

3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, JANUARY 25, 2026

# ST. MARY PARISH

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

312 SOUTH STATE STREET • APPLETON, WI 54911



From that time on, Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Matthew 4:17

## 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 Lavallo

[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



# SIGN UP FOR STATIONS & SOUP

**Thursdays at 5:30pm**

Stations of the Cross first, soup to follow.

**February 19** - St. Joseph

**February 26** — St. Mary

**March 5** — St. Joseph

**March 12** — St. Mary

**March 19** — St. Mary

**March 26** — St. Joseph

Everyone, young and old, Catholic and non-Catholic, can take part in this prayerful and popular Lenten tradition.



Sign Up!



<https://bit.ly/4sxrXk8>

# The Bells of St Mary

*Handbell Choir*



**URGENT NEED**

Swing by the Marian Way on January 24th and 25th for a ringing good time! Meet the handbell choir crew and catch a handbell demonstration!

Consider being a part of our handbell choir that brings joy to our Christmas and Easter Masses!

Contact Martha Paalman at [mpaalman@stmaryparish.org](mailto:mpaalman@stmaryparish.org)



## 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



ST. MARY - APPLETON

# shamrock shenanigans

**MARCH 14 | 6 PM**

**Fox Club @ the Fox Cities  
Timber Rattler Stadium**

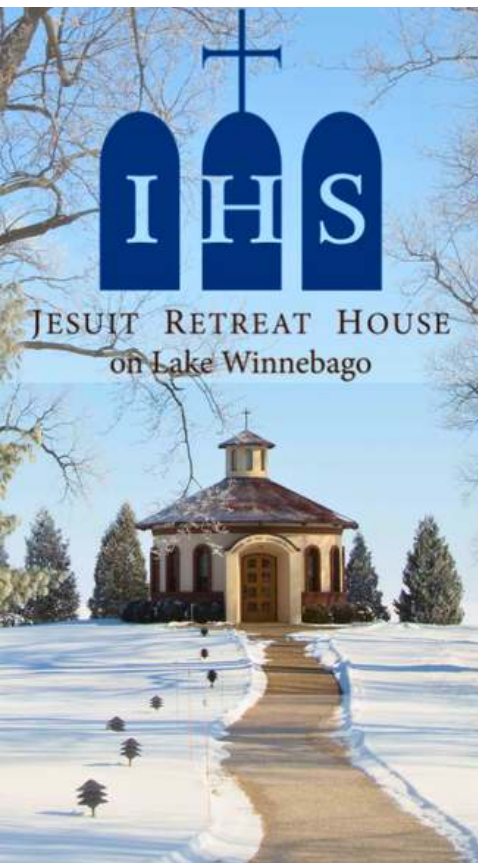


# Help St. Joe's Provide Shelter this Winter!

The Overflow shelter needs your help during this stretch of extreme weather!

[Click this link to volunteer or scan the QR Code.](#)

For more information contact Mike Mailand at [mmmailand@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mmmailand@sbcglobal.net).



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

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

Join other men of faith from St. Mary's and local parishes and step away from daily distractions and rest in Christ's loving presence. All men are welcome! Invite a friend!



Scan this code to register for the Jan 29-Feb 1 retreat.



The Jesuit Retreat House also offers other retreats for men, women, couples, and 12-Step communities. Scan the code to find out more about retreats in 2026.

## Bingo Night! Save the date



Join us for fun on Saturday,  
**February 21st from 5:30-7:00 PM**  
in the Community Room

## Performing Baptisms During Lent

A Reminder for Parents Seeking Baptism for Their Child

Lent is traditionally a season of preparation for baptism, especially for adults (catechumens). During Lent, the Church generally refrains from celebrating baptisms, though exceptions may be made for infants, emergencies, or other pastoral needs.

If you have questions or would like to discuss baptism for your child during Lent, please contact Fr. Bill.

# Help our parish make an impact on Earth Day!

**ASH WEDNESDAY (Feb 18) - EARTH DAY (Apr 22)**

## Bring in these hard-to-get-rid of items:

- Christmas lights
- Compact fluorescent lightbulbs
- Batteries (rechargeable and non)
- Printer cartridges
- CDs/DVDs/Blue Ray discs/albums
- Books/magazines
- Egg cartons
- Reuseable fiber, paper and plastic bags (Clean and dry)



## Items will be reused or properly recycled by:

- Outagamie County Resource Recovery Park
- St. Joes Food Pantry
- Office Depot
- Half Price Books
- Home Depot

Any proceeds go to St. Joseph Food Program

Sponsored by the St. Mary Care for Creation Ministry

St. Francis Xavier  
Catholic Schools  
Pre K3 to Grade 12

**Dream**  
like the city  
that never sleeps.



Join us for the biggest night of the year-Celebrate. Just like the city that never sleeps, our Xavier community shines brightest when we come together.

On Saturday, January 31, 2026, the Fox Cities Exhibition Center will light up with parents, alumni, and friends, all celebrating our students, teachers, and staff.

For registration, questions or sponsorship information, please click the QR code above, or contact Sami at 920-735-9380 or [sgoehring@xaviercatholicschools.org](mailto:sgoehring@xaviercatholicschools.org).



*Send Mass Intentions*  
FOR LIVING & DEPARTED LOVED ONES

## Offering a Mass is a powerful and beautiful way to:

- Pray for the souls of the faithful departed
- Ask for God's blessings, healing, or protection for those still with us
- Celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, or other special intentions

If you would like to request a Mass to be celebrated for someone dear to you, please send their name(s) to the parish office or call 920-739-5119. Please include whether the intention is for someone alive or departed. You may also include a specific occasion (e.g., healing, birthday, thanksgiving, anniversary, repose of soul, etc.)

The suggested donation offering is \$20

# KID'S NIGHT OUT!

## PARENTS' NIGHT OFF!

FEB 13

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



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

### 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.



### REGISTER FOR YOUR SPOT NOW!

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



# Pancake Breakfast

buttermilk pancakes  
french toast sticks  
bacon, sausage, fresh fruit

**SUNDAY, FEB. 15**  
**8:30-11:30 AM**  
**COMMUNITY ROOM**

**All are welcome!**  
**free will offerings accepted**



Saint Peter is often depicted in statues and paintings holding what?

CIA+Faith Mission Operatives *presents*

2025-26  
Our 10th SEASON  
of monthly  
programs!

# ASK A PRIEST!

*With Vicar General & Canon Lawyer*  
**Fr. John Girotti**  
*Diocese of Green Bay*



**SUBMIT YOUR QUESTION(S)  
IN ADVANCE**

It's easy! Email them to  
[ciafmo@gmail.com](mailto:ciafmo@gmail.com)

- Put ASK A PRIEST in the email's subject line.
- Send as many questions as you want by Jan. 31.
- Wish to remain anonymous? Just note that in your email.

Here's your chance! Ask about anything – sacraments, Mary, the Church, liturgy, moral questions, current events, the Bible, etc.

NOTE: Questions can also be asked in person or submitted in writing on event night.)

It's a confusing world out there, especially when it comes to our Catholic faith and practices. But finding the truth and separating fact from fiction is maybe more important today than it's ever been.  
*So here's your chance! Bring your questions & ask away!*

**MONDAY | FEB 2, 2026 | 7 PM**

**Xavier Fine Arts Theatre**

**1600 Prospect Ave, Appleton, WI**

**No tickets needed / Theatre doors open at 6:15 p.m.**

Free will offering encouraged

For details email [ciafmo@gmail.com](mailto:ciafmo@gmail.com),  
or call 920-450-3025 | Check website (web search CIAFMO) for winter weather cancellation

**CIA-Faith Mission Operatives encourages YOU to  
*Investigate Your faith!***

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**



GLOBAL OUTREACH  
LET'S BUILD A CIVILIZATION OF LOVE

### 17th Annual "Taste of Europe" Fundraising for Scholarships

Hosted by the Global Outreach Catholic Exchange Program  
St. Patrick Catholic Community,  
320 Nicolet Blvd, Menasha.  
February 14, 2026, 4 pm - 8:30 pm

Join us for an evening of Faith, Food, Fellowship, Family, and Fun starting with Mass at 4 pm, featuring Global Outreach student musicians, followed by student entertainment, a European dinner buffet, and desserts.

Cost: \$40 (13+), \$10 (ages 5-12), free under 5.

NEW: Table Sponsor — \$250 (7 guests).

RSVP by Feb. 6 at [globaloutreachprogram.com/taste-of-europe](http://globaloutreachprogram.com/taste-of-europe) or mail your check to Dorothy Flees, 9522 County Road T, Marshfield, WI 54449.



## Meet & Greet SPIRITUS Missionaries!

Inspiring Youth & Forming Leaders

Wed. January 21 9:00am

Friday, February 6, 7:00am

St. Pius X Church  
500 W. Marquette St.  
Appleton, WI

St. Thomas More Church  
1810 N. McDonald St.  
Appleton, WI

- Weekday Mass + 30 minute social
- Light refreshments
- Great stories, fun giveaway
- Be inspired like our youth

Please meet us there and bring a friend!



# EVENTS CALENDAR



## Week of Jan 25 - Feb 1

### Sunday, Jan 25

Coffee and Donuts after the Masses  
 7:45 am Mass  
 9:45 am Mass/Livestreamed  
 11:00 am Flock of Sparrows/LL5

### Monday, Jan 26

12:05 pm Mass  
 6:00 pm St. Mary Bell Choir practice/Loft  
 6:00 pm Shenanigans Committee Mtg/SR

### Tuesday, Jan 27

9:00 am Connect Group/LL7

### Wednesday, Jan 28

9:30 am Connect Group/LL7  
 4:30 pm Adoration  
 4:45 pm-7:45 pm Beacon Faith Formation

### Thursday, Jan 29

10:00 am Mom's Group - Babysitting Rm  
 12:05 pm Mass  
 1:00 pm Hooks & Needles  
 4:30 pm Social Bingo Committee/LCR  
 6:00 pm Adult Choir/MR

### Friday, Jan 30

9:00 am Bible Study

### Saturday, Jan 31

9:00 am Confessions  
 4:30 pm Mass

### Sunday, Feb 1

Coffee & Donuts after Masses  
 7:45 am Mass  
 9:45 am Mass/Livestreamed

## Mass Intentions

Sun, Jan 25	7:45am 9:45am	Available Members of St. Mary Parish
Mon, Jan 26	12:05pm	Available
Thur, Jan 29	12:05pm	Available
Sat, Jan 31	4:30pm	Conrad Fuerstenberg
Sun, Feb 1	7:45am 9:45am	Available Available



Prayer Requests Contact **Laurie Richter** (lauriejrichter@gmail.com), Mary Jo Zilisch (920-734-1182) or Ann Walkowski (920-428-0969) if you have a prayer need. Please remember these requests in our prayer baskets.

## Generosity CORNER

The frigid temperatures that we are experiencing do not seem to dampen the generous support of our parish community. Thank you for your continued support. We are right on target for our goal for this month.

MONTH	INCOME	BUDGET	VARIANCE
January	\$52,572.09	\$75,083.33	\$-22,511.24

### Your giving at work in the parish:

- This past Monday we were blessed to have a number of visiting ministers from are christian churches for an ecumenical prayer service as part of the Week for Christian Unity. It was our Winter launch of the Let Us Pray Series which offers the community alternative prayer styles for the praise and worship of God.
- Shamrock Shenanigans is coming up on March 14th. Ticket sales begin on January 31st. This year we will have an early bird discount of 25% for each ticket. So be sure to buy your tickets by February 15th.



Keys, as in keys to the Kingdom of God.

# *in Joy &* **SORROW**

ST MARY PARISH - APPLETON // 1.25.2026  
WITH FR. BILL SWICHTENBERG



As we observe a Week of Prayer for Christian Unity from January 18th to January 25th, an image that strikes me is to imagine the Christian Community, Catholics and members of our Sister Christian Churches, standing, hands linked together, in a huge circle that encompasses our common home, our Mother Earth. As we sing together, “Lord, you are the center of my life. I will always praise You. I will always serve You. I will always keep You in my sight,” we move towards the Lord, doing good works together in His Holy Name. As we do so, we move closer and closer to one another.

It is a beautiful thing when sisters and brothers live together in unity. Unity never means uniformity but makes space to celebrate the beauty of the gifts of diversity. Formed by the teachings of Vatican Council II, we Catholics celebrate the glimmers of truth in all religions, Christian and non-Christian. We do not impose our teachings upon

It is a beautiful thing when sisters and brothers live together in unity.



others, but in conversations in the Spirit, we listen to one another with the ears of our hearts, identifying what unites us, and patient as we embrace those differences among us. We are not proselytizing in the hopes of making new Catholics. No, we journey alongside one another, trusting that the Lord is showing us the way, the truth and the life.

On the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul, January 25th, the Church of Rome annually celebrates Solemn Vespers [Evening Prayer] in the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls, having invited many of our sisters and brothers from our Sister Christian Churches to share in the prayer. Last year, our beloved Pope Francis, encouraged all in the assembly,

“Dear brothers and sisters, let us never forget that hope does not disappoint! Hope never disappoints! Hope is like a rope anchored on the shore that we cling to; it never disappoints. This is also important for the life of Christian communities, our churches and our ecumenical relationships. At times, we are overwhelmed by fatigue and discouraged by the results of our labors. It can even seem as if the dialogue and the efforts made on both sides are hopeless, almost doomed to failure. All of this makes us experience the same anguish as Martha, [who along with her sister, Mary, were grieving the loss of their dear brother, Lazarus, who Jesus promised to raise to new life] but the Lord comes to us. Do we believe this? Do we believe that he is the resurrection and the life? That he rewards our efforts and always gives us the grace to continue our journey together? Do we believe this?”

“This message of hope is at the heart of the Jubilee we have begun. The Apostle Paul, whose conversion to Christ we commemorate today, declared to the Christians of Rome, “hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us” (Romans 5:5). We have all received the same Spirit, all of us, and this is the foundation of our ecumenical journey. The Spirit guides on this journey. There are no practical things that help us understand it better. No, there is the Spirit, and we have to follow the Spirit’s lead.”

“The Jubilee Year of Hope celebrated by the Catholic Church coincides with an anniversary of great significance for all Christians: the 1700th anniversary of the first great ecumenical council: the Council of Nicaea. This Council sought to preserve the unity of the Church at a very difficult time, and the Council Fathers unanimously approved the Creed that many Christians still recite each Sunday at the celebration of the Eucharist. This Creed is a common profession of faith that transcends all the divisions that have riven the Body of Christ over the centuries. The anniversary of the Council of Nicaea is therefore a year of grace, an opportunity for all Christians who

recite the same Creed and believe in the same God. Let us rediscover the common roots of the faith; let us preserve unity! Let us always move forward! May the unity we all are searching for be found. What comes to mind is something that the great Orthodox theologian Ioannis Zizioulas used to say: *I know the date of full communion: the day after the final judgment! In the meantime, we must walk together, work together, pray together, love together. And this is something very beautiful!*"

At the observance of the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicea in modern-day Izbik, Turkey, on November 28th, Pope Leo XIV declared during the ecumenical prayer service,

"We are all invited to overcome the scandal of the divisions that unfortunately still exist and to nurture the desire for unity for which the Lord Jesus prayed and gave his life. The more we are reconciled, the more we Christians can bear credible witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which is a proclamation of hope for all. Moreover, it is a message of peace and universal fraternity that transcends the boundaries of our communities and nations (cf. Francis, Address to participants in the Plenary Session of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, 6 May 2022)."

"Today, the whole of humanity afflicted by violence and conflict is crying out for reconciliation. The desire for full communion among all believers in Jesus Christ is always accompanied by the search for fraternity among all human beings. In the Nicene Creed, we profess our faith in one God, the Father. Yet, it would not be possible to invoke God as Father if we refused to recognize as brothers and sisters all other men and women, who are created in the image of God (cf. Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, Declaration Nostra Aetate, 5)."

"There is a universal fraternity of men and women regardless of ethnicity, nationality, religion or personal perspectives. Religions, by their very nature, are repositories of this truth and should encourage individuals, groups and peoples to recognize this and put it into practice (cf. Leo XIV, Address at the conclusion of the Meeting for Prayer for Peace, 28 October 2025)."

"Furthermore, we must strongly reject the use of religion for justifying war, violence, or any form of fundamentalism or fanaticism. Instead, the paths to follow are those of fraternal encounter, dialogue and cooperation."

Let us pray for a greater openness to the promptings of the Holy Spirit as we Christians all walk together, building the Lord's City of God of love, joy, hope, peace, justice and forgiveness on this earthly city!

*Fr. Bill +*