

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • SEPT 20, 2026

ST. MARY PARISH

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

312 SOUTH STATE STREET • APPLETON, WI 54911



“Peter asked, ‘Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?’ Jesus answered, ‘I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times.’” Mt. 18:21-22

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

Parish Office Hours:

920-739-5119

Mon, Tues, Thurs, 9am-4pm

Wed, 9am-6:30pm

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



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>

You're invited to a special presentation series

Vatican II

*Understanding the Council.
Living the Legacy.*

Join us this Fall for a journey through the teachings, history, and lasting impact of the Second Vatican Council—one of the most important events in the life of the Church.

Five Sessions This Fall
Thursdays, Beginning October 1
6:00–7:30 PM | Room LL7

SCAN THE
QR CODE
TO SIGN UP

OR CLICK
THE LINK



VATICAN II

presented by



**Father Bill
Swichtenberg**

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

Generations of Sisterhood

An Encounter with Eternity



WHAT:

It's a girl thing! A special event which includes a heavenly visit from our "soul sisters" in Scripture. Come and hear from Sarah, Esther, Ruth and Deborah as they tell their heartfelt stories from their perspective! A lovely meal will be included in this event.



WHO:

We invite you to come as grandmothers, daughters, Goddaughters, granddaughters, aunts, nieces, neighbors and best girlfriends. You do not need to belong to St. Mary's or be Catholic. All girls, from age 12 through 100+ are welcome! Please register as a group so you will be seated together.



WHEN:

Saturday, October 24, 2026 at 5:30pm -7:30pm
(following the 4:30pm Mass)



WHERE:

We will step into eternity at St. Mary Parish Community Room



COST:

The cost is \$5.00 per person



REGISTER:

Here's the scoop! Because of the necessary planning for the event, everyone must register. Please register by Monday, October 19th! We will have 60 spots available so register soon by stopping in or calling the parish office. 920-739-5119

Brunch Bunch

• ADULTS AGE 55+ •

Join us for lunch and fellowship!



**SUNDAY,
SEPT. 27**
11:30 AM



PULLMAN'S
619 South Olde
Oneida St.
Appleton 54915

»» RESERVATIONS REQUIRED ««

Please RSVP by
WEDNESDAY,
SEPT. 23



CALL OR TEXT
Sue Rogers
920-810-1545



Please leave your name
and the number attending.



Good food.
Great friends.
Strong in faith.



E2F PANS (EMPTY TO FULL)

*A simple pan can make a
big difference!*

Lend a hand in stocking Pillars' freezer!

Grab some empty pans from us on **October 3 & 4**, fill them with tasty meals, and return on the weekend of **October 10 & 11**.

You can also return it during office hours, Monday to Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Let's team up to spread the love and care!

PICK UP PANS



Oct.
3 & 4

DROP OFF MEALS



Oct.
10 & 11



Thank you for helping
feed our neighbors! ♥

JOIN A SMALL GROUP

This Fall!

REAL PEOPLE.
REAL CONVERSATIONS
A DEEPER FAITH.



Small groups are a great way to grow in faith, build friendships, and journey together as disciples of Christ. All are welcome!



GROUPS FOR
MEN



GROUPS FOR
WOMEN



MIXED
GROUPS



MEET DURING
THE DAY OR
IN THE EVENINGS

FAITH GROWS TOGETHER



INTERESTED IN JOINING A SMALL GROUP?

Contact Andrew Reimer at

☎ (920) 739-5119 x110

✉ areimer@stmaryparish.org

"Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

— Matthew 18:20

Office Hours

During the school year,
Kristina, our
Administrative
Assistant, will be
available until

6:30 PM

on **Wednesdays**, for
any business that
needs to be conducted
outside of our regular
Parish Office hours.



Who are the four women
Doctors of the Church?

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

IN TIMES OF
GREAT NEED

AFFECTED BY THE TORNADO AND NEED ASSISTANCE?

LOOKING FOR WAYS TO SUPPORT TORNADO RELIEF?

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Green Bay is providing emergency assistance to those affected by the recent tornado, including financial support, and are taking donations to help with this assistance.



SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFO

dioc.io/disasterrelief

**Contact Catholic Charities
LEAVEN COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER**

1475 Opportunity Way, Menasha

Providence Promise Ministries at St. Joseph Church

Current 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](#)

ST. MARY Grief Support — GROUP —



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM FOR 8 WEEKS



For the months of
SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER,
we will meet at the
St. Mary Cemetery Chapel
2121 W Prospect Ave.
Appleton, WI 54914



Starting
NOVEMBER,
we will meet at the
St. Mary Church Chapel.

[CLICK HERE TO
SIGN UP](#)

OR SCAN THE
QR CODE





Beacon Family Night

Wednesday, October 14th
from 5:30 – 7:15



Fellowship:

Join us for a Taco & Nacho Bar dinner
in the Community Room from 5:30 – 6:00.



Break out session for adults and 6th – 12th grade students:

Kari Reindl from Winnebago Mental Health
(who is also a certified spiritual director) will give
an interactive presentation on how prayer reduces anxiety.
She will draw on methods that she has found successful in
working with her clients – that can be of help to us too.
Kari has a huge heart and is an incredible presenter –
you are in for a treat!



Break out session for 1st – 5th grade students:

Our younger students will gather with Lisa and Anna
Lynch to learn tips and tricks for reducing stress from
two of our favorite October Saints, John Paul II and
Therese of Lisieux. Anna will lead the kids in making
homemade sensory toys (slime and squishies) that will be
used during our stress-reduction prayer activities.



**** This event will replace our usual Wednesday
Beacon classes for the week. ****



COFFEE & DONUTS

Stay after Mass to enjoy coffee, donuts, and great fellowship!



SCAN OR
CLICK HERE
TO SIGN UP!



Faith, Friends, Fellowship!



Love to Cook? Join our Parish Cooking Ministry!

EMAIL [LORILAVALLEAT
LLAVALLE@STMARYPARISH.ORG](mailto:LORILAVALLEATLLAVALLE@STMARYPARISH.ORG)
OR SIGN UP USING THIS QR
CODE



Cia-Faith Mission Operatives

INVESTIGATE YOUR FAITH! 2026-2027 SERIES
New Season! New Start Time

Monday, Sept 21, 6:30 pm



CATHERINE
OF SIENA

A Woman for Our Times

A solo performance by

Sr. Nancy Murray
Dominican Sister & Sister
of Comedian Bill Murray

Catherine, a most influential and popular saint, took on governments and popes and is one of only four women named a Doctor of the Church.

With simple props and a fertile imagination,
Sr. Nancy portrays Catherine as the enthusiastic, colorful, strong, and passionate personality
she was.

Xavier Fine Arts Theatre
1600 Prospect Ave, Appleton, WI

Offerings will be donated to area tornado relief!

For details, google CIAFMO, email ciafmo@gmail.com, or call 920-450-3025

ST. JOE'S KIDS RUN!

Run • Have Fun • Make Memories!

CALLING ALL KIDS!

Come join us for the St. Joe's Kids Run –
a fun event where kids can run, laugh,
and celebrate crossing the finish line!



WHO CAN JOIN?

Kids of all ages and abilities!
Bring your friends, your family,
and your biggest smile.

No pressure — just FUN! ★

ST. JOE'S
FOOD
PROGRAM

Fighting Hunger. Sustaining Hope.

REGISTER FOR THE
10K, 5K, AND
KIDS RUN ON
OCTOBER 3RD.

Now!



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

One Month in the Life of Someone Experiencing Poverty

September 24th, 2026 | 9:00-12:00 | St. Joseph Parish, 404 W. Lawrence St., Appleton, WI

The CESA 6 Poverty Simulation is a 3 hour immersive and interactive experience. Attendees are assigned to participate as either a member of a family or a worker at an agency with accompanying stories and roles. Participants will be challenged to navigate work, school, community, and social systems with the resources they have been given while managing unexpected events along the way. This experience provides the opportunity to interactively role play one month in the life of a human experiencing poverty.

After the poverty simulation concludes, participants will have the opportunity to take part in a safe, facilitated conversation about what they just experienced. This post-conversation will provide a unique opportunity to interact and share ideas with other caring individuals who possess different perspectives and lived experiences. These conversations can lead to new and different ideas about how to meet the needs of all of our neighbors in the community.

Outcomes

- Increase knowledge of structures, policies, processes, and practices that contribute to system barriers
- Build empathy, understanding, and responsibility that individuals can take to remove barriers
- Encourage participants to be agents of change personally and professionally within systems and communities



I have a better understanding of how families need to make quick decisions about what they need to prioritize on a day to day basis. I had many “aha” moments in how to better support families navigating poverty.”

— 24-25 Participant,

Details

- Location: St. Joseph Parish, 404 W. Lawrence St., Entrance 1 to Holly Hall Parking: East parking lot off Lawrence St. or West parking lot from Lawrence or Walnut St.
- Free will offering will be accepted to offset program costs
- Food and beverages provided
- RSVP: <https://forms.gle/mMq9Nu4n6q4ogrMe7> or scan QR code

PROVIDENCE PROMISE
Mike Mailand
mmmailand@sbcglobal.net
920-915-7901

**Build empathy, understanding,
and responsibility**



EVENTS CALENDAR

Mass Intentions

Week of Sept 20 - Sept 27

Sunday, Sept 20

Coffee & Donuts

7:45 am Mass

9:45 am Mass/LS/Phoebe Klunk Baptism

Children's Liturgy

3:00 pm Confirmation Mass

Monday, Sept 21

12:05 pm Mass

6:00 pm Reach More/ LL7

6:30 pm Bells of St Mary Handbell Choir Practice/CL

6:30 THEO/ CR

7:00 pm AA Meeting/LL1

Tuesday, Sept 22

9:00am Connect Meal Prep/Kitchen

9:00 am Connect Group/LL7

5:30 pm Mixed Small Group/Scout Rm

Wednesday, Sept 23

9:30 am Connect Group/LL7

4:30 pm-8:00 pm Beacon

Thursday, Sept 24

8:00 am Quilting Retreat/ CR

10:00 am Little Lambs Playgroup - Babysitting Rm

12:05 pm Mass

6:00 pm Adult Choir/MR

Friday, Sept 25

Parish Office Cosed

8:00 am Quilting Retreat/ CR

Saturday, Sept 26

8:00 am Quilting Retreat/ CR

9:00 am Confessions

4:30 pm Mass

Sunday, Sept 27

Coffee & Donuts

7:45 am Bell Demo/ Recruitment - back of church

7:45 am Mass

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

11:00 am First Reconciliation Parent Meeting/LL7

11:00 am OCIA Classes Begin Discover your Faith

11:30 am Brunch Bunch/ Pullman's Restaurant

Sun., Sept 20 7:45 am Men & Women in the Military
9:45 am Paula Hebel

Mon., Sept 21 12:05 pm Carol Pond

Thus., Sep 24 12:05 pm Living and Deceased Members of SMP

Sat., Sept 26 4:30 pm Margie & Alan Hopfensperger

Sun., Sept 27 7:45 am
9:45 am Ed Sabish



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

As social Fall and actual Fall converge, the parish is definitely out of Summer mode. Thank you for your continued support of the parish.

MONTH	INCOME	BUDGET	VARIANCE
September	\$48,755.90	\$63,400.00	-\$14,644.10

Your giving at work in the parish:

- Our Beacon faith formation program began this week with a new leader at its helm, Lisa Lynch. Please keep Lisa, the catechists, and all of our young people in the program in your prayers as they continue to develop their faith.
- The Reach More program is also beginning. If you are interested in Reach More, the discipleship pathway, or any of our Adult Discipleship programs coming up this Fall, please contact Andrew in the parish office - areimer@stmaryparish.org.



St Teresa of Avila
St Catherine of Siena
St Therese of Lisieux
St Hildegard of Bingen

in Joy & SORROW

ST MARY PARISH - APPLETON // 9.20.2026
WITH FR. BILL SWICHTENBERG



“When seeking to recognize
God’s voice, *silence* is what
can help us the most.”



POPE LEO XIV



As our Spiritual Family celebrates the Confirmation of twelve fine young women and men, let me take the opportunity to share some things about the Sacrament of Confirmation in the light of the history of the Church.

In the early Church, as new members were being welcomed, after a significant amount of preparation as catechumens, averaging a total of three years, they would have celebrated the Sacraments of Initiation – that is, Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist – on the night of Holy Saturday, at the Easter Vigil. As Confirmation was reserved to the Bishop, as more and more people were ready for Full Initiation, and now because the Bishop could not be in so many places for the Post-Baptismal Anointing, which was Confirmation, on Holy Saturday evening, the integrity of the Sacraments fell apart. That meant that Confirmation would be celebrated when the Bishop was available and the order of the sacraments celebrated would now be Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation.

This is the scenario for Full Initiation in the Catholic Church that still exists to this day. No longer seeing Confirmation in the light of full initiation, we have created a theology that describes Confirmation as a sacrament of maturity. These young confirmandi, now mature enough, freely choose to embrace the fullness of the Catholic faith and commit to participating as adults in the life of the Church. A repercussion of this understanding is the sense that these young people have now graduated. They have completed the process of being formed in the faith. This is problematic as not even you and I are finished products when it comes to growing in faith. We never stop deepening our friendship with the Lord and our commitment to His Church.

With the link broken between the Sacraments of Initiation, we have lost sight of the fact that Confirmation confirms what happened at Baptism. In Confirmation, the gifts of the Holy Spirit, first poured into the hearts of the newly-baptized, are now strengthened. It is not as if more of the Holy Spirit is poured out upon the person being confirmed. We all receive the fullness of the Spirit in baptism. We are all equal in dignity before the Lord and each other. In Confirmation, the Spirit strengthens the gifts and fruits unique to the Spirit so as to empower the newly-confirmed person to become a witness to the Lord and an advocate for the building up of His Kingdom in this mixed-up world of ours.

In Holy Orders, the Spirit anoints the new deacon, priest, or bishop to channel the Spirit's gifts and fruits to be used for humble servant leadership in the Church.

There has been a movement to restore the order of the celebration of the Initiation Sacraments, which means that the Sacrament of Confirmation is celebrated on the day of the celebration of First Eucharist. Some people feel that the Church may lose track of these children now that there is nothing to hold them in a preparation program as they have received all of the Initiation Sacraments. I would maintain, however, that the Sacraments of Initiation and of Vocations (Marriage and Holy Orders) are not "one and done" moments. Our whole lives are about leaning into the graces of our Baptism and Confirmation. All of married life and the life of a deacon, priest or bishop is about leaning into the graces of the Holy Spirit, poured into open and docile hearts.

The following US dioceses celebrate Confirmation and First Holy Communion with their children at the age of reason, which is age 7, in one ceremony

A:

- **Archdiocese of Denver**, Colorado (switched in 2015)
- **Diocese of Springfield, Illinois**, Illinois
- **Diocese of Fargo**, North Dakota
- **Diocese of Phoenix**, Arizona
- **Diocese of Tulsa**, Oklahoma
- **Diocese of Portland**, Maine
- **Diocese of Columbus**, Ohio
- **Diocese of Saginaw**, Michigan (switched early in 1995)
- **Diocese of Gaylord**, Michigan
- **Diocese of Great Falls-Billings**, Montana
- **Diocese of Spokane**, Washington
- **Diocese of Manchester**, New Hampshire (adopted in 2017)
- **Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter** (national personal ordinariate for former Anglicans)

It is interesting to note that on this topic one size does not fit all. There can be varied practices in the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church. This reality does not sit well with some of our Catholic sisters and brothers as it seems to contradict the sacred unity of the Catholic Church.

Anyhow, probably some of you may be thinking that all of the above is too much information.

Maybe this brief reflection from Pope Leo to young people in Madrid, Spain on June 6 may encourage our newly-confirmed young people with a well-needed reminder. “When seeking to recognize God’s voice, silence is what can help us the most. I believe it is very important for each of us to cultivate the ability to be silent. Often we wear headphones, listen to music or seek distractions, and we don’t know how to be silent. I believe that it is often precisely in this experience of silence that God can speak to us or that we can discern God’s voice. When we seek silence, we choose what not to listen to and which noises not to let distract us. By freeing ourselves from the clamor of a thousand different voices, we recognize that some mislead our desires, others exploit us without providing for us, and still others speak out of self-interest.”

Finally, praise the Lord, here is the prayer I wrote and presented to our young people on the holy occasion of their Confirmation.

Lord Jesus,

I am amazed that the Holy Spirit —

- who descended upon You on the Day of Your Baptism in the River Jordan,
- who inspired You as You preached for the first time in the synagogue in Your home town of Nazareth, and
- whom You sent to abide in the hearts of your fearful disciples cowering together in the Upper Room in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost

— is the same Holy Spirit who flooded my heart on the Day of my Baptism with seven-fold gifts and who now strengthens those gifts on the Day of my Confirmation.

Jesus, I belong to you and I belong to your Church, the People of God. May these holy bonds never be broken.

Help me to live, not for myself, but for You and others. Help me to give myself to others in love, especially to my sisters and brothers who feel like they don’t matter.

Let Your Holy Spirit shine through all my words and actions, and my thoughts, too.

When I don’t know what words or actions to offer — when I get waylaid by my selfishness or my indifference— remind Your Holy Spirit to nudge me in the right direction.

When my belief in my own goodness wavers, send Your Holy Spirit to encourage me.

As You, Jesus, have made Your Home in my heart; may I make my home in Your Heart.

Give me a deep desire to make space and time each day to connect with you in quiet prayer.

Do not let me slip away from you.

Do with me, not for me, what I sometimes think that I can do on my own.

In the power of Your Holy Spirit, and praying with Mary, Your Mother, may my prayer be only “Let it be done to me as You say.”

Amen+