

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT, MARCH 1, 2026

ST. MARY PARISH

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

312 SOUTH STATE STREET · APPLETON, WI 54911



“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.” Matthew 17:5

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)

A Simple Way to Give This Lent

Lent is a sacred season of prayer, sacrifice, and generosity. As we prepare our hearts for Easter, we are invited to reflect on the blessings God has given us and how we can share them with others. One meaningful way to live out this Lenten call is through eGiving.

eGiving is a simple, secure way to give online, making it easy to support our parish all year long. Please consider eGiving to support our parish and sustain ministries, programs, and services that strengthen our community and serve those in need every day.

It's easy to get started. Here are the ways to sign up:

- Call ParishSOFT Customer Service at 866-930-4774 option 6
- Scan the QR code
- Text "Give" to **920-294-1189**

Thank you and may God bless your generosity.



ParishSOFT
by Ministry Brands

Lenten Alms Project 2026

SCAN TO DONATE



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

Last Chance to Buy Tickets, March 1st



MARCH 14TH
6:00 PM

shamrock
shenanigans

Fox Club at the Fox Cities Timber Rattler Stadium

*Get Your Tickets after
Mass in the Marian Way*

*Or Online at
<http://bit.ly/4a8nNHj>*





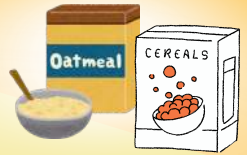
If you are 55 years old or older, mark your calendar for FRIDAY, MARCH 20th at 11:30 AM for our next get together.

We are going for a fish lunch at the Capitol Center, 725 W. Capitol Drive, Appleton. They have Junior and Regular size portions with the fish. Reservations are required.

Please let us know by Monday, March 16, if you will be joining us. Call or text Sue Rogers at 920-810-1545, leaving your name and how many people. Thank you.

ST. JOSEPH FOOD PROGRAM

Fighting Hunger  Sustaining Hope



Collection is on March 7th & 8th

Breakfast foods such as oatmeal, pancake mix, cereal, breakfast bars or any nonperishable breakfast items are needed. Please, nothing past use by date or in glass.

Thank you for helping those in need.



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

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

WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR SPONSORS AND DONORS

**shamrock
shenanigans**

**MARCH 14TH
6:00 PM**

Fox Club at the Fox Cities Timber Rattler Stadium



New way to support the event and the Parish

Order gift card prizes using SCRIP.

Help the parish in two ways. Order \$10-\$30 Gift Cards after Mass in the Marian Way or during the week in the Parish Office

Sponsorship Opportunities

Your sponsorship helps keep this important community event affordable. Scan the QR code or go to the parish website and click Give:

<https://www.stmaryparish.org/faithdirect>



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 two people/time slot. Scan the QR code, use the link, or sign up in the Marian Way.

[sign-up link](#)



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, dessert 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

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.

JOIN OUR HALLOW LENTEN CHALLENGES

THE RETURN

DOWNLOAD THE HALLOW APP
AND CREATE AN ACCOUNT
IN THE CHURCH TAB,
SEARCH FOR OUR PARISH



PRAY WITH US ON OUR
HALLOW PARISH COMMUNITY

Kids Lent: Miracle Hunters



Teen Lent: The 180



SUPPORT BSC COMPANIES & 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.



OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE



LIFE-SIZED STATUE
VISITING THE

M THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF
OUR LADY OF CHAMPION

**MARCH
6-11**

LEARN MORE



CHAMPIONSHRINE.ORG/GUADALUPE



Diaconate Inquirer Event

Sunday, March 15, 2026
10 AM Mass, 11 AM Lunch

St. Bernard Catholic Parish
1617 W. Pine Street, Appleton, WI 54914

Join us to learn more!

If you or someone you know are a man between the ages of 30-55 and have been wondering how to dig deeper into your faith and be of service to the Church, please consider attending our next Diaconate Inquirer Event.

We will start with prayer and food, then dive into information about the diaconate and formation.

This is an opportunity for you and your wife to join others discerning this call and learn more about the Diocese of Green Bay's formation program. There is no cost to attend.

Please RSVP to Tina Haanen at
thaanen@gbdioc.org or 920-272-8189



The Diaconate
Diocese of Green Bay



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
for those struggling



Many of our brothers and sisters struggle with stress, depression, loneliness, and financial insecurity.

Through it all, Catholic Charities continues to care for those in need.

With your support of the Bishop's Appeal, you will help us serve even more people across the diocese.

2026 BISHOP APPEAL

GOAL \$74,000

60,000

40,000

30,196

25,000

15,000



Please give generously at www.catholicfoundationgb.org/give



How long did Mary stay with Elizabeth to help with her pregnancy?



EVENTS CALENDAR

Mass Intentions

Week of Mar 1 - Mar 8

Sunday, Mar 1

E2F Pan Return

Coffee & Donuts after Masses

7:45 am Mass

9:45 am Mass/Livestreamed

11:00 am New Parishioner Luncheon/SAR

1:00 pm Lenten Small Group/LL7

Monday, Mar 2

12:05 pm Mass

6:00 pm New Horizons Band Practice/CR

6:00 pm Shenanigans Committee Mtg/SR

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

6:30 pm Lenten Small Group/LL7

7:00 pm AA Meeting/LL1

Tuesday, Mar 3

9:00 am Lenten Small Group/LL7

1:00 pm SMP & SJP Prayer Shawl Group at SJ/LL112

Wednesday, Mar 4

9:30 am Connect Group/LL7

4:30 pm Flock of Sparrows/LL5

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

6:30 pm Lenten Small Group/LL7

Thursday, Mar 5

10:00 am Mom's Group - Babysitting Rm

12:05 pm Mass

1:00 pm Hooks & Needles/SAR

6:00 pm Adult Choir/MR

6:00 pm Women's Ministry/LL7

7:00 pm Cor Jesu

Friday, Mar 6

9:00 am Small Group/LL7

9:00 am-9:00 pm Lenten Adoration/Chapel

Saturday, Mar 7

St. Joe's Food Collection

8:00 am - 12:00 pm Lenten Adoration/Chapel

9:00 am THEO/CR

9:00 am Confessions

4:30 pm Mass

Sunday, Mar 8

St. Joe's Food Collection

Coffee & Donuts after Masses

7:45 am Mass

9:45 am Mass/Livestreamed

1:00 pm Lenten Small Group/LL7

Sun, Mar 1 7:45am Available
9:45am Available

Mon, Mar 2 12:05pm Available

Thur, Mar 5 12:05pm Available

Sat, Mar 7 4:30pm Available

Sun, Mar 8 7:45am Bill Polley
9:45am Paula Hebel



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

It has been a great start to the lenten season. Your generosity is so important to our parish. Thank you.

MONTH	INCOME	BUDGET	VARIANCE
February	\$74,742.75	\$75,083.33	- \$340.58

Your giving at work in the parish:

- SHAMROCK SHENANIGANS is coming up on March 14th. It is a great community event.
- **Get your tickets by March 1st** at <https://www.stmaryparish.org/faithdirect> - Bring your family and friends to celebrate the season.
- Can't make it? **Become a sponsor** to help keep it affordable at <https://www.stmaryparish.org/faithdirect>



Three months
Luke 1:56

in Joy & **SORROW**

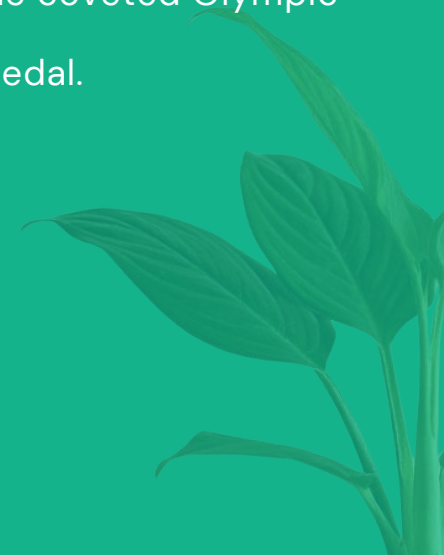
ST MARY PARISH - APPLETON // 3.1.2026
WITH FR. BILL SWICHTENBERG



Last Sunday (2/22), Ms Kirsty Coventry, President of the International Olympic Committee, formally declared that the 25th Winter Olympic Games in Milan, Italy, closed. I always experience a moment of sadness at the Closing Ceremony of any Olympic Game. The beauty of a worldwide gathering of young athletes, and maybe a few not so young, so inspiring are the diversity among them, the vibrancy, the hope, the character of a team which declares that *together everyone achieves more joy* and the excellency that drives each athlete to perform to the best of her or his ability. It is true that only one in 500,000 Americans will ever receive the coveted Olympic medal. The discipline and deprivation necessary to achieve that goal is beyond what you and I can even begin to imagine.

There is a Greek word for strenuous athletic training involving discipline and deprivation. It is *askesis*. Our word *ascetic*

It is true that only one
in 500,000 Americans
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medal.



comes from the Greek, and conjures up the image of a monk or nun sequestered for most of the day in his or her room in the monastery. This cell is not a prison cell because the door is not locked but I am guessing this asceticism may sometimes feel like a prison. One is forced to confront one's shadow side. One is forced to embrace discipline and deprivation.

In the early Church, men and women chose to live in the desert to get away from all worldly distractions.

Lisa Colon DeLay, of The Center for Contemplation and Action, writes:

“These desert dwellers were athletes, training not for sports or games but for the spiritual contests of life: challenges that involved the totality of themselves. They purged their lives of everything superfluous and turned toward obtaining spiritual victories, which don't come easily....”

“Those with a passing knowledge of the desert ascetics may suppose they were ... pious followers of strict religious rules who had purged themselves of all fleshly desire and pleasure. That is incorrect.”

“While it's true that desert hermits and monastics had lives far removed from what we experience in a typical day, the human vulnerabilities that plagued them plague us too. The real test of spiritual maturity isn't whether it works on an isolated mountaintop cabin or a refreshing retreat center; it's whether we have been transformed so that our maturity plays out in regular life. Untold numbers of Christians, most of whom remain forgotten by history, found stillness and peace right in the middle of the stress and chaos of ordinary life, and many still do...”

“All the desert abbots and ammas [fathers and mothers] show us that one-off special insights are not what bring us spiritual maturity or peace. Through the layering of situations, struggles, and seasons, we grow more devoted, mature, and wise. The inheritance in the kingdom of heaven means possessing Christlikeness; this inheritance comes in slow disbursements that take diligence and attention to learn and receive. We accomplish this not over weeks or months but over decades—over our lifetime and even into and throughout generations. The place is slow. Let's get accustomed to that and settle in for the long haul.”

Here are the laudable traits in the spiritual life: becoming Jesus-like, devotion, maturity, wisdom, diligence, and an attention to learn and receive.

I would treasure a conversation with the 21-year-old US figure skater, Ilia Malinin. We all know his story in Milan. Designated the *Quadgod* and named to be the certain winner of the individual gold medal far ahead of the events in Milan, in his free skate, fell to

the ice three times, if my memory serves me well (which by the way, it sometimes doesn't). His performance was devastatingly crushing for him and shocking for his fans. Ilia had not lost a skating competition in the last three years!

These experiences in Milan have changed this young man, and I believe he will be more mature and wiser, more attentive to learn and receive, as he moves forward in figure skating. Though it may take some time, one day he will look back and see his failed performance at the 25th Winter Olympic Games as a beautiful gift.

The Washington Post (2/19) reported so much as already changed for Ilia, who finished in 8th place in the free figure skating. Ilia himself stated, "The person who came [to the Olympics], he's been turned to dust. [On Ash Wednesday, we were reminded that we are all dust.] I came out a different person, with a different perspective."

Ilia reported that the change came over him almost immediately as he went over to hug the gold medalist, Mikhail Shaidorov of Kazakhstan.

Ilia admitted that "but in the end, life is not fair. It's not going to give you everything you want." He talked about the importance of keeping a positive mind. "I've made an impact...It's simply because I put myself out there and did what I always do [and that doesn't] mean I have to deliver a competition. It's simply being there and being myself."

This young man has found some peace. In the end, maybe this is the gold hidden and already beginning to shine brightly through him in the aftermath of his Olympic performance! Ilia has taught young people and all of us so much by his grace and gratitude!

Thanks, too, to Tom Brady, Super Bowl Champion seven times, and Simone Biles, Olympic medalist in women's gymnastics, whose experiences in sports carry a lot of wisdom, for reaching out to Ilia with their love and support!

Finally, here is the link to Ilia's Gala skate last Saturday night in Milan. For him, it was therapeutic, I think. For us, it was a masterpiece!

<https://youtu.be/n8nZEmBbjr4?si=ffWTehoG7G0AQLot>

Fr. Bill +