

# ST. MARY PARISH



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

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## BULLETIN REMINDER OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Please call the office if you have any questions.

- **Bishop's Appeal** - St. Mary has reached 94% of the annual goal. We are almost there!
- We want to celebrate **our high school graduates of 2025!** Graduates - if you do not receive an email with details this week and want to participate, please reach out to Tracy at [tturba@stmaryparish.org](mailto:tturba@stmaryparish.org).
- **The parish office hours** are Monday-Thursday from 9 am-4 pm. If you have parish business after hours, please contact Kristina at the parish office by phone during business hours or by email. [kresterhouse@stmaryparish.org](mailto:kresterhouse@stmaryparish.org)
- 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](#)
- **The Annual Vida Collection Drive** continues through 5/25. Take a tag and bring an item to help a mom and baby.
- **5/17 St. Mary Cemetery's Open House** will be on Saturday from 1 pm - 6:30 pm
- **5/17 & 5/18 Celebrate Deacon Gerry** on his 70th birthday and 20th anniversary as a Deacon after all the Masses!
- **5/22 6:30 pm Hymn Concert & Sing-a-long.** Come and celebrate Mary and our mothers with song this Thursday.
- **5/22 Volunteer to put flags on the veterans' graves** at the St. Mary Cemetery (2121 W Prospect Ave) on Saturday from 9:00 am to Noon. If it is raining on the 22nd, we will postpone until May 23rd.
- **5/25 American Legion Color Guard** will be at: Moses Montefiore Cemetery (E. Woodland Ave.) at 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm  
St. Mary Cemetery (2121 W. Prospect Ave., Appleton)
- **5/26** Please join us at St. Mary Cemetery at 8 am for the annual **Memorial Day Mass.**
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- **6/16 St. Mary Grief Support Program** beginning June 16 and will meet for 8 weeks. Registration is required. Please call the office for details.

# in Joy & SORROW

WITH FR. BILL SWICHTENBERG  
MAY 17, 2025



Sometimes I find it hard to fathom all that can happen in a short amount of time. Within two weeks and three days, tens of thousands of people paid their respects to Pope Francis and the Catholic Church buried a beloved Pope. Thousands attended his funeral. One hundred thirty-three and more Cardinals converged on Rome, representing about 70 countries. A series of pre-conclave gatherings were held among them, called General Congregations, so that they could meet one another and hear from each other about the needs of our Church at this moment. These meetings coincided with nine days of mourning for Pope Francis.

And, then in a ceremony so awesome to behold, the Cardinal-Electors, processing two-by-two, garbed in their scarlet red robes, like the color of blood, suggesting their promise to die if need be for love of the Lord, with the chanting of the names of the saints in the background, calling on that heavenly communion to be with them, among them our dear Pope Francis, as the Cardinals entered the Sistine Chapel. Everyone else was expelled, the Cardinals were cut off from the world, now mandated to elect a new Supreme

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Pontiff. It is a ritual ever ancient and ever new.

And, in less than twenty-four hours, with a mighty roar from the crowd as white smoke billowed from the chimney of the Sistine Chapel and those two words *Habemus Papam* resounding throughout the world, standing on the *loggia* of Saint Peter's Basilica, appeared the 267th successor to Saint Peter. May 8, 2025 is now inscribed into the two thousand-year-old+ history book of the Catholic Church as the date Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost, a Chicagoan and a Peruvian, no less, became Pope Leo XIV.

My mind and heart are still swirling. Joy and sorrow flowing in and out of one another, lifted up to an undaunted hope that, as Saint Julian of Norwich, assures us, "All will be well and every manner of thing will be well!"

I hope that Pope Leo knows Saint Julian's prayer!

Cardinal Blase Cupich, a fellow Chicagoan, was positioned very close to Cardinal Prevost during the conclave proceedings. As it became apparent that Prevost would be elected Pope, as the ballots were announced in the fourth round, the soon-to-be Pope was seen to slump down in his chair, and place his head into his hands. I can't begin to fathom what he was feeling.

Obviously the Cardinal was known by many people in Peru and in Rome, known by many bishops in every part of the world because Prevost was in the business of naming new Bishops as the Prefect for the Dicastery for Bishops. But now Pope Leo is known by the people of the world, including 1.4 billion Catholics. Only the Lord's abundant grace can sustain the new Holy Father as his life will never again be able to just rest in anonymity. Saint Augustine's prayer is apropos here, "You have made us for Yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You."

Pope Leo is our first Augustinian Pope! Soon that, too, will fall off my tongue just as I have said so many times that Pope Francis is our first Jesuit Pope!

I have been impressed with Pope Leo's serene demeanor. He seems to be at peace in his new role. His words and gestures have been Spirit-filled. I am especially pleased that he has implied that the Church will move forward in the synodal key intoned by Pope Francis.

In Leo's address to the College of Cardinals on Friday, May 9, he said this:

"...I would like us to renew together today our complete commitment to the path that the universal Church has now followed for decades in the wake of the Second Vatican Council. Pope Francis masterfully and concretely set it forth in the Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, from which I would like to highlight several fundamental points: the return to the primacy of Christ in proclamation (cf. No. 11); the missionary conversion of the entire Christian community (cf. No. 9); growth in collegiality and synodality (cf. No. 33); attention to the *sensus fidei* (cf. Nos. 119-120),

especially in its most authentic and inclusive forms, such as popular piety (cf. No. 123); loving care for the least and the rejected (cf. No. 53); courageous and trusting dialogue with the contemporary world in its various components and realities (cf. No. 84; Second Vatican Council, Pastoral Constitution *Gaudium et Spes*, 1-2).”

...

“Sensing myself called to continue in this same path, I chose to take the name Leo XIV. There are different reasons for this, but mainly because Pope Leo XIII in his [1891] historic Encyclical *Rerum Novarum* [“of new things”] addressed the social question in the context of the first great industrial revolution. In our own day, the Church offers to everyone the treasury of her social teaching in response to another industrial revolution and to developments in the field of artificial intelligence that pose new challenges for the defence of human dignity, justice and labour.”

The Holy Father’s assessment of the themes that must accompany the Church’s moving forward is spot on!

On these gorgeous Spring Days, I hope to calm my spirit in the aftermath of so many swirling emotions. This poem does me a whole lot of good!

**Meadow** by Rosemary Wahtola Trommer

Walking through tall grass  
on a narrow path, my fingers  
spread wide to pull through the seedheads.  
As if to touch is to be touched.  
As if, with open palms,  
I could pull this beauty  
inside me and carry it with me  
until I give it to you —  
as if I could somehow  
slip a whole meadow into your pocket  
so you could unfold it anytime  
and wander through grass  
as high as your chest  
and feel how the vastness  
reminds us who we are.

Indeed the Lord Jesus, All Sublime Beauty and Sterling Goodness, has desired to remain with us and to abide within us. May this in-dwelling always keep Pope Leo, you, and me enfolded in the vast meadow of peace and joy, even in times of sorrow!

*Fr. Bill +*