

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, FEBRUARY 8, 2026

ST. MARY PARISH

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

312 SOUTH STATE STREET • APPLETON, WI 54911



“Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.” Matthew 5:16

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



SCAN ME

Eucharistic Adoration

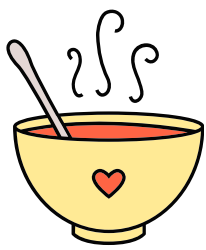
Wednesdays 4:30-8pm

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.

(No Adoration on Wednesdays during Lent)



LENTEN STATIONS & SOUP

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



Sign Up to make soup or serve the meal!

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

Thursdays during Lent

Stations of the Cross at 5:30pm with soup supper 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



Let us pray

Evening worship experiences at St. Mary, Appleton

MARY'S WAY OF THE CROSS

February 26 | 5:30pm

Enter into Jesus' passion through the eyes of Mary at our Lenten Stations of the Cross on February 26. It will be followed by a soup supper.



OLD PALMS? WE WANT THEM!

We kindly ask that you bring your old palms to the back of the church by this Sunday, as we plan to recycle them for Ash Wednesday. Thank you for your cooperation.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES



Feb 18
8 am, 12:05pm, and
5:30 pm

LENTEN *Small Groups*



Little Sins Mean a Lot by Elizabeth Scalia

Tuesdays | 9am | starts Feb 17
Host: Mary Ellen Julien

Join me this Lent on a journey to grow closer to Jesus by reading *Little Sins Mean a Lot: Kicking Our Bad Habits Before They Kick Us* by Elizabeth Scalia! We will share much laughter as well as our thoughts and stories while on our journey together.



Gospel of St. John Bible Study

Sundays | 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm | starts Feb 22
Host: Andrew Reimer

Explore with me this deeply spiritual account of the life of Jesus and take a closer look at the text itself. Whether you encounter John's Gospel at Mass or in personal prayer and reading, this series will help you discover new depth and meaning each time you return to it.



Pope Leo's Apostolic Exhortation On Love for the Poor

Mondays | 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm | starts Feb 23
Host: Fr. Bill

Join me for five sessions to study Pope Leo's First Apostolic Exhortation "Dilexi te (I have loved you)." We will discuss one chapter per session. I will also embellish with my impressions of Pope Leo and share some of the stories about the Holy Father which are touching my heart.



Inner Peace in Divine Love Retreat

Wednesdays | 6:30pm | starts Feb 25
Host: Nadine Duncan

Come with me on a five-week Lenten retreat rooted in St. Ignatius's Spiritual Exercises. Together, we will enter into a deeper, love-filled relationship with God—reflecting on how we are loved, recognizing God's faithful love in our lives, and growing in gratitude, love, and generous service.



Please scan the QR code to register for your group(s), or call the parish office at (920) 739-5119. Registering ensures there are enough materials prepared for everyone.

JOIN OUR HALLOW LENTEN CHALLENGES



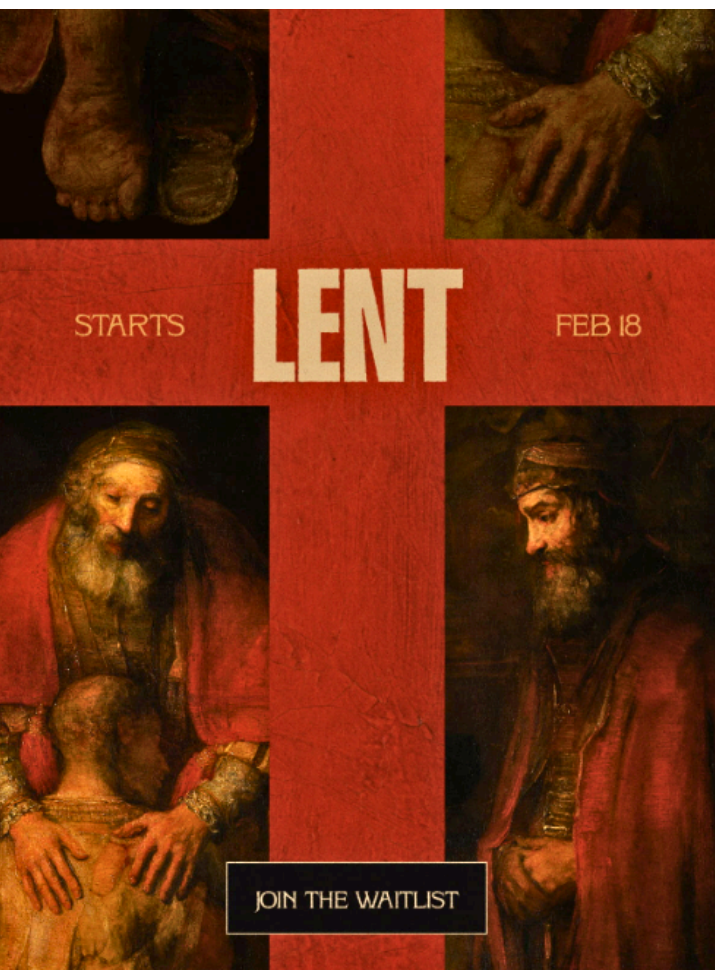
Kids Lent: Miracle Hunters

Join Mia, Paul, Brad, and Grace on a fun Lenten adventure to discover how God is always at work in our lives. Kids ages 6–12 will enjoy Saint stories, games, prayer, and inspiring faith-filled episodes—while learning that God’s love is active, even when miracles look different than we expect. Please scan above for more info.



Teen Lent: The 180

Join Mark Hart, Sr. Josephine, Fr. Frankie Cicero, and more for The 180—a Lenten challenge for teens from Life Teen. Designed for busy schedules, enjoy 180-second daily sessions to help you turn your heart toward Christ. Reflect on the Gospel, learn from the Saints, and take on a weekly fasting challenge. This Lent, take a daily step closer to Christ. Please scan above for more info.



Adult Lent: *The Return*

Join us on a journey back to the Lord—no matter our sins, our struggles, or how far we’ve wandered. Through the Parable of the Prodigal Son, we’ll be reminded that while we often drift from God, He is always waiting with open arms, running to meet us even when we are still far away.

To bring this powerful story to life, Pray40 will also explore *The Brothers Karamazov* by Fyodor Dostoevsky—a profound and moving reflection on mercy, repentance, and God’s relentless love.



If you haven’t signed up for Hallow already, scan the QR code for easy follow instructions.

Lenten Alms Project 2026



headsup



Help us empower former foster youth through transitional housing, personalized mentorship, and community-driven support.

Sponsored by St. Mary Matthew 25 Committee

LENTEN EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Fridays 9am-9pm; Saturdays 8am to noon
Feb 20 - March 28

(No Adoration on Wednesdays during Lent)

Enter door 3 and park in the lot behind the church.
Adoration is in the chapel.

Sit with Jesus, find peace and escape the noise.

Consider signing up so we can make sure we have 2 people/time slot.

[sign-up link](#)



Coffee too hot to handle??

We can help!



We have knitted coffee cup holders made by St. Mary Hooks & Needles in the Community Room.



All donations will be given to our Cots/Pillars Food Ministry program.



St. Joe's Overflow Shelter is now operating under the name of Blessed Solanus Casey (BSC) Companies!

Scan the QR code or click <https://bit.ly/4q2T9ok>. Learn more about BSC Companies and how you can volunteer or donate to support their life-saving winter shelter ministry for neighbors in need.

Checks may be made payable to BSC Companies and dropped off at the parish office or at St. Joe's.



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

buttermilk pancakes
french toast sticks
bacon, sausage, fresh fruit



Pancake Breakfast

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

All are welcome!
free will offerings accepted



What are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit?



ST. JOSEPH FOOD PROGRAM

Fighting Hunger  Sustaining Hope



Collection is on February 7th & 8th

We are collecting canned soup, preferably ready-to-eat, easy-open cans, and items to make soup, such as broth, canned vegetables, and pasta. Nothing perishable, in glass, or past the use-by date.

Thank you for helping those in need.

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.



The joy and jitters of the first date

Just in time for Valentine's Day

Xavier Theatre presents

My Funny Valentine
7:00 pm
February 11, 12, and 14
Xavier Fine Arts Theatre.

Tickets are available at www.xaviertheatre.com or through the Xavier Box Office at (920) 733-8840. The box office is open Monday–Friday, noon–3 pm through February 13, and one hour before each performance.



What is the Bishop's Appeal?

The Bishop's Appeal is a stewardship opportunity for each of us to reach out to thousands of people in search of Jesus' love. Each gift given supports the ministries of the Diocese of Green Bay which serve our parishes, Catholic schools, and communities. Your gift truly helps bring the heart and hands of Christ to our children, young adults, families, and neighbors here in northeastern Wisconsin.

To make a gift today, contact the parish office, visit the Bishop's Appeal website at www.catholicfoundationgb.org/give, or call Tammy at 920-272-8123.



ST. MARY - APPLETON

shamrock shenanigans

MARCH 14 | 6 PM

An adult evening of music, games,
libations, and general merriment

**MARCH 14
6 PM**

**Fox Club @
Timber
Rattler
Stadium**

\$40/person

Includes:

- heavy hors d'oeuvres
- 2 drink tickets

Cash bar available

TICKETS



**available
JAN 31 - MAR 1**

New this year,
purchase your tickets
through February 15
and receive \$10 off
per ticket!! Purchase
after weekend Masses,
in the parish office
or online at



<http://bit.ly/4a8nNHj>

**ALL ARE
INVITED -
BRING YOUR
FRIENDS!**

Trivia Contest

Games, raffles
& silent auction

Most Spirited
Irish Attire
contest

EVENTS CALENDAR

Week of Feb 8 - Feb 15

Sunday, Feb 8

St. Joe's Food Program Collection

Coffee and Donuts after the Masses

7:45 am Mass

9:45 am Mass/LS

11:00 am Flock of Sparrows/LL5

Monday, Feb 9

12:05 pm Mass

6:00 pm St. Mary Bell Choir practice/Loft

6:00 pm Shenanigans Committee Mtg/SR

Tuesday, Feb 10

9:00 am Connect Group/LL7

6:30 pm Men's Ministry/LL7

Wednesday, Feb 11

9:30 am Connect Group/LL7

4:30 pm Adoration

4:45 pm-7:45 pm Beacon Faith Formation

Thursday, Feb 12

9:30 am CIAFMO/LL7

10:00 am Mom's Group - Babysitting Rm

12:05 pm Mass-Fr Dave Funk

6:00 pm Adult Choir/MR

Friday, Feb 13

9:00 am Small Group/LL7

4:30 pm Kids Night Out

Saturday, Feb 14

9:00 am Confessions

10:00 am Neuro Endo Cancer Support Group/LL7

4:30 pm Mass-Fr Jude Egbuna

Sunday, Feb 15

Coffee & Donuts after Masses

7:45 am Mass-Fr Mark VanderSteeg

8:30 am Pancake Breakfast/CR

9:45 am Mass/Livestreamed-Fr Mark VanderSteeg

11:00 am Flock of Sparrows/LL5

Mass Intentions

Sun, Feb 8	7:45am 9:45am	Available Members of St. Mary Parish
Mon, Feb 9	12:05pm	Available
Thur, Feb 12	12:05pm	Mary Rushkofske
Sat, Feb 14	4:30pm	Available
Sun, Feb 15	7:45am 9:45am	Available Sis & Bob Balliet



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

Thank you so much for your support of the parish. As a reminder, the budget for offertory income is spread equally among the 12 months of the year. We are right on target with our historical average income. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

MONTH	INCOME	BUDGET	VARIANCE
January	\$61,952.59	\$75,083.33	\$-13,130.74
February	\$27,664.75	\$75,083.33	\$-47,418.58

Your giving at work in the parish:

- This lent we are offering 4 small groups covering topics from Inner Peace, to Pope Leo's Apostolic Exhortation, to a bible study on the Gospel of John.



Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, and Fear of the Lord (fostering deep reverence, awe, and love for God rather than servile terror)

in Joy & **SORROW**

ST MARY PARISH - APPLETON // 2.8.2026
WITH FR. BILL SWICHTENBERG



Promulgated by Vatican Council II, one of the precious gifts given to the Church was the revisions to the Mass. After centuries of celebrating the Mass in Latin, now the People of God would be able to pray the Mass in their native tongues. If we are praying to the Lord, it is meaningful to know exactly what we are praying about. Another gift was the opening up of the Scriptures in a big way to include so much more Bible texts in the celebration of the Mass.

We know that the selections for the Liturgy of the Word at Sunday Mass are rotated through a three-year cycle. In 2026, we are proclaiming the readings from Cycle A. This means that the Gospel texts are taken from Matthew. The first reading, chosen from the Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures), is thematically-related to the Sunday Gospel.

**If we are
praying to
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The second reading is always taken from the Letters of Saint Paul or the other Letters contained in the New Testament (Christian Scriptures), is not necessarily related to the Gospel, and is sometimes read in a continuous fashion, which means Sunday after Sunday for a bit, we are being enlightened by a single Letter.

Now, a bit more about the Gospel of Matthew. It is interesting to note that in the New Testament the Gospels make their appearance in this order: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. This seems to trip off the tongue, so to speak. It is interesting to state that this is not a chronological listing because the first Gospel to be written down was Mark. The early Church is suggesting something by usurping Mark's position with Matthew.

Given that the audience to which Matthew was writing was predominantly Jewish, as was the church at its origin (contrast with Luke whose audience was predominantly Gentile), and that Matthew's work is grounded in the longing expressed in the Hebrew Scriptures for the coming of a Messiah, it makes good sense that Matthew leads the way in the proclaiming of the Good News. In fact, Matthew's Gospel begins with the proclamation of the family tree of Jesus, reaching all the way back to our father in faith, Abraham. This genealogy is a real tongue twister for any proclaimer. But it brings home the continuity between the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures.

Matthew presents Jesus as the New Moses. The first Moses ascended Mount Sinai to commune with God and receive the Decalogue, the Ten Commandments, etched onto stone tablets by the finger of God. Jesus, the New Moses, ascends a hilltop overlooking the Sea of Galilee, and receives the New Commandment in the form of the Eight Beatitudes, to be etched upon our hearts.

The structure of Matthew's Gospel, which is laid out in five major sections, parallels the Pentateuch, or first five Books of the Hebrew Scriptures, attributed to the hand of Moses.

Jesus' preaching in Matthew centers around the coming of the Kingdom, which the Jewish people so longed for throughout the ages. I want to say that Jesus mentions the Kingdom some 50 times in Matthew's Gospel. This coming of the Kingdom, however, did not mean the overthrow of the Roman occupying forces in Palestine, but rather the proclamation of Jesus' inspiring words and actions, suggesting a Kingdom dedicated to peace, love, joy, justice, and forgiveness.

Jesus is always taking people to a deeper understanding. Even the Jewish laws, predominantly enshrined in the Ten Commandments, are stretched by Jesus. The repeated formula *“You have heard it said...But what I say to you is...”* gives a broader interpretation of the Law. Jesus is adamant in stressing that the law serves humankind and not the other way around.

Looking ahead as we move into the Holy Season of Lent, the Gospels for the First and Second Sundays of Lent will be taken from Matthew. Then there is a bit of a hiatus from the Gospel of Matthew. Cycle A includes the beautiful accounts, taken from the Gospel of John, of the Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well, the curing of the man born blind, and the raising of Lazarus from the dead on the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Lent, respectively. On Palm Sunday, we will hear the Passion Narrative according to Matthew and, on Easter Sunday, the resurrection account from Matthew, although there is an option to take that account from the Gospel of John.

It is not until the 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time, June 14th, that we return seriously to the continuous reading of the Gospel of Matthew. Moving forward will find us going deeper into Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Undoubtedly, this Sermon is one of the most comforting and challenging of all of the words of Jesus!

“The Gospel of Matthew displays Jesus with particular multivalence. Jesus paradoxically appears harsh yet merciful, authoritative yet humble, mercurial yet balanced and trusted. It’s not that Jesus is self-contradictory. It’s that he’s beyond our normal human categories. There is an untamed electricity that courses through the wire of Jesus’ life as it unfolds through Matthew’s Gospel. It will shock and surprise you, perhaps even attract you. In any case, encountering it will never leave you the same. (Brandon Vogt, The Word on Fire Bible, page 31)

Let us thank the Apostle and Evangelist Matthew for accompanying us this year on our journey to coax the in-breaking of God’s reign into our sometimes desperate and despairing world!

Fr. Bill +