

ST. MARY

312 S. STATE STREET
APPLETON, WI 54911



(920) 739-5119

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<http://www.stmaryparish.org>

email: stmary@stmaryparish.org

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8 AM to 4:30 PM

Friday 8 AM to Noon

St. Mary Parish of Appleton

is a Catholic faith community that makes Eucharist the primary celebration of our unity in Christ.

We are committed to nourishing spiritual needs and responding with our gifts to Jesus' call to stewardship both locally and in our world.

PASTOR

Father Bill Swichtenberg 739-5119
cell 422-4316

DEACON:

Gerry Schraufnagel 540-9594

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Sr. Joanne Goessl, OSF 739-5119

TRUSTEES

Joseph Galarowicz 419-1166

Beth Vogt 428-4319

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR

Matt Boyle 284-7948

FINANCE COUNCIL CHAIR

Sarah Higgins 882-1955

CEMETERY

882-4158

INTERPARISH ADULT ENRICHMENT

Carol Jensen 739-5119

INTERPARISH RELIGIOUS FORMATION

www.inter-parish.org 738-7413

email: iprf@inter-parish.org

Andrew Russell, Director/Sacraments
& Coordinator K-4

Jennifer Schubring, Coordinator 5-8

Peter Leitermann, Coordinator 9-11
& Youth Minister

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

CATHOLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM OFFICE

735-9380

CONFESSIONS:

Saturday - 9 AM

Other times by request

Privacy is assured

BAPTISM: Please contact Sr. Joanne at the parish office

MARRIAGES:

Congratulations on your engagement.

Please contact Deacon Gerry at the parish office at least 6 months before your planned wedding date

MASSES:

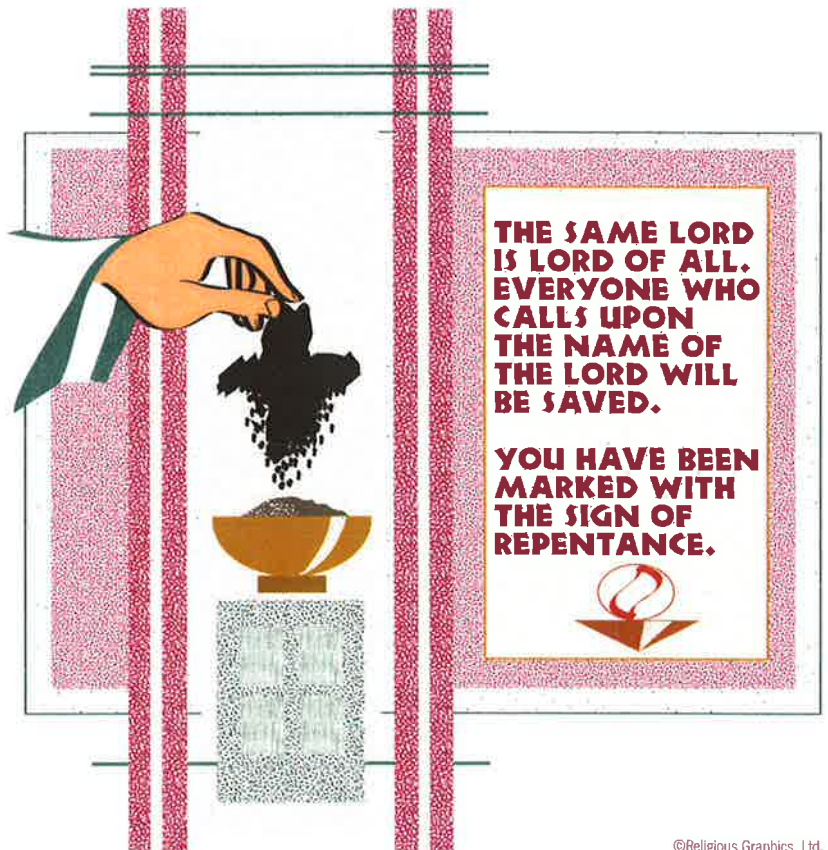
Daily: Tues. & Fri. 8:30 AM

Wed. Thurs. 12:05 PM

Saturday evening: 4:30 PM

Sundays: 8, 9:30, 11 AM

Holydays: see bulletin



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enter into
the holy season
of lent



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First Sunday
of Lent

February 14, 2016



When the Lord calls I will answer!



WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

Mon., Feb. 15	12:05 PM	Mass/St. Joseph
Tues., Feb. 16	8:30 AM	Margaret Otte
Wed., Feb. 17	12:05 PM	Anne Puccinelli
Thurs., Feb. 18	12:05 PM	Al, Lou, Ted, and Families
Fri., Feb. 19	8:30 AM	Sedella & Nick Jacob Family
Sat., Feb. 20	4:30 PM	Pat Maloney
Sun., Feb. 21	8:00 AM	Kay Thurk
	9:30 AM	Sally Slivinski & Fr. Mike O'Rourke
	11:00 AM	Parishioners of St. Mary

BAPTISMS

Through the Sacrament of Baptism we welcome to our Faith Community:

†Elliotte James, child of Arhen & Laura Looker

IN LOVING MEMORY

In the spirit of Christian charity, please pray for the families and friends of Geraldine Van Handel, Mary Ellen Hietpas (Rose Ann Lauer's sister), and Harold Radke (Rich Lohrbach's brother-in-law) who have died. May fond memories comfort you during this difficult time.

WEEKLY EVENTS

- Feb. 14 (Sun)
 - 8:00 AM RCIA Rite of Election
 - Coffee & Donuts after 8 & 9:30 AM Masses
 - 9:30 AM Babysitting available
 - 9:30 AM Children's Liturgy
 - 10:30 AM Confirmation Parent-Sponsor-Candidate Mtg/SA
 - 7:30 PM Confirmation Parent-Sponsor-Candidate Mtg/SJ Holly Hall
- Feb. 15 (Mon)
 - 6:30 PM Handbells/Church
 - 6:30 PM THEO/Community Rm
- Feb. 16 (Tues)
 - 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Mtg/SJ L9
 - 2:00 PM Rosary & Perpetual Help Devotions/Chapel
 - 6:30 PM Hospice RN Mtg/Community Rm
 - 6:30 PM Liturgy Mtg/Lg Conference Rm
 - 7:00 PM Human Concerns Mtg/L6
- Feb. 17 (Wed)
 - 4:30 & 6:30 PM Religious Ed Classes
 - 6:30 PM Adult Choir/St. Anne
- Feb. 18 (Thurs)
 - 5:30 PM Stations & Soup Supper/St. Mary
 - 6:30 PM Emmanuel Choir/L5
 - 7:00 PM Women's CRHP Mtg/L7
- Feb. 19 (Fri)
 - 8:30 AM Mass
 - 9:30 AM-5:30 PM Adoration/Chapel
 - 10:00 AM Exodus Study/SJ 214
- Feb. 20 (Sat)
 - 9 AM-Noon Adoration/Chapel
 - 9:00 AM Confessions/Church
- Feb. 21 (Sun) Blood Pressure Weekend
 - Coffee & Donuts after 8 & 9:30 AM Masses
 - 9:30 AM Babysitting available
 - 9:30 AM Children's Liturgy

CONTRIBUTIONS

OFFICE: Feb. 1-5	\$13,247	CHILDREN'S:	\$21.00
WEEKEND: Feb. 6-7	\$13,886.62		

In Joy and Sorrow PONDERING TOGETHER THE TREASURES OF OUR FAITH



One of the most empowering insights of Vatican Council II was the notion that the Church is the People of God. Every member of the Body of Christ shares in the priestly, prophetic, and royal ministry of Jesus, the Christ, who is the Head of the Church. The Church is more than the hierarchy of pope, bishops, priests, and deacons. We are all equal in a dignity conferred on one and all through the waters of baptism. Therefore, we all must hear the call to grow in holiness and we all have a missionary responsibility to spread the Good News of the Lord's love and mercy. We are all called to be a blessing (priest), to speak out the truth (prophet), and to lead the Church on its journey forward (royalty).

We carry out our baptismal responsibility in our parish community and beyond. The parish, then, is people and priest working closely together for the common good of all. I take very seriously my role as director of spiritual care; this is where my gifts lie; this is why it was important for me to do further studies to obtain a master's degree in counseling. I am not an expert in financial matters, maintenance engineering, or computer technology. It is important to know where one's gifts lie and to rely on others to share their gifts, which are not mine, for the good of all.

I say all of this to impress upon you the importance of collaboration in ministry. One of the important forums where this collaboration takes place is on the Pastoral (Parish) Council. This is a body of parish leaders, each who have particular gifts to share, who dream about how our parish could be better. Every member is an important voice at the table.

Let me give you an idea of what a typical Pastoral Council meeting is like. Meeting on the first Tuesday of the month, we begin with prayer. All that we do must be laid at the feet of the Lord; it is from him that we receive the Holy Spirit's gift of wisdom. Our prayer includes song, the praying of the psalms, and praying for the People of God of Saint Mary Parish.

At our February 2 meeting, first on the agenda was a discussion of how we need to do a better job of communicating with parish members. Do you know who the members of your Parish Council are? Are you aware of the topics that the Council has been discussing? Do you read the Parish Council meeting notes and are they readily available? The suggestion that I write this very column came out of our discussion.

Next on our agenda, which has been a part of all of our meetings this year, was a discussion of Divine Renovation, a book we are reading together. The Pastoral Team and Staff are also reading this book. We are exploring the ten traits of a healthy, vital parish. We are tossing around a lot of new ideas and relying on the Holy Spirit to help us begin to formulate specific action items. This is a process of planting seeds, if you will. The growth of those seeds is a process that requires patience and trust. Our conversations, I must say, are spirited and engaging. I planted yet another seed with a dream that, as a parish, we might have a synod meeting, patterned very closely on the process followed by the Synod of Bishops who met in Rome during the month of October in 2014 and 2015.

At every meeting, we have an agenda item called "On the pulse of the parish." This is when members bring concerns they have or have heard others express. I take these suggestions to heart and have made adjustments personally because of these discussions.

The above is the "grist" of our meeting, where there is some good energy generated.

Our meeting concludes with very concise reports of the work of our parish committees, which are Liturgy, Matthew 25, Human Concerns, Family Life Ministry, Inter-Parish Religious Education, Saint Francis Xavier Catholic School System, Parish Community Events, Stewardship and Finance, Adult Enrichment, and Youth Ministry. These are written reports that members commit to reading so that they are well informed about the life of the parish.

Thanks for taking the time to read this In Joy and Sorrow. *Father Bill +*

Prayer Requests: Contact Luanne Witthuhn (dlaawi@yahoo.com) or Anne Walkowski (830-1534) if you have a prayer need. **Please include:** the prayers in our prayer basket and all other needs we've been asked to pray for.

2016 BISHOP'S APPEAL – "FACES OF GOD'S MERCY"

Thank you to all who have already given. As of this past Tuesday, we have received **\$14,802** or approximately **20%** of our goal of \$72,919. If you have not already sent in your pledge/ contribution, please do your part this week. If each of us gives generously from our gifts, we will reach our assessment. **Please mail your completed pledge card directly to the Office of the Bishop** or return it in the collection. *Note: Your pledge/ contribution may be charged to Mastercard or VISA. Follow the directions on the pledge card and return as usual.* If you do not receive a letter in the mail, please contact the parish office (739-5119).

The **Quilts on Display** in the Marian Way were created by our IPRF students at the Epiphany Family night. They will be presented to retired religious priests, brothers, and sisters in our area. The students are modeling the gifts of the Wise Men.

Christ Renews His Parish - Questions

- Do I have to be an expert in scripture or in prayer to attend? **No!**
- Will we have hours of silence to observe? **No, this is not a Silent Retreat**
- What if I've been away from the church for a while? **Please join us!**
- What if I have a health or personal concern and can't stay overnight? **Just let us know when you register, and we'll let you know how that works with the schedule. Note: we have queen sized raised airbeds for those who stay and can arrange private spaces for those who need them.**
- Why do you encourage participants to stay overnight? **So you stay in the spirit of the retreat, away from your every day experience of TV, phones, internet and can focus on being renewed and drawing closer to God.**
- Do I have to be Catholic to attend? **No. CRHP is open to non-Catholics also, especially those who come to church with their spouses.**
- I have special dietary needs. **Let us know. We can adjust the menu.**

Men's Renewal Weekend - Feb. 27-28 - St. Joseph Parish Center

Women's Renewal Weekend - Mar. 5-6 - St. Mary Parish Center

Brochures are available at the back of church. **We are praying you will join us!** Parishioners who have attended in the past are welcome to join us again this Lent. **Men's registrations due by Tuesday, Feb. 23!**

Bible Study Scheduled to Resume with Lesson 5

The Book of Exodus beginning: Monday evenings, Feb. 15, 6:30 PM, St. Mary Parish, Room L07, and/or Friday mornings, Feb. 12, 10 AM, St. Joseph Parish, Room 214.

Feb. 16 - Hospice Nurses and Heaven: 6:30 PM St. Mary Parish Center

Hospice nurses across the nation say that many of their dying patients go through a predictable pattern of reaching out to the other side and being greeted by deceased loved ones before they die. Learn how these stories and credible stories on near-death experience confirm what Catholics believe about eternity. Our speaker will be hospice nurse, Tina Poppe. This session is a gift to us from our Diocese. NO registration fee, but we do ask you to pre-register. Email mgarcia@gbdioc.org or call 920-272-8276. If you are not able to do either, please call Carol Jensen at 739-3700 x22.

Feb. 23 - The Things That Last Forever: Heaven, Hell, Purgatory, 6:30 PM, St. Mary Parish Center

There still seems to be a number of questions about what the church believes and teaches about life after death. Have we changed our teachings or just expressed them in a different way? We invite you to join Fr. Bill as he talks about what we believe about the things that last forever and answers your questions. Please let us know in advance that you plan to attend. Call Carol at 739-3700 x22 or e-mail: cjensen@stmaryparish.org.

St. Mary & St. Joseph Lenten Stations of the Cross at 5:30 PM followed by a Soup Supper

Come and appreciate Christ's sufferings and death.

The schedule: **St. Mary's: Feb. 18 & Mar. 3**

St. Joseph's: Feb. 25, Mar. 10 & 17

On Feb. 18 & Mar. 3 St. Mary's hosts the Soup Supper after the Stations of the Cross. We are in need of volunteers to make enough soup to serve 12 and also need 4-6 people to help set up, serve, and clean up each evening (4-7 PM). Sign-up sheets are in the Marian Way after all Masses this weekend OR call the parish office (739-5119). Students, this is an **excellent** opportunity for **Service Hours!**



Family Way of the Cross

Plan to join your parish family

Friday, Feb. 26, for this special experience.

We want to present the Stations of the Cross through the artistic talent of our parishioners. **No matter your age or talent**, we invite you to create a visual image of a selected station of your choice. **Artwork is due no later than THIS Wednesday, Feb. 17.** ALL of the images will be displayed in our church and some will appear in a Power Point as part of the Family Way of the Cross. The evening begins at 5:30 PM with a simple meal in the Community Room, followed by our family-focused Way of the Cross at 6:35 PM featuring our members' artwork, a reflection for each station, and music by the Emmanuel Choir. Join us for all or part of the evening.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR ST. MARY'S PARISHIONERS

ATTENDING XAVIER CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN 2016-17

Fr. Michael K. O'Rourke Education Scholarship Fund

Dr. Charles Dungar Memorial Scholarship

Merlin & Joan Brunner Scholarship

St. Mary School/Catholic Central Legacy Scholarship

(The above are not need-based)

The deadline for these St. Mary specific scholarship opportunities is **April 6, 2016**. In addition there are standard scholarships (FACTS) through the St. Francis Xavier Catholic School System (XCS) and multiple other scholarship opportunities through the Xavier Catholic Schools Foundation. Interested students and families may apply for these. Applications are available:

- : 1) **in the Marian Way on the Xavier School System kiosk**
- 2) at the XCS main office (101 E Northland Ave., Appleton)
- 3) at the school campuses' offices
- 4) through the XCS website (www.xaviercatholicsschools.org) as well as information about FACTS and other scholarship opportunities.

Save the Date: Join us for a Beach Party Pancake Breakfast Feb. 28, from 8:30-11:30 AM in the Community Room. Menu will include 3 kinds of pancakes, sausage links, bacon, fruit and beverages. Free will offering. More details will be in next week's bulletin. Sponsored by Parish Community Events (PaCE).

Flower/Worship Environment Fund

If you wish to contribute to the Flowers/Worship Environment for Easter please use the envelope provided with your monthly envelopes OR fill out the form below and return to the parish office **no later than Sunday, March 20, to be published in the Easter bulletin.** **Please Print:** IN MEMORY OF:



Amount: _____ Check# _____ Cash _____