

SOLEMNITY OF THE HOLY FAMILY, DECEMBER 28, 2025

ST. MARY PARISH

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

312 SOUTH STATE STREET • APPLETON, WI 54911



Over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. Col. 3:17

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

Christmas Flower Donations and Memorials

Donor

Bob & Judy Arnoldussen

Gary & Roxann Austin

Don Bengel

Dean & Cindy Boyer

Linda Butzen

Daniel Carew

Jim & Marilyn Cihowiak

Cindy Clark

Tom & Kathy Courtney

Cathy & Peter DeLuca

Steve & Angie Dungar

Rick & Jean Ebben

Janice & David Flenz

Brian & Judy Garvey

Mike & Carin (Fuerstenberg)
O'Rourke

Anna Geurts

Michael Gunther

Mary Gurnee

David & GERALYN Hartman

Richard Hebler

Greg & Susan Henderson

Deanna Hurley

Virginia Heegeman

Kenneth & Janet Jaeger

In Memory of

Steve & Gary Arnoldussen

Joe Woods

Sharon & Curt Bengel

Ivy Louise Peters

Carl J Butzen

Ruth Carew

Cihowiak & Braun Families

Deceased members of the Clark and Frahm Families

Ken & Betty Courtney, Jerry & Bea Cops, James & Jean Courtney

Wayne & Laura Krause

Charlie & Jackie Dungar

Lester Zitzelsberger, Gerald & Ethel Ebben

Joseph & Helen Sams

Bill & Marge Garvey, Jean Bradley & Cassie Garvey Backhaus

Conrad Fuerstenberg

John Peeters

Donna Gunther

Dellemann Family

Lauren Arkens, Gerald Noskowiak, Wilfred & Rita Hartman

Deceased members of the Hebler and Kokke Families

Henderson Family

Mike Hurley

Jack, Jamie, Ally, Mom, Dad & my five siblings

Deceased Family Members of the Jaeger & Winkowski families

Christmas Flower Donations and Memorials

Donor

Jeff & Carol Johnson

Ron & Lori Kelpinski

Jeanne & Dennis Kray

Bob & Jane Leveille

Richard & Susan Littmann

Troy & Kristin Mansfield

Mike Marsden

Patricia Melis

Judy Meyer

Mike & Julie Morse

Bobbie & Jeff Mullen

Mike & Pam Nabbefeldt

Kim & Tom Nelson

Shirley Probst

Laurie & Jim Richter

June & Charlie Klauck

Beverly Roberts

Dave & Sue Rogers

Theresa Rohm

Barbara Rutten

Mary Schulz

Paula & Jerry Sosalla

Ron Spoehr

Brenda Thiel

In Memory of

Deceased family members

Orville Ramona & Baby Robert Kelpinski

Melvin & Anita Lardinois, Gordon & Bernice Kray

Leo & Esther Leveille, Morris & Jeanne Gabert

Father Mike O'Rourke

Ivy Van Den Heuvel and Carol and James Van Den Heuvel

Wayne Buttner

Kathleen Gambel

Margaret , Jerry, Rose, Irene

The living & deceased members of the Bardon, Morse, & O'Connell families

Bob & Sis Balliet

Marjorie Nabbefeldt

Elsie Mitchell & Thomas Lee Nelson II

Tony & Ethel Boehler, Cecilia (Boehler) Fischer, Christian, Allen & Anthony Boehler

Bob & Gloria Louch, Curt & Edna Richter

Less Klauck, Marcellus Vogel & Mona Kramer

Jason C. Roberts & family

Rogers & Springer Families

Ricker, Diederich and Rohm Families

John Rutten

Schulz, Bruehl, Catlin and Wassenberg families

Harold & Mary Ann Hanson

Bryce & Ellen Spoehr

Robert & Rosella Wittlin

Christmas Flower Donations and Memorials

Donor

Robert Thomson

Sue Van Eeckhout

Donna & Dave Van Grinsven

Anne Van Stralen

Diane Vanderheiden

Steve & Marge Vertin

Ken Wydeven

Mary Jo Zilisch

Carol Ann Zuelzke

David & Mary Ellen Julien

Timothy & Judith Knox

Robert & Kristine Loderbauer

Carol Miller

Ben Romenesko

Don & Sharon Springhetti

Shield Smith

In Memory of

Sally Thomson

Van Eeckhout & Schmidt Families

Members of the Rodwell and Van Grinsven families

Ed and Mary Holtz and The Heenan Family

Robert Vanderheiden

Bernard & Mary Margaret Vertin and Charles and Katherine Andresen

George, Agnes, Jack, Carol and David Wydeven

Dr. Ken Pinegar

Jack Zuelske



**NEW
UPDATE**



Help St. Joe's Provide Shelter this Winter!

St. Joe's recently had to pivot from their original overflow shelter plans. The city required several costly facility upgrades, and St. Joe's discerned that resources would be better used directly supporting guests by providing hotel accommodations.

St. Joe's is now partnering with the Super 8 in Appleton and just completed their first Cold Weather Emergency—serving 35 guests in 25 hotel rooms for five nights. They are happy to share that the experience went very well overall!

How Can You Help?

VOLUNTEER FOR A SHIFT: Daily shifts are from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM, with 4 volunteers on site at a time. Shifts are 3–4 hours long.

FOOD: St. Joe's currently has 7 food teams from other faith communities and local businesses that are providing meals. They are seeking a few additional teams to assist with meals for those staying in the hotel rooms. If you are interested, contact Sarah Fraley at sfraley@new.rr.com.

MONEY: Each room costs \$65. If you would like to sponsor a room, donate to BSC (Blessed Solanas Casey) and write "hotels" in the memo line. Checks can be mailed or dropped off at St Joe's.

For more information, stay tuned to the bulletin or contact Mike Mail and at mmmailand@sbcglobal.net.



THANK YOU

CHRISTMAS DECORATORS

Who graced us with their artistry in adorning our cherished Church.

Barb Rowland
Jeff DelPonte
Matt Budde
Dennis & Jeanne Kray
David Lutzewitz

Cindy Clark
Ann & Dick Ciske
Mary Ellen & David Julien
Mike Gunther
Steve & Marge Vertin

Dave & Sue Rogers
Jerry Bekkers
Rick Ebben
Janel Dannecker
Ron Spoehr



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 attend 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.



Needs TREE

Thank you

For giving someone a happy Christmas! We are grateful for your generosity.



OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28	29	30	31	JAN 1	2	3
CLOSED	9AM-1PM	9AM-1PM	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED



Which book of the Bible talks about the kings or the Magi?





SOLEMNITY OF MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

JANUARY 1ST, 9AM



**Adoration of the Blessed
Sacrament is cancelled for
Dec 24 & 31. It will begin again
on Wed, Jan 7**

**The Sacrament of
Reconciliation
is cancelled on
Saturday, Dec 27th.**

St. Joseph FOOD PROGRAM



Collection is Jan 10 & 11

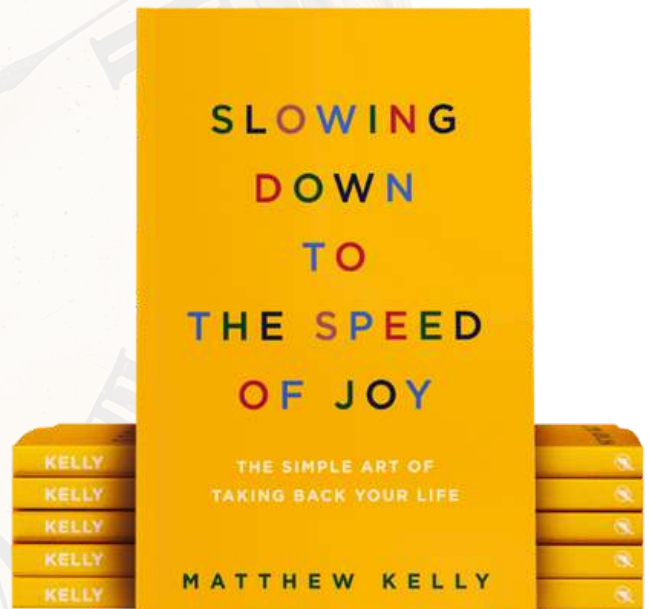
The collection is for International food items such as Mexican, Oriental, Italian, German, French or any others you may think of. No glass, perishable or past use by dates items. Thank you for helping those who are in need.

*Thank you for helping those
who are in need.*



Please take home

a copy of
Slowing Down to the Speed of Joy
—a Christmas gift made possible
by the generosity of a donor to our
parish family.



END OF THE YEAR

As we come to the close of the year, and the holiday season, the office will be open limited hours. If there are any end of year gifts or donations that you would like to make, please reach out to us soon.

Our last deposit for the year will be made on December 30, 2025.

On December 29 and 30, 2025, the office will be open from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm.

The office will be closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, as well as New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.



Coffee & Donuts

Volunteers
needed

We are seeking volunteers to serve in 2026. If you're interested in lending a hand, please sign up using the link below.

Thank you for considering this opportunity. Your time and talent play a vital role in building our community.



COFFEE & DONUTS

**RETURNS ON
SUN, JAN 4**



**Save the date:
Blood Drive
Monday, January 19th**

The Blood Center of Wisconsin (Versiti) will be here on January 19, 2026 to conduct a blood drive in the community room.

January is typically a month short on blood. So, consider signing up to give blood.

Registration information will be available after the first of the year.

EVENTS CALENDAR



Week of Dec 27- Jan 4

Saturday, Dec 27

NO CONFESSION

4:30 Mass

Sunday, Dec 28

7:45am Mass

9:45am Mass/Livestreamed

Monday, Dec 29

Parish Office Open 9AM-1PM

12:05pm Mass

Tuesday, Dec 30

Parish Office Open 9AM-1PM

Wednesday, Dec 31

Parish Office Closed

Thursday, Jan 1

Parish Office Closed

9:00am Mass

Friday, Jan 2

Parish Office Closed

Saturday, Jan 3

9:00am Confessions/Chapel

9:00am THEO/Community Rm

4:30pm Mass

Sunday, Jan 4

Coffee & Donut event

7:45am Mass

9:45am Mass/Livestreamed

11:00am Flock of Sparrows/LL5



Mass Intentions

Sun. Dec 28	7:45am	Rudolph Larry Konz
	9:45am	Roseann Rodwell
Mon. Dec 29	12:05pm	Marge Garvey
Thur. Jan 1	9:00am	Members of St. Mary Parish
Sat. Jan 3	4:30pm	



Generosity CORNER

Merry Christmas! Your support over the year has been a great blessing to the parish and the whole parish family. Thank you for your generosity this year.

MONTH	INCOME	BUDGET	VARIANCE
Dec(to date)	\$89,057.32	\$75,083.33	\$13,973.99

Your giving at work in the parish:

- Fr. Bill held the seasonal Keeping the Lights On opportunity for reconciliation before Christmas. Many people came to receive the sacrament.
- We have a number of projects in the works including getting new furniture for the sanctuary and building some storage areas on the stage at the school building.

Have a blessed Christmas season.



The Book of Matthew. Few details are given. They travelled thousands of miles to worship Jesus.



<https://bit.ly/48FVccL>

in Joy & SORROW

ST MARY PARISH - APPLETON // 12.28.2025

WITH FR. BILL SWICHTENBERG



Standing barefoot in front of a burning bush, Moses, a reluctant prophet and ambassador, who struggled a bit maybe with a stutter, is not too enthusiastic about the Lord's commissioning of him to be the liberator of the Hebrew people from the clutches of the Pharaoh of Egypt. Moses convinces the Lord that he will at least have to know the Lord's Name. God responds with the curious expression, "I AM who I AM." (Exodus 3:14) This is the sacred name of God, the name, still to this day, that our Jewish sisters and brothers never speak out loud.

I like to note that the Lord did not say to Moses, "I WAS" or "I WILL BE."

In our spiritual lives, it is best if we try to live fully in the present moment, the "I AM" moment, if you will. To be obsessively fixated on the past is not healthy. To be weighed down by guilt or shame from the past, in the light

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of the Lord's unconditional gift of tender forgiveness, is not necessary. You and I are more than the sum of our pasts.

Also, to be overly anxious about the future is like spinning one's wheels. Worrying about the future is a waste of time because the future is in the Lord's hands and not ours.

As we look to the New Year, reminded that the month of January is named after the Roman god, Janus, who is depicted in such a way that the god is looking backward and forward at the same time, we pause to ponder, in the spirit of Mary, the Mother of God. (John 2:51b)

Yes, there is something to be said for reviewing the year now ended. What were the highlights for me? What were the experiences of the Lord's closeness to me? What were the lowlights? What attitudes or habits weighed me down? What were the obstacles to my growing in holiness?

Do that examen at the end of 2025. Then move forward. Ask the Lord for His Blessings in the New Year! Ask for the grace to live in the present moment, more and more aware of the presence of God in every moment.

On the flight back to Rome from Beirut, Lebanon, on December 2nd, during the traditional press conference with the Pope, a journalist was interested in hearing about Pope Leo's spiritual life. Other than the works of Saint Augustine, Bishop of Hippo of the 5th century, which we all know that Pope Leo, as a member of the religious community of the Order of Saint Augustine, knows well, what other works may have impacted his spiritual journey?

Without pausing, the Pope mentioned a little spiritual classic, The Practice of the Presence of God, by Brother Lawrence, a 17th century Carmelite friar. The Holy Father suggested that, in every moment, he is paying attention to that inner sense that the Lord is present to him, close and tender.

I would encourage you to get a copy of Brother Lawrence's little book. It might be a great way to begin the New Year of Grace 2026!

Let us pray.

LORD JESUS, help me to experience Your Tender Closeness to me in every moment of this new day (New Year). Free me from the chains of those aspects of my life from the past which still weigh heavy on my heart. You have forgiven me, so help me to forgive myself. Free me from needless worry about the future. With Your Grace, may I relish the precious present. Make me a leaven wherever I find myself for all that is right and just, and beautiful and true. Like Moses, give me the courage to stand on the side of my sisters and brothers who deserve to be treated with the God-given, sacred dignity that is their right! In the midst of the chaos, may we hold on to You. All will be well! Amen.

Fr. Bill +