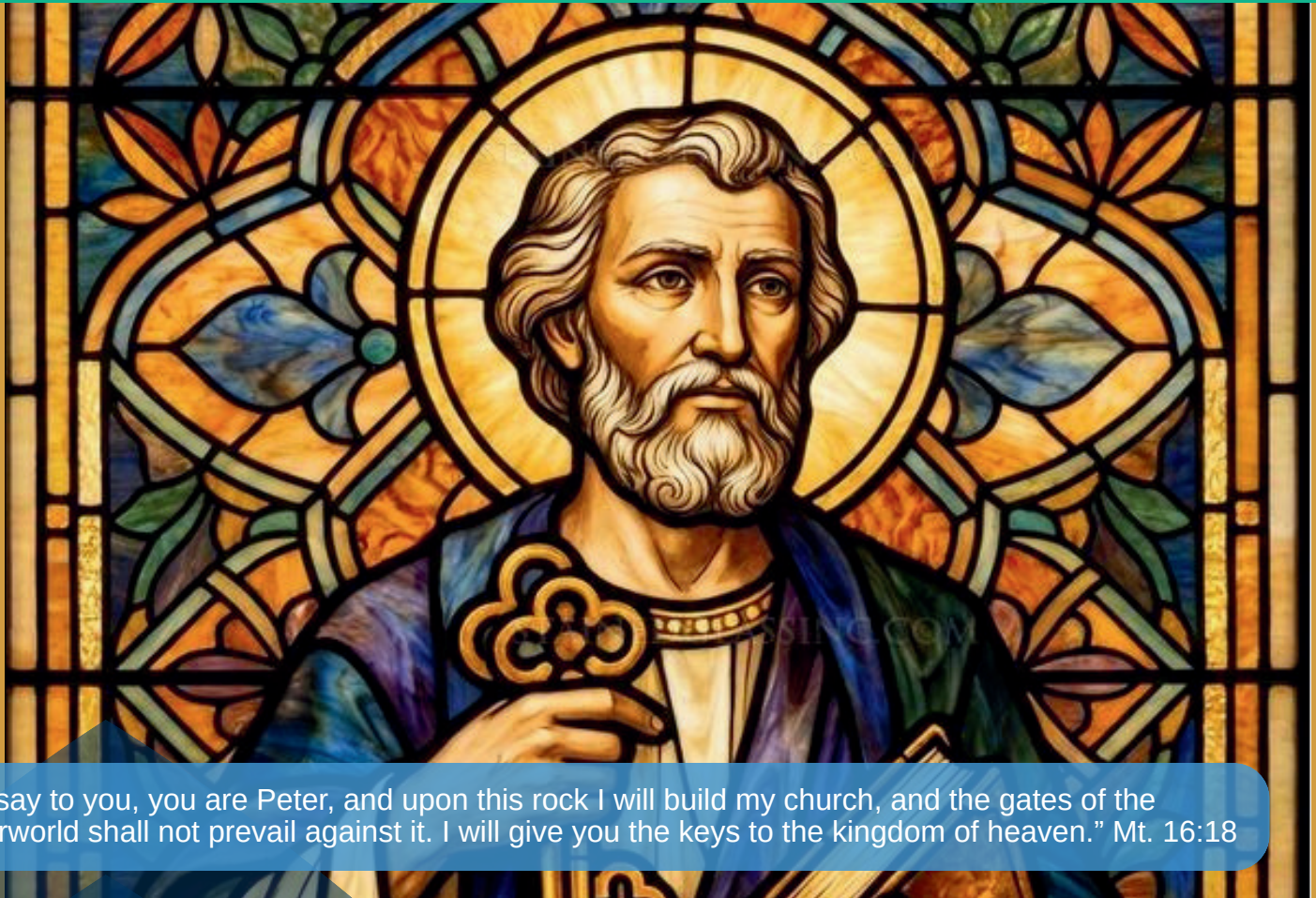


21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • AUGUST 23, 2026

ST. MARY PARISH

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

312 SOUTH STATE STREET • APPLETON, WI 54911



“So I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven.” Mt. 16:18

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
llavalle@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

REGISTER HERE:

Faith Formation
bit.ly/4qdWf6v



Sacrament Prep
bit.ly/4iMmr0G



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).



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:



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



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



In what year did Vatican City become an independent state (country)?

Thank You **TRACY TURBA!**



*Thank you for your
years of faith, love,
and dedication!*

TRACY'S MINISTRY HAS MADE AN IMPACT!



Created opportunities for young people and families to grow together in faith



Led faith formation and Sacramental preparation



Organized family nights, small groups, prayer opportunities, and special events



Welcomed families into our parish and encouraged their active participation



Led Children's Liturgy and supported our youth in knowing they belong at St. Mary



Tracy's deep faith, quiet dedication, caring spirit, and genuine love for our children and families have touched countless lives.



She has helped our young disciples discover that faith is not simply something we learn—it is something we live together.



We are especially grateful for the many ways Tracy has encouraged our young people to know that they have a place here at St. Mary—a place where they are welcomed, valued, and invited to grow in their relationship with Christ.

As Tracy begins a new chapter, we want her to know how much she will be missed.

Thank you, Tracy, for your years of service, your kindness, your faith, and the countless ways you have helped build up the youth here at St. Mary.

Please join us in offering Tracy our heartfelt gratitude and prayers for God's blessings in all that lies ahead.

COME WISH TRACY WELL!



Sunday, August 30th

After the 9:45 AM Mass

during Coffee & Donuts

in the Community Room



We are grateful for you Tracy!

AFFECTED BY THE TORNADO AND NEED ASSISTANCE?

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

Helping Fox Valley Families Recover

- Mental health support
- Financial health assistance
- Urgent housing and basic personal needs for anyone in need.



**SCAN HERE
FOR HELP**

dioc.io/disasterrelief

SUPPORT TORNADO RELIEF THROUGH CATHOLIC CHARITIES

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 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 opportunities, resources and ways to help.

*Your generosity
makes a difference!*

HELP RESTORE ST. MARY CEMETERY

Restoring a Sacred Place of Peace

This fund will help defray the cost of cleaning up and repairing St. Mary cemetery grounds following the tornado.

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

We anticipate costs nearing \$100,000 or more. It will be significantly more if we need to clean out fallen trees along the slope leading to the river.

We appreciate your support as we help make St. Mary Cemetery a peaceful resting place for those buried there and their families.



DONATE ONLINE:

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

ST. MARY CEMETERY CONTINUES TO RECOVER



We want to thank everyone

who has helped or contributed to support the efforts to clean up the cemetery. We continue to make progress but the going is slow.



There was a nice follow up on **WBAY Streaming** highlighting the ongoing efforts and the costs involved.

See the link below – the segment begins at minute 1:14 and ends at 2:50.



WATCH THE WBAY SEGMENT:

<https://www.wbay.com/video/2026/08/17/monday-august-17-2026-action-2-news-this-morning-livestream/>
Segment begins at 1:14 and ends at 2:50.



SECOND VOLUNTEER CLEAN UP DAY

We are planning a second volunteer clean up day for the weekend before Labor Day. More details to come!

♥ Thank you for your continued prayers and support! ♥

ST. MARY CEMETERY - APPLETON

ST. JOSEPH MINISTRIES TO NEIGHBORS IN NEED



August Needs List

Please drop off / or send in your items (from Amazon or Walmart) to St. Joseph Parish (404 W Lawrence St, Appleton, WI 54911) marked Grab & Go! They are in desperate need of men's shoes (size 9-12) and old backpacks. Thank you!

[Click here to view list and sign up](#)



Morning Coffee

Help serve and have coffee with our neighbors on weekday mornings from 7 am – 9 am. Please arrive at 6:30 am.

If you are new, write in the comments of the sign-up so they can pair you with someone experienced with this ministry.

[Click here to sign up](#)



New Ministry! Sunday Sandwiches

Help serve Sunday sandwiches. It is an hour on Sunday from 5 pm – 6 pm. Watch for future opportunities to participate in this new ministry.

Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ to our neighbors in need!

DISCOVER YOUR Faith. + Come Home.

JOIN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

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



✕
You are
welcome here.

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



OCIA CLASSES BEGIN

Sunday, September 27

11:00 am



TAKE THE NEXT STEP...

Minister of Adult Disciples
Andrew Reimer

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

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, AUGUST 23
Sue Rogers
920-810-1545

Please leave your name
and the number attending.

Good food.
Great friends.
Strong in faith.



2ND CALL!



ST. MARY ADULT CHOIR RESUMES THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD!

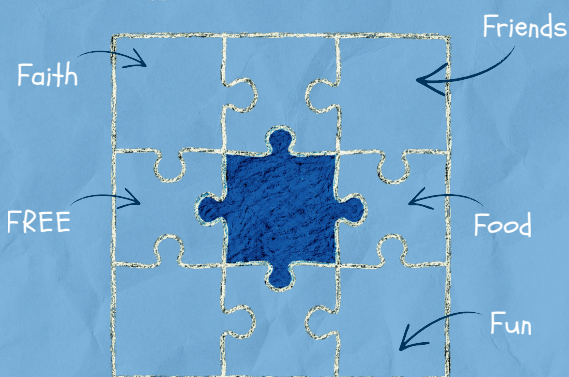
COME AND JOIN THIS FUN AND VERY
MUSICAL GROUP OF SINGERS.



CONTACT TOM IF YOU WANT
TO JOIN THEM.

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

LIFE IS A PUZZLE. EVERY PIECE MATTERS.



WE'RE JUST MISSING YOU!



Open to All High Schoolers
Kick off Sept. 8th 2026
Every Tuesday night at 7:04 PM

linktr.ee/summittotheheights

SUMMIT is made possible in part by the generosity of The Catholic Foundation of the Diocese of Green Bay, Inc.

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!



✝ ST. MARY PARISH



Congratulations! ✨ **SEBASTIAN VOISSEM & EMERSON REZIN!**

SPIRIT OF KATERI AWARD RECIPIENTS

Sebastian and Emerson were recently recognized with the Spirit of Kateri Award at Camp Tekakwitha, a rare honor chosen from 160 campers each week.



This award honors campers who live out a commitment to prayer, community, outdoor adventure, care for creation, and love of service to God and neighbor.

We are so proud of you, Sebastian and Emerson!

ST. KATERI TEKAKWITHA, PRAY FOR US!



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF FAITH
• COMMUNITY • ADVENTURE



FEATURED BAND SKERRYVORE



**FRI SEPT 18 7:00 PM
SAT SEPT 19 8:45 PM**



SCOTTISH FOLK-ROCK AT ITS BEST!



Skerryvore is a Scottish folk-rock band known for their high-energy performances, powerful bagpipes, driving rhythms, and rich four-part harmonies.

Winners of Scotland's
Live Act Of The Year — four times!



LEARN MORE: [SKERRYVORE.COM](https://www.skerryvore.com)

Live. Loud. Celtic.

DON'T MISS THEM AT IRISH FEST!

EVENTS CALENDAR

Mass Intentions

Week of Aug 23 - Aug 30

Sunday, Aug 23

7:45 am Mass
9:45 am Mass/Livestreamed

Monday, Aug 24

12:05 pm Mass
7:00 pm AA Meeting/LL1

Tuesday, Aug 25

9:00 am Connect Group/LL7
6:30 pm Men's Ministry/LL7

Wednesday, Aug 26

9:30 am Connect Group/LL7
1:00 pm Summer Bible Study/LL7

Thursday, Aug 27

10:00 am Little Lambs Playgroup - Babysitting Rm
12:05 pm Mass
4:00 pm Wedding Rehearsal

Friday, Aug 28

Parish Office Closed

11:30 am Brunch Bunch/Capitol Centre
2:00 pm Mackenzie Greisch &
Eliot Hartzheim Wedding

Saturday, Aug 29

9:00 am Confessions
4:30 pm Mass

Sunday, Aug 30

Coffee & Donuts

7:45 am Mass
9:45 am Mass/LS/Childrens Liturgy
Thank you to Tracy!

Sun., Aug 23 7:45 am Dan Henderson
9:45 am Clem & Rita Bardon

Mon., Aug 24 12:05 pm Bill & Florence Polley

Thu., Aug 27 12:05 pm Margaret Higgins

Sat., Aug 29 4:30 pm Living & Deceased members of SMP

Sun., Aug 30 7:45 am Bill Polley
9:45 am Jacob Family



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

Your generosity keeps us going. Thank you so much for your ongoing support of the parish and our ministries.

MONTH	INCOME	BUDGET	VARIANCE
August	\$50,252.25	\$57,800.00	-\$7,547.75

Your giving at work in the parish:

- On Tuesday we have a pilgrimage of parishioners going to the Shrine of Our Lady of Champion. This will be a great excursion for more than 20 from our community to experience the prayer and blessings of the site.
- We have had a great outpouring of concern and support for our cemetery since the tornado. We will have another volunteer day at the cemetery coming up the weekend before Labor Day.



in Joy & **SORROW**

ST MARY PARISH - APPLETON // 8.23.2026
WITH FR. BILL SWICHTENBERG



“
Tell me, what else
should I have done?
Doesn't everything die
at last, and too soon?
Tell me, what is it you plan
to do with your *one*
wild and precious life?
”

— MARY OLIVER

THE SUMMER DAY

by Mary Oliver

Who made the world?
Who made the swan, and the black bear?
Who made the grasshopper?
This grasshopper, I mean —
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down —
who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,
which is what I have been doing all day.
Tell me, what else should I have done?
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?
Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?

Maybe for Ms Oliver, too, bittersweet is this time of year for me. Summer has jetted across the sky for its short flight of three months. I hope that you were able to soak up its unique beauty.

I spent some time this month (8/10-14) with my brother and his family at their house on Tainter Lake in Dunn County, the Village of Colfax, Menomonie, WI. My nephew and his family live in Altoona and my niece and her family reside in Eden Prairie, MN. I was able to connect with them, as well, and with their beautiful children, my great nieces and nephews. Menus were kids' favorites, pizza and Culver's. They were so excited to show me the hundreds of pictures from their Disney Cruise.

Family vacations are priceless for the memories they create which will be treasured for a whole lifetime.

My brother, even though retired, is busy inside and outside of the lake house every day. No grass grows under his feet, and if it does, he is quick to get out the lawnmower. This week he is up on the roof doing repairs on the chimney. Egads! At almost 68 years of age! Glad I am not around to witness that! I told him, "Bob, hire somebody to do that for you!" No way is he going to do that!

I did see my brother pause for a moment or two, here and there. He enjoys sitting in his lawn chair, no cellphone in sight, just gazing at the tall trees that adorn his property. Some of them have graced that place for a hundred years.

Trees are magnificent. I would like to study them more because they really are social beings who communicate in an intricate way with one another! They are more cooperative than competitive with each other. Can you believe that?

In the aftermath of the tornado here, the plowing down of so many grace-filled trees was a heartbreaking tragedy. I am so grateful for the miracle that no human lives were lost but so sad for our dear trees.

It seems like yesterday was the last day of school, and now here we are at the beginning of the new school year. As a kid, I always looked forward to going back to school. At 71 years of age, I would not want to be seated at a desk in a classroom any more. Standing in front of the class as a teacher would be an honor though. Let us be filled with unbounded gratitude for our dear dedicated teachers, coaches on the playing field and on the theater stage, school counselors, administrators, and all the support staff. They are holy people in my book, and I hope, in yours, too! During the school year they spend more time with our precious children and young people than we do as their families!

Here are some prayers I wrote for these days.

FOR THE REMAINING DAYS OF SUMMER

Lord Jesus, Divine Creator, I thank You for the precious gift of Your beautiful creation. I thank You for summer's bright sunshine and blue skies and puffy clouds, for the quiet of a soft rain shower, for all your creatures, the stately deer and strutting turkeys and golden eagles and scampering rabbits and shimmering fish, and the fresh corn-on-the-cob, ripe tomatoes, golden peaches and even pumpkins, too. Remind me to find time for stillness and silence on these holy days.

Jesus, tend to the garden of my soul. Strengthen me. Heal me. Free me. Calm me, that all my life may give praise and thanks to You! Amen!

AT THE BEGINNING OF A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Bless all who walk through the front doors of our schools. Bless our children and young people with an eagerness for learning, to reason and question well, to develop their creative side, especially through the gifts of reading, writing, and playing musical instruments and sports of all sorts. Give them hearts to see you in their classmates, friends, principals, teachers, coaches. Give them ears to listen well to all those they encounter during the school year.

Give the same hearts and ears to principals, teachers, and coaches that they may see and hear You, Jesus, in the children and young people entrusted to them in the holy ministry of teaching.

Bless our family, Lord! In all of our loving encounters with one another, may we recognize You, the First Teacher, within each other.

Come Holy Spirit! With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; teach us the way we must go, and how we are to pursue it.

Amen!

Fr. Bill +