

20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • AUGUST 16, 2026

ST. MARY PARISH

PHONE: (920) 739-5119 • EMAIL: STMARY@STMARYPARISH.ORG

312 SOUTH STATE STREET • APPLETON, WI 54911



"Then Jesus said to her in reply, 'O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And the woman's daughter was healed from that hour." Matthew 15:28

Regular Mass Times

Saturday 4:30pm

Sunday 7:45am, 9:45am

Monday 12:05pm

Tuesday No mass

Wednesday No mass

Thursday 12:05pm

Friday No Mass



Pastor - Fr. Bill Swichtenberg

wdswitz@stmaryparish.org
cell 920-422-4316

Deacon - Gerry Schraufnagel

dcngerry@stmaryparish.org
cell 920-540-9594

Cemetery Info - Chip Acker

cacker@stmaryparish.org
cell 920-882-4158

Eucharistic Adoration

Every 3rd Wednesday, 4:30-8pm
We must have one person
with the Eucharist at all times.
Register online
<https://bit.ly/49Wm3k5>

Parish Office Hours:

920-739-5119
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, 9am-4pm
Friday-Office Closed

Sacrament of Matrimony

Getting Married?
Congratulations! Call Fr. Bill
at least six months before your
planned wedding date.

Interested in joining the Parish?

Contact Lori Lavalley
llavalley@stmaryparish.org

Confession times:

Saturday 9-10am or by
appointment



PARENTS!

IT'S REGISTRATION TIME

FAITH FORMATION



ALL youth are welcome to join Beacon Faith Formation on Wednesday nights to grow in faith and community. Classes will begin September 16.

Grades 1-5 | 4:45-6:00 pm

Grades 6-8 | 6:30-7:45 pm

Grades 9-12 | 6:30-8:00 pm



bit.ly/4qdWi6v

SACRAMENT PREP

Xavier Families: Do you have a child in 2nd or 11th grade who needs to prepare for First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, or Confirmation?

FYI: Catholic day school students prepare for and receive sacraments through their home parish (St. Mary Parish).

2nd Grade Students: First Reconciliation & First Communion (prep begins in September).

High School Juniors: Confirmation (prep begins in February).



bit.ly/4i4MnOG

Questions about Beacon or sacrament prep? Contact Lisa in the parish office (llynch@stmaryparish.org or 920-739-5119).

Beacon FAITH FORMATION

Volunteers Needed!

We are in need of volunteer catechists and aides to share their faith with children in grades 1-10.

We especially need:



2 volunteer catechists
for our Elementary program
(Wednesday's 4:45 - 6pm)



2 volunteer catechists
for our Middle School / High School
program (Wednesday's 6:30 - 8pm)



No experience
is required!
We will train you.



Lesson plans,
materials, and
support are provided.



Make a difference.
Share your faith.



If God is placing this on your heart,

please contact

Lisa Lynch at
llynch@stmaryparish.org





TORNADO RELIEF



**Catholic
Charities**

of the Diocese
of Green Bay

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Green Bay is providing emergency assistance to those affected by the recent tornado, including **financial support**.



WAYS YOU CAN HELP:



DONATE

in the collection box at the back of church or at the parish office.



DONATE ONLINE

through the link on our parish website.

[BIT.LY/4YVIEZX](https://bit.ly/4YVIEZX)



VOLUNTEER

Visit our website for information on volunteer opportunities, a list of in-kind donations, and resources for those affected by the tornado.



Help Restore St. Mary Cemetery



Restoring a Sacred Place of Peace



While the fence, buildings and roads are covered by insurance, the removal of the downed trees and the repair and restoration of the cemetery grounds is not.



We anticipate costs nearing \$100,000.00 or more. It will be significantly more if we need to clean out the fallen trees along the slope leading to the river.



We appreciate your support in our cleanup and restoration efforts as we endeavor to make St. Mary Cemetery a peaceful resting place for those buried there and their families.



This fund is to help defray the cost for cleaning up and repairing St. Mary cemetery grounds.



THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
GENEROSITY!



DONATE ONLINE:
[BIT.LY/4HHSAF1](https://bit.ly/4HHSAF1)

AFFECTED BY THE FOX VALLEY TORNADO & NEED ASSISTANCE?

Contact Catholic Charities
LEAVEN COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER
1475 Opportunity Way, Menasha

Helping Fox Valley
Families Recover.

Providing:

- mental health support
- financial health assistance
- urgent housing and basic personal needs

to anyone in need.

Scan me
for help



dioc.io/disasterrelief



Catholic
Charities

of the Diocese of Green
Bay

920-272-8234

charitiesgb@gbdioc.org



FIRST CALL!



ADULT CHOIR RESUMES THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3 RD!

COME AND JOIN THIS FUN AND VERY
MUSICAL GROUP OF SINGERS.



CONTACT TOM IF YOU WANT
TO JOIN THEM.

Remember...
THEY WHO SING
PRAY...TWICE!

Adoration

August 19th

4:30 pm - 8:00 pm

in the chapel



Prayer Intention for this month:

Please pray for those who are
rebuilding their lives after the
tornado.

[Sign up here](#)

Help Us
“STUFF THE
WAGONS”

for Local Appleton Area School Students



Back-to-school time is here, and you
can help local children succeed!



From **August 15th** to **August 30th**,
please donate new school supplies
and shoes by placing them in the
wagons in the Marian Way.



Monetary gifts are also appreciated
and will be used directly to buy
supplies and shoes.



Together, we
can help our
students
start the year
strong!



THANK YOU! ♥

EXPLORING REPLACING *Our* STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Many years ago, the parish explored the possibility of replacing our current Stations of the Cross with a new set. After looking at a variety of appropriate options, it was considered cost prohibitive to move forward. We have a new opportunity to consider replacing our stations.

Our current stations have been in the parish for many decades. They are paintings that are very dark and not completely visible. During the last renovation of the church, we had professionals clean them and even added gold paint to the frame.

Unfortunately, the cleaning did nothing to lighten them up to better see the detail. The company said there was nothing they could recommend to brighten the paint on our current Stations of the Cross.

OUR CURRENT STATIONS



A TRADITION OF BEAUTY & CRAFTSMANSHIP

St. Francis Assisi Parish in Manitowoc, is a combined parish from the original parishes in the city. One of their churches, St. Bonaventure, was of the same era as St. Mary.

After many years, they are scaling down their site in Manitowoc including closing St. Bonaventure. They have been appropriately selling, archiving, storing, and throwing away many of the items from the church.

Their set of Stations of the Cross are one of those items that they would like to sell. It is a 3D set of cast plaster stations. They are traditional in their design and beautifully crafted.

POTENTIAL REPLACEMENT – 3D CAST PLASTER



The two groups of photos give a better idea of the difference between the two sets of Stations of the Cross. The stations from St. Bonaventure come with an ornate plaster cast pedestal. We would plan to have made new pedestals made that would match the design and woodwork of our parish space.

WE VALUE YOUR INPUT

We would love to get your thoughts about this possible change. Your feedback is important as we prayerfully consider the best way to honor our faith and enhance our worship space.



Please send your comments and thoughts to
Chris Higgins at chiggins@stmaryparish.org

Thank you!

✦ ————— THERE'S STILL TIME TO REGISTER! ————— ✦

JOIN US FOR A

Pilgrimage

TO

OUR LADY OF CHAMPION SHRINE

A day of faith, fellowship, and devotion as we honor Our Blessed Mother.



TUESDAY, AUGUST 25



**DEPART ST. JOE'S
8:30 AM**



**RETURN
3:30 PM**

\$50

PER PASSENGER

*Box Lunch
Included!*



**SIGN UP BY
AUGUST 17**

Time is running out!



SCAN QR OR
CLICK THE LINK
TO SIGN UP!

[BIT.LY/4P4R1SY](https://bit.ly/4P4R1SY)



**OR CONTACT THE
PARISH OFFICE**

920-739-5119

Brunch Bunch

• ADULTS AGE 55+ •

Join us for lunch and fellowship!



**FRIDAY,
AUGUST 28
11:30 AM**



**CAPITOL CENTRE
In the back room**

»» RESERVATIONS REQUIRED ««

Please RSVP by **CALL OR TEXT**
SUNDAY, Sue Rogers
AUGUST 23 **920-810-1545**



Please leave your name
and the number attending.



*Good food.
Great friends.
Strong in faith.*



RAISING VOCATIONS COLLECTION

Together, WE BUILD
THE FUTURE
OF OUR CHURCH

Our Young People Are Counting on You.

A spiritual family needs priests and sisters. That is why the Raising Vocations Collection is so important. By now, you have most likely received a letter from Bishop Ricken requesting your help in supporting young men and women on their faith journey.



Please return your generous contribution to this collection, using the pledge card and return envelope you received in the mail.



A gift of \$25, \$100, \$250, or more will make a huge difference now and for the future of our Church. catholicfoundationgb.org/give

Or call Tammy Danz at (920) 272-8123



Special Guest,

SEMINARIAN NICK VANDEHEY

will be joining us at the August 15 & 16 Masses.
He will share his vocation story at all Masses.

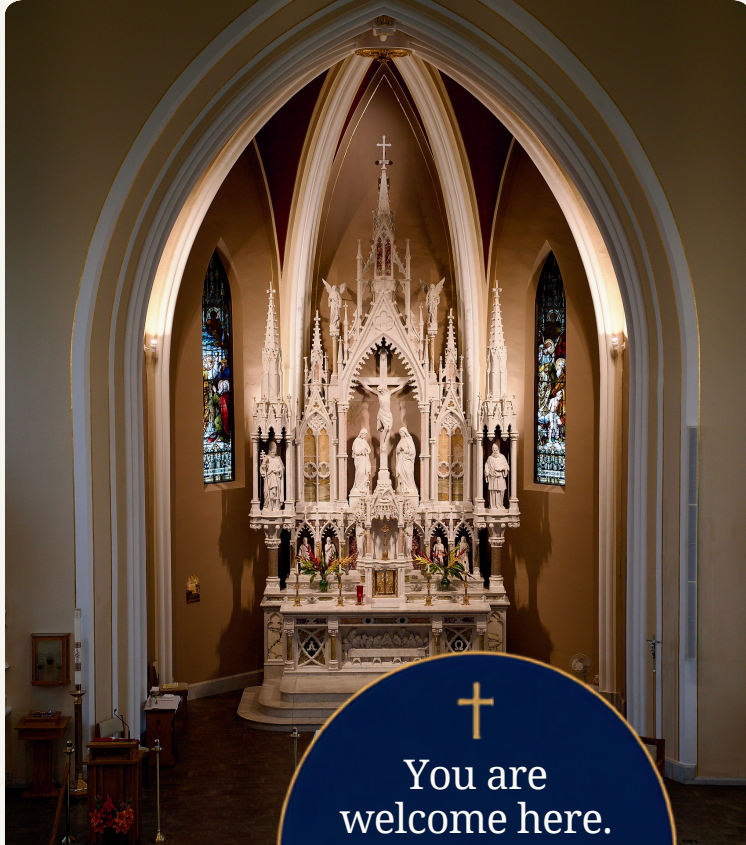
DISCOVER YOUR

Faith.



Come Home.

JOIN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.



You are
welcome here.

The Catholic Church is more than a place—it's a family, a faith, and a life-changing relationship with **Jesus Christ**.

WHEREVER YOU ARE
IN YOUR JOURNEY,
GOD IS CALLING YOU.

WHAT TO EXPECT



Meet Jesus-
Explore the beauty and truth
of the Catholic faith.



Grow with Jesus-
Deepen your relationship
with God through Scripture,
prayer, and the sacraments.



Share Jesus-
Be a witness for Christ by
serving others.

YOU MAY CONSIDER JOINING IF YOU...



Are curious about the Catholic faith



Have never been baptized



Were baptized in another
Christian tradition



Are Catholic but have not
received all your sacraments



Want to grow deeper in your faith

O CIA classes begin Sunday September, 27 - 11:00 am

TAKE THE NEXT STEP...

Contact Andrew Reimer
Minister of Adult Disciples

Email: areimer@stmaryparish.org Call: (920) 739-5119 x 110



How did the Sistine
Chapel get its name?



Calling All
COOKS!

Do you enjoy cooking and
sharing a home-cooked meal?

Consider preparing a meal for the
SPIRITUS missionaries!

SPIRITUS is a team of young adults who dedicate nine
months of their lives to sharing their Catholic faith by
leading retreats for youth across Wisconsin.

They live at Mount Tabor Center in Menasha,
and this past year they led **170 retreats**,
serving more than **5,400 students**.



Providing a meal is a wonderful way
to support these missionaries as they
continue their important ministry.

To learn more or to sign up, please contact
Marilyn Shutte at 920-722-3025
or mshutte@att.net

 **SPIRITUS**

VOLUNTEER TO HELP THE BELLS
OF ST. MARY HANDBELL CHOIR
FOR THEIR
ANNUAL
Bell Polishing
NIGHT

Monday
August 31
5:00 pm -
7:30 pm

WEAR YOUR
CLEANING CLOTHES

BRING YOUR
SCRUBBING ARMS!



Many hands make light work! ♥

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL

celtic mass

Featuring musicians from
Skerryvore & The Bow Tides

September 19 @ 4:30pm
St. Mary Parish-Appleton
312 S. State St.



Scan the
QR Code
for tickets
or go to:



Irishfestfoxcities.com



EVENTS CALENDAR

Mass Intentions

Week of Aug 16 - Aug 23

Sunday, Aug 16

Coffee & Donuts

Seminarian Nick Vandehey

7:45 am Mass

9:45 am Mass/Livestreamed/Children's Liturgy

9:45 am Harry Michael Suess Baptism

Monday, Aug 17

12:05 pm Mass

6:30 pm THEO/CR

7:00 pm AA Meeting/LL1

Tuesday, Aug 18

9:00 am Connect Group/LL7

1:00 pm SMP & SJP Prayer Shawl Group/LL112 SJ

1:00 pm SMP & SJP Book Club/LL7

Wednesday, Aug 19

8:00am Quilting

9:30 am Connect Group/LL7

1:00 pm Summer Bible Study/LL7

4:30 pm Adoration/Chapel

Thursday, Aug 20

10:00 am Little Lambs Playgroup - Babysitting Rm

12:05 pm Mass

1:00 pm Hooks & Needles/CR

Friday, Aug 21

Parish Office Closed

Saturday, Aug 22

9:00 am Confessions

1:00 pm Maggie May & Aaron White Wedding

4:30 pm Mass

Sunday, Aug 23

7:45 am Mass

9:45 an Mass

Sun., Aug 16

7:45 am

9:45 am

Living & Deceased in the Military
Gerald Grall

Mon., Aug 17

12:05 pm

Living & Deceased members of SMP

Thu., Aug 20

12:05 pm

Available

Sat., Aug 22

4:30 pm

Conrad Fuerstenberg

Sun., Aug 23

7:45 am

9:45 am

Dan Henderson
Clem & Rita Bardon



Prayer Requests Contact **Laurie Richter** (lauriejrichter@gmail.com), **Mary Jo Zilisch** (920-734-1182) or **Ann Walkowski** (920-428-0969) if you have a prayer need. Please remember these requests in our prayer baskets.

Generosity CORNER

I want to thank you all for your continued support for the parish. Half way through the month we are more than half way to our monthly target.

MONTH	INCOME	BUDGET	VARIANCE
July	\$42,403.00	\$57,800.00	-\$15,397.00

Your giving at work in the parish:

- This past weekend we welcomed Lisa Lynch to our Parish Team as Minister of Young Disciples. She will be taking on Beacon Faith Formation and working with our young families. Welcome, Lisa.
- We have some big projects coming up for the parish. We are looking into some new exterior landscaping and updating our Stations of the Cross. See the page on the Stations of the Cross in this Bulletin



Built between 1473 and 1481,
its construction was
authorized
by Pope Sixtus IV

in Joy & SORROW

ST MARY PARISH - APPLETON // 8.16.2026
WITH FR. BILL SWICHTENBERG



A good shepherd
LEADS TOGETHER,
LISTENS DEEPLY,
AND LEAVES NO
ONE BEHIND.

*"As Pope Francis suggested, a good shepherd is
a leader who finds himself or herself sometimes
out front, in the midst, and from behind—
on the lookout for those who feel left out
or pushed away."* — FR. BILL



COMMUNION • PARTICIPATION • MISSION

As I prepare to pass the baton of leadership to another Priest-Pastor, I am praying that he will have the good sense to realize that he stands on the shoulders of those who have gone before him, the Good Pastors and the Good People of God, who have guided our Spiritual Family of Saint Mary Parish to this holy moment in our history. A new pastor should have the good sense to listen to the story of our parish and its vision. That vision's foundation includes every person, created with God-given dignity, who is blessed with the grace of belonging and having inestimable value. Upon that foundation rest the pillars of worship, discipleship, fellowship, ministry, and mission which make that vision come alive.

As Pope Francis suggested, a good shepherd is a leader who finds himself or herself sometimes out front, leading in a direction that is inspired by the Holy Spirit and that moves us forward together. Just as important, a good shepherd is in the midst of the People of God, not set apart, but listening with his or her heart to the Holy Spirit, who speaks uniquely through the experiences of every baptized believer, who is valued. Lastly, the good shepherd leads from behind, on the lookout for those who feel left out or pushed away, eyes wide open seeking those who are among the least and the lost. This is synodality in its best light, integral to the life of the parish, its pastor, and its lay leaders.

I am concerned when I read that bishops, archbishops, and cardinals in some places in our global church are naysayers to synodality. It is a "burden." It is "dangerous." It blurs the distinction between the ordained and the non-ordained. They hope that this "synodality business" will be nipped in the bud, sooner than later.

Pope Leo is not of this opinion. I believe that the future of the Catholic Church hinges on the axes of communion, participation, and mission. "In the One [Christ], we are one," as Pope Leo's episcopal motto declares. Communion means that we are with and for each other. We have different roles but we all have equal dignity, which is the grace of our Baptism. There can be no gap between the ordained and the People of God.

Together, we participate in the mission. Co-responsibility is a major key in the synodal symphony.

Every person is committed to the Church's mission and contributes uniquely to advancing that mission. The mission is to make disciples for the Lord and to further His Kingdom, which is both now and not yet, along the pathway which leads to peace with justice and forgiveness, accented by love and joy.

The word "catholic" is synonymous with the word "universal." All that is catholic seeks that center where there is a careful balance between continuity/constancy (which implies a genuine commitment to conserving all that is good) and enrichment/expansion (which implies a commitment to moving forward.) The Holy Spirit, who holds both conservatism and progressivism in tension, is never satisfied with the *status quo*.

Tradition preserves what is best in our history, always inviting us to look at the Church as described in the Acts of the Apostles, while at the same time, being open to the something new that might be brought into the storeroom. (Matthew 13:52)

Even though it has been sixty years since its close in 1965, Vatican Council II is still something new.

Certainly praying the Mass in the vernacular, with the altar pulled away from the back wall of the sanctuary and placed closer to the People of God, with the priest facing the people and inviting them into prayer is still something new, I guess. In this holy configuration, the Risen Jesus is right in the midst of the assembly, praying with the people and the priest.

For sure, the Risen Jesus is present in the Proclamation of the Word of God, in the calling down of the Holy Spirit, transforming Bread and Wine into the Real Presence of the Risen Lord, in the Priest, and in the People! The roles of the People and the Priest are complementary and both are needed to effect the prayer which gives praise and thanks to the Lord. Anything that seems to elevate one role above the other is contrary to the symphony which is glorious because of the prayer of every person present.

I have no problem with people who would choose the Traditional Latin Mass (TLM) but its availability should be limited. It is an extraordinary expression of the liturgy and cannot surpass the ordinary expression as declared by the Council Fathers. My problem is when a spirit of superiority suggests that somehow the TLM is better or holier than the Mass in the vernacular. My problem is when a spirit of animosity suggests that the teachings of Vatican Council II are not Spirit-filled.

The Church is Spirit-filled when it teaches that we, in our Christian faith, are grafted onto our Jewish sisters and brothers, who are our beloved fathers and mothers in the faith. Any scintilla of anti-semitism is always and everywhere unacceptable and to be condemned.

The Church is Spirit-filled when it teaches that glimmers of the one truth can be found in our brothers and sisters who follow non-Christian religions. In our own country, prejudice against our Muslim sisters and brothers is reprehensible.

Vatican Council II affirmed the sacredness of freedom of religion. No one can deny people the right to worship in the way they choose. Coming to an agreement about this was one of the most difficult challenges for the Council Fathers.

Note that Pope Leo is dedicating his Wednesday General Audiences to a review of the documents of Vatican Council II. Without a doubt, Pope Leo is committed to treasuring the teachings of the Council and walking along the path of synodality!