

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER, APRIL 26, 2026

ST. MARY PARISH

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

312 SOUTH STATE STREET · APPLETON, WI 54911



Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. John 10:10

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:

Saturday 9-10am or by appointment

Eucharistic Adoration

Every 3rd Wednesday 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

Lenten Alms Project 2026



We raised **\$20,543.25** for Heads Up!!

Thank you for helping young people age out of foster care and step into a hopeful future.

If you'd like to volunteer for Heads UP, sign up to prepare a Thursday meal!
<https://calendly.com/lauraheadsupfc/volunteermealprep>

It is with grateful hearts that we report the Bishop's Appeal goal has been met. Each year, through your support of the Bishop's Appeal, you impact the lives of many families, individuals and communities throughout northeastern Wisconsin.



2026 BISHOP'S APPEAL

We are truly thankful for your generosity. Your gift to the Bishop's Appeal makes a significant difference!

To learn more about the Bishop's Appeal, visit www.catholicfoundationgb.org. Thank you.

2026 BISHOP APPEAL

\$75,572.00



60,000

50,000

40,000

30,000

20,000

10,000

101.13%

WE DID IT!!!



All candles used during the liturgy must be made of how much beeswax?



Annual Vida Collection

Help moms & kids in need

APRIL 25 - MAY 10



The VIDA collection for moms, babies and toddlers starts April 25/26 and goes until May 9/10, Mother's Day weekend. Some things Vida helps with are free medical support and parenting education. Please take a tag from the tree and purchase the needed item. Bring it to church by Mother's Day weekend. Thank you for being generous and helping others.



Congratulations to Jeffrey Thompson and Joseph Nagler on receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist at 9:45 a.m. Mass last Sunday.

May God send you many blessings!

Hallow



Join our Parable Challenge with Johnathan Roumie beginning Monday, April 27. Click on the Hallow app on our parish page to join the Challenge.





RAFFLE



Tickets will be sold in the Marian Way
on April 25th & 26th

Wisconsin State Council
Knights of Columbus
CHARITIES
United in Charity.

1st Prize **\$50,000!**

2nd Prize **\$25,000!**



or 2026 Harley Davidson Motorcycle
An Amazing 98 More Cash Prizes!

3rd through 100th - \$500 each

Tickets \$5.00 each. 100% of profits go to charities in Wisconsin!

Drawing held Saturday, May 16, 2026 at 7:15 PM at Marriott Madison West Hotel, Middleton. State Raffle License # R0009675-A-A-65783
Winners will be posted on the Wisconsin Knights of Columbus website within 48 hours.

Tootsie Roll Raffle

Tootsie Roll Raffle After the Masses on
May 30 & 31



Cemetery Clean Up Day

May 2, 2026 | 9am | @ St. Mary Cemetery

Get your student service hours!



- Wear weather-appropriate clothing
- Bring work gloves & rakes
- Meet at the St. Mary Cemetery office (2121 W. Prospect Avenue)
- Questions? Contact Chip Acker at 920-882-4158.

We again plan to have a cemetery and Fox River cleanup day. It will be held in conjunction with the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance cleanup on the morning of May 2. It has been great to have both youth and adults joining in to meet new people and complete the work so quickly. Please mark your calendars!

ST MARY CEMETERY
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Open HOUSE

MAY 2ND, 1-6 PM



Join us for the St. Mary Cemetery
Open House on May 2 from 1-6 pm.

2121 West Prospect Avenue

- See the newly Renovated chapel
- Ask questions
- Take a tour
- Explore pre-planning



AI

WHY IT
MATTERS TO
POPE LEO



Does technology—including artificial intelligence—put our families at risk? Pope Leo XIV seems to think so! He is calling on people of faith to be wary of today's digital culture.

How should we respond?

Xavier Fine Arts Theatre

1600 Prospect Ave, Appleton, WI

No tickets needed / Free will offering encouraged
> Seats available on a first come basis <

For details, google CIAFMO, email ciafmo@gmail.com, or call 920-450-3025

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



With Terry Mattingly veteran religion-beat journalist & professor. Check him out at #Rational Sheep blog and podcast(s).

Young Adult Listening Sessions

REGISTER
TODAY!

diaco.io/listen

SPRING 2026

Join fellow young adults for a listening session to share your hopes, concerns, and dreams for the Church and our diocese. This is your opportunity to speak directly about how the diocese can better shepherd, support, and walk with young adults in our Catholic community.



MAY
5

St. Peter & St. Paul
710 N Baird St
Green Bay, WI 54302
6:00pm - 8:30pm

MAY
19

St. John the Baptist
2597 Glendale Ave
Green Bay, WI 54313
6:00pm - 8:00pm

Young adults ages 18-35, Catholic parishioners and non-parishioners are welcome! Food and refreshments will be provided.

OFFICE OF YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS



CGehl@gbdioc.org



920-272-8229



Diocese of
Green Bay



St. Francis Xavier
Elementary
School



May 8th
McDonald St. Campus
1810 N. McDonald St.

Choose your session: 9 a.m. or 10 a.m.

Open to children ages 2-5 with their parents/grandparents. Younger siblings are welcome to join in on the fun!



Call, email or scan the QR code to register

920.739.7826 | McDonald@XavierCatholicSchools.org

NORBERTINE CENTER FOR SPIRITUALITY AT ST. NORBERT ABBEY



**The Beatitudes: Teaching Us What To "Do"
To Fulfill God's Dream For The World**
Presenter: Fr. James Neilson, O. Praem.

Saturday, May 9; 2-4:30 p.m.

Details: Eight portfolios of artwork celebrating the eight Beatitudes spoken by Jesus during the Sermon on the Mount will be shared during this mid-afternoon gathering. Images both familiar and new will act as accompanying illustrations of the most memorable preaching of Jesus. *Cost: freewill offering.*

Mary: The Perfect Reflection Of Her Son
Presenter: Fr. James Neilson, O. Praem.

Thursday, May 14; Option A: 12-1 p.m. or Option B: 7-8 p.m.

Details: A specially curated collection of images of Mary revealing the Church's ever-ancient and ever-new devotion to the Mother of God. Works of sacred art celebrating the various roles and titles of Mary will be prayerfully presented. *Cost: freewill offering.*

To see more events, please scan the QR Code or visit us online
920-337-4315 | ncs@norbertines.org | www.norbertines.org
1016 N. Broadway, De Pere, WI 54115



Please continue to pray for our Sacristan, Margie Hopfensperger, and her husband, Alan, after their serious car accident on April 9.



Pam Acker 11/18/1959- 4/14/2026



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Pam Acker, former bookkeeper at St. Mary and wife of Chip Acker (Facilities and Cemetery Manager). Visitation is on Friday, April 24, at 9 AM, followed by the funeral at 11 AM. Please keep Chip and his family in your prayers.

EVENTS CALENDAR

Mass Intentions

Week of Apr 26-May 3

Sunday, Apr 26

**K of C State Raffle Ticket Sale in the Marian Way
Coffee & Donuts**

7:45 am Mass

9:45 am Mass/First Eucharist/Livestreamed

Monday, Apr 27

12:05 pm Mass

6:00 pm New Horizons Band Practice/CR

6:00 pm Reach More/LL7

7:00 pm AA Meeting/LL1

Tuesday, Apr 28

8:30 am Spiritus Retreat/SMP

9:00 am Connect Group/LL7

6:30 pm Men's Ministry/LL7

Wednesday, Apr 29

9:30 am Connect Group/LL7

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

Thursday, Apr 30

10:00 am Mom's Group - Babysitting Rm

12:05 pm Mass

6:00 pm Adult Choir/MR

Friday, May 1

Parish Office Closed

9:00 am Small Group/LL7

Saturday, May 2

9:00 am Confessions

9:00 am Cemetery Clean Up

1:00 pm Cemetery Open House

4:30 pm Mass

Sunday, Apr May 3

Coffee & Donuts

7:45 am Mass-Campton Timm Baptism

9:45 am Mass/Livestreamed

Sun., Apr 26

7:45am

9:45am

Available

Fr. Michael O'Rourke

Mon., Apr 27

12:05pm

Adam Ruh

Thur., Apr 30

12:05pm

Kathy Gunderson & Kelly Sullivan

Sat., May 2

4:30pm

John & Mary Jochman

Sun., May 3

7:45am

9:45am

Available

Jeff Fisher



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 coming to the end of April and after all the rain, the last few days have been gorgeous. We are blessed to have the sun and the warmth return. As a parish we are blessed to have your continued generous support.

MONTH	INCOME	BUDGET	VARIANCE
April	\$65,695.51	\$75,083.33	-\$9,387.82

Your giving at work in the parish:

- We have met our Bishop's Appeal goal! That is wonderful. If you haven't given yet, you can still give through May. Any surplus given from parish members is split between the appeal and the parish.
- As we begin to wrap up our year of faith formation, we were able to celebrate our candidates last weekend as they were welcomed fully into the Catholic Church with the Sacraments of Confirmation and the Eucharist. This weekend we celebrate along with our young people and their families as they receive their first communion.



At least 51%

in *Joy &* **SORROW**

ST MARY PARISH - APPLETON // 4.26.2026

WITH FR. BILL SWICHTENBERG



Recently someone inquired about the movie videocassettes that can be found on the bottom shelf of one of my bookcases in my office in the Parish Center. “Can you even play those?” I do have a video cassette player but whether I remember how to hook it up or whether this “dinosaur from the past” even still works are other matters.

On that shelf is the movie “Babette’s Feast.” I remembered this fictional story in a timely fashion as we prepare to celebrate First Holy Communion, Sunday (4/26).

Sketchily, two unmarried sisters, living in a little village in Norway, host an extravagant dinner party for about ten guests.

Their maid moved to Norway after losing most of her family during World War II in France. Back in France, she was a gourmet chef and was still entered in a lottery, which she surprisingly won. With the huge prize of money which arrived in her new home in Norway, holding back not a single franc, she was able to prepare a gourmet meal for the sisters and their guests, which included buckwheat pancakes with caviar and sour cream, quail in puffed pastry shells with foie gras and truffle sauce, and luscious grapes, peaches, and fresh figs. There was a precious wine and a champagne to boot, both unbelievably expensive.

*...Grace, my friends,
demands
nothing from
us, but that we
shall await it
with confidence
and
acknowledge it
in gratitude.*

Seated at table was a former General who served in the war and, many years before that, courted Martine, one of the sisters, but to no avail. Yet, he still pined for her.

This holy meal was so lavish. The guests were nearly speechless as they dined on the exquisite entrees. The little conversation there was around the table was so holy.

Here is a bit of the General's toast:

"Human beings, my friends, are frail and foolish. We have all been told that grace is to be found in the universe. But in our human foolishness and shortsightedness, we imagine divine grace to be finite. For this reason we tremble...Grace, my friends, demands nothing from us, but that we shall await it with confidence and acknowledge it in gratitude. Grace, brothers and sisters, makes no conditions and singles out none of us in particular; grace takes us all to its bosom and proclaims general amnesty. ...For mercy and truth have met together, and righteousness and bliss have kissed one another."

In a golden thread, if you will, that reaches all the way back to the night of the Last Supper, Jesus still generously and unselfishly, holding nothing back of Himself, gives His Life to us. The sacrificial meal of His Most Precious Body and Blood is a testimony of the Lord Jesus' limitless, lavish love for you and me. This grace of Holy Presence is poured into the heart of every believing person. No one is excluded. The Table of the Lord is Wide and Long! Let us never try to downsize this Table!

I often remind people of our beloved Pope Francis' invitation:

"The Eucharist (Holy Communion)... the fullness of sacramental life...is not a prize for the perfect but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak." (Joy of the Gospel, paragraph 47)

If Holy Communion is a prize, we are all in big trouble because not one of us is perfect. And that's the point! In the Eucharist, there is the fullness of the grace of forgiveness. *"Grace takes us all to its bosom and proclaims general amnesty."*

I have to caution young people that just maybe missing Mass on Sunday is not a mortal sin. If I am mortally wounded, I am dead. I truly believe that missing Mass on Sunday does not make us dead to the Lord, until we go to confession. I do believe that missing Mass on Sunday (or on the weekend) is a serious matter and should be confessed to the Lord. Still I believe we need the Lord's medicine now and should seldom decline His invitation, "Come and eat. Come and drink."

Because the Lord has blessed us so richly, the least we can do is give back to Him in gratitude a holy hour once a week to receive His Word and Eucharist at Mass. We are given 168 hours a week, of which on average, 56 hours (8 hours a night) are spent in holy sleep, leaving 112 hours. 1 divided by 112 equals 0.90%. Let's not be greedy and hang onto that one hour, which rightly belongs to the Lord, because we think we have something better to do or just want to be lazy. Such an attitude breaks Jesus' Heart.

As we witness the joy of our dear children receiving Jesus for the first time on Sunday, may we recapture some of that joy that comes in opening our hearts to Jesus, to be enriched by the Sacred Gifts of His Precious Word and Eucharist at Mass. We keep in our prayers, too, the children who will be receiving Jesus for the first time this year in hate-filled and violent places like Ukraine, Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, and Iran. May Jesus assure them and their families of His Tender Closeness to them! May we remember that through the gift of the Eucharist, we become His One Body of Many Parts. Receiving Holy Communion creates this Holy Solidarity with all of our sisters and brothers in Jesus!

This conversation between the General and Martine ends "Babette's Feast":

The General declares, "I have been with you every day of my life. You know, do you not, that it has been so?" "Yes," said Martine. "I know that it has been so." And the General continues, "I shall be with you every day that is left to me. Every evening, I shall sit down, if not in the flesh, which means nothing, then in spirit, which is all, to dine with you, just like tonight. For tonight, I have learned, dear sister, that in this world anything is possible."

I imagine Jesus expressing these same graced sentiments to you and me!

Happy First Communion, Dear Children of our Spiritual Family of Saint Mary!

Fr. Bill +