

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

ST. MARY PARISH

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



Whoever does not carry his own cross cannot be my disciple. Luke 14:27

BULLETIN



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

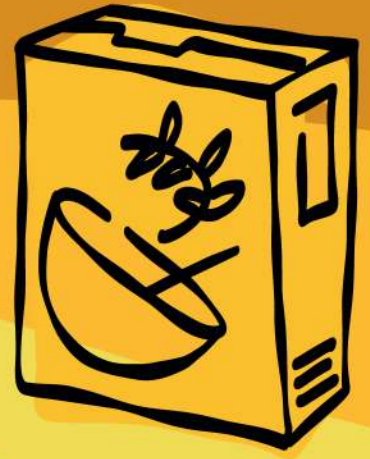
Cemetery Info - Chip Acker

cacker@stmaryparish.org

cell 920-882-4158

St. Joseph

FOOD PROGRAM



Collection September 13 & 14

St. Joseph Food Program collection is September 13th, and 14th and is for lunch items. Some suggestions are snacks, fruit cups, something to drink or something to make a sandwich. Nothing perishable, past use by date or in glass. Thank you.

Thank you for helping those who are in need.

PICK UP YOUR COPY THIS WEEKEND

SABBATH GUIDE

YOUR PRAYER COMPANION



Explore five simple ways to honor the Sabbath for rest and renewal, promoting Sunday as a sacred time of joy, peace, and connection.

Celebrate



Garden of Peace
Isaiah 32:14-18

PEACE WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2025

September 1 - October 4

Volunteer

every hand makes a difference



Join Us on the Habitat for Humanity Faith Build

Oct 2 Wall Rock, Prepare a Meal

Contact Ray Fuchs rfuchs1944@gmail.com to build.

Oct 25 Paint and Stain, Prepare a Meal

Contact Sarah Fraley sfraley@new.rr.com for meals.

Come Celebrate ST. MARY

FEAST DAY WEEKEND

After all the Masses

13 & 14 September 2025

SPECIAL FEATURES



Exhibition Booths

Learn more about upcoming events after each Mass!



Refreshments

After all Masses that weekend!



Fun & Games

Scavenger Hunt for the Kids and a chance at a raffle prize!!



Annual Report

Take home a copy of the 2024-2025 Annual Report



Hallow LAUNCH

We are thrilled to announce that we'll be partnering with Hallow this year, the #1 prayer app! Learn more after each Mass!



**AFTER EACH MASS
SEPTEMBER 20 AND 21
30 MINUTE PRESENTATION**



**ST. MARY PARISH
312 S. STATE ST.
APPLETON, WI**

4:30 PM MASS

Hosted after Mass in the Sanctuary.

7:45 AM & 9:45 AM MASS

Hosted after Mass in the Community Room.



Let us pray

Evening worship experiences at St. Mary, Appleton

**Discover the Power of
Lectio Divina with Fr. Bill**

September 29 | 6:30-8:00 PM

**Are you hungry for a deeper relationship with Jesus?
Are you feeling stagnant in your prayer life?
Are you longing to hear from God, but don't know how?**



Take a start-of-the-week pause to rest in God's word. Join Fr. Bill in the Chapel to experience *lectio divina* – an ancient form of prayer that draws us into a deeper relationship with Christ through Scripture. Together, we will read, reflect, and listen to the Lord's voice speaking personally to our hearts. Whether you are experienced in this type of prayer experience or trying it for the first time, you are warmly welcome.

Come with an open heart. Leave with a renewed spirit!



NEW SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

Men's Ministry:

- Meets on every **2nd and 4th Tuesday from 6:30-8:00 PM** in LL7, starting Tuesday, **August 26**
- Contact: Jim Richter at jimrichtermd@gmail.com

Women's Ministry:

- Meets on every **1st and 3rd Thursday from 6:00-7:30 PM** in LL7, starting Thursday, **September 18**
- Contact: Jane Leveille at leveille.jat@gmail.com

MORE INFORMATION

If you are interested in joining a small group but don't know where to start, contact Kate in the Parish Office kminczeski@stmaryparish.org (920) 739-5119 x 110



CALLING FOR SINGERS AND RINGERS!

The Adult Choir and Bell Choir will resume singing and ringing for Masses after Labor Day! Come join these fun, talented, and totally committed musicians and make music for the Lord! Contact Tom Walter or Martha Paalman at the parish office for information.



All parishioners 55 and older, are invited to join us for brunch on Sunday, September 28th at 11:30 am, at Pullman's Restaurant, 619 S. Olde Oneida St. We will order off the menu and it is self pay. Reservations required. Please call or text Sue Rogers @ 920-810-1545 with questions or reservations. Please leave your name and the number of people attending by Friday, Sept. 26.



St Mary/St Joseph book club meets Tuesday, September 16, from 1:00 to 2:30 pm, at St. Mary on State Street in Room LL7. The selected book is *The Frozen River*, by Ariel Lawhon. Please reach out to Mary Schulz, 920-809-4474, with questions or to request the list of books scheduled through 2025.



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 9/17

Grades 1-5 | 4:45-6:00pm **Grades 6-8 | 6:30-7:45pm**

Grades 9-12 | 6:30-8:00pm



<https://bit.ly/4mf0vUY>

SACRAMENT PREP



<https://bit.ly/3UVICyf>

***Do you have a child of the age for First Communion or Confirmation?
It's time to register them for our sacramental prep programs.***

2nd GRADE STUDENTS: First Reconciliation & First Communion
(prep begins in September)

HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS: Confirmation
(Prep begins in the winter)



Elementary School Aides

- Share our faith with youth grades 1-5
- Materials and support provided
- Wednesdays, Sept-April, 4:30-6:15pm

High School Catechist/Core Team

- Share our faith with youth grades 9-12
- Build community & prayer life
- Wednesdays Sept-April, 6:15-8:15pm

Minister of Young Disciples, Grades 1-5, Children's Liturgy

Join Our Pastoral Team

Tracy is going part-time and will minister to our middle and high school students. We are hiring someone to minister to our students in grades 1-5 and our youngsters who attend Children's Liturgy of the Word.

Contact Nadine or Tracy for more information.

Interested?
Contact Tracy
@ tturba@stmaryparish.org

Celebrating Years of Service

Mary Ann Otto, former Minister of Adult Disciples at our parish, will be recognized at the Sept. 21-24 International Catholic Stewardship Council conference. She will receive the Distinguished Service Award for her years of outstanding work.

While Stewardship Director at the Green Bay Diocesan Office, Mary Ann Otto brought many from the diocese to council meetings and promoted stewardship locally and globally, especially the spirituality of stewardship through a Biblical lens. She served on the board for six years, wrote and presented parish programs nationwide, and currently presents webinars for The Sunday Visitor. This honor recognizes her years of dedication.



Photographer: ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO
Keynote speaker Mary Ann Otto told participants at Planting the Seed that "stewardship is the response to being a disciple. It is how we live our lives once we say yes to God."



Confirmation Mass

Please pray for our Confirmation students who have been preparing over the last year and will be confirmed this month, 9/27.

Why Is The Holy Land Not At Peace?

Sunday, September 7

A virtual presentation with Fr. David Neuhaus

12:15—1:45 PM

Fr. Neuhaus will be joining us virtually from South Africa. All are invited to attend our in-person gathering and listening session at the Neenah Public Library (Shattuck Community Room).

Refreshments will be provided.

You are also invited to join virtually via Zoom. Additionally, the session will be recorded.

Scan for registration and more information, or visit <https://shorturl.at/JiM6i>

For questions, contact Paul List
paullist175@gmail.com.



What are the first three words
in the Bible?



EVENTS CALENDAR

Week of Sept 6-Sept 14

Saturday, Sept 6

8:00am Quilt Retreat/CR
9:00am Confessions/Chapel
4:30pm Mass

Sunday, Sept 7

Coffee & Donuts after mass
7:45am Mass
9:45am Mass/Livestreamed

Monday, Sept 8

12:05pm Mass
6:30pm Night of Reflection/Church

Tuesday, Sept 9

9:00am Connect Group/LL7
9:00am Margaret Higgins Visitation
11:00am Margaret Higgins Funeral
2:00pm Rosary Prayer group/Chapel
6:30pm Men's Ministry/LL7

Wednesday, Sept 10

9:30am Connect Group/LL7
4:30pm Adoration/Chapel

Thursday, Sept 11

10:00am St. Mary Young Families Small Group/BSR
12:05pm Mass
6:00pm Choir/Music room

Friday, Sept 12

Parish Office Closed

Saturday, Sept 13

St. Joe's Food Program Collection
9:00am Confessions/Chapel
10:00am Neuro Endocrine Cancer Support Group/LL7
4:30pm Mass-Patronal Feast Day Celebration

Sunday, Sept 14

St. Joe's Food Program Collection
Coffee & Donuts
7:45am Mass-Patronal Feast Day Celebration
9:45am Mass/LS-Patronal Feast Day Celebration
11:00am Flock of Sparrows/LL5

Mass Intentions

Sat. Sep 6 4:30pm Mary Tetting

Sun. Sept 7 7:45am Sally Thompson
9:45am Jacob Family

Mon. Sept 8 12:05pm Robert Mullen

Thur. Sept 11 12:05pm Members of St. Mary Parish

Sat. Sept 13 4:30pm Morry DeBruin

Sun. Sept 14 7:45am Curt Bengel
9:45am John Rutten



IN LOVING MEMORY

Please pray for the family and friends of those who have recently passed. May your memories comfort you at this time.

Margaret Higgins

April 17, 1927 - August 27, 2025

St Mary PRAYER TREE

LEAVE A PRAYER, TAKE
A PRAYER. LOOK FOR
OUR PRAYER TREE IN
BACK OF CHURCH.



Clergy

Pastor, Fr. Bill Swichtenberg
wdswitz@stmaryparish.org
cell 920-422-4316

Deacon Gerry Schraufnagel
schraufnagel@stmaryparish.org
cell 920-540-9594

Pastoral Team

Nadine Duncan (Ext. 116)
Director of Pastoral
Administration
nduncan@stmaryparish.org
cell 920-659-1337

Lori Lavalle (Ext. 121)
Minister of Parish Vitality
llavalle@stmaryparish.org

Kate Minczeski (Ext. 110)
Minister of Adult Disciples
kminczeski@stmaryparish.org

Tracy Turba (Ext. 119)
Minister of Young Disciples
tturba@stmaryparish.org

Tom Walter (Ext. 114)
Minister of Liturgy and Music
twalter@stmaryparish.org
cell (920)-422-8669

Parish Leadership

Tim Schraufnagel
Pastoral Leadership
Council Chair
plc@stmaryparish.org

Sarah Higgins
Finance Council Chair
fcchair@stmaryparish.org

Business Office

Chris Higgins (Ext. 102)
Director of Business
Administration
chiggins@stmaryparish.org

**Kristina Resterhouse
(Ext. 101)**
Administrative Assistant
stmary@stmaryparish.org

Mary Ellen Fisher (Ext. 103)
Bookkeeping Assistant
mefisher@stmaryparish.org

Michael Kozoroz (Ext 100)
Communication Coordinator
mkozoroz@stmaryparish.org

Facilities & Cemetery

Chip Acker
cacker@stmaryparish.org
cell 920-882-4158

Chad Tisdell
ctisdell@stmaryparish.org

Prayer Requests

Contact Laurie Richter
lauriejrichter@gmail.com

Mary Jo Zilisch
(920-734-1182) or

Ann Walkowski
(920-428-0969)

Important Contacts

Parish Office Hours:
920-739-5119
Mon through Thurs, 9am-4pm
Office Closed on Fridays

Sacrament of Matrimony
Getting Married? Congratulations!
Contact Fr. Bill at least 6 months
before your planned wedding date.

Funeral Information

Contact Tom Walter
cell (920)-422-8669

Interested in joining the Parish?

Contact Lori Lavalle
llavalle@stmaryparish.org

Mass Intentions

If you have lost a loved one and
would like them to be remembered
in the bulletin, call the parish office
at 920-739-5119

Confession times:

Saturdays 9-10am, or by
appointment

Parish Website:

stmaryparish.org

Cemetery Website:

stmaryparishcemetery.org

Eucharistic Adoration Wednesdays

4:30-8pm

Sign up for a slot to sit with Jesus.
We must have one person
with the Eucharist at all times.



"In the beginning"



SCAN ME

in Joy & SORROW



In his letters to the early Churches in Corinth, Philippi, Thessalonica, Ephesus, Colossae, and Rome, Saint Paul sometimes refers to the first believers as saints. The saints are the holy ones. It would do us good to remind ourselves that still today Paul would refer to you and me as saints. We are among the holy ones, whom Jesus has claimed as His own through the waters of our Baptism. We are truly sinful saints and sainted sinners!

The word “saint,” when used in the Church today, takes on a much narrower focus. The saints are those holy women, men and children whom the Church officially names as worthy of our reverence and imitation. Truth be told, however, that the halls of heaven are filled only with saints, a countless number of witnesses for Jesus who cannot be named by you and me.

But there is joy and hope that percolates in our hearts as we reflect on the communion of saints. These are the friends and followers of

The saints are the holy ones. It would do us good to remind ourselves that still today Paul would refer to you and me as saints.

Jesus, so close to Him in Paradise, and so close to us as our companions before the Lord.

On Sunday, September 7, Pope Leo will officially welcome two young men, who lived in our own time, into the heavenly hall of the canonized saints.

Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati, an Italian, who died of polio at the age of thirty-four in 1925, was beloved in his time and remains beloved among young people still today. As Saint Mother Teresa of Kolkata always encouraged, “Do ordinary things with extraordinary love!” Pier was an ordinary guy who loved the Lord and others with a big, wide open heart. Saint Pope John Paul II named him “the Man of the Beatitudes” because Pier made himself poor in spirit so that Jesus could be the source of all the riches in his life. Pier had a hunger and thirst for holiness. He wanted only to comfort those who were hurting.

The US Conference of Catholic Bishops puts it this way on their website:

Pier Giorgio was engaged in the life of the Church through regular worship and adoration, service to the poor and marginalized, advocacy for social justice for the disenfranchised and for religious liberty, regular participation in student and sports activities, devotion to his family, and joyful companionship with his friends and fellow Catholics in his community.

He saw many parallels between Catholic life and his favorite pastime sport, mountain-climbing. He would regularly organize trips into the mountains with his close friends with occasions for prayer, liturgies, and conversations about faith on the way up to or down from the summit.

After what would become his final climb he wrote a simple note on a photograph: “Verso L’Alto”, which means “to the heights.” This phrase has since come to encapsulate his philosophy of mountaineering and his Catholic outlook on life and adventure.

Just as there is much joy in reaching the mountain’s summit, so too, there is much joy in striving to live a holy life.

Saint Carlo Acutis, an Italian, born in London, because that was where his father was working at the time, grew up in Milan, after his dad was transferred back to Italy. Carlo touched the lives of so many. In school, he was always on the lookout for his classmates who were struggling, whose parents may have been going through a divorce or who were being bullied. Carlo was a friend to all, including the poor. He would often return home from school without his shoes, which he happily had given to a homeless person who had none. Like all teenagers, so I am told, he loved video games. Carlo used the internet to research Eucharistic miracles that had happened throughout the world and to document those holy occurrences. He loved going to Mass, even though his parents were not too thrilled about regular Sunday worship.

In his Apostolic Letter to young people, *Christus Vivit*, Pope Francis, speaking of Carlo, wrote: *He saw that many young people, wanting to be different, really end up being like everyone else, running after whatever*

the powerful set before them with the mechanisms of consumerism and distraction. In this way they do not bring forth the gifts the Lord has given them; they do not offer the world those unique personal talents that God has given to each of them. As a result, Carlo said, 'Everyone is born as an original, but many people end up dying as photocopies.' Don't let that happen to you! (paragraph 106).

Writing for wordonfire.org, Father Billy Swan observes:

"For Saint Carlo, the highest good of all was God and God's will for his life. "Happiness is looking towards God," he said. Sadness is looking towards yourself. One of his best-known pieces of wisdom says it all: "God and not me." In Italian, the phrase has an even greater effect: 'Dio, non io.' He also shared, 'Money is only ragged paper. . . . What counts in life is the nobility of the soul, that is, the way that one loves God and loves one's neighbor.' Here is a clarity of vision from the future saint that encourages young people not to settle for something beneath their dignity or to pursue goods that fail to satisfy the longings of the human heart."

"From a young age, Carlo grasped the teaching of Jesus about the importance of interior disposition as the key to what we say or act. He knew that a deep and beautiful spirituality on the inside is the secret of a serene, consistent, and joyful disposition that presents itself on the outside. Carlo often repeated, 'Why do people worry so much about their physical beauty but don't worry about the beauty of their souls?' Carlo exemplified this beauty as a person of great holiness on the inside and with the charity he showed in how he lived. He helped immigrants, beggars, the disabled, and the elderly..."

Another distinct feature of Carlo's young life was his love for the Eucharist. At a time when many of his contemporaries were walking away from the Mass, Carlo found something beautiful in it that attracted him, something divine that he experienced. For Carlo, the Eucharist was a threshold experience that enabled him to transcend the border of this world and touch a world beyond. He famously said, 'The Eucharist is my motorway to heaven, and that with each Communion we come closer to the goal of sanctity.'"

"He also loved the habitual prayer of Eucharistic Adoration as a time of intimate communion with the Lord Jesus. Carlo compared his time in Adoration of the Eucharist as being like St. John the Apostle who leaned on the Lord's breast at the Last Supper. For Carlo, we are called to possess Eucharistic souls in which God works those marvels in us that only He can do."

Diagnosed with acute leukemia that progressed with a ferocious speed, Carlo Acutis died in 2005 at the age of fifteen.

Last spring, after I finished my meetings as part of the International Gathering of Parish Priests for the Synod in Rome, I made my way up to Assisi. It was Saint Carlo's dying wish that he be buried there. When he was beatified in 2020, his remains were exhumed and placed in a glass-covered casket on a bier in Santa Maria Maggiore Church. A typical teenager, humble and not much on dress clothes, Carlo is wearing a favorite track suit and tennis shoes. I was blessed to spend some time in prayer before his earthly remains, assured that this young saint is alive in glory in the heavenly Kingdom!

Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati and Saint Carlo Acutis, pray for us! Pray with us! *Fr. Bill +*