27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, OCTOBER 5, 2025

ST. MARY PARISH

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



'If you had faith as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'May you be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you." Luke 17:6

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

SCAN ME

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

Deacon- Gerry Schraufnagel
dcngerry@stmaryparish.org
cell 920-450-9594

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

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.
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! Contact Fr. Bill at least 6 months before your planned wedding date.

Interested in joining the Parish?
Contact Lori Lavalle
llavalle@stmaryparish.org

Confession times:
Saturdays 9-10am, or by appointment

St. Joseph FOOD PROGRAM



Collection Oct 11 & 12

October 11th and 12th is the St. Joseph Food Program collection. The collection is for any type of baking needs such as cake/brownie/ muffin mixes, pie filling, sugar, flour, baking soda or powder, shortening or vegetable oil or any other item used for baking. Nothing perishable, in glass or past the use by date.

Thank you for helping those who are in need.

Greater Fox Cities Area Habitat for Humanity

Join Us on the Habitat for Humanity Faith Build

Contact Ray Fuchs **rfuchs1944@gmail.com** to build.

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

Oct 25

Paint and Stain, Prepare a Meal



Pancake Breakfast



buttermilk pancakes
french toast sticks
bacon, sausage, fresh fruit



SUNDAY, OCT. 5
8:30 -11:30AM
COMMUNITY ROOM

All are welcome!
free will offerings accepted





DIOCESAN RETREAT FOR GRIEVING PARENTS

10-25-2025

SAVE THE DATE

Organized by:

- The Diocesan Office of Marriage & Family Life
- Fox Valley Respect Life team
- Emmaus Ministry for Grieving Parents

For more information or to register:
marriageministries@gbdioce.org
or call us at **920-272-8283**

Diocese of Green Bay

PILGRIMS OF HOPE

JOIN OUR TEAM

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

We are looking for someone with a heart for children to minister to our students in grades 1–5 and to the little ones who attend Children's Liturgy of the Word.

If you're interested, please reach out to Nadine or Tracy for more details.

Tracy@ tturba@stmaryparish.org
Nadine@ nduncan@stmaryparish.org

HOLY question

What is the name of the prayer service that is held in the evening?

Hallow PRAYER CHALLENGE

HOW TO PRAY



Join Fr. Mike Schmitz, Bishop Barron, Sr. Miriam, Johnathan Roumie, Mark Wahlberg, and other world-class spiritual guides as together we experience the transformative power of prayer.

- Sign up to join our Parish Community
- Go to our **website** to see how to log-in, regardless if you are a new member, already a member, or would like to pay for more options.
- From our website, go to the upper right and click on ☰, then **Hallow Help**.

To signup, go to **hallow.com/parish**

Tie BLANKET TIME



We are looking for volunteers to help tie fleece blankets again this year. The blankets will be donated to home care children in Outgamie county and to the veterans village here in Appleton.

Thursday, Oct 2, 16, & 30
1-3 PM in the Community room

If you have sewing scissors, bring them along. We also have some for you to use. If you have any questions, contact Barb Rowland by email: rbsafari@sbcglobal.net





Pillars is low on E2F Pans that are meals for their residents. These are meals you can put together easily for about $15-$20. One pan can feed 10 people. **Pick up a pan on October 4th and 5th** after the Masses. Please follow the enclosed directions and **return the frozen meal on October 11th and 12th.** Thank you for helping.



Love to Bake or Cook? Join our Parish Bakers & Cooks list!

Email **Lori Lavalle** at llavalle@stmaryparish.org and she will contact you when we need baked items or a meal prepared for an event.

Stewardship SERIES



As part of our Stewardship Month, we invite you to join us for a series of engaging seminars designed to help parishioners discover practical and spiritual ways to be faithful stewards of the many gifts God has entrusted to us.

Monday, November 3rd at 6:30 PM - Estate Planning Seminar presented by Catholic Foundation and Attorney Reg Wydeven from McCarty Law
Sunday, November 9th after Masses - Tax Planning Seminar presented by Attorney Ron Altenburg from Clifton Larson Allen
January 2026 - Budgeting presented by Dave Ramsey -- Details to follow



To be is to be with.
The root meaning of “company” is “With Bread”
Life becomes meaningless without this company.
We hunger for meaning…
for someone to share with and to steadfastly “Walk me home”.

Francis of Assisi, divinely inspired, formed a movement so timely and gently meaningful for our tired, hungry world. Taste and see.

Saturday, October 11, 2025, 9-noon
St Joseph Parish Holly Hall
404 W Lawrence St., Appleton, WI 54911
Sponsored by St. Joseph Franciscan Fraternity

No reservation needed.
Free and open to all

World Mission Month: A Call to Hope

Each October, the Church invites us to rediscover our missionary vocation. This year, Pope Leo XIV, following the inspiration of Pope Francis, calls us to become “Missionaries of Hope Among the Peoples,” inspired by St. Paul's words: “Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit” (Rom 5:5)

In the 50th anniversary year of Evangelii Nuntiandi, we are reminded that "modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers” (41). Through prayer, sacrifice and giving, we too become witnesses bringing the hope of Christ to those who long for love, justice, and peace. Let us begin this month with open hearts, ready to respond to the Church’s call to support the 1,124 mission territories where the Church is young, growing, and often persecuted. Together may we be bearers of hope where it is needed most.



Parish Landscaping Taskforce

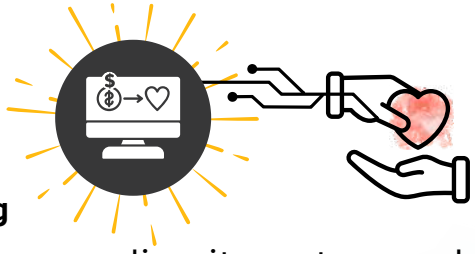
We are looking for parish members who want to help plan and implement a landscaping design for the parish grounds. The taskforce would meet about once a month as needed to create the design for our parish grounds. Ideally, work on the design would begin in Spring of 2026. Priority 1 is the entrance at Door 1 (the Office entrance) and the State St. side of the church. Another possibility is a prayer garden on our 8th St. lot. If you are interested in being part of the design planning, please contact **Chris Higgins - chiggins@stmaryparish.org.**



Generosity Committee

We are establishing a Generosity Committee that will focus on stewardship of time, talent and treasure. This committee will help us look at opportunities for revenue development, volunteer engagement, and more in conjunction with the 5 pillars of **Worship, Ministry, Mission, Fellowship and Discipleship**. The committee will meet once a month as needed. If you feel you have a gift in this area or have questions about it, please contact **Kate Minczeski at kmiczeski@stmaryparish.org.**

ParishSOFT®



Faith Direct is becoming ParishSOFT Giving

On October 7, 2025 Faith Direct will be upgrading its system and rebranding as ParishSOFT Giving. For the most part your experience of the system will be the same. The first change you will see is that you will need to set a new password. Your username will be your email address. Once you enter that you will need to set up a new password.

One other change will be the language used in the system. In Faith Direct giving opportunities are called "Appeals". In ParishSOFT Giving they will be called "Funds".

A temporary web address for the upgraded system is https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/FD-990. This will be available on October 7th but not before that. We will be able to simplify the web address after October 7th but we will announce that when it happens.

If you don't currently use Faith Direct, this will be an opportunity to consider giving to the parish electronically.

Thank you for your generosity.



bridges
Child Enrichment Center

TRUNK or TREAT

CANDY • CARAMEL APPLES • DONUTS • GAMES • MORE CANDY

SAVE THE DATE

WHERE: ST. MARY PARISH (APPLETON) SCHOOL PARKING LOT

WHEN: OCTOBER 26
TIME: 11:00 AM TO 12:00 PM

DETAILS COMING SOON

Dress up, stop by, and enjoy an afternoon of Halloween fun for all ages! Please register at https://bit.ly/trunkortreatstmary or use the QR code! Mark your calendars and bring your biggest candy bag!

GAME TIME

Can you find this closeup image in the church?

It's not much of a pain to find this one near a stain.



NEW GAME

EVENTS CALENDAR

Week of Oct 4- Oct 11

Saturday, Oct 4
9:00am Confessions/Chapel
4:30pm Mass

Sunday, Oct 5
Coffee & Donuts after mass
7:45am Mass
8:30pm Pancake Breakfast served until 11:30am
9:45am Mass/Livestreamed

Monday, Oct 6
12:05pm Mass
6:30pm THEO

Tuesday, Oct 7
9:00am Connect Group/LL7
9:00am Paula Hebeler Visitation
11:00am Paula Hebeler Funeral
12:00pm Paula Heleler Luncheon
1:00pm St Mary & St Joe's Prayer Shawl Group St Joe's LL112
2:00pm Rosary Prayer group/Chapel

Wednesday, Oct 8
9:30am Connect Group/LL7
9:30am CIAFMO
4:30pm Adoration/Chapel
4:45pm Beacon Faith Formation 1st -5th grade
6:30pm Beacon Faith Formation 6th -8th grade
6:30pm Beacon Faith Formation 9th -12th grade

Thursday, Oct 9
10:00am St. Mary Young Families Small Group/BSR
12:05pm Mass
6:00pm Choir/Music room

Friday, Oct 10
Parish Office Closed
9:00am Bible Study/LL7
5:00pm Entrust Retreat/CR
5:00pm Fieweger-Szymanski Wedding Rehearsal

Saturday, Oct 11
St. Joe's Food Program Collection
8:30am Entrust Retreat/CR, Church
9:00am Confessions/Chapel
10:00am NEC Support Group/LL70
1:00pm Fieweger-Szymanski Wedding
4:30pm Mass- Hope Rose Xiong Baptism

Sunday, Oct 12
Coffee & Donuts after mass
St. Joe's Food Program Collection
7:45am Mass
8:30am Pancake Breakfast
9:45am Mass/Livestreamed



Vespers

Mass Intentions

Sat. Oct 4	4:30pm	Dean Gatz
Sun. Oct 5	7:45am 9:45am	Ellenbecker Family Sally Grall
Mon. Oct 6	12:05pm	Robert Mullen
Thur. Oct 9	12:05pm	James Lavenstein
Sat. Oct 11	4:30pm	Conrad Fuerstenberg
Sun. Oct 12	7:45am 9:45am	Ed Corry Molly Grow



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

Paula Hebeler
March 8, 1938 — September 22 , 2025

Generosity CORNER

We are grateful for your support this month. Our monthly budget has been equalized over the 12 months of the fiscal year, but looking back to past years we are right on target for September ($62,700) and even a bit above.

MONTH	INCOME	BUDGET	VARIANCE
September	$65,558.25	$75,083.33	-$9,525.08

Your funds at work in the parish:

This week our Let Us Pray series kicked off with a session on Lectio Divina. Fr. Bill will continue that practice for the month of October.

This week we are working on some repairs and improvements to our outdoor lighting in the back parking lot.

You may have noticed new awnings in the back of church over Door 3 and the Sacristy door. The awnings help to protect the entrances from snow and rain.

in Joy & SORROW

ST MARY PARISH - APPLETON // 10.5.2025

WITH FR. BILL SWICHTENBERG





I was moved by Erika Kirk's genuine promise to forgive the alleged murderer of her husband. In her eulogy for Charlie at the Memorial State Farm Stadium in Glendale, AZ, on Sunday, September 21, Erika recalled Jesus' transforming words spoken from His Cross, "Father, forgive them, they know what they do." (Luke 23:34) This gesture is not something Erika was able to make on her own but only with the holy grace of Jesus' Spirit of Forgiveness. It was Alexander Pope (1711) who said in a poem, "To err is human; to forgive is divine."

Forgiveness is not natural to us human beings. We need the grace of the Lord overflowing into our hearts to be able to forgive those who have wronged us or hurt us. There is no timetable for the granting of this forgiveness. For some of us, it may take a long time to come to that place.

I remind you, too, that forgiveness does not mean forgetting. We forgive but will always remember the pain unjustly inflicted upon us, but with a peace and calm rather than an obsession with anger or retaliation.

I remind you, too, that forgiveness does not mean forgetting.

Forgiveness is not an act of exoneration. The consequences of a violent action still remain and sometimes result in imprisonment. I would say, too, that imprisonment without the possibility of parole is sufficient punishment. The death penalty only furthers more violence. Pope Francis was clear in revising the Catechism of the Catholic Church, in October 2018, to read in paragraph 2267, on the death penalty:

Recourse to the death penalty on the part of legitimate authority, following a fair trial, was long considered an appropriate response to the gravity of certain crimes and an acceptable, albeit extreme, means of safeguarding the common good.

Today, however, there is an increasing awareness that the dignity of the person is not lost even after the commission of very serious crimes. In addition, a new understanding has emerged of the significance of penal sanctions imposed by the state. Lastly, more effective systems of detention have been developed, which ensure the due protection of citizens but, at the same time, do not definitively deprive the guilty of the possibility of redemption.

Consequently, the Church teaches, in the light of the Gospel, that “the death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person”, and [the Church] works with determination for its abolition worldwide.

Sadly, there exists a strong pushback against this teaching by conservative Christians, including Catholics. They endorse the “eye for an eye” mentality of the Hebrew Scriptures (Exodus 21:23) while ignoring Jesus’ declarations of “I desire mercy not sacrifice” (Matthew 9:13) and “When someone strikes you on your right cheek, turn the other one to him (her) as well” (Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5:39). Pro-life Christians who are pro-death penalty are being ethically inconsistent.

Forgiveness is all about letting go. Sometimes the one who has hurt us cannot bring himself or herself to say “I am sorry” or is unable to receive the gift of our forgiveness. No matter, because forgiveness is also for the one who offers it. It can release a torrent of healing in my heart, where anger is replaced by peace and calm.

I am reminded of the Great Madiba of South Africa, Nelson Mandela, who was imprisoned on Robben Island for nearly 27 years because of his courageous speaking out against the sin of apartheid in the 1980s, when black people were discriminated against by the ruling white people. On the day of his release, as the Great Madiba walked under the archway at the prison’s entrance, he announced, “If I do not forgive my captors, I will remain here in prison!”

Perhaps you remember the great Saint Pope John Paul II, who survived an assassination attempt against him on May 13, 1981, in Saint Peter’s Square, Rome. The cover of Time Magazine on January 9, 1984, was a photograph of the Holy Father, seated on a folding chair in a visitors’ room in the prison, across from the man who attempted to take his life. This saint came to forgive his convicted assassin.

Finally, I am reminded of one of my mentors, Cardinal Joseph Bernardin, the Archbishop of Chicago, who was falsely accused of sexual abuse by Steven Cook, when Steven was a student in the seminary in Cincinnati, where the Cardinal was the rector. This was a horrible and humiliating time in the life of Bernardin, standing in front of TV cameras and flashing lightbulbs, vehemently denying the allegations. During the Christmas holidays in 1993, the Cardinal flew out to Philadelphia so that he could forgive Mr Cook for the cross the young man had forced the Cardinal to carry. The Cardinal graciously accepted Mr Cook's apology.

This humble and faithful servant of the Church said to Steven: "In every family, there are times when there is hurt, anger and alienation. But we cannot run away from our family (adding here that the Church is our spiritual family). We have only one family, so we must make every effort to be reconciled."

Truly all people of grace who bestowed the grace of forgiveness on another human being and upon themselves: : Erika Kirk of Phoenix, President Nelson Mandela of South Africa, Saint Pope John Paul II of Rome, and Cardinal Joseph Bernardin of Chicago!

All for the glory of God!

