

# WEEKLY UPDATE

November 27, 2022  
First Sunday of Advent



*The*  
**KINGDOM**  
*is*  
**COMING**  
ADVENT 2022 @ ST. MARY APPLETON

*Discuss Fr. Bill's Advent homily series with a group!*

- MONDAYS 7PM
- TUESDAYS 9AM
- WEDNESDAYS 9:30AM (WOMEN'S GROUP)
- THURSDAYS 7PM
- AT COFFEE & DONUTS ON SUNDAY MORNINGS

*Sign up at [stmaryparish.org](http://stmaryparish.org) or in the back of church!*

## Christmas Flowers

If you would like to contribute to the 2022 Christmas Flower & Worship Fund in memory of a loved one, please complete and return this form to the parish office no later than **Sunday, December 18.**

**PLEASE PRINT VERY CLEARLY so we can ensure accurate spelling!**

Your name \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Circle one: CASH CHECK (check # \_\_\_\_\_ )

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# FROM THE SENIOR CONNECT GROUP



A great big thank you for all the donations of money and fleece for our tie blanket project.

We'll be able to wrap many in your warmth this winter!



## HELP NEEDED

**Advent Bake Sale set up & sellers**

Help us make this year's sale a success!



**For details or to  
volunteer, call Cindy  
at 920-731-2430**

**Student  
Service Hour  
Opportunity!**

“Let Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament speak to your hearts. It is he who is the true answer of life that you seek. He stays here with us: he is God with us.”

*Blessed Carlo Acutis*



## Adoration

Come spend some quiet time in church with Jesus every Wednesday between 4:30pm and 8:00pm.

## OOPS!

We forgot to set out the table last weekend so we are running this one last time! Please look to see if we have one of your gloves, hats, mitts, and other various items. Items not taken this weekend will be given away to those in need.



# NEEDS TREE

**KICKOFF - NOV. 19/20**

Trees with tags will be in church & Marian Way

**GIFTS DUE - by DEC. 3/4**

**NEW THIS YEAR!** If possible, return gifts in a reusable cloth or vinyl shopping bag. Many residents in group homes use these bags for their personal belongings, so it's a useful gift as well.

Monetary donations are also welcomed. Contribute with cash, check made out to St. Mary Parish (write "Needs Tree" in the memo), or online via Faith Direct.



# CHRISTMAS SHOP AT THE SCRIP TABLE



## Gift Cards are a Great Gift!!



### On Hand Cards:

- Amazon
- BP
- Festival
- Fleet Farm
- Haen Meat
- Home Depot
- Kohl's
- Kwik Trip
- Meijer
- Walmart
- Menards
- Woodman's
- Piggly Wiggly
- Jacob's Meat



## ANNUAL ADVENT BAKE SALE

**DECEMBER 3**  
after 4:30pm Mass

**DECEMBER 4**  
after 7:45am & 9:45am Masses



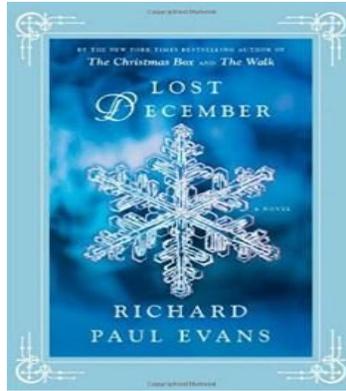
**Bring in your famous baked goods! Drop them off:**

• anytime  
Friday, Dec. 2

• anytime  
Saturday, Dec. 3

• before the 7:45am  
Mass on Sunday, Dec. 4

## St. Mary's Book Club



The next St. Mary/St. Joseph book club discussion will take place at 6 pm, on Tuesday, December 13, in room 4 of the lower level at St. Mary. The book selected for discussion is *Lost December*, by Richard Paul Evans.

*"It has been said that sometimes the greatest hope in our lives is just a second chance to do what we should have done right in the first place. This is the story of my second chance."* —Prologue of *Lost December*.

For January 10 our book selection is *Where the Past Begins: A writer's Memoir* by Amy Tan. From New York Times bestselling author Amy Tan, a memoir on her life as a writer, her childhood and the symbiotic relationship between fiction and emotional memory.

Looking further ahead, the book selected for February 7 (changed to first Tuesday due to Valentine's Day Feb 14) is: *The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot: A Novel*. The book is a mixture of love and laughter, loss and sorrow, hope and new adventures, of two people separated by sixty-six years.

For more information, please contact Mary Schulz, 920-809-4474. New members are welcome to join anytime.

## SENIOR CONNECT THUR. DEC 15 | 1-3PM

1:00-1:30 New Horizons Band  
1:30-3:00 Cookies, fellowship,  
and tying fleece  
blankets

*Hope to see you there!*





ST. FRANCIS  
**XAVIER**  
Catholic School System



**OCT. 27, NOV. 10, DEC. 1**  
**8:30-10:30 A.M.**

### **A MORNING OF CONVERSATION & COMPANY**

Meet other parents, share experiences, and enjoy a space that nurtures positive growth and social interaction for children!

*Open to all parents and their children ages birth to 4.*

**JOIN US!** @ St. Bernard Parish  
1617 W. Pine Street, Appleton

**RESERVE  
YOUR SPOT!** [bit.ly/joyfilledchaos](http://bit.ly/joyfilledchaos)

(920)735-9380 / [Admissions@XavierCatholicSchools.org](mailto:Admissions@XavierCatholicSchools.org)

*Check out all the opportunities at* **Xavier Middle School**

# 4th Grade Day



**Mon., Nov. 28th**  
**9:00-11:30 a.m.**

**(920) 735-9380 or [Admissions@XavierCatholicSchools.org](mailto:Admissions@XavierCatholicSchools.org)**



# Songs Stories & Fun!

at St. Francis Xavier Elementary School

Dec. 2 Marquette Street Campus  
7 McDonald Street Campus

All events begin at 9:00 a.m.

Open to children **ages 2-5** with their parents/grandparents. Younger siblings are welcome to join in on the fun, storytime, and interactive programs!



*Spectacular holiday fun for the whole family!*



## CHRISTMAS STARS 2022

ORDER EARLY  
FOR THE  
BEST SEATS!

7:00 pm December 1-3 & 8-10  
1:00 pm December 3\*, 4, 10, 11



\*An American Sign Language Interpreter will be provided at the 1pm performance on December 3rd.



The Xavier Fine Arts Theatre is equipped with a hearing loop.

Xavier Fine Arts Theatre • 1600 W. Prospect Avenue, Appleton

[www.christmasstars.org](http://www.christmasstars.org) • (920) 733-8840

Christmas Stars ticket sales are open online and at the Xavier Fine Arts Theatre box office. Box office hours are Mondays and Wednesdays from noon until 3pm. Come and be delighted by a spectacular Broadway-style revue featuring religious and secular holiday music performed by a cast of singers, dancers and actors ages five to senior citizen. Experience the dazzling Christmas parade, a visit from Santa and the breathtaking "Living Nativity" finale. An American Sign Language interpreter will be provided at the 1pm performance on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. For ticket purchases or questions, please call 920-733-8840 or visit [www.christmasstars.org](http://www.christmasstars.org). To visit the Xavier Theatre Box Office, please use the main theatre entrance, located under the arched canopy, on the west end of the school building.

# 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 920-739-5119.

# Prayer Requests

Contact Laurie Richter (lauriejrichter@gmail.com) or Ann Walkowski (920-428-0969) if you have a prayer need. Please remember the requests in our prayer baskets.

# Mass Times and Intentions

Mon., November 28, 12:05pm	Bill Polley
<b>Tue., November 29, 8:00am</b>	<b>Mass at St. Bernard Parish</b>
<b>Wed., November 30, 8:00am</b>	<b>Mass at St. Bernard Parish</b>
Thur., December 1, 10:00 am	Vernon & Alice McGinnis
Sat., December 3, 4:30pm	Tom Morse
Sun., December 4, 7:45am	Jason Christopher Roberts
9:45am	Carl & Francis Fisher Family
6:30pm	Earl & Martha Schroeder

# Events Calendar

## ***Monday, November 28***

7:00pm Boy Scouts/St. Anne Room

## ***Tuesday, November 29***

9:00am Connect Group/Lower Level Room 7

2:00pm Rosary Group/Church

6:15pm Confessions/Chapel

## ***Wednesday, November 30***

9:30am Connect Group/Lower Level Room 7

4:30pm Adoration/Church

4:45pm Beacon - Grades 1 to 5

6:30pm Beacon - Grades 6 to 12

## ***Thursday, December 1***

6:00pm Cor Jesu/St Anne Room

6:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal/Chapel

## ***Friday, December 2***

**Parish Office closed!**

3:00pm Ivy Peters Visitation

## ***Saturday, December 3***

**Scrip sold after 4:30 Mass**

**Bake Sale Weekend!**

9:00am Confessions/Chapel

## ***Sunday, December 4***

**Scrip sold after 7:45 and 9:45 Mass**

**Bake Sale Weekend!**

11:00am First Reconciliation Retreat/Lower Level Rooms 1 and 3



# In Joy & Sorrow

with Fr. Bill Swichtenberg

ST. MARY PARISH | 312 S. STATE STREET APPLETON, WI | 920.739.5119 |

11.27.2022

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## DISCERNING THE HOLY SPIRIT'S WAY FORWARD - WEEK ONE

Beginning with this column, I am going to present nine reflections [a novena of weeks] that will help us get in touch with the Holy Spirit as [S]He prepares us for our strategic planning event which will be held on Saturday, January 28.

I often petition the Lord, "Do for me what I so foolishly think I can do for myself." I like this prayer because it opens the way for the Holy Spirit to work through me, in a direction that is God's will, keeping my ego out of the way. I have said this many times: My ministry is not about me but about what the Holy Spirit wants to do through me. Similarly, as we move forward as a parish family, embracing our vision and mission in this local community, we are invited to trust in the Holy Spirit. How can we discern the direction that the Spirit has in mind for us? How can we listen better to one another? How can we enter more deeply into prayer, with the Scriptures at our side and treasured in our hearts, listening to the Lord?

Pope Francis recently concluded a series of reflections on discernment in his General Audiences offered in Rome on Wednesdays. Francis defines discernment as *the process of making sound decisions about the meaning and direction of our lives*. In telling the story of Saint Ignatius of Loyola's conversion, Pope Francis suggests that in Ignatius' *Spiritual Exercises*, he speaks of "the importance of distinguishing between worldly and spiritual thoughts, cultivating the latter, and allowing them, by God's grace, to mature within our hearts. In time, then, we come to discern in prayer the often unexpected signs by which God makes [God's] Self known to us, leads us to conversion and shows us his will for our lives."

Prayer is the engine which drives the process of discernment. The path forward for us as a parish family is already known by the Lord. He is eager to reveal it to us, but only if we make ourselves more receptive to Him and His will through the movement of stilling the busyness around us and entering into the silence of our hearts. Jesus knows our innermost desires even before we know them.

What does Jesus desire from us as a spiritual family? What are we afraid of as we move ahead? What must we let go of? What are the challenges we need to face if we truly trust in the Lord and live His Gospel? Just as honest self-knowledge and genuine acceptance are so important in our relationship with the Lord, ourselves, and one another, what do we truly know about our parish's mission/vision and are we honestly living and breathing those values?

Is our parish truly like a field hospital? Are we deeply welcoming, nurturing, open to, understanding and accepting of others? Is Jesus truly the Lord of our lives and the life of our parish family? Remember that believing in the Lord is akin to giving our hearts to Him, allowing his hands upon our lives to transform us, always seeking, and always assured that the Lord has called each one of us uniquely to serve Him. Are we truly moving outward into the community with the Good News of God's marvelous love for all persons? Are we truly witnesses of Gospel love?

I invite you to join me this week in reflecting on some of the above questions.

Let me offer, as well, this passage from Saint Paul's Letter to the Romans (12.2).

*Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.*

*Let us pray...*

*Holy Spirit, draw us closer to you. Keep us out of Your way. Reveal to us Your plan which will inflame us with the fire of Your love. Touch the heart of every member of our Parish Family. Give us Your holy gifts of wisdom, integrity, and honesty. Write the values we hold as Your Spiritual Family in the heart of every member. May Your love impel us to go forth on mission, bringing Your healing and hope to every person we encounter. Make us Your joyful disciples so that we can invite more and more people to discover, follow, and worship Jesus! We make our prayer in His name. Amen.*

*Fr. Bill +*

**St. Mary Parish Office**

312 S. State Street

Appleton, WI 54911

920-739-5119

Website: [stmaryparish.org](http://stmaryparish.org)

**Business Hours:**

Mon - Thurs, 9am-4pm

closed Fridays

Contact us:

[stmary@stmaryparish.org](mailto:stmary@stmaryparish.org)

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**MINISTERS & SUPPORT STAFF****Fr. Bill Swichtenberg, Pastor**

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Cemetery & Facilities Management

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Beth Power 703-819-4829

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**Marriage**

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

**Baptism**

Congratulations! Contact Nadine Duncan for  
information.

**Confession**

Sat. 9-10am and Tues. 6:15-7:15pm

**St. Mary Cemetery**

920-882-4158

[cemetery@stmaryparish.org](mailto:cemetery@stmaryparish.org)

Website: [stmaryparishcemetery.org](http://stmaryparishcemetery.org)

**Xavier Catholic School System**

920-735-9380