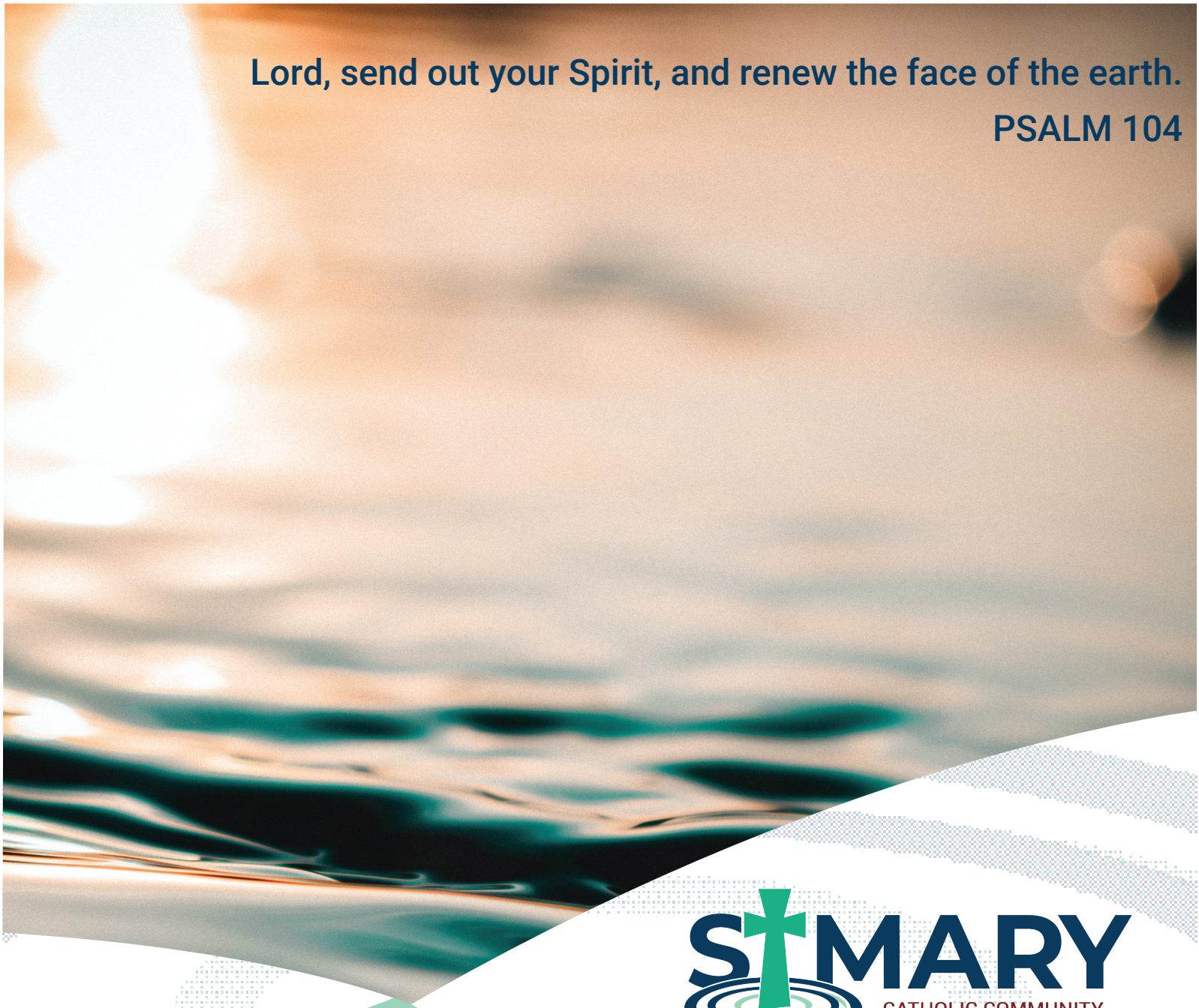

Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

PSALM 104

ST MARY
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

May 31, 2020
Pentecost Sunday

CONNECT WITH US

312 S. State Street
Appleton, WI 54911

920-739-5119
stmaryparish.org
stmary@stmaryparish.org

BAPTISM Contact the the parish office
CONFESSION Saturdays, 9 AM & by appt. (privacy assured)
MARRIAGE Congratulations! Contact Fr. Bill in the parish office at least 6 months before your planned wedding date.
ST MARY CEMETERY 920-882-4158
XAVIER CATHOLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM 920-735-9380

INTER-PARISH-RELIGIOUS FORMATION (IPRF) 920-738-7413 / inter-parish.org
Diane Cahall, Coordinator K-4
Jennifer Schubring, Coordinator 5-8
Ben Wolf, Coordinator 9-12

ST MARY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

IN JOY & SORROW

with Fr. Bill Swichtenberg

I have reminded you again and again that the celebration of the Mass is the lifeline to our friendship with Jesus and each other. We would be very foolish to ignore this lifeline or take the celebration of the Mass for granted. In these unprecedented times, Bishop Ricken made the decision, motivated solely by the love we have for each other's physical wellbeing, to suspend the celebration of public Masses. The Bishop removed the obligation to attend Mass, as well, and as we move forward on these uncertain days, that dispensation will remain in effect. No one will be obligated to attend Mass in the days ahead. In fact, some of you, because of age or health challenges, will be encouraged to stay home. Those of you who are our dear elders are encouraged to let a member of your family know that you would like for them to bring you Holy Communion on the weekend. If you do not have a family member nearby who can do this for you, let us know and we will connect you to someone who will bring you Jesus in Holy Communion.

I am happy to announce that plans are in the making to return to the celebration of Mass in our church on the weekend and on weekdays. The exact timing of this is dependent on a number of factors, like a steady decline in the number of positive tests for the virus versus total tests, the ability to implement contact tracing, and that our local hospitals are able to treat all patients. So stayed tuned for the specific dates for the resuming of public Masses. It could be as early as the middle of June.

I am grateful that during this time we have been able to pray together via the live-streaming of the Mass. I am aware, though, that there are a number of our parish family members, especially our elders, who do not have accessibility to the internet. They have been able to find TV-broadcasted Masses, like the Mass celebrated by Bishop on Sundays on Channel 5 at 10:30 AM. We have given it our best effort to stay connected around the virtual Tables of the Lord's Word and Eucharist.

But let me just mention why a virtual Mass is far from the ideal. Let us never say, "Mass at home is so much better!" It really isn't!

The very nature of liturgy is that it is an action that takes place in real time. Jesus is really present in the assembly of people gathered, as well as when that assembly hears the proclamation of the Word together and receives the Sacrament of the Eucharist together. Our faith is not personal or private. Our friendship with Jesus is experienced in our friendship with one another. It is never about "Jesus and me" and always about "Jesus and us." The Word is spoken. The Body of Christ is broken and shared. The Blood of Christ is poured out and shared. We are physically present to see and hear and touch and taste - to speak our praises to the Lord! You really cannot do these holy actions virtually. As the Body of Christ is broken and the Blood of Christ is poured out in memory of Jesus, we are to become that Body of Christ. Communion is about coming into communion with Jesus and each other.

These "communions" are the lifelines of our spiritual lives.

The notion that we Catholics are obligated to attend Mass to avoid some kind of punishment from the Lord has clouded over what should be our only motive to attend Mass. We are not present for the celebration of Mass to avoid the Lord's displeasure. We are at Mass because we are committed to Jesus. He is our first love. In Jesus, we live and move and have our being. Communion with Jesus, our Redeemer, and in turn, with God, our Creator, and their Spirit, our Sanctifier, is our lifeline. Communion with our sisters and brothers is our lifeline. We are present at Mass, with all our mind, heart, soul and strength, because we realize without this connection we cannot live. That is why I attend Mass! What about you?

See you soon as we anticipate opening our parish home's doors for the celebration of Mass in person. I am really excited to be with you again around the Lord's Table. We will be very deliberate in welcoming you back and doing all we can to keep everyone safe and healthy! Stay tuned!

Thanks for taking the time to read this In Joy and Sorrow!

Father Bill +

May 31, 2020

THIS WEEK'S VIRTUAL EVENTS AT ST MARY

Mon., June 1 7pm	Virtual Alpha, session 10
Thur., June 4 1pm	Story Hour with Father Bill

PARISH OFFICE AND CHURCH HOURS

The parish office will be open from 8:00 am-1:00 pm Monday-Thursday, **closed on Friday**. The church will be open from 9:00 am-1:00 pm, Monday-Thursday. Please call Fr. Bill at *920-422-4316* with any needs.

PRAYER NEEDS

Contact Mary Jo Zilisch (920-734-1182 or 920-843-1249) or Laurie Richter (laurierichter@gmail.com) if you have a prayer need. Please remember the requests in our prayer baskets.

PRAYER CHAIN

We have an active prayer chain, and recognize that right now, prayers are of the highest importance. Please contact Deacon Gerry at the parish office or click on the Prayer Chain link on our parish website to be included as one of the people who pray for requested prayers, or to submit a prayer request.

COMMUNION SERVICE

Communion services will be held on Sundays, May 31st and June 7th. Those who wish to participate are encouraged to watch a live stream Mass or television broadcast before coming to receive. Complete details are available on the Watch Mass and COVID-19 resources pages of the parish website. The information specifies that masks will be required; we can provide them if you don't have one, and temperatures will be taken. You will also find a link to a SignupGenius for time slots for those days. Please read the information carefully and sign up to participate. We can accomodate up to 8 people for each 15 minute time slot.

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

Our scheduled intentions will be prayed during our online Masses at www.stmaryparish.org.

Tue., June 2	8:30 am For all health care workers and emergency personnel
Wed., June 3	8:30 am Janice Mercier
Thur., June 4	8:30 am Parishioners of St. Mary
Fri., June 5	8:30 pm Alice LeFevre
Sun., June 7	9:45 am Donna & John Francek, The well-being of the Dresang family, Marian Hanagan

IN LOVING MEMORY

Please pray for 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 to be remembered in the bulletin, call the parish office at 739-5119.

ST MARY PARISH SUPPORT

April	Budget	Received	Variance
received 5/18-5/22		$6,209	
May month-to-date	$56,500	$60,965	$4,465
7/1/19-5/31/20			
Fiscal **Year To Date**	$782,700	$728,448	$-54,252

WHAT IS FAITH DIRECT?

Faith Direct is a secure, super useful and easy way to support St. Mary Parish through electronic giving. **There are two easy ways to give with Faith Direct:**

1. Go to the parish website at stmaryparish.org and click on the Blue DONATE button in the upper-right corner of the homepage to get started.

2. **Text to Give** - Open a new text message and enter (920-294-1189) in the 'TO' Field; In the 'TEXT MESSAGE' field, enter a dollar amount, then hit SEND. You will be prompted for the next steps.

Need help with set-up? Call Faith Direct toll free: 1-866-507-8757 or contact Pam Acker in the parish office at (920) 739-5119 or packer@stmaryparish.org.

PARISH CONTACTS

Fr. Bill Swichtenberg
Pastor
cell 920-422-4316
wdswitz@stmaryparish.org

Dcn. Gerry Schraufnagel
Minister of Pastoral Care
cell 920-540-9594

Mary Ann Otto
Minister of Missionary Discipleship

Nadine Duncan
Minister of Neighborhood Pastoral Outreach & Parish Vitality

Tom Walter
Minister of Liturgical Music

Theresa Rohm
Minister of Business Administration

Pam Acker
Minister of Bookkeeping

Chip Acker
Minister of Cemetery & Facilities Management

Julie Morse
Minister of Administrative Assistance

Kathy Johnson
Minister of Communication Support

Ben Wolf
Youth Minister
738-7413

Joseph Galarowicz
Parish Trustee
419-1166

Ted Suess
Parish Trustee
636-8855

Cindy Boyer
Pastoral Leadership Council Chair
858-7345

Mike Hurley
Finance Council Chair
740-7077

FATHER'S DAY TRIBUTE

We are creating a slide show to celebrate Father's Day, and we need your help. Please send in a photo of your dad and include his name and a message. The slide show will be on our parish website, stmaryparish.org, for Father's Day weekend. Please send these in no later than Sunday, June 7th.

VIRTUAL SUPPORT FOR ST. JOSEPH FOOD PROGRAM

Let's have our (Virtual) Monthly Food Drive for St. Joseph Food Program this weekend! We are not able to collect food for the pantry yet, so please consider making a small financial donation to St. Joseph Food Pantry to help them keep their shelves stocked. Visit them at stjoesfoodprogram.org and click on "Donate Now" or mail a check to: *St. Joseph Food Program, 1465A Opportunity Way Menasha, WI 54952*

ARE YOU CURIOUS?

Are you interested in learning more about the Catholic Church? Perhaps you've been thinking of becoming a member of St. Mary Parish or perhaps you are just curious about what Catholics believe. If you'd like more information, please give Nadine a call at 920.659.1337 or drop her an email at nduncan@stmaryparish.org.

NEWSPAPERS

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, St. Mary Parish will no longer collect newspapers to be utilized by a local farmer. Please continue to care for our environment by recycling your newspapers with your local city recycling program. We are in the process of forming an environmental committee in the future to address ways St Mary can best care for planet earth.

FACE MASKS AVAILABLE

Cloth face masks have been donated by members of our parish sewers for those who need them. Please contact the parish office to make arrangements to get one. Thank you to those who provided them!

MASS INTENTIONS

There are open Mass intentions for this month and beyond. Please contact Julie in the parish office to schedule.

Vida

Our mission is to empower individuals to make healthy life-affirming decisions through education and medical services.

Vida, formerly Fox Valley Mother and Unborn Baby Care, has served thousands of pregnant women, children, and families in the Fox Valley over the past 38 years.

Our medical clinic, support services, and youth outreach programs aim to empower individuals to make healthy life-affirming decisions. It is even more important that our doors remain open during this pandemic health crisis so that Vida staff and volunteers are able to care for patients in the clinic and provide material support to clients in need. Your prayers and generosity enable us to be the hands and feet of Christ.

Vida is in desperate need of the following material donations:

- Diapers and wipes
- Gently used clothing up to 5T
- Cribs, bedding, and blankets
- High chairs
- Strollers

Visit *vidamedicalclinic.org/donate* to learn more about the above giving opportunities, to make a one-time or recurring donation, or to become a sponsor.

Together, we make a difference in the lives of the women, men, and children we serve every day.

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