

THE CENTRAL EXPRESS

Quarterly Newsletter and Ramblings from....



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY PARISH, MT. VERNON
ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY PARISH, CENTRALIA
ST. LAWRENCE PARISH, SANDOVAL

CELEBRATING OUR MARION AND JEFFERSON COUNTY FAITH COMMUNITY



MARCH 2024

VOLUME II ISSUE III



Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Lent might sound like a solemn affair, but it's packed with traditions that add both depth and a dash of lightness to this reflective season. Think of it as a spiritual detox, where fasting isn't just about bravely saying no to chocolate (while dreaming about it every night), but a chance to slim down our worldly distractions and bulk up on soulful nourishment.

Then there's almsgiving, which turns Lent into a kind of spiritual Olympics, where the gold medals are awarded for kindness and generosity. It's like spring cleaning for the heart, where we dust off our compassion and polish our empathy, giving a bit of our treasure, talent, or time to those in need. It's the ultimate win-win: your heart grows a few sizes, and you get to be

someone's superhero, cape optional.

Prayer during Lent gets a major glow-up, turning from a monologue into a dialogue with the divine. It's the perfect time to spill the tea with God, sharing all your hopes, worries, and even your Lenten fails (He gets it, really). And let's not forget the Stations of the Cross—a historical reenactment that takes you back to Jerusalem's cobblestones, minus the time travel. It's a spiritual journey through Jesus' last day that's both profound and a real thigh-burner if you're doing it right.

Now, for the pièce de résistance: Lenten fish fries. Imagine transforming the simple act of skipping meat into a fishy feast that brings everyone together. It's like a Friday night fish party, where the guest of honor is a fillet. These gatherings are less about the fish and more about the fry—community, laughter, and maybe a side of fries.

Giving up something for Lent is the personal challenge that has us bargaining with ourselves. Will it be coffee, social media, or the snooze button this year? It's a test of willpower that can lead to some creative loopholes (hello, almond milk and decaf). Lent is filled with other quirky customs too—like burying the Alleluia (literally hiding it away until Easter), attending Lenten retreats that feel like spiritual spa days, or even joining a prayer group and accidentally finding your next best friend.

All in all, Lent might seem like it's all about giving things up, but it's really about what you gain: a lighter heart, a stronger spirit, and maybe, just maybe, a newfound appreciation for fish and chips. It's the ultimate journey from "Oh no, Lent!" to "Oh wow, Lent!"—where the road to Easter is paved with good intentions and the occasional fish fry. Imagine the scene: after a solemn and reflective Lenten season, Easter Sunday arrives with its promise of joy and new beginnings. Churches are filled with vibrant flowers, and the air is charged with uplifting music. Meanwhile, families prepare for gatherings that often involve not just prayer and reflection but also the quirky traditions that bring humor to the occasion. In all these ways, Easter Sunday marries the sacred with the light-hearted, reminding us that joy, laughter, and rebirth are essential parts of the human experience.

Blessings and Peace,

Father Steve



Lent Easter

As the season transitions from the contemplative desert of Lent to the radiant glory of Easter, St. Mary's extends a heartfelt invitation to all to join in walking the path of Jesus. This journey, deeply rooted in tradition, offers a profound opportunity for personal and communal reflection, penance, and ultimately, celebration. Lent, a time of introspection and fasting, prepares our hearts and minds for the transformative experience of Easter, the pinnacle of the Christian calendar, commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

At St. Mary's, we embrace this sacred time by engaging in various spiritual practices designed to draw us closer to the essence of our faith.

Through prayer, fasting, and acts of charity, we embody the spirit of sacrifice that Jesus himself demonstrated. This period of forty days serves not only as a reminder of Jesus' time in the desert but also as a call to reflect on our own lives, encouraging us to relinquish attachments that distance us from the divine.

As Easter dawns, we are invited to emerge from the introspective desert into the light of Christ's resurrection. This joyous celebration brings with it a message of hope, renewal, and the promise of eternal life. It's a time when the community of St. Mary's comes together in greater fellowship, united by the shared experience of God's love and grace. Through liturgies, music, and communal gatherings, we express our joy and gratitude for the gift of salvation.

In this sacred season, from the austerity of Lent to the exultant celebration of Easter, St. Mary's welcomes everyone to join in this spiritual journey. It is an opportunity to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, to welcome Him into our lives more fully, and to witness the transformative power of His love and sacrifice. Let us come together to renew our faith, to support one another in our spiritual growth, and to celebrate the victory of life over death.

Palm Sunday 4:00 p.m. (Saturday Vigil)
Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.

Holy Thursday Mass - 7:00 p.m.
Adoration until 9:00 p.m.

Good Friday Service - 3:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday - 8:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Easter Egg Hunt to follow Mass



Christmas Mass at St. Mary's Parish



Saying good-bye to Seminarian Luke Fitzgerald



The Altar Society's Christmas Celebration: A Joyous Gathering with Exceptional Cuisine, Entertainment, and Merriment, Featuring Performances by SMS Students



Preparing the 300+ Cookie Trays!



Celebrating 8th Grade Night for the Defenders! Only a few months left to go.

The whole school SMS Choir performed wonderfully Sunday morning at the Catholic Schools Week Kick-Off Mass. The week was filled with fun events for the students, parents, and community. Thanks to everyone who made it so successful!



First Sacrament of Reconciliation



Challenge yourself on Lent and the Triduum knowledge! How many of these questions can you answer correctly?

What is Lent?

- a) A celebration of the resurrection of Jesus
- b) 40-day period of fasting and repentance
- c) A feast day in honor of the saints
- d) A weekly prayer service

2. When does Lent begin?

- a) Christmas Eve
- b) Easter Sunday
- c) Ash Wednesday
- d) Good Friday

3. What does the term 'Triduum' refer to?

- a) The three days of Easter
- b) The first three days of Lent
- c) The three days of prayer before Christmas
- d) The three days before Ash Wednesday

4. What are the three days of the Triduum?

- a) Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday
- b) Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday
- c) Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday
- d) Good Friday, Holy Saturday, Easter Sunday

5. What is traditionally abstained from during Lent?

- a) Meat on Fridays
- b) All types of food
- c) Water
- d) Bread

6. What event does Good Friday commemorate?

- a) The birth of Jesus Christ
- b) The crucifixion of Jesus Christ
- c) The resurrection of Jesus Christ
- d) The Last Supper

7. What is the significance of Ash Wednesday?

- a) Marks the end of Lent
- b) Commemorates the resurrection of Jesus
- c) Marks the beginning of Lent and symbolizes repentance
- d) Celebrates the arrival of the Holy Spirit

8. What happens on Holy Thursday?

- a) Blessing of the Easter foods
- b) Celebration of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem
- c) Commemoration of the Last Supper
- d) Blessing of palm leaves

9. What is the main focus of the Lenten season?

- a) Celebrating the Saints
- b) Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving
- c) Decorating the church
- d) Singing hymns

10. What does the color purple symbolize in Lent?

- a) Joy and royalty
- b) Penance and repentance
- c) Fertility and life
- d) Harvest and abundance

11. What does the '40 days' of Lent symbolize?

- a) The 40 years Israelites spent in the desert
- b) The 40 days Jesus spent in the desert
- c) The 40 days of the great flood
- d) The 40 apostles of Jesus

12. What is the color of vestments worn by priests during Lent?

- a) White
- b) Red
- c) Purple
- d) Green

13. What is the meaning of the term 'Paschal Triduum'?

- a) The period of preparation for Christmas
- b) The three days of Easter
- c) The last week of Lent
- d) The three days leading up to and including Easter

14. What event does Holy Saturday commemorate?

- a) Jesus resting in the tomb
- b) The last supper of Jesus
- c) Jesus' entry into Jerusalem
- d) The baptism of Jesus

15. What type of service is typically held on Good Friday?

- a) A joyous Easter Mass
- b) A service of light
- c) A solemn service remembering Christ's Passion
- d) A baptism service

16. During Lent, what is the significance of 'almsgiving'?

- a) Giving money to the church
- b) Charitable giving to the needy
- c) Giving gifts to family and friends
- d) Giving up something you enjoy

17. What do the ashes used on Ash Wednesday symbolize?

- a) Joy and resurrection
- b) Mourning and repentance
- c) Health and prosperity
- d) Baptism and new life

18. What is often the focus of the readings and prayers during Lent?

- a) The miracles of Jesus
- b) The parables of Jesus
- c) The passion and death of Jesus
- d) The teachings of the apostles

19. What is the significance of covering statues and images in churches during Lent?

- a) To signify mourning and penance
- b) To prepare for Easter decoration
- c) To honor the saints
- d) To symbolize the absence of Jesus

20. What is traditionally done on Palm Sunday?

- a) Fasting and praying
- b) Blessing and distribution of palm branches
- c) Lighting of candles
- d) Baptisms and confirmations

Answers: 1-b, 2-c, 3-a, 4-a, 5-a, 6-b, 7-c, 8-c, 9-b, 10-b 11-b, 12-c, 13-d, 14-a, 15-c, 16-b, 17-b, 18-c, 19-a, 20-b.



Thursday, February, 29, 2024

12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

St. Mary Church, Mt. Vernon
(Four Priests Available)

Monday, March 4, 2024

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

St. Mary Church, Centralia
(Four Priests Available)

Thursday, March 7, 2024

12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

St. Mary Church, Centralia
(Four Priests Available)

—**Extended Reconciliation Hours—**

Friday, March 15, 2024

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

St. Mary Church, Mt. Vernon
(Four Priests Available)

—**Weekend Reconciliation—**

Saturday before Mass

3:00 p.m. - 3:50 p.m.

St. Mary Church, Centralia

Saturday before Mass

4:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

St. Mary Church, Mt. Vernon

Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Below is a list of area parishes that will be offering the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent. You may schedule the Sacrament of Reconciliation by contacting the Parish Office 618-532-6291.

03/04/24	6-7:00 PM	St. Mary, Centralia
03/05/24	07:00 PM	St. Rose, St. Rose
03/07/24	12:30-2:00 PM	St. Mary, Centralia, School
03/10/24	01:00 PM	St. Bernard, Albers
03/10/24	03:00 PM	St. Mary, Carlyle
03/10/24	05:00 PM	St. Cecelia, Bartelso
03/13/24	06:00 PM	St. Theresa, Salem
03/13/24	07:00 PM	St. Mary, Trenton
03/14/24	07:00 PM	St. Dominic, Breese
03/15/24	6-9:00 PM	St. Mary, Mt. Vernon
03/17/24	03:00 PM	St. Francis, Aviston

Did you know...

Centralia has a strong connection to basketball, being the birthplace of the legendary basketball coach Bobby Joe Mason. Centralia High School's basketball team "Orphans" is also known for its success, including one of the longest winning streaks in Illinois high school basketball history.

ADOPT A SEMINARIAN.

Please pray for our seminarians. If you would like to send them a card.

Kenrick-Glennon Seminary

5200 Glennon Dr,
Saint Louis, MO 63119

Attention:

Seminarian Mr. Levi James

Mundelein Seminary

1000 E. Maple Ave.
Mundelein, IL 60060

Attention:

Seminarian Mr. Terry Marmion

Seminarian Mr. Casimir Cozzi

Sacrament of Healing.

Anointing of the Sick

Following Mass on...

Saturday April 27, 2024 – 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 28, 2023 – 10:30 a.m.

St. Mary's Church each First Friday

In an emergency, please contact Father

Steve, Msgr. David, or Father Benny

Phone: 618-532-6291 X307

(it will automatically forward to Father Steve)



Please offer your prayers for our candidates preparing for Confirmation. On Sunday, April 21, 2024, Bishop McGovern will preside over the Confirmation ceremony. The event will include candidates from several parishes: St. Theresa of Avila in Salem, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Kinmundy, St. Lawrence in Sandoval, and St. Mary in Centralia. The ceremony will be held at St. Theresa Church and is scheduled to begin at 11:00 a.m.



On Sunday, April 7, 2024, at 10:30 a.m., St. Mary Parish will be filled with an air of divine joy and anticipation, as it prepares to celebrate the First Holy Communion of its young members during the Holy Mass. This significant spiritual milestone, marking the first time these children will receive the Eucharist, symbolizes their deeper participation in the

church's life. It is a day for celebration, reflection, and a deeper connection with the faith community, as these young members take a significant step in their religious life.

Additional Sunday Mass will be offered at 8:30 a.m. April 7th.

On Sunday, April 7, 2024, an additional Mass will be celebrated at 8:30 a.m. We have a large First Communion Class this year and this will allow family members to join in the celebration of First Holy Communion.

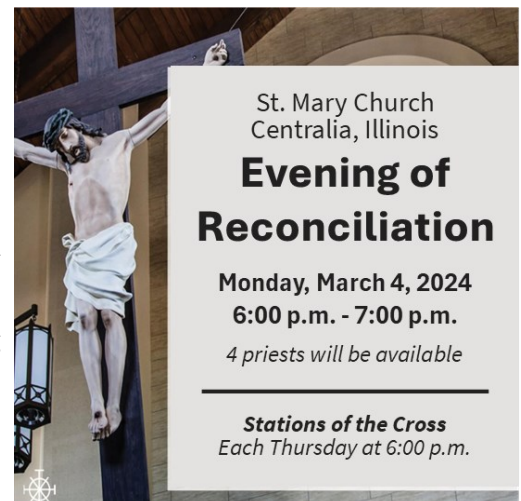


With Honor & Gratitude We Remember

Please mark your calendars for Monday, May 27, 2024, as we gather for Mass at Calvary Cemetery, commencing at 9:00 a.m. This Mass will be dedicated to honoring those who have made significant sacrifices for their faith and country. After the Mass, there will be an opportunity for individual graves to receive blessings.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Blessing of Easter Baskets.

Children are invited to bring their Easter Baskets to Mass, Easter Sunday March 31, 2024, for a blessing. Follow Mass there will be a Easter Egg hunt in the Courtyard.



The Sanctuary candle burns in memory of loved ones and special intentions.

"The sanctuary candle is burned continually in a Catholic church as a sign of the continual real presence of Jesus Christ, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity, under the appearance of the host is kept in the tabernacle in each church building. The candle is a sign to those who wish to pray that Jesus is truly present, looking at each person with love, listening to their prayers, and giving them the graces needed."

Each month, the Sanctuary candle at St. Mary Church and Chapel burns in memory of a departed family member or a special intention. There are months available; contact the Parish Office at 618-532-6291 for information. The recommended donation is \$60.00.

MARCH SANCTUARY CANDLE ST. MARY CHURCH INTENTION

-Elliston & Garnier Families -

April 2024	Michelle Lehman
May 2024	Ralph & Bernice Sprehe
June 2024	Henry, Dorothy, Theresa Verdeyen
July 2024	Dr. Jerry Beguelin
August 2024	Mary Ballagh
September 2024	Gene Uhls
October 2024	David Schwartz
November 2024	Dr. Avelino & Sequndina Lazo
December 2024	Nall, Hollern, & Duty Families
January 2025	Henry, Dorothy, Theresa Verdeyen
February 2025	Alan & Rosalie Thomas
March 2025	OPEN
April 2025	OPEN

SAINT MARY'S CHAPEL INTENTION

- Roger Holley -

April 2024	Kabat & Tomaszewski Families
May 2024	Virobik, Held, & Cozadd Families
June 2024	Hope Marcum Harbin
July 2024	Joe Marcum
August 2024	Gordon & Mary Louise Elliston
September 2024	Robert & Gary Kabat
October 2024	Joe & Louisa Marcum
November 2024	Holy Souls in Purgatory
December 2024	Richard, Michael, Megan & Jacob Neff
January 2025	Corinno & Anna Leeta Darin
February 2025	Patricia Walter
March 2025	OPEN
April 2025	OPEN

HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST OR NEED A PASTORAL VISIT?

Please contact Prayer Chain Leader Mary Miller if you have a prayer intention 618-292-1229. If you would like to have an intention added or removed, or a visit from the Pastoral Team please contact the Parish Office 618-532-6291.

Did you know...

The Centralia Carillon, one of the largest bell towers in the United States, is a notable landmark. It features a series of bells that can be played manually or automatically, providing beautiful music that can be heard throughout our city.

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Requested Prayers

Roy Kroezen
Blain Loll
Robin Cimera
Waylon Vick
Natasha Lang
Brian "Gooter" Guthrie
Ruby Stratmann
Deb Steward
Mark Schwartz
Those away at College

Serving in the Military

Dylan Huether

Living in a Care Centers

JoDene Nall
Jane Greene
Jeff Alig
Nancy Herrera
Shirley Kabat
Red Schwartz
Deloris Meador

Bertha Huehne
Clarice Moran
Barbara Parrot
Carol Orrell
Betty Boxx
Mike Kennett
Mike Taylor
Jerry Grasher

Living at Home

Dolores Sanders
Mary Darin
Helen Guinzy
JoEllen Nannie
David & Ida May Guthrie
Barbara Francois
Loretta Pedtke

For the suffering

In Ukraine
In the Holy Land
Throughout the World



Saying goodbye to Mandi.

In the heart of St. Mary School, Centralia, there shone a light so bright and warm, it touched the lives of all who had the privilege to know her. Mandi Hardy, was not just a teacher; she was a mentor, a friend, and a source of inspiration to her students and colleagues alike. On Saturday, January 13, 2024, Mandi's light found its way home, leaving behind a legacy that will forever illuminate the halls and hearts of St. Mary School. As we remember Mandi Hardy, let us honor her memory by embodying the values she lived by: compassion, perseverance, and a love for learning. Her spirit will forever be a part of St. Mary School, Centralia, a beacon of hope and love that continues to shine brightly.

With blessings and thanks from Fr. Steve's family.

I am deeply grateful for your support and love as we bid farewell to my mother, Marge. Your expressions of concern and affection during her brief illness brought us comfort and peace. It was a beautiful testament to her life.

Thank you for your kindness and for standing with my family during this time. Your gestures have touched our hearts profoundly. With heartfelt thanks, Father Steve.



Mary's Merry Quilters have been busy putting together quilts.



Submitted by: Sally Tiemann

The quilting gals have been very busy since the last newsletter. We finished the quilting of two very beautiful quilts and then turned them over to our new official "binder" Lydia Nehrt. Long time quilter, JoDene Nall did the final stage of finishing the quilt but does not have enough area to handle this job.

Binding a queen or king quilt is a very cumbersome project and requires ample room to maneuver the quilt. The quilters thank JoDene for her many years of stitching and her dedication to the St Mary's Merry Quilters and thank Lydia for taking on her new duties.

The quilter's have also been very busy unpacking, sorting and organizing many, many, many boxes and bags of various types of material – a large amount of beautiful quilting fabric! Once the organizing is complete, the quilter's will be hosting a fabric/craft sale. If you know anyone who might be interested, please let them know – we will be offering great prices (cheap!!). It will probably be ready in about a month. Please watch Facebook. Feel free to contact Sally Tiemann (618)830-7604 for more information.

Once again, a large supply of the pieces suitable to make blanket throws for the homeless was donated to Mary Miller's aunt. She along with Mary and other family members have been supporting this project with items donated to St. Vincent de Paul Outreach Center in East St. Louis. Please see the recent Messenger for a very interesting article on this service. Large pieces of very warm fabric were donated to the local Methodist Church Clothes Closet for the homeless to have for their comfort.

First United Methodist Church offers free clothes to those in need.

Submitted by: Sally Tiemann



Did You Know??

The First United Methodist Church in Centralia has been offering free clothes to anyone who may be in need. I began volunteering there about a year ago and encourage anyone who is looking for a new home for your gently used clothes, shoes, purses, personal care items and bedding, this is the place to donate them to. The highest demand is for men's (especially small/ medium) and children's. What goes off the racks quickly is T-shirts! Also tennis shoes.

There are approximately eight ladies that spend their Tuesday mornings sorting and placing items on racks. I have seen the number of people using the clothes closet increase each week. Approximately 35-40 visit weekly. As the season's change, clothes are rotated and stored. Spring and summer items should be available by April first. If you are like me, I had no idea this church offered such a wonderful service for our community. I encourage you to take a few minutes and come check it out. Hours are from 9:00-11:00 (hours the closet is open).

If you would like to donate, the church office is open 9:00-12:00 Monday-Thursday and items can be brought then. Please use the ramp entrance. There are benches in the lobby to place your donations on. I also will be glad to pick up your items or can meet you at a designated location. Just call (618)830-7604.



The Annual Altar Society Christmas Party is the highlight of our Christmas Celebration. It is always filled with joy and fun.

St. Mary Altar Society provides activities that benefit our parish.

Submitted by: Altar Society President, Mary Miller

Altar Society of our beloved parish gathered with nine dedicated members in attendance. The meeting, held on February 13, 2024, was not just a routine check-in but a heartfelt discussion on the numerous ways this spirited group has been weaving threads of kindness throughout the community.

Since their last meeting, the society has been busy, not just with their needles and threads, crafting quilts that are nothing short of artwork, but also in preparing funeral dinners with care and compassion. These quilts, each a labor of love, and the dinners, a comfort to many during their times of loss, underscore the society's commitment to nurturing the bonds within our parish family.

But their mission of spreading cheer doesn't end there. The Altar Society has taken to sending cards to parishioners, a simple yet profound gesture that brings smiles and a sense of belonging to many. As Easter approaches, they're gearing up for the "Senior Buddy Program," planning to assemble and deliver gift bags filled with joy and seasonal cheer. If you know someone whose day would be brightened by such a gesture, the society warmly invites you to share their details, ensuring no one misses out on a dose of Easter happiness.

Members shared touching stories of delivering these gifts, highlighting the joy found not just in the giving but in the precious moments spent with those they visit. These interactions often blossom into beautiful friendships, enriching lives on both sides.

The meeting was also a time of prayer; the Memorare was recited, sending thoughts and petitions for those in need, reflecting the society's foundation of faith and support.

Continuing their outreach, the society contributes to stocking the little food pantry by the library, a testament to their commitment to ensuring no one in our community goes hungry. Looking ahead, the next meeting is slated for April 9, 2024.

In the heart of our parish, the Altar Society stands as a beacon of love, creativity, and community spirit. Their endeavors, from quilts to cards and gift bags, weave a tapestry of care that blankets our community, making it a little warmer, a little brighter, and a lot more connected.

TRIVIA Night

On a brisk evening of February 24, 2024, the air inside the SMS Gym was anything but chilly as the annual Trivia Night, sponsored by the SMS PTO, unfolded into a spectacular display of camaraderie, competition, and sheer brainpower. It was a scene to behold: every table was occupied, buzzing with eager participants, their minds set on victory and their spirits lifted by the joy of the gathering.

As the questions rolled out, ranging from mind-bending history facts to pop culture puzzles, the room echoed with bursts of laughter, whispers of strategy, and the occasional victory cheer. It was a testament to the community's love for a good challenge and their unwavering support for the cause at the heart of the event.

The success of the night was not just measured by the full house or the fierce but friendly competition. It was seen in the smiles of participants, the laughter shared over tricky questions, and the collective effort of everyone who came together to make the event memorable.

A heartfelt "thank you" goes out to every brainiac, quiz master, and supportive soul who played a part in turning this Trivia Night into a grand success. From the organizers to the participants, and everyone in between - your enthusiasm, generosity, and brilliance lit up the night and underscored the spirit of the SMS PTO community.

As we look back on this evening of fun-filled intellectual jousting, we're reminded of the power of community and the joy that comes from sharing moments of learning and laughter. Here's to the knowledge seekers, the trivia aficionados, and all who believe in the magic of coming together for a cause. Your participation not only made Trivia Night a success but also paved the way for more such delightful gatherings in the future.

Let's raise our glasses (of knowledge, of course) to a night that was truly one for the books. Until next year, keep those trivia skills

sharp and your spirits high. Who knows what next year's Trivia Night will bring, but one thing is for sure: it'll be a night not to be missed!



SMS, PTO Lent Fish Fry, in full swing.

After a frosty start that saw our first event getting iced out, the Annual Lent Fish Fry came roaring back, proving that not even a bit of snow and ice could dampen the spirits of the SMS community! Our second Fish Fry was nothing short of spectacular, serving up not only the most delectable fish and pasta but also a heaping helping of warmth and community spirit that no winter chill could ever counter.

The buzz was all about the food - oh, that fish and pasta! Guests were treated to flavors that danced on the palate, with many commenting on just how scrumptious every bite was. It's safe to say that our culinary team outdid themselves, setting the bar sky-high for next year's fry.

But what's a feast without the fantastic folks who make it happen? The outpouring of volunteers from our SMS family was truly heartwarming. It was a testament to the strength and unity of our community, with every volunteer bringing their A-game to ensure the evening was a success. Their dedication and smiling faces were the secret ingredients that made the night even more special.

And let's not forget the highlight of the evening for many - the freewill dessert bar! A paradise for those with a sweet tooth, featuring an array of delectable treats that would make even the most disciplined dessert denier cave. Among the stars of the dessert bar were Father Steve's famous puppy cakes. Yes, they're as cute as they sound, and boy, do they fly off the table! A tip for the wise: get there

early because these adorable confections sell out quicker than you can say "Yum!"

As we wrap up another successful Lent Fish Fry, we're already counting down the days until the next one. Whether you're here for the divine fish and pasta, the unbeatable camaraderie, or to snag one of Father Steve's sought-after puppy cakes, there's something at the Fish Fry for everyone.

So, mark your calendars, bring your appetite, and ready your dessert-eating strategies - the Lent Fish Fry is the place to be. See you there for an evening of fabulous food, fantastic friends, and fish-tastic fun!

Serving 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Friday, March 8, 2024

Friday, March 15, 2024

Friday, March 22, 2024

ADULT MEAL

TWO PIECE FISH DINNER WITH TWO SIDES - \$12.00
BAKED PASTA, GARLIC BREAD AND ONE SIDE \$10.00

KIDS MEAL

FOR 7 AND UNDER

ONE PIECE FISH DINNER WITH ONE SIDE - \$6.00
BAKED PASTA, GARLIC BREAD - \$5.00

SIDE CHOICES: BAKED BEANS - CRINKLE CUT FRIES
HOMEMADE ITALIAN SLAW

EASTER AND HOLY WEEK



Chrism Mass

Cathedral of St. Peter, Belleville
11:30 a.m.

Holy Thursday

7:00 p.m.

(Adoration until 9:00 p.m.)

Good Friday

3:00 p.m.

(Veneration of the Cross)

Holy Saturday

8:00 p.m. (Easter Fire)

Easter Sunday

10:30 a.m.

Blessing of Easter Baskets
and Easter Egg Hunt

St. Mary financial report, and where are we heading.

Submitted by: Treasurer Susan Niepoetter

St. Mary Parish and School have exhibited a commendable financial status in their recent report. Through January 31st, the total income for both the Church and School combined amounted to \$677,468, with various sources contributing to this income, which is critical for both the parish and the school's operations. Against this, the total expenses were \$608,047, encapsulating all operational, maintenance, and educational costs necessary for the efficient running of both the church and the school. Consequently, St. Mary Parish and School realized a net profit of \$69,421, indicating successful financial management and the robust support of the community.

However, it is essential to continue to be vigilant in keeping expenses at bay to maintain and possibly improve this financial health. Prudent financial management and cost containment are vital in ensuring the sustainability of both the parish and the school. Furthermore, heartfelt thanks are extended to everyone who has increased their weekly donation and provided individual donations. Your generosity and commitment have been instrumental in achieving this positive outcome. Your continued support will be crucial in upholding the quality of services and education provided by St. Mary Parish and School.



Submitted by: Heather Knowles

St. Mary School PTO would like to graciously thank all the Parish members and school families for the tremendous support of our annual Christmas Cookie Tray Sale. We sold over 250 cookie trays! This would not have been possible without the numerous bakers, tray builders, and delivery drivers. Thank you to all that purchased trays. In December at the Parish Christmas Party, we also held the Quilt Raffle drawing. Thanks to the donations from Mary's Merry Quilters, we raised over \$1,800 from this raffle!

SMS Trivia Night was held on February 24, 2024, with a sold-out crowd. 35 tables competed for the top prize. It was a fun evening, and everyone seemed to have a great time. We were happy to have The Men in Black return to the competition this year.

After making the difficult decision to cancel the first Lenten week Fish Fry due to weather, we kicked off our Lenten Fish Fry season on February 23, 2024. We had a near record night in sales and are appreciative of all who came out and purchased dinner. Fish Frys will continue during Lent through March 22, 2024, from 5:00-7:00 P.M. Fish and pasta dinners will be available for dine in or carry out. Please consider coming to these weekly events to enjoy a delicious dinner and fellowship, all while supporting our school! St. Mary School will again sponsor the Parish Easter Egg Hunt after 10:30 A.M. Mass on Easter Sunday.

Did you know...

Centralia's Raccoon Lake and Centralia Lake are significant reservoirs that provide recreational opportunities for fishing, boating, and water sports, as well as being important for the city's water supply and flood control measures.

Blankets for those in need inspired by Pat Brandmeyer.

Submitted by: Mary Miller, Altar Society President, and Mary's Merry Quilter



In the cozy corners of a humble workspace, Pat Brandmeyer, together with her niece Mary Miller, engage in a labor of love that brings warmth to the needy residents of the metro-east area during the chilly winter months.



The duo meticulously folds, cuts, and pins material, transforming these pieces into comforting throws. These creations are not just blankets; they are tokens of warmth and care, destined for donation to St. Vincent de Paul.

Over the past three years, Brandmeyer, with the help of family members, has crafted approximately 500 throws, a testament to their dedication and compassion. All materials used in these throws are generously donated, a community effort that underscores the project's spirit of giving and support.

Mary Miller, not only a key player in this benevolent endeavor but also an active member of Mary's Merry Quilters, that meets every Monday in Sandoval. She brings her expertise and enthusiasm to the table. "We believe in giving these materials a second life, providing comfort to those in need instead of letting them go to waste," shared Mary. "It's a fulfilling journey to collect these fabrics, knowing they'll be used to make something so meaningful." (David Wilhelm photos, February 15th Issue of The Messenger).

We're hiring!

FULL TIME TEACHER & PART TIME TEACHER

2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

St. Mary School in Centralia, IL, a Prek-8 parochial school, is hiring a FULL TIME TEACHER & A PART TIME TEACHER for the 2024-2025 school year.

The ideal candidate holds a teaching certificate from the state of IL or has a bachelor's degree seeking certification and must be a Christian.

If you are interested in joining an extremely rewarding environment, please contact Mrs. Maria Pryor at (618) 532.3473 or email your resume with at least 3 professional references to mariapryor@stmarycentralia.org.

Benefits:

- Medical, dental & vision insurance
- 403b Retirement Program with automatic contribution plus the opportunity for additional match
- Small class size



Submitted by: Deacon Dan Laquet
Last weekend our Catechumens, Michael Atchison and candidate, Jeanne Faith, celebrated the Rite of Sending, and the Rite of Election. The first rite was celebrated at our own church, before we went to the Cathedral of St. Peter in Belleville. There, we were joined by hundreds of others joining the Church this coming Easter Vigil on March 30th.

It has always been an inspiring rite to me, because you get an opportunity to see that our Church is growing and that there are many people who want to be a part of the Catholic faith we hold so dear. On this day, in every Diocese in the United States, this same rite is experienced by tens of thousands of catechumens (those who will be baptized) and candidates (those who have been previously baptized in another faith tradition) that will soon be members of the Body of Christ, our Church.

Bishop McGovern presided over the ceremonial rite and welcomed those who are nearing the end of their formation program but will be beginning a lifetime of growth in their faith. It is important for all of us to continue to learn and gain a deeper understanding of what our faith is and what it means to us.

Please join us at the Easter Vigil Mass to show support for those entering the Church. It is a beautiful and inspiring liturgy that reminds us of our past, strengthens our present Church, and provides hope for the future. Those entering our Church have spent the last 8 months learning about our faith, have asked many questions, and it has been very rewarding working with them.

It would be wonderful to see a full church to welcome them into our community of faith, and to share this special day with them.



Submitted by: Cassandra Groff, CRE
We have had such a great start to 2024! I cannot brag on these students enough. We talk about the gospel reading each week, and we

have discussed the Advent season, Lenten season, and Ordinary time. We have prayed for each other, our families, and our community. These students have big hearts! They have great energy and are excited to learn with each other.

The second grade class is chugging along with first communion prep while the seventh and eighth grade students have chosen a patron saint name and completed elaborate research on their saint of choice.

I am asking that you pray for our PSR students. These students are such a bright light to our community. I also ask that we pray for our catechists. They are putting great time and effort into teaching our youth. Lastly, please pray for our first communion students and confirmation students, extending your prayers to include the St. Mary School students. I know how hard the PSR students are studying to make their sacraments, so I can only imagine adding these lessons to the daily grind at school. To say I am proud of this year's PSR students would be quite an understatement. Thank you to our community for supporting us in your prayers.



Knights of Columbus News and Happenings.

Submitted by: John Rohner
St. Lawrence Council #11758

At the December meeting, District Deputy Jim Scatigna presented our council with two awards earned the last fraternal year. The Founder's Award for promotion of K of C insurance and the Columbian Award for programming and charitable outreach. For a winter project, the St. Lawrence Knights have been busy renovating the convent. Unwanted items were discarded, the walls and ceilings repainted, and a new flooring put in most of the convent. On January 8th the Knights hosted a Red Cross blood drive in the hall. On January 20th the annual free throw contest was held in the gym. Congratulations to the winners: Age 9 Hayden Keller, Centralia, Age 10 Kentley Lyons, Sandoval, Age 12 Josh Reams, Sandoval, Age 13 Cooper Lyons, Sandoval and Autumn Moore, Odin.

On February 10th the Knights hosted the District #89 free throw contest in the gym. Congratulations to the winners: Josh Reams, Sandoval and Kentley Lyons, Sandoval for advancing to the regional contest on March 9th at Mater Dei in Breese. On Sunday, February 18th the Knights held another breakfast fundraiser. Thanks to all who came out in the snow to support us. The winner of the 50/50 raffle was John Toedte. The profits will go towards our charitable activities. On February 19th the Knights had their annual dues payers fish fry and potluck. The event was well attended with around twenty Knights and their wives/guests. Thanks to everyone for the side dishes and delicious desserts! The winner of the 50/50 raffle was Dennis Krupp. The St. Lawrence Knights appreciate all your support to help our council help others!

K of C donate proceeds from the Tootsie Roll Drive.

Submitted by, Grand Knight Greg Schwartz
Centralia Council #1025



Knights of Columbus Council #1025, has once again made a significant contribution to the local community. The council recently donated the proceeds from its annual Tootsie Roll

Drive to the Murray Parents Association, a gesture that underscores their commitment to making a difference in the lives of those around them.

The Tootsie Roll Drive, a hallmark event for the Knights of Columbus, is celebrated annually across many councils in the United States. It is known for its dual purpose of raising funds for charitable causes and increasing public awareness about the needs of individuals with intellectual and physical disabilities.

Accepting the check on behalf of the Murray Parents Association was Rita Winkeler, president of the association. The Murray Parents Association is renowned for its dedication to supporting the Murray Center in Centralia, a facility that provides comprehensive services to individuals with developmental disabilities. The Tootsie Roll Drive is more than just a fundraising event; it is a symbol of hope, for those in need.



Centralia Orphans Win Third Straight Regional Championship with 42-35 Victory Over Marion Wildcats! Congratulations to all CHS students. We are particularly proud of Devin & Logan Meier, Nolan Pryor, parishioners and alumni of SMS and Jaxson Hancock, parishioner and alumni of CJHS.

schools, our lads looked a bit... forlorn, shall we say? "They look like a bunch of orphans!" someone remarked. And just like that, a legend was born.

Instead of feeling slighted, Centralia embraced the name. The Orphans became a symbol of resilience, proving that you don't need fancy uniforms or a large roster to win games; you need grit, determination, and the support of a tight-knit community. It's a lesson in not judging a book by its cover, or a team by its jerseys. The Orphans quickly became more than a team; they became a source of pride for Centralia. Through the years, our Orphans have shown the kind of heart and hustle that makes legends. We've cheered them on through ups and downs, victories, and defeats, always proud of the spirit they bring to the game. It's about a community that cheers together, stays together, and celebrates the unique story that makes us all proud to be from Centralia. Here's to the Orphans, may their legacy continue to inspire and unite us. After all, in Centralia, we know it's not the name on the back of the jersey that matters, but the heart within it. Go Orphans!

Centralia Orphans do it again!

Ah, gather 'round, friends and neighbors of Centralia, for the tale of our beloved Orphans—the basketball team with a name as unique as our town's spirit. You might wonder how our high school team ended up with a moniker that sounds more like a Charles Dickens novel than a sports squad. Well, it's a story worth telling, with a dribble of history, a dash of happenstance, and a whole lot of heart.

Once upon a time, in the early 1900s, Centralia High School's basketball team was like any other, playing the game with passion but without a nickname that stuck. That all changed during a particularly cold winter tournament. Picture this: our boys, in mismatched jerseys and with barely enough players to field a team, stepped onto the court. To the onlookers from larger, fancier



We are equally proud of Parker Boehne, SMS alumni who helped take Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School Stallions to Sectionals. Go Stallions!



Lots of emotions as the Trinity / St. Mary's Defenders JV team played their last game of the season, February 22nd. Congratulations to our Defenders on the WIN in Consolation Championship Game at Central City 7th Grade Tournament. Great Job Boys!! Big thank you to Coach Kuder and Coach RJ.

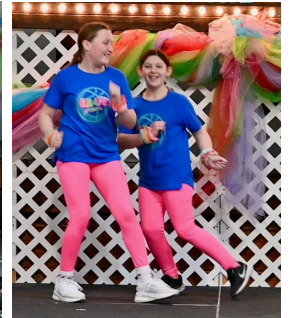


Congratulations to our Defenders volleyball team in placing 2nd in our Defenders Tournament February 11th!!!

In the heart of Centralia, the gymnasium at St. Mary School is more than just a place for games and physical education. It is a testament to a century of spirit, camaraderie, and faith, where every banner hanging on the wall tells a story of young athletes who have left their mark not only through victories but through the values they've embodied.

The young athletes of St. Mary School are a testament to what sports can teach beyond the physical skills. Faith plays a pivotal role in the lives of St. Mary's students. Friendship is another cornerstone of the sports program at St. Mary School. Through countless hours of practice and competition, students forge bonds that go beyond the game. These friendships are built on mutual respect, shared struggles, and the joy of achievement, creating a sense of family among team members. The support system is extensive, encompassing parents, grand-

parents, alumni, teachers, parish members, and coaches. This community involvement is a key ingredient in the program's success, providing the encouragement, resources, and guidance necessary to cultivate not only athletic talent but character. Parents volunteer their time and resources, coaches impart lessons of discipline and teamwork, teachers offer support and flexibility with academic commitments, and parish members cheer from the stands, creating a nurturing environment that celebrates each student's achievements.



St. Mary's School "Turn Up The Talent" A Collection of Singers, Dancers, Musicians and Stars!

In an event that could only be described as St. Mary's School's own vibrant rendition of "America's Got Talent," the annual "Turn Up The Talent Show," transformed the school gym into a buzzing arena of excitement and flair. With every seat filled and spectators standing shoulder to shoulder, the atmosphere was electric, setting the stage for an unforgettable performance. As the students took their place, the audience was transported into a world where talent knew no bounds.

The show kicked off with the King of Pop himself; Michael Jackson's spirit seemed to moonwalk back into the limelight, captivating the audience with a performance that was nothing short of thrilling. But the talent didn't stop there. Rockers with their electrifying guitar solos, line dancers with their impeccably synchronized steps, and magicians with their mind-bending illusions kept the momentum going, each act adding its own unique flavor to the mix. The air was filled with melodies from a wide array of instruments, from the soothing piano to the bold beats of guitars, showcasing the diverse musical talents of the SMS students. But that's not all—singers with voices ranging from soulful to powerful belted out tunes that had the audience swaying and cheering, while dancers of all styles, from ballet to hip-hop, added a visual feast to the auditory delight. And let's not forget the comedians, whose light-hearted banter and witty punchlines provided a hilarious respite between the high-energy acts, proving that laughter truly is the best medicine.

The "Turn Up The Talent," Talent Show was a testament to the incredible talents of St. Mary's School students, who poured their hearts and souls into their performances. It was made possible not only by these gifted individuals but also by the dedication of teachers, staff, and everyone involved in bringing this spectacular event to life. Their collective effort created an environment where creativity, passion, and talent flourished, leaving the audience in awe and anticipation for what next year's talent show will bring. As the final act took a bow and the curtains closed, the buzz of excitement lingered in the air. There was a unanimous feeling of gratitude for a day that celebrated the arts, fostered community spirit, and showcased the incredible talents of the students. "Turn Up The Talent" was more than just a talent show; it was a vivid reminder of the joy and wonder that come from sharing our gifts with others. And so, as everyone left the gym, the same thought was on everyone's minds: "Can't wait until next year!"



HOLLY JOLLY CHRISTMAS



As the festive season approached, St. Mary's School Gym was transformed into the Holly Jolly Christmas Celebration. This event is renowned for its ability to capture the heart and imagination of everyone involved. This year's celebration, however, exceeded all expectations, transforming the gym into a captivating winter wonderland that left attendees in awe from the moment they arrived.

Upon entering the gym, visitors were immediately enveloped in a world where the magic of Christmas was not just felt but vividly lived. The air buzzed with excitement and the sweet melodies of Christmas carols, while the scent of hot chocolate and freshly baked cookies wafted through the air, promising warmth and comfort on a chilly day. The decorations were a sight to behold, with twinkling lights and sparkling ornaments adorning every corner, creating a dazzling backdrop that felt like stepping into a magical kingdom.

At the heart of this festive kingdom were the gingerbread houses, meticulously crafted and arranged to form a delightful gingerbread village. Each house, with its icing-covered roofs and candy-adorned walls, told a story of imagination and festive spirit, inviting onlookers to pause and admire the creativity and effort that went into creating such enchanting displays. Nearby, the "dazzling delights" - a playful array of dancing lights and decorations - added a dynamic energy to the scene, captivating the eyes and hearts of all who passed by.

The entertainment was brilliantly orchestrated by the student elves of St. Mary's School. These talented young performers, dressed in their holiday best, took to the stage with a series of performances that ranged from heartwarming renditions of classic Christmas songs to lively dance numbers that had everyone clapping along. Their enthusiasm and joy were infectious, spreading the true spirit of Christmas throughout the gym.

No Christmas celebration would be complete without a visit from Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus, and the Holly Jolly Christmas Celebration was no exception. Their arrival was met with gasps of delight and excitement, as children and adults alike gathered around to share their Christmas wishes and capture a moment with the jolly couple. Santa and Mrs. Claus, with their genuine warmth and kindness, reminded everyone of the joy and wonder that define the holiday season.

Behind the scenes, the many volunteers from the parish and school worked tirelessly to ensure that the celebration was a seamless and joyous experience for all. Their dedication and hard work were evident in every detail, from the perfectly prepared hot chocolate and cookies to the smooth execution of the program. Their commitment to creating a memorable and magical Christmas celebration for the community was truly the foundation upon which the success of the event was built. As the magic drew to a close, and the last notes of Christmas music faded away, it was clear that the Holly Jolly Christmas Celebration at St. Mary's School Gym had once again captured the essence of the holiday spirit. It was a day of joy, of community, and of magical moments that would be cherished long after the decorations were taken down. A heartfelt "Thank You" to everyone who made the celebration possible - the volunteers, the student elves, Santa and Mrs. Claus, and, of course, the attendees. Your presence, spirit, and enthusiasm made the Holly Jolly Christmas Celebration not just an event, but a beautiful reminder of the joy and togetherness that make the Christmas season so special.



ST. MARY PARISH DINNER AUCTION



DERBY DAY RAFFLE

Win \$1000.00

Place \$500.00

Show \$250.00

**DRAWING HELD
MAY 4, 2024**

Need Not Be Present to Win!

DONATION \$20.00

**ST. MARY PARISH AUCTION
DRAWING MAY 4, 2024**

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

DONATION \$20.00

Submitted by: Heather Knowles

Saddle up for a spectacular evening at the St. Mary Parish and School Auction, where we're bringing the thrill of the Kentucky Derby to you on Saturday, May 4, 2024! Fresh off the heels of a wildly successful 2022 auction, we're betting this year's *"Jockeys and Juleps"* themed gala will be an even bigger blast. Gallop over to the Parish Office or trot online to stmarypto.schoolauction.net to snag your tickets.



For just \$30 a person or \$240 for a table of eight, you'll enjoy a sumptuous dinner, included in your ticket price, and a front-row seat to the Derby excitement.

The starting gates open at 4:30 p.m., inviting you to wager on your favorite thoroughbreds before settling in for the main event. With a mint julep in hand, courtesy of our cash bar's signature cocktails, you'll be in prime position for Derby viewing, live and silent auctions, games, raffles, and a gourmet dessert auction that's sure to satisfy any sweet tooth. Plus, with this year's pre-registration and express check-out, your experience will be smoother than a Triple Crown winner's gallop.

Your attendance supports St. Mary School, a cause as noble as the sport of kings. To ensure our auction's success, we're calling on our community to donate auction items, big or small. A board is displayed in the Church with donation ideas. However, any item, basket, gift certificate, or cash donation would be very much appreciated! Items may be left at the Parish Office or arrangements can be made for pick up by calling (618) 267-6206. Swing by the Parish Office with your contributions or dial (618) 532-6291. And don't miss out on our Win-Place-Show Derby Raffle; with tickets at \$20 and a total purse of \$1,750, it's a fun way to contribute, even if you can't join us in person.

Dust off your hats and polish those loafers, because Derby Day at St. Mary's promises an unforgettable race to the finish line of fun. We can't wait to see you there, where the spirit of the Kentucky Derby comes alive, right in the heart of our community!



Purchase Tickets: stmarypto.schoolauction.net
or contact the Parish Office 618-532-6291.

To Donate: Check out the display in the back of church,
or call 618-267-6206.

Find all information online:
stmarypto.schoolauction.net





Update on Luke Fitzgerald.

Submitted by: Father Steven Pautler

We were blessed to have Luke Fitzgerald as part of our parish while he was a student at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology. There are many factors to consider on the journey toward priesthood. In January, I was notified that Luke had concluded his time as a seminarian for the Diocese of Belleville. We wish him the best as he discerns his future path. He stopped by to say hello during Trivia Night and contributed to the "Men in Black Team" by answering questions. If you would like to drop him a note or stay in touch, you can write to him at: **Luke Fitzgerald, 5204 Friendly Hope Rd., Jonesboro, AR 72404.**



Message from St. Mary School, continuing our mission of sharing God's joy and educating young minds.

Submitted by: Maria Pryor, Principal

The 2023-2024 school year has been a great one so far. We recently had Catholic Schools Week, and students were honored, their parents were honored with an amazing talent show, and our community was honored through special baskets created for them. Our teachers have been working extremely hard to provide our students with the best learning environment. Over the last three years, we have been working on creating a STEM room. While we are working on adding added items each year, Ms. Tammy's 5th and 6th graders have recently been using VR headsets to view what life on other planets is like. The school held its first daddy-daughter dance. It was well attended, and Mrs. Ture and her squad provided a memorable event. Plans are being made now for a father/son basketball tournament in a few weeks.

Our boys' and girls' basketball season has ended, and we are currently wrapping up scholar bowl. The volleyball girls are having a terrific season, and we pray for

their safety and willingness to learn throughout the rest of their season.

This school year continues to fly by. We are well past the half-way mark of our 3rd quarter, and we are already making plans for the next school year. St. Mary School will host an open house on Wednesday, March 6 for inquiring PreK and Kindergarten families or new families to our school. There are a few activities and a special snack planned. Please pass on the word that we are hosting one and continue to spread the good news about our school.

We are also looking to fill a few positions. If you know of someone who would love to work in an amazing environment, and they fit the qualifications, please send them our way. We truly serve the best families, and we are looking for just the right person to continue our mission. We continue to be blessed with a strong number of students. We hope to continue to grow, and the best way to do that is word of mouth.

In the coming months, we will prepare our goodbyes to our graduates and hellos to our new students next year.

Did you know...

James S. Brady, the White House press secretary, celebrated a joyous homecoming in Centralia, October 11, 1983, giving his signature "thumbs up" sign to applauding townspeople who lined downtown Elm Street. Brady, waving and smiling, was escorted through the southern Illinois town of 15,000 by the schools' marching bands, a fire truck and members of the Boy Scout troop that Mr. Brady had been in as a boy. Mr. Brady passed away in 2014.



St. Mary School

424 E Broadway Street * Centralia, IL 62801
Phone: (618) 532-3473 Fax: (618) 352-2010
e-mail: saintmarycentralia@stmarycentralia.org
Principal: Mrs. Maria Pryor
maria Pryor@stmarycentralia.org



**JOIN US FOR
PRE-K AGES 3&4 AND
KINDERGARTEN
OPEN HOUSE**
*AGE BY SEPT. 1ST
MARCH 6, 2024
6-7PM

This evening is set as a casual gathering to check out our Pre-K (ages 3 and 4) & Kindergarten Programs. Come meet the teachers, visit the classrooms, and gather information in an informal - no strings attached - fun filled hour.

QUESTIONS?

E-MAIL THE TEACHERS!

Pre-K 3 - aboyce@stmarycentralia.org
Pre-K 4 - taltenbaumer@stmarycentralia.org
Kindergarten - charting@stmarycentralia.org

**WE WILL HAVE DR. SEUSS
THEMED ACTIVITIES AND
SNACK!**



**RSVP: EMAIL US AT
SAINTMARYCENTRALIA@STMARYCENTRALIA.ORG
OR CALL THE SCHOOL OFFICE @ 618-532-3473
TO LET US KNOW YOU ARE COMING OR TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS
YOU MAY HAVE.**

Please update your phone number or mailing address.

Many have dropped their land lines, if you are using a "cell phone" ONLY - please update!

We want to keep in contact with you! If you are not a member of St. Mary Parish family, or if you would like to receive the weekly bulletin in the mail please complete the below information and return it to the parish office.

Name

Address

City State Zip

Phone Email



St. Mary Parish is fortunate to be supported by a committed group of women in the Altar Society, who contribute significantly through their behind-the-scenes efforts. Their dedication shines through in the preparation of funeral meals, meals for the homebound, quilting, and their ministry to the Altar.



St. Mary School is fortunate to have an abundance of talented educators, staff, and volunteers who transform our school into a vibrant, joyful, and faith-filled community.



Our young parishioners who are members of the 2023-24, CHS Orphans winning Basketball Team. Logan Meier, Nolan Pryor, Jaxson Hancock, and Devin Meier. We are proud of you guys!



Mailing her letter to Santa Claus, direct to the North Pole.



(Above) The St. Lawrence Knights of Columbus hosted the District 89 Free Throw Contest on Saturday, February 10th. Congratulations to Josh and Kentley for advancing to the regional contest on March 9th at Mater Dei in Breese.



(Left) St. Lawrence Knights of Columbus serves up their famous, Breakfast on February 18, 2024. As usual it was hot, delicious and plentiful.



We recognized our 8th grade students during their last home match. We are proud of you, Caden, Maneil, and Reese! The will graduate May 15, 2024.

St. Mary Church 2024 Parish Auction

Cocktails & Juleps



NEW this year ...

*Pre-registration & express
check-out options available!*

Gates Open at 4:30 PM

with an opportunity to
wager on your favorite horse!

Saturday

MAY

4th 2024

Derby Viewing & Cocktails 5:00 PM

Dinner 6:00 PM

Live Auction 8:00 PM

Dinner, Live & Silent Auctions, Gourmet Dessert Auction,
Cash Bar with Signature Cocktails, Raffle, Music, and More

Tickets \$30 Per Person or
Table for 8 People \$240

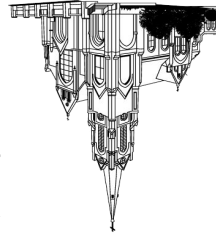
Contact Parish Office to Reserve
Your Tickets (618) 532-6291

ST. MARY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish Family St. Mary, Centralia and St. Mary, Mt. Vernon

424 E. Broadway
Centralia, IL 62801

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