



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 11, 2020

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Your Ministers & Support Staff

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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 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 the family of Shirley Rezin, mother of Scott Rezin. 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.

The Catholic Church in the United States observes October as Respect Life Month, placing that hope into the hands of Mary, the Mother of the Church, so that she might go to her Son, Jesus, to beg him to touch our hearts with a deep conviction of the value of every human person, beginning with that precious little baby in his or her mother's womb. Every human being is created in the image and likeness of God and has great dignity and value. This sacred worth can never be stripped away from any human being, no matter what he or she has done.

One of my mentors is Cardinal Joseph Bernardin, the Archbishop of Chicago, who died of pancreatic cancer in November of 1996. I have mentioned many times his beautiful book, The Gift of Peace, which is his last will and testament, if you will. Also on my bookshelf are two volumes of the Cardinal's homilies, speeches, and papers. His body of work is impressive and his thought is still relevant for our consideration and prayer in 2020.

In November of 1983, Cardinal Bernardin delivered the Fr Gannon Lecture at Fordham University in New York City. It was in this talk that he laid out his thinking behind his suggestion that we embrace as Catholics a consistent ethic of life.

The image that has been linked to the consistent ethic of life is Jesus' seamless garment. Recall that each member of the cohort of Roman soldiers who carried out the Procurator Pontius Pilate's order for Jesus' crucifixion hoped to take a piece of Jesus' robe home as a memento of the day, but the garment was seamless and could not be ripped into pieces. So, the soldiers ended up throwing dice and only one of them was "lucky" to win the robe. The movie, "The Robe," tells the story of how Jesus changed the life of the soldier who received it.

In his important address, Cardinal Bernardin said this: "If one contends, as we do, that the right of every fetus to be born should be protected by civil law and supported by civil consensus, then our moral, political and economic responsibilities do not stop at the moment of birth. Those who defend the right to life of the weakest among us must be equally visible in support of the quality of life of the powerless among us; the old and the young, the hungry and the homeless, the undocumented immigrant and the unemployed worker. Such a quality of life posture translates into specific political and economic positions on tax policy, employment generation, welfare policy, nutrition and feeding programs, and health care. Consistency means we cannot have it both ways. We cannot urge a compassionate society and vigorous public policy to protect the rights of the unborn and then argue that compassion and significant public programs on behalf of the needy undermine the moral fiber of the society or are beyond the scope of governmental responsibility."

In his apostolic exhortation on holiness, "Rejoice and Be Glad," Pope Francis says the same thing this way: "Our defense of the innocent unborn needs to be clear, firm and passionate, for at stake is the dignity of a human life, which is always cared for and demands love for each person, regardless of his or her stage of development. Equally sacred, however, are the lives of the poor, those already born, the destitute, the abandoned and the underprivileged, the vulnerable infirm and elderly exposed to covert euthanasia, the victims of human trafficking, new forms of slavery, and every form of rejection. We cannot uphold an ideal of holiness that would ignore injustice in a world where some revel, spend with abandon and live only for the latest consumer goods, even as others look on from afar, living their entire lives in abject poverty."

It seems to me, that as a Catholic Church, we are struggling to endorse this notion of a consistent ethic of life proposed by both Cardinal Bernardin and Pope Francis. I would suggest that most Catholics are pro-birth. To be "pro-life," however, means that we uphold the sacred dignity of the human person in the womb and all the way to her or his natural death. Impacting the sacred and precious dignity of the human person are issues like poverty, a broken immigration system, gun violence and mass shootings, adequate health care, the death penalty, climate change, racism, sexual harassment and abuse, human trafficking, the need to respond with compassion, sensitivity and understanding to our LGBTQ sisters and brothers, a just wage for all, and euthanasia or "mercy killing."

There is no political party or candidate for political office who embraces completely this notion of a consistent ethic of life. Having formed our consciences, each one of us is free to vote as we see fit, after having given due consideration to these pro-life issues that must all be addressed to further the building up of God's Kingdom here on earth.

May the Holy Spirit of Wisdom place Her Bright Wings over our nation! May Mary, the Mother of the Church, petition Jesus on our behalf so that many more of our citizens will treasure the sanctity of all human life from the womb to the tomb! May our reverence of the seamless garment of the Crucified Jesus remind us of the interconnectedness of all of the pro-life issues!

Father Bill +

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: PARISH ANNUAL MEETING

The parish annual meeting will be held this **Sunday, October 11th, at 11:00 am** in the Community Room. In light of the pandemic, virtual attendance is recommended, although those who wish to participate in person will be welcome. A link to the Zoom meeting will be sent in the Thursday Flocknote.

The Annual Report will be available on the parish website.

BEACON MINISTRIES



...AND WE'RE OFF!

The last two weeks have brought excitement as we've launched the first of our Beacon Ministry events! Our First Reconciliation students attended an open house on September 23 where they picked up materials, received a blessing from Father Bill, and even opened a special present!

Sunday evening our Middle School students kicked-off their sessions with a group Zoom. They enjoyed meeting one another, learned a bit about St. Francis, and played a game celebrating creation!

Elementary News

Grade 1-5 families were invited to the Beacon Ministries open house Wednesday between 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm to pick up their session materials. All safety protocols were observed.

Parents were encouraged to attend the virtual parent meeting on Wednesday after the open house from 8:00 pm-8:30 pm.

Middle & High School News

With guidance from the Diocese and in response to our locally increased cases of Covid we have made the decision to move all the middle and high school sessions from "in-person" to virtual sessions. We'll follow the same calendar as was scheduled for the in-person and virtual. All students are invited to attend all of the virtual session.

Our next virtual sessions for both groups will be on October 18th. Get your costumes ready for a costume party - prizes will be awarded! Stay tuned for a communication regarding at-home materials.

It's not too late to join us for Beacon! Registration is just two simple steps: 1) Complete the registration form on the parish website. 2) Submit Payment - head to stmaryparish.org to pay securely online through FaithDirect, or mail a check to the parish office.

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., Oct 12	5:30 pm	Jerry Morrissey
Tue., Oct 13	5:30 pm	Joe & Viv Kaufman & family
Wed., Oct 14	12:05 pm	Mary Jury
Thur., Oct 15	12:05 pm	Theresa & Edward Gierl
Sat., Oct 17	4:30 pm	Frank & Naelie Moran
Sun., Oct 18	7:45 am	JoAnn Koehnke
	9:45 am	In Thanksgiving for Richard & Ann Ciske's 67th Anniversary
	6:30 pm	Parishioners of St. Mary

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 28-October 3

Monday, 5:30 pm	5	Saturday, 4:30 pm	52
Tuesday, 5:30 pm	11	Sunday 7:45 am	46
Wednesday, 12:05 pm	25	Sunday, 9:45 am	51
Thursday, 12:05 pm	32	Sunday, 6:30 pm	29

WE GRATEFULLY GIVE

With the approaching holiday season, 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

October 2020	Budget	Received	Variance
received 9/28-10/2		4,085	
October month-to-date	\$65,000	\$4,085	\$-60,915
7/1/20-10/31/20			
Fiscal Year To Date	\$192,000	\$190,417	\$-66,583

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 HAPPENINGS



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.

SUNDAY MASS DISPENSATION REINSTATED

On Monday, October 5, Bishop Ricken reinstated the dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass in the diocese until further notice. Even with the reinstatement, we will continue to celebrate the Mass publically every weekend for those who are able to attend and willing to strictly follow the proper health protocols. During this time of increased infection, our parish needs to be even more vigilant in observing the health protocols shared in the diocesan guidelines to prevent the spread of disease and allow as many people as is safe to come to Mass without fear of infection. The wearing of masks is mandatory at Masses celebrated throughout our diocese. Thank you for your support and compliance as we as a community of faith come together to worship in safety.

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 Tuesday, Oct. 20 at St. Joseph Parish in rooms L12 & L14.

OUR COMMUNITY

XHS PREVIEW NIGHT RESCHEDULED



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

Due to the rise in COVID-19 in the community and the Governor's recent order, Xavier High School has moved Preview Night to Wednesday, November 18th at 6:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Theatre. If families have already registered, they will be registered for the program in November. The preview night is geared for prospective students and parents. Join us for a unique opportunity to experience Xavier through the 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

CHRISTMAS STARS 2020



Christmas Stars 2020, will be presented in a one-hour "TV Christmas Special" format, professionally produced by

Champion Video. You will be able to watch it from the comfort and safety of your home through your computer or smart TV. Our patrons can expect the usual fun and inspiration with an added dose of "TV magic". So gather the family (we suggest adding a big bowl of popcorn and some hot chocolate) and enjoy a new version of this favorite Christmas tradition!

The streaming performances will run every day from December 11-25 at 3:00 & 7:00 pm. Additional 1:00 pm performances are available on select days.

Tickets for each performance are \$13. Get tickets and a complete schedule of performances at www.christmasstars.org or call the box office, 920-733-8840. Please note: the Xavier Fine Arts Theatre box office is closed to all visitors at this time, but is open for phone orders Monday & Wednesday from noon until 3:00 pm.