

# WEEKLY UPDATE

January 8, 2023

*The Epiphany of the Lord*



While Father Bill enjoys his much deserved vacation on the warm, sunny beaches of Mexico, please call the parish office (920-739-5119) if you are in need of a priest and we will connect you with Father Dave or Father Larry.

## Help us take down Christmas decorations

**Starting at 9AM**

- **Tuesday, Jan. 10**  
church, chapel, Marian Way & Community Room
- **Tuesday, Jan. 17**  
take down trees in church

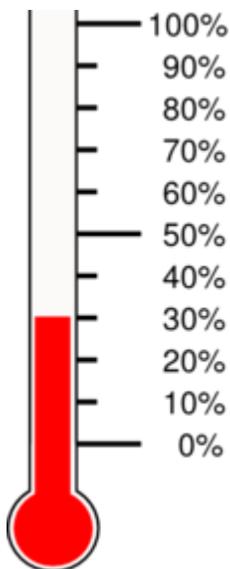
*All are welcome - thank you!*

We are looking for a few volunteers to be receptionists on Monday afternoons and Thursday mornings in the parish office. Duties include answering phones, greeting visitors, and occasional small projects. Contact Julie in the parish office for more information or to volunteer!



### 2023 Financial Pledge Forms

Thanks so much if you have returned your Financial Pledge Card for 2023 back to the parish. It was beautiful to see so many green envelopes placed before the Lord's altar during the month of November. Stewardship is a way of life that grounds us in gratitude to the Lord and generosity to others. Gratitude and Generosity, with a whole lot of humility sprinkled in, is the recipe for holiness of life! If you have not returned your Pledge Card, I would encourage you to participate in this holy act which acknowledges God as the Great and Good Gift Giver.



We have received **37%** of our 2023 Financial Pledge forms from parishioners to date.

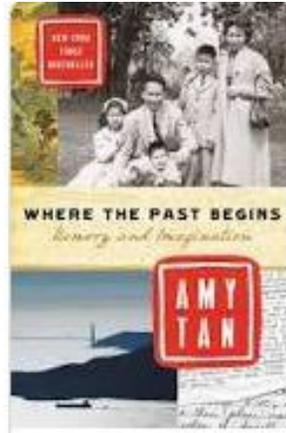
### Shamrock Shenanigans is back in March 2023!

We are looking for some elves and leprechauns to plan this year's festivities and fundraising. If you want to get involved, contact Chris Higgins in the parish office ([chiggins@stmaryparish.org](mailto:chiggins@stmaryparish.org) – 920-739-5119). We will get going in the new year.

Nollaig Shona!



# St. Mary's Book Club



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.

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.

Looking further ahead, the book selected for discussion Tuesday, March 14, is *I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives* by Catlin Alifirenka, a New York Times bestselling true story of an all-American girl and a boy from Zimbabwe and the letter that changed both of their lives forever.

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

## In Loving Memory

Please pray for the family and friends of Catherine Skell, and, the family and friends of Larrie Brazner. May fond memories comfort them 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 920-739-5119.

## Prayer Requests

Contact Mary Jo Zilisch (920-734-1182 or 920-843-1249) or Laurie Richter ([lauriejrichter@gmail.com](mailto:lauriejrichter@gmail.com)) if you have a prayer need. Please remember the requests in our prayer baskets.

# ST. MARY PARISH - APPLETON

## Xavier Scholarship Opportunities



**FOR ST. MARY  
PARISHIONERS  
CONSIDERING OR  
ATTENDING XAVIER  
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS  
IN 2023-24**

St. Mary offers several scholarship opportunities for our parish students that are not need-based. In addition to the standard scholarship and tuition assistance (FACTS) program through the St. Francis Xavier Catholic School System, multiple other scholarship opportunities are available through the Xavier Catholic Schools Foundation.



### WHERE CAN I FIND APPLICATIONS AND MORE INFO?

- At [xaviercatholicschools.org](http://xaviercatholicschools.org) under Admissions > Tuition Assistance and Scholarships > Scholarships
- In our parish office

Information about FACTS, School Choice and other scholarship opportunities is also available at [xaviercatholicschools.org](http://xaviercatholicschools.org).

*Considering Xavier Catholic Schools for your children but have questions? The Xavier Admissions office is happy to help you! Call 920-735-9380.*

### ST. MARY ADOPT-A-STUDENT PROGRAM

In addition to FACTS Tuition Assistance, School Choice Program, and the Xavier Foundation Scholarships available, here at St. Mary Parish we have an Adopt-A-Student program to help families who may need additional financial assistance.

Contact Fr. Bill or Chris Higgins in the St. Mary Parish office for more information @ 920-739-5119.

**ALL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS  
DUE BY MARCH 3, 2023!**



### ST. MARY SCHOOL/CATHOLIC CENTRAL LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP

To carry on the 150 year tradition of generosity and fraternity associated with our school community, this scholarship has been established to help support young families in their decision to send their child(ren) to Xavier Elementary (PK3-4th grade) schools.

**What?** Three scholarships of \$2,000 each will be awarded to families with \$1,000 being awarded the first year and \$500 in years two and three.

**Who is eligible?** Active members of St. Bernard, St. Joseph or St. Mary Parishes with students registered at **Xavier Elementary Schools**.



### THE FATHER MICHAEL K. O'ROURKE EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND

**What?** Three \$500 scholarships awarded for the upcoming school year.

**Who is eligible?** Students/families of **Xavier Middle School** who are registered parishioners of St. Mary Parish.  
*Note: There is a second middle school scholarship opportunity for students interested in science.*



### MERLIN AND JOAN BRUNNER SCHOLARSHIP

**What?** One scholarship of \$1,000 available to an incoming freshman. Follows the recipient for their four years at Xavier High School (total of \$4,000). Students must remain in good standing to be awarded the scholarship each year.

**Who is eligible?** Parishioners of St. Mary Parish who are registered as **incoming freshman at Xavier High School** for the 2023-24 school year. Applicants are required to write an essay on "What do you want to be doing ten years from now and how do you plan to attain it?"

**Fun fact:** There are **11 additional scholarships** available for XHS students outside of tuition assistance program. Please check [xaviercatholicschools.org](http://xaviercatholicschools.org) for more information.

## Mass Times and Intentions

Mon., January 9, 12:05pm	
<b>Tues., January 10, 8:00am</b>	<b>Mass at St Bernard's Parish</b>
<b>Wed., January 11, 8:00am</b>	<b>Mass at St Bernard's Parish</b>
Thur., January 12, 12:05 pm	Parishioners of St Mary
Sat., January 14, 4:30pm	Harry & Lucille Martin
Sun., January 15, 7:45am	
9:45am	Harold Hanson
6:30pm	

## Events Calendar

### ***Monday, January 9***

4:30pm RCIA Meeting/Large Conference Room in Parish Office

6:30pm Matthew 25 - Virtual

### ***Tuesday, January 10***

9:00am Connect Group/Lower Level Room 7

2:00pm Rosary Group/Church

6:00pm Book Club/Lower Level Room 4

7:00pm Facilities Committee/Large Conference Room in Parish Office

**No Confessions tonight!**

### ***Wednesday, January 11***

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, January 12***

1:00pm Senior Connections/Community Room

### ***Friday, January 13***

**Parish Office Closed!**

### ***Saturday, January 14***

10:00am Neuro Endocrine Cancer Support Group/Lower Level Room 7

**No Confessions today!**

### ***Sunday, January 15***

Coffee & Donuts after the 7:45 and 9:45am Masses



# In Joy & Sorrow

with Fr. Bill Swichtenberg

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

01.08.2023

## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

A NOVENA OF (NINE) WEEKS  
WEEK VII

### DISCERNING THE HOLY SPIRIT'S PATH FORWARD

The making of a pearl is the result of a process that the oyster most likely does not relish. The precious pearl begins as a grain of sand or some other foreign object that invades the inner sanctum of the oyster. The oyster reacts against this irritant, setting up a tug-of-war, if you will, which results in the transformation of a foreign body into a masterpiece, which is the pearl.

Hold onto this image.

As we continue on our journey to Saturday, January 28, when we will begin the process of formulating a Five-Year Parish Mission Plan, we have been considering the shifts in our understanding that have to occur in order to be a parish that is vibrant and relevant in the twenty-first century. The work of Deacon Keith Strohm, specifically his book, [Ablaze: Five Essential Paradigm Shifts for Parish Renewal](#), has been our guide.

We need to move from a maintenance mode to a mission mode if we are to revitalize our parish. We cannot keep doing the same things over and over which are not mission-directed. Our parish mission is to make disciples for the Lord. Only disciples of the Lord can make new disciples. How are you and I, energized by the Holy Spirit, feeling and thinking and acting more and more like Jesus Himself? How are we going out among the members of our families, among our friends and co-workers, and into our neighborhoods, giving witness to the reality that Jesus is alive and that everyone is meant to have a personal relationship with the Lord?

We need to move from an engagement mode to an encounter mode if we are to revitalize our parish. While getting more and more people involved or engaged is noteworthy, we need to encounter one another, accompanying each other on life's journey, which is filled with joys and sorrows. It is in the sharing of our Jesus stories that we build each other up in love and hope and healing. How do we enter more intimately into the lives of others? How can our parish be more like a field hospital? I am reminded of the Samaritan woman at the well, sharing her broken heart with the Lord, and being bolstered with a new spirit given to her by Jesus.

We need to move from an avoidance mode to an accountability mode if we are to revitalize our parish. Remember that pesky grain of sand that infiltrates the inner world of the oyster. In love, we need to stop avoiding one another. In love, we need not be afraid to manage conflict between each other. Especially for the members of the Senior Leadership Team, as well as the Pastoral and Finance Council Leadership Teams, and all other leaders, serving on all committees, we are challenged to be honest with each other. We need to lay our cards out on the table sometimes, always in a gentle manner (no need to slam those cards down!), when there are disagreements among us or there are areas where more accountability is necessary. We want to call forth the best in each other so that we can minister more effectively to others. Too much niceness and not enough challenge can really cause ministers to become stagnant and ineffective in the mission the Lord has bestowed upon them. Again this correction or conflict has a positive impact, when it is always done with genuine love for the other person.

Those of you who are married realize this. Shoving things under the carpet or ignoring the elephant that looms in the living room, avoiding conflict to maintain peace at any cost, does not make a marriage better. Those marriages stall big time.

How do you and I manage conflict? How comfortable are you and I in clearing the air? Calling people to their best is always better than avoiding them because we want to be perceived as nice! Being nice at all costs does not always result in healthy, growing relationships.

Let us continue to dedicate to the Holy Spirit this holy process of discerning a path forward for our parish family!

*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 on 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***

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

cell 920-422-4316

### ***Deacon Gerry Schraufnagel***

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

cell 920-540-9594

### ***Chris Higgins***

Director of Business Administration  
& Information Technology

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

### ***Nadine Duncan***

Director of Pastoral Administration &  
Pastoral Care

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

### ***Tom Walter***

Liturgical Music

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

### ***Chip Acker***

Cemetery & Facilities Management

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

## **Parish Trustees**

Ted Suess 920-636-8855

Carol Frahm 920-733-0207

## **Pastoral Leadership Council Chair**

Beth Power 703-819-4829

## **Finance Council Chair**

Larry Bonneville 920-419-3097

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### ***Tracy Turba***

Minister of Young Disciples

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

### ***Mary Ellen Fisher***

Bookkeeping Assistant

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

### ***Julie Morse***

Administrative Assistant

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

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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