

**SEPTEMBER 8, 2019  
 WHOEVER DOES NOT  
 CARRY HIS OWN CROSS  
 AND COME AFTER ME  
 CANNOT BE MY DISCIPLE.  
 LUKE 14:27**

**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

### September 9 (Mon)

- 6:30 PM Bell Choir Practice/Choir Loft
- 8:00 PM Al-Anon/L6

### September 10 (Tues)

- 8:30 AM Mass/Chapel
- 2:00 PM Rosary & Perpetual Help Devotions/Chapel
- 6:00 PM Annual Pastoral Leadership Council & Finance Council Meeting/Community Room
- 7:00 PM Baptism Prep/L3

### September 11 (Wed)

- 11:30 AM Communications Task Force/L6
- 12:05 PM Mass/Church
- 1:00 PM Strength & Stretch Class/L1
- 1:30 PM Strategic Leadership Committee Meeting/L6
- 4:30 PM IPRF Classes/St. Mary & St. Joseph
- 5:30 PM IPRF Hot Dog Supper/St. Joseph Holly Hall
- 5:45 PM IPRF Children's Choir Practice/St. Joseph Church
- 6:30 PM IPRF Classes/St. Mary & St. Joseph
- 6:30 PM Campaign Leadership Committee/Community Room

### September 12 (Thurs)

- 12:05 PM Mass/Church
- 6:30 PM Adult Choir Practice/St. Anne Room

### September 13 (Fri)

- 8:30 AM Mass/Chapel

### September 14 (Sat) Alpha Kick Off Weekend

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

### September 15 (Sun) Alpha Kick Off Weekend

- 8:00 & 9:45 AM Mass
- Coffee & Donuts after both Masses/Community Room
- 9:45 AM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd/L2
- 9:45 AM Confirmation Practice/St. Mary Church

## WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

Mon., September 9	12:05 PM	Mass at St. Joseph
Tue., September 10	8:30 AM	Janice Mercier
Wed., September 11	12:05 PM	Bill Hoffman
Thurs., September 12	12:05 PM	Parishioners of St. Mary
Fri., September 13	8:30 AM	Curtis Bengel
Sat., September 14	1:00 PM	Alcorta-Asmuth Wedding
	4:30 PM	Ethel & Gerald Ebben and Les Zitzelsberger
Sun., September 15	8:00 AM	Josef Kuckman
	9:45 AM	Karen & Tony Rosecky

## BABYSITTING HELP NEEDED

St. Mary provides babysitting services during the 9:45 AM Sunday Mass from September—May. We are currently in need of both adult and middle and high school student volunteers. Students—this is a great way for you to earn service hours. If you're interested, contact Betsy Pfantz-Hokamp at 739-5119 or [bpfantz@stmaryparish.org](mailto:bpfantz@stmaryparish.org).

## STRENGTH & STRETCH CLASS

Join us each Wednesday at 1 PM in room L1. This class is filled with fellowship and fun and is a great way to help you stay healthy, without placing undue stress on your body. ALL are welcome—all ages, all fitness levels, all people, all faiths! See you there! If you have questions, contact instructor Beth Power at [beth.power@new.rr.com](mailto:beth.power@new.rr.com).

## REBUILT DISCUSSION FORUMS COMING SEPTEMBER 28-29

If you haven't had a chance to read Rebuilt yet, now is the time. Discussion forums will take place after Masses on the weekend of September 28-29. Group leaders will facilitate conversations about how we might put ideas from Rebuilt to work for us here at St. Mary.



## IPRF NEWS

Religion classes begin September 11! Class times will be our regular schedule of 4:30 & 6:30 PM. On the first night of classes, a free Hot Dog Supper is offered at St. Joseph Parish in Holly Hall from 5:30-6:30 PM. Please join us!

### First Reconciliation for 2nd Grade Students

Children in 2nd grade from both St. Mary and St. Joseph Parishes are invited to participate in preparation for the sacrament of First Reconciliation. Parents, please attend a parent-only meeting on either Tuesday, September 24 at 6:30 PM in St. Joseph Holly Hall or Thursday, September 26, 6:30 PM in St. Joseph Holly Hall.

## CONTRIBUTIONS

Office—\$2,604.00    Weekend—\$6,967.00  
Children's—\$87.51



**ST. MARY 2019-20 CHOIR INFORMATION**  
**SEPTEMBER 8-14: SECOND CALL FOR CHOIR PRACTICES**

**HANDBELL CHOIR**

Practice: Monday evenings, 6:30-8 PM in the St. Mary Choir Loft. New members are welcome and needed! Contact Martha Paalman through the parish office.

**IPRF CHILDREN'S CHOIR**

Practice: Wednesday evenings, 5:45-6:20 PM in St. Joe's Church. Children in grades 2-8 are invited to join. Questions? Contact Tom Walter at the parish office.

**ADULT CHOIR**

Practice: Thursday evenings, 6:30-8 PM in the St. Anne Room. New singers welcome! You don't need to know how to read music! If you have a singing voice, we want YOU! Questions? Contact Tom Walter through the parish office.

**CHRISTMAS STARS**

Ticket sales for the 2019 season of Christmas Starts are open! For show times and tickets, visit [www.christmasstars.org](http://www.christmasstars.org) or call the box office at (920) 733-8840. Phone messages may be left at any time and will be returned. You can purchase tickets online at [www.showtix4u.com](http://www.showtix4u.com).

Performances for 2019 are December 5-8 and December 12-15 at the Xavier Fine Arts Theater, located at 1600 West Prospect Avenue in Appleton, WI. The state of the art facility is fully accessible, including a hearing loop system.

**PRAYER NEEDS**

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

**ST. MARY ANNUAL MEETING**

The annual joint meeting of the Pastoral Leadership Council and the Finance Council will take place on Tuesday, September 10 at 6 PM in the Community Room. All parishioners are invited to attend this open meeting. The 2018-19 Annual Report will be available for you there, and it's a great opportunity to get to know your council members and ask questions.



Fighting Hunger. Sustaining Hope.

**HELP ST. JOE'S FOOD PROGRAM**  
**KEEP ON TRUCKIN'**

Partner with St. Joseph Food Program to fight hunger and sustain hope! Volunteers are needed to help on our Famous St. Joe's Trucks. You'll pick up food donations from local stores and businesses so they can be shared with people in need. Truck routes run early mornings with opportunities Monday through Saturday. Spots are available for weekly, monthly, and occasional fill-in volunteers. Frequent lifting allows you to get your workout in while making a difference in your community. For more information, visit [www.stjoesfoodprogram.org](http://www.stjoesfoodprogram.org), or contact Leah at (920) 734-9461 ext. 313.

**Songs**  
**Stories & Fun!**  
 at St. Francis Xavier Elementary School

All events begin at 9:00 a.m.

September 11	McDonald Street Campus
September 20	Marquette Street Campus
October 18	Marquette Street Campus
October 23	McDonald Street Campus

**Bonus Program:** Attendees are invited to visit our Pre-K classrooms for an activity following Songs, Stories and Fun!

**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.

I have participated in the same book group for about twenty years. We meet through the summer and fall months in Hobart. My friends graciously host our group and always invite me to supper before the whole group arrives. Upon my arrival last Friday, Judy greeted me with "We have some work to do. I have two monarch butterflies that are ready to be released." So we went out back, and sure enough, in a mesh terrarium were two beautiful monarch butterflies. Judy is a "butterfly momma" who is on a mission to renew the monarch population. She spies the microscopic black eggs, brings them inside, feeds the caterpillars which are so tiny when they make their appearance, and who grow fatter and fatter, feasting on milkweed leaves, each leaf carefully rinsed off by Judy. You know what happens next - the formation of the chrysalis and then the emergence of the new monarch. Amazing is all the tender love they receive from Judy during this incredible process of metamorphosis. So Judy tagged the newest members with her "baby mother ID", placed each butterfly, one at a time, on my finger, and directed me out into the sunshine so their wings could warm up. I coaxed them to fly and sure enough, when they were ready, they took off.

How precious is the gift of creation! How connected we are to the land, the water, the air, the plants, and the animals!

Upon writing his encyclical letter titled *Laudato 'Si* (*Praise Be to You*), subtitled "On Care for our Common Home" in May 2015, Pope Francis declared that each year September 1 would be a World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. This day of prayer would invite us into a Season of Creation, culminating on October 4, the Feast of Saint Francis Assisi, who is the patron saint of care for the environment.

Since Pope Francis' encyclical letter is quite lengthy, maybe I could summarize this document by making ten points. I am grateful to Fr. James Martin, SJ, who has suggested these takeaways for us to ponder.

- *The spiritual perspective is now part of the discussion on the environment.* Pope Francis reminds us that, in the plan of God, we human beings are caretakers of the gifts of creation.
- *The poor are disproportionately affected by climate change.* It seems that the worst impacts of climate change are felt by those living in the developing countries.
- *Less is more.* What in my life could I do with half as much?
- *Catholic social teaching now includes teaching on the environment.* One of the pro-life issues is care for the environment.
- *Discussions about ecology can be grounded in the Bible and church tradition.*
- *Everything is connected, including the economy.* Our production and consumption impact the environment.
- *Scientific research on the environment is to be praised and used.* We are irresponsible if we choose to reject what 95% of our scientists are telling us in regard to climate change.
- *Widespread indifference and selfishness worsen environmental problems.*
- *Global dialogue and solidarity are needed.*
- *A change of heart is required.*

Between now and October 4, let's give some thought and prayer to the blessings of creation. We will be studying how we as a family of faith here at St. Mary can show more care for our common home. Stay tuned!

Fr. Bill +



**eGiving with *Faith Direct***

Many of you are aware and take advantage of the convenience of electronic giving to our parish and we are grateful for that. We believe it is time to upgrade to a more streamlined online provider for our eGiving needs through *Faith Direct*. For those of you who have yet to join us in giving online, I strongly encourage you to do so. Here's why:

*Faith Direct* enables parishioners to make your Church contributions through either direct debit from your checking/savings account or through your credit/debit card. No more writing checks or searching for envelopes on the way out the door. Now you can apply the convenience of direct debit to your parish offerings in much the same way as you may now use it to make your mortgage, car or tuition payments.

*Faith Direct* also offers you personalized offertory cards to replace your envelopes for the collection basket.

Please join me in enrolling by responding to the mailing you will receive or visit [\*\*faith.direct/WI990\*\*](http://faith.direct/WI990) to enroll securely online.

God Bless You!

Rev. William Swichtenberg

Any questions you may have, please contact Pam in the parish office. She is available to assist in this process.

Phone# 920-739-5119

E-mail: [packer@stmaryparish.org](mailto:packer@stmaryparish.org)



# HOW FAITH DIRECT WORKS



## Enrollment

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## Giving Options

Give to any collection, schedule recurring eGiving, or make a one-time donation. Then choose your credit/debit card or a bank account for payment.

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You'll be able to support our church even when you're out of town, unable to attend church due to weather, illness or a family emergency. Your gifts will always be received.



## Customer Service

A dedicated team will respond to your needs by email, phone and online chat. Faith Direct is here to make your eGiving experience easy.



## Security

Your information is always protected. Every transaction is secure. All donations are automatically transferred to our church's account.



## Donation Reminders

Each month you will receive an emailed summary of your upcoming donations.



## Offertory Cards

To be used in lieu of envelopes during the collection.



## Efficiency

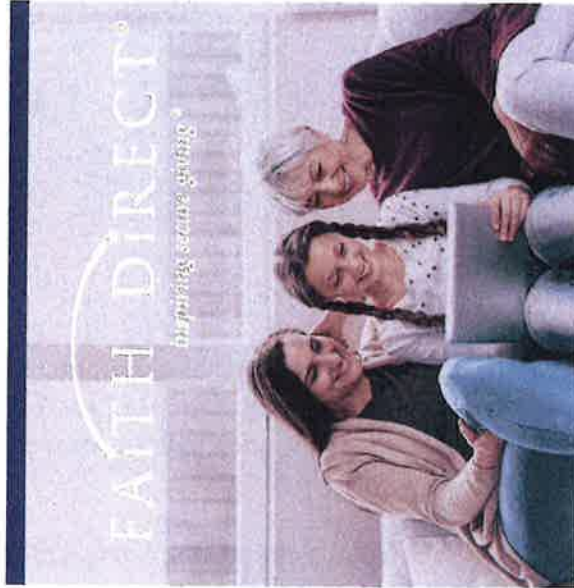
Access to an online annual statement that details your eGiving and simplifies your taxes.



## Knowledge

Your generosity will help our church have a predictable and steady cash flow.

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Text "Enroll" to **920-294-1189**



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**ALPHA begins again Sept. 22**

**Sundays**

11:00 AM - St. Mary

4:30 PM - St. Joseph

**Wednesdays**

6:00 AM - St. Joseph

**Thursdays**

9:00 AM - St. Joseph

12:00 PM - St. Joseph

6:00 PM - St. Mary

**Who? You - and anyone you'd like to invite.**

**What? Food, a video, and discussion in a small group setting.**

**Why? Explore the Christian faith in an open & relaxed environment.**

**Find out why over 29 million people around the globe have experienced ALPHA.  
To sign up, contact Mary Ann at [motto@stmaryparish.org](mailto:motto@stmaryparish.org) or 739-5119.**



# What's after ALPHA?

## The Purpose Driven Life

Sessions begin again week of September 22

### Sundays

11:00 AM - St. Mary

4:30 PM - St. Joseph

### Wednesdays

6:00 AM - St. Joseph

### Thursdays

9:00 AM - St. Joseph

12:00 PM - St. Joseph

6:00 PM - St. Mary

This seven-week course explores five purposes:

1. You Were Planned for God's Pleasure
2. You Were Formed for God's Family
3. You Were Created to Become Like Christ
4. You Were Shaped for Serving God
5. You Were Made for a Mission

Cost:

\$10 (aid available)

To sign up, contact

Mary Ann Otto at

739-5119 or

[motto@stmaryparish.org](mailto:motto@stmaryparish.org)



#### A note about Rick Warren

Rick Warren is the founding Pastor of Saddleback, a large Evangelical Church in California. In the past years he has joined Pope Francis as a speaker at the World Meeting of Families. He has acknowledged Pope Francis as being a true witness to the Gospel in our day. The video series originally recorded by Rick Warren has also been recorded using the same messages by ministers of one of the thriving Catholic Churches Rick Warren has worked with. Each group may select which series best suits their taste.



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