

SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING, NOVEMBER 23, 2025

ST. MARY PARISH

PHONE: (920) 739-5119 • EMAIL: STMARY@STMARYPARISH.ORG

312 SOUTH STATE STREET • APPLETON, WI 54911



He transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Col 1:20

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

Deacon - Gerry Schraufnagel

dcngerry@stmaryparish.org

cell 920-540-9594

Cemetery Info - Chip Acker

cacker@stmaryparish.org

cell 920-882-4158

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 wedding date.

Interested in joining the Parish?

Contact Lori Lavalle

llavalle@stmaryparish.org

Confession times:

Saturdays 9-10am or by appointment

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesdays 4:30-8pm

Sign up for a time to sit with Jesus.

We must have one person with the Eucharist at all times.

Or scan with your phone.



SCAN ME

WE NEED COOKIES

For the Appleton Christmas Parade
Open House on Tuesday, November 25

Drop cookies off on the cart outside the Parish Office now through the afternoon of Tuesday, November 25th.

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

5th Annual

APPLETON CHRISTMAS PARADE OPEN HOUSE

*St. Mary Community Room
Tuesday, Nov. 25 / 6-9pm
All are Welcome!*



Enjoy Cookies and Cocoa as you watch the parade on the big screen!

Happy
Thanksgiving

Join us
for Mass on
Thanksgiving Day
at 8 AM



Let us pray

Evening worship experiences at St. Mary, Appleton



DISCOVER IMAGINATIVE PRAYER WITH FR. JIM FLAHERTY, SJ

November 24 | 6:30-8:00 PM

Experience Imaginative Prayer, learn about Discernment of Spirits, and how to practice the Examen. Come with an open heart. Leave with a renewed spirit! Fr. Jim Flaherty, SJ, Retreat Director at the Jesuit Retreat House in Oshkosh



Pick up
your
loved one's
candle in
the
Marian
Way
starting
Monday



Needs
TREE

KICKOFF!

Trees with tags will be in the church and the Marian Way on Saturday Nov 22.

GIFTS DUE - DEC 6/7 If possible, return gifts in a reusable, cloth, or vinyl shopping bag.

Most gift card requests are available at the scrip table. Donations may be made through Parish Soft.



BAPTISM ANNOUNCEMENT

On Saturday, November 29 at the 4:30 PM Mass, we will celebrate a baptism with a large family. The first few pews on the St. Mary and St. Joseph side will be reserved for them. Thank you for your understanding and warm welcome!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR MINISTRY!

Kate Minczewski, our Minister of Adult Discipleship, has accepted a new position with the Family Radio Network. She will complete her Master's degree in Nonprofit Leadership and Management

in May, and this role will allow her to use the skills she has developed through her studies. While we are sad to see her leave St. Mary Parish, we are grateful for her ministry among us and happy for the new opportunity ahead of her.



Church DOORS

Beginning December 6 and 7, the front and side church doors will be locked 10 minutes after Mass begins. There will be signs on the doors directing people to enter through Door 1 (the office entrance to the church) and Door 3 (the back parking lot entrance). This comes in response to recent incidents that have caused disruption in the back of the church and concerns about security during Mass.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Chris Higgins in the office or email him at: chiggins@stmaryparish.org.



**Help St. Joe's Emergency
Overflow Shelter
this Winter!**

St. Joe's will be operating an overnight shelter during winter months on days with extreme cold.

Those seeking shelter will be provided bedding and a safe, warm place to sleep. Food (beverages, snacks and meals) will also be provided for guests.

Scan the QR code or click the link to find out more ways you can help this winter.



[St. Joe's Warming Shelter
Volunteer Interest Form](#)

**Say hello to St. Nick at all the Masses
on December 6 & 7!**

HELP BRING A SMILE TO CHILDREN THIS ST NICK!

Collecting on December 6 & 7

Please bring an unwrapped gift for a child.

SUGGESTED ITEMS ARE:

- TOYS
- BOOKS
- GAMES
- HATS
- MITTENS
- GIFT CARDS FOR FAST FOOD RESTAURANTS

**THIS IS FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES, FROM THE LITTLE ONES TO TEENAGERS.
DONATIONS WILL GO TO CHILDREN IN THE APPLETON SCHOOLS.**

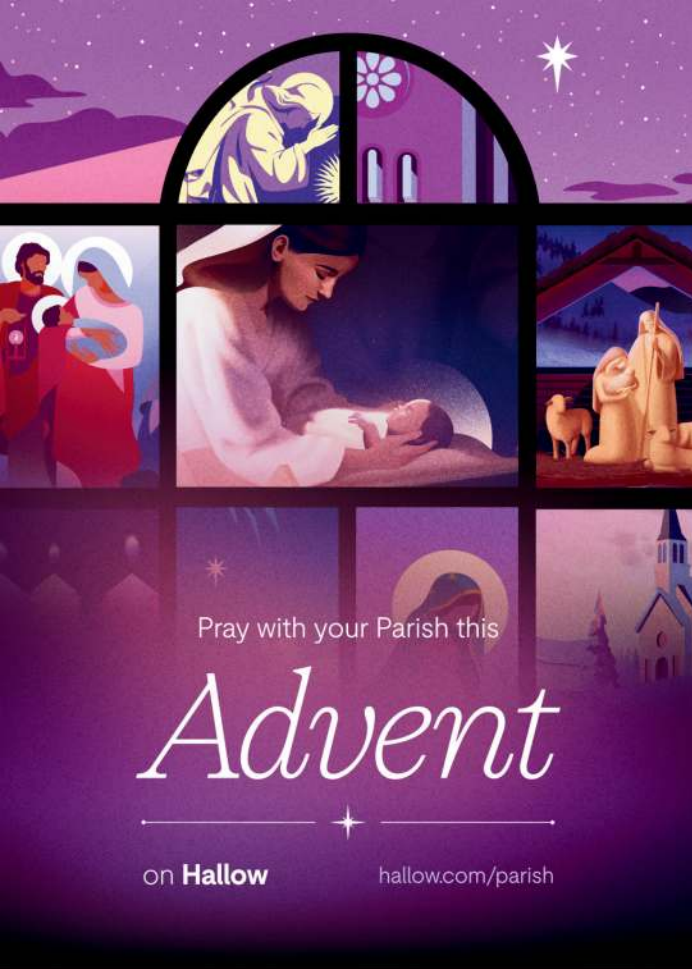


PREPARE YOUR HEART FOR JESUS THIS ADVENT

My introduction to the Hallow App was in 2021, when I became a confirmed member of the Catholic Church. Being new to Catholicism and being that we were still experiencing isolation due to COVID, Hallow helped me feel connected to the Catholic faith. Since then, I have continued to activate Hallow on a pretty regular basis, starting my day with the Daily Readings, exploring the Rosary, and learning new (to me) prayers. I am grateful to have Hallow wherever I go, helping my relationship with God to strengthen, feeling a sense of community and connection, and deepening my faith.



Beth Vanderloop, St. Mary parishioner



You're Invited! Advent Pray25: Be Still

This Advent, we invite you to discover deeper stillness amidst the chaos of the holiday season, just as Mary did that first Christmas. Join millions around the world as we dive into the story of the Nativity through reflections on the infancy narratives, powerful excerpts from *The Reed of God* by Caryll Houselander and *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry* by John Mark Comer, and moments of silence and contemplative prayer. Join us in this 25-day journey, starting Monday, December 1!

Kids Advent: Finding Fiat

Join Grace as she prepares for the lead role of Mary in her school's Nativity play. Grace, her brother, and her best friends will experience episodes of Mary's life, a new game show, and so much more!

Already using Hallow?

Simply open the app, tap the **Community** tab at the bottom of your screen, visit our **parish page**, and join the Advent prayer challenge.

New to Hallow?

Visit hallow.com/parish, search for our parish (54911 zip code works best), and follow the prompts. You'll receive a special trial with full access to Hallow's premium content. If you'd prefer to stay on the free version, tap "**Skip**" — you'll still have access to our parish page and the Advent prayer challenge.

Need help getting started?

Email: parishsupport@hallow.app



How many days after the Ascension did the Holy Spirit descend? What is this day known as?

WHO IS JESUS?



seek²

formed™

Forming Catholics for *Life*.

Who is Jesus Christ? w/ Sr. Bethany Madonna | SEEK23

Sr. Bethany Madonna from the Sisters of Life dives into the truth about who Jesus Christ is. Discover the love of Jesus for yourself and listen to Sr. Bethany Madonna!

Our parish has a free Formed subscription for you! Simply scan the QR code or visit formed.org/signup to create your account and select our parish to get free access to this content and much more!



An offering from the  AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE

Annual Advent BAKE SALE

DECEMBER 13
after 4:30 PM Mass

DECEMBER 14
after 7:45 AM
& 9:45 AM Masses



Mark your calendar for a bake sale on the weekend of **December 13-14.**

Your favorite baked goods are always welcomed.

You may drop them off any time after 10am on Friday (December 12) or Saturday (December 13) or before 7:45am Mass on Sunday (December 14).



EVENTS CALENDAR

Week of Nov 21- Nov 30

Friday, Nov 21

9:00am Leroy Gorges Visitation
 11:00am Leroy Gorges Funeral
 12:00pm Leroy Gorges Luncheon

Saturday, Nov 22

9:00am Ed Sabish Visitation
 9:00am Confessions/Chapel
 10:00am NEC Support group luncheon/St. Anne
 11:00am Ed Sabish Funeral
 12:00pm Ed Sabish Luncheon/Community Room
 4:30pm Mass

Sunday, Nov 23

Coffee & Donuts after each mass

7:45am Mass
 9:45am Mass/Livestreamed
 11:00am 1st Reconciliation Parent Meeting/St. Anne Rm

Monday, Nov 24

12:05pm Mass
 6:30 pm Let Us Pray w/ Fr. Flaherty/Chapel

Tuesday, Nov 25

9:00am Connect Group/LL7
 2:00pm Rosary Prayer group/Chapel
 4:00 pm-9:00pm Christmas Parade Open House
 6:30pm Men's Ministry/LL7

Wednesday, Nov 26

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

Thursday, Nov 27 Thanksgiving Day

8:00am Mass

Friday, Nov 28

Parish Office Closed

10:30am Miles Jeffrey Foss Baptism-Visiting Priest

Saturday, Nov 29

9:00am Confessions/Chapel
 1:00pm Matthew Laveille/ Macy Koch Wedding
 4:30pm Mass/Rourke (Rory) Paul Johnson Baptism

Sunday, Nov 30

Coffee & Donuts
 7:45 Mass
 9:45 Mass/Livestreamed

Mass Intentions

Sat. Nov 22	4:30pm	Frank Olson
Sun. Nov 23	7:45am	Ivy Peters
	9:45am	Mary Ann Hanson
Mon. Nov 24	12:05pm	Members of St. Mary Parish
Thur. Nov 27	8:00am	Margaret Higgins
Sat. Nov 29	4:30pm	Doris Jansen
Sun. Nov 30	7:45am	Marge Garvey
	9:45am	Ron Colling

IN LOVING MEMORY

Leroy Gorges
 1/19/1943 - 11/15/2025
 Edward Sabish
 3/28/1941 - 11/15/2025

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

Generosity CORNER

As we wrap up Gratitude and Giving month and head into Thanksgiving, we are thankful for the vibrant activity and support of our parishioners. We are lucky to offer so many opportunities for our community to connect and grow in our relationship with Jesus. Your support is how we are able to do this.

MONTH	INCOME	BUDGET	VARIANCE
Nov. (week 3)	\$51,523.86	\$75,083.33	-\$23,559.47

Your giving at work in the parish:

We have a group working on a rejuvenation of the Babysitting room to accommodate its increased usage since COVID and especially to support nursing moms.

As the weather gets colder, we have more groups using our gym to keep our young people active including XYBA, AAU Basketball, and Playpen Sports Academy. If you have an interest in using the gym for Basketball or Pickleball or anything else, contact Kristina Resterhouse at the office or email stmary@stmaryparish.org.



10 Days.
 Known as Pentecost



in Joy & SORROW

ST MARY PARISH - APPLETON // 11.23.2025

WITH FR. BILL SWICHTENBERG



The Solemn Celebration of our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe marks the end of the Liturgical Year of Grace for 2025. Next weekend, we welcome the Holy Season of Advent, which opens the Church's New Year of Grace for 2026. Let me be the first to wish you a "Happy New Liturgical Year!"

In 1925, in the aftermath of the Great War, Pope Pius XI promulgated the Feast of Christ the King. In the face of the advance of secularism and atheism, and the increasing violence among nations of the world, the Holy Father felt called to reassure people of faith everywhere that the Lord was in charge and that his love would always reign and have the final say over every sin of selfishness and all death.

Pope Pius would not be surprised by the results of a study just released by Gallup News on November 13th. A polling of Americans indicates "a 17-point drop in the percentage of U.S. adults who say religion is an important part of their daily life — from 66% in 2015 to 49% today — which ranks among the largest Gallup has recorded in any country over any 10-year period since 2007."

Let me be the first to wish you a "Happy New Liturgical Year!"



“About half of Americans now say religion is not an important part of their daily life. They remain as divided on the question today as they were last year.”

“The steady decline in U.S. religiosity over the past decade has been evident for years. Fewer Americans identify with a religion, church attendance and membership are declining, and religion holds a less important role in people’s lives than it once did. But this analysis of World Poll data puts the decline in a wider context, showing just how large the shift has been in global terms. Since 2007, few countries have measured larger declines in religiosity.”

The point of the survey is clear. You and I might bring anecdotal corroboration to the decline in an interest in religion as we look to our own families.

I also want to introduce into the discussion the dynamic of spirituality versus religiosity. It may be that some people in Gallup’s survey pool are more spiritual than they are religious. It is being a member of an institutional Church that may be unappealing to some people, even though they experience a connection to the Lord in their daily lives. Be that as it may, I think that spirituality and religion need to be linked. Both are essential in the life of a friend of Jesus. I walk with the Lord, day by day, and I am strengthened on that walk when I join a faith community in which we share the journey together.

Also, the Holy Spirit is hard at work among young people who are expressing in record numbers an interest in Catholicism and presenting themselves for the Sacraments of Initiation, that is Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

It is true that our Lord Jesus is King of the Universe, and even of the Cosmos, whether people believe that or not. Just as important is whether or not Jesus is the Lord of my life!

Let me conclude this reflection with some excerpts from a homily delivered by Pope Francis on the Solemn Feast of Christ the King on Sunday, November 20, 2022.

Only by entering into [Jesus’] embrace [from the cross] do we understand that God went to this extreme, even to the paradox of the cross, in order to embrace every one of us, no matter how far distant we may be from him. Jesus embraces our death, our pain, our poverty, our weakness. He embraced all of it. He became a slave so that each of us could become a [child of God.] By becoming a slave, Jesus purchased our kinship. He let himself be insulted and derided, so that whenever we are brought low, we will never feel alone. He let himself be stripped of his garments, so that no one would ever feel stripped of his or her rightful dignity. He ascended the cross, so that God would be present in every crucified man or woman throughout history. This

is our king, the king of the universe, for he journeyed to the furthest confines of our human experience, entered into the black hole of hatred, the black hole of abandonment, in order to bring light to every life and to embrace all reality.

My brothers and sisters, this is the king whom today we acclaim! His is not a kingship easy to understand. And the question we ought to be asking is this: Is this king of the universe also the king of my life? Do I believe in him? How can I celebrate him as the Lord of all creation, unless he also becomes the Lord of my life?

So let us look once more upon the crucified Jesus. Let us look at him. He does not look at our life only for a brief moment, or give us the same kind of fleeting glance that we so often give him. No, he stays there, with open arms, to say to you in silence that nothing about you is foreign to him, that he wants to embrace you, to lift you up and to save you just as you are, with your past history, your failings and your sins. "But Lord, is this true, that you love me with all my failings?" Right now, let us think about our own personal poverty. "Lord, do you love me with this spiritual poverty and all these limitations?" And the Lord smiles and makes us understand that he loves us and gave his life for us.

Let us think of our own limitations, but also of the good things. He loves us as we are, as we are right now. He gives you a chance to reign in this life, if only you surrender to his meek love that proposes but never imposes, a love that always forgives you. So often we tire of forgiving. We make the sign of the cross and turn our backs on that person [who has betrayed us]. Jesus never tires of forgiving, never. He always sets you on your feet. Jesus always restores your royal dignity. Where does salvation come from? It comes from letting ourselves be loved by him, for only in this way are we freed from slavery to ourselves, from the fear of being alone, from thinking that we cannot succeed.

My brothers and sisters, let us often stand before the crucified Lord and allow ourselves to be loved, because His open arms also open heaven to us, as they did to the good thief. Let us hear, addressed to us, the only words that Jesus today speaks from the cross: "Today you will be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43). That is what God wants to tell us whenever we let him gaze upon us. Then we realize that ours is not an "unknown God," up in the heavens, powerful and distant, but rather a God who is close. Closeness is God's "style," closeness with tenderness and mercy. Tenderness and compassion; his open arms console and caress us. That is our [Lord Jesus Christ,] King [of the Universe!]

Fr. Bill +