheon in the hospital cafeteria followed.



**Open House at the School - 1969**



Sister M. Mark, principal, greets Mrs. Joseph Pollack, Mrs. Gene Reynolds and Mrs. Jack Hartley.

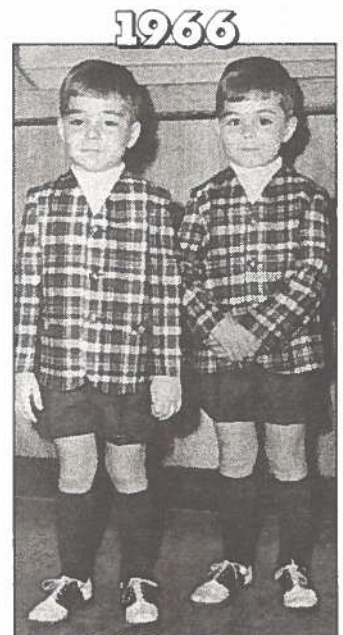




These photos of the St. Mary's school library were taken in advance of an open house to be held after upcoming 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Masses, according to the March 20, 1967 Sentinel. Seventh graders, ABOVE, spent much time organizing the library.



St. Mary's Grade School Class of 1967 includes, from left, FRONT ROW, Victoria Hamilton, Ann Comper, Jo Ann Altadonna, LuAnn Kaney, Father A. B. Schomaker, Susan Schmidt, Marissa Sisson, Jean Baugh and Diana Harris. SECOND ROW: Glenda Pelaez, Mary Mann, Kathy Carl, Glenda Langenfeld, Kathy Smith, Patty Becker, Sharon Mabry, Mary Pugh, Marilyn Matousek, Charlene Sprehe, Christine Hartley and Martha Faught. THIRD ROW: Phil Shy, Art Nall, David Hacker, Billy Kern, Jerome Stack, James Opolony, Tom Ashby, Mark Williams, Jim Arrasmith, Jim Phee and Virgil Wood. Sister Mary Joanne was principal and eighth-grade teacher.



Twins Krls and Kurt Ziegler model children's clothing in advance of the Business and Professional Women's Style Show. The clothes were part of the Sears exclusive "Winnie the Pooh" collection, according to the March 25, 1966 edition of the Sentinel.



## All Aboard the City of Miami!



The Sixth-grade class at St. Mary's left at noon on March 4, 1968 for a train ride to DuQuoin and back under the supervision of their teacher, Mrs. Mary Steinman and conductor Steve Opolony, who accompanied the group on his day off. The class went through each of the cars of the Illinois Central Railroad's City of Miami. AT RIGHT, Jimmi Altadonna experienced a little difficulty as he tried to board the train. Altadonna had broken his foot about two months prior to the trip while ice skating, according to the Sentinel caption for these photos.



Members of the 1969 Parochial League and Deanery Tourney champions of St. Mary's School are, FROM LEFT, front row, Jim Broughton, Bob Demijan, Mark Profancik, Ben Reynolds, Mike Vallow and Tim Loughran. BACK ROW, from left, are Doug Seger, Bob Hacker, assistant coach Gene Reynolds, Rev. L. Goewert, coach Dave Harris, Stan Stack and Ron Hacker.



Mr. and Mrs. Frank Francois celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in February 1968

## 1969

Those graduating in May 1969 included front row, from left Myra Gherardini, Jeanne Langenfeld, Linda Wszelaki, William Huff, Michael Vallow, Richard Shy, Robert Demijan, Lisa Warnock, Cheryl Hesser and Janice Zelasko; second row, from left: Joanetta Mondino, Nancy Wilkinson, Mary Jo Schmidt, Kenneth Schwartz, Steve Harris, Tom Peterson, Marc Profancik, Karen Burge, Debra Mandel and LuAnn Hacker; third row, from left: Jean Ann Gehrke, Bonita Loughran, Stanley Stack, Robert Hacker, Peter Pierceall, Fr. Schomaker, Kenneth Mulvin, Ronald Hacker, Douglas Seger, Mary Basch and Karen.





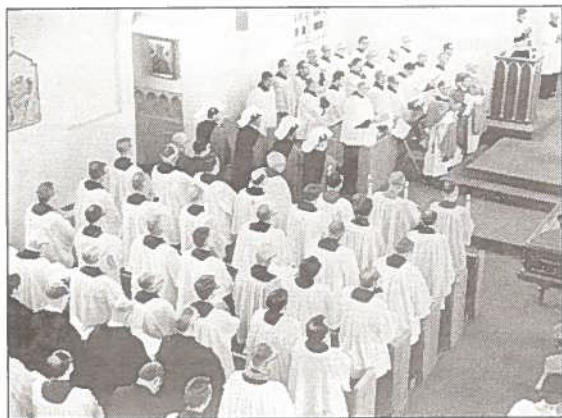
## Vigil for Our Beloved Father Schomaker - 1969



Bishop Albert Zuroweste, facing funeral barrier, prepares for the Final Absolution blessing for Father Schomaker, October 2, 1969.



Knights of Columbus honor guard kept a vigil at the church until the funeral Mass. Throughout the night, the guard changed each hour.



Bishop Zuroweste celebrated the funeral Mass (ABOVE).



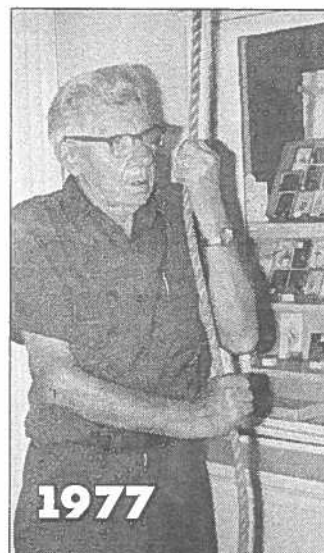
## DECADE OF THE 1970s



Seen in this graduation photo from 1975 is, first row, FROM LEFT, Alan Zelasko, Richard Stamer, Bobbie Benekas, Beth Cleary, Robby Myers, Tony Martoccio, Mark Laine, Lisa Pierceall, Annette Marcum, Karen Harris, Joe Reynolds; second row, FROM LEFT, Carolyn Murray, Beth Schwartz, Kim Monken, Cathy Scheidt, Loretta Ashby, Katy Brodish, Donna Holtkamp, Mary Stephen, Debbie Bost, Margie Smith, Sister Cecilia; third row, FROM LEFT, Laurie Youck, Kathy Suhl, Jill Dial, Cheryl Mordini, Fr. Dennis Voss, Joe Segar, David Higgins, Charles Uluhogian, Steve Garren.



A Mass was concelebrated by Father Jim Dougherty, hospital chaplain, Father Dennis Voss, pastor of St. Mary's Church, and Deacon Ed Schaefer in honor of the Order of Felician Sisters, who had staffed St. Mary's Hospital and St. Mary's School since 1939. These photos were published in the Nov. 21, 1974 Sentinel. The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Felix of Cantalice, better known as the Felician Sisters, celebrated the 100th anniversary of their arrival in America with the Mass at the St. Mary's Hospital Chapel.



When Leo Huene became custodian at St. Mary's, he rang the call to Angelus each day at 6 a.m., noon and 6 p.m. and rang the bell prior to each daily and Sunday Mass. By the time of this photo, Sept. 1, 1977, the bell was sounded only for Masses.



Thomas Joseph and Jan (Kaney) Feig, wed August 1972.





Four St. Mary School students were winners in the 1970 Daughters of the American Revolution Prairie State Chapter Annual Americanism Essay Awards Contest. At the presentation are, FROM LEFT, Sister Cecile Marie, seventh and eighth grade history instructor; Cathy Langenfeld, second-place winner in seventh grade; Margaret Elliston, first-place winner in the seventh grade; Mrs. G.W. Robson, DAR; Helen Merz, DAR; Janet Montague, second-place winner in the eighth grade; Tim Loughran, first-place winner in the eighth grade; and Sister M. Mark, principal of St. Mary's.



Sixth, seventh and eighth graders from St. Mary's School provided entertainment at an all-parish farewell reception held February 1970 for Rev. James Blazine.

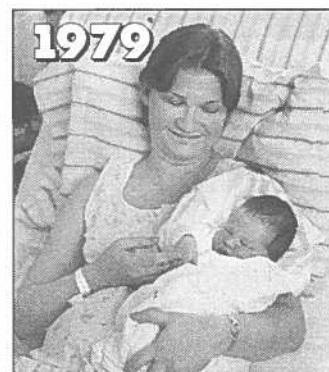
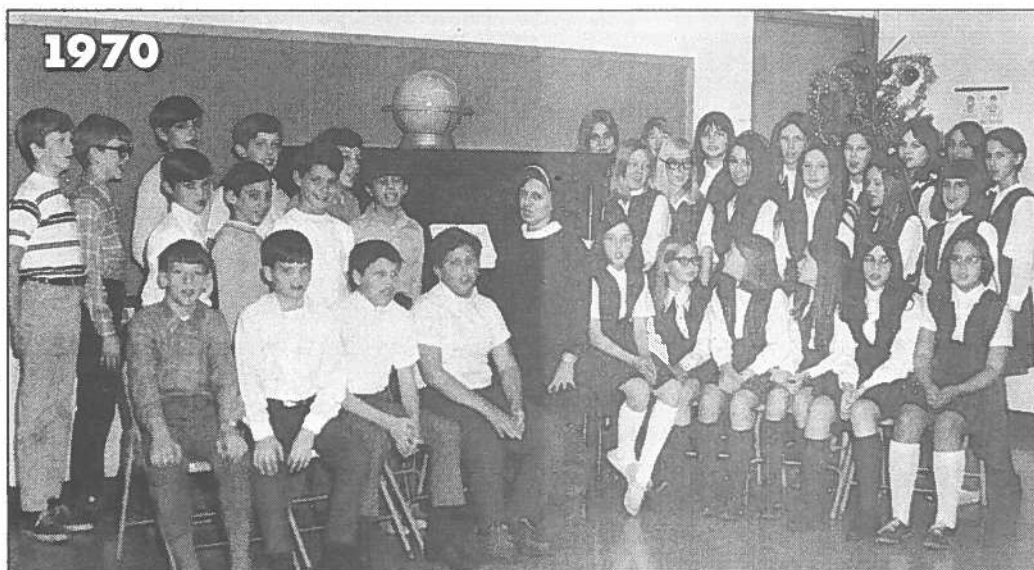


Many churches of Centralia combined to present the Centralia Bicentennial Commission's community religion festival, honoring the 200th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America. Participants in this June 28, 1976 Sentinel photo include, seated, FROM LEFT, Delores Wanzo, reader and Father Dennis Voss.

St. Mary's School students took three first-place plaques and 15 blue ribbons in a February 1970 food poster contest sponsored by the Marion County Farm Bureau. FRONT ROW, from left, Terri Pugh, Shelly Buehne, Angel Profancik, Hope Marcum, Scott Becker, Carolyn Murray, Kathy Suhl, Frances Novack, James Lynch and Chris Bost; BACK ROW: Sister Mary Mark, principal; David Burge, first place, grades four to six; Patricia Broughton, first place, grades seven and eight; Mary Jane Vaccaro, Susan Reynolds, Marla Profancik, Judy Suhl, Becky Tune and Margaret Elliston.







Sarah Ann Krupp, daughter of Dennis and Alice (Francois) Krupp was a New Year's Baby, born five minutes after midnight on New Year's Day, 1979.



Mike Steinmann, premier end on the Centralia High School Orphans football team, signed a letter of intent in February of 1970, to attend the University of Missouri. On either side of the senior are his parents, Mrs. and Mrs. Dwight Steinmann. BACK ROW: Missouri coach Bob Frala, CHS coach Don Smith and former Missouri and Orphans gridders Jim Cooksey.



Centralia VFW Commander Bob Spears, SECOND FROM RIGHT, presents a flag to Sister M. Cecilia of St. Mary School on Nov. 12, 1973. The girls include Julie Green and Clairette Bacallao. AT RIGHT is VFW Senior Vice Commander Chuck Wooters.



Mr. And Mrs. Raymond Zelasko celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on Oct. 13, 1973, with a Mass at the church. They are the parents of children Raymond, Gary, Mary, Janice, Cheryl, Neal, Alan, Chris and Paul.



Bishop Zuroweste greets three charter members of the Court of St. Theresa (CD of A): Mrs. P.I. Norris, Mrs. Earl Waggoner and Mrs. Ira Garnier, Sr. in this Feb. 13, 1973 Sentinel photo. Altar boy is Jimmy Nall.



# Parish MEMORIES

The following memories were shared by Josephine Smith, whose family photos are featured on this page:

**T**hese are some of my most precious memories at St. Mary's Church and the wonderful pastors who were always so nice to me. When I was young, I cleaned the church Saturday and had dinner with Father Halbig and his housekeeper Lucille. My faith in God and the church was very strong because of all his help, and because of his teaching me right from wrong, I was able to grow strong and wise in my Catholic Religion. I sang in the choir at the Cathedral when His Excellency Bishop James P. Keleher came to Belleville. It was my first time in the Cathedral and I was very excited. I attended by first year of school in a Catholic school in Belleville.

Father J. Ralph Arnold Baptized my daughter Margie Sue Smith on April 8, 1972. Shirley Hudson was her godmother. The Rev. Albert R. Zuroweste Confirmed both my daughters, Margie Sue Smith and Betty Ann Fowler, on March 22, 1973. Margie Sue graduated from St. Mary's School in 1975. Father Dennis Voss came to our house in 1977 when Margie Sue died. Father Voss and Ed Schaefer said the funeral Mass and Sister Cecilia organized the music.

Father Gerald C. Miriani was pastor at St. Mary's from 1977 to 1988. He was responsible for the renovation and rededication of the church. I sang with the St. Mary's choir downstairs in front of the church. In 1979, I started as a special minister of the Eucharist. I minister Communion at the nursing homes with Sister Annette Marie Kaba. She is very nice to work with. I attend a Scripture study group led by Pete Donnelly Jr. at St. Mary's Parish on Mondays; on Tuesdays, I go to Dolores Sanders' Group Faith Sharing meetings; and on Wednesdays I go to the Come and Learn Scripture class with Sister Marlene. I am a member of St. Mary's Altar Society and Court St. Theresa 788 Catholic Daughters of the Americas. I am thankful for Sister Barbara Habing, the principal at St. Mary's School, who sees that our Catholic children get an excellent education.

Father Patrick Peter gave the liturgy for my son, George Michael Smith's funeral service. Father David Darin said the funeral service liturgy for my husband, George J. Smith. My family and friends said that the church was beautiful and that Father Darin did a wonderful job. George would have been very appreciative.

George and I were married on Dec. 14, 1947. On Nov. 21, 1968, the Rev. James Blazine married us at St. Mary's Church. We celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary in 1972, our 50th in 1997 and if George had lived we would have celebrated our 60th anniversary this year. Father James R. Dougherty blessed our 50th wedding anniversary. Father Dougherty's mother, Stephanie Dougherty, was also a very nice person.

Our family includes a daughter and son-in-law, Betty Ann and Fred Fowler; a daughter-in-law, Debra Smith; and two grandsons, George Michael Smith and Michael Frederick Fowler, all of Centralia. My son, George Michael Smith, and daughter, Margie Sue Smith, are deceased.

Betty Ann &  
Fred Fowler &  
Michael Fowler



1947



George and Josephine  
Smith were married in  
1947.

1972



The Smiths celebrat-  
ed their silver anniver-  
sary in 1972.

2002



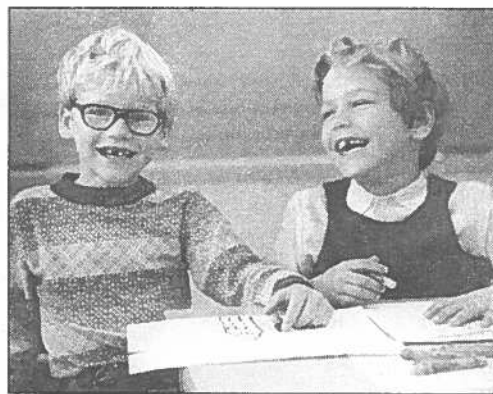
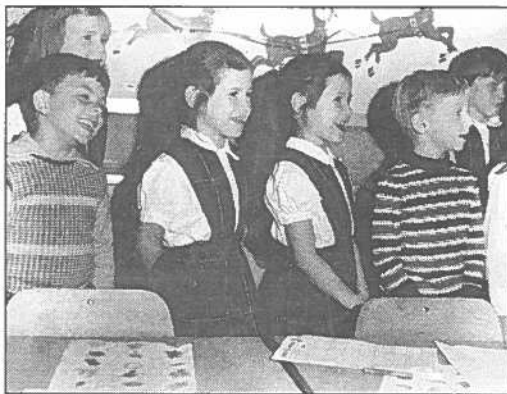
In 2002, the Smiths  
observed their 55th  
wedding anniversary.



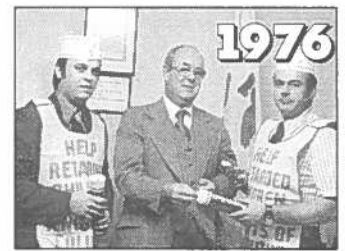
Josephine, George,  
Margie, Betty, George  
Smith

Josephine, George, Margie, Betty and George Smith





First-grade students at St. Mary School sing Christmas carols in this photo, which was published in the Dec. 23, 1973 edition of the Sentinel. Students James Cleary and Paul Somers share a common wish — that jolly old St. Nick might fill the twin empty spaces in their mouths. James is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Cleary and Paul is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Somers.



Mayor Jack Sligar kicks off the Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Drive for the Mentally Handicapped in this Nov. 4, 1976 Sentinel photo. The mayor purchases a tootsie roll from Rick Chambers and Al Elliott.



John C. and Janet Altadonna  
January, 1972.

St. Mary's won the seventh and eighth grade league championship with a 6-1 record in 1978. Team members are, from left, **FRONT ROW**, Janet Moses, Cindy White, Deneen Guthrie, Lynn Thomas, Shawn Monken, Diane Thomas and Julie Green. **BACK ROW**: Coach Fay Vaccaro, Lisa Elliott, Emily Cleary, Regina Castellari, Diane Castellari, Kathy Holway, Jolene Dial, Annette Vaccaro and Coach Peno Castellari.





1975



Bob White of White Salvage hands the cornerstone removed from the old St. Mary's School building to Father Dennis Voss. White and Voss sort through tattered bits of paper and other mementos found in the box, including a number of old religious medals and a copy of the religious newspaper *The Messenger*, which cost \$2 a year in 1927 and \$5 per year when these photos were published in the June 1, 1975 *Sentinel*. Also in the box was a copy of the Sept. 17, 1927 *Sentinel*.



Raymond and Vicki Zelasko, wed June, 1970

1975



On the cleared site of the old St. Mary's Church and School Hall, ground was broken in August of 1975 for a new parish hall. James. B. Broughton, parish council president; and the Fr. Dennis Voss, turn the first spade of soil. They are joined in this Aug. 17, 1975, *Sentinel* photo by, FROM LEFT, Matt Schwartz, Pauline Schwartz, Mary Burge, Eugene Becker, Bob DeBernardi, Al Elliott, C.M. Broughton; Peter Cemeka III; Mayor Jack Silgar, Curt Lackey; Broughton; Richard Chambers, Voss; Gordon Elliston, the Rev. Ed Schaefer, Sister Mary Cecilla, Betty Zborek and Gene Reynolds. Altar boys are, FROM LEFT, Jim Nall, Larry Yauch, Todd Elliott and Scott Becker. BELOW, CENTER, Bishop Albert Zuroweste blesses the new St. Mary's parish hall-gymnasium in this Aug. 29, 1976 *Sentinel* photo. Assisting the bishop is, FROM LEFT, the Rev. Ed Schaefer, Father Dennis Voss, pastor of St. Mary's, and Msgr. Joseph Schwaegel.



1976







The First Communion Class of 1971 at St. Mary's includes, from left, FRONT ROW, Mariann Mulvin, Hope Marcum, Kristine Jones, Susette Shiels, Cynthia Cleary, Shelly Buehne, Chris Zelasko, David Knipping, Ricky Garren, Martin Metzger, Timmy Green and David Hoyt. SECOND ROW: Angel Profancik, Stephanie Smith, Pamela Williams, Paula Harris, Julie Merrell, Alicia Mena, Robin Hartley, George Lackey, Toni Oakes, Kenny Faught, Todd Elliott and James Holway. THIRD ROW: Alicia Maria Hinton, Terri Pugh, Robyn Meyers, Holle, Rev. J.R. Arnold, Tom Holle, Steven, Larry Youck, Scott Becker and Perry Mordini.



The 1976 graduates of St. Mary's school are, front row, FROM LEFT, Sally Hernandez, Diana Guthrie, Stephanie Uluhogian, Jennifer Broughton, Richard Rentschler and Eddie Lazo; second row, FROM LEFT, Christa Hinton, Tonya Brown, Keith Elliott, Mark Ashby, Larry Duncan, and Lonnie Niepoetter; back row, FROM LEFT, Rev. Dennis Voss, Sonya Joliff, Eric Williams, Bob Brodish, Rodney Sanders, and Sister M. Cecilia, principal.





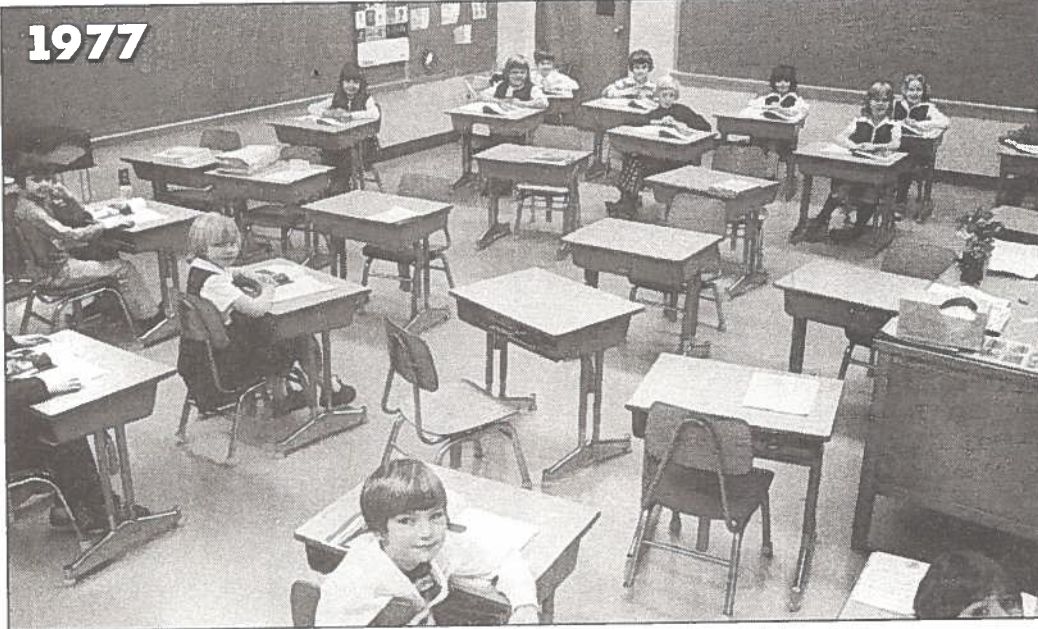
St. Mary's Catholic Church Parish Council brought this Vietnamese family to Centralia in 1975, and through the efforts of many parishoners, established family members in jobs, located a home for them and provided a sponsoring family to assist them in learning to function in the community. Within two days after their arrival, three of the members of the family were working at St. Mary's Hospital and the four school-age children were in classes at St. Mary's. Pete and Barbara Cerneka, ABOVE, LEFT, are responsible for guiding the lives of the Vietnamese family until they are able to function in the community without assistance. They visit with, FROM LEFT, Mrs. Mutt, Luot, Mo and Ban.



Cub Scout Pack 259 held its Pinewood Derby on March 30, 1977 at the Knights of Columbus Hall. This Sentinel photo shows top finishers, FROM LEFT, Steve Schlichtman, Peter Phillips, James Cleary and Anthony Miller.



Fifth-grade cheerleaders of St. Mary's School received first place in a competition. This March 7, 1976 Sentinel photo shows squad members, FROM LEFT, Cindy White, Kathy Holway, Lisa Elliott, Shawn Monken, Annette Vaccaro and Julie Green.

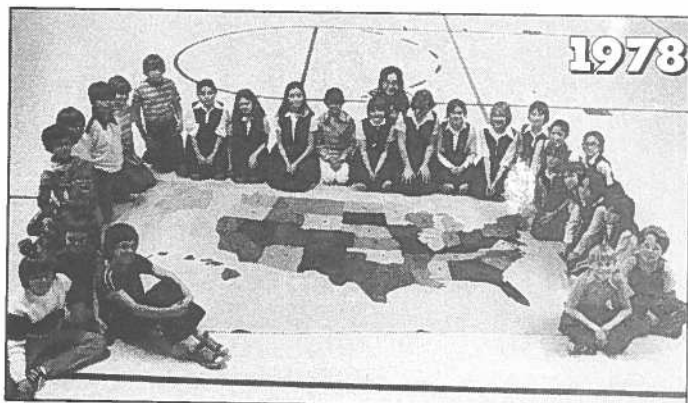


The Feb. 17, 1977 issue of the Centralia Sentinel reported that St. Mary's had 45 students absent from class due to an outbreak of chicken pox. The Sentinel reported that other schools in the area were reporting only a few scattered cases of the disease.



Fourth-graders John Somers and Laura Elliott prep a science fair exhibit, April 17, 1970.





The fifth-grade class at St. Mary School is featured in this April 12, 1978 Sentinel photo with a large map of the United States they created, using a curtain from the old St. Mary School building as a canvas. The map was used for learning games in the classroom.



This 1978 photo shows Centrallians installed as Fourth Degree Knights into the Knights of Columbus, FROM LEFT, FRONT ROW: Herman Holle, Larry Knipping, Fr. Gerald Mirani, Pete Pelaez and Joe Kluck. STANDING: Robert Sanders, Ron Martoccio, Charles Roberts, Al Elliott, Al Profancik and Jack Seats.



Fathers Dennis Voss and Ed Schaefer distribute ashes at St. Mary's Church during Ash Wednesday services in this Feb. 25, 1977 Sentinel photo.



Winning first place in a fourth-grade competition at the Centralla Community Center was the St. Mary's School cheering squad. Winning cheerleaders in this March 12, 1978 Sentinel photo are, FRONT ROW, from left, Susette Uluhoglan, Julie Neff and Jill Lavin. BACK ROW: Mary Hoyt, Dana Williams and Mary Roberts.



Mathew Woods and Shanna Liaghat take a moment to reflect and admire the St. Mary's nativity scene in this December 1976 Sentinel photo. Moments earlier, Liaghat had completed the display by placing the baby Jesus figure in the crib of the nativity scene. Woods, son of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Woods, and Liaghat, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kim Liaghat, step back to take in the complete scene.





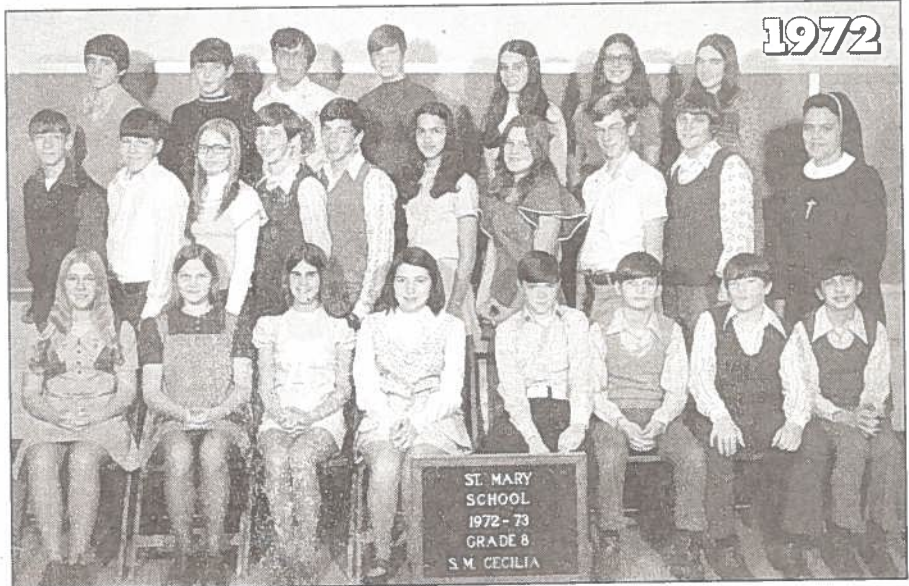
**1973**  
Stephen and Margaret (Kluck) Loomis were married on June 2, 1973, at St. Mary's Church. Their wedding party includes Pam Hall, Patty (Steinmann) Pracht, Mark DePew and Steve Brink.



**1976**  
Dennis and Alice (Francois) Krupp were married July 10, 1976 at St. Mary's Church.



**1978**  
Dr. Avelina R. Lazo and Dr. Segundina Lazo are shown with their children, Francis (far left), Mary Janet (second from left), Edwin (far right) and Dina (center). From the Dec. 20, 1978 issue of the Sentinel.



**1976**  
St. Mary's Confraternity of Christian Doctrine class received their first communion Sunday, May 2, 1976. FRONT ROW, from left: Lorien Altadonna, Robert Eastin, Jill Lavin, Marvin Starr, Cynthia Mamell, David Caplinger, Karen Grasher; SECOND ROW, from left: Thomas Williams, Helen Lackey, Deborah Ford, Clota Williams, Jill Howell, Marie O'Neill; THIRD ROW, from left: Marie Wilkinson, Christine Caesar, Barbara Reynolds and Rev. Dennis Voss.



# MAY FETE ROYALTY FROM ST. MARY'S



**Christine Isidoro, 1987 May Fete Queen** and a graduate of St. Mary Grade School, serves 1916 May Queen Gladys (Goodman) Hanks during the celebration of May Fete's 75th year.

*These are the girls known to have come from St. Mary's parish who have gone on to be elected queen of the annual May Fete celebration held at Centralia High School. Many others from St. Mary's served as May Fete attendant, children of the court and escorts.*

*May Fete Queens include:*

- 1961 — Gay Ann Fickinger
- 1971 — Susie Chapman
- 1972 — Carol Jo Vaccaro
- 1976 — Vicky Holway
- 1978 — Rita Vaccaro
- 1979 — Bobbie Benekas
- 1983 — Julie Green
- 1985 — Stephanie Anderson
- 1986 — Tina Hutchison
- 1987 — Christine Isidoro
- 1990 — Tena Altadonna
- 1991 — Ericka Sanders
- 1996 — Theresa Schwartz
- 2002 — Brittany Seger
- 2005 — Megan Schmitt



**Tina Hutchison  
1986 May Fete Queen**



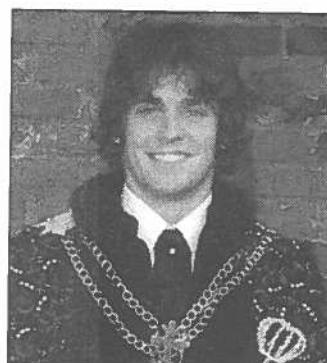
**Carol Jo Vacarro Brewer  
1972 May Fete Queen**



**Susie (Chapman) Freeman  
1971 May Fete Queen**



**Tena Altadonna  
1990 May Fete Queen  
shown as Retiring Queen**



**Reed Freeman  
2004 May Fete King**



**Nick Profancik  
2005 May Fete King**



**Brittany Seger  
2002 May Fete Queen**

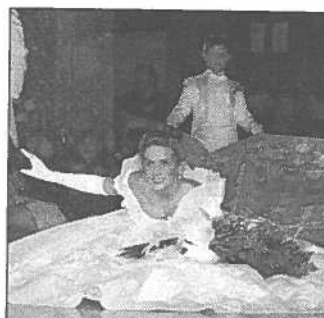
**Vicky (Holway) Wright, 1976 May Fete Queen, greeted by St. Mary's Sisters after the program**



**Gay Ann Fickinger  
1961 May Fete Queen**



**Ericka Sanders  
1991 May Fete Queen**



**Theresa Schwartz  
1996 May Fete Queen**



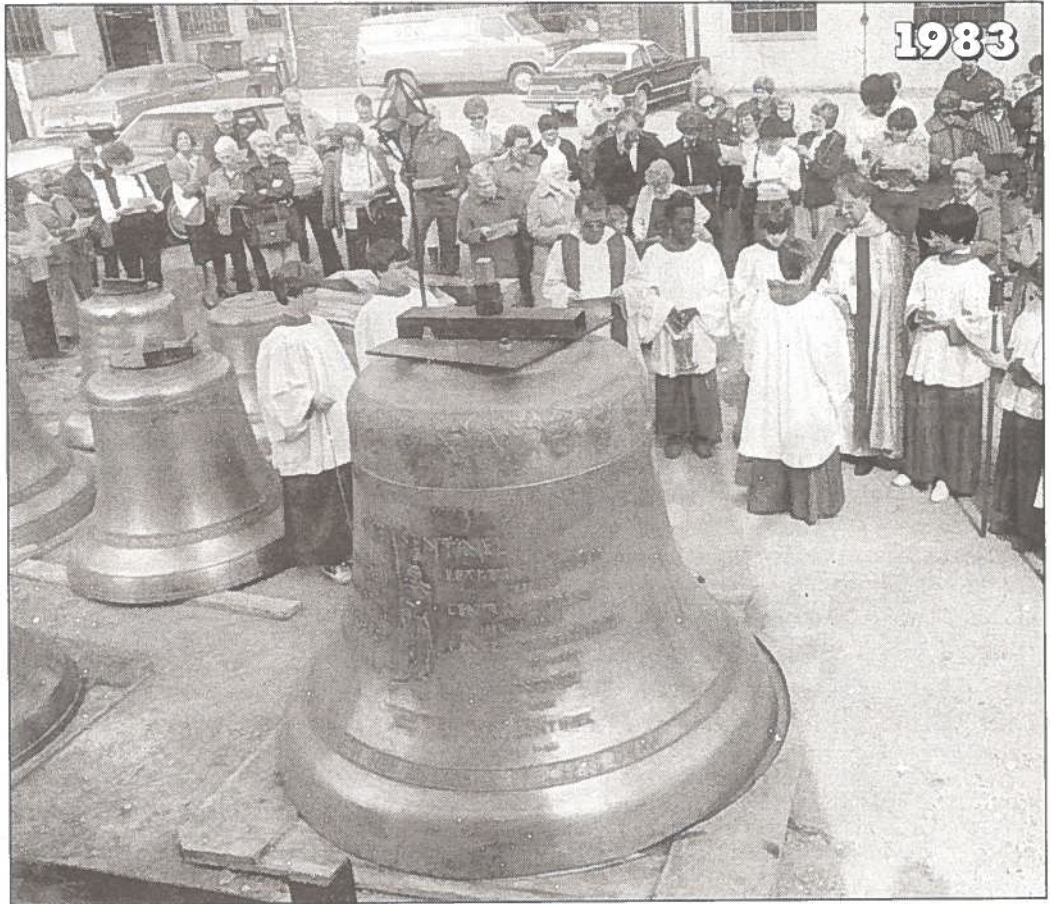
**Megan Schmitt  
2005 May Fete Queen**



## DECADE OF THE 1980s

### *Blessing of the Bells*

Father Gerald Mirlani of St. Mary's Catholic Church blesses the 5 1/2 ton Great Tom, the largest of the Centralia Carillon's 65 bells, in a ceremony held on Feb. 21, 1983. Hoisting of the bells began the next day. The bells were cast at the Paccard foundry in Annecy, France, and they arrived in Centralia after being shipped across the Atlantic and up the St. Lawrence Seaway to Chicago, where they were loaded on trucks for the final leg of their journey to Centralia. Paccard has been casting bells since 1796, and the Centralia Carillon was the largest the foundry had ever produced.



St. Mary's Catholic Church looks small when viewed from the top of the lofty Centralia Carillon in this December 1983 photo. The B-flat bell for the carillon is shown being hoisted into place.







Janice Holway and Francis Lazo were married in 1981 at St. Mary's.



Peno and Theresa Castellari celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in August of 1981.



In 1980, St. Mary School students continued the tradition of collecting donations for medical research through the Send a Mouse to College program. Principal Sister Jude joins students Tonya Kinder and Chirs Baker as they present their contribution.



The St. Mary's Girl Scout troop held an aluminum can recycling drive competition in 1980 to celebrate Earth Day. Participants include, FROM LEFT, Anita Gahndy, Michelle Berry, Chantal Ray, Theresa Schedit, Kay Zibby, Tracy Hutchison, Lori Aydt, Lynn Elliott, Donna Jansen, Jenny Wiedman, Jill Wiedman and Joan Grabowski.



St. Mary School Principal Sister Jude, teacher Joe Lukasik and Father Miriani joined these St. Mary School students on a 1980 visit to a local nursing home.



St. Mary's fourth grade basketball team grabbed second place honors in the Selmaville Pee Wee Tournament in December of 1984. Members of the team are, from left, FRONT ROW, Tim Beaty, Jason Payne, Chris Michael, Jason Schwartz and Greg Mullins. SECOND ROW: Coach Peno Castellari, David Craney, Brock Joliff, Brian Brink, Joe Moore, Craig Bauer and Coach Mike Steinmann.





St. Mary First Communion Class of 1981 includes, from left, **FRONT ROW**, Nicole Wesley, Christina Lyons, D.J. Atchison, Chris Kelso, Michael Hacker, Marc Ramirez, Kenny Ferrari, Tracy Aydt, Jennifer Dunker and Clarissa Pierceall. **SECOND ROW**: Sister Mary Agnese, teacher, Scott Nelson, Billy Carroll, Lisa McDaniel, Kelly Montague, Alisa Evans, Andy Warren, John Moergan, Angela Donoho, Ericka Sanders, Abigail Russell, Jason James and Riley Welorn. **THIRD ROW**: Melissa Gubbels, Kurt Dunbar, Chad Altadonna, Matthew Grasher, Robert Perry, Stephen Ramirez, Stanley Byczko, Todd Gebke, Scott Anderson, Stacie Hardy and Katie Vonderheide. **BACK ROW**: Father Gerald Miriani, Father Patrick Peter.



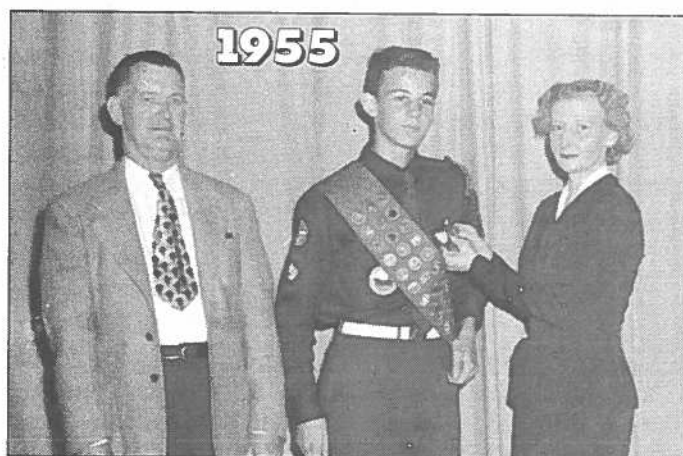
The newly appointed Bishop John N. Wurm of Belleville administered the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Mary's Church in the spring of 1982. Class members are, **FROM LEFT, FRONT ROW**, M. Gubels, Greta Border, T. Simmons, J. Scott, Darren Altadonna, P. Phillips, Lisa Prunty, Jamie Craney, Alan Profancik, Chuck Waggoner, Greg Kuder, R. Eastin, Anthony Miller, R. Moses, T. Freeman, T. Rutledge, L. Lee and Grace Knight. **SECOND ROW**: Tom Martoccio, Vince Schwartz, Rod Garnier, Brian Vohs, M. Ruvelish, Julie Neff, Aaron Wilson, Chris Chesnek, R. Duncan, Jason Pickett, John Harris, J. Sack, V. Eastin, Wendy Dunbar, Karla Laswell and Jennifer James. **THIRD ROW**: R. Niepoetter, Renee Vonderheide, Michele Anderson, A. Lyons, Helen Lackey, K. Grasher, Shelly Barton, D. Ford, M. Hoyt, K. Keigley, C. Whitener, Susie Brodish, Justine Richardson and Tracy Prodyna. **FOURTH ROW**: Christine Isidoro, Sandy Duncan, Stacy Hardy, Julie Anderson, Tina Hutchison, Jill Lavin, Jan Walczak, principal, Bishop Wurm, teacher Joe Lukasik, M. Lyons, S. Ryan, Nathan Collins, J. Biagi, Eugenia Wesley, T. Francois and Ron Pantak.



Jennifer Feig, 9, a student at St. Mary's School, is congratulated by Lt. Gov. George Ryan for her entry in the statewide "Health Through Friendship" poster contest in March of 1985. Her entry was one of 16 winners chosen from 1,000 entries. They are joined by Ed Ty, director of the Illinois Department of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse.



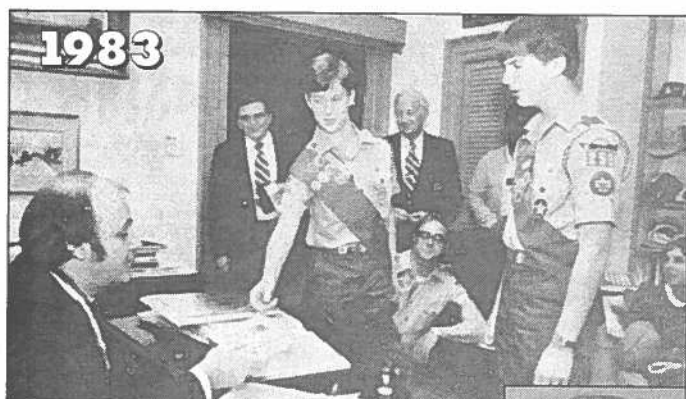
## MR. BRADY GOES TO WASHINGTON



**1955**  
Dorothy Brady pins the Eagle Scout badge on her son, James Brady of Troop 59 in this May, 12, 1955 Sentinel photo, while her husband, Harold J. Brady looks on.



**1981**  
Centralia and St. Mary's parishioner James S. Brady became White House press secretary for President Ronald Wilson Reagan in 1981.



**1983**  
James Brady receives the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award May, 1983 from Anthony and Joseph Wislar of Centralia Troop 259 (St. Mary's).



**1981**  
Missy Brady, daughter of Jim Brady, shares Sentinel headline news of her father's impressive position with Brady's parents, Harold and Dorothy Brady, in their Centralia home, in this January, 1981 photo.



**1952**  
A young Jim Brady poses with his collection of 400 U.S. Army patches. This photo appeared in the Aug. 20, 1952 Sentinel.



**1981**  
Prayer services were held at St. Mary's following the assassination attempt on March 31, 1981.





Elizabeth Kelly, assistant pastor Fr. David Braun and Sue Collins. Feb. 1982

## Parish MEMORIES

**P**hoto above was taken at Sue Collins house. One of her sons had his birthday and Father David was invited. Father David (Braun) also was my husband's friend. [Father Braun] was also in Germany for awhile. And I helped him put together a German Mass. Everybody loved him. The kids in school [were] crazy about him.

### PHOTO BELOW:

We had snow, did we have snow! I never saw so much snow in Centralia. Our church stands so proud there in the middle of all the snow.



February 1982



These St. Mary's students, completed American Red Cross cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first aid training in 1986. The Red Cross has a long tradition of partnering with the school to teach the students these life-saving skills.



Wes Monken, LEFT, and Jed Richardson work on their model of the Bicentennial Park in Centralia, which they entered in a 1983 regional competition.





## *Blessing of the Animals*

At a ceremony held in October of 1983 on the lawn of St. Mary's, Father Gerald Miriani blesses pets in commemorating the 801st birthday of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals. Among animals blessed were cats, dogs, rabbits, chickens, a turtle, goat and pony. Father Miriana said it was the first blessing of the animals since he has been pastor and he hoped to make it an annual event.



Jessica Sanders holds onto "Trigger," who is decked out in a hat and ribbons for the affair, as her sister Ericka Sanders looks on during the blessing.



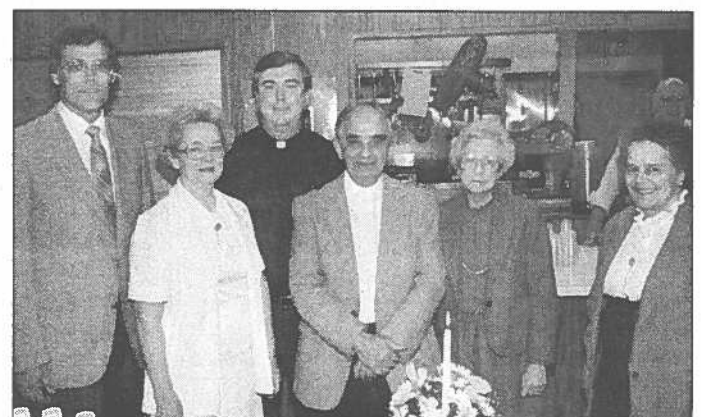
Kay Zibby brought her pet to be blessed.



Altar boys Greg Donoho, Steven Breeze, Chris Baker and Nick Schwartz stand at attention during the blessing of the animals ceremony.



Father James Dougherty is presented with a check in May of 1988 for \$10,450 realized from the St. Mary's Spring Auction Benefit Dinner held at St. Mary's School in Centralia. Making the presentation is Marcia Durlan, LEFT, and Shirley Hudson, who co-chaired the event. In the other photo, Fr. Dougherty was honored at a reception after his installation as pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church. Serving refreshments are members of St. Mary Parish Council and Altar Society Tom Ballagh, Dolores Baldrige, Louis Logullo, Florence Garnier and Mercedes Campbell.







This Dec. 14, 1984, Sentinel photos shows Boy Scouts of Troop 259, sponsored by the Centralia Knights of Columbus, preparing soup to serve at Fairview Park Plaza Shopping Center. The soup was a legend with the troop, the recipe a well-guarded secret. Cooks are, FROM LEFT, Brian White, Jim Reincke, Joe Reincke, Chris Durian and Matt Berry.



St. Mary's School and St. Mary's Hospital hosted blood drives in June of 1984. Making it a family affair, grandchildren of C.M. Broughton gave blood in his honor, as he was instrumental in establishing the blood bank in Centralia and was the first donor. He was involved in Red Cross work for 50 years and was executive director of the local Red Cross for several years. His grandchildren include, STANDING, from left, Susan Mueth of Dakota, Jeanne Glogowski of O'Fallon, Jennifer Broughton of Centralia, Mary Mueth of Dakota and Patricia Broughton of Centralia, and, standing at right, Tom Broughton. R.N. Pam Caswell tends to donor Ron Donoho, also a member of St. Mary's.



Members of Boy Scout Troop 259 of St. Mary's School hoist an American flag in this July 6, 1983 Sentinel photo in a dedication of the flag pole and plaque honoring Ira Garnier Sr. at the new Old National Bank building at Elm and McCord streets. Attending the ceremony were members of the Garnier family, who formerly owned the land on which the bank is built, and members of the ONB staff. A service was conducted by Fr. Gerald Mirlani.



Stacy and Tracy Schilling were first-grade students at St. Mary School in May of 1984 when they won the "Most Identical Girls" title at the Illinois State Twins Association 20th annual convention in Robinson. They are the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. John Schilling.





New officers installed by the Centralla Knights of Columbus in July of 1987, are, FROM LEFT, Recorder Kris Ziegler, Advocate Gene Gettinger, Chancellor Robert Schmidt, Trustee Richard Neff, Outside Guard Joe Marcum, Grand Knight Richard Nelkes, Father Gerald Miriani, Inside Guard Donald Williams, Treasurer Jim Lavin, District Deputy Paul Havrilka and Trustee Dale Stevenson.



Cori Steinmann claimed first place in April of 1985 for this broad jump at the Suburban Track Meet.



Catholic Daughters of the Americas officers installed at a meeting in June of 1987 include, FROM LEFT, FRONT ROW, Irene Stanton, Dolores Baldrige, Gladys Lorenzini, Louisa Marcum, Alma Rodgers, Anita Bruegeman, Rita Harris, Mercedes Campbell and Marie Wilkinson, trustee. BACK ROW: Delores Schulz, Dolores Kluck and Phyllis Aydt, Pauline Schwartz, Dolores Mabry, Mary Ashby, Kittle Beaty, Marie Jenetten and Ophelia Huff, trustees. Father Gerald Miriani is in back.



The Knights of Columbus set up some familiar games in advance of the annual St. Mary's parish Autumnfest, held on the parking lot between the church and the school.



More photos from Autumnfest 1987.





St. Mary's 1986 Autumnfest is chronicled in these Sentinel photos, drawing large crowds on both days. In addition to music, food, beverages, crafts and other displays, the fest offered games and prizes, including children's activities and a cake walk.



The St. Mary's Autumnfest drew big crowds for these Aug. 9, 1987 Sentinel photos. Adam Peoples visits the duck pond. Woodson Mabry serves a chicken dinner to Jack Sanders.



The 1983 St. Mary's First Communion Class includes, from left, FRONT ROW, J. Howell, T. Beaty, J. Miller, S. Kingsley, T. Carroll, J. Altadonna, J. Feig, L. Elwyn, M. Stinde, S. Nollman, C. Bauer, J. Payne, G. Mullins and A. Felchlia. SECOND ROW: J. Moore, M. Minor, C. Prosise, A. Trone, C. Sprehe, J. Fletcher, B. Brink, C. Sprehe, D. Craney, G. Kinder, J. Rexroad, L. Hawthorne, A. Dart, K. Birdo and P. Pick. THIRD ROW: B. Jolliff, K. Finney, M. Lehmann, J. Bohman, S. Stiles, S. Earle, J. Brown, A. Pick, P. Pick, T. James, J. Weidman, K. Connelly, J. Schwartz and J. Chesnek. BACK ROW: Father Gerald Miriani, pastor, teacher Kathy Session, Sister Lucia and Father D. Braun, associate pastor.



**1984**

The 1984 First Communion class at St. Mary's includes, from left, **FRONT ROW**, T. Reed, J. Randolph, J. Toedte, J. White, J. Green, J. Dunbar, W. Manino, J. Altstat, A. Feig, J. Burch and M. Broadwater. **SECOND ROW**: S. Bauer, T. Whalen, A. Huelmann, S. Littel, J. Bourque, J. Sanders, C. Steinmann, M. Boatright, V. McCance, M. Michel and P. Russell. **THIRD ROW**: S. Tabor, L. Tyska, S. Schwartz, L. Marckley, G. Hacker, T. Fark, H. Worthy, C. Metzger and S. Warren, D. Nolte. **FOURTH ROW**: L. Leamons, C. Altenbaumer, J. Francois, C. Parker, M. Defend, J. Brown, J. Chisholm, A. Smith, M. Davis and C. Truran. **FIFTH ROW**: Father Gerald C. Miriani, Pat Pich, Sister Lucia Hemann and the Rev. Stephen Rudolphi, associate pastor.

**1985**

Children receiving the Sacrament of their First Communion in April of 1985 include, from left, **FRONT ROW**, Eric Elliott, Matthew Craney, Jason Opolony, Darold Huene, Ethan Toedte, Christopher Berry and Joshua Pickett. **SECOND ROW**: Amy Kingsley, Elizabeth Gwin, Kelly Vohs, Emily Pierceall, Renee Altadonna, Stacy Schilling and Tracy Schilling. **THIRD ROW**: Melissa Meyer, Heidi Ray, Cynthia Meredith, Laura Albers, Kerstin Giles, Jessica Parker, Denise Loomis and Sarah Fletcher. **FOURTH ROW**: Joseph Hardy, Shane Quandt, Richard Ford, Jane Dunker, Stacy Bierman, Renee Dreas, Sheyanna King, Bryce Edwards, Dan Schulte and Ryan Alstate. **FOURTH ROW**: Kevin Kelso, Jason Seger, Andy Harre, Jason Barton, Tiffany Truran, Maria Beguelin, Adam Nehrt, Sam Leemon, Shane Radake and Tim Cameron. **SIXTH ROW**: Father Stephen Rudolphi, Sister Rose Anthony, Kathy Session, Becky Michael, Diane Truran and Father Gerald Miriani.



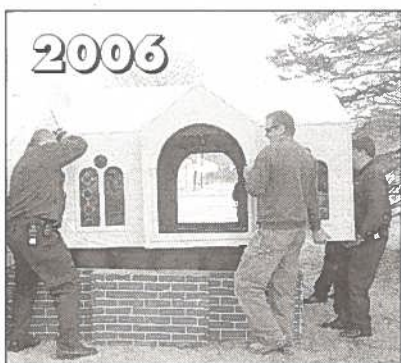
# GARNIER CHRISTMAS CHURCH



Built in 1960, the latest version of the miniature church is 25 feet long with a 14-foot steeple and features 33 dolls on two continuous chains.



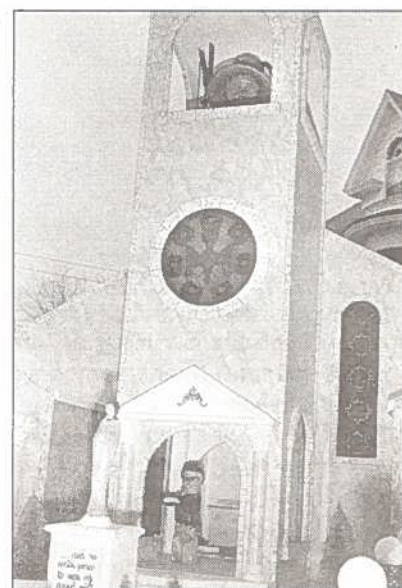
This Sept. 29, 1974 Sentinel photo shows Mrs. Evalyn Garnier, seated, widow of Ira Garnier Sr., joined by, from left, Richard Garnier, Ira Garnier Jr. and Gordon Elliston.



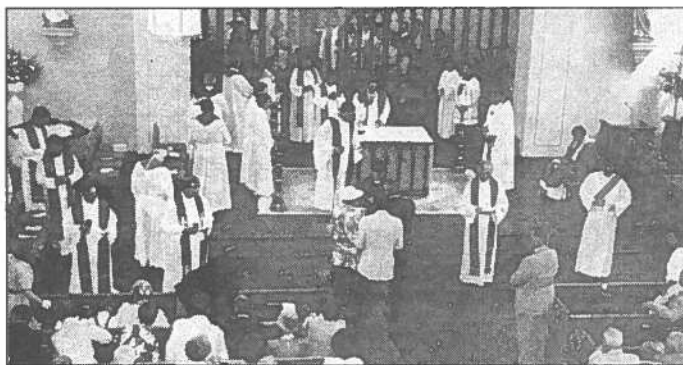
Volunteers put the church up each year on the lawn of Garnier and Sons Funeral Home, keeping the tradition alive.



In 1934, Ralph "Dusty" Garnier decided a miniature church would make a nice Christmas display.







The Most Rev. James P. Keleher, Bishop of Belleville, presided over the Liturgy of Ordination for James Michael Nall, LEFT, a former resident, on Nov. 9, 1986, at a special Mass in St. Mary's Catholic Church in Centralia. On the RIGHT is Greg Zatini, assisting deacon.



JoDene (Hollern) and William Nall of Centralia are joined by their son James Michael Nall before the Sacrament of Holy Orders of Deacon was conferred upon him during a 1986 Mass at St. Mary's Catholic Church.



James Nall

## St. Mary's own James Nall ordained on Nov. 9, 1986

The Most Rev. James P. Keleher, Bishop of Belleville, conferred the Sacrament of Holy Orders on James Michael Nall to the order of Deacon on Nov. 9, 1986, during a 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Centralia. Jim is now attending St. Meinrad Abbey in St. Meinrad, Ind., studying for his Master of Divinity Degree, which he will receive in May 1987.

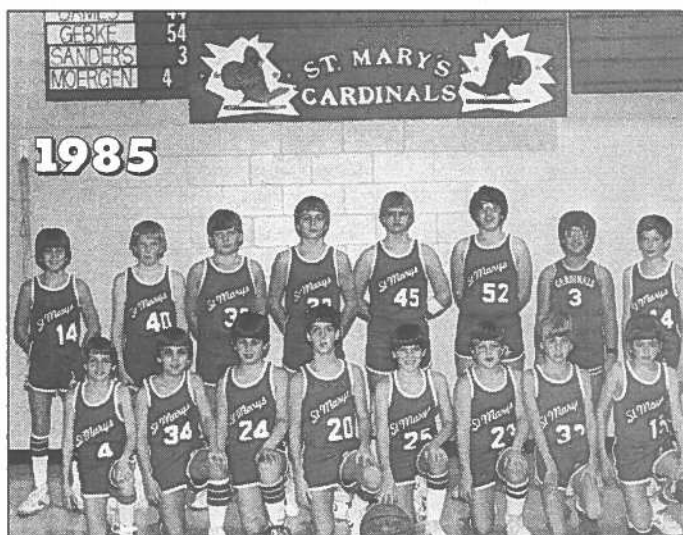
His ordination to the priesthood for a diocesan priest was June 6, 1987, at St. Peter Cathedral in Belleville. His first Mass was June 7 of that year in Centralia at St. Mary's.

Jim attended St. Mary's Grade School, Centralia High School and Kaskaskia College.

His parents are William and JoDene (Hollern) Nall of Centralia. He is the grandson of Evelyn (Duty) Hollern and Betty (Nall) Hunsicker.

Greg Zatini, was assisting deacon for the Mass. Others assisting in the service were Rev. Tom Stout, vocation director; Msgr. Joseph Schnaegel; and Rev. Gerald Miriani, master of ceremonies; Don Ehrlardt and Elaine Ziegler, readers; Tom Hawkins, Charles Collins, Marcia Durian and the choir of St. Mary Parish, ministers of music; and Nall's parents, JoDene and William Nall, presentation of gifts.

A reception hosted by the parish followed the ordination on Sunday afternoon. Dr. and Mrs. Jose Baccallo hosted a dinner reception for Nall at their home for visiting priests, seminarians and deacons, along with family and friends. On Nov. 8, Jim's brother and sister-in-law, Art and Melissa Nall, hosted a dinner party at their home for family members and guests.



The Centralia St. Mary's Cardinals were 10-8 for their 1985 season. Team members are, FROM LEFT, FRONT ROW: Shannon Parker, Alan Sanders, Kirk Hacker, Michael Zibby, Michael White, Michael Steinmann, Jon Moergen and Kiah McCance. BACK ROW: Doug Merrell, Todd Gebke, Jim Francols, John Schwartz, Jason Kuberski, Sean Earle, Chris Durlan and Greg Essenpreis. Coaches are Russ Fletcher and Garland Merrell.



The Centralia St. Mary's Cardinals finished 1988 with a 24-7 record. Team members include, SEATED, FROM LEFT, Nicky Gallagher, Lawra Grabowski, Andrea Ludwa, Sara Kingsley and Tricia Fark. BACK ROW: Ann Huelsman, Lynette Hunt, Gina Hacker, Trisha James, Cislely Scott, Jenny Feig and Jessica Sanders. The team was coached by Jack Sanders, assisted by Bill Silgar. The Cardinals placed in the Kaskaskia, St. Mary's and Little Nine Tourneys and were second in the Class S Regional.



## St. Mary's receives INC Award

St. Mary's Catholic Church at 133 N. Elm St. was a 1989 winner of the Investing Now in Centralia Award, which Centralia Clean and Green bestows monthly on businesses, industries or organizations which make special efforts to beautify and maintain their property.

The St. Mary Parish history began along with Centralia and the advent of the Illinois Central Railroad. In the beginning, Masses were celebrated in the homes of parish members.

In 1857, Rev. Heimerling built the first church, a simple frame structure which seated 100 people and stood on the site of today's rectory. The building cost \$1,000. A belfry was added in 1879, but soon the building provided inadequate.

On Sept. 29, 1896, Rev. Becker laid a cornerstone for the new church, a gothic structure measuring 111 feet by 41 feet. It seated 400 parishoners and cost \$30,000. The church greatly reduced this debt under the persistence of the Rev. Otto Meier. In each Father's direction, different changes have been made.

Most recent has been the restoration of the outside of the buiding and a newly remodeled interior. The Rev. Gerald Miriani directed these changes.

St. Mary's has been a constant maintenance program, directed by Gene Becker, who is responsible for the entire church, rectory, school offices, the convent and the lawn.



St. Mary's Catholic Church Secretary Mercedes Campbell, LEFT, and Parish Council President Kathy Mulvin stand by the Investing Now in Centralia sign on the church grounds in this March, 1989, Sentinel photo..



Cub Scout Pack 259 in Cenralia won a national competition for its program last year which promoted the use of designated drivers at parties where alcohol was served. Members of the pack and their leaders in this May 14, 1989 Sentinel photo are, FROM LEFT, FRONT ROW, Travis Markotay, Kris Sligar, Adam Krupp, Jason Hoerschler, David Seeburger, Joe Lukasik, Tony Kern, Justin Moll and Nicholas Nollman. SECOND ROW: Joe Pennington, Kenny Tabor, Jason Fark, Matt Suhl, Aaron Feig, Derek Sprehe, Patrick Durlan, Chris Warren and Ian Donnelly. THIRD ROW: Glenn Kingsley, Adam Feig, Nathan Hawkins, Adam Laquet, Mike Starr, Joe Willems, Kevin Martin, Matt Loomis, Michael Neff and Rick Nelkes. BACK ROW: Dan Laquet, Barb Willems, Wanita Reincke, Marcia Durlan, JoAnn Moll, Joe Moll and Steve Loomis.



## DECADE OF THE 1990s



Confirmation Class



First Communion Class





**Trisha James  
& Tony Timmons  
Oct. 2, 1999**



**A Sentinel photographer captured this scene in February of 1991, as Conchitta Grabowski's fourth-grade class at St. Mary School makes valentine hearts.**



**Sue Gherardini-Pas greets  
Bishop Wilton Gregory dur-  
ing one of his parish visits.**



**Ray & Alma Gettlinger**



**Joyce Lewis and her eighth-grade class examine a dissected worm as part of a natural science course in this 1991 photo.**





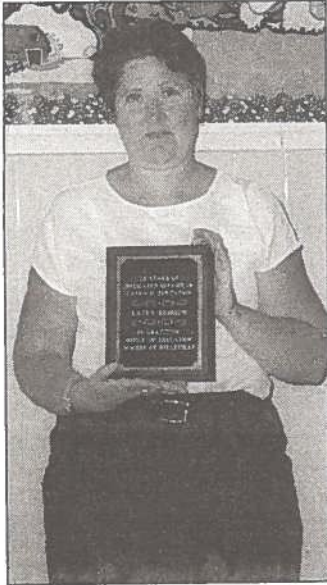
Confirmation Class

**Catholic Daughters of America officers for the group's 75th-anniversary year are, FROM LEFT, Mercedes Campbell, financial secretary; Mary Ashby, vice president; Rose Smith, regent; Dolores Baldrige, recording secretary; and Dolores Mabry, treasurer.**



**Staff and students gather outside St. Mary School for a flag-raising ceremony.**





Kathy Session was honored for 25 years of service as a teacher at St. Mary School.



Linda Schwartz and her second-grade class gather for a lesson in this 1991 Sentinel photo.



St. Mary's School Student Council  
1998



St. Mary School children are often involved in philanthropic projects to assist those in need, from collecting items for local food pantries to mission donations.



A group performs at a parish gathering.

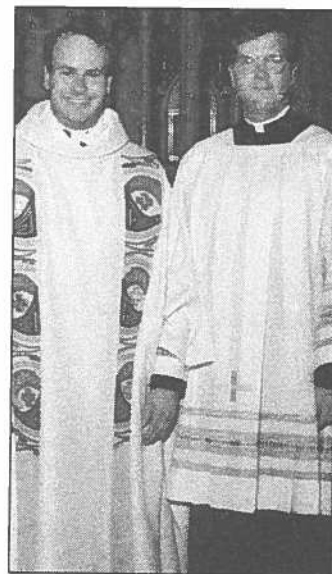
This four-generation family from St. Mary's includes Dean Francois, Alice Krupp, Sarah Mahle and Ethan Hawkins



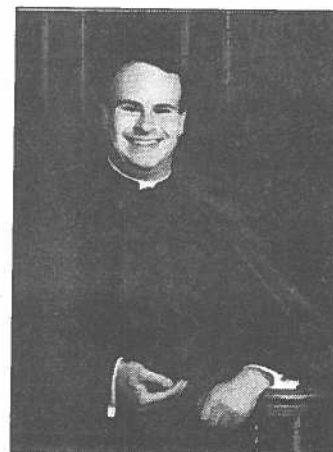




Father David Darin with servers at reception celebrating his first Mass at St. Mary's in 1991. More servers from the reception are pictured below.



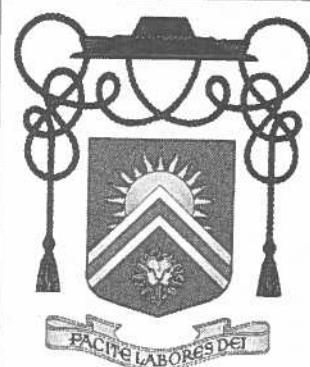
Father David Darin  
& Father Jim Nall, 1991



THE REVEREND  
DAVID MICHAEL DARIN  
Ordained a Priest  
June 1, 1991



Etiquette meals became a tradition in the 90s for St. Mary School graduating classes, teaching the youth the finer social points of dining.



THE REVEREND  
DAVID MICHAEL DARIN

Ordained a Priest for the  
Belleville Diocese  
June 1, 1991

First Solemn Mass  
June 2, 1991

Please pray for priests.



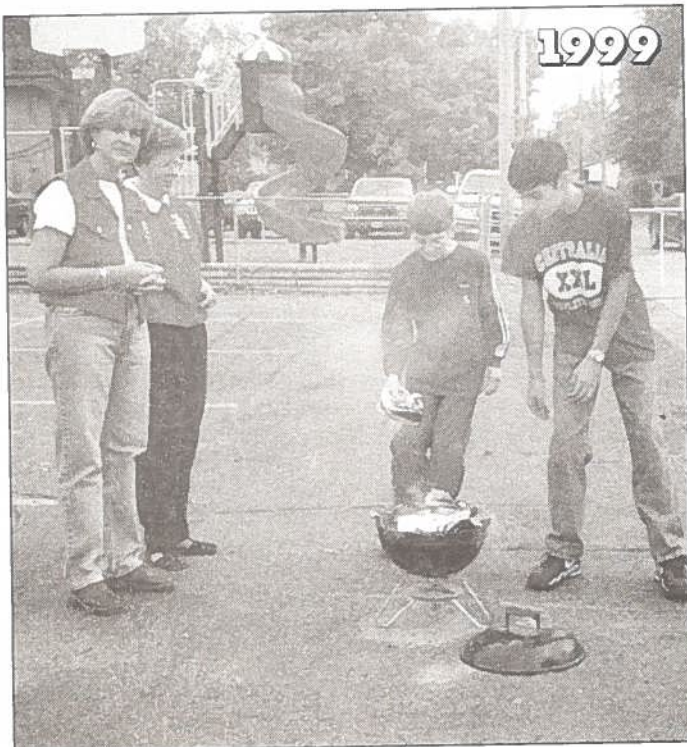


### *Going to State Science Fair*

Mary Grabowski, an eighth-grade student at St. Mary's School, attended the State Science Fair in Champaign on May 9, 1992. Hers was one of 58 chosen out of 1,200 projects. Her project was titled "Which Packing Material Is Best." She received an outstanding rating at the regional science fair in Edwardsville and a special award from Science Applications International Corp. for her project's visual appeal. She is the daughter of Conchitta and Lawrence Grabowski. Other's St. Mary's regional winners were Mike Holloway, Erin Beaty, Jeff Engelmann, Julie Francois, April Stinde, Theresa Schwartz and Drew Miller.



Woodson Mabry is anointed for Confirmation by Father James Dougherty on the day he was Baptized and joined the church on Aug. 17, 1996. Those pictured are, FROM LEFT, daughter Sharon Knolhoff, wife Dolores, Woodson, son Edward and daughter Judy Fark.



Rene Aydt and Jan Hawkins supervise Keith Ferguson and Alex Holtkamp in a Drug Awareness Week activity in 1999.



in the PHOTO ABOVE, Morgan Heern, Chelsey Swartzlander and Karissa Palazzolo are three chummy mice in the 1997 production of the Pied Piper. In the PHOTO BELOW, cast members of Rumpelstiltskin perform in the 1991 fourth-grade play for St. Mary's School.





# ST. MARY SCHOOL PLAYS ...

## 1991



The classic children's tale Rumpelstiltskin was the 1991 fourth-grade play for St. Mary's School. Performers include, FROM LEFT, Nicole Patterson, Becky Carr, Patrick Durian and Valerie Smith.

## 1986



The cast of Raggedy Ann and Andy, the 1986 play.



Older students from St. Mary School help out as crew members on each year's production.

## The Plays

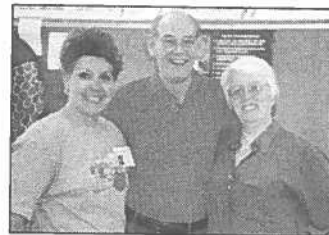
- 1985 — *Charlotte's Web*
- 1986 — *Raggedy Ann & Andy*
- 1987 — *Snow White & the Seven Dwarves in the Black Forest*
- 1988 — *Cinderella*
- 1989 — *Velveten Rabbit*
- 1990 — *Winnie the Pooh*
- 1991 — *Rumpelstiltskin*
- 1992 — *Jack & the Magic Beans*
- 1993 — *Stonesoup*
- 1994 — *Hansel & Gretel*
- 1995 — *Alladin*
- 1996 — *The Spell of Sleeping Beauty*
- 1997 — *Pied Piper of Hamelin*
- 1998 — *Thumbelina*
- 1999 — *Rapunzel*
- 2000 — *Pinocchio*
- 2001 — (no play)
- 2002 — *Gingham Dog & the Calico Cat Spat*
- 2003 — *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*
- 2004 — *The Emperor's New Clothes*

● 1984-2004 — **Director, Conchitta Grabowski**

### Assistant Directors:

- 1985-1990 — *Becky Michael*
- 1991-2003 — *Marcia Durian*
- 2003-2004 — *Margaret Loomis*
- Set Arist — *Dorothy Bostick*

## 1998



**Director Conchitta Grabowski, Bill Culbreth and Assistant Director Marcia Durian at the cast party for Pinocchio in 2000.**

## 1994



Marica Durian and Conchitta Grabowski prep Kyle Oehmke for his entrance in 1994's *Hansel & Gretel*.



Richie Baugh and Ben Zelasko, ABOVE, performed in *Rapunzel* in 1999.

Conchitta Grabowski helps the little performers with their costumes before *Thumbelina* takes the stage in 1998.



## ... A 20-YEAR TRADITION



The cast of the Rapunzel in 1999 includes, FROM LEFT, Nathan Becker, Brice Lyons, T.J. Phoenix and Matt Conners.



During the last production under Conchitta Grabowski's leadership, The Emperor's New Clothes, the cast displays a banner thanking her for 20 years of dedication to the theatrical project.



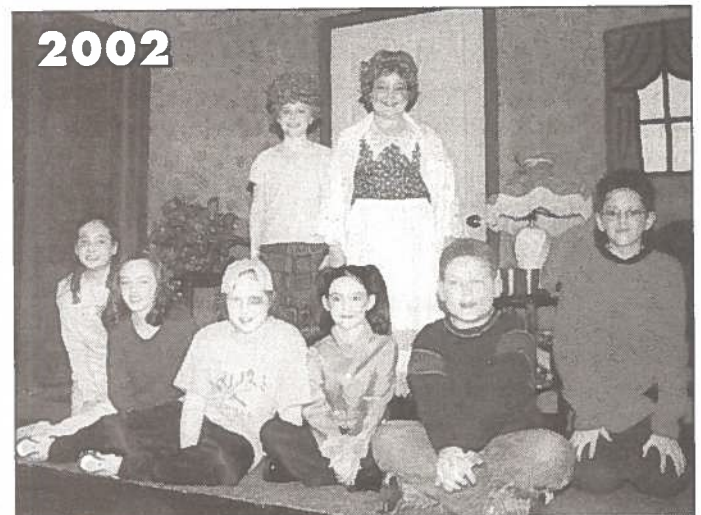
Director Conchitta Grabowski and Assistant Director Margaret Loomis are honored with flowers and balloons at the conclusion of the 2004 production, The Emperor's New Clothes



The Cast of Pinocchio takes a moment for a group photo in 2000.



Winnie the Pooh was the chosen production for 1990.



The cast of the Gingham Dog and the Calico Cat Spat in 2002.



## A NEW MILLENNIUM 2000- 2007

### St. Mary's Class of '64 has reunion

The St. Mary Grade School in Centralia Class of 1964 held a reunion on June 28, 2003. Eleven members of the graduating class gathered at the Green Grill before attending their 35th high school reunion later that evening.

Special guests were Sister Joanne and Sister Cecilia, principal and seventh-grade teacher at St. Mary in 1964. Both sisters traveled from their homes in the Chicago area to attend the reunion. Father David Darin, current pastor of the St. Mary, was also a guest.

Class members in attendance were Charlie Phee, John Altadonna, Mike Pierceall, Nancy (Schmidt) Fletcher, Linda (Warnock) Steele, Melody (McGuire) Vezzoso, Myra (Davis) Nelson, Bill Sprehe, Joyce (Voss) Holtz, Bill Ashby and Judy (Mabry) Fark.

Class members and guests attended Mass at St. Mary Church and then took a tour of the school before attending their reunion at Centralia High School. This was the first reunion for the group and the event was hosted by Nancy Fletcher and Melody Vez-



2003

Members of the St. Mary School Class of 1964 who returned for a reunion in 2003 are, FROM LEFT, Charlie McPhee, John Altadonna, Mike Pierceall, Sister Cecilia, Nancy (Schmidt) Fletcher, Linda (Warnock) Steele, Melody (McGuire) Vezzoso, Myra (Davis) Nelson, Bill Sprehe, Joyce (Voss) Holtz, Bill Ashby, Judy (Mabry) Fark and Sister JoAnn.



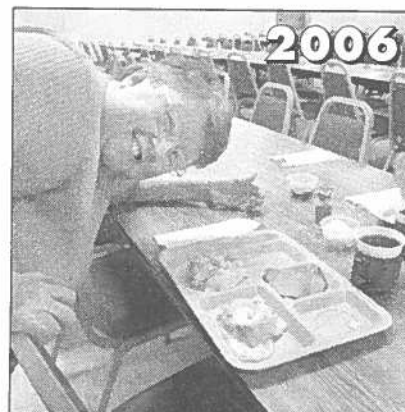
1964

From left, front row: Joyce Voss, Carol Berger, Sheila Edwards, Melody McGuire, the Rev. A.B. Schomaker, Patricia Steinmann, Dianne Brooks, Nancy Schmidt and Linda Warnock. Second row, from left: Michael Pierceall, Barbara Harris, Rosemary Fairchild, Mary Rosenberger, Judy Mabry, Ruth Schwartz, Kevin Pelaez, Karen Butler, Mary Martinelli, Victoria Tune, Myra Davis, and Gregory Huff; standing in back row, from left, are Ralph Faught, Lawrence Gettinger, Bradley Hartley, Charles Phee, David Holtkamp, William Sprehe, Louis Castellari, William Ashby, Donald Hesser, Michael Elder and John Altadonna.



### Parish family

This four-generation St. Mary family includes great-grandmother Marie Kaney, grandmother Terry Bell, mother Susan Niepoetter and her sons Jordan and Brandon Niepoetter.



2006

Parish breakfast, October 2006





Erin Cary administers a rescue breath while practicing infant cardiopulmonary resuscitation with classmates Brittany Hesel, Alyssa Lackey and Kelli Gorman during an American Red Cross training class at the school May 18, 2006.



Eighth-grade girls and boys from St. Mary gather at the school grounds before heading out to the community-wide eighth-grade dance.



The Asian-themed St. Mary Dinner Auction was carried out in dress, as shown by Father David Darin, and decorations, with Gigi Broughton adding the finishing touches to a table setting.

The Pastoral Council gathers for a meeting, in the PHOTO AT RIGHT.



Parish Auction







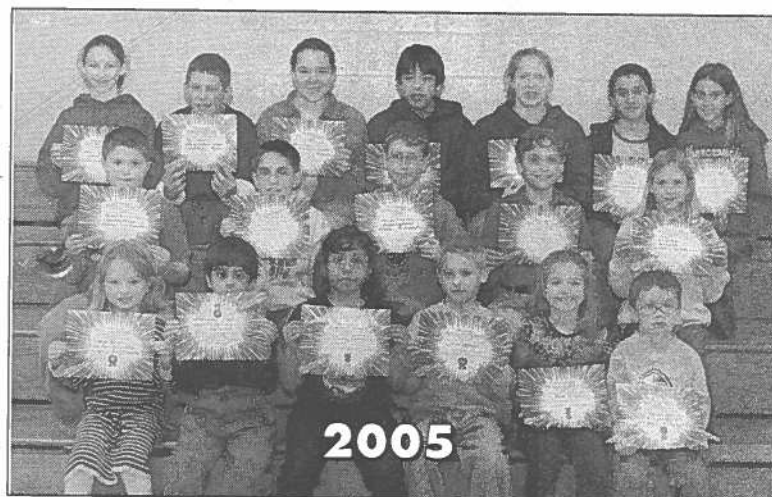
Just prior to the end of the 2006-2007 school year, music students performed a concert the St. Mary School study body and parents. Jim Kirchoff, band instructor, led the musicians in various numbers and solos played at recent competitions, where all competing St. Mary students rated a first place. Band members include, FROM LEFT, Kirchoff, Grant Ford, Holland Ray, Dakota Whritenour, Sarah Litteer, Kolten Garcia, Abby Hoyt, Kloe Garcia and Taylor Logullo.



Along with regular fire, tornado and earthquake drills, students at St. Mary School annually perform a bus safety drill. Beck Bus Company helped conduct the drill. Ethan Marlow and Hanna Garrison are helped from the bus by teacher Denise McCormack and the bus driver.

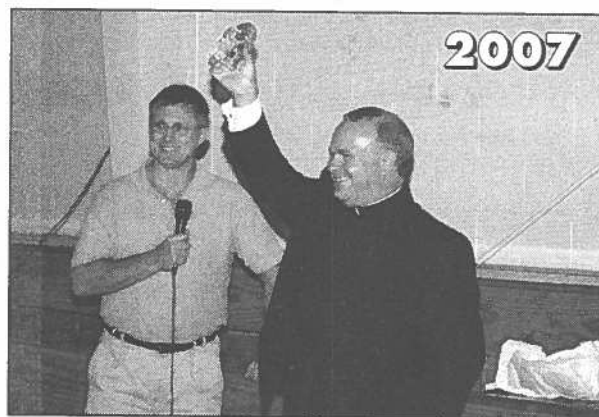


Women of the parish, AT LEFT, prepare food for Father David Darin's farewell dinner, July 2007. BELOW, Fr. Darin accepts a gift from the parish, presented by Trustee Greg Schwartz.



## Personal Success Awards

Personal Success Awards were presented in 2005 to, FRONT ROW, FROM LEFT, Hanna Garrison, Omar Khan, Rosita Robles, Ryan Obermeier, Sarah Litteer and Abe Applegate. SECOND ROW: Austin Robinson, R.J. Shah, Brandon Niepoetter, Sean Dalgle and Jamie Resch. THIRD ROW: Megan Featherling, Ryan Scheldt, Ashley Beard, Talman Stedelin, Sammy Glerten, Nasliha Rahman and Jessica Resch.



Charlie and Myra Bartlett, LEFT, are dressed in pirate garb during the 2006 parish auction and dinner.



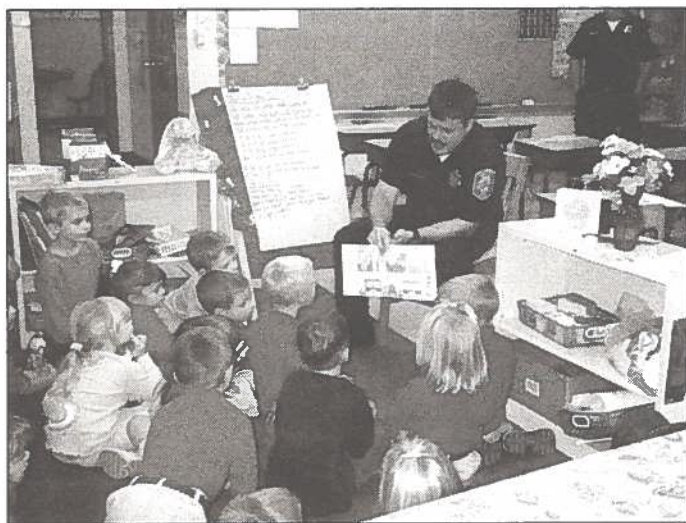
## Team Players

St. Mary School students who received Team Player Awards during a Catholic Schools Week assembly in this Feb. 3, 2005, Sentinel photo are, **FROM LEFT, FRONT ROW,** Cameron Whritenour, Karson Pelaez and Sawyer Litteer. **SECOND ROW:** Evan House, Hannah Shores, Megan Hesser and Taylor McCullough. **THIRD ROW:** Regan Broughton, Nicole Schwartz, Yahya Shaw, Rachel Pahnke and Reavis Sanders.



## PRO Awards

PRO Awards were presented to students who showed respect and politeness toward fellow classmates and faculty in 2005. Recipients are, **FROM LEFT, FRONT ROW,** Karlie Gorman, Kalan Pelaez, Devin Merrell, Emma Castellari and Taylor McCullough. **SECOND ROW:** Jamie Resch, Rosita Robbles, Evan House, Carlos Robles, Alyssa McCormack, Sufyan Shah and Taylor Logullo. **THIRD ROW:** Megan Featherling, Ryan Scheidt, Brittany Hesser, Andrew Patterson, Megan Chillson and Paige Gogolek. **FOURTH ROW:** Tori Graham, Nicole Schwartz, Cathleen Hoffner, Yahya Shah, Cassie Taylor, Tyler Obermeyer and Marah Chapman.



Centralla Fire Dept. firefighter George Hoyt explains fire safety principles to students at St. Mary's School.

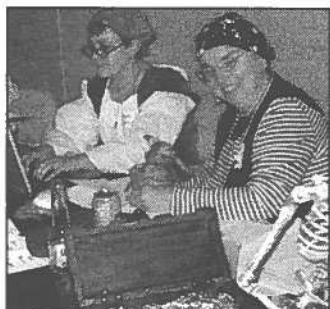


St. Mary's pupils, **FROM LEFT,** Sawyer Litteer, Ethan Hawkins, Tanner Hoyt, Adam Heard, Hanna Garrison and Brooke Sulcer take part in the annual May crowning of the statue of the Blessed Mother. Fr. Darin is visible in background.





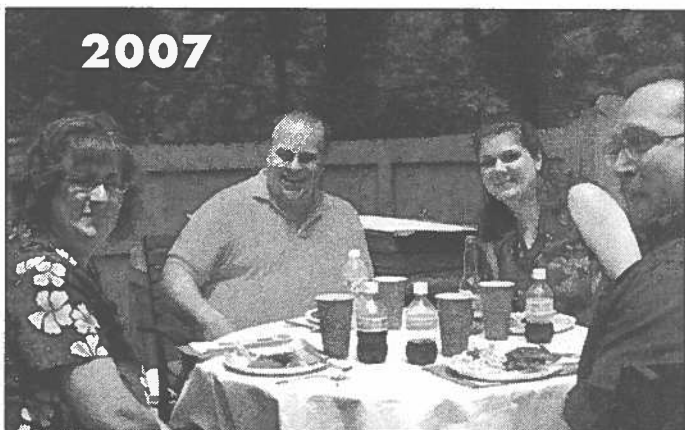
Worshippers gather outside on Palm Sunday for prayer in the courtyard before a procession back into church.



Theresa Hacker and Sister Annette Kaba do pirate/cashier duty during the parish auction.



Virgle Kaba and Phyllis Aydt visit during a parish gathering.



RCIA class members and sponsors gathered at Fr. Darin's for a meal in May of 2007.



Mary Ford is joined by her children after accepting the Pace Bene Award from Franciscan Sisters of OLPH for exemplifying Franciscan values.



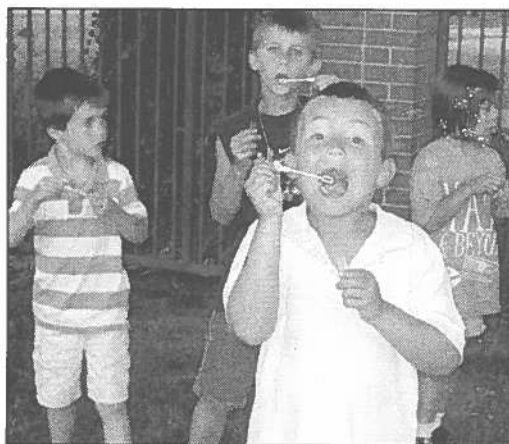
Lyle and Paulette Pahnke enjoy good conversation at the annual parish dinner auction.



Parishoners gather outside the church for a picnic.



A worldwide mission theme was used for the June, 2007, Vacation Bible School at St. Mary's. Children learned about Peru, Japan and the Philippines.







St. Mary's youth do kitchen duty during a February of 2007 meal.



Pictured are SEATED, in front, Sister Annette Kaba; SECOND ROW, from left, Sister Jacklyn Pritchard, Mercedes Campbell, Theresa Hacker; BACK ROW, from left, Sister Barbara Habing, SSND, Father David Darin, Gary Altenbaumer and Rene' Aydt.



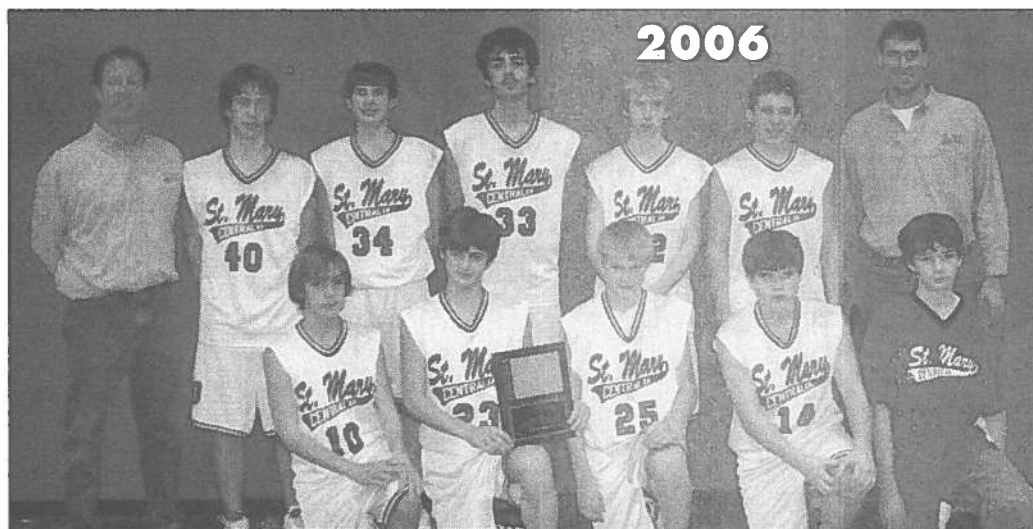
Harold Pugh, ABOVE, accepts a plaque honoring his 50 years of membership in the Knights of Columbus. Roy Szatkowski, who also shares the honor of 50 years of membership in the K of C, joins Pugh, RIGHT, in cutting a cake made in their honor.



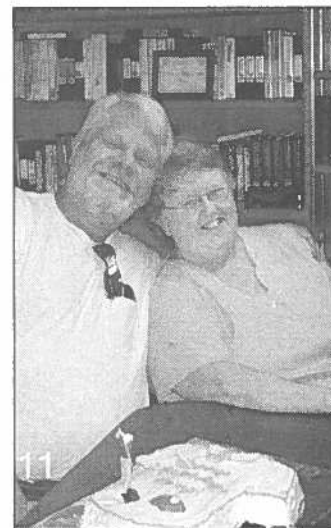
Sr. Mary Fran assists with the parish auction.







2006 Regional Champs, who also place fourth at state, are, from left, **FRONT ROW**, Conner Oehmke, Aaron Schwartz, Tyler Obermeier, Kevin Riley and Conner Baugh. **BACK ROW**: Tom Broughton, Mitch Broughton, Storm Maue, Yahya Shah, Andrew Patterson, Ryan Scheidt and Rob Niepoetter.



Gary Altenbaumer and Sister Marlene share a laugh during a church gathering



This crew participated in the St. Mary School Parent/Teacher Organization Golf Tournament in 2006. In the **PHOTO ABOVE**, from left, Jennifer Castellari, Rick Shaw, Kathy Shaw, Kyle Decker, Kathy Decker and Chris Cary.



The Knights of Columbus hold a party each year for the boys and girls who serve during Masses at St. Mary's

This photo of Altar Society officers for 2000 to 2002 includes, **FROM LEFT**, Cherry Neff, president; Terry Bell, vice president; Mercedes Campbell, secretary, standing in for Dolores Kluck; Bernice Schmidt, treasurer; Ann Sturman, financial secretary; Dolores Mabry, installing officer; and Dolores Schulz, assistant installing officers.



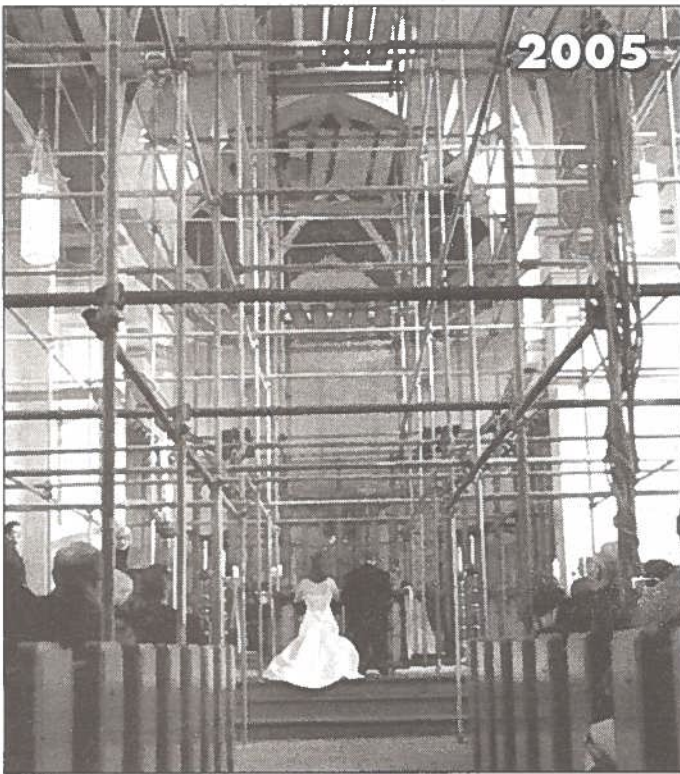




Playday at St. Mary's School.



This May Crowning ceremony from May of 2006 includes, FROM LEFT, Sarah Litteer, Karson Pelaez, Lexie Hepp, Andrew Kiendl, Kaylan Pelaez, Tressa Rudolph, Nick Whritenour, Micah Cross, Annamarie Gherardini Pas, Matthew Zelasko and Kolten Garcia.



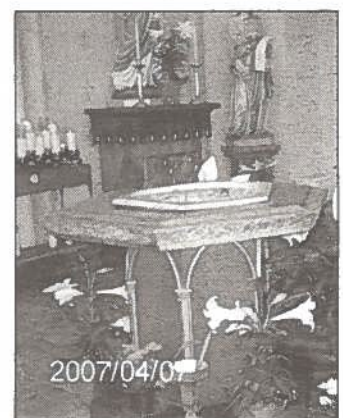
When Sarah Krupp and Galen Mahle were united in marriage on Dec. 17, 2005, at St. Mary's Church, the setting included scaffolding throughout the interior of the church as the building was being renovated.



Father David Darin celebrates his birthday with help from parish staff.



Nearly 400 members of St. Mary's parish turned out for a seder (passover) meal prepared by members of the parish and led by Father David Darin.





## DARIN FAMILY MEMORIES

**1991**


Fr. David Darin celebrated his first Mass at St. Mary's in 1991. Family joining him are, **FRONT ROW**, from left, Anna Leeta Darin, Corinno Darin, Danny Darin, Maria Gotta, Mary Darin, Rose Bridges and Antoinette DeBernardi. **BACK ROW**: Richard Cerny, Josephine Cerny, Catherine Darin, Fr. Darin, Susan Lobonc-Gotta, John Gotta, Pauline Pawlisa and Robert DeBernardi.



**Danny & Mary (Gotta) Darin & Wedding Party, May 7, 1955**  
Antoinette (Darin) DeBernardi, Catherine Darin, Josephine (Cerny) Gotta, Mary (Gotta) Darin, Danny Darin, Corinno Darin, C.P. Woolbright, Bob Gotta, Charles Woolbright, Dean Simcox



## A STORY IN STAINED GLASS

### Madonna in Glass featured at St. Mary's

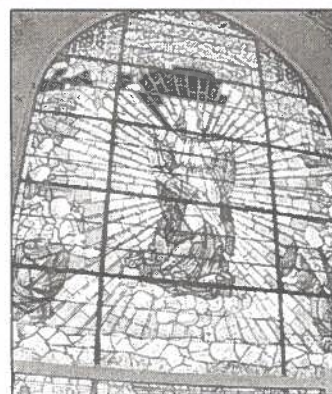
*The following article by Mrs. Perry Crawford appeared in the Dec. 4, 1959, edition of the Morning Sentinel. It is especially noteworthy due to the recent renovation of the church overseen by Father David Darin, which restored the interior decor to much of what this article describes.*

The Madonna in the window of the facade is rich in ecclesiastical art. She is portrayed standing within the glory of the Aureole. This large oval halo is also known as the Mandorla, Italian for almond shape. The master painters of the Renaissance enriched the use of this symbol, especially the sixteenth century Murillo of Spain. He is famous for his many paintings of the Assumption of the Madonna, and the Ascension of Christ. The Madonna in a shimmering gray robe has a radiant blue mantle draped toward the front in rich depths of darker blue. A bit of gray veil is on the back of her head, contrasting with the long jade green scarf across the shoulders, cascading down each side with one long end swinging across the front with the mantle. Her discolored, or bare, feet are seen standing on gray clouds.

She is surrounded by a dazzling radiance of golden rays shading into bronze at the tips. The highest part of the Aureole seems to extend up beyond an elaborately carved stone canopy of regal pinnacles and scrolls. It actually looks like stone, the glass being so realistic in coloring. This stone effect continues in slender pillars down each side of the window to an ornamental base across the lower edge. Above the canopy is a background of ruby red, adding much to the window when illuminated each night and viewed from the street. Below the Madonna at each side are three adoring angels in robes of purple, with two of them offering her the spray of lilies, symbol of purity, and the palm, symbol of victory.



These photos show the sanctuary after renovations and the stained glass window found above the balcony.



The front of the mensa, or altar table, shows a tall Chi Rho, embellished at the center with star-like rays. Chi Rho are the first two letters in the Greek name of Christ. It was carved by the early Christians in the catacombs under Rome until the year 315 AD, when Emperor Constantine gave an edict permitting the use of the cross as the emblem of the Christian church.

A red panel at the back of the mensa is painted with scrolls of grape vines and sprays of golden wheat. The chalice containing the host/Communion wafer has gold rays of sanctity emanating from it, this is a beautiful presentation of the symbols of the body and blood of Christ.

High on the wall in back of the mensa is a large oak crucifix. Near the top I appreciate reading the familiar INRI, Jesus Nazarenus Rex Judaeorum, the Latin for Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews. At the foot of the cross are Mary, Mother of God, and John the Favorite Disciple.

The valuted ceiling of the chancel forms two arches clearly painted with symbols for all to behold. The arch close to the altar portrays 1500-year-old symbols of the four evangelists, showing the angel of St. Matthew, the lion of St. Mark, the ox of St. Luke and the eagle of St. John. As is often customary only the heads are shown in this design, similar to those of cherubim used in a decorative manner close to the

heads.

On the front of the arch above the altar is the lettering "Ecce Agnus Dei," on a scroll below the colorful painting of the "Lamb of God" standing on the Bible which has the seven seals across it. The triradiant halo belongs to the lamb as one of the Holy Trinity, and the lamb is holding a staff bearing the white banner of Victory, symbol of the Resurrection. From the lamb's breast blood flows into the chalice, a subject which has been the inspiration of many paintings, including the large masterpiece painted in 1450 in Holland by the Van Eyck brothers. This has long been regarded by world art authorities as the most perfect painting in the world. Perfection is found not only in the symbolic portrayal, but also in every painted detail of carved wood, embossed leather and rich draperies in the background. Jan Van Eyck was the first to perfect the use of oil mixed with pigment for the oil painting as we know it today, and he used it for priceless religious paintings.

The other arch higher up displays an inspiring row of symbols including the Descending Dove of Pentecost, the artichoke as a reminder of the power to burst the tomb, the scourge and the circle of 3 fish of the Holy Trinity, a beloved symbol since the first century after Christ. This is also displayed in a large gold design on the altar front in the Trinity Lutheran Church of this

city. The fish, anchor and ship whose mast often resembled a cross, were three favorite symbols of the early centuries as seen in hundreds of carvings of them in the Catacombs.

The 12 tall stained glass windows contain in unison the soft tones of orchid in the upper corner, shading down into cream and on into yellow. At the top and bottom are contrasting colors and designs, sky blue prevailing in floral scrolls at the top, while at the bottom angular patterns of red, blue and orange prevail.

Exploring the high medallion windows starting on the north side, nearest the front door. I appreciate my favorite, the blue anchor, ancient symbol of hope and security. The anchor is also seen beside the front door in the Methodist Church nearby. The next medallion contains the blue lilies which are always the symbol of the Madonna, while their blue symbolizes the heavens, truth and fidelity. Next is the cross draped with a violet strand for mourning. Next are the intertwined M and A, for Ave Maria, Latin for Hail Mary. Next the IHS showing a tall I in the middle for the cross with H and S below forming the monogram in Greek for the first three letters in the name of Jesus. The next medallion is above a statue of the Virgin Mary and it contains "Immaculate Heart of Mary." Opposite, on the south wall, is the "Sacred Heart of Jesus."



# FAMILY WEDDINGS PAST & PRESENT



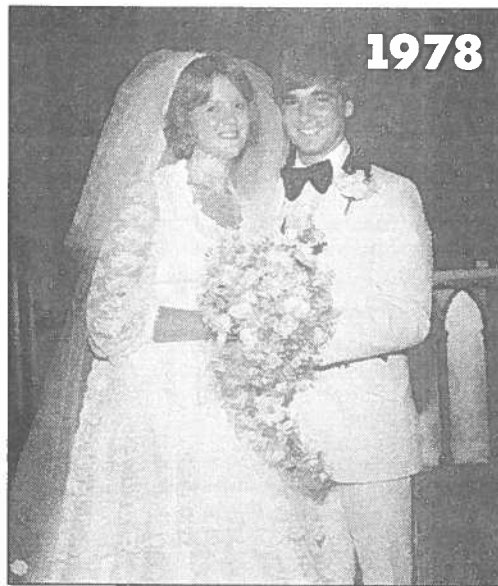
Jason & Jessica (Schwartz) Frey, Oct. 21, 2006



Bill & Donna Schwartz, July 1, 1958



Corinno & Anna Leeta (Mordini)  
Darln - Jan. 28, 1947



Mark and Rene' (Jackson) Aydt  
Aug. 12, 1978  
St. Mary's Church, Centralia



Tim and Kalani (Caallm) Aydt  
June 16, 2007  
St. Mary Church, Centralia





Confirmation for the class of 1994-95 included **FRONT ROW**, from left: Julie Bowman, Justina Huge, Erin Beaty, April Stinde, Theresa Schwartz, Rebecca Sun, Julie Francois, unidentified and Dani Elliston; **MIDDLE ROW**, from left: Heidi Vonderheide, Jennifer Profancik, Mary Starr, Leah Logullo, Theresa Hutchison, Liz Pennington, Julie Brink and Jessica Moore; **BACK ROW**, from left: Fr. Dougherty, Maria Biagi, unidentified, Josh Pickett, Bishop Gregory, Adam Feig, Mark Huelsman and Mary Grabowski.



**1980s**  
James S. Brady



**Easter 1965** — Judy, Marie, Nancy & Marilyn Wilkinson.



**2003**  
Father Darin and Fontanini nativity display



**2006**  
Easter egg hunt



**1990**  
For 20 years, St. Mary School students put on full theatrical productions, complete with costumes, makeup and elaborate sets. These performers are ready for the 1990 show, Rapunzel.



**2006**  
Tammy Holtkamp, **LEFT**, and Fr. David Darin pose as swash-bucklers during the 2006 parish auction.





Seated around the "Stone Soup" are, FROM LEFT, Amber Fark, Clint McDaniel, Jessica Hoffner and Kate Boster. April 30, 1993 Sentinel photo.



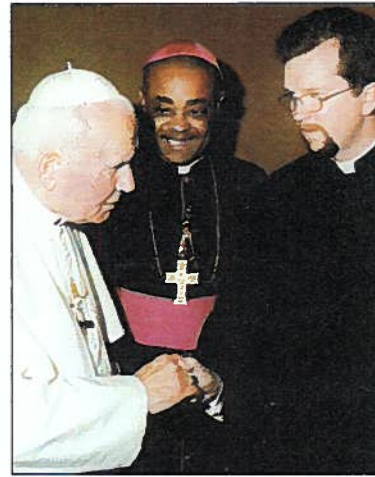
Team members include, FRONT ROW, from left: Chris Ludwa, Mat Schwartz, Nathan Hawkins, Jason Curl, Ryan Freeman, Jarod Snyder and Nathan Davis; BACK, from left: Glenn Kingsley, Tanner Meier, Matt Suhl, Aaron Feig, Ben Patterson, Tom James and Jeff Seeburger. Head coach Bill Sligar and asst. coach Mike Klosterman are AT TOP.



Becky Russell's baptism, June 1, 1980. From left: Les Russell, Fr. Pat Peter, Margie Russell holding Becky.



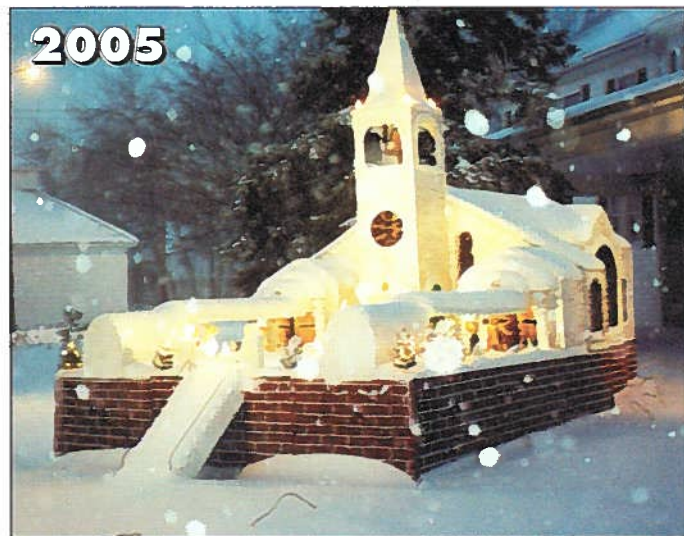
David Darin assists at Mass while he was a seminarian.



Fr. James Nall, RIGHT, meets with Pope John Paul II as Bishop Wilton D. Gregory, CENTER, looks on.

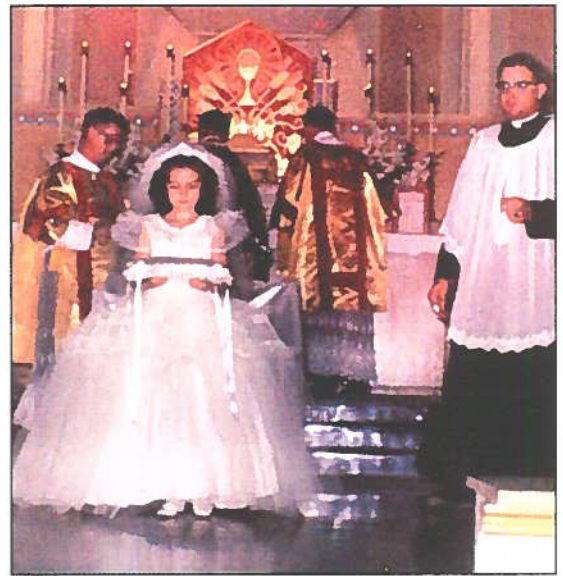
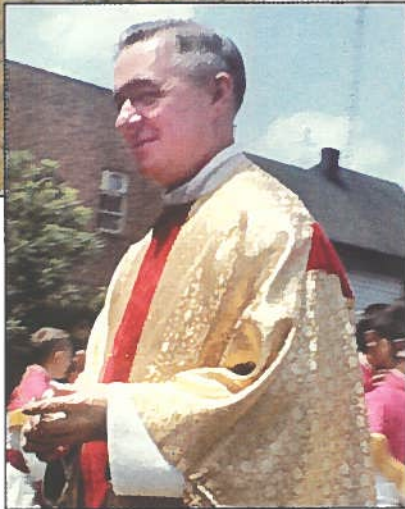
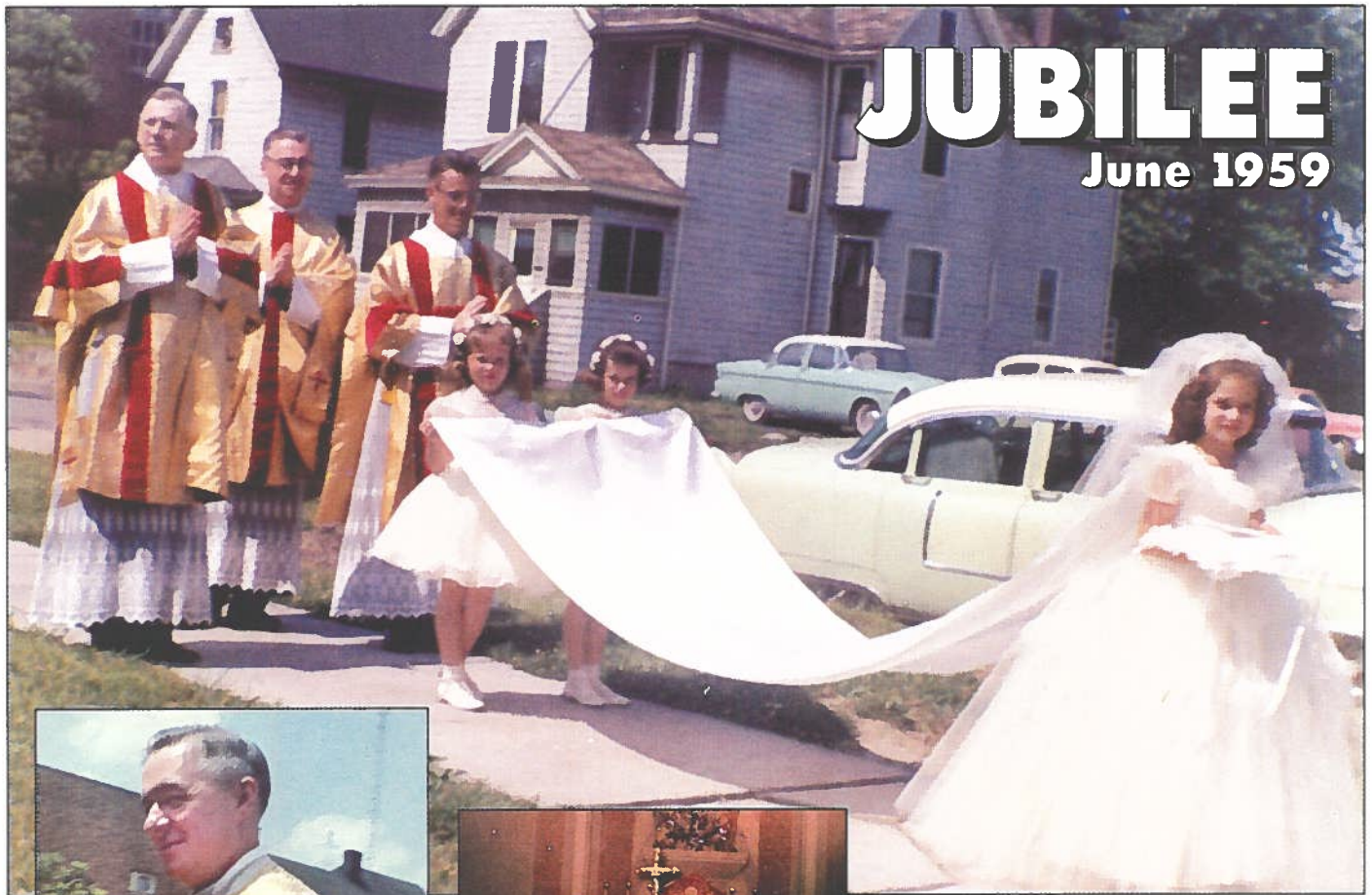


RCIA class for 2007 and family and sponsors include Debra Zelasko, Cassandra Kinney, Damian Satriani, Summer Payne Miller, Andrew Miller, Mary Miller, Mary Ashby, Yvonne Rusiewski, Sister Annette Kaba, Marilyn Wilkinson, Pete Donnelly, Fr. Darin, Sister Marlene and Kevin Ray.

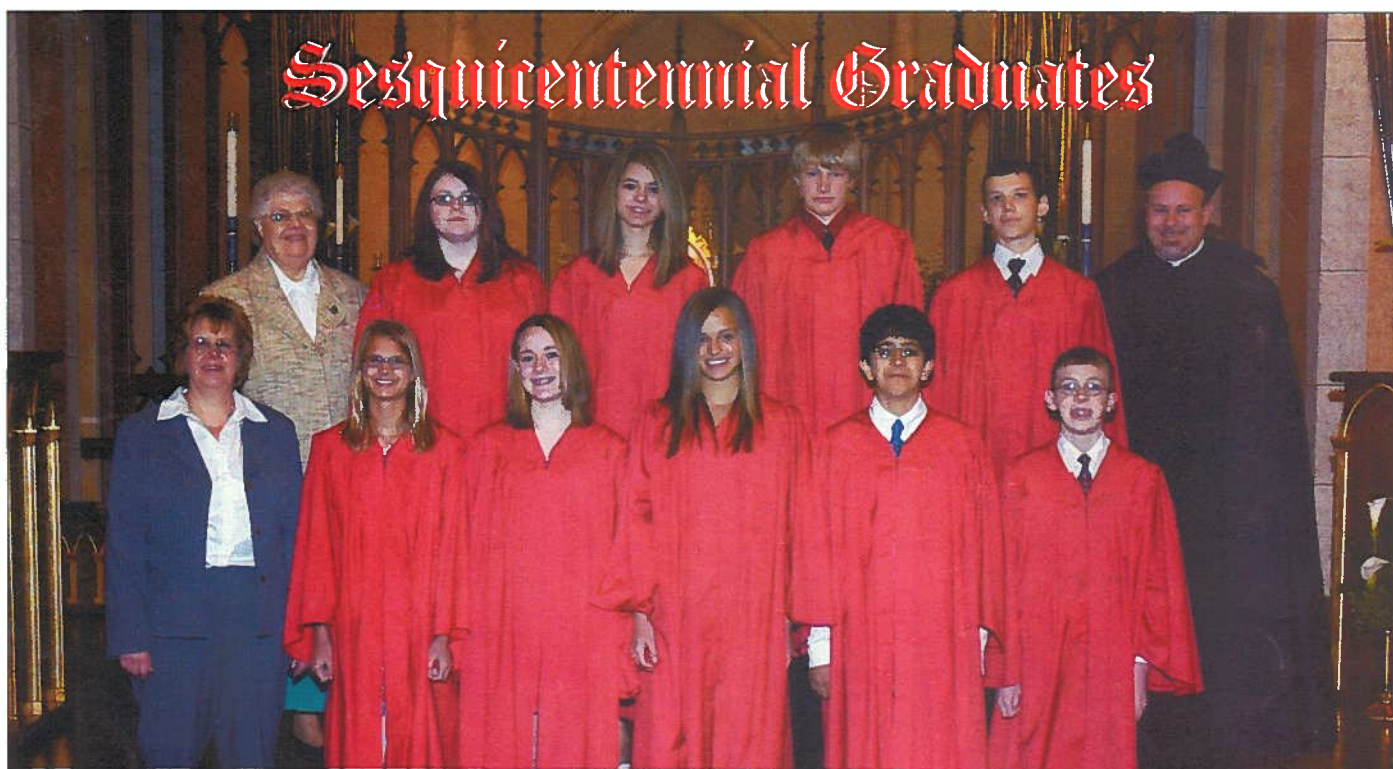


Garnier's holiday tradition, the miniature church, is seen during a December evening snowfall in 2005.









**Sesquicentennial Graduates**  
 St. Mary School in Centralia held graduation on May 22, 2007, with nine graduates receiving diplomas and numerous awards. Those in attendance include, from left, **FRONT ROW**, teacher Jan Hawkins, graduates Erin Cary, Samantha Beckmann, Hannah Shores, Zakriya Shaw and Grant Ford. **BACK ROW**: Principal Sister Barbara Habing, SSND, graduates Alysa Lackey, Britteny Hesel, Tyler Obermeier, Brian Evertz and Father David Darin, pastor.



**First Holy Communion – 2007**  
 St. Mary's First Holy Communion class for 2007 includes, from left, **FRONT ROW**, Ethan Hawkins and Sawyer Litteer. **SECOND ROW**: Brooke Sulcer, Hanna Garrison, Adam Heard, Nicholas Nocerino and Tanner Hoyt. **BACK ROW**: Sister Barbara Habing, SSND, principal of St. Mary School; teacher Deb Gerdes; Father David Darin, pastor; and Sister Marlene, Buese, SSND, director of religious education.