

“I know their works and their thoughts, and I come to gather nations of every language . . .”

Isaiah 66:18
August 25, 2019

ST. MARY PARISH OFFICE
312 S. STATE STREET
APPLETON, WI 54911

920-739-5119
STMARYPARISH.ORG
STMARY@STMARYPARISH.ORG

Pastor – Fr. Bill Swichtenberg (cell 422-4316)
Minister of Pastoral Care – Dcn. Gerry Schraufnagel (cell 540-9594)
Minister of Family Life – Betsy Pfantz-Hokamp
Minister of Missionary Discipleship – Mary Ann Otto
Minister of Neighborhood Pastoral Outreach & Parish Vitality – Nadine Duncan
Minister of Liturgical Music – Tom Walter
Minister of Business Administration – Theresa Rohm
Minister of Bookkeeping – Pam Acker
Youth Minister – Ben Wolf (738-7413)
Parish Trustees – Joseph Galarowicz (419-1166) & Ted Sues (636-8885)
Pastoral Leadership Council Chair – Cindy Boyer (858-7345)
Finance Council Chair – Mike Hurley (740-7077)

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

Confessions – Saturdays, 9 AM & by appointment (privacy assured)

Baptism – Contact Betsy in the parish office

Marriage – Congratulations! Contact Fr. Bill in the parish office at least 6 months before your planned wedding date.

St. Mary Cemetery (920) 882-4158

Inter-parish Religious Formation (IPRF) 738-7413 / inter-parish.org

Diane Cahall, Coordinator K-4

Jennifer Schubring, Coordinator 5-8

Ben Wolf, Coordinator 9-12

Xavier Catholic School System 735-9380





ST. MARY WEEKLY CALENDAR

August 26 (Mon)

5:30 PM Handbell Choir Open House/Choir Loft
8:00 PM Al-Anon/L6

August 27 (Tues)

8:30 AM Mass/Chapel
2:00 PM Rosary & Perpetual Help Devotions/Church

August 28 (Wed)

11:30 AM Communications Task Force/Large Conference Room
12:05 PM Mass/Church
7:00 PM Betsy's Rebuilt Discussion Group/L7

August 29 (Thurs)

8:00 AM CIA-FMO/L7
12:05 PM Mass/Church

August 30 (Fri)

8:30 AM Mass/Chapel

August 31 (Sat)

9:00 AM Confessions/Church
4:30 PM Mass

September 1 (Sun)

8:00 & 9:45 AM Mass

September 2 (Mon) Labor Day—Parish Office Closed

Have a safe and happy holiday!

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

Mon., August 26	12:05 PM	Mass at St. Joseph
Tue., August 27	8:30 AM	For all students, faculty & staff
Wed., August 28	12:05 PM	Tom & Tina Dix
Thurs., August 29	12:05 PM	Bill Polley
Fri., August 30	8:30 AM	For all cancer patients
Sat., August 31	4:30 PM	Al Neveau
Sun., Sept. 1	8:00 AM	Parishioners of St. Mary
	9:45 AM	Makswell Jacobson

PRAYER NEEDS

Contact Luanne Witthuhn (dlaawi@gmail.com) or Ann Walkowski (920-428-0969) if you have a prayer need. Please remember the needs in our prayer baskets.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Office—\$2,396.00 Weekend—\$8,271.35
Children's—\$10.00

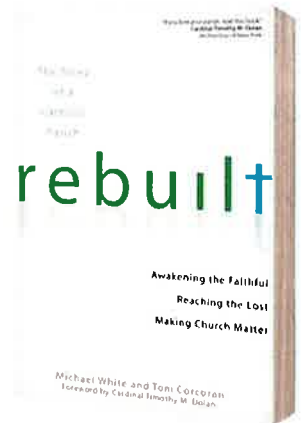


DISCUSSION GROUPS COMING SOON

REBUILT: Awakening the Faithful, Reaching the Lost, Making Church Better by Michael White and Tom Corcoran

If you haven't had a chance to read it yet, now is the time. Discussion groups and opportunities will be coming soon after Labor Day. It's very important for as many parishioners as possible to share their thoughts and ideas.

We have limited copies available for loan (find them on the bookshelves in the Marian Way), or you can purchase it online at amazon.com or avemariapress.com.



Prayer to begin a new school year

God of wisdom and might, we praise you for the wonder of our being, for mind, body and spirit. Be with our children as they begin a new school year. Bless them and their teachers and staff. Give them strength and grace as their bodies grow; wisdom and knowledge to their minds as they search for understanding; and peace and zeal to their hearts.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

from thecatholiccatalogue.com



ONLINE GIVING COMING SOON!

Exciting news—St. Mary is working with Faith Direct to offer e-giving to our parishioners and guests! Beginning this fall, we will be able to handle not only giving made through direct withdrawal from your bank account, but also payments made with credit/debit cards, both online and via text-to-give. Be here on the weekend of September 7-8 to learn more!

SAVE THE DATE ST. JOSEPH FALL FESTIVAL, SEPT. 14-15

On Saturday, enjoy bluegrass music at the 4 PM Mass, food & music by Country Duo after Mass, raffles, a silent auction, craft sale, soup sale, bake sale, plant sale, and kid's games. All the fun continues on Sunday after Masses, and don't forget to pick up burgers, brats, and hot dogs to eat during the Packers—Vikings game!



WOULD YOU CONSIDER?

We're told Catholics seldom invite others to share their Catholic faith. Do you know of someone in your family, neighborhood, or among your friends who is without a Church, or who seldom attends the Church to which he or she belongs? Would you consider extending an invitation to put him or her in touch with the parish office?

Contact Deacon Gerry at 739-5119 or schraufnagelestmaryparish.org.



IPRF NEWS

Religious Education classes for grades K-11 start on September 11, so please register soon!

Parents of Kindergarteners

Just a reminder that our IPRF Religious Formation begins in Kindergarten! Our little ones get a jump start on becoming followers of Jesus. Our incredibly experienced leaders love working with these kiddos! Call Dana at 738-7413 to register for this year—there are openings at both 4:30 & 6:30 PM!

Catechists Needed

We are in need of help this year for this exciting ministry at both 4:30 and 6:30 PM sessions in elementary, middle & high school. Contact Dana at 738-7413 if you are interested or have any questions.

BELLS OF ST. MARY HANDBELL CHOIR FALL OPEN HOUSES

We're always looking for people interested in ministering through music! We rehearse each week on Monday evenings, September through May, and perform at various services throughout the year. If you're interested in learning more about the handbell choir, consider joining us at one of our fall open houses, which will be held on Monday, August 26 and Monday, September 23 at 5:30 PM in the choir loft. For more information, you can also contact bell choir director Martha Paalman (mpaalman@stmaryparish.org or 920-420-6481) or visit our Facebook page (facebook.com/bellsfstmary).



IN LOVING MEMORY

In the spirit of Christian charity, please pray for the families of those who have lost a loved one. May fond memories comfort you. If you have lost a loved one and would like him or her remembered in the bulletin, contact us at 739-5119.

IN JOY & SORROW

With Fr. Bill
Swichtenberg

Affording myself a little breather as my creative juices are in need of recharging, permit me to share the homily I gave on Tuesday, August 20, to the teachers, administrators, and staff of St Francis Xavier Catholic Schools on the Memorial of the Great Abbot and Doctor of the Church, St. Bernard of Clairvaux at St. Bernard Church. While I was speaking to educators, there may be some insights here that may resonate with you. The text of my homily follows:

In tribute to the great African-American novelist Toni Morrison, who died recently, I would like to share one of her children's stories called **The Ant or the Grasshopper**.

Foxy G and his ace Kid A were hanging in the park. They romped each day till the sun's last ray and didn't stop till dark. They climbed trees, tore up their knees, dunked balls and shot hoops from afar. Swam at the pool where the water was cool and sang with air guitars. One hot day as they lay in the shade Kid A turned to his friend and said: Got to split, Foxy. The summer's been fun. Time to dump this place, get back in the race. There's a lot of work to be done. Hold on, I just thought of a tune. Listen up, Kid. This will rocket the moon! Foxy raised his wings, rubbed them hard, making music so def it drew a crowd. That's cool, Foxy G, but listen to me. Vacation is gone; the days getting short. We can't hang forever on the basketball court! Then split, Kid A. Who's in your way? As for me, Foxy G...I have to let the music out! I have to GROOVE, MOVE, PROVE, DISPROVE. I have to RIFF and BLAST and SHOUT! Aw, man, Okay. Catch you up some other day. Kid A did the chores and shopped the stores. And, day and night, out of sight, Foxy's music blew clear and wild. It was so sweet with his outrageous beat. Kid A began to dance. He popped his fingers, shook his hips, a big fat grin on his lips. Hard at work or fast asleep, he couldn't stop his dancing feet. He fixed the stove, raked the leaves, covered the shrubs so they wouldn't freeze. He heaped and piled and baked and stored jam to be spread on slices of bread, when winter howled at the door.

[Winter was especially harsh on Foxy G and so he shows up at Kid A's door, seeking warmth and shelter. Kid A lectures him in these words:]

You think feeling is better than dealing. But I'm standing, not kneeling. And my family's fed. WHERE'S YOUR HEAD? You sleep in a box; I've got a bed. But music's been good for you and me. It ought to deserve your sympathy. Play your own song, Kid. Don't play me, I create. No, you take. I MAKE. No, you FAKE. Your stomach's full; your bed is warm. Your house is clean, but where is your dream? Know what I mean?


In matters of faith and life, a good principle to hold is that it is not either/or but rather both/and. We are not either more like an ant or a grasshopper, the ant being the very functional and organized one and the grasshopper being the artist, making music with its wings or however grasshoppers make music.

We are not either like Martha, the busy one in the kitchen, or like Mary, the one sitting at the feet of Jesus and resting in his presence.

In the experience of St. Bernard of Clairvaux, the Abbot of the monastery resting in the Valley of Light, France, in the Middle Ages, grounded in the Rule of St. Benedict, the founder of western monasticism, we are not either *ora* or *labora*, that is about either prayer or work. It is never either/or but both/and.

As we embark on a new school year together, I would encourage you to find this balance in your life...the balance between being a very functional, excellent, organized, accomplished teacher or administrator or staff member or coach or play director and being a reflective, passionate, still and silent, grateful and generous friend and disciple of Jesus.

08.25.2019



It is our friendship with Jesus that is the spark and impetus for whatever we do here at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Schools. It is our love for the Lord and for each other, especially for our children and young people and their parents and families that motivates all that we do and say. Without that foundation built on the great commandment of love for the Lord and others, we sputter and misfire and eventually burn out. Let us not struggle too much with a definition for love but rather agree together that love is willing the best for the other. Even when I do not understand the other person or disagree with him or her or are disappointed by him or her, I still will the best for him or her.

The world is looking for teachers, for sure, but for teachers who are witnesses to the love of Jesus for the other. In this time marked by a very hostile and divided and hate-filled and racist environment, we, the companions and friends of Jesus must offer another path, which is the more excellent path. It is the path of accompanying each other and our students and their families in a spirit of acceptance and respect. We are not self-righteous bullies but rather humble, holy, and gentle ministers for the Lord. It is these interactions which each other that will witness to our children and young people a more excellent way. It is the way of Jesus himself.

This environment of hospitality, respect, and acceptance which is St. Francis Xavier Catholic Schools is only possible if you and I hold firm in Jesus. He is at the center. Moving closer to him, we move closer to each other. Let us share with each other our stories of how we strike that balance between prayer and work in every aspect of our lives. If you are too busy like the ant and always thinking and planning and moving, become more like the grasshopper, who slows down to make music that touches the heart and soul, moving inward and downward, nourished by Jesus himself, his Word, and his Sacraments.

We are not simply functionaries but rather disciples of Jesus, who make space and time to be with him, so that he can recharge our spirits and we can be ever more effective witnesses of his unconditional and marvelous love for all.

Fr. Bill +





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