

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD, JANUARY 11, 2026

# ST. MARY PARISH

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

312 SOUTH STATE STREET • APPLETON, WI 54911



And a voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." Matthew 3:16-17

## 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](mailto:wdswitz@stmaryparish.org)

cell 920-422-4316

## **Deacon - Gerry Schraufnagel**

[dcngerry@stmaryparish.org](mailto:dcngerry@stmaryparish.org)

cell 920-540-9594

## **Cemetery Info - Chip Acker**

[cacker@stmaryparish.org](mailto: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 Lavalle

[llavalle@stmaryparish.org](mailto: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

# REMOVING Christmas Decorations

**Tuesday, January 13, 9am**

We will be removing Christmas decorations in the chapel, Marian Way, and the community room. Your help would be much appreciated.



## ST. JOSEPH FOOD PROGRAM

Fighting Hunger 🍏 Sustaining Hope

### 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 date items. Thank you for helping those who are in need.



# Needs TREE

*Thank you*

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



YOUR BLOOD  
IS A *Lifeline*



**NATIONAL BLOOD DONOR MONTH**

Monday  
**January  
19**

10:00AM - 2:00PM



### St Mary's Parish

#### LOCATION

Community Room

312 S State St, Appleton WI 54911

#### APPOINTMENTS PREFERRED

Call 877.232.4376 or visit [versiti.org/WI](http://versiti.org/WI)

Helpful tip:  
Make sure to eat a healthy meal and drink plenty of water before donating.



Join us with your child at either location!

Xavier Elementary Marquette Street: 500 W. Marquette St., Appleton OR  
Xavier Elementary McDonald Street: 1810 N. McDonald St., Appleton

# OPEN HOUSE

THURSDAY  
JANUARY  
15<sup>th</sup>

5:00 - 6:30 P.M.



RESERVE YOUR SPOT

admissions@xaviercatholicschools.org

OR CALL

(920) 735-9380



# XAVIER MIDDLE SCHOOL PREVIEW NIGHT

Thursday  
6:00 p.m.

January 22, 2026

Join us for an inside look, explore classrooms, try out cool breakout sessions, meet our awesome WEB mentors, and discover all the opportunities waiting for you! From STREAM adventures and world languages to sports, clubs, and service projects... there's something for EVERYONE!

RESERVE YOUR SPOT:  
<https://bit.ly/4p4rdRH>  
OR SCAN QR CODE BELOW



HAWKS



DISCOVER

LEADERS



CLUBS & ACTIVITIES



How old is St. Mary's main altar?



XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL

# REGISTRATION NIGHTS

## INCOMING FRESHMAN

JOIN US TO LEARN ABOUT XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL OR TO BEGIN COURSE SELECTION



RESERVE YOUR SPOT



**JANUARY  
26 OR 27**

**7:00PM IN THE  
XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL  
THEATER**



# Let us pray

Evening worship experiences at St. Mary, Appleton

During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Christians around the world are invited to pray for the unity Jesus desired for his followers: "that they may be one" (John 17:21). This is a special opportunity to come together across Christian traditions in prayer and hope.

Join Fr. Bill and pastors from different Christian denominations for an Ecumenical Prayer Service on **Monday, January 19, 2026, at 6:00 pm** in the church.



## Coffee & Donuts

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.

Scan here



# Volunteers needed



## DISCIPLESHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

### Men's Ministry:

- A laid-back space for guys to share how faith shows up in their daily lives—no homework, just bring whatever's on your heart.
- Meets on every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday from 6:30-8:00 PM in LL7.
- Contact: Jim Richter at jimrichtermd@gmail.com

If you are interested in joining a small group but don't know where to start, reach out to Nadine in the Parish Office – she'd love to help you find a perfect fit!

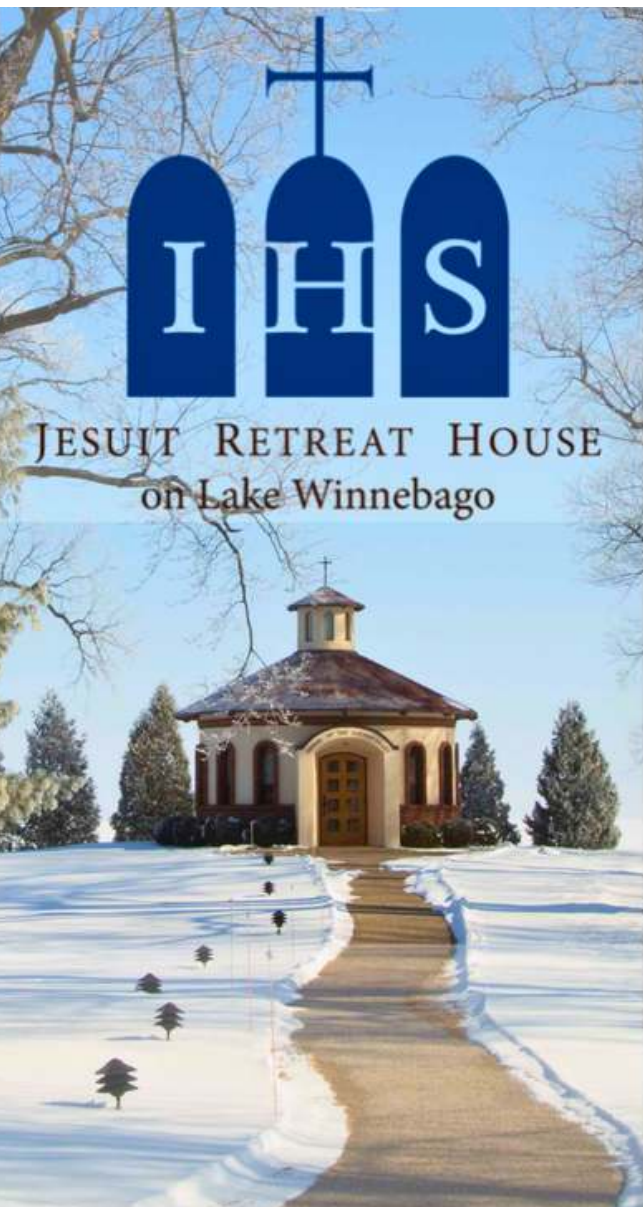
✉ [nduncan@stmaryparish.org](mailto:nduncan@stmaryparish.org)

☎ (920) 739-5119

## SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

### Women's Ministry:

- Come join us for lively fellowship and meaningful Scripture reflection as we connect, encourage, and grow in faith together!
- Meets on every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday from 6:00-7:30 PM in LL7.
- Contact: Jane Leveille at leveille.jat@gmail.com



## Step into the quiet. *Let God do the rest.*

In the stillness of this sacred space, step away from daily distractions and rest in Christ's loving presence.

With retreats for men, women, couples, and 12-Step communities, the Jesuit Retreat House offers a peaceful setting to encounter Christ in silence and stillness.

**Join Joe Drusch & Jim Richter  
Jan 29-Feb 1 for a men's preached  
retreat at JRH in Oshkosh.**



*Visit our website to find out more about the retreats we offer and view the 2026 retreat schedule.*



## Help St. Joe's Provide Shelter this Winter!

**NEW UPDATE**  
From Sarah Simon  
at St. Joe's

Hello Everyone and Happy New Year!

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday with your family! It has been a busy month at St Joes Warming shelter and Grab and Go! We continue to feed over 125 people each Tuesday and we have been able to provide shelter for our neighbors when the temperature drops below 10 degrees. We are only able to do all of this because of all of you!!!

Because we have been so busy (and I have gotten a little behind), our needs list is LARGE this month! Please consider donating 1-2 items. It would help our mission out tremendously!! Our team continues to be amazed by the support of our parishioners and outside faith communities.

For more information, stay tuned to the bulletin or contact Mike Mailand at [mmailand@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mmmailand@sbcglobal.net).

Click below or take a picture of the QR Code.  
[January Grab & Go Needs Link](#)

Scan Here



*Join us for the*

## JANSSEN FORUM LUNCHEON SPEAKER SERIES

On Thursday, January 15, from 11:15 am - 1:00 pm

Our guest speakers, Dave and Kay Goeser, will share their stories of faith. The program begins with Mass held in the **Mount Tabor Center Chapel**, followed by a light lunch.

The guest speaker begins at 12:10 and concludes by 1:00 p.m. The program cost is \$10. Register online at [www.spiritusministries.org/janssenforum](http://www.spiritusministries.org/janssenforum) or by calling Annette Hovie at 920-722-8918 x0

**YEAR-END  
STATEMENTS FOR  
TAX PURPOSES**

If you would like a year-end statement of your 2025 giving, you need to request it from the office. Please email your request to [stmary@stmaryparish.org](mailto:stmary@stmaryparish.org) or call the office at **920-739-5119**.



You are invited !

# Diocesan Marriage Enrichment Retreat



**Feb. 13-15, 2026**

Starts: Friday, 4:00 P.M.

Ends: Sunday, 2:30 P.M.



**Green Lake  
Conference Center**

W2511 WI-23, Green Lake, WI

All are welcome to participate, whether you are a newlywed couple or are celebrating a milestone wedding anniversary. The weekend will include:

- Guest speakers
- Small group sessions
- Confession
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Holy Mass

Cost is \$250 per couple. Includes accommodations, materials and meals.

Organized by the Office of Marriage & Family Life



Click [HERE](#) to register or scan the QR code!

[dioc.io/enrichment](https://dioc.io/enrichment)



Diocese of  
Green Bay



For more information, contact the Office of Marriage & Family Life:  
[marriageministries@gbdioc.org](mailto:marriageministries@gbdioc.org) | 920-272-8383

# TO THE HEIGHTS YOUNG ADULT RETREAT

Become Fully Alive with  
St. Pier Giorgio Frassati!



Diocese of  
Green Bay

AGES  
21-35

**JAN. 23 - JAN. 25**

**7PM FRI. - 12 PM SUN.**

**CAMP TEKAKWITHA**

**Bilingual Event**

With the spirit of St. Pier Giorgio Frassati as our guide, we'll explore what it means to climb higher (spiritually and literally) and hear God's voice more clearly. Expect good conversations, powerful prayer, time in nature, and a community you'll want to keep climbing with.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

KatelyJavier | [kjavier@gbdioc.org](mailto:kjavier@gbdioc.org)

**REGISTER!**



- **MASS & ADORATION**
- **TALK SESSIONS**
- **FOOD, BONFIRES, AND MORE!**

# KID'S NIGHT OUT!

## PARENTS' NIGHT OFF!

We got this covered!  
Enjoy a special Valentine's  
date out or free time off  
while we take care of the  
kids!

### EVENT DETAILS

- Friday, February 13th
- St. Mary Parish - St. Anne Room
- 4:30-8 PM \*Drop in anytime.
- Pickup at 8 PM sharp.\*
- Open to children ages 2-12
- Activities include: movie night, face painting, games and crafts!
- Includes dinner and snacks for the kiddos.



We are committed to creating a safe and nurturing environment for children in our care. Rest assured—our adult leaders are Safe-Environment trained and certified.

This means they have: completed background checks, participated in training on child safety and protection, and are committed to following strict safety protocols to ensure your child's well-being

### REGISTER FOR YOUR SPOT NOW!

Please complete the form  
using the link below or QR  
code by Friday, February 6th.

# EVENTS CALENDAR



## Week of Jan 11 - Jan 18

### Sunday, Jan 11

7:45am Mass  
9:45am Mass/Livestreamed

### Monday, Jan 12

12:05pm Mass

### Tuesday, Jan 13

1pm St Mary & St Joe's Prayer Shawl Group at St Joe's LL112  
1pm SMP & SJP Book Club at SMP LL7  
4:30pm Safety Committee - Community Room  
6 pm Facilities Committee - Community Room  
6:30 pm Men's Group LL7

### Wednesday, Jan 14

8am Mass at St Bernard Parish with Fr. Bill  
4:30pm Adoration  
4:45pm-7:45pm Beacon Faith Formation  
1st -12th grade

### Thursday, Jan 15

10am Mom's Group  
12:05pm Mass  
1pm Hooks & Needles  
6pm Adult Choir  
6:30pm Women's Group

### Friday, Jan 16

9am Bible Study

### Saturday, Jan 17

9am Confessions  
9am THEO - Community Room  
4:30pm Mass

### Sunday, Jan 18

Coffee & Donuts after Masses  
7:45am Mass  
9:45am Mass  
11am OCIA

## Mass Intentions

Sun, Jan 11	7:45am 9:45am	Gerald Grall
Mon, Jan 12	12:05pm	
Thur, Jan 15	12:05pm	
Sat. Jan 17	4:30pm	Conrad Fuerstenberg
Sun. 18	7:45am 9:45am	Members of St. Mary Parish Margaret Higgins



## Generosity CORNER

As we kick off 2026, we want to thank you for your generous support of the parish and the programs and activities we offer.

MONTH	INCOME	BUDGET	VARIANCE
December	\$123,956.79	\$75,083.33	\$48,873.46

### Your giving at work in the parish:

This year we have been able to accomplish so many things such as needed infrastructure support, new equipment for liturgy needs, and the completion of the St. Anne Room renovation, including adding the restroom and decontamination shower. We have been able to offer a robust "Let Us Pray" series, programs like "Reach More" and "Formed", and we launched a parish partnership with "Hallow". There is more to come as we do some minor renovation to the Babysitting Room, LL1/The Bride's room, update some of our room locks for easier and more secure access, and purchase of new sanctuary furniture. All of this is done through your generous support.



In 1911 at \$9,950.00. Donated by Katharine Baldwin in memory of her late husband, George.

# in Joy & SORROW

ST MARY PARISH - APPLETON // 1.11.2026  
WITH FR. BILL SWICHTENBERG



## THE CROSS IN THE MANGER by Ann Weems, Kneeling in Bethlehem

If there is no cross in the manger,  
there is no Christmas.

If the Babe doesn't become the Adult,  
there is no Bethlehem star.

If there is no commitment in us,  
there are no Wise Men searching.

If we offer no cup of cold water,  
there is no gold, no frankincense, no myrrh.

If there is no praising God's name,  
there are no angels singing.

If there is no spirit of alleluia,  
there are no shepherds watching.

If there is no standing up, no speaking out, no risk,  
there is no Herod, no flight into Egypt.

If we offer no cup  
of cold water,  
there is no gold,  
no frankincense,  
no myrrh.



*If there is no room in our inn,  
then "Merry Christmas" mocks the Christ Child,  
and the Holy Family is just a holiday card,  
and God will loathe our feasts and festivals.*

*For if there is no reconciliation,  
we cannot call Christ "Prince of Peace."*

*If there is no goodwill toward others,  
it can all be packed away in boxes for another year.*

*If there is no forgiveness in us,  
there is no cause for celebration.*

*If we cannot go now even unto Golgotha,  
there is no Christmas in us. If Christmas is not now,  
if Christ is not born into the everyday present,  
then what is all the noise about?*

*It does us good to remember that the Mystery of the Incarnation of our Triune God  
enfleshed in Jesus, the Son of Mary and Son of God, permeates each moment of our  
lives and rewrites human history for all time. Each moment, all of creation, and every  
person are epiphanies of the Lord, close to us, tender, and compassionate.*

*Now, permit a bit of "this and that."*

- Thanks to all who remembered me on my 71st birthday on December 10th and during the Holy Season of Christmas with cards, notes, gift cards, cookies, breads, candies and homemade kalua! For me, the greatest gift of all is to be a part of the Spiritual Holy Family of Saint Mary Parish. This past Christmas marked twelve years serving as your servant leader. God is good!*
- Thanks to all who served in liturgical ministries throughout the Christmas Season, including our Deacon Gerry, lectors, communion ministers, servers, hospitality ministers, musicians, choir members, and bell ringers. Thanks to Tom, our Minister of Liturgy and Music, to Margi Hopfensberger, for handling all things to do with set up which is coordinated out of the sacristy, to Annie VanStralen, who, working closely with Tom, and Michael, our design person, to create the PowerPoint presentations for the Masses, and Nadine, who kept an eye on the whole process.*
- We are blessed at Saint Mary with a dedicated Leadership Team. I am privileged to minister alongside Nadine, our Director of Pastoral Administration, Chris, our Director of Business Administration, Tracy (all things Beacon Faith Formation), Tom (all things liturgy and music), Lori, our Minister of Fellowship and Parish Vitality. Michael, Kristina, Mary Ellen, Kim, Izabella, our receptionists, Chad, Ceil,*

Chip and Mike are always behind the scenes to make sure everything is in good operating order in the parish.

- A huge shout out to Sue and Dave Rogers and their Baker Elves for the beautiful Advent Bake Sale.
- Thanks to all of you who provided gifts for the Giving Tree. Thanks to Annie Van Stralen for all the organizing behind the scenes of this holy annual project.
- Thanks, too, to the Rogers and their able crew for creating the beautiful Christmas Environment in our Church, Marion Way, Chapel and Community Room.
- Thanks to Chad and all who were involved with the setup, especially of the chairs in the Community Room. That involves a lot of moving around of a lot of stuff. Let's not forget the important task of removing snow and keeping our parking lots and sidewalks ice-free! Thank Chad and Mike for tackling this huge job!
- Bishop Ricken has opened the inquiry phase in the cause of the beatification and canonization of the Servant of God, Adele Brice, the visionary to whom the Blessed Mother appeared in Champion, WI in 1859. Our Lady of Champion, the only approved apparition site of Mary in the US, is a place of pilgrimage for many who are touched by the grace of the Lord and His Mother. If you have any personal knowledge about Adele Brice or have had a life-changing, healing spiritual experience in Champion, you are encouraged to contact Mrs Tammy Bastens, Chancellor, P O Box 23825, Green Bay, WI 54305.
- As we return to Ordinary Time, mark your calendar with these important dates:  
Ash Wednesday, February 18  
Easter Sunday, April 5  
Pentecost Sunday, May 24
- I would encourage you to keep informed as to the ministry of Pope Leo. While his messages shared at the Angelus on Sundays or at his Audience and Catechesis on Wednesdays do not bear the same weight of authoritative papal teaching as an Encyclical or Apostolic Exhortation, it does us good to pray over and consider the words of Pope Leo. We sometimes may even choose to disagree, which is OK. But we are open to considering Leo's words. Pope Leo is the rightful successor to Saint Peter, and the Holy Spirit is at work powerfully in the Pope.

Here are his thoughts expressed Sunday, Jan 4, in his Angelus Address:

“It is with deep concern that I am following the developments in Venezuela. The good of the beloved Venezuelan people must prevail over every other consideration. This must lead to the overcoming of violence, and to the pursuit of paths of justice and peace, guaranteeing the sovereignty of the country, ensuring the rule of law enshrined in its Constitution, respecting the human and civil rights of each and every person, and working together to build a peaceful future of cooperation, stability and harmony, with special attention to the poorest who are suffering because of the difficult economic situation. I pray for all this, and I invite you to pray too, entrusting our prayer to the intercession of Our Lady of Coromoto, and to Saints José Gregorio Hernández and Carmen Rendiles.”

Let us pray, during this crisis, that the Holy Spirit would inspire a careful strategy on the US's role in the future of Venezuela for the sake of its good people.

*Fr. Bill +*