

ST. MARY PARISH

312 SOUTH STATE STREET • APPLETON, WI 54911 • 920.739.5119



Ripples of God's love... Through our hearts, to all hearts

Mid BULLETIN

REMINDER OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Please call the office if you have any questions.

Happy
FATHER'S DAY!!

Stop in the back of the church after all the Masses this weekend to receive a small gift.

6/15 Coffee and Donuts after Sunday Masses and Children's Liturgy of the Word during the 9:45 am Mass.

We need volunteers to help with Coffee & Donuts this summer. If you can help, please click the following link to check out the summer dates. [COFFEE&DONUTS](#)

There is still time for students to sign up for Totus Tuus, a summer camp from July 27 to August 1 at St. Thomas More. We still need student or adult volunteers. See the website for more information, to register, or to volunteer. <https://www.stmaryparish.org/children-youth/totus-tuus>

If your summer has given you some free time, check out these opportunities for fun:

6/17 St. Mary & St. Joseph Book Club will meet at 1 pm at St. Mary's to discuss *Firekeepers Daughter* by Angelina Boulley.

6/18 Join us for Quilting in the Community Room beginning at 8 am.

6/19 Do you love to crochet or knit? Do you want to learn? Check Hooks and Needles Group at 1 pm in the Community Room. You can also knit prayer shawls with our St. Mary & St. Joe's Prayer Shawl Group at St. Joe's on Tuesdays at 1 pm.

6/19 Moms! Bring Your Littles. Come As You Are. Are you a mom with young children looking for connection, encouragement, and community? Join us for fellowship, prayer, and real conversations about motherhood and faith at 10 am in the Babysitting Room.

And opportunities for prayer:

6/17 Join us for the Rosary in the chapel at 2 pm.

6/18 And Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the chapel from 4:30 pm - 8 pm.

in Joy & SORROW

ST MARY PARISH - APPLETON // 6.15.2025

WITH FR. BILL SWICHTENBERG



As we celebrate Father's Day, I would like to begin this reflection with a work by Brian Doyle. As my official retirement takes effect at the end of June 2027, I am looking forward to dedicating more time to prayer, reading, study, and ministry at a more relaxed pace, God willing. Brian Doyle, who died at the young age of sixty of a brain tumor in May 2017, is an author I really want to explore deeply. His Catholic faith oozes through all of his fiction and other writings and is grounded in a deep understanding of the sacramentality of the Mystery of Incarnation. Everything and everyone is charged with the divine.

And now I give you, Mr Doyle.

His Catholic faith oozes through all of his fiction and other writings and is grounded in a deep understanding of the sacramentality of the Mystery of Incarnation. Everything and everyone is charged with the divine.

JOEY

*A while ago I got sick.
It was a thorough and major sick.
Lost use of the old hands and feet,
Which was, as you can imagine, weird.
My kids called the sickness *The Thing*.
The Thing went on for months and months.
I could tell you lots of stories about *The Thing*.
But there's only one story that I want to tell you:
Every morning my son got up early to help me
Put my socks on. I would sit on the back stairs
In the dark and he would wrestle my socks on
And neither of us would say any words and I
Still can't think of anything cooler than that.
I have racked my brains and considered
All the possibilities of love and I still
Return to that boy and those socks.
No matter what happens to me,
That happened to me.*

The relationship between a father and his daughter or son is sacred. Recall all of the times when you were little when your Dad was right there to take care of you, to encourage you, and to just love you no matter what.

It is an honor for you and me to take care of a father (or a mother!) as he or she ages. Being such a go-getter and so independent, it was hard for my Dad to deal with those diminishment that accompany illness and ageing.

My Dad loved the outdoors and, towards the end of his life, he enjoyed taking a walk in his wheelchair, so to speak. I enjoyed pushing him around the neighborhood. He found it hard sometimes to receive help, especially with all things having to do with hygiene.

My Dad was a perfectionist, for sure. As a consummate homebuilder, he never cut corners or did anything haphazardly or sloppily. His work was always a labor of love. I try to measure up to my Dad's example!

Pope Francis had a beautiful understanding of the greatness of Saint Joseph, the husband of Mary and the stepfather of Jesus. The late Holy Father was installed as the new Pope on the Solemn Feast of Saint Joseph on March 19, 2013. I remember his inaugural homily well without even having to look it up. However, down below, you will see that I did look the homily up because I wanted to quote Francis directly!

What I remember is that Francis called attention to Saint Joseph as a Protector. He protected his family. He protected the example of Jesus by imitating Jesus. He had a love for creation and understood how our Earth, our common home, is crying out for our tender stewardship. We do not have dominion over the earth but rather we are the earth's caretakers. We still may have to do that better!

Pope Francis reminded us that Saint Joseph was a tender man. According to the Holy Father, we need a new revolution of tenderness in all our relationships. Being tender is not a sign of weakness.

Francis suggested "Saint Joseph appears as a strong and courageous man, a working man, yet in his heart we see great tenderness, which is not the virtue of the weak but rather a sign of strength of spirit and a capacity for concern, for compassion, for genuine openness to others, for love. We must not be afraid of goodness, of tenderness."

Here is a bit of the Litany of Saint Joseph.

Joseph, most just...Response: Pray for us.

Joseph, most prudent...

Joseph, most chaste...

Joseph, most brave...

Joseph, most obedient...

Joseph, most loyal...

Joseph, mirror of patience...

Joseph, lover of poverty...

Joseph, model for workers...

Joseph, glory of family life...

Joseph, support in difficulties...

Joseph, comfort of the sorrowing...

Joseph, hope of the sick...

Joseph, patron of exiles...

Joseph, patron of the poor...

Joseph, patron of the dying...

Joseph, protector of the Holy Church...

Fathers, on your special day, ask Saint Joseph to bring your special intentions to Jesus. May Jesus help us all to imitate the example of Saint Joseph, who was a just and good man, humble and tender!

Happy Father's Day!

Fr. Bill +