



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

October 4, 2020

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Your Ministers & Support Staff

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

Dcn. Gerry Schraufnagel
Deacon
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Tom Walter
Liturgical Music
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Nadine Duncan
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Chip Acker
Cemetery & Facilities Mgmt
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Kathy Johnson
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

COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS

We are following special procedures during the pandemic out of loving concern for all.

Masks to be worn at all times for those over the age of two.

Temperatures will be taken when coming to the building for any reason, either at the main church entrance for Mass or at the parish office during office hours.

Hand sanitizer is available throughout the building for your use. Please sanitize when entering the building.

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

Finance Council Chair
Mike Hurley 920-707-7077

PRAYER NEEDS

Contact Luanne Witthuhn (dlaawi@gmail.com) or Ann Walkowski (920-428-0969) 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.



Ripples of God's Love, through our hearts, to all hearts

Nadine Duncan, Minister of Pastoral Care

October 4, 2020

St. Mary Parish is blessed to have two catechumens and six candidates who are growing in their relationship with Jesus and preparing to enter the Catholic Church through the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA). A catechumen is someone preparing to receive all three Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist). A candidate has been baptized as a Christian or Catholic but has not received all the Sacraments of Initiation. The parish family is vital to the formation of catechumen and candidates. This is a challenge now that we cannot gather as a parish family as we used to. So, we will be creative and find ways to help us get to know each other. First, let's hear from these wonderful brothers and sisters who are seeking God and our community with their whole hearts.

Our youngest catechumen is

Layna Petersen.

"I want to join the Catholic Church so I can get closer to my faith and grow my relationship with God. I am in a program called RCIA with Mr. Duncan and my youth sponsor, Catie Power. Both of them have helped me with my journey and have taught me valuable lessons. One of my favorite lessons that has resonated with me is to not judge a book by its cover and to see the person for who they are. While the RCIA meetings and the Church services have been virtual, I feel like I built on the foundation of my religious knowledge and beliefs. Some other people who have helped me through my journey are my parents, family, and friends."

Our newest member and other catechumen is

James Gower.

"Hello my name is James Gower. I moved to the Fox valley in the middle of the pandemic to work in the Environmental Testing field. I am glad to be in the area, and hope to learn more about the church."

And now for our candidates:

Beth Vanderloop:

"I was baptized and brought up in the WELS Lutheran faith. My relationship with St. Mary Parish began around 2015, when I started attending mass with my now husband, Nathan. The more I attended St. Mary's, the more I felt my relationship with God grow. When Nathan and I got engaged, we agreed that St. Mary's was where we wanted to be married and make it our church home as we looked to start a family. In 2019, we were blessed with the arrival of our son, Gabriel. It is important to Nathan and me that Gabriel is raised in the Christian faith. By joining the Catholic Church, my prayer is that with God's grace and guidance, Nathan and I will be able to provide our family with a firm foundation in faith that will lead to a lifelong relationship with God."

Jake Zwayer:

"My wife, Alex and I are from a rural town south of Columbus, OH and have been together since 10th grade (roughly 14 years now!). I was raised in a small Methodist church while she was raised in the Catholic Faith. After getting married, moving to Wisconsin, and now trying to start a family, we see the importance of raising our children in a single, close-knit church family. This has inspired me to begin the process of learning more about and hopefully joining the Catholic Faith with Alex, my wife who is my sponsor."

Throughout RCIA, Nadine has been amazing in her leadership with the class. I feel that I have not only been able to learn the tradition, meaning, and nuances behind the Catholic Faith, but I have also come closer to God and have a sense of renewed energy as a Christian. My favorite parts of RCIA have been exploring the rich background and reasoning behind all the church traditions that take place in the Catholic Faith as this is something quite different from what I am used to in the Methodist church. This insight has amplified the meaning of Mass for me and has allowed me to feel much more a part of the congregation. I am excited to become a member of the Catholic Church and look forward to my family and my continued journey."



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Nadine Duncan, Minister of Pastoral Care

Amanda Lee:

"I was baptized Lutheran when I was a few weeks old; however, I did not have a religious upbringing. I've longed for the Holy for as long as I can remember, so I've tried many different paths and forms of spirituality. When I came to St. Mary's, I related to Fr. Bill's homilies and loved the Mass. While I felt closer to God, I felt I couldn't participate—I didn't understand what was happening, what I could do and didn't know if I'd ever be able to become Catholic. RCIA has helped address some of these concerns. Nadine has answered my questions and has graciously agreed to be my sponsor. RCIA has helped answer questions of what Catholicism is, but has also encouraged me to seek Jesus personally with Lectio Divina and sharing with the group. This has been the most difficult and most important part of RCIA—what I've been looking for."

Marissa Menting:

"My name is Marissa Menting. I was born and raised in a Catholic family, and was taken out of the religion classes I took as a kid a little early. As I grew into an adult I always knew I wanted to make it official and get confirmed, which is why I joined the RCIA classes. The relationship I have with God is important to me, and I feel that through the RCIA classes my relationship has grown stronger. Along with me on my journey is my mom Lynn, who will be my sponsor. We both have found the classes helpful, and are both excited for our future at St. Mary's!"

Charles Nickols:

"My name is Charles Nickols. I am a retired disabled Marine veteran. I was raised in a Pentecostal church, and unfortunately for several years have had very little religion in my life. My sponsor is my wife Diane, who was born and raised Catholic. I am hoping to explore in detail an understanding of Catholicism, to include the Mass in its entirety. I look forward to reconciliation and receiving the Body and Blood of Christ. I hope to embrace this religion, have our marriage of 36 years blessed by the Church, and to find my way to God through the Catholic Church. I wish to achieve this journey together with my wife, especially in the last stages of our lives together."

Drew Hoppes:

"Hi, I'm Drew Hoppes. I'm originally from Waterloo, Iowa and moved to Appleton about 2-1/2 years ago. I was raised up and baptized as a Baptist. My fiancée, Rachel has been a Catholic her whole life. I'm looking to become Catholic to be the same faith as my fiancé. We have chosen St. Mary's because we felt welcomed the minute we arrived. I look forward to continuing to learn about the catholic faith during my RCIA journey."

Please pray for our catechumen and candidates, for their sponsors and our catechists. Anyone can begin their journey in RCIA at any time. If you are interested in learning more about RCIA, call me (920-659-1337) or send me an email (nduncan@stmaryparish.org). We would love to have you join our spiritual family of God at St. Mary Parish.

+ Peace, Nadine

WE JOIN IN GOD'S GRACE

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., Oct 5	5:30 pm	Parishioners of St. Mary
Tue., Oct 6	5:30 pm	Hospital staff caring for COVID patients
Wed., Oct 7	12:05 pm	Andrew Kramer
Thur., Oct 8	12:05 pm	Mr. & Mrs. Jayce Kumar
Sat., Oct 10	4:30 pm	Loraine & Vernon Collar
Sun., Oct 11	7:45 am	Parishioners of St. Mary
	9:45 am	Ruth Carew
	6:30 pm	Catechists, students, families and staff involved in Beacon ministries

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 September 21-27

Monday, 5:30 pm	10	Saturday, 4:30 pm	56
Tuesday, 5:30 pm	12	Sunday 7:45 am	31
Wednesday, 12:05 pm	35	Sunday, 9:45 am	63
Thursday, 12:05 pm	26	Sunday, 6:30 pm	16

VOLUNTEER RECEPTIONISTS

“Christian Discipleship begins with you and me saying “yes”, as Dcn. Gerry said in his homily this weekend. The parish office is in need of volunteer receptionists to fill openings for every other Monday from 9:00 am-12:30 pm and every other Tuesday from 12:30-4:30 pm to answer phones and assist with staff projects. Please contact Julie Morse in the parish office, 739-5119 or stmary@stmaryparish.org.

BEACON MINISTRIES



The Beacon Ministries team is preparing for the launch of our student sessions beginning this week. We've discovered that many of our families desire at-home

support, rather than in-person sessions. Here's what to expect for each age group:

Grades 1-5*

We'll have a brief virtual meet-up on our scheduled Wednesday night sessions to pray together and hear a short message, which will be recorded for watching at a later time. We'll also provide a Bible for each child and a Bible-based family resource filled with questions that the family can do together, keeping in mind the grade level of each child. An in-person Advent Family Evening will be offered in early December.

*Note: Grade 5: A number of our 5th grade families are interested in attending in person. We will contact these families to discuss an option to join 6th graders in-person on Sunday evenings.

Grades 6-8

A dozen families of middle school students elected to meet in person. We'll still plan on holding middle school sessions in person but will be closely monitoring COVID-19 case numbers. A virtual zoom option will be held on Sunday evenings, alternating with our in-person sessions.

Grade 9-10

We will contact all our 9th & 10th grade families this week to check in and will likely move to virtual sessions. This year, we are thrilled to have Erin Tillman, an intern from Spiritus, working with St. Mary staff. She will be offering additional in-person youth ministry options for high schoolers throughout the school year.

Grade 11

Our Confirmation group is building at a steady pace. Confirmation preparation will start in January and families can expect additional communication in November. Please register if you have not done so already.

WE GRATEFULLY GIVE

With the cooler weather and the fall colors, our thoughts turn to stewardship as we gratefully acknowledge our blessings. 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.

PARISH SUPPORT UPDATE

September 2020	Budget	Received	Variance
received 9/21-9/25		5,997	
September month-to-date	\$65,000	\$56,263	\$-8,737
7/1/20-9/30/20			
Fiscal Year To Date	\$192,000	\$186,332	\$-5,668

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.

BEACON MINISTRIES FOR ADULTS



Connect, Pray, and Reflect on the Sunday Scriptures

Wed. Morning (masked and safely distanced) Join us as we gather together from 9:00 am-10:00 am. We will meet in the Community Room. This group has been meeting and everyone is Welcome!

Virtual Purpose Driven Life Connect Group

Thurs. Evenings-If you haven't participated in this discussion, now might be a great time! This six session conversation contains many of the ideas found in St. Mary's Vision and Mission Statement. The sessions will be from October 15th through November 19th from 6:00 pm-7:00 pm using Zoom. We will use the book, What on Earth Am I Here For? Purpose Driven Life. The video will be played during the session. For more information contact Mary Ann at motto@stmaryparish.org or 739-5119.

PICNIC TABLE REQUEST

The CELC (St. Mary School Building) is looking for a picnic table or a used patio set for staff to eat outside or take a "fresh air" break. If you have one that you would consider donating, please contact Theresa in the parish office at 739-5119. Thank you!

OCTOBER COLLECTION FOR ST. JOSEPH FOOD PROGRAM

Our tradition of collection food items for the St. Joseph Food Program has started again! The October items are typically baking items, but given the current need, here is a list of items that are also requested:

- Canned fruit 100% fruit juice
- Low sodium canned vegetables
- Canned chicken & tuna
- Whole grain rice, oatmeal, cereal, pasta
- Boxed meal kits

Donations can be left on the cart in the back of church. Monetary donations can be left in the box, mailed to church, or made directly to stjoesfoodprogram.org.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

We are meeting in person again in a safe way as long as we are able to. We will meet from 1:00-3:00 pm on Tuesdays, October 6 & 20 at St. Joseph Parish in rooms L12 & L14.

XHS PREVIEW NIGHT

St. Francis Xavier High School will host a preview night on October 12th at 6:30 pm for prospective students and parents. Join us for a unique opportunity to experience Xavier through they eyes of a student. Learn about the faith, academic, fine-art, co-curricular and Christian service opportunities that await your child. Register for this fun, informative, student-led event at bit.ly/2ZkuLFt or 920-733-6632.

www.xaviercatholicschools.org



It's what's on the inside that counts!



IT'S A BIG DEAL.



THE COMMUNITY
BLOOD CENTER
connecting lives | sharing life



HEATHER AND ELLA - received blood



BRAD - received blood



MIRA - received blood

It's so much more than a blood donation. It's a lifeline.
Blood donation is a big deal.

ST. MARY PARISH BLOOD DRIVE

312 S State Street, Appleton, WI 54911

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4
7:00 AM - 11:30 AM

To schedule your life-saving donation, please visit www.save3lives.org. Use Sponsor Code A364. You may also sign up by calling The Community Blood Center at (800)-280-4102. We encourage you to register in advance and appreciate your generosity and support. Thank you!