

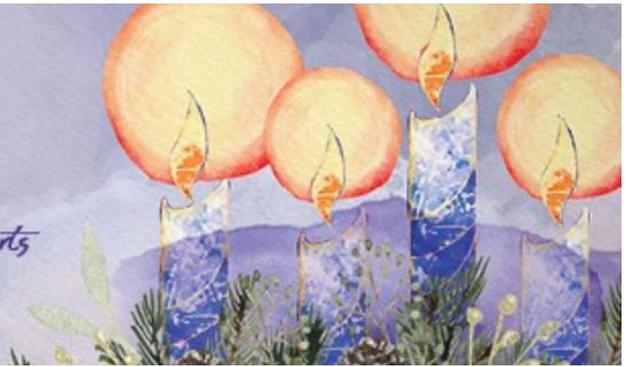
Bulletin/Weekly Update

November 29, 2020

First Sunday of Advent

Ripples of God's Love, from Our Hearts, to All Hearts

ST MARY
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



CHRISTMAS SUPPORT

Is your family experiencing financial struggle this year? We have resources available to help provide relief to our parish family members who may need help this Christmas season. Please contact Emily for more information at ejenks@stmaryparish.org or 739-5119 x121. All inquiries will be kept confidential.

NEEDS TREE

This year, our Human Concerns Committee is asking for monetary donations so that a small group of volunteers can shop for items to fill needs. If you'd like to contribute, the deadline is **Tuesday, December 1**. Donations can be made using Faith Direct (click [HERE](#) for instructions), mailed to the parish office or given to an usher on Sunday. Thank you for playing an important part in bringing the spirit of Christmas to those in need!

WARMING SHELTER MEALS

We filled the Warming Shelter meal sign-up! Thank you to all those who volunteered. Keep an eye on your email for a Sign-Up Genius reminder.



UPDATES FROM ST. MARY'S BEACON MINISTRIES

BEACON PADDLERS (Gr. 1-2) and SWIMMERS (Gr. 3-5)

Beacon families popped in on Monday to pick up their *Advent Experience Bags* on Monday Nov. 23. The activities and surprises within will help families stay focused on the "Holy Event" that is Christmas while having fun and making family faith memories. Using their beautiful Bibles, they will explore Advent and some of the most famous characters of the Old Testament who were waiting for the Messiah too. They will make their own Advent wreath and 12 ornaments for their very own Jesse Tree. Let the fun begin!

BEACON DEEP DIVERS (Gr. 6-8) and SAILORS (High School)

At our last meeting, the Middle School Beacon youth had an evening of Thanksgiving fun! They did a scavenger hunt for Thanksgiving themed items, shared some fun facts about the Catholic Thanksgiving connection, and wrote a letter of Thanksgiving to the Lord.

Our High School youth were privileged to share a Monday night session with Missy from Samaritan Counseling on stress management.

We are on break November 29. Next sessions will be Sunday, December 6.

BEACON VOYAGERS (adults)

Connect Groups: Explore the Sunday readings

LED BY FATHER BILL - VIRTUAL

Monday mornings | 9-10am | Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14 & 21

Tuesday evenings | 7:30-8:30pm | Dec. 1, 8, 15 & 21*

*note: Dec. 21 is a Monday

LED BY MARY ANN OTTO - IN PERSON

Wednesday mornings | 9-10am | Dec 2, 9, 16 & 23

socially distanced and masked in Community Room

To sign up for any of the sessions, contact Mary Ann Otto at motto@stmaryparish.org.

Homily Series "Come Lord Jesus, Our Stillness in the Chaos"

Find Homily Connect cards at stmaryparish.org/st-mary-blog

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Monday, November 30, 5:30pm	Vernon & Alice McGinnis
Tuesday, December 1, 5:30pm	In memory of Patricia Ann Garvey
Wednesday, December 2, 12:05pm	Parishioners of St. Mary
Thursday, December 3, 12:05pm	Mary Brown
Saturday, December 5, 4:30pm	Erica Lynn Baumgart
Sunday, December 6, 7:45am	George & Agnes Wydeven
9:45am	Lauren Ann Arkens
6:30pm	Ed & Mary Holtz

MASS ATTENDANCE

In an effort to help you determine your safest options, we are providing Mass attendance numbers from the previous week. For reference, our church capacity at 25% is 120. Week of Nov. 16-22:

Monday, 5:30 pm (8)	Saturday, 4:30 pm (52)
Tuesday, 5:30 pm (9)	Sunday 7:45 am (48)
Wednesday, 12:05 pm (32)	Sunday, 9:45 am (52)
Thursday, 12:05 pm (23)	Sunday, 6:30 pm (16)

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 them to be remembered in the bulletin, call the parish office at 739-5119.

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.

CALENDAR

Monday, Nov. 30

9:00am Virtual Connect Group w/Father Bill

10:00am Beacon Ministries Steering Committee/Community Rm

6:30pm Advent Evening of Prayer/Church *live stream at stmaryparish.org

7:00pm Boy Scouts/St. Anne Room

Tuesday, Dec. 1

1:00pm St. Mary & St. Joseph Prayer Shawl Group/St. Joseph, L12 & L14

2:00pm Rosary Group/Chapel

6:15pm Confessions/Chapel

7:30pm Virtual Connect Group w/Father Bill

Wednesday, Dec. 2

9:00am Connect Group w/Mary Ann Otto/Community Rm

12:35pm Holy Hour/Church

6:15pm Beacon Ministries Paddlers & Swimmers (virtual Session - Zoom)

Thursday, Dec. 3

7:00pm Cor Jesu/Church & Community Rm

Friday, Dec. 4

Parish office closed

Saturday, Dec. 5

9:00am Confessions/Chapel

10:00am THEO/Community Rm

Sunday, Dec. 6

11:00am RCIA/Community Room

6:00pm Beacon Ministries Deep Divers (virtual Session - Zoom)

7:00pm Beacon Ministries Sailors (virtual Session - Zoom)

QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS FOR THOSE LEAST 70½ YEARS OLD

Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) can make your contributions less taxing. If you are at least 70 ½ years old and have a Traditional IRA you may be able to reduce your income taxes and improve your cash flow with this strategy.

QCDs require a direct transfer from your IRA custodian to a 501(c)(3) charity. (St. Mary Parish is one, for example). You may donate up to \$100,000 per year this way, and the distributions are generally not included in taxable income but count towards your required IRA distribution (these are waived for tax year 2020). Itemizing deductions isn't required, so you can use the full standard deduction and still get a tax benefit for charitable contributions. You might even wish to increase your contribution due to the tax savings!

WE GRATEFULLY GIVE

With the vibrant fall colors and cooler nights, our thoughts turn to stewardship as we gratefully acknowledge our blessings. We prayerfully invite you to sign up for e-giving with Faith Direct, our online giving provider. From your computer, smartphone or tablet, you'll be able to set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift.

St. Mary Parish Support			
November 2020	Budget	Received	Variance
received 11/16- 11/20/2020		18,044	
November- month to date:	69,000	55,949	-13,051
7/1/20-11/30/2020			
Fiscal Year To Date :	326,000	302,688	-23,312

There are two easy ways to give with Faith Direct:

1. Head to stmaryparish.org and click on the blue DONATE button in the upper-right corner of the homepage.
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? Call Faith Direct at 1-866-507-8757 or contact Pam Acker in the parish office at (920) 739-5119 or packer@stmaryparish.org.

YOUR MINISTERS & SUPPORT STAFF

Fr. Bill Swichtenberg, Pastor

wdswitz@stmaryparish.org
cell 920-422-4316

Nadine Duncan

Pastoral Care
nduncan@stmaryparish.org

Tom Walter

Liturgical Music
twalter@stmaryparish.org

Theresa Rohm

Business Administrator
trohm@stmaryparish.org

Chip Acker

Cemetery & Facilities Management
cacker@stmaryparish.org

Parish Trustees

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

Pastoral Leadership Council Chair

Beth Power 703-819-4829

Finance Council Chair

Mike Hurley 920-707-7077

St. Mary Cemetery

920-882-4158

Xavier Catholic School System

920-735-9380

Dcn. Gerry Schraufnagel

Deacon
cell 920-540-9594

Mary Ann Otto

Missionary Discipleship
motto@stmaryparish.org

Emily Jenks

Neighborhood Outreach & Parish Vitality,
ejenks@stmaryparish.org

Pam Acker

Bookkeeper
packer@stmaryparish.org

Julie Morse

Administrative Assistant
stmary@stmaryparish.org

Marriage

Congratulations! Contact Fr. Bill at least 6 months before your planned wedding date.

Baptism

Congratulations! Contact the parish office for information.

Confession

Saturdays, 9-10am and Tuesdays 6:15-7:15pm
(except for the 1st Tuesday of the month)

In Joy and Hope with Father Bill

Two gifts on my bookshelf are the reflections of Ann Weems, who has written [Kneeling in Bethlehem](#) to accompany seekers journeying through the Advent and Christmas seasons, and a companion volume, [Kneeling in Jerusalem](#), for the Lent and Easter seasons.

Here is her selection titled "Yesterday's Pain":

Some of us walk into Advent
tethered to our unresolved yesterdays
the pain still stabbing
the hurt still throbbing.
It's not that we don't know better;
it's just that we can't stand up anymore by ourselves.
On the way to Bethlehem,
will you give us a hand?

Our yesterdays in the season of a global pandemic have been upsetting to many people. Put yourself in the place of tens of thousands of people across our land who will be missing during the Christmas season a loved one who has died, especially from the coronavirus. It pierces my heart to think that we may have saved some of our dear family members and friends if we would have had a national concerted, consistent plan to address this dangerous virus.

So many of our sisters and brothers will experience food deprivation during this holy season. I am confident that many compassionate citizens and organizations will come to their aid. Perhaps you and I can make a difference as well.

I can't imagine what it would be like to celebrate Christmas in a refugee camp somewhere in our world. These are usually not pleasant places as people hold on for dear life to a dream for a better life. Every one of us, as members of the human family, have a right to find a home where peace and security are assured. Let us remember to pray for the children living in these difficult situations.

Advent is a promise that our world and our lives can get better. Jesus, God's Love made visible, was born into an unwelcoming place yet there was the brilliance of the light of hope and the hope-filled song of the angels announcing the prospect of peace for all people.

In the Middle Ages, it was a common practice to place a small chunk of wood into a full bucket of well water. This simple tactic kept the water from sloshing over the sides of the pail while carrying the water back home.

Advent reminds us to put Jesus at the center of our lives. During this holy season, we will be reflecting together on the human cry, "Come, Lord Jesus, our Stillness in the Chaos!" There is great strength in petitioning Jesus to place on our hearts his precious gift of stillness. When we disengage for a moment from the uncertainties and anxieties of our days, we can find hope and healing in the arms of Jesus. We can recognize people in our midst who have placed the Peace of Jesus into their hearts. They reorient us to the reality that no darkness can snuff out the light of love and that all divisions can give way to harmony, if we but trust enough.

Interestingly, the last words of the Christian Scriptures (that is, the New Testament) as found in Revelation, verse 20b-21, are "Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord be with all."

Twenty-one centuries later that cry remains our deepest prayer. Come, Lord Jesus! Still our anxious hearts! Come, Lord Jesus! Make our homes your dwelling place! Come, Lord Jesus! Make our nation a land that offers hope to all people! Come, Lord Jesus! Make our world one peaceful family!

Advent reminds us that we always have reason to hope!
Father Bill +



ADVENT 2020

St. Mary Catholic Community

PREPARE

- **Advent Evenings of Prayer** In person & live streamed at stmaryparish.org
New this year! Savor the season of Advent with readings and music.
Monday evenings, 6:30-7:30pm (Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14 & 21)
- **Window Display** A returning favorite!
Watch the Christmas story unfold in the windows along State Street. Tune your car radio to 89.5FM to hear the story, and enjoy the added outdoor decorations this year.
- **Connect Groups** Explore the Sunday readings
Contact Mary Ann to register - motto@stmaryparish.org
LED BY FATHER BILL - VIRTUAL
Monday mornings | 9-10am | Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14 & 21
Tuesday evenings | 7:30-8:30pm | Dec. 1, 8, 15 & 21*
**note: Dec. 21 is a Monday*
LED BY MARY ANN OTTO - IN PERSON
Wednesday mornings | 9-10am | Dec 2, 9, 16 & 23
- **Advent Homily Series** "Come Lord Jesus, Our Stillness in the Chaos"
Find Homily Connect cards at stmaryparish.org/st-mary-blog/

NEW! FACEBOOK GROUP Ripples of God's Love: Advent Edition



Let's be together, even if we can't
BE together! We'll share prayers,
reflections, inspiration, and fun as
we walk through Advent.

Invite your family & friends - no need to
be a member of St. Mary!
Just search the group name
on Facebook and send a
request to join.

FAMILY FUN

- **ROCKs Family Advent Project** The Blessing Jar
A project kit with materials and instructions will be delivered to all registered families with children in grades K-8 as part of a St. Nick gift package. Extra kits will be available for pick up in the back of church.
- **Virtual Movie Night** For middle and high school students
All households with kids in grades 6-12: watch for a special package to arrive at your home, containing treats and an invite to a movie night on December 13.
- **Storytime with Father Bill**
Enjoy the Christmas story read by Father Bill! Watch it at stmaryparish.org beginning December 22.

RECONCILIATION

- **Experience peace & healing in the Sacrament of Reconciliation**
Tuesday evenings | 6:15-7:15pm | Dec. 1, 8 & 15
Saturday mornings | 9-10am | Dec. 5, 12, 19 & 26
Fr. Bill Keeping the Church Lights On | Dec. 22 | 6:15-9:15pm

NEW! VIDEO CHRISTMAS CARD & PHOTO TREE

- **Missing the friendly faces of your parish family?**

Us too! Be a part of our video Christmas Card and an ornament on our Family Christmas Tree. We are hoping to include as many of you as possible.

HOW DO I PARTICIPATE?

Send a picture, selfie, or short video greeting to your parish family to volunteer@stmaryparish.org

OR

Send a photo of your family to the parish office by Dec. 20. (312 S. State Street, Appleton, WI, 54911)

We'll compile all the photos and videos we receive into a video Christmas card and post it on stmaryparish.org on Christmas Eve for you to enjoy. All the photos will be hung on the trees around the creche in the church as a way to celebrate our very own holy families.

Questions? Contact Nadine.nduncan@stmaryparish.org

NEW! OPEN HOUSE

- **Your very own time to be in the St. Mary church**

The pandemic is requiring us to rethink Christmas traditions. For many parishioners and guests, a favorite one is gathering in the beautiful St. Mary church for Mass, but this may not be a possibility for you this year. In an effort to provide a safer opportunity for you to visit church, we'll be holding an Open House on the weekend of Dec. 26/27.

Watch stmaryparish.org and upcoming bulletins for information on how to sign up for a time slot. Only one family group will be allowed per slot, so you'll have space to see the decorations, view the creche, take those family pictures by the altar, pray, and soak in the peaceful atmosphere.

SERVICE/MISSION

- **Needs Tree**

This year, our Human Concerns Committee is asking for monetary donations. A small group of volunteers will then shop for needed items. If you'd like to contribute, have your donation to the parish office no later than Tuesday, December 1. Consider adding the recipients of items to your prayers this Advent.

WORSHIP (MASSES)

- **The Immaculate Conception**
December 8 | **5:30pm**
- **Christmas Eve** (no 12:05 Mass)
December 24 | 2pm, **4:30pm**, 9:30pm
- **Christmas Day**
December 25 | **10am**

Masses in BOLD will be live streamed

- **The Holy Family**
December 26 | 4:30pm
December 27 | **9:45am** only
(no 7:45am or 6:30pm Masses)
- **New Year's Eve**
December 31 | **12:05pm**
- **New Year's Day**
January 1 | **8:30am**





Christmas Flowers



If you would like to contribute to the 2020 Christmas Flower & Worship Fund in memory of a loved one, please complete and return the form below to the parish office by *Sunday, December 13.*

.....

2020 Christmas Flower & Worship Fund
PLEASE PRINT VERY CLEARLY!

Your name: _____

Amount: _____

Please circle one: cash or check (check # _____)

IN MEMORY OF: _____

.....

Thank you!

