

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 7, 2025

ST. MARY PARISH

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

312 SOUTH STATE STREET • APPLETON, WI 54911

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.”
Matthew 3:3

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 planned wedding date.

Interested in joining the Parish?

Contact Lori Lavallo

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



PREPARE YOUR HEART FOR JESUS THIS ADVENT

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!

Need help getting started?

Go to our website at <https://www.stmaryparish.org/home/hallow-help> or Email: parishsupport@hallow.app

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.



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



Needs
TREE



**GIFTS DUE THIS
WEEKEND!!
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.



**SEND US
YOUR PIC**

info@stmaryparish.org
by DEC 15

- 
- Put your name (or family last name) in the subject line
 - Don't forget your pets!



Christmas Flowers

If you would like to contribute to the 2025 Christmas Flower & Worship Fund in memory of a loved one, please complete and return this form with payment to the parish office no later than Sunday, December 14.

PLEASE PRINT VERY CLEARLY so we can ensure accurate spelling!

Your last name/family name: _____

Your first name: _____ Amount: _____

Circle one: CASH CHECK (check # _____)

In Memory of: _____

Celebrate Bambinelli Sunday at all the Masses on December 13 & 14



Bring Baby Jesus from your nativity set with you to Mass on Dec 13 or 14 for a special blessing from Father!



Church DOORS

To help minimize disruptions to Mass and to increase safety for our parishioners there are a couple changes regarding the church doors starting the weekend of December 6 & 7.

1. The side ramp entrance to church (Door 6) will not be used for winter months, December through March and possibly longer.
2. The main church doors (Door 7) will be locked 10 minutes after Mass begins. You will still be able to come to Mass. After that time, please use the office entrance (Door 1) or the back lot entrance (Door 3). If you have questions, please feel free to contact Chris Higgins in the office or email him at: chiggins@stmaryparish.org.



For whom was Appleton's St. Elizabeth Hospital named?



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

St. Joe's will be operating an overnight shelter during winter months on nights 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](#)

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).



CHRISTMAS DECORATING!!

Join us on Tuesday, **December 16**, starting at 9:00 am, as we deck the halls of the church, chapel, Marian Way, and community room. Trees, lights, and joyful chaos guaranteed!



Let us pray

Evening worship experiences at St. Mary, Appleton

Carols, Cocoa, & Candy Canes Concert & Sing-a-Long

Dec 15, 2025 | 6:30-8:00 PM

Do you love Christmas Carols?

Would you enjoy experiencing them in a deep and prayerful way?

Come and add your voice to the angels who sang to the shepherds as we sing and pray together, experiencing the Christmas story


Join us for fellowship after the carols, with hot chocolate, cookies, and candy canes.





A Heartfelt Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who donated cookies to the 5th Annual Christmas Parade Open House! Because of your generosity, over 350 people enjoyed a sweet treat with their hot chocolate. The generous amount of treats donated was nothing short of incredible and truly appreciated. Despite the fog and rain, we enjoyed a remarkably successful evening. Each year, this event continues to grow in size and quality. Thank you once more for helping make the night so special.

GUADALUPE
THE MIRACLE AND
THE MESSAGE

formed[™]
Forming Catholics for *Life*.

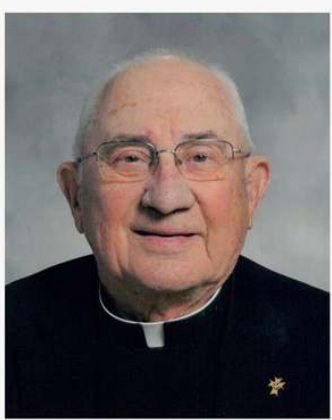
**Feast Day,
December 12**

Guadalupe: The Miracle and the Message

Enjoy this film narrated by Jim Caviezel that walks us through our Mother's miraculous appearance to Juan Diego, an encounter that has influenced the conversion of millions of people.

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!





Retirement Collection

Diocesan Priest Retirement & National Retirement Fund for Religious



Share in the Care

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

www.catholicfoundationgb.org/give

www.retiredreligious.org

Share in the CARE

DEC 13 & 14

Next weekend, our parish will take part in the Retirement Collection – SHARE IN THE CARE, a heartfelt opportunity to support religious and priests who have spent their lives serving God and our communities. This special collection benefits two groups:

- The National Retirement Fund for Religious, which supports retired sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.
- The Diocesan Priests Retirement Fund, which helps care for our senior priests right here in the Diocese of Green Bay.

These faithful servants have given so much. Now it's our turn to give back. You may choose to support one or both funds using the envelope provided at the back of the church.



Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary
Monday, December 8,
Mass at 12:05 pm



There will be no coffee & donuts on Sunday December 14, 21 or 28.

EVENTS CALENDAR

Week of Dec 6- Dec 14

Saturday, Dec 6

9:00am Confessions/Chapel
9:00am THEO/ Comm Rm
4:30 Mass

Sunday, Dec 7

Coffee & Donuts after each mass

7:45am Mass
9:45am Mass/Livestreamed
11:00am Baptism Preparation Course/LL7

Monday, Dec 8

12:05pm Immaculate Conception Mass
6:30pm The Bells Of St Mary Handbell Choir
6:30 pm Let Us Pray w/ Fr.Bill/Chapel

Tuesday, Dec 9

9:00am Connect Group/LL7
6:30pm Men's Ministry/LL7

Wednesday, Dec 10

9:30am Connect Group/LL7
4:30pm Adoration
4:45pm-8:00pm Beacon Faith Formation

Thursday, Dec 11

10:00am Young Families Mom's Group/BBR
12:05pm Mass
6:00pm Adult Choir

Friday, Dec 12

Parish Office Closed

Saturday, Dec 13

9:00am Confessions/Chapel
10:00am N E C Support Group/LL7
4:00pm Advent Bake Sale/Comm Rm
4:30pm Mass

Sunday, Dec 14

7:00am Advent Bake Sale/Comm Rm
7:45am Mass
9:45am Mass/Livestreamed

Mass Intentions

Sat. Dec 6	4:30pm	Ted Miller
Sun. Dec 7	7:45am 9:45am	Paula Hebler Tom Morse
Mon. Dec 8	12:05pm	For the intention of: Nicholas & Lizeth Balliet Anniv
Thur. Dec 11	8:00am	Jerry & Sally Grall
Sat. Dec 13	4:30pm	Margaret Higgins
Sun. Dec 14	7:45am 9:45am	Nancy Paters,Helen Seggelink, Carol Seggelink Fr. Michael O'Rourke

Generosity CORNER

Happy Advent! We are closing out November well, thanks to your support and generosity. As we begin December please consider making any end of year contributions early. The weeks of Christmas and New Year are very tight weeks for us to process donations and get them deposited.

MONTH	INCOME	BUDGET	VARIANCE
Nov (total)	\$63,521.97	\$75,083.33	-\$11,561.36

Your giving at work in the parish:

- The 5th Annual Christmas Parade Open House was a great success. The generosity of our community, especially our bakers, provided treats for more than 350 visitors who came in to warm up.
- Our Let Us Pray! Series welcomed Fr. Jim Flaherty, SJ for an evening of imaginative prayer. It was well attended with nearly 20 participants. You can continue with imaginative prayer with Fr. Bill on December 8th.



St. Elizabeth of Hungary
(1207-1231), a patron of the poor.



in Joy & SORROW

ST MARY PARISH - APPLETON // 12.7.2025

WITH FR. BILL SWICHTENBERG



Our God is the One who comes to us
in a burning bush,
in an angel's song,
in the newborn child.

Our God is the One who cannot be found
locked in the church,
not even in the sanctuary. Our God will be where God
will be with no constraints, no predictability.

Our God lives where our God lives
and destruction has no power
and even death cannot stop
the living. Our God will be born where God will
be born,
but there is no place to look for the One who comes to
us. When God is ready

*Our God is the One
who cannot be found
locked in the church*

God will come even to a godforsaken place
like a stable in Bethlehem.

Watch...

for you know not when God comes.

Watch, that you might be found whenever
wherever, God comes.

(from Ann Weems' Kneeling in Bethlehem)

The Season of Advent invites us to be more attentive to the promptings of the Lord in our lives. While we celebrate Jesus' Birth into History and anticipate his Second Coming in Majesty, Jesus is coming Now in Mystery into our lives every day. Do you recognize Him and do hear Him?

Early Monday morning at 6:45, I was in the waiting room for Outpatient Testing at Saint Elizabeth Hospital. I was early, had completed the registration profile online, so simply checked in, and sat down. There were a couple of other people in the waiting room. I automatically reached for my smartphone, observing that the others were already intently scrolling away. I paused.

Behold!

I deliberately set aside my phone, deciding to spend the time in the quiet and stillness of centering prayer. While anxious about the test and knowing that my anxiety would ratchet up waiting for the results, I simply rested in the Lord. Time stopped for me and, finally, I noticed that it was 7:30 am. My procedure was scheduled for 7:15. I confess I then checked with the receptionist to make sure that they had not forgotten about me! All was well! All will be well!

A holy moment that changed the trajectory of human history was Mary's experience of the Lord God calling her to become the Mother of God. Perhaps she was taking a breather in her hectic day, sitting on the edge of her bed, just beholding. It was then that Mary experienced the Lord's marvelous love for her and His unequivocal affirmation of her goodness in the moment. Trusting completely, not knowing the details that would be put in motion in her young life, Mary declared, "Let it be done to me as you say!"

I believe that Advent invites us to ponder the Annunciations of the Lord in our own lives. Jesus is always standing at the door of your heart and my heart, gently knocking, waiting to hear your trusting response, "Come into my life today!"

Do you hear him knocking? Will you open the door of your heart today? On each of these Holy Days of Advent, can you hear what the Lord is saying to you? Will you experience Jesus's tenderness and closeness to you today?

I hope you have joined me in taking the Hallow App's 25-Day Advent Challenge! It is never too late to begin!

Fr. Bill +