

Carlyle K of C Council 1382
Bingo: Wed. at 7:30pm.
Meetings—2nd Tuesday of the month 7:30pm
Breakfast— 3rd Sun of the month 8-11:30am.

STRAIGHT FROM THE COLLAR
PADRE STEVE, WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH...

Got burning questions, holy curiosities, or just want to stump your parish priest? Send them to spautler@stmarycentralia.org and I'll give it my best shot—collar, coffee, and a sense of humor included!

This Week's Question: Why does the Church have Midnight Mass on Christmas? I love it, but why so late or early?

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

Krispy Kreme Fundraiser: Mater Dei Marching Knights are selling Krispy Kreme donuts (\$13/dozen) following 10:00 A.M. Mass on Sunday, December 14th. They also invite you to attend their Winter Concert at 4:00 P.M. at Mater Dei Catholic High School. Thank you for supporting the MD Marching Knights!

FAIR TRADE MARKET RETURNS
 Fair Trade products, including coffee, tea, chocolate products, olive oil and more will be available after Masses on December 13th & 14th. In addition, metal Christmas items, woven baskets, bowls and Christmas ornaments will be available. All products are part of the movement that provides fair wages, safe working conditions and opportunities to improve the lives of people behind the products. These items will also be available at the parish center following the Carlyle Christmas Cantata. CHOOSE FAIR TRADES AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH EVERY PURCHASE!

HOLY HOUR HAPPY HOUR FOR YOUNG ADULTS (AGES 21–35) on Friday, December 19th. We'll begin by attending the St. Boniface Parish Adoration scheduled in Germantown at 6:30 PM for a Holy Hour. Afterwards, around 7:30 PM, the young adults group will meet at Slots and Scoops in Germantown with Father Thomas Luge for a Happy Hour. We'll end the evening with the Christmas light display in Carlyle. Come for some, or come for all—we hope to see you there!

Advent Reconciliation Services
 December 14, 2025 St. Boniface, Germantown 3:00 PM
 December 14, 2025 St. Francis, Aviston 6:00 PM
 December 16, 2025 St. George, New Baden 7:00 PM

Schedule of Upcoming 2025-2026 Healing Masses
 Information will be updated whenever the office is notified.
 St. Mary (Mt. Vernon), St. Mary (Centralia), St. Lawrence - 1/20/26
 St. Anthony (Lively Grove)/St. Barbara (Okawville) - 3/17/26
 St. Anthony (Beckemeyer)/St. Dominic/St. Augustine - 5/19/26
 St. Cecilia/St. Boniface-7/21/26
 St. Elizabeth/St. Teresa (Salem) - 9/15/26

Walking in the Parish Center
 M-F only 8am-3pm
 With the exception of holidays

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

**Deceased members of
 Norrenberns and
 Heimann Families.**

January 2026	Joyce Deiters
February 2026	Menard, Pauline & Kathy Etter
March 2026	Dan Feldmann
April 2026	Leroy Wiegmann
May 2026	Barry Dixon
June 2026	Jerry & Abby Beer
July 2026	Mike Stanfa & Jackie Turner
August 2026	Nancy Zieren
September 2026	Arnie & Fern Wobbe
October 2026	Jeff & John Peppenhorst
November 2026	Darrell Evans, Joe & Agnes Kampwerth, Ruth Limpers
December 2026	Deceased Members of Diekemper & Wiegman Families

To help cover the expenses of the candle, we offer the opportunity each month for individuals to dedicate an intention. A \$60.00 donation is requested. Please reach out to the Parish Office to make your intention.

**The 2025 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal
 Hope in the Lord**
 The true joy of Christmas is in the everlasting love of Christ. May you find His peace, love and joy now and in the coming new year. With deepest gratitude for your prayers and generosity.
 Ministries and Programs Funded by
 The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal

Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration: Sunday, Dec. 14. 8:30 am St. Bernard Church (202 N Broadway, Albers, IL). 9:15 Procession to St. Damian (1 W. Mains St., Damiansville, IL). Mass at 11:00 am, Food & Celebration 12:00 pm in the school gym.

Diocesan Christmas Collection December 24-25
 The 48th Annual Diocesan Christmas Collection will be taken up at all Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Parishes and agencies throughout the diocese will request monies from this collection during 2026 to assist those who are in need with food, clothing, shelter, utility payments, healthcare and medications, funeral and burial expenses, transportation and emergency assistance of all types. Please consider giving as you are able; thank you so much!

Discernment Day of Recollection

All single young men ages 15–35 are invited to a Discernment Day of Recollection on Saturday, December 20, at St. Nicholas Parish in O'Fallon from 9:00 am-2:30 pm. The day will focus on the theme of "Spiritual Sonship and Fatherhood" and includes conferences, Holy Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, time for discussion, and lunch. Please email mskorch@diobelle.org if you have any questions.

ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH Est. 1853
 1171 Jefferson St., Carlyle, IL 62231

MASS TIMES:
 Tuesday & Thursday—7:30 am
 Thursday— 10:00am— Carlyle Health Care Center
 Friday—7:30 am Word and Eucharist
 Saturday—4:30pm
 Sunday—10:00am
 Reconciliation—Sat. 3:45-4:15pm
 Holy Days—as announced

Staff:
 Rev. Steven Pautler, *Pastor*
 Email: spautler@stmarycentralia.org
 Tracy Becker, *Coordinator of Family Faith Formation*
 Email: rel_ed_stmary@yahoo.com
 Facebook page: StMary Carlyle
 Office Hours: Tues - Thurs - 9am - 1pm
 Email: stmaryc@sbcglobal.net
 Website: stmarycarlyle.org
 Randy Foster, *Grounds & Maintenance*

Youth Ministry:
 Tiffany Wesselmann

Phones:
 Office/Parish Center: 618-594-2225
 Religious Education: 618-594-2284
 Fax: 618-594-4638

Faith Formation:
 Every Wednesday 6:30pm-7:30pm
 Call 594-2284 for more information

To join the Choir or become a Cantor:
 Contact the office at 594-2225

Church Calendar on Google:
stmarycarlyle@gmail.com

Sacrament of Baptism:
 Call Fr. Pautler 594-2225 to register.

Sacrament of Marriage:
 Please make an appointment with Fr. Pautler at least six months in advance, preferably a year.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA):
 Meets Monday evenings from 7pm to 8:30pm (September thru Easter) at the St. Dominic Annex in Breese. Please contact Fr. Pautler for any questions.

Questions about Vocations:
 Call Fr. Nick Junker 618-722-5035 or email njunker08@hotmail.com

Parish Registration:
 We welcome Catholics new to Carlyle and ask that you register with us by filling out the blue form located on the radiators or by stopping at the office in the Parish Center. Parish Registration forms are also online.

Library Hours: Wed. 6:30-7:30pm during school year
Bulletin Deadline: Wednesday, 9:00 am

OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS:
Mater Dei High School 618-526-7216 materdeiknights.org
All Saints Academy 618-526-4323 www.asasaints.com

PARTNERED PARISH
St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church
 18021 Marydale Rd., Carlyle, IL
 618-594-3266 www.stteresamarydale.com
MASS TIMES: Saturday 7:30pm, Sunday 8:00am

DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE
 222 South Third St., Belleville, IL 62220
 618-277-8181 www.diobelle.org
 Subscribe to *The Messenger* at 618-233-8670, or online at www.bellevillemessenger.org

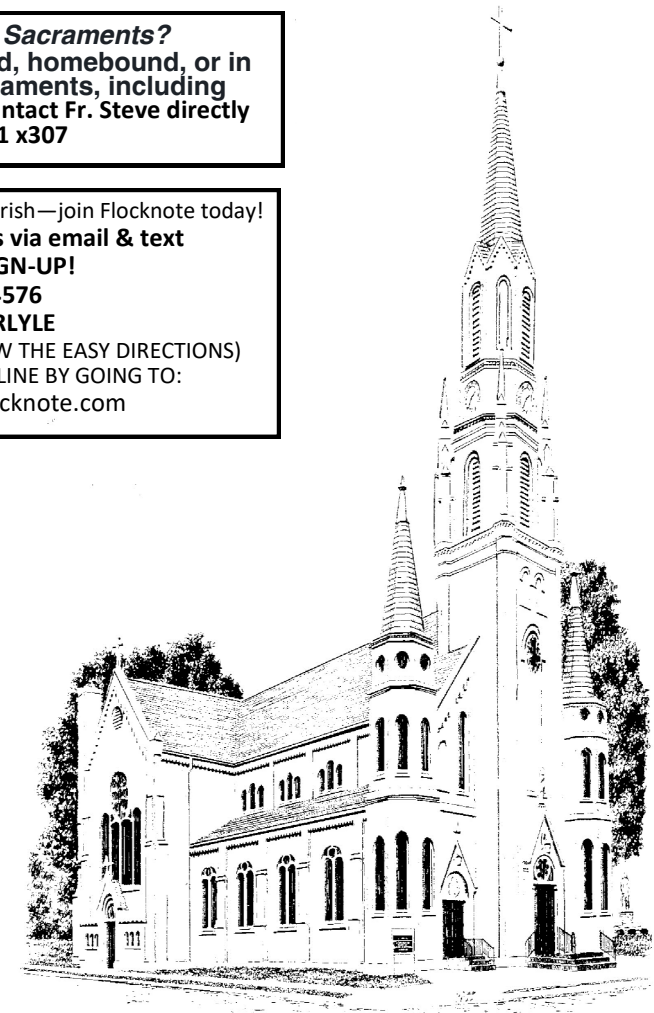


December 14, 2025
Third Sunday of Advent
First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10
Second Reading: James 5:7-10
Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

Office Hours:
 Tuesday thru Thursday 9:00 a.m.—1:00

Need a Visit or the Sacraments?
 If someone is hospitalized, homebound, or in urgent need of the sacraments, including Anointing of the Sick: Contact Fr. Steve directly 618-532-6291 x307

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TEXT: 84576
TYPE: CARLYLE
 (AFTER SENDING JUST FOLLOW THE EASY DIRECTIONS)
 YOU CAN CONNECT ONLINE BY GOING TO:
stmaryparish.flocknote.com



Mission statement:
Our mission is to involve ourselves in lay ministries, living and spreading the gospel message of justice and peace.

BELLEVILLE DIOCESE CHILD PROTECTION
www.diobelle.org/faith-formation/child-protection
SEXUAL ABUSE HOTLINE: Anyone wishing to report an allegation of sexual misconduct by a priest or other diocesan personnel please call the hotline: **800-640-3044.**

Liturgy for the Week...

Sat, Dec 13	4:30 pm	Butch & Leona Meyer John & Rose Martin Alice Goldschmidt Ray & Maggie Bruemmer
Sun, Dec 14	10:00 am	Tom Robben Johanna Diekemper Kenny Becker Jr. Delbert Higgins
Tues, Dec 16	7:30 am	Communion Service
Thurs, Dec 18	7:30 am 10:00 am	Communion Service Carlyle Health Care Center
Fri, Dec 19	7:30 am	Reading of the Word, Communion
Sat, Dec 20	4:30 pm	Cyril & Edna Schwierjohn Bob Buchheit Charlene Erlinger Jack Taylor Juan, Afra & Jerome Guiab Maurice, Alice & Bernie Hustedde Ervin Erlinger Leroy Wiegmann Nancy Huels
Sun, Dec 21	10:00am	Orville, Johanna Rueter & Bernice Kauling-Rueter Kevin Kampwerth Travis Knolhoff L/D Members of Leo & Marcella Varel Families Arnold Schmeink

Adult Servers:
Dec 16 & 18—Glenn Foppe
Dec 23 & 25 Tom Frerker

The bulletin next will be a two week bulletin for the weeks of Dec. 21 and Dec. 28.

Schedule of Events...

Wednesday 6:30-7:30 pm Faith Formation
Sun. Dec 14: 7:00 pm Christmas Cantata, St. Mary, Carlyle
Dec 19 thru Jan 5: Parish Office Closed
Wed Dec 24 & 31: No Faith Formation, Christmas Break
Wed Jan 7, 2026: 6:30 pm Faith Formation Family Fun Night
Sun. Feb 8, 2026: St. Ann Sodality Basket Bingo
Sat.. Feb 21, 2026: St. Mary, Carlyle Reverse Raffle

Fr. Deva-A small reception will be held for any one who is interested in bringing a snack and meeting Fr. Deva at the rectory after 4:30 mass on December 13th. In addition, everyone is welcome to invite Fr. Deva to your home for dinner at any time.

ADVENT GIVING TREE
 This week, we will be adding Catholic Relief Services tags to our Advent Giving Tree. The tags include items that represent actual goods and services provided to people served by CRS worldwide. Your gift is more than a donation. It is a powerful expression of faith and compassion for our brothers and sisters who are struggling to survive. Your continued support helps provide food, shelter, medical care and a way to help families restore their homes and have hope for the future. The tags for Catholic Relief Services can be returned until the end of the year. Please visit the CRS.org website to join their support of families facing disastrous conditions. **YOUR GIFTS TODAY SAVES LIVES TOMORROW!**

REVERSE RAFFLE TICKETS AVAILABLE
 Our Reverse Raffle will be held on February 21st, so tickets for this event will be available for pickup at all entrances to the church. All church members are encouraged to pick up their tickets as they enter or leave services. Thank you for supporting this important fundraiser!

Stewardship... December 7th collection	
Envelopes: \$4284	Loose: \$586
Online Giving Gen Fund: \$4198.50	Cemetery: \$165
Christmas Flowers: \$490	Capital Campaign: \$360
Christmas Offering: \$175	Retired Religious Fund: \$60
Hispanic Ministries: \$45	Guatemala: \$486



Message from our pastor Father Steve

Father Steven Pautler
 Sunday, December 14, 2025
 Third Sunday of Advent
 Scripture: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 (see Is 35:4)/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11
 Theme: Advent GPS: Finding the Right Door Before You Lose Your Nerves!

Third Sunday of Advent brings a lift to the soul. The rose candle glows, and even the air feels ready for a small smile. This Gospel from Matthew gives room for a little honesty. I once knew every back road in southern Illinois. Then life moved on, I got older, traffic grew stranger, and now I trust a small voice from a phone to keep me from ending up in Kentucky. I wonder how I ever reached any destination before GPS. When I pull up to a place, the voice might announce arrival, yet I still sit there like a man preparing for a moon landing. Which door holds the right entry. Did I miss a number on the mailbox. My brother lives in a culdesac. His neighbor has become so familiar with my car in their driveway that they wave before I even roll down the window. I take a long look, ponder the scene, then creep one house over. A tradition of nerves with a dash of comedy.

John the Baptist gives a similar moment today. He poured out his entire life for the mission. He pointed forward. He prepared hearts. He spoke with fire. Then word reached him in prison about Jesus. Stories of healing. Stories of blind eyes opening. Stories of broken spirits lifted. John sends his followers with a question. Are you the one who leads. He wants clarity. He wants truth. He wants the voice of God to say something equal to you have arrived.

Jesus responds with calm strength. He tells them to look at the evidence. Lives renewed. Wounds lifted. Souls steadied. He offers no grand speech. He offers works which match the promises foretold. John then becomes praise in the mouth of the Savior. Among those born of women, none rises higher. A poor prophet wrapped in rough clothing becomes honored by the Messiah he served.

This moment gives a gift for our Advent. Faith sometimes holds a mix of confidence and questions. We pray. We serve. We try to walk the right direction, yet the heart asks for a sign. Is this Christ guiding me. Is He present in my confusion. Is this the right house, so to speak. Jesus answers with steady mercy. He points to each small grace in our daily life. Kindness passed between neighbors. Forgiveness offered after strain. Hope stirred in a troubled week. These are the works which tell our soul you have arrived at the right door. Rejoice this Sunday. Christ stands near. His presence reaches us even when nerves flare and directions twist. He remains the One who leads.

Welcome to Chase Fochtman, Parents: Collin and Erica (Diekemper) Fochtman as he is baptized this weekend at St. Mary. May he grow in wisdom, age and grace through our example of faith-filled lives!

Please pray for all expectant mothers and the child they are carrying or have recently had their babies along with their families:

Brittany, Natalie, Lauren, Jessica, Erika, Michaela, Claire & Emily

Are you an expectant mother or do you know of someone that we can pray for throughout the pregnancy & post-term? Please contact the office. We will place a rose on the altar by Mary with the parents name and the baby's expectant month of arrival on a card attached to the rose.

Once the baby is born, the family may take the rose.

- VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**
- We are getting ready to prepare St. Mary's for the Christmas season and we need your help! If you are interested, please leave your number with the parish office and we will give you a call with details.
 - We still need four volunteers to bring up the Advent candles on December 20 at the 4:30 Mass. If interested contact Tracy Becker.**
 - We are seeking a bilingual (English/Spanish) volunteer to assist Hispanic students in our Faith Formation program on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:30.m. If you are willing to share your time and help support these students, please contact Tracy or the parish office. Your generosity would be greatly appreciated!

CARLYLE CHRISTMAS CANTATA

The Carlyle Christmas Cantata is coming soon on December 14th at 7:00 pm. Each year, performers from our community present us with an evening of music and inspiration. As in the past, St. Mary Parish will be hosting a reception in the parish center following the performance. We are asking our parishioners to help us by donating a dozen cookies for this reception. The cookies can be dropped off in the cafeteria on that day. Thank you and we hope to see you there!

Please remember in our prayers: Alana Kampwerth White, Ryan Wittenauer, Duane Kampwerth, Chuck Limpers, Eric Seiffert, Geri Wellinghoff, Diane Langenhorst, Jessica Hudspeth, Baillie Johnson, Sharon Aach, Dasalm Family, Scott Carson, Special Intention, JoAnn Gray, Edna Woltering, Mel Thole, Zoe Puetz, Jillian Musgrove, Ron Lager, Jennifer Riesmeyer, Vince Rolves, Sr. Carole Langhauser PHJC, Bill Clark, Jean Abernathy, and Janet Compare

If you wish your loved ones to be added to prayer list, please contact the church office. Thank you.

		<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER</u>	<u>MASS SERVERS</u>	<u>GIFT BEARERS</u>	
Dec 13	4:30 pm	Jane Beckmann	Linda Peppenhorst Keri Mitchell Jan Kauling Michele Foster Eathan Wheelan	Hailey Timmermann Alex Timmermann Volunteer	Nick Timmermann Family	
Dec 14	10:00 am	Theresa Wuebbels	Chad Holthaus Stacy Holthaus Mary Hartung Geraldyn Hodapp	Kelly Dempsey Mary Hugo Lisa Eversgerd	Ayla Edwards Cohen Edwards Ava Albers	Rodger & Rachel Edwards Family
		<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER</u>	<u>MASS SERVERS</u>	<u>GIFT BEARERS</u>	
Dec 20	4:30 pm	Joann Banwarth	Barb Crouse Keri Mitchell Nick Christ Michele Foster	Eathan Wheelan Jane Beckmann Linda Peppenhorst	Caleb Aeschbacher Beckett Howard Volunteer	Susan Howard Family
Dec 21	10:00 am	Theresa Wuebbels	Beverly Schlau Elyse Caplinger David Caplinger Dave Rodden	Ethan Wheelan Ron Zurliene Chad Holthaus	Kaylee Kessler Madesyn Kessler Klohe Diekemper	Jodi & Tim Meyer Family
Dec Ushers		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		
		Brad Clark, Darlene Diekemper, Ken Foster, Kathy Rakers Joan Wesselmann, Fabio Compare		Mary Hartung, Geraldyn Hodapp, Bernard Hodapp, Diane Hodapp, Ted Rensing, Kevin Wesselmann		

