November 17, 2019

Gratitude takes nothing for granted, is never unresponsive, is constantly awakening to new wonder.
-Thomas Merton

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

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STMARY@STMARYPARISH.ORG

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

Pastor – Fr. Bill Swichtenberg (cell 422-4316) **wdswitz@stmaryparish.org**
Minister of Pastoral Care – Deacon 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
Minister of Cemetery & Facilities Management – Chip Acker
Youth Minister – Ben Wolf (738-7413)
Parish Trustees – Joseph Galarowicz (419-1166) & Ted Suess (636-8885)
Pastoral Leadership Council Chair – Cindy Boyer (858-7345)
Finance Council Chair – Mike Hurley (740-7077)

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

November 18 (Mon)
1:00 PM TLC Caretaker Support Group/L4
3:30 PM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd/L2
6:00 PM Hybrid Alpha/L7
6:30 PM THEO/Community Room
6:30 PM Bell Choir Practice/Choir Loft
8:00 PM Al-Anon/L6

November 19 (Tues)
8:30 AM **NO MASS**
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

November 20 (Wed)
12:05 PM Mass/Church
1:00 PM Strength & Stretch Class/L1
4:30 PM IPRF Classes @ St. Joseph
5:45 PM IPRF Choir Practice @ St. Joseph
6:30 PM IPRF Classes/St. Mary Lower Level & St. Joseph
6:30 PM Campaign Leadership Committee/Community Room

November 21 (Thurs)
9:00 AM Alpha @ St. Joseph
12:00 PM Alpha @ St. Joseph
12:05 PM Mass/Church
6:00 PM Alpha/L7
6:30 PM Adult Choir Practice/St. Anne Room
7:00 PM Gamblers Anonymous/L6

November 22 (Fri)
8:30 AM **NO MASS**

November 23 (Sat) St. Mary's new look revealed!
- St. Mary branded apparel e-store launch
- St. Pat's Advent Pop Up Sale/Community Room
- Needs Trees Up/Marian Way

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

November 24 (Sun) St. Mary's new look revealed!
- St. Mary branded apparel e-store launch
- St. Pat's Advent Pop Up Sale/Community Room
- Needs Trees Up/Marian Way

8:00 & 9:45 AM Mass
- Treats after Masses/Community Room

9:45 AM Sunday Children's Programming/L2
11:00 AM Alpha/L4 & L6

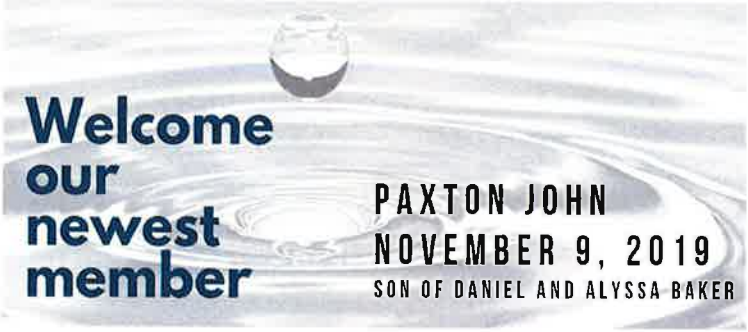
CONTRIBUTIONS

Office—$4,148.00 Weekend—$6,938.00
Children's—$27.00

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

Mon., November 18	12:05 PM	Mass at St. Joseph
Tue., November 19	8:30 AM	NO MASS
Wed., November 20	12:05 PM	Marcella Morse
Thurs., November 21	12:05 PM	Parishioners of St. Mary
Fri., November 22	8:30 AM	NO MASS
Sat., November 23	4:30 PM	John & Donna Francek
Sun., November 24	8:00 AM	Audrey & Harold Deprez
	9:45 AM	Ed & Dorothy Frahm

NO MASS ON TUESDAY, NOV. 19 OR FRIDAY, NOV. 22.



ST. MARY PARISH MEMORIAL BOOK

Please take a moment to write the names of your loved ones who have died in our parish memorial book. It is available in the back of church.

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.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Please pray for the families of those who have lost a loved one. May fond memories comfort you at this time. If you have lost a loved one and would like him or her remembered in the bulletin, call the parish office at 739-5119.

St. Mary Parade Warming House & Viewing Party

Our doors will be open to all 6-9pm on the night of the Appleton Christmas Parade!

- Hot Chocolate
- Cookies
- Warm restrooms
- Live stream of parade

Sign up at stmaryparish.org to be a host or make cookies.

"There's room at our inn!"

CIA-Faith Mission Operatives

When God Comes Calling

"For I know the plans I have for you."
Jeremiah 29:11

With **Heather Weininger**
Wisconsin Right to Life Exec. Director

MONDAY, NOV. 18, 2019, 7 P.M.

Xavier Fine Arts Theatre
1600 W Prospect Ave., Appleton, WI

No tickets needed / Free will offering encouraged
For details, google CIAFMO or call 920-450-3025

CIA-Faith Mission Operatives

BUILDING ON *REBUILT*

the inside scoop on what's happening at our parish
by Angela Carney, member of St. Mary CTF

Last week, we were graced with Deacon Keith Strom's homily at all Masses. We asked him to come share a message about how we are all called to Jesus' Great Commission, "go and make disciples." So often though, we feel like we don't possess the skills or ability to do such a task. But Deacon Keith told us simply that we *are* qualified and we are qualified by the basic fact that we are all sons and daughters of God. This is the driving force with the changes we're making at St. Mary. We want to share our relationship with Jesus and bring them to know Him too! ***You are qualified!***

Rebuilt introduced important ways for a parish to grow and thrive. One way is to encourage parishioners to grow deeper as disciples of Jesus by providing a clear discipleship path - the essence of Mary Ann Otto's focus as our Minister of Missionary Discipleship. Another is to create a great weekend experience with worship music at Mass that touches the heart (Tom Walter), homilies that speak to our lives (Father Bill), and hospitality for visitors that flows from parishioners filled with the love of Jesus (everyone's job). This Advent we are focusing on our "great weekend experience."

Hospitality is key to a parish that wants to thrive and grow. We are all hosts to those who visit our parish home. We are all called to share the love of Jesus by taking a minute to introduce ourselves and get to know our visitors better.

We'll be introducing even more changes soon!

- Next weekend, we'll reveal a new logo to represent our new focus! As a teaser, it's all about the ripples!
- We're forming a group to help integrate contemporary music at the 9:45 Mass during Advent. Like singing? Join us! Head to **stmaryparish.org** to find a Sign Up Genius.
- A new welcome & information desk is coming to the Marian Way, and we'll need friendly faces to help staff it. Interested? Contact Nadine at **nduncan@stmaryparish.org**.

Any questions, ideas or areas of interest? Contact the parish office to get connected with the Communications Task Force. If you feel the Holy Spirit calling you to get involved with the positive changes at St. Mary, please know your efforts would be graciously accepted!

IN JOY & SORROW

With Fr. Bill Swichtenberg

The story is told of a farmer who discovered a baby eagle tangled up in a bush in the forest. Too young to fly, the farmer took the eaglet to his farm and placed it in the chickens' pen. The eagle grew up, scratching the ground for kernels of corn, even clucking like a chicken. One day, a naturalist was passing by the farm and spotted the eagle among the chickens. She was stunned. After talking to the farmer, they agreed that the naturalist would attempt to coax the eagle into flying, and not just a couple feet off the ground.

Taking the eagle to the rooftop of the barn, she declared, "You belong to the sky and not to the earth. Stretch forth your wings and fly!" Needless to say, the eagle was confused and only wanted to jump down from the rooftop and be united with its friends, the chickens. The naturalist decided she had to try something more drastic. Rising at dawn the next morning, as the sun began to peak above the horizon, she grabbed the eagle in her arms and climbed to the top of a nearby mountain. In such a majestic spot, and far away from the sight of any chickens, she lifted the eagle to the sun, and declared, "You are an eagle." Sure enough, something came over the eagle, it began to tremble all over, and slowly stretched out its majestic wings, and with a triumphant cry, soared away into the heavens.

If you were blessed to participate in the Ablaze Rally last Saturday with Deacon Keith Strohm, or heard him preach at the Masses last weekend, he reminded us of our true identity. We are more than our family history. We are more than what we do. We are the beloved children of God, precious to the Lord, created in his image and likeness. In the Lord's eyes, we are delightful. Through the waters of baptism, we have died to selfishness and we have put on Jesus. Each one of us has passed through the grace of these holy waters. Baptism is the sacrament that conforms us to Jesus and all of us receive from him our precious dignity. This dignity is not parceled out in a fashion that some receive more than others. Every human person, whether male or female, whether slave or free, whether baptized or not, whether priest or lay person, whether pope or homeless person on the streets of our cities on these cold days - every person is created by the Lord with equal dignity.

We do not have to qualify in some way to receive this dignity. It is a pure and gracious gift. We cannot earn this dignity. We do not deserve this dignity. The Lord freely chooses to bestow his sacred image on each and every human person. It is this grace-filled dignity that qualifies us to be the Lord's ambassadors. You do not need a degree in theology or have to be an expert in Scripture. You do not have to defer to the priest or deacon. You do not need ordination to participate in the priestly ministry of Jesus. All that is needed is an openness to growing more and more in intimacy with the Lord, opening more and more your heart to his Spirit of Merciful Compassion.

I believe that if the power of the grace of your baptism and my baptism would be released more fully in us and through us, we would light our parish on fire with the love of the Lord. That fire would be like a beacon drawing more and more people into our parish family. We are called to let the waters of our baptism wash through us and literally propel us out into our families, our neighborhoods, our places of work, even into the grocery stores and hair salons, always bearing Jesus and his Merciful Compassion.

Don't wait for the ordained to call the shots. Pope Francis encourages every baptized believer to fall in love with Jesus and to participate in the priesthood of Jesus. Jesus was about one thing and one thing only. Jesus was about drawing people into his Heart. Our hearts need to beat with his Heart as we invite people to discover, follow, worship and share Jesus.

Fr. Bill +

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Hammett, Bellin, & Oswald, LLC
Attorneys at Law
720-0000
Attorney Jeffrey T. Oswald
Parish Member

Century 21
Cathy L Miller
Ace Realty
PH: 920.475.0840
CATHY.MILLER@C21ACE.COM

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