

December 25, 2017

TODAY IN THE CITY OF DAVID

A *Savior*

HAS BEEN

*born*

FOR YOU

WHO IS

*Messiah*

AND

*Lord!*

St. Mary Parish  
312 S. State Street  
Appleton, WI 54911

(920) 739-5119  
stmaryparish.org  
stmary@stmaryparish.org



# IPRF NEWS

Inter-Parish Religious Formation

**No IPRF Classes on December 27!**

### First Eucharist Parent Meeting

Parents of 2nd graders at St. Mary & St. Joseph Parishes are asked to attend one of our First Communion PARENT ONLY meetings (children do not attend).

**Tuesday, Jan. 9, 6:30-7:30 PM**  
**St. Joseph, Holly Hall**

**Thursday, Jan. 11, 6:30-7:30 PM**  
**St. Mary, Community Room**

Parents from either parish may attend either meeting. First Communion preparation materials for home study with children will be distributed at this meeting.

## 2017 IRS Contribution Laws

We are very thankful for your financial stewardship gifts. As we approach the end of the year, please know that we are bound by IRS laws.

**The IRS requires donations to be received ON or BEFORE Dec. 31, 2017 to qualify for your 2017 deductions.**

Please note:

- ⇒ The parish office closes at noon on Friday, Dec. 29, 2017
- ⇒ Donations - cash or checks placed in the weekend collection (Dec. 30 & 31) will be posted to 2017
- ⇒ Checks intended for 2018 must be dated 1-1-2018 or after



Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP) is a retreat designed to bring members of our parishes closer together with Christ. It is an avenue for spiritual growth and friendship. St. Mary and St. Joseph combine resources to run one shared retreat per year. Our **men's retreat weekend** is February 10 & 11, 2018. We are planning to provide more information during Masses the week of January 6 & 7. Please consider attending – we'd love to have you!

## Seven Deadly Sins, Seven Lively Virtues

Please join us for this video series by Bishop Robert Barron. We set the dates for the series using the model from the past which provided both a morning and evening opportunity for participants. The dates and place are as follows:

Session I: Pride and Humility

Jan. 8 - 6:30-8:00 PM St. Joseph Parish

Jan. 12 - 10:00-11:30 AM St. Mary Parish

Session II: Envy and Admiration

Jan. 15 - 6:30-8:00 PM St. Joseph Parish

Jan. 19 - 10:00-11:30 AM St. Mary Parish

Session III: Anger and Forgiveness

Jan. 22 - 6:30-8:00 PM St. Joseph Parish

Jan. 26 - 10:00-11:30 AM St. Mary Parish

Session IV: Sloth and Zeal

Jan. 29 - 6:30-8:00 PM St. Joseph Parish

Feb. 2 - 10:00-11:30 AM St. Mary Parish

Session V: Avarice and Generosity

Feb. 5 - 6:30-8:00 PM St. Joseph Parish

Feb. 9 - 10:00-11:30 AM St. Mary Parish

Session VI: Gluttony and Asceticism

Feb. 12 - 6:30-8:00 PM St. Joseph Parish

Feb. 16 - 10:00-11:30 AM St. Mary Parish

Session VII: Lust and Chastity

Feb. 19 - 6:30-8:00 PM St. Joseph Parish

Feb. 23 - 10:00-11:30 AM St. Mary Parish

The cost for materials is \$15.00. If you would like to join a group please contact Mary Ann Otto at 739-5119 or [motto@stmaryparish.org](mailto:motto@stmaryparish.org). Be sure to state which time and place works for you.

## Songs Stories & Fun!

at Xavier Elementary



**January**  
**10th and 19th**

Jan. 10th at Xavier Elementary McDonald Street at 9:00 a.m.

Jan. 19th at Xavier Elementary Marquette Street at 9:00 a.m.

More information available at 735-9380.

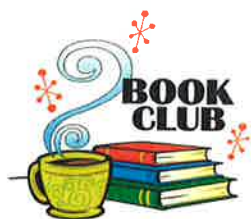
*Hope you can join us for some puppet fun!*

Connect  
with us!



Join us!

6:00 PM in LL3



**January 2:** The Delight of Being Ordinary, a Road Trip with the Pope and the Dali Lama by Roland Merullo

**February 6:** Waking Up White by Debby Irving

**LOOKING AHEAD**

**Catholic Schools Week**

January 28—February 4

**Annual St. Mary "Fun"draiser**

March 3—Waverly Beach

**Inter-parish Lenten Soup & Stations**

(watch upcoming bulletins and our parish calendar @ [www.stmaryparish.org](http://www.stmaryparish.org) for dates)

**IT'S ALMOST TIME!**

The "Midwinter Makeover" project in church will begin after Christmas. Starting on the weekend of December 30-31, all Masses will take place in the Community Room/Chapel while we restore paint, pews, and Stations of the Cross and improve lighting and flooring in the church. These exciting improvements to our church will maintain its history & character and prepare us for many years to come.

**PRAYER NEEDS**

Contact Luanne Witthuhn ([dlaawi@gmail.com](mailto:dlaawi@gmail.com)) or Anne Walkowski (830-1534) if you have a prayer need. Please remember the needs in our prayer baskets.

**Contributions**

Office Envelopes— \$10,792.00

Weekend— \$13,628.93

Children's Collection—\$14.00

**St. Mary Weekly Calendar**

**December 24 (Sun) Fourth Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve**

- 8:00 AM Mass—Fourth Sunday of Advent
- 4:00 PM Mass—Children's Nativity/Children's & Youth Choirs
- 6:30 PM Mass
- 9:00 PM Lessons & Carols Sacred Concert/Church
- 10:00 PM Mass—Adult and Handbell Choirs

**December 25 (Mon) Christmas Day**

- 8:30 & 10:30 AM Masses

**December 26 (Tue)**

- 8:30 AM Mass/Chapel
- 9:00 AM Take down decorations in church
- 2:00 PM Rosary & Perpetual Help Devotions/Chapel

**December 27 (Wed)**

- 12:05 PM Mass

**December 28 (Thurs)**

- 12:05 PM Mass

**December 29 (Fri)**

- 8:30 AM Mass/Chapel

**December 30 (Sat)**

- 9:00 AM Confessions/Church
- 4:30 PM Mass/Community Room

**December 31 (Sun)**

- 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 AM Masses/Community Room

**January 1 (Mon) New Year's Day**

- 8:30 AM Mass/Community Room

The parish office will be closed on December 25 & January 1.

**Weekly Mass Schedule**

Sun., Dec. 24	8:00 AM	Parishioners of St. Mary
	4:00 PM	Geraldine & Arnold Van Handel
	6:30 PM	Fisher & Davies Family
	10:00 PM	Art & Marie School
	Mon., Dec. 25	8:30 AM
Tue., Dec. 26	10:30 AM	Frank & Lois Olson
	8:30 AM	Spiritual & Physical Well-being of Ellen Marie & Thomas Hoover
Wed., Dec. 27	12:05 PM	Spiritual & Physical Well-being of Mary & Lee Hurley
Thurs., Dec. 28	12:05 PM	Joan Brunner
Fri., Dec. 29	8:30 AM	Walter & Jean T. Consie
Sat., Dec. 30	4:30 PM	Harry Morse
Sun., Dec. 31	8:00 AM	Parishioners of St. Mary
	9:30 AM	Dorothy Neely
	11:00 AM	Vernon & Alice McGinnis
Mon., Jan. 1	8:30 AM	For all cancer patients of our parish

**In Loving Memory**

In the spirit of Christian charity, please pray for the family of Maureen Waala. May fond memories comfort you during this time. If you have lost a loved one and would like to have him or her remembered in the bulletin, please call us at 739-5119.

*Crèche Characters Ask Questions*  
The Child in the Manger



My Son is too young to speak,  
So I will say a few words  
to help you place him  
at the center of your crèche  
and, as you do it, allow him  
to place himself in the center of you.

How many have I courted  
in dreams and deserts  
only to be forgotten  
in the demands of day?  
They put me on a throne,  
so you must kneel.  
They say I withhold blessings,  
so you must beg.  
They claim I punish,  
so you must be afraid.

Then my Son came out of the water  
and swallowed my word from the sky.  
The dove of love descended  
and my pleasure ran through him.

He never looked back,  
but looked everywhere else  
and saw what no one else did.

When people cried from the crowd,  
he turned.  
When people hid in their sins,  
he forgave.  
When people lost their way,  
he pursued.  
When people were shunned,  
he reached out.  
When people were in pain,  
he touched.  
When people did not understand,  
he explained.

He gave himself away  
like the one who lays  
in the feeding trough of the manger  
as food for every hunger.

He knows Me well.

Yet no one could thin a crowd  
like my Son.  
His parables were mirrors.  
People saw themselves  
and did not like what they saw.  
His actions were scandalous attacks  
on the conventions of separateness.  
His arguments silenced adversaries.  
The cry of the child in the manger  
became the voice of the prophet.

My word of mercy was never so strong,  
yet never so rejected.  
My word of love was never so perseverant,  
yet never so avoided.

Of course, they came for him  
with clubs and swords and lies  
and he met them with Me.  
I was always his welcome  
for those who do not know,  
drawing light from their darkness,  
life from their death.  
In him, I Am Who I Am.  
You see,  
he is Me among you.

So my question to you  
will be no surprise.

How do you listen to my Word?



-taken from *Seeing Haloes: Christmas Poems to Open the Heart* by John Shea

May the celebration of the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus fill your heart with the joy and peace, and with the hope and freedom that only Jesus can give! Open your heart to Jesus and you will experience the abundance of life only He can give! Merry Christmas! Father Bill +

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