



*A Baby Changes
Everything*



Welcome home for Christmas 2018

St. Mary Parish
312 South State Street
Appleton, WI 54911
920-739-5119
stmaryparish.org



WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

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
Wed., December 26	12:05 PM	Harold Hanson
Thurs., December 27	12:05 PM	Parishioners of St. Mary
Fri., December 28	8:30 AM	For safe travels
Sat., December 29	4:30 PM	John Schultz
	2:00 PM	<i>Michlig-Roskopf Wedding</i>
Sun., December 30	8:00 AM	Lost Souls in Purgatory
	9:45 AM	Nancy Lee Vierling
Mon., December 31	12:05 PM	Mass at St. Joseph
Tue., January 1	8:30 AM	Spiritual & Physical Well-being of Lee & Mary Hurley

ST. MARY WEEKLY CALENDAR

December 24 (Mon) Parish Office Closes 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 (Tue) Parish Office Closed

- 8:00 AM Mass
- 9:45 AM Mass

December 26 (Wed)

- 12:05 PM Mass

December 27 (Thurs)

- 12:05 PM Mass

December 28 (Fri)

- 8:30 AM Mass/Chapel

December 29 (Sat)

- 9:00 AM Confessions
- 4:30 PM Mass

December 30 (Sun)

- 8:00 AM & 9:45 AM Masses

December 31 (Mon)

Parish Office Open—last day for 2018 financial contributions

January 1 (Tues) Parish Office Closed

- 8:30 AM Mass—Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God



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

2018 IRS CONTRIBUTION LAWS

We are very thankful for your financial stewardship gifts. 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.**

⇒ 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.

PRAYER NEEDS

Contact Mary Jo Zilisch (734-1182) or Laurie Richter (lauriejrichter@gmail.com) if you have a prayer need. Please also remember the needs in our prayer baskets.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Office— \$8,461.00 Weekend—\$13,381.47
Children's—\$10.50

STRENGTH & STRETCH CLASS NEWS

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! Contact Beth Power with any questions at beth.power@new.rr.com. ALL are welcome!

THANK YOU!

To all who supported our bake sale by baking, selling, set up & clean up, and purchasing! We raised \$1,982.66! These funds will be put toward the cost of replacing our Christmas Trees in church. The current trees have served us well for many years, but several of the individual branches are just worn out. The Liturgy Committee is researching replacement options.

EVENING OF PRAYER WITH DEACON KEITH STROHM

You're invited! A presentation will be given by international speaker and author Deacon Keith Strohm, who has helped tens of thousands of men and women encounter the mercy, love, and power of Jesus Christ. The Evening of Prayer will be held at St. Thomas More Parish (1810 N. McDonald Street, Appleton) on Friday, January 11, 2019 from 6-8 PM. Register online at stbernardappleton.org, by calling 920-739-0331, or at the door. No charge to attend.

DISCIPLESHIP II SEMINAR: FOLLOW JESUS

A Discipleship Formation Seminar II will be held on Saturday, January 12 from 7:45 AM—3:30 PM at St. Thomas More Parish (1810 N. McDonald Street, Appleton). This seminar will introduce Jesus's methods of discipleship, the habits of discipleship, and the necessity of focusing on healing within the Missionary Discipleship process. \$10 fee for those that choose to include lunch. To register, contact Mary Ann Otto by January 7 at motto@stmaryparish.org or call 920-739-5119.

SEASONAL JOB OFFERING AT ST. MARY

St. Mary is looking for help with custodial and general maintenance at the CELC/school building (across State Street from the church & parish office). This temporary position that would run through April of 2019. The regular schedule is 8 PM – 12 midnight, Monday-Friday, though there is the possibility of working 6 PM-10 PM a few nights of the week. Interested or have questions? Contact Theresa Rohm in the parish office at trohm@stmaryparish.org or 920-739-5119.

ALPHA BEGINS AGAIN IN JANUARY!



Over 160 people participated in our first round of Alpha! You've probably heard something about it. Curious?

What is Alpha? Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith. It's run all around the globe in cafés, churches, universities, homes—you name it. No two Alphas look the same, but generally they have three key things in common: food, a talk and good conversation.

Do I have to talk? Nope! There's no obligation to say anything. But if you want to, there's nothing you can't say (seriously). It's an opportunity to hear from others and contribute your own perspective in an honest, friendly and open environment.

Do I have to be actively practicing the Catholic faith or another faith to sign up? No—Alpha is for anyone, at any point on their journey.

Can I invite my friend/girlfriend/boyfriend/colleague/fiancé/relative from another parish, or who doesn't belong to any church, to come with me? Yes! Please do!

SESSIONS BEGIN THE WEEK OF JANUARY 20

Sundays, 11 AM—12:30 PM @ St. Mary

Sundays, 5—6:30 PM @ St. Joseph

Wednesdays, 6—7:15 AM @ St. Joseph

Thursdays, 9—10:30 AM @ St. Joseph

Thursdays, 1—2:30 PM @ St. Joseph

Thursdays, 5:30—7 PM @ St. Mary

Fridays, 8:30—10 AM @ St. Mary

Have more questions or want to sign up? Contact Mary Ann Otto at motto@stmaryparish.org or 920-73-5119.

IN LOVING MEMORY

In the spirit of Christian charity, please pray for the families of Mary Ann Brittnacher, Joan Giuliani, and Donald Worm. 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 & SORROW

WITH FR. BILL
SWICHTENBERG

One of the books I keep close at hand during these holy days of Advent and Christmas is John Shea's *Christmas Poems to Open the Heart*. I especially like "A Christmas Touch."

We received a book, *The First Christmas*,
to read to our grandson, Jack,
on his first Christmas.
Snuggled on Anne's lap,
he will feel our love
as she introduces him
to the crib characters.
Which reminds me of a time
at All Hallows Church outside of Dublin.
At a break in the workshop,
I stepped into the courtyard.
A mother and child
were standing in front of a tall stone statue
of the Madonna and Child.
The mother lifted her daughter high.
"Touch Him, touch Him," she encouraged.
"He's a baby like you."
The baby touched the Baby,

let out giggle-yelp,
and clapped her hands.
There was more in that touch
than I could say then
or that I can say now.
No matter
her warm hand felt cold stone.
No matter
her age of reason
was a season of tomorrows away.
No matter a photo record
would not be framed and hanged
on a wall in her house.
A Christmas touch is its own moment,
daring to reach for communion,
delighting in overcoming aloneness.
"Touch Him, Jack. Touch Him.
He's a Baby like you."

During these holy days of Christmas, I, along with your Saint Mary Parish Family, ask the Lord Jesus to touch your life with his peace and joy and healing. Into every life comes certain ups and downs. Whatever the circumstances, we can trust that Jesus' desire to touch our hearts never changes. Perhaps you have held a newborn baby recently or a long time ago. Remember the joy and hope that filled your heart. Jesus touches you and me with that same joy and hope.

I am reminded of the beautiful prayer of Saint Teresa of Avila:

Let nothing disturb you.
Let nothing frighten you.
All things are passing away:
God never changes.
Patience obtains all things
Whoever has God lacks nothing:
God alone suffices.

If there is anything the Pastoral Leadership Team or I can do for you, just let us know by calling the parish office.

Christmas Blessings to you and yours! Blessings of hope to you in the New Year!

Fr. Bill +

CHRISTMAS 2018

*Thank you to those who helped
enhance the beauty of our
church this Christmas season.*

Given By

Chad & Robin Abel
Bob & Judy Arnoldussen
Arlene & Wayne Boelter
Ken & Phyllis Boulay
Thomas & Linda Cherrier
Cindy Clark
Consie Family
Jean Coon
Susan Dailey
Eugene & Sylvia Dannecker
Sandra DeBruin
Darrell & Anne Duncan-Welke
Rick & Jean Ebben
David & Janice Flenz
Kevin & Annie Geurts
Dennis & Jeanne Giaimo
Michael Gunther
David & Mary Gurnee
Mary Ann Hanson
Betty Harris
David & GERALYN Hartman
Merlin & Anna Hein
Joel & Yvette Herrera
Diane Heitpas
Vicki Hoffman
Kenneth & Janet Jaeger
Mary Beth & Barry James
Mark Jeffers
Jeffrey & Carol Johnson
Dick & Carolyn Jones
David & Mary Ellen Julien
Judith Keller
Tim, Judy, Andy, Kari, Sam & Matt Knox
Jay & Helen Kobussen
Marilyn Kottke & Family
Dennis & Jeanne Kray
Lauerman Family
Alice LeFevre
Robert & Janeanne Leveille
Richard & Susan Littmann
Jeanne & Richard Lorbach

In Memory Of

Rex Aicher and Robert Mineau
Steve Arnoldussen
Harry, Lucille & Mike Martin and Estelle Boelter
Family & Friends
Earl Putzbach
Gene Clark and Frahm & Clark Families
Walter & Jean T. Consie
Elmer, Ethel & Jim Coon
Don & Grace Hurley Family
Thoemke & Dannecker Families
Maurie DeBruin
Miriam & Clyde Duncan and Linda & Harold Welke Family & Friends
Gerald & Ethel Ebben and Lester Zitzelsberger
Joe & Helen Sams
John Peeters
Donald Ruether and Jeanette Sachs
Donna Gunther & Darlene Gunther
Aloys & Gertrude Dellemann and Jean & David Gurnee
Harold Hanson
Rod Harris and Alex, Elsie, Tom & Bill Birling
Verhasselt, Noskowiak, Reindl and Hartman Families
Living & Deceased Members of the Hein & Verkuilen Families
Jeannette "Noey" Piette
Paul & Mary Bruesewitz
Bill Hoffman, Jean Hoffman, Art & Mildred Hoffman and Bill & Olive Meyerhofer
Henry & Shirley Winkowski and John & Martha Jaeger
Fred Ponschok
Jim & Edna Malliett and Tom & Arlene Rogers
Marx, Johnson & Van Ryzin Families
Mike Jones
Bryce, Ellen & Anna Spoehr
Keller Family
Knox, Nemitz & Richard Families
Grandma & Grandpa Ciske and Grandma & Grandpa Kobussen
Jack Kottke
Melvin & Anita Lardinois and Gordon & Bernice Kray
Larry Lauerman
Wayne & Stu LeFevre
Morris & Jeanne Gabert
Fr. Michael O'Rourke
Kucinski and Lohrbach Families



Given By

Mark & Kim Mettleman
Gerald & Judy Meyer
Ted & Barbara Miller
William Miller Family
Debra Moreland
Mike & Julie Morse
Tom & Kim Nelson
Sandy & John Nussbaum
Jack & Carol Pankratz
David & Alice Pichler
Richard Powers
Deacon Jeff & Mary Prickette
Mark & Theresa Rechner
Jennifer Redman-Schell
Dave & Sue Rogers
Duane & Theresa Rohm
Barbara Rowland
David & Patricia Rudolf
Bernard & Katherine Ruh
Jan Salm
Thomas & Mary School
Robert Schoultz
Marilee Schultz
Bill & Mary Schultz
Mary Smith
Gerald & Paula Sosalla
Anne Springer
Joan Stellmacher
Kenneth Suess
William & Paula Sutter
Paul & Marilyn Tank
Mary Therrian-Van Asten
Bob Thomson & Family
Charles & Kelly Ulmen
Gene Van Asten
Susan Van Eeckhout
Steve & Marge Vertin
Richard & Sharon Wankey
Joseph & Ellen Weber
Dennis & Sue Wolfert
Ken Wydeven
Kenneth & Mary Zilisch
John & Carol Zuelzke, Jr.
Anonymous

In Memory Of

William Hoffman
Margaret Dakins & Irene Meyer
Robert & Fran Drephal, Debra Longberg and Kim Arroyo
Edward Mulloy
Jean Borkenhagen
Friends & family of the Bardon, Frost, Morse & O'Connell Families
Thomas Lee Nelson II and Elsie Mitchell
Hoersch & Nussbaum Families
Pankratz & Wittmann Families
Jessie R. Davis and Carol Davis McDaniel
Marie Powers
Deceased Members of the Prickette & Lamers Families
Schuh & Rechner Families
Myra Leverance and Bud & Pat Schell
Rogers & Springer Families
Deceased Members of the Diedrich, Ricker & Rohm Families
Hattie Jome, Bob Jome, Mike Barker and Carol Rowland
Wayne & Laura Krause and Alexander & Lucille Rudolf
Harry & Dorothy Ruh
Ed Salm, Bill & Ella Wiesner, Ed & Irene Salm and Bill Wiesner, Jr.
Sarah & Tom School, Jr.
Candace Schoultz
Bill Schultz
Schultz, Bruehl, Catlin and Wassenberg Families
Jason Pietsch
Harold Hanson & Lloyd & Darlene Gunther
Jim Springer, Leo "Bud" Smudde and Leo & Ellen Smudde
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Michalkiewicz, Bonnie Michalkiewicz, and Dennis Flenz
Katie Suess
Dan Sutter and Fred & Lorraine Stoffel
Paul & Gladys Tank and Art & Gert Joos
Wilmoette, Therrian and Van Asten Families
Sally Thomson
Carlten & Cora Ulmen, Harold & Gertie DeDecker and Bill & Joan Gardner
Van Asten, Honkomp & Therrian Families
Schmidt & Van Eeckhout Families
Charles & Katherine Andresen and Bernard & Margaret Vertin
Norman & Florence Wankey and Mike & Eleanore Lepak
Weier & Weber Families
Lawrence & Helen Wolfert and John & Anne Feavel
George, Agnes & David Wydeven
Dr. Kenneth & Norah Pinegar
Zuelzke & Zimmerman Families

*A Merry & Blessed Christmas
and Happy New Year to all!*



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