

# ST. MARY

312 S. STATE STREET  
APPLETON, WI 54911



(920) 739-5119  
(920) 739-5111 Fax

[www.stmaryparish.org](http://www.stmaryparish.org)  
[stmary@stmaryparish.org](mailto:stmary@stmaryparish.org)

Office Hours  
Monday-Thursday 8 AM – 4:30 PM  
Friday 8 AM – Noon



WE ARE A WELCOMING CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF DISCIPLES CENTERED IN JESUS CHRIST MOVING OUTWARD TO FULFILL GOD'S MISSION.

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Father Bill Swichtenberg 739-5119 / cell 422-4316

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**MINISTER OF PASTORAL CARE**  
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email: [iprf@inter-parish.org](mailto:iprf@inter-parish.org)  
Diane Cahall, Coordinator K-4  
Jennifer Schubring, Coordinator 5-8  
Peter Leitermann, Coordinator 9-11 & Youth Minister

**ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC SCHOOLS** 735-9380  
System Office

**CONFESSIONS**  
Saturday – 9 AM  
Other times by request, privacy is assured

**BAPTISM**  
Please contact Betsy at the parish office.

**MARRIAGE**  
Congratulations on your engagement! Please contact Father Bill at the parish office at least 6 months before your planned wedding date.

**MASSES**  
Daily: Tues. & Fri. 8:30 AM and Wed. & Thurs. 12:05 PM  
Saturday: 4:30 PM / Sunday: 8:00 & 9:45 AM  
Holy days: see bulletin



# THIRD SUNDAY OF Advent



### ST. MARY WEEKLY CALENDAR

- December 17 (Mon)**  
 5:00 PM Handbell Choir Christmas Potluck/St. Anne Room  
 6:30 PM Handbell Choir Practice/Choir Loft  
 6:30 PM THEO/Community Room  
 6:30 PM Advent Communal Inter-parish Reconciliation Service/@ St. Joseph  
 8:00 PM AI-Anon/L6
- December 18 (Tue)**  
 8:30 AM Mass/Chapel  
 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group/@ St. Joseph Room L9  
 2:00 PM Rosary & Perpetual Help Devotions/Chapel  
 6:00 PM Quilting Group/Community Room
- December 19 (Wed)**  
 12:05 PM Mass  
 1:00 PM Strength & Stretch Class/L1  
 5:30 PM IPRF Christmas Discipleship Family Night/Community Room  
 5:45 PM IPRF Choir Practice/St. Anne Room  
 6:30 PM Adult Choir Practice/St. Anne Room
- December 20 (Thurs)**  
 12:05 PM Mass  
 6:00 PM Keeping the Church Lights on for Confessions/Church
- December 21 (Fri)**  
 8:30 AM Mass/Chapel
- December 22 (Sat)**  
 9:00 AM Confessions  
 4:30 PM Mass
- December 23 (Sun)**  
 8:00 AM & 9:45 AM Masses
- December 24 (Mon) Parish Office Closing at noon**  
 4:00 PM Mass (Children's Nativity)  
 6:30 PM Mass  
 9:15 PM Sacred Christmas Music Concert (St. Mary Adult Choir and Bells of St. Mary Handbell Choir)  
 10:00 PM Mass (St. Mary Adult Choir and Bells of St. Mary Handbell Choir)
- December 25 (Tues) Parish Office Closed**  
 8:00 AM Mass  
 9:45 AM Mass



MERRY CHRISTMAS

### PRAYER NEEDS

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

### CONTRIBUTIONS

Office— \$12,087.00    Weekend—\$20,764.15  
Children's—\$14.00

### WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

Mon., December 17	12:05 PM	Mass at St. Joseph
Tue., December 18	8:30 AM	For those who are lonely during the holiday season
Wed., December 19	12:05 PM	Joanie Streck
Thurs., December 20	12:05 PM	Edward Gierl
Fri., December 21	8:30 AM	Parishioners of St. Mary
Sat., December 22	4:30 PM	Melvin & Anita Lardinois
Sun., December 23	8:00 AM	Well-being of the Bob & Liz Fisher Family
	9:45 AM	John & Mary Spencer
Mon., December 24	4:00 PM	Orvil Mueller
	6:30 PM	Maurie DeBruin
	10:00 PM	Walter & Jean T. Consie
Tue., December 25	8:00 AM	Mugs Hughes
	9:45 AM	Frank & Lois Olson

### IPRF NEWS

#### IPRF CHRISTMAS DISCIPLESHIP FAMILY NIGHT Wednesday, December 19 at 5:30 PM

Religion class on December 19 will be our Christmas Discipleship Family Night **beginning at 5:30 PM** with a spaghetti dinner in the St. Mary Community Room.

*A Baby Changes Everything*

It's **ADVENT 2018!** Time to prepare for baby JESUS to arrive.  
 HE, like all babies, brings about beautiful **changes** in our world.  
 HE is **HOPE** for a better future.  
 HE is **LOVE** with no conditions.  
 HE is **JOY** that fills every void.  
 HE is the light of **FAITH** that no darkness can destroy.

**WEEK 4: Jesus, a light of FAITH dispels the darkness. Dec. 17-23**

Assemble a special BABY JESUS ornament to hang on your Christmas tree.

### Let Us Build a Manger of Kindness for Jesus

Each & every time you complete an activity OR do an act of kindness OR add change to your baby bottle we invite you to add straw to the manger in the Marian Way at church. Please write your name and/or "gift of love" on it.



# Christmas Mass Schedule

## CHRISTMAS EVE

4 PM (Children's Nativity)

6:30 PM

10 PM (Adult Choir & Bells of St. Mary Choir)

Sacred Christmas Music Concert @ 9:15 PM

(Adult Choir & Bells of St. Mary Choir)

## CHRISTMAS DAY

8 AM & 9:45 AM



### OUR MISSION OF HOSPITALITY

**"Imagine how different Christmas would be if Mary and Joseph had not been left out in the cold."**

Many of us will be gathering with family and friends for Christmas Mass. And, as usual, we will be a mixed group made up of those who get to Mass regularly and those who do not. Our experience of Christmas Mass is going to be different depending on our place in the mix. For the regular Mass-goers, it will seem homey and routine, and a nod of recognition is going to be enough.

But the Catholics who go to church only on Christmas and Easter will carry with them the reasons they usually do not make it to Mass. So they are going to need more than a nod. Their experience will hinge on feeling welcomed or not. Studies bear this out. People return to churches because they are welcomed, not because the church got everything else right. Both regular Mass-goers and Christmas Catholics can make this work better. We, as a group, can rewrite the moment at the inn.

And for those who call the particular parish home, Christmas is the chance to welcome the stranger; to be the good innkeeper and not the bad one. And who knows, the welcome you extend to the infrequent Mass-goer might be what brings that person into community. And next year you both will be welcoming a new stranger together.

Finally, if you are at your local parish, just as you were on the Sunday before Christmas, and if you are sitting in your usual spot, keep an eye out for a stranger looking for a seat. Be the family who makes room for strangers. Be the good innkeeper, the one who chose the stranger, the one who did what she could to help bring the Savior of our world into the world.

-Jack Bentz, S.J.

excerpts from "How parishes can turn 'Christmas Catholics' into regular Massgoers", 12/03/2018

## Flower & Worship Fund

Our church is especially beautiful during the Christmas season. If you would like to contribute to our church environment fund, you can use the special envelope provided with your monthly envelopes, or cut out this form and return to the parish office with your contribution. Your generous donation helps to make our church look gorgeous not only during the Christmas season, but throughout the entire year.



Please return by **Monday, December 17** so we can include names in the insert of our Christmas bulletin.

**Please print very clearly!**

In memory of:

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ Cash: \_\_\_\_\_ OR Check #: \_\_\_\_\_

Donated by:

### STRENGTH & STRETCH CLASS NEWS

Our last weekly chair exercise class of 2018 will be on Wednesday, December 19 at 1 PM in Room L1. We'll have a Christmas gathering after class—ALL are welcome, whether it's your first class or you've been coming all year! Classes will NOT be held on December 26 or January 2, but will resume for 2019 on Wednesday, January 9. Join us for this fun, FREE class! Please do not hesitate to contact Beth Power with any questions at [beth.power@new.rr.com](mailto:beth.power@new.rr.com). ALL are welcome!!!!

### 2018 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, 2018 to qualify for your 2018 deductions.**

Please note:

⇒ The parish office is open 8:00 AM—4:30 PM on Monday, December 31, 2018.

⇒ Checks intended for 2019 **MUST** be dated 1-1-2019 or after. Thank you for your support!

### IN LOVING MEMORY

In the spirit of Christian charity, please pray for the family of Reg Petznick. 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, call us at 739-5119.

# IN JOY & HOPE

WITH FR. BILL  
SWICHTENBERG

I thought you might be interested in receiving the worship aid that was used for the Advent Reconciliation Service on Thursday (12/13). Remaining opportunities to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation before the Feast of Christmas are on Monday (12/17), 6:30 PM, at St. Joseph Parish and on Thursday (12/20), 6:00-9:00 PM, at St. Mary Parish. The Church lights will be on for you. Pope Francis reminds us often that "Jesus never tires of forgiving us."

## ADVENT RECONCILIATION

### Centering

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O Lord, are holy. Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Alleluia.

### Psalm 51

A Psalm of King David when the prophet Nathan came to him after David had gone to Bathsheba

Side 1: Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your merciful love;  
according to your great compassion,  
blot out my transgressions.  
Wash me completely from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin.

Side 2: My transgressions, truly I know them;  
my sin is always before me.  
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;  
what is evil in your sight I have done.  
So you are just in your sentence,  
without reproach in your judgment.

Side 1: O see, in guilt I was born,  
a sinner when my mother conceived me.  
Yes, you delight in sincerity of heart,  
in secret you teach me wisdom.  
Cleans me with hyssop, and I shall be pure;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Side 2: Let me heart rejoicing and gladness,  
that the bones you have crushed may exult.  
Turn away your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my guilt.

Side 1: Create a pure heart for me, O God;  
renew a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence;  
take not your holy spirit from me.

Side 2: Restore in me the joy of your salvation;  
sustain in me a willing spirit.  
I will teach transgressors your ways,  
that sinners may return to you.

Together: Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
both now and forever,  
the God who is, who was, and who will be  
forever. Amen.

**A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew 9:9-13**  
The Conversion of Matthew, Tax Collector

12.16.2018

## **A reflection from Fr Henri Nouwen's With Open Hands**

Praying is no easy matter. It demands a relationship in which you allow someone other than yourself to enter into the very center of your person - to see there what you would rather leave in darkness, and to touch there what you would rather leave untouched...The resistance to praying is like the resistance of tightly-clenched fists. This image shows a tension, a desire to cling tightly to yourself, a greediness which betrays fear...You still feel bitter because people weren't grateful for something you gave them. You still feel jealous of those who are better paid than you are. You still want to take revenge on someone who didn't respect you. You are still disappointed that you've received no letter, still angry because someone didn't smile when you walked by. You live through it, you live along with it as though it doesn't really bother you...until the moment you want to pray. Then everything returns: the bitterness, the hate, the jealousy, the disappointment, and the desire for revenge. But those feelings are not just there; you clutch them in your hands as if they were treasures you don't want to let go of.

## **Examination of Conscience from Pope Francis**

Is my life truly grounded in a daily encounter with Jesus - in prayer, humility, on-going conversion, and an ever greater surrender of my life to Jesus? Do I see my identity in Jesus, or do I seek fulfillment in success, financial security, comfort, human glory or power? What might Jesus be inviting me to give up that prevents me from following him more faithfully - my plans, my control, my pride, my fears, certain sins? Do I take time each day for prolonged moments of prayer, adoration, intimate conversation with the Lord, listening to his word? Do I have hope, trusting in God's ability to work through difficult situations or do I often succumb to fear, worry and discouragement? Am I patient with other people's faults, realizing how patient God is with my own? Do I eagerly extend God's mercy and compassion to others or do I quickly tend to judge people? Do I radiate the joy of Christ or do I tend to complain and focus on what is wrong in the world? Do I have an intense desire to share Jesus' love with others or have I become lukewarm? How well do I fulfill my responsibility to the poor and the most vulnerable? To what extent have I adopted a consumerist lifestyle that keeps me busy pursuing wealth, possessions, and amusements for myself while neglecting my duties to those in need? Do I truly encounter people in my daily life - do I accompany family, co-workers and friends amid their daily hopes and fears, joys and sorrows or am I too caught up in my own life to notice others' needs and share in the trials and triumphs of their lives?

## **An Act of Contrition**

Lord Jesus, you chose to be called the friend of sinners. By your saving death and resurrection, free me from my sins. May your peace take root in my heart and bring forth a harvest of love, holiness and truth. Amen.

## **The Lord's Prayer**

## **Individual Confession**

## **Closing Prayer (on your own)**

Almighty and Merciful God, my heart desires the warmth of your love and my mind is searching for the light of your Word. Increase my longing for Jesus, my Savior, and give me the strength to grow in love, that the dawn of his coming may find me rejoicing in his presence and welcoming the light of his truth. I pray in Jesus' Name, Amen.





# Discipleship Formation Seminar II

**Follow Jesus**

St. Thomas More Parish  
1810 N. McDonald St., Appleton, WI  
Saturday, January 12, 2019  
7:45am - 3:30pm

The seminar will introduce Jesus' methods of discipleship, the habits of discipleship, and the necessity of focusing on healing within the missionary discipleship process. All parish leaders, council members, trustees, and key volunteers are invited to attend. There will be a \$10 fee for those that choose to include lunch.

**Please contact your parish to register by Jan. 7th.**



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