ST. MARY PARISH

PHONE: (920) 739-5119 • EMAIL: STMARY@STMARYPARISH.ORG
312 SOUTH STATE STREET • APPLETON, WI 54911



"Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Matthew 25:21

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
or scan with your phone.

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 Lavalle
llavalle@stmaryparish.org

Confession times:
Saturday 9-10am or by appointment

A Letter from Sarah Higgins,

Finance Council Chair & Lifelong Member

ST MARY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

When we talk about giving at St. Mary, I think it's easy to immediately think about dollars and budgets, especially coming from someone who chairs the Finance Council! But for me, this is much more personal than that.

As that Chair, I do spend time with dollar figures, but most importantly, our finance council gets to see firsthand how your gifts of time, talent and treasure have for years – and continue to – create the welcoming family atmosphere in this amazing parish we call home.

From bake sales, to funeral lunches, to E2F pans for the Warming Shelter, to Shamrock Shenanigans, to serving on a committee or in a liturgical role, to donation of beautiful new altar furniture – and this is just a handful of examples!

I'm proud to say THANK YOU to members both tenured and newer, that our family giving stands above the highest in commitment across parish giving nationwide. THANK YOU!

So I'll skip everyone's favorite speech of asking for donations, but would ask you to continue prayerfully considering where St. Mary Parish fits into your charitable giving.

Everything we have today came from people before us who believed St. Mary was worth supporting. They volunteered, served in ministries, cared for our buildings, and assisted those in need in our community.

And we're continuing that tradition today. We're having more conversations about generosity and stewardship to help parishioners understand the different ways they can carry out Jesus's gospels using St. Mary Parish as an avenue.

For me, St. Mary has always been home. Our goal now is to make sure it continues to feel like home for the generations that come after us.

Thank you!

Sarah Higgins



Give Support Electronically at
stmaryparish support/egiving

FLEECE TIE BLANKET PROJECT IS COMPLETED!



THANK YOU THANK YOU

to ALL the Thursday Volunteers and the Beacon Middle School Students who helped tie blankets.

Many Foster Care Children and Veterans will enjoy the warmth that you have provided.

Your efforts are very much appreciated.

Barb Rowland

WEDNESDAY ADORATION

Join us in the Church
November 18
from 4:30-8:00 pm

Please signup here

Advent 2026
DAILY REFLECTIONS, PRACTICES & PRAYERS



PREPARE for GREAT JOY!
S. James Meyer

Advent devotional booklets

will be available the weekend of Nov. 21/22.

Free, while supplies last.

PRESENTED BY THE ST. MARY QUILTERS

QUILT Sale & Raffle

LAST WEEKEND TO GET RAFFLE TICKETS!
NOVEMBER 14 & 15

Win one of these beautiful Kingsize handmade quilts!



- Tickets are $5 each or 5 for $20
- Buy raffle tickets after all Masses beginning Oct. 17
- Winners will be drawn Sunday, Nov. 15 @ noon *(need not be present to win)*

SHOP HANDMADE TABLE RUNNERS, BOWL COZIES, QUILTS, AND MORE!

All raffle and sale proceeds go to
ST. MARY CEMETERY RESTORATION!

WE NEED COOKIES and Snacks!

For the Appleton Christmas Parade Open House on Tuesday, November 24

Use this QR code to sign up or visit
https://bit.ly/4B5JYKA

If you'd like to volunteer at the event,
contact Lori Lavalle at llavalle@stmaryparish.org.
This is a great service hour opportunity!

SAVE the DATE

APPLETON CHRISTMAS PARADE OPEN HOUSE

6TH ANNUAL

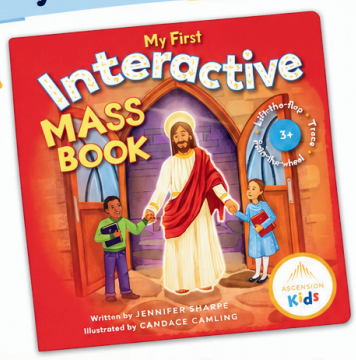
ST. MARY COMMUNITY ROOM
TUESDAY, NOV. 24
6:00 - 8:30 PM

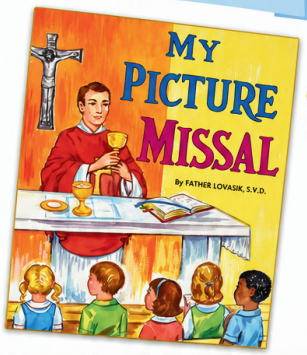
ALL ARE WELCOME!

ENJOY COOKIES AND COCOA
WITH FELLOW PARISHIONERS
AS YOU WATCH THE PARADE
ON THE BIG SCREEN!

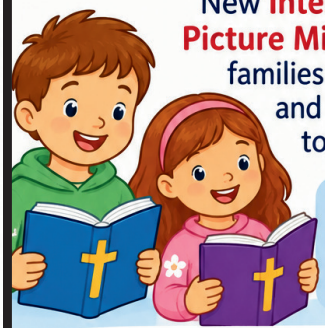
Families with Young Children!

We have something new to help your children engage in the Mass!





New **Interactive Mass Books** and **Picture Missals** are now available for families with toddlers, preschoolers, and elementary-aged children to borrow during Mass.



You can find these books on the small bookshelf near the children's Mass bags.



Please remember to return the books after Mass so other families can enjoy them, too!

Thank you!

November Beacon News and Notes

Congratulations

to the following 13 students who made their First Reconciliation this week:

- Elijah Poritz-Egan
- Griffin Looker
- Naveen Patel
- Gabriel Oleinic
- Miles Sankey
- Mason Majewski
- Grace Peeters
- Norman Quade Cyman
- Nancy Nabintu
- Charlotte Blaskowski
- Jack Grech
- Hazel Lindberg
- Sofia Lopez





Families with children ages 0-5 were recently surveyed to gauge their interest in various childcare and formation options during Sunday 9:45 Mass. Based on their responses, we will continue to offer **Children's Liturgy.** There is currently not enough interest or enough of a volunteer base to offer babysitting or Sunday School during Mass.

To our young families:

We love having you here and appreciate the joy and energy your children bring to our church! Those of us with children have all been in your shoes at one time or another and we see, understand, and appreciate your dedication to raising your children in the faith and bringing them to Mass!



Upcoming Events:



Prayers of Gratitude Family Activity (for all ages)

Sunday, November 15th
after 9:45 Mass
in the Community Room



Beacon Advent Service Project: PBJ Drive and Gospel Sharing Project

Wednesday, December 9th
during Beacon Classes



Teen Girls Gathering: Making Homemade Christmas Gifts

Sunday, December 13th
11:00 – 1:30
in the St. Anne Room



We need your prayers!

Seeking prayerful people who are willing and able to spend time each week praying for our students in their sacramental preparation years individually by name. If you are interested, please contact Lisa Lynch in the parish office, or by sending an email to llynch@stmaryparish.org.

Teen Girls Gathering

"More blessed to give than to receive"

ACTS 20:35

Make Christmas gifts... Spread His joy!

All girls in grades 6–12 are invited! Feel free to invite a friend.

WHEN
Sunday, December 13th
11:00 – 1:30

WHERE
St. Anne's Room

COST
Free!
Lunch provided

RSVP
Please email Lisa Lynch at llynch@stmaryparish.org by 12/8/26, so we can order the right amount of food and supplies!

What to Expect:

Join us for an afternoon of making homemade Christmas gifts for your family and friends! We will make decoupage jewelry boxes, wood overlay ornaments, beaded bracelets, prayer candles, mosaic coasters and more!

Stop by to make one or two gifts, or stay for the entire time. Wrap your gifts and see how good it feels to give them to your loved ones on Christmas!



Decoupage jewelry boxes



Wood overlay ornaments



Beaded bracelets



Prayer candles



Mosaic Coasters

and more!

The Gift of the Heart

Before we begin crafting, we'll take a few minutes to reflect on what it means to give with a generous heart. A simple prayer, reflection and discussion will help us focus on the true meaning of Christmas.

"It is more blessed to give than to receive."

ACTS 20:35

Come for the crafts ♥ Stay for the joy ♥ Bring a friend!



THE NEEDS TREE: SHARING CHRISTMAS JOY

"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."
— Matthew 25:40

This Advent, the Human Concerns Group invites you to bring Christmas warmth to those in our community who need it most. Our annual Needs Tree supports local individuals experiencing homelessness, as well as residents in group homes and nursing homes who do not have nearby family.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Tags Available: Saturday, November 21**
- **Gifts Due Back: Sunday, December 6**

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

1. **PICK A TAG:** Visit the Christmas trees located in the Church and the Marian Way starting November 21. Each tag lists specific, practical needs.
2. **SHOP FOR ITEMS:** Purchase the items listed on your tag.
3. **RETURN YOUR GIFT:** Bring your gifts back **with the tag** to the church by December 6.



A SPECIAL REQUEST: USE REUSABLE BAGS

If possible, please return your gifts inside a reusable shopping bag. These bags provide an extra, highly practical gift that recipients can continue to use throughout the year.

Contact Annie Van Stralen if you have any questions. 920-739-5119

Thank you for your incredible generosity and for ensuring that no one in our community feels forgotten this Christmas season!

Sponsored by the Human Concerns Group

Anointing of the Sick



NOVEMBER 14 & 15, DURING ALL MASSESS

We are in need of pyxes!



If you have a pyx that you no longer use, we kindly ask that you bring it to the Parish Office or place it in the box in the back of the church.

Thank you for helping us care for these vessels and continue this important ministry!

Spectacular holiday fun for the whole family!



CHRISTMAS STARS 2026



7:00 pm Dec. 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12 • 1:00 pm Dec. 5*, 6, 12, 13

*An American Sign Language Interpreter will be available for the December 5th 1:00PM show.

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

www.christmasstars.org • (920) 733-8840



Please Keep

Bev & Jim Roberts

in Your Prayers

As they prepare to celebrate their

60th Wedding Anniversary

on November 12



OFFERTORY ENVELOPE CHANGES



To save money on mailing offertory envelopes, St. Mary will have your envelopes for the year available for pickup at the back of church.

Begin using them in December!

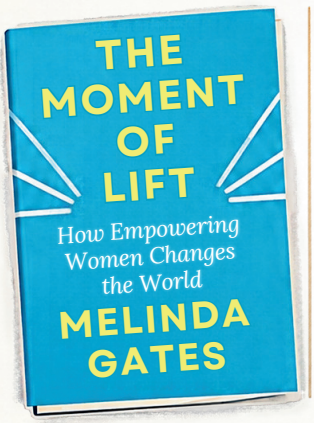
Unable to pick up your envelopes?

Call **920-739-5119** or email **stmary@stmaryparish.org**.

We will try to deliver envelopes to those unable to get to church.

St. Mary / St. Joseph Book Club

Please note: Our book club list now goes through **July 2027** (versus December 2026) as highlighted in bold text below.



St Mary/St Joseph book club will meet **Tuesday, November 17,** from **1 to 2:30 pm,** at St. Mary on State Street in Room LL7.

The selected book is ***The Moment of Lift: How Empowering Women Changes the World*** by Melinda Gates.

Please reach out to Mary Schulz, 920-809-4474, with questions.



November
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

Morning Coffee

As colder days approach, volunteers are invited to help create a warm, welcoming space for our neighbors each morning. We serve 35-40 individuals. Over coffee and a bite to eat, neighbors find comfort, connection, and community.

Just a little time serving coffee can make a big difference, offering kindness, dignity, and a sense of belonging. Please consider signing up for a shift—new faces are always welcome!

Click here to view list and sign up

Sunday Sandwiches

Each Sunday, volunteers share bagged lunches and a little love with neighbors in our community. Volunteers are invited to meet inside the library near the security station with 10 bag lunches.

New to the ministry? Simply write "new" in the signup comments to be paired with an experienced volunteer. Everyone is welcome!

Click here to view list and sign up

HOLY TRIVIA question

When is the Feast of the Holy Innocents celebrated?

CIA-Faith Mission Operatives *presents*



Accepting God's Invitation When Times Get Tough

Jesus warned us that in this life we will suffer ... but how do we live our suffering? Jesus invites us to unite our pain with His and transform it into something that has meaning and purpose, and leads to healing.

Through the art of storytelling, **Dr. John Dinegan**, recently retired president of Lourdes Academy, Oshkosh, connects his own life-changing trauma and that of others to the redemptive suffering of Christ and the Stations of the Cross.

MONDAY | NOV 16 | 6:30 PM

Xavier Fine Arts Theatre
1600 Prospect Ave, Appleton, WI

No tickets needed / Free will offering encouraged
> Seats available on a first come basis <

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

CIA-Faith Mission Operatives
encourages YOU to *Investigate Your faith!*

EVENTS CALENDAR

Week of Nov 15 - NOV 22

Sunday, Nov 15-Anointing of the Sick
Quilt Sale in the Marian Way/Community Room
Coffee & Donuts
7:45 am Mass
9:30 am Flock of Sparrows/LL4
9:45 am Mass/LS/Children's Liturgy
11:00 am OCIA Catechumens/LCR
11:00 am OCIA Candidates/LCR

Monday, Nov 16
12:05 pm Mass
5:00 pm Reach More/LL7
6:00 pm SMP Grief Support Group Cemetery Chapel
6:30 pm New Horizons Band Practice/MR
6:30 pm Handbell Choir Practice
6:30 pm THEO/CR
7:00 pm AA Meeting/LL1

Tuesday, Nov 17
9:00 am Connect/LL7
1:00 pm SMP & SJP prayer Shawl Group/ SJP LL112
1:00 pm SMP & SJP Book Club /LL7
5:30 pm Mixed Small Group/Scout Room
6:00 pm Human Concerns Needs Tree
6:30 pm Finance Council/ CR

Wednesday, Nov 18
8:00 am Quilting/CR
9:30 am Connect Group/LL7
4:30 Adoration/Chapel
5:00 pm Church tour/Church, Sanctuary, Sacristy
4:30 pm - 8:00 pm Beacon Faith Formation

Thursday, Nov 19
10:00 am Little Lambs Playgroup - Babysitting Rm
12:05 pm Mass
1:00 Hooks & Needles/CR
6:00 pm Adult Choir/MR
6:00 pm Woman's Small Group/LL7

Friday, Nov 20
Parish Office Closed
9:00 am Bible Study/LL7

Saturday, Nov 21
Needs Tree Starts
9:00 am Confessions
4:30 pm Mass

Sunday, Nov 22
Needs Tree Starts
Coffee & Donuts
7:45 am Mass
9:45 am Mass/LS/Children's Liturgy
10:45 am Prayers of Gratitude Family Activity/CR



December 28

Mass Intentions

Sun., Nov 15	7:45 am	Larry & Anne Konz
	9:45 am	Ed Sabish
Mon., Nov 16	12:05 pm	Marcella Morse
Thur., Nov 19	12:05 pm	Living & Deceased Members of SMP
Sat., Nov 21	4:30 pm	Dan & Roseann Rodwell
Sun., Nov 22	7:45 am	Men & Women in the Military
	9:45 am	Tony Abel & Jeanette Mineau



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

It is Gratitude & Giving Month and I want to thank you for your continued support of the parish and its activities and operations. Without your generosity, we could not create the programs or maintain the spaces that are used by our community.

MONTH	INCOME	BUDGET	VARIANCE
November	$31,778.01	$84,900.00	-$53,121.99

Your giving at work in the parish:

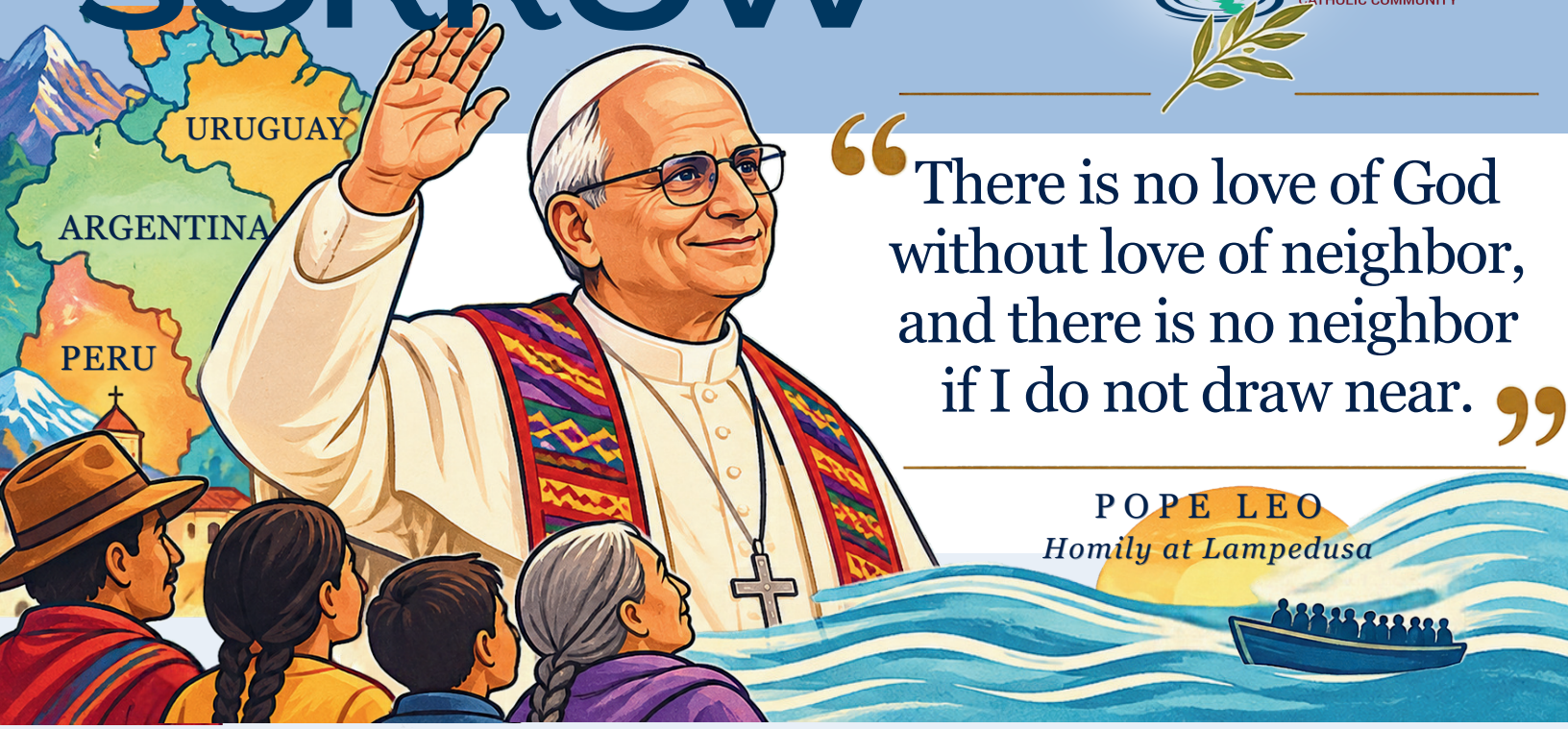
- Gratitude & Giving Month is upon us. Last week Amber Zak, our Pastoral Leadership Council Chair, spoke at Sunday masses about the importance of giving. She mentioned the struggle of budgeting and giving, especially as a family with young kids. As she spoke, she reminded us of the joy of giving, especially to your parish community. Thank you, Amber, for your beautiful words.

- On Halloween, we held Trunk-or-Treat in collaboration with Bridges (one of the partners in the CELC) and St. Joe's. It was a wildly successful event with tons of kids and families, candy, costumes, and even a Shetland Pony.

in Joy & SORROW

ST MARY PARISH - APPLETON // 11.15.2026
WITH FR. BILL SWICHTENBERG

ST MARY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



> "There is no love of God without love of neighbor, and there is no neighbor if I do not draw near."

POPE LEO
Homily at Lampedusa

I know that you will not be surprised to learn that I am following Pope Leo's 11-day Apostolic Journey to South America very closely. Keep in mind that Pope Leo recently had surgery to remove a cancerous tumor from his right lung. His stamina on this trip is looking pretty good!

The trip kicked off in Uruguay on Friday, November 6.

On Sunday, the Pope moved on to Argentina. Recall that Pope Francis, who was born in Italy, grew up as an immigrant in Argentina. He entered the Jesuit order as a young man. Eventually, Jorge Mario Bergoglio was named Archbishop of Buenos Aires and a Cardinal by Pope Saint John Paul II. Over the course of his papacy of thirteen years, Pope Francis never returned home. I think this was a huge disappointment for many Argentinians. Because of the closeness between the two popes, Pope Leo has helped the people remember with fondness their dear archbishop and pope.

On Wednesday (11/11), Pope Leo returned to Peru, which is his second home. He spent a total of 20 years there as a missionary priest and then a bishop. Pope Leo has dual citizenship in the US and Peru. His beautiful ministry in Peru made it possible for Cardinal Robert Prevost of Chicago to be elected the first American pope. Without the strong South American connection, Prevost would not have been elected Pope. Pope Leo is quick to say, "I am the pope who just happens to be an American!"

I have been praying over the Holy Father's major addresses and homilies presented on this important trip. Each one of them is so insightful, prophetic, and even sometimes poetic. If you would like to make your way through them, here is the link to his Apostolic Journey.

https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/travels/2026/documents/uruguay-argentina-peru-6-17novembre2026.html

Pope Francis never felt comfortable returning to Argentina because of the divisive politics in the country. The current President can be difficult. He is not a collaborative leader. He can be quite demonstrative in his public speaking, using provocative language that can rile people up in either a good way or a not-so-good way. The poor people of Argentina are getting poorer under the President's austerity measures.

In his address to the civil authorities and diplomats on Sunday, Pope Leo said this:

*"Democracy … is a part of Argentina's heritage that needs to be safeguarded. The freedom to elect one's own leaders through the ballot box, to participate in public life, freely to express one's convictions, to have confidence in the law, and to view institutions as serving the interests of all parties: these are values that are consolidated over time and that each generation is called to care for and strengthen (cf. Saint Pope John Paul II, **Centesimus Annus**, 46).*

Democracy is also strengthened by the daily conduct of public life: through willingness to listen, through careful use of words, through the patient search for agreement, and through the ability to see those who think differently as fellow citizens with whom we share a common future. In this way, a spirit of trust is created, one that enables a society to deal with its differences without losing sight of the things that keep it united.

*Those entrusted with public office are charged with a particularly demanding task. Authority is most authentic when it is exercised as service, when it looks beyond the immediate, and when it uses its power to promote the welfare of all. Those who exercise authority have a duty to act with prudence, to acknowledge the limits of the power entrusted to them, and to direct their decisions toward the good of the entire community (cf. Saint Pope John XXIII, **Pacem in Terris**, 53–60)."*

I am guessing this language may have made President Milei a bit uncomfortable.

Apparently the strained relationship between the President and his Vice-President was noticeable on Sunday. She was seated in the first row of the assembly hall. After the Holy Father's address, as the President and the Pope walked by, the President ignored Ms. Victoria Villarruel. Pope Leo, however, stopped to shake her hand and to speak briefly with her. The audience hall burst out in applause.

It is interesting to note that most popes on these Apostolic Visits meet with and talk to civic leaders. It is important to remember that the Gospel of Jesus does not exist in a vacuum or have nothing to say to the world of politics. It would be unconscionable if Pope Leo never addressed the plight of refugees and immigrants throughout the world or never stated that war is always a dead end for human beings.

Recall that on the 250th anniversary of our country's independence, Pope Leo chose to visit the Island of Lampedusa to highlight Pope Francis' visit there thirteen years ago. Note that Lampedusa Island in the Mediterranean Sea is the gateway for migrants and

refugees fleeing from violence and hatred in their homelands in northern Africa and the Middle East, searching for new homes in Europe.

At the Mass, Pope Leo said,

"In the parable [of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)], a priest happens to be there "by chance" (verse 31), followed by a Levite. Both see what is happening, but they continue on their way. Unfortunately, in every age there are those who fear being "contaminated" by contact with others, thus denying — even in the face of suffering and death — our common origin in God, the infinite dignity of every human being and the call to boundless love. It is time to recognize and affirm that religious affiliation must never become a reason for discrimination, as if faith had boundaries rather than being a universal call to salvation. Where there were walls of separation, Christ broke them down (cf. Ephesians 2:14). There is no love of God without love of neighbor, and there is no neighbor if I do not draw near. To pause, to be moved, to bend down, to weep before another's pain — as Jesus did — means entering into the dynamic of love, the very movement in which God has revealed himself."

As we struggle to address the issue of migration in this land, may the next Congress take up immigration reform. Keeping our borders safe, may we find a way to recognize our sisters and brothers who have been here for decades, without committing a crime. May our policies around mass deportation be softened and the sacred dignity of our sisters and brothers be acknowledged, especially in deportation centers. May there also be a greater respect for our Jewish, Muslim, Native American, and gay sisters and brothers.

However you process the Midterm Election on November 3rd, I hope you can join me in celebrating these firsts in the history of our nation: Keisha Lance Bottoms of Georgia, the first African American woman Governor; Dr. Abdul El-Sayed of Michigan, the first Muslim Senator; Peggy Flanagan of Minnesota, the first Native American Senator, Deb Haaland of New Mexico, the first Native American Governor, and Christopher Pappas of New Hampshire, the first openly gay Senator. Don't forget Jon Ossoff who is the first Jewish Senator of Georgia, elected for a second term.

I am of the mind and heart that we always celebrate the gift of diversity. Let us continue to encourage our politicians with the message of the Gospel which proclaims the sacred dignity of every person and the goal to improve the common good for all people! Let us not live our faith in a vacuum but be quick to speak out, empowered by the Gospel of Jesus and His Holy Spirit! Let us not keep our faith in a hermetically-sealed heart that is indifferent to the sufferings of our sisters and brothers!

Finally, let me give a shoutout to Dr Karen Park, a member of our Spiritual Family, whose latest opinion piece in the National Catholic Reporter is titled "Treatment of El-Sayed's faith, language was deeply un-Catholic." Here is the link:

https://www.ncronline.org/opinion/ncr-voices/treatment-el-sayeds-faith-language-during-midterms-was-deeply-un-catholic

Dr Karen Park and her husband, Dr Martin Smith, are gifts to our parish community and to our Church!

Fr. Bill +