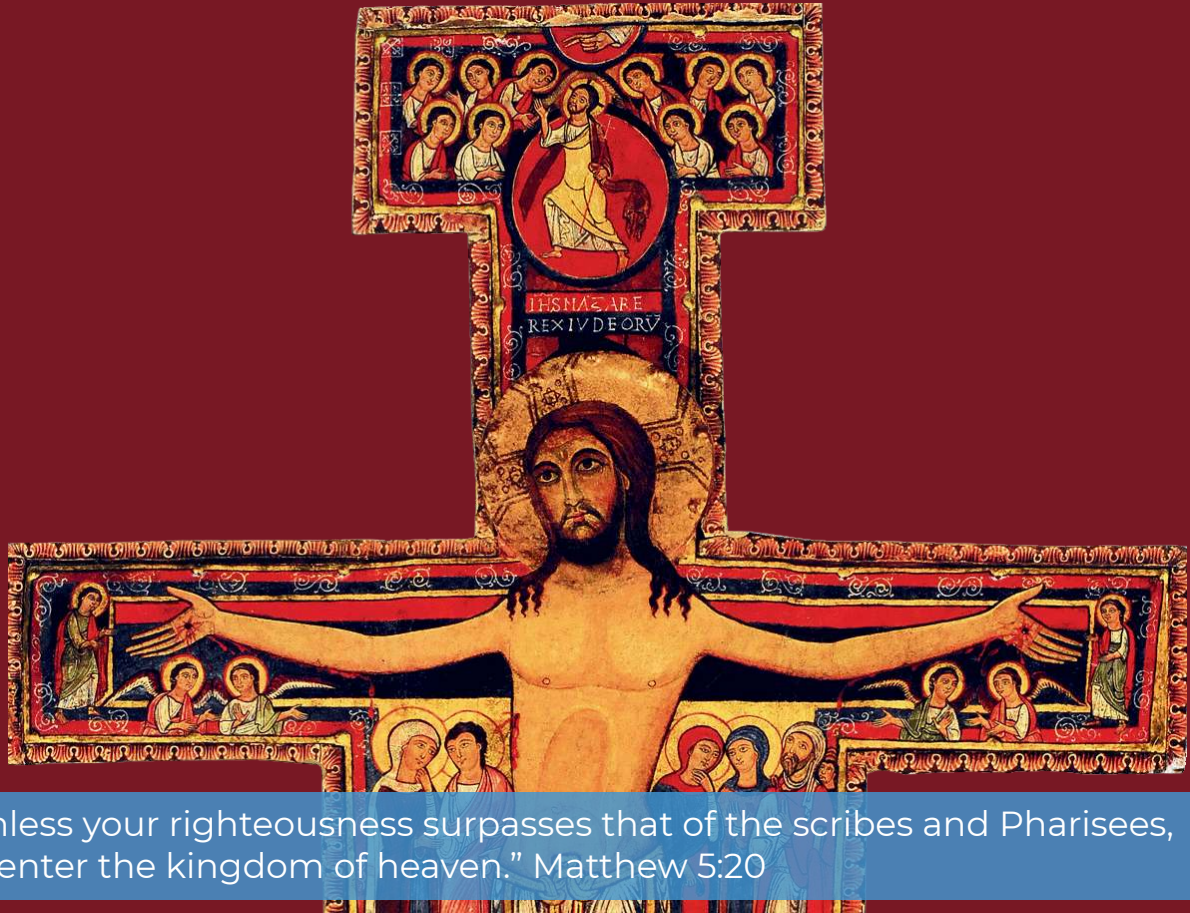


6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, FEBRUARY 15, 2026

ST. MARY PARISH

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

312 SOUTH STATE STREET • APPLETON, WI 54911



“I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 5:20

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 Lavalle

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.



ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES



Feb 18
8:00am, 12:05pm, and
5:30pm



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.

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.

Registration Ends: Feb 16



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.

Registration Ends: Feb 21



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 stories about the Holy Father which are touching my heart.

Registration Ends: Feb 22



Inner Peace in Divine Love Retreat

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

Join me for a five-week Lenten retreat to reflect on being loved, recognize how God has loved you, and grow in gratitude, love, and generous service. Nadine is a certified Spiritual Director through the Jesuits Midwest Province.

Registration Ends: Feb 24



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



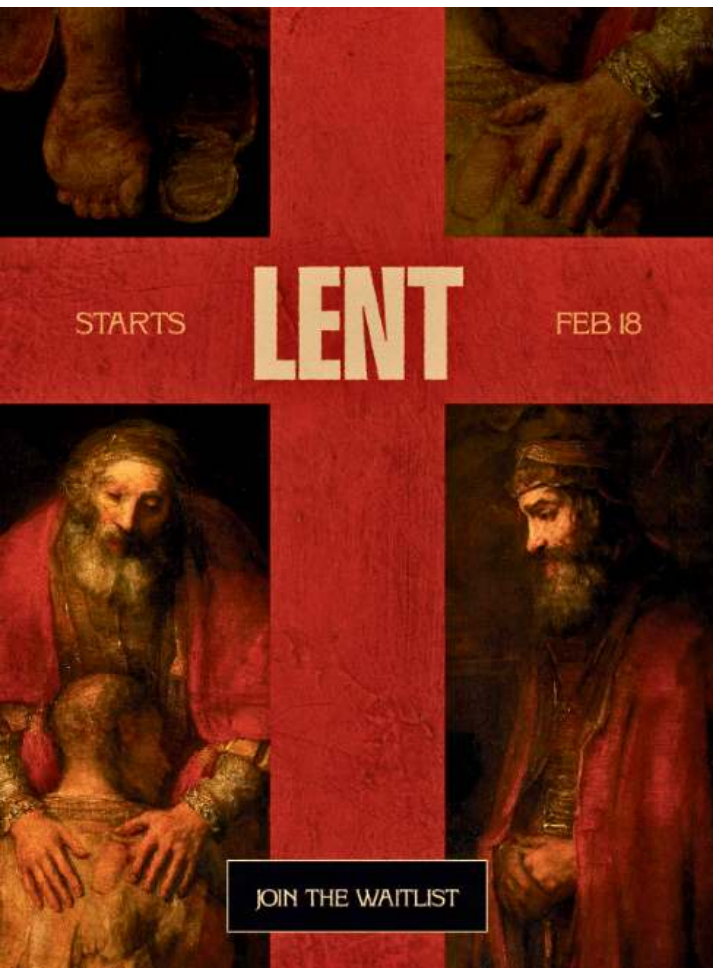
Kids Lent: Miracle Hunters

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



Help young people aging out of foster care step into a hopeful future—surrounded by safe housing, meaningful mentorship, and a community that believes in them.

Place donations in the box in the back of church or the parish center. Make checks payable to “St. Mary Parish” and “alms” in the memo line. 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](#)



Last chance for early bird pricing

ST. MARY - APPLETON

shamrock shenanigans

MARCH 14 | 6 PM

Fox Club @ the Fox Cities
Timber Rattler Stadium



Ticket \$30/ticket
EARLY BIRD PRICE
Use code "early" for **2 person**
a 25% discount.

Buy tickets online at: <http://bit.ly/4a8nNHj>



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.



Check out our newly renovated



BABY & TODDLER ROOM

The Weekend of
February 21 & 22
after the Masses

On the Lower Level
of the Community Center

Before



After



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to a generous donor and the amazing volunteers who generously contributed their time and resources to enhance the baby room!

XAVIER JAZZ BANDS PRESENT Dan's House of Hope Benefit Dinner

WED, MARCH 4TH DOORS OPEN - 5:30, DINNER - 6:00 XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL COMMONS SUGGESTED DONATION TICKET PRICE: \$10

Dan was a Xavier student who passed away from cancer, and the inspiration behind the organization. The organization helps young adult cancer fighters heal through community, supportive programming and home away from home services that reduce isolation, decrease financial burdens and nourish hope.

PLEASE RESERVE YOUR TICKET(S) BY SCANNING THE QR CODE, OR UTILIZING THE LINK BELOW*

<http://forms.gle/ydmRS6pK1nv8NY9>



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

2026 Bishops Appeal

Be the LIGHT

through Adult Faith Formation



Adult faith formation programs help parish leaders bring adults closer to Christ. Thanks to the Bishop's Appeal, adult faith formation provides resources, guest speakers, and curricula to help parishes.

Parishes can then advance the mission, form adults through Christ, and inspire disciples. Your gifts make this possible!



Please give generously at www.catholicfoundationgb.org/give

Bingo Night Social!



Join the Family Fun!



Saturday, 2/21
5:45pm-7:00pm in the
Community Room

EMPTY TO FULL E2F Pans



On February 21st and 22nd, please pick up an E2F pan. Assemble the meal following the recipe and then freeze it. The frozen meal should be returned to the church. You can return it during office hours, Monday to Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., or you can bring it back the following weekend, February 28th and March 1st. COTS and Pillars typically use 5 to 6 pans per meal. Thank you for your assistance!



Who were the four fishermen that Jesus called to be His apostles?

ST. MARY - APPLETON

shamrock shenanigans

MARCH 14 | 6PM

**FoxClub@the FoxCities
Timber Rattler Stadium**



Donation Information

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS

We're looking for unique items or experiences for the silent auction or as game prizes. Suggestions: a gourmet meal, a pontoon ride on the lake, a stay at a vacation rental, or event tickets.

BUCKET RAFFLE & DOOR PRIZES

We're looking for fun and engaging items that capture the attention of the participants. Kid's baskets; a dinner for two basket; An afghan or quilt; Escape Room tickets; a Game Night basket; etc.

Questions? Ready to donate? Call Kathie Shadick at 920-427-8282.

**Donations due
by March 4th**

Sponsor Information

WHY SPONSOR? We are dedicated to keeping Shamrock Shenanigans an affordable community event. Sponsors help us meet that goal. Thank you!

See your name in lights! Sponsor at the Guinness or Jameson level to have your name featured on the Timber Rattler scoreboard, visible to traffic on Hwy. 41.

Sponsorship Levels

- Blarney \$50-\$249
- Smithwick's \$250-\$499
- Guinness \$500-\$999
- Jameson \$1000+

Donor Name

Business Name (if applicable)

Name to be used on promotional materials

Needed for donation receipt

Address

City, State, Zip

Mail or return this form to parish office by **March 2, 2026** to be included on promotional materials.



EVENTS CALENDAR

Week of Feb 15 - Feb 22

Sunday, Feb 15

Pancake Breakfast

7:45 am Mass-Fr Mark VanderSteeg
9:45 am Mass/Livestreamed
11:00 am Flock of Sparrows/LL5

Monday, Feb 16

8:00 am All school Xavier Staff Retreat
12:05 pm Mass-Fr Dave Funk
6:00 pm Shenanigans Committee Mtg/SR
6:00 pm Discipleship Committee/LL7
6:00 pm New Horizons Band Practice/CR
6:00 pm Prayer for Christian Unity Service
6:30 pm St. Mary Bell Choir practice/Loft
7:00 pm AA Meeting/LL1

Tuesday, Feb 17

9:00 am Lenten Small Group/LL7
1:00 pm SM & SJ Shawl Group at St. Joes/LL112
6:00 pm Finance Council/CR
6:30 pm Matthew 25/LCR

Wednesday, Feb 18

8:00 am Ash Wednesday Mass
9:30 am Connect Group/LL7
12:05 pm Ash Wednesday Mass
4:30 PM NO ADORATION DURING LENT
4:45 PM NO BEACON
5:30 pm Ash Wednesday Mass

Thursday, Feb 19

10:00 am Mom's Group - Babysitting Rm
12:05 pm Mass
1:00 pm Hooks & Needles/ CR
6:00 pm Adult Choir/MR
6:00 pm Woman's Ministry/LL7

Friday, Feb 20

9:00 am Small Group/LL7
9:00 am-9:00pm Lenten Adoration

Saturday, Feb 21

E2F Pan Handout/After Mass

Baby & Toddler Room Open House/After Mass

8:00 am - 12:00pm Lenten Adoration
9:00 am Confessions
9:00 am THEO/CR
4:30 pm Mass
5:30 pm Social Bingo Night/CR

Sunday, Feb 22

E2F Pan Handout/After Masses

Baby & Toddler Room Open House/After Mass

Coffee & Donuts after Masses

7:45 am Mass
9:45 am Mass/Livestreamed
1:00 pm Lenten Small Group/LL7

Mass Intentions

Sun, Feb 15	7:45am 9:45am	Available Sis & Bob Balliet
Mon, Feb 16	12:05pm	Members of St. Mary Parish
Wed, Feb 18	8:00am 12:05pm 5:30 pm	Ed & Mary Holtz & The Heenan Family Available Art Henderson
Thur, Feb 19	12:05pm	Ben Ruh
Sat, Feb 21	4:30pm	Paula Hebeler
Sun, Feb 22	7:45am 9:45am	Fr. Michael O'Rourke & Sally Slivinski Sedella Jacob



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

We are in mid February. We are right on target with our historical average income. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

MONTH	INCOME	BUDGET	VARIANCE
February	\$35,560.00	\$75,083.33	-39,523.33

Your giving at work in the parish:

- Our pancake breakfast is this weekend. We are blessed to have a team that organizes and runs this event and the bake sale we have on Palm Sunday. We also have Soup and Stations every Thursday during Lent that we share with St. Joe's parish. Our Fellowship Committee creates and supports these opportunities for prayer and fellowship. If you would like to join the Fellowship Committee or help with the events, contact Lori Lavelle, Minister of Parish Vitality at llavelle@stmaryparish.org or call the parish office at 920-739-5119.



Peter, Andrew, James, and John

in Joy & **SORROW**

ST MARY PARISH - APPLETON // 2.15.2026

WITH FR. BILL SWICHTENBERG



It seems not that long ago that we celebrated the Holy Seasons of Advent and Christmas. And now, just like that, we are ready to embark on the observance of the Holy Seasons of Lent and Easter, which occupies about 13 weeks of the Liturgical Calendar. We will begin our journey on Ash Wednesday, February 18.

Remember that Easter is a moveable feast whose date is determined by looking at the calendar and noting the date of the first full moon after the first day of Spring. The vernal equinox arrives on Friday, March 20. This year's first Full Moon during the season of Spring falls on Wednesday, April 1. This Full Moon is named the Pink Moon after the pink flowers that bloom in spring. Other names are Breaking Ice Moon, Budding Moon, Awakening Moon, Egg Moon, and Paschal Moon. Which name is your favorite? I like Budding Moon! Given all the above, Easter is on Sunday, April 5, which is about the earliest it can be.

*Jesus'
help
is always
available.*

The Easter Season then reaches towards the 50th day which marks the Solemnity of Pentecost and the end of the Easter Season. Pentecost Sunday is May 24.

Lent is not meant to be life or business as usual. It is the Church's annual retreat for the People of God which falls during the season of Spring. A retreat suggests that we give a little more attention to our spiritual life, namely our friendship with the Lord and our relationships with others.

As Google Maps sometimes announces that it is "rerouting," Lent is meant to be like a correction course. It is too easy sometimes to wander away from the Lord and to fall into a way of life that does not give Him all the praise and thanksgiving. Lent is a time for repentance, which means to be honest about our sinfulness, and even more, to change our hearts and minds again so that they align more closely with the heart and mind of Jesus.

The danger is that sometimes we like to rewrite the Gospel of Jesus so that it fits our own opinions and perspectives. *Metanoi*, which is the Greek for *repentance*, is more than cataloging our sins; it is turning our minds and hearts back to the Lord. It is placing our hearts into the Heart of Jesus. It is like the potter, throwing a clay pot at his or her wheel, sometimes starting over, making sure the whole surface is smoothed of any rough spots and fits with the artist's image of the perfect pot — or cup or vase. Lent is a time, then, to sit ourselves before the Lord, at His potter's wheel, with His Hands reshaping our lives, gently and firmly.

Our theme, which will introduce our homilies at Mass during Lent, is "By Your Holy Cross, You set us free." I debated between this and "By Your Holy Cross, You have set us free." Our freedom from sin is truly complete, it is a done deal, if you will, because of Jesus' victory over sin and death gained upon the Tree of the Cross. Yet, there is a sense that freedom is not a done deal and Jesus continues throughout our lifetime to set us free again and again. Like Son, like His Mother Mary, Jesus unties the knots in our lives that constrict our spirits. Like Jesus, like Mary, Jesus is the *untier of knots*.

What are the knots in your life that seem so impossible to untie? Lent is a good time to discern those areas that keep you from being free. Ask the Lord to help you with all of this! We plead, "Jesus, untie me! Set me free!"

Jesus' help is always available. The wrench in the spiritual life is that we are too often unavailable to the Lord.

Lent is a time to make myself and yourself available to the Lord through our practice of the disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving (works of charity). What will you and I say “Yes” to and say “No” to during the season of Lent?

Prayer deepens our intimacy with the Lord and connects us more closely with the People of God! Fasting gives us a heart more attuned to the sufferings of our sisters and brothers, as they hunger for food, justice, peace, respect, sensitivity, and understanding! Works of charity express our commitment to being good stewards, sharing our God-given gifts of time, talent, and treasure for the good of all!

Let me conclude with two brief meditations for Ash Wednesday from our beloved Pope Francis.

Today we bow our heads to receive ashes. At the end of Lent, we'll bow lower to wash the feet of our siblings. Lent is a descent both in words and toward others. It's about realizing that salvation is not an ascent to glory but a descent in love. (2021)

During this Lenten season, let us pray by looking at the Crucified Lord Jesus. Let us open our hearts to the touching tenderness of God, and in His wounds place our own wounds and those of our world. Let us not always be in a rush, but find the time to stand in silence before the Lord. (2022)

Happy Forty Days of Lent!

By Your Holy Cross, You set us free!

Fr. Bill +