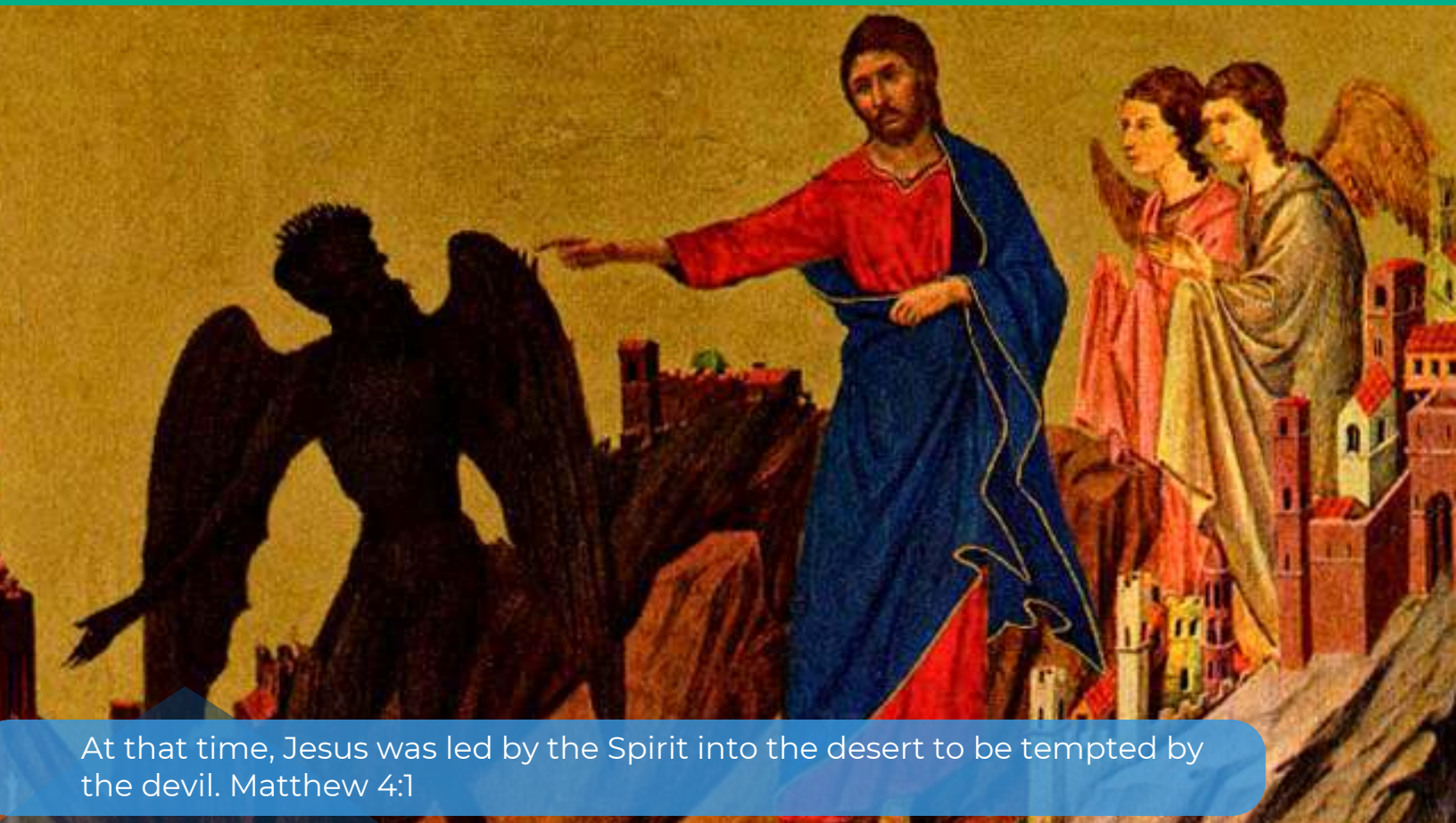


7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, FEBRUARY 22, 2026

ST. MARY PARISH

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

312 SOUTH STATE STREET • APPLETON, WI 54911



At that time, Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. Matthew 4:1

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 Lavalley

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.

(No Adoration on Wednesdays during Lent)



SCAN ME

CHECK OUT OUR NEWLY RENOVATED

BABY & TODDLER ROOM

THIS WEEKEND FEBRUARY 21 & 22



After the Masses in the
Lower Level
of the Parish Center

New furniture!
New toys!
A place for mom
to nurse!

Open to all parishioners to use as a
place to play, pray, and enjoy each
other's company.



Bingo Night Social! Join the Family Fun!

This Saturday, Feb 21
5:45pm-7:00pm in
the Community Room





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/4srxXk8>

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.



E2F Pans

EMPTY TO FULL

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!

*Pick Up Your Pan
February 21st and 22nd*



LENTEN

Small Groups



Gospel of St. John Bible Study

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

Explore the Gospel of John with me in this deeply spiritual series, and discover new depth and meaning each time you encounter the life of Jesus—at Mass or in personal prayer.

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 exploring Pope Leo's First Apostolic Exhortation, Dilexi te (I Have Loved You). We'll reflect on one chapter each week, along with personal insights and stories that have touched 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 22



Scan the QR code to register , or call the parish office at (920) 739-5119.



SUPPORT BSC COMPANIES AND THE OVERFLOW SHELTER

Scan the QR code or click <https://bit.ly/4q2T9ok> to learn more about BSC Companies and how you can volunteer or donate to support their life-saving winter shelter ministry. Checks may be made payable to BSC Companies and dropped off at the parish office or at St. Joe's.



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 9 am-9 pm; Saturdays 8 am 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. Scan the QR code, use the link, or sign up in the Mariah Way.

[sign-up link](#)



Let us pray

Evening worship experiences at St. Mary, Appleton



SCRIPTURAL STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN ART

March 23, Monday | 6:00pm

Join Fr. Jim Neilson, O. Praem., for a prayerful, biblical reflection on Christ's Passion through the Stations of the Cross, introduced by St. John Paul II in 1991 and experienced through sacred art.

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)



2026 Bishops Appeal

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

Be the LIGHT

for couples looking to grow their family



Through your gift to the Bishop's Appeal, you support the loving Adoption and Pregnancy Support Services program at Catholic Charities.

Young women are able to create adoption plans, and adoptive parents are able to realize their dream of growing their family.

You are the light for so many families through your gift to the 2026 Bishop's Appeal.

Please give generously at www.catholicfoundationgb.org/give



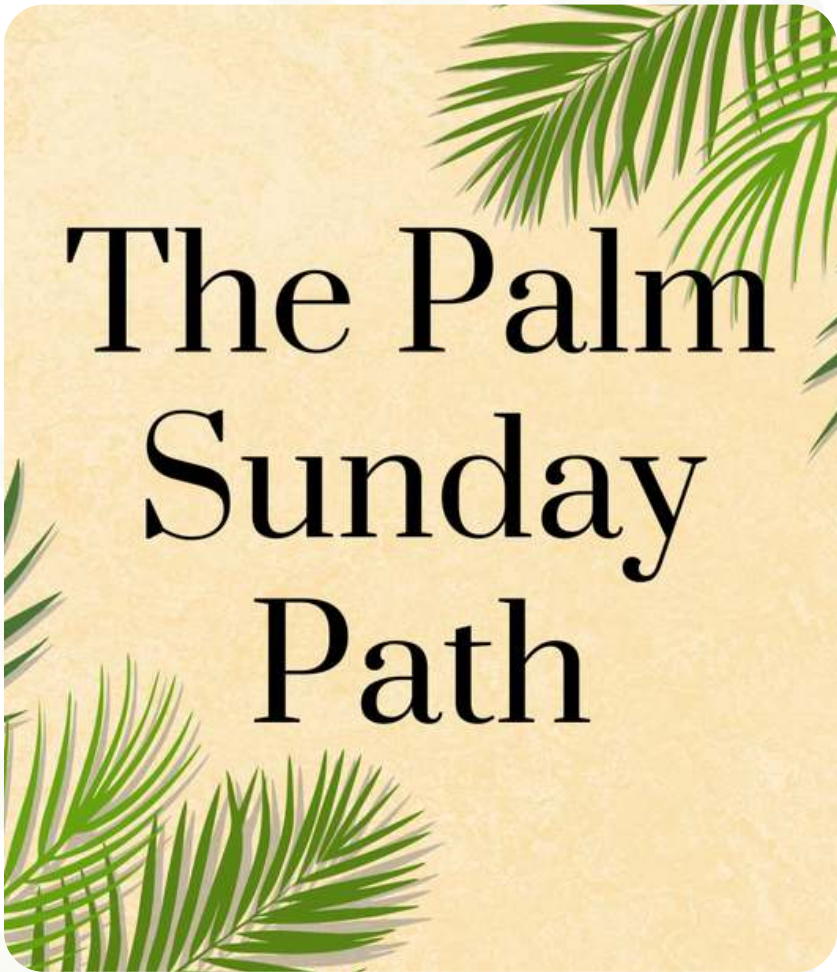
COFFEE TOO HOT TO HANDLE?? WE CAN HELP!

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.



Who was the successor of Moses whom God chose to lead the Israelites to the Promised Land?



The Palm Sunday Path

Palm Sunday places before us a lasting contrast. Jesus enters Jerusalem not through force or spectacle, but in humility and mercy—exposing the limits of power built on fear and domination. Matthew tells us that when Jesus entered the city, the whole city was shaken. Not by an army, but by truth.

The Palm Sunday Path is anchored by the Matthew 25 values of feeding the hungry, healing the sick, and welcoming the stranger, and envisions actions of tens of thousands of Christians across multiple states on Palm Sunday afternoon.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, February 22, 6:00 pm: Community Singalong: Songs of Justice, Songs of Peace in the Sanctuary at First Congregational.

Thursday, March 5th, 6:00-8:00 pm: Know Your Rights and Supporting Immigrants in our Community, a multi-church immigration training. Program with Molly Smiltneek, JD, Immigration Attorney who works with World Relief Wisconsin. Learn about the current state of the immigration system and prepare ourselves for government enforcement here in the Fox Valley at First Congregational.

Sunday, March 29, 1:00-3:00 pm: Multi Church & Interfaith Rally in Houdini Plaza. Join hundreds to voice our scriptural mandate to love our brothers and sisters.

Participating Faith Communities

First Congregational UCC, Appleton
First Congregational, Neenah- Menasha
First English Lutheran, Appleton
First Methodist, Neenah- Menasha
Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Memorial Presbyterian, Appleton
Prince of Peace, Appleton
St. Joseph Parish, Appleton
St. Mark's Lutheran, Neenah
St. Paul's Lutheran, Neenah
St. Thomas More Parish, Appleton
St. Mary Parish, Appleton

ST. MARY - APPLETON

shamrock shenanigans

MARCH 14 | 6PM

**FoxClub@the FoxCities
Timber Rattler Stadium**



**Tickets are
\$40 per person**



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

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+

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



Donor Name

Business Name (if applicable)

Name to be used on promotional materials

Needed for donation receipt

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

EVENTS CALENDAR

Mass Intentions

Week of Feb 22 - Mar 1

Sunday, Feb 22

Baby & Toddler Room Open House/After Mass

Coffee & Donuts

E2F Pan Handout

7:45 am Mass

9:45 am Mass/Livestreamed

1:00 pm Lenten Small Group/LL7

Monday, Feb 23

12:05 pm Mass

6:00 pm Shenanigans Committee Mtg/SR

6:30 pm St. Mary Bell Choir practice/Loft

6:30 pm Let Us Pray/Chapel

6:30 pm Lenten Small Group/LL7

7:00 pm AA Meeting/LL1

Tuesday, Feb 24

9:00 am Lenten Small Group/LL7

10:00 am John "Jack" Niles Visitation

11:00 am John "Jack" Niles Funeral

6:30 pm Men's Ministry

Wednesday, Feb 25

9:30 am Connect Group/LL7

4:30 pm ADORATION DURING LENT

4:30 pm Flock of Sparrows/LL5

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

6:30 pm Lenten Small Group/LL7

Thursday, Feb 26

10:00 am Mom's Group - Babysitting Rm

11:00 am Baptism Prep Course/ LL7

12:05 pm Mass

5:30 pm Mary's Way of the Cross & Soup Supper/CR

6:00 pm Adult Choir/MR

Friday, Feb 27

9:00 am Small Group/LL7

9:00 am-9:00 pm Lenten Adoration

Saturday, Feb 28

E2F Pan Return

8:00 am - 12:00pm Lenten Adoration

9:00 am Confessions

1:00 pm Courtney Oswald/Fernando Rodriguez Wedding

4:30 pm Mass

Sunday, Mar 1

E2F Pan Return

Coffee & Donuts after Masses

7:45 am Mass

9:45 am Mass/Livestreamed

1:00 pm New Parishioner Luncheon/SAR

1:00 pm Lenten Small Group/LL7

Sun, Feb 22	7:45am	Fr.Michael O'Rourke & Sally Slivinski
	9:45am	Sedella Jacob
Mon, Feb 23	12:05pm	Emmett & Janice Clark
Thur, Feb 26	12:05pm	Paula Hebler
Sat, Feb 28	4:30pm	Sally Thomson
Sun, Mar 1	7:45am	Available
	9:45am	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

As lent begins, thank you for your generous support of the parish this month.

MONTH	INCOME	BUDGET	VARIANCE
February	\$58,798.33	\$75,083.33	- \$16,285.00

Your giving at work in the parish:

We have many activities happening during Lent. Sign up for one of the lenten small groups - <https://bit.ly/40koEQk> - There is a bible study on the Gospel of John, a book study on Little Sins Mean A Lot, a retreat on Inner Peace, and a discussion on Pope Leo's Exhortation with Fr. Bill.

There is also the Let Us Pray series with Mary's Way of the Cross on February 26th, and Stations and Soup every Thursday of Lent in conjunction with St. Joe's. And don't forget our Hallow Lenten Challenges for kids, teens and adults. Sign up for Hallow here <https://hallow.com/parish/>.



Joshua

in Joy & **SORROW**

ST MARY PARISH - APPLETON // 2.22.2026

WITH FR. BILL SWICHTENBERG



In a spiritual experience recorded in Ezekiel 47:1-12, the Prophet Ezekiel visits the Temple in Jerusalem and is riveted by the gentle movement of water from the Temple's threshold on the south side near the altar. The water, moving away from the Temple, towards the Dead Sea, begins as just a trickle, becomes a shallow river, whose depth of water then becomes deeper and deeper as it nears the Sea. Walking in the water, wading at first, the water soon becomes ankle-deep, then knee-deep, and soon enough reaches one's waist.

The Anglican priest and poet, Rev Malcolm Guite, observes "Scripture is full of these baptismal images as we find water cleansing, healing, marking thresholds of exodus or entry from slavery into promised lands. Rivers flow to feed, waters gather to heal, to judge and renew, and to raise from their depths those who've been mired in darkness to be plunged into the un-blinding daylight of new creation. In the Psalms,

Rivers flow to feed, waters gather to heal, to judge and renew, and to raise from their depths those who've been mired in darkness to be plunged into the un-blinding daylight of new creation.

the deer pants for streams of water, and so do our darkling souls, but the water we thirst for, like the Samaritan woman in John 4, [who we will encounter on the Third Sunday of Lent] is the welling light of that beatific vision we ... are being beckoned toward: the Day-Spring, the shining face of Jesus.”

Our annual Lenten Retreat, which celebrates Spring Time in the Church, is baptismal in character. Along with those catechumens, the Elect, who are preparing to enter the Church, during the night of the Easter Vigil, through the waters of Baptism, sealed with the Chrism of Confirmation, and seated at the Lord’s Table of Communion for the first time, we are preparing to recall the sacred moment of our Baptism.

As we pray for our sisters and brothers who will become our newest members, we are preparing ourselves to renew our Baptismal Promises at Easter Time. Having been washed clean in the waters of Baptism, anointed with the Sacred Chrism, and refreshed with the touch of the Lord’s grace and healing, we begin anew to conform our lives to the life of our Lord. As His disciples, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we strive to feel, think, and act like Jesus. Easter reminds us that these promises are the organizing principles of our lives.

Do you reject Satan and all his empty promises?

I do!

I promise to identify those thoughts, words and actions in my life that contradict the thoughts, words, and actions of Jesus. Satan is the “divider.” So I will try to acknowledge my emptiness and confront the darkness of fear, indifference, close-mindedness, jealousy, envy, and anything else that preoccupies my heart and causes me to live a hypocritical life. Hypocrisy in me is the modus operandi of the Devil. Am I free from whatever so to be free for whatever? Am I free from anger, dishonesty, and selfishness? Am I free to love my neighbor without judgment and without measure?

Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

I do!

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

I do!

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

I do!

I promise to give first place in my heart to the Father who creates me anew everyday in God's image and likeness. I promise to give first place in my heart to Jesus, who invites me to place my heart near His Heart, listening wholeheartedly to His Gospel so I can "walk the talk." I promise to trust that the same Holy Spirit that guided Jesus on his journey to Jerusalem and the Cross is close to me, inspiring me to stand on the side of all that is beautiful, true, good and just.

This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it, through Christ our Lord. Let all say Amen!

This holy moment of the Renewal of our Baptismal Promises at the Vigil on Holy Saturday or at Mass on Easter Sunday morning is the reason for the Holy Season of Lent. May our hearts, refreshed and renewed, be eager to confess again that the Risen Jesus is the Lord of our lives!

Fr. Bill +