

# HAIL MARY, *Full of Grace*

**Weekly Update | August 15, 2021**

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary



## Health & Safety Information

With Covid-19 numbers increasing due to the Delta variant we want to remind everyone of our health and safety practices in place. We will continue to monitor and adjust to state, local, and Diocesan level health directives.

- Those who are **not** fully vaccinated **should** continue to wear a face covering in our indoor and outdoor spaces. Those who are fully vaccinated can attend Mass or be in any parish building without a face covering.
- Face coverings are *always* welcome for anyone, even if you are fully vaccinated.
- During Mass, the chapel and choir loft will be reserved for those wearing face coverings. You are also welcome to wear a mask in the church.

**CLICK HERE** if you would like to find out where you can get a vaccine.

**CLICK HERE** to see CDC guidelines for choosing safe activities

## Technology Upgrades Are Nearing Completion

The equipment installation stage of our technology project in church has been completed. We are putting the final touches on the in-person displays and will begin using them during Mass soon. Carpentry projects are ongoing to hide wires and complete the ushers room.

Have you watched the Livestream? We welcome feedback on your experience! Feel free to respond to this note or email Chris Higgins, [chiggins@stmaryparish.org](mailto:chiggins@stmaryparish.org).

We are thankful for the many parishioners who have volunteered their time to help pull this project together for our parish. If you're interested in learning more about how you can help with video projection or with livestreaming on the weekends, please contact Chris Higgins at [chiggins@stmaryparish.org](mailto:chiggins@stmaryparish.org). We are in need of more people to help with operating this technology during Masses. It's a great opportunity to help our parish while getting valuable experience working with audio-visual equipment.

# MEDICAL BILLS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Get Help Paying Your Medical Bills.  
Grant Matches Up to \$500 of Medical Bills.

Provided By



### Grant Qualifications

- Low to Moderate Income
- Attend Budget Counseling While Receiving Matched Funds

### Budget Counseling includes:

- Create a Savings Plan
- Create a Budget
- Review of Debt to Income Ratio



Find Out More!  
920-272-8234  
CatholicCharitiesgb.org



## Are you a homeowner who has been impacted by COVID-19?

Income-eligible homeowners who experienced a financial hardship as a result of COVID-19 may be eligible for mortgage and/or utility assistance from LEAVEN.

LEAVEN is a nonprofit organization serving residents of Outagamie, Calumet and northeastern Winnebago counties.



*We're here to help.*

Looking for help?



Call 920-738-9635 to schedule an appointment or [www.leavenfoxcities.org](http://www.leavenfoxcities.org)

LEAVEN can also connect you with additional services and resources to help you gain lasting self-sufficiency.

COVID-19 impacted renters are eligible for rent and utility assistance through WERA (Wisconsin Emergency Rental Assistance).

- Residents of Outagamie County, contact CAP Services at 844-314-8004 or [www.capservices.org/wera](http://www.capservices.org/wera)
- Residents of Calumet and Winnebago Counties, call ADVOCAP at 920-922-7760
- Or call Energy Services at 1-833-900-9372 for utility assistance

## A Grateful & Blessed Family

Ripples of God's Love - Through Our Hearts - To All Hearts!

St. Mary Parish Support			
August 2021	Budget	Received	Variance
received 8/2 - 8/6-2020		10,573	
August - month to date:	63,000	10,573	-52,427
7/1/21-8/31/2021			
Fiscal Year To Date :	127,000	95,023	-31,977



## Save The Date! School Supply Drive & Backpack Blessing

As the calendar has turned to August we'll be getting ready to go back to school at St. Mary's. Save the date for these events:

- **School Supply Drive** -Weekends of **August 14/15 & 21/22**
- We'll be collecting new school supplies for our community partners at the CELC & Harbor House.
- **Backpack Blessing** - Weekend of **August 28/29**
- Students of all ages are invited to bring in their school bags in for a special blessing and gift. Coffee & Donuts after the 9:45

## College & Military Care Packages

We are searching for our young adults who will be in college or the military for 2021-2022. It is our intention to send *Ripples of God's love from our hearts to their hearts* via WONDERFUL CARE PACKAGES several times in the upcoming year.

To participate please send the following information on your young adult(s):

Name

College or Military Base

Address (at college or military base; be sure to include the correct zip code)

Name any food allergies\_\_\_\_\_

We are also looking to create a team of parents who might enjoy creating our WONDERFUL CARE PACKAGES and perhaps do some packaging. We will be sending three packages in 2021-2022.

Please send your young adult's information and/or if you are willing to help to Mary Ann Otto at [motto@stmaryparish.org](mailto:motto@stmaryparish.org) or call 920-739-5119

## FAITH DIRECT E-GIVING

Do you have summer vacation plans this month or next? Remember to plan for your offertory as well! When summer getaways take you out of town on Sundays, eGiving lets you continue to support St. Mary Parish and the ministries you cherish. You can sign up from your computer, smartphone or tablet, and set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift.

Recurring gifts sustain our parish in the busy summer months and throughout the year. You'll provide us with consistent support, even if you're away on a Sunday, so the programs, services, and ministries that mean so much to our community will never miss a beat.

There are two easy ways to give with Faith Direct:

1. Head to [stmaryparish.org](http://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](mailto:packer@stmaryparish.org).

## Mass Times Intention

<b>Mon., August 16, 8:00am</b>	<b>@ St. Bernard Parish</b>
<b>Tue., August 17, 8:00am</b>	<b>@ St. Bernard Parish</b>
Wed., August 18, 12:05pm	Peter & Anna Diederich
Thur., August 19, 12:05pm	Parishioners of St Mary Parish
Sat., August 21, 4:30pm	Joe & Viv Kaufman & Family
Sun., August 22, 7:45am	Phillip Lampert
9:45am	Bill, Charlotte & John Diederich
6:30pm	Parishioners of St Mary Parish

*We have openings for intentions for weekday and weekend Masses. Please stop by the parish office or call us at 739-5119 to schedule a Mass in memory of a loved one. We are happy to take Mass intentions over the phone. The \$10 stipend can be sent via the mail or dropped in the weekend collection in an envelope with a note to apply it to your Mass intention.*

## Events Calendar

### *Monday, August 16*

6:30pm THEO/Community Room

7:00pm Boy Scouts/St. Anne Room

8:00pm AA Meeting/L1&L3

### *Tuesday, August 17*

#### **Parish Office Closed!**

St Mary & St Joe's Prayer Shawl Group/St Joseph Parish

2:00pm Rosary Group/Church

6:15pm Confessions/Chapel

6:30pm Human's Concern Meeting/L1, L3

### *Wednesday, August 18*

8:00am Quilting Group/St. Anne Room

9:00am ROCKS Meeting/Community Room

9:00am Connect, Pray, Reflect on the Sunday Scriptures/L7

### *Thursday, August 19*

No events

### *Friday, August 20*

Parish Office closed

### *Saturday, August 21*

1:00pm Nichols/Hoffman Wedding

### *Sunday, August 22*

11:00am Ford Davis Kautz Baptism

## Mass Attendance

As we have plenty of socially distanced capacity at all weekday Masses, we will no longer be tracking and publishing weekday Mass counts. Please join us! Our weekday Masses offer a very safe worship environment.

Saturday, 4:30 pm (103)

Sunday, 7:45 am (83), 9:45 am (119), 6:30 pm (44)

## In Loving Memory

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 Requests

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.

**St. Mary Parish Office**

312 S. State Street  
 Appleton, WI 54911  
 920-739-5119  
[stmaryparish.org](http://stmaryparish.org)

**Hours**

Monday-Thursday, 8:30am-4:30pm  
 closed Fridays  
 Contact us:  
[stmary@stmaryparish.org](mailto:stmary@stmaryparish.org)

**MINISTERS & SUPPORT STAFF**

*Fr. Bill Swichtenberg, Pastor*  
[wdswitz@stmaryparish.org](mailto:wdswitz@stmaryparish.org)  
 cell 920-422-4316

*Mary Ann Otto*  
 Missionary Discipleship  
[motto@stmaryparish.org](mailto:motto@stmaryparish.org)

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

*Tracy Turba*  
 Minister of Young Disciples  
[tturba@stmaryparish.org](mailto:tturba@stmaryparish.org)

*Nadine Duncan*  
 Pastoral Care  
[nduncan@stmaryparish.org](mailto:nduncan@stmaryparish.org)

*Emily Jenks*  
 Neighborhood Outreach & Parish  
 Vitality, [ejenks@stmaryparish.org](mailto:ejenks@stmaryparish.org)

*Tom Walter*  
 Liturgical Music  
[twalter@stmaryparish.org](mailto:twalter@stmaryparish.org)

*Chris Higgins*  
 Director of Information Technology  
[chiggins@stmaryparish.org](mailto:chiggins@stmaryparish.org)

*Theresa Rohm*  
 Business Administrator  
[trohm@stmaryparish.org](mailto:trohm@stmaryparish.org)

*Pam Acker*  
 Bookkeeper  
[packer@stmaryparish.org](mailto:packer@stmaryparish.org)

*Chip Acker*  
 Cemetery & Facilities Management  
[cacker@stmaryparish.org](mailto:cacker@stmaryparish.org)

*Julie Morse*  
 Administrative Assistant  
[stmary@stmaryparish.org](mailto:stmary@stmaryparish.org)

**Parish Trustees**

Ted Suess 920-636-8855

**Marriage**

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

**Pastoral Leadership Council Chair**  
 Beth Power 703-819-4829

**Baptism**

Congratulations! Contact Nadine Duncan for information.

**Finance Council Chair**  
 Larry Bonneville 920-419-3097

**Confession**

Sat. 9-10am and Tues. 6:15-7:15pm  
 (except for the 1st Tues. of the month)

**St. Mary Cemetery**  
 920-882-4158

**Xavier Catholic School System**  
 920-735-9380

## *In Joy & Sorrow with Father Bill +*

One of the lessons that I hope all of us have learned from the pandemic of the last year and a half is that sheltering in and isolation are painful and unhealthy conditions that stifle the human spirit. Human beings cannot thrive without being close to other human beings. We cannot live in a bubble, motivated by self-sufficiency and indifference or disregard of others. We are interconnected to one another. We are all brothers and sisters together. What impacts one of us, impacts all of us. This human solidarity is constituent of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. What that simply means is that we cannot live apart from each other.

There are many issues of the day that impinge upon us because they are a threat to our solidarity as a human family. We cannot put our heads in the sand and ignore these issues or refuse to pray and think about them. These are the issues that impact the very fabric of our sense of the sacred dignity of every human person. Every human being, born or unborn, is created in the very image and likeness of God. We can never disregard or dismiss or demean another human being.

This story of the preciousness of the human person began in the wombs of our mothers, and, dare I say, even before that, in the womb of God, our Creator. Since the beginning of time, we have struggled to get this right as a human family. The willful ending of the life of a precious human being in the womb is always categorically evil. The stain of abortion on every page of our human history is heart- and soul-crushing for the Lord and for every one of his friends

and followers. We can never be right with the Lord, with each other, or right with ourselves until we rid our human family of the evil of abortion. Pope Francis believes this. Bishop Ricken believes this. I believe this. I hope and pray that you, too, believe this. Our precious little ones in the womb are counting on you and me to be their voices. They cry out to the Lord to be acknowledged as fellow human beings who have a right to life. Our unborn little ones, so precious, want to move every human heart in their direction, to bear an overwhelming love for them. Until we change hearts, changing Roe vs Wade, or any law, will not remove the stain of abortion from our human story.

We, the disciples of Jesus, are deeply disturbed by the direction of every and any administration at the local or federal level that disregards the sacredness of the lives of our unborn sisters and brothers. A federal budget that removes the Helms Amendment from its pages, an amendment that makes it impossible for federal tax dollars to be used to procure abortions in other countries who receive aid from the United States, is unacceptable.

Our Catholic Bishops write this: *By eliminating the Helms Amendment, H.R. 4373 could force recipient countries that have strong legal and cultural opposition to abortion to embrace it in order to receive desperately needed help for their people. Pope Francis has referred to this type of situation as ideological colonization. Moreover, this legislation pays for abortions and abortion advocacy with the hard-earned tax dollars of Americans - 75% of whom say their*

## *In Joy & Sorrow with Father Bill +*

*tax dollars should not be used to pay for abortions overseas. While this legislation contains many positive provisions that provide assistance to the poor and vulnerable worldwide, including the protection of refugees, increases to humanitarian assistance, and protection of the environment, nothing can justify subsidizing the taking of human life.*

Note well that there is always a big picture that cries out to be considered. We can never be single-issue Christians. We have to find ways to address together all of the pro-life issues. Frankly, if we do not address the issue of care for our common home, our Mother Earth, our planet just possibly may not be here for future generations. If we invest in programs that address the lack of education and affordable housing, limited access to health care, and address inadequate wages, all of which impact the rates of unplanned and unwanted pregnancies, we will most likely decrease the number of abortions across our land. If we tell the stories of the beauty of adoptions by heterosexual and same-sex couples, we will likely decrease the number of abortions across our land. Every decrease in the number of abortions is a victory for us as a human family. Could we not find a way to

work with every administration to accomplish this goal?

In the meantime, we have to be there for Moms and Dads who, for whatever reason, are considering ending the life of their child. And, if we are successful, we have to be there for them as they struggle to provide for their newborn baby. And in every moment, we have to pray that human hearts everywhere are transformed and absolutely convinced of the inviolability of human life in the womb. Let's build more compassion into the foundation of our human family. We need to work together for practical victories. Victories in principle will not get us to where we need to be.

I encourage you to reach out to your Congress Person and our US Senators.

For Wisconsin's District 8, Representative Michael Gallagher, 1230 Longworth HOB, Washington, DC, 202-225-5665, or email from [gallagher.house.gov](mailto:gallagher.house.gov).

Our Wisconsin Senators are Tammy Baldwin, 709 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC, 20510, (202) 224-5653, or email from [baldwin.senate.gov](mailto:baldwin.senate.gov)., and Ron Johnson, 328 Hart Senate Office Building, (202) 228-6965, or email from [ronjohnson.senate.gov](mailto:ronjohnson.senate.gov).

*Fr. Bill +*