



312 S. State Street  
Appleton, WI 54911

920-739-5119

stmaryparish.org

stmary@stmaryparish.org



*Ripples of God's Love, through our Hearts, to all Hearts*

September 13, 2020

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Dcn. Gerry Schraufnagel *Deacon*  
cell 920-540-9594

Mary Ann Otto *Minister of Missionary Discipleship*  
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Nadine Duncan *Minister of Pastoral Care*  
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Julie Morse *Minister of Administrative Assistance*  
stmary@stmaryparish.org

Kathy Johnson *Minister of Communication Support*  
kjohnson@stmaryparish.org



**Mass Times**

Saturday 4:30 pm  
Sunday 7:45 am, 9:45 am, 6:30 pm  
Monday 5:30 pm  
Tuesday 5:30 pm  
Wednesday 12:05 pm  
Thursday 12:05 pm

*No Mass on Friday*

**BAPTISM** Contact the the parish office

**CONFESSION** Saturdays, 9 - 10 AM &  
Tuesdays 6:15 - 7:15 PM, except for the 1st  
Tuesday of the month

**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

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS** Monday-Thursday from  
9 AM to 5 PM, closed on Friday

**Parish Trustees**

Joseph Galarowicz Ted Suess  
920-419-1166 920-636-8855

**Pastoral Leadership Council Chair**

Beth Power 703-819-4829

## WE JOIN IN PRAYER

### WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., Sept 14 5:30 pm Jerry Meyer  
 Tue., Sept 15 5:30 pm Parishioners of St. Mary  
 Wed., Sept 16 12:05 pm Dennis & Patti  
 Vandeburgt  
 Thur., Sept 17 12:05 pm Rick Martin  
 Sat., Sept 19 4:30 pm Dave & Debbie Wagner  
 Sun., Sept 20 7:45 am The Fisher Family  
 9:45 am Julie Ann Lauer  
 6:30 pm Bob & Sis Balliet

### PRAYER NEEDS

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

### 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.

### MASS ATTENDANCE

We are providing the Mass attendance numbers from last week to help you determine your safest options. Our church capacity at 25% is 120.

*Week of August 31-September 6*

Saturday, 4:30 pm	44	Sunday, 9:45 am	83
		Sunday, 6:30 pm	36
Monday, 5:30 pm	11	Tuesday, 5:30 pm	3
Wednesday, 12:05 pm	28	Thursday, 12:05 pm	24

## PARISH & COMMUNITY NEWS

### NEW PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The parish office will be open from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Thursday and closed on Friday.

### NEW SUNDAY MASS TIMES

We have some new Mass times on Sunday, at 7:45 am and 6:30 pm. The reason for the earlier time than our previous 8:00 am is to allow adequate time for cleaning and sanitization before the 9:45 am Mass.

We are placing a high priority on safety protocols by taking temperatures of those coming in for Mass, asking everyone to wear a mask, adjusted seating to allow for social distancing and providing hand sanitizer. In addition, there are altered procedures for receiving Communion and sanitizing the church between Masses.

### BEACON MINISTRIES

Our brand-new ministry serving infants through adults is off and running! Registration is open for classes to begin in October for students in grades 1-11. For more information or to register, go to our parish website or contact Mary Ann Otto, motto@stmaryparish.org or Emily Jenks, ejenks@stmaryparish.org. Both Mary Ann and Emily can also be reached at 920-739-5119.

### PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

We will be starting to meet in person again in a safe way as long as we are able to. We will meet at 1 pm on Tuesdays, Sept. 15, Oct. 6, 20, Nov. 3, 17, Dec. 1, 15. The location is at St. Joseph Parish in rooms L12 & L14.

## WE GIVE

### PARISH SUPPORT UPDATE

September 2020	Budget	Received	Variance
received 8/31-9/4		13,169	
September month-to-date	\$65,000	\$13,169	\$-51,831
7/1/20-9/30/20			
Fiscal Year To Date	\$192,000	\$143,238	\$-48,762

As students go back to school and calendars fill up, we prayerfully invite you to sign up for eGiving from your computer, smartphone or tablet and set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift through **Faith Direct**, our online giving provider.

Sign up today by visiting the parish website, click on the blue donate button, or faith.direct/WI990, or text 'Enroll' to (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: (920) 739-5119 or packer@stmaryparish.org.

Here is the homily I gave last weekend at St Bernard Parish, Appleton, for the Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A. I hope it is OK to share it with you with the hope that it may be helpful to you and me, especially in charting the sometimes rough waters of our relationships.

The deceased Archbishop of Chicago, Cardinal Joseph Bernardin, is a church man that I have the highest positive regard for. His ministry was centered on bringing Catholics, with differing viewpoints, around one table to find some common ground. He was the first to encourage the adoption of a consistent ethic of life from the womb to the tomb with his seamless garment image of the interconnectedness of all life issues. At the end of his life, as he struggled mightily with pancreatic cancer, he ministered so beautifully to his sisters and brothers who were sick and dying. And in the midst of all of this, in 1993, he was accused by a young man, Steven Cook, of sexual abuse. Later, as this young man was dying, he recanted his accusation and fully exonerated the Cardinal. The Cardinal made a special trip out to Philadelphia to tell Mr Cook that he forgave him. The Cardinal and his accuser were reconciled. They celebrated Mass together and Cardinal Joseph talked about family. He said this in his brief homily: "In every family, there are times where there is hurt, anger, and alienation. But we cannot run away from our family. We have only one family so we must make every effort to be reconciled. The Church is our spiritual family. Once we become a member, we may be hurt or become alienated but the Church is still our family. Since there is no other, we must work at reconciliation."

Jesus reminds us of the centrality of reconciliation in the life of a disciple - a friend and follower of Jesus. And Jesus lays out a specific process to follow for those who are seeking reconciliation with someone who has hurt us.

We all have difficult people in our lives. We all experience hurt or anger or alienation. What do we do with these feelings?

Jesus recommends a hard thing but the best thing. Jesus tells us to go to that person - to sit down with him or her - and to talk through our hurt feelings. I can't tell you how often I have had to remind people of this first step in reconciliation. Oftentimes, people want to go around the difficult person - to talk behind his or her back - to bring in another person, yours truly, to somehow fix the situation, or to get me on his or her side.

"Have you had a conversation with him or her?" "Well, not really." "Well, I am asking that you go do that first and if things are not resolved, then come back and talk to me. Do you need help in rehearsing in your mind and heart how you will bring up these difficult things?" "Yes, what do you suggest?"

Here are some important guidelines of how to operate in a conflict resolution process:

1. Remain calm. Speak calmly. Try not to raise your voice even if the other person is beginning to irritate you.

2. Avoid using the pronoun, you. You do this...You are so...You make me so angry...Don't do that. Use I. I feel so hurt..I feel so confused...I want to make things better between the two of us...I promise to...I will...
3. Give a concrete example or two. A son, who is confronting his dad about his drinking, might say, "Dad, I was so hoping you would be at my basketball game. I looked and looked for you in the stands. I was so disappointed when you didn't keep your promise to me."
4. Choose your words very carefully so that you can be heard. You might rehearse a bit ahead of time.
5. Ask the other person to simply hear you out. Listening is so very important for both of the people. Listen without jumping to a judgement - without thinking ahead to how you will respond. Try not to get defensive.
6. And pray long and hard ahead of time. "Come, Holy Spirit! Come, Holy Spirit!" And take a couple of deep breaths before you start.

Sometimes this strategy will work amazingly well and sometimes not. Then, Jesus suggests bringing a third person into the conversation. This may be a counselor or a pastor or pastoral person. This third person, who is completely neutral, can point out objective observations that may move the conversation forward in a positive way.

If this does not seem to help, Jesus then suggests bringing in more people. This is modeled in a family intervention with a member who is struggling with an addiction. Again, this has to be done very carefully, every word carefully chosen yet honest, with the hope that that loved one will seek help for his or her alcoholism or other addiction. This may or may not work.

Finally, Jesus says, if there is still an impasse after following his three-step plan, "Treat him (her) as you would a Gentile or tax collector."

And remember that Jesus never gave up on the Gentiles or the tax collectors. He simply continued to love them, without holding on to any inner animosity towards them. Pray for that grace to be at work in all of your difficult and painful relationships.

The great Nelson Mandela of South Africa, after being imprisoned for twenty-seven years on Robben Island, on the day of his release admitted, "As I walked out the door toward the gate that would lead to my freedom, I knew if I didn't leave my bitterness and hatred behind, I'd still be in prison."

I always remember this great quotation from the Great Madiba, so revered and respected.

Father Bill +