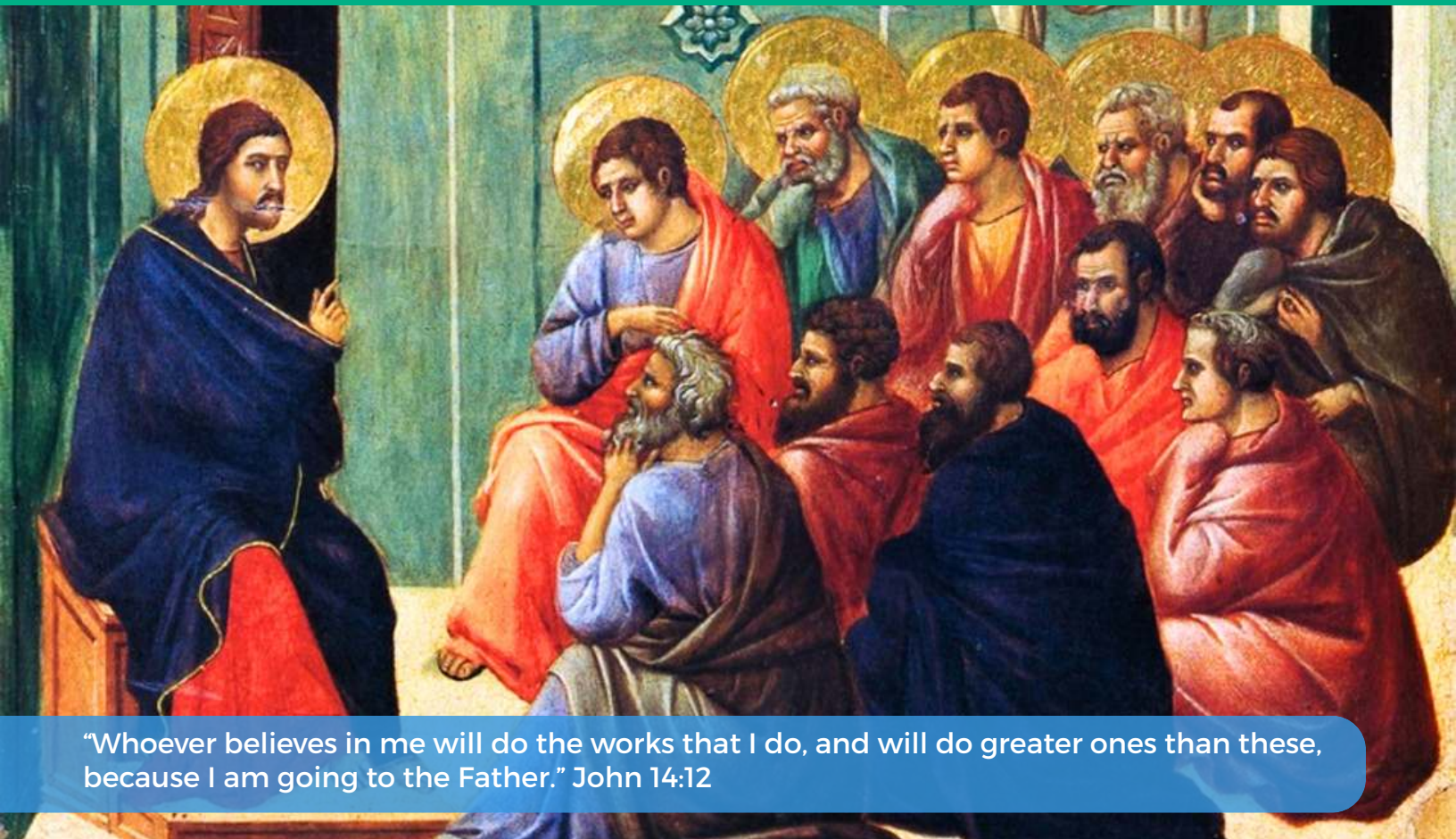


5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER, MAY 3, 2026

# ST. MARY PARISH

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

312 SOUTH STATE STREET · APPLETON, WI 54911



“Whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father.” John 14:12

## 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](mailto:wdswitz@stmaryparish.org)

cell 920-422-4316

## **Deacon - Gerry Schraufnagel**

[dcngerry@stmaryparish.org](mailto:dcngerry@stmaryparish.org)

cell 920-540-9594

## **Cemetery Info - Chip Acker**

[cacker@stmaryparish.org](mailto: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](mailto:llavalle@stmaryparish.org)

## **Confession times:**

Saturday 9-10am or by appointment

## **Eucharistic Adoration**

Every 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

# Congratulations!

**TO THE FIRST COMMUNICANTS!**

**Imani**

**Emma**

**Connor**

**Izabelle**

**Luka**

**Vincenzo**

**Eryiella**

**Owen**

**Anais**

**Ophelia**

**Mia**

**Theodore**

## Clean Up Day & & Open HOUSE

**May 2nd**

**Don't miss the Cemetery clean up at 9 am  
Followed by the Open House at 1 pm**

For the clean up:

- 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.

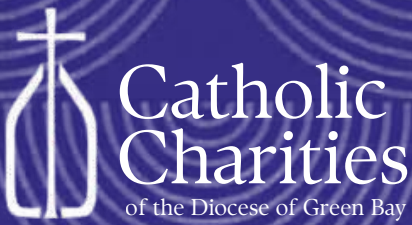
**Student service hours!**



## May 3rd Crowning

Join us for **May 3rd**  
Crowning at the  
**Sunday 9:45am Mass**





# Beyond the Birth Plan:

*Preparing for the emotional side of motherhood*



## Thursday, May 7th

### 3:00 - 5:00 P.M.

### *The Crossing of Manitowoc*

This free **2-hour in-person** session is open and beneficial for every expectant and new mom (*up to one year postpartum*).



Learn to recognize emotional changes during pregnancy and after birth



Build confidence stepping into postpartum



Receive a **\$50 gift card** for attending!

To reserve your spot, contact: 920-272-8240 | [mvanlanen@gbdioc.org](mailto:mvanlanen@gbdioc.org)



## Annual Vida Collection

APRIL 25 - MAY 10

### *Help moms & kids in need*

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.



## ST. JOSEPH FOOD PROGRAM

Fighting Hunger Sustaining Hope

### Collection: May 9 & 10

The May 9th and 10th collection for St. Joseph Food Program is packaged fruits and vegetables. These can be individual fruit cups or microwavable vegetable cups or dried fruits or raisins as well as canned fruits and vegetables. No glass or past use by dates or perishable items. Thank you for helping others to eat healthy.

*Thank you for helping those who are in need.*



*Celebrate*  
**MOM'S**  
Mother's Day | May 10

Join us as we sprinkle some love on all our amazing moms with a small gift and blessing during Masses (4:30pm, 7:45am & 9:45am) on Mother's Day weekend!

*Anointing of the Sick*

MAY 16 & 17,  
DURING ALL  
MASSES



*Let us pray*

Evening worship experiences at St. Mary, Appleton

**MARIAN HYMN SING & CONCERT**

May 18, 6:00 pm

Celebrate Mary and our mothers with a hymn sing of famous and beloved Marian hymns and songs



Which pope had a pet elephant named Hanno?





# Thank you...

to all who donated reusable or recyclable items for St. Mary's Spring Lenten Cleanup.

Nearly two truckloads of items were diverted from the landfill! That's about twice as much as was collected last year during the first collection. While the parish collection ended April 22, you can drop off these items for free throughout the year at the following locations:

- Books and CD's - AAUW Book Sale or the Half Price Books store in Appleton
- Compact fluorescent light bulbs - Home Depot
- Christmas lights and batteries - Outagamie County Resource Recovery Park
- Printer cartridges - Office Max
- Eyeglasses - Your local Lions Club (a collection bin is in the parish office)
- Egg cartons and clean, dry grocery bags - St. Joseph Food Program

Special thanks to parish members Helen Kobussen, Carol Huck, Sue Rogers and Pat Del Ponte for helping with the event. The collection was organized by the St. Mary Care for Creation ministry.



## St. Lawrence Seminary High School **INSTRUMENTS OF PEACE** Summer Action Retreat



Calling all current middle school boys! Bring yourself and a friend, Monday, June 15 – Wednesday, June 17 to St. Lawrence Seminary High School in Mt Calvary, WI for three days of field olympics, games, team building, and prayer. You're sure to have a blast living in our dorms, eating lots of food, making new friends, and growing in your Catholic faith! Cost is \$50 and includes housing and food. Free transportation is available from select cities throughout the state. Register at [www.stlawrence.edu/retreats](http://www.stlawrence.edu/retreats)

The Funeral for Margie Hopfensperger will be on **Thursday, May 7, 2026 at 11:00 am.** Visitation will be from **9:00 am to 11:00 am.**

If you are unable to attend the funeral but would like to offer financial support to the family, you may drop off your contribution at the parish office or place it in the collection box at the back of the church during the weekend of May 9-10. Make checks payable to St. Mary Parish. Please continue to pray for her husband Alan and the family.



*Margaret  
Hopfensperger*

# OPEN AUDITIONS CHRISTMAS STARS

2026

Saturday, May 9 &  
Thursday, May 14

Scan to register



christmasstars.org

## Do you love to sing and dance?

Fill out a cast application and schedule an audition to be considered for the 2026 cast.

Go to [www.christmasstars.org](http://www.christmasstars.org) and click or tap the Join Our Cast button.

Fill out an online cast application and get a link to schedule an audition.

Students entering Kindergarten through 12th grade in 2026-2027 and adults of any age are invited to audition for the cast.

Auditions, rehearsals and performances at the Xavier Fine Arts Theatre.

2026 show dates: **Dec. 3-6 & Dec. 10-13**



St Mary/St Joseph book club will meet Tuesday, May 19, from 1 to 2:30 pm, at St. Mary on State Street in Room LL7. The selected book is: *Calling Me Home* by Julie Kibler. Please reach out to Mary Schulz, 920-809-4474, with questions or to request the list of books scheduled through December 2026.



## 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.*

# EVENTS CALENDAR

## Mass Intentions

### Week of May 3-May 10

#### Sunday, May 3

##### Coffee & Donuts

7:45 am Mass/Miles Campton Timm Baptism  
9:45 am Mass/Livestreamed (Crowning of Mary)  
11:00 am Flock of Sparrows/LL5

#### Monday, May 4

12:05 pm Mass  
6:00 pm Reach More/LL7  
6:30 pm THEO/CR  
7:00 pm AA Meeting/LL1

#### Tuesday, May 5

9:00 am Connect Group/LL7  
1:00 pm SMP & SJP Prayer Shawl Group/at SJ's LL112  
4:00 pm Social Planning Meeting/LCR  
6:00 pm Pastoral Council/ CR

#### Wednesday, May 6

9:30 am Connect Group/LL7  
6:30 pm Confirmation/SAR

#### Thursday, May 7

9:30 am CIAFMO/LL7  
9:00 am Margaret Hopfensperger Visitation  
10:00 am Mom's Group - Babysitting Rm  
11:00 am Margaret Hopfensperger Funeral Mass  
12:00 pm Margaret Hopfensperger Luncheon  
6:00 pm Adult Choir/MR  
6:00 pm Women's Ministry/LL7  
7:00 pm Cor Jesu

#### Friday, May 8

##### Parish Office Closed

9:00 am Small Group/LL7

#### Saturday, May 9

##### St. Joe's Food Program Collection

9:00 am Confessions  
10:00 am Neuro Endocrine Cancer Support Group/LL7  
4:30 pm Mass

#### Sunday, May 10 (Mother's Day)

##### St. Joe's Food Program Collection

##### Coffee & Donuts

7:45 am Mass  
9:45 am Mass/Livestreamed

|              |                  |                                 |
|--------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| Sun., May 3  | 7:45am<br>9:45am | Available<br>Jeff Fisher        |
| Mon., May 4  | 12:05pm          | Fr Bob Lexa                     |
| Thur., May 7 | 12:05pm          | Mass Cancelled                  |
| Sat., May 9  | 4:30pm           | Margaret Higgins                |
| Sun., May 10 | 7:45am<br>9:45am | Gerald Young<br>Mary Ann Hanson |



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 for your continued generous support as we move into May.

| MONTH | INCOME      | BUDGET      | VARIANCE   |
|-------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| April | \$77,237.96 | \$75,083.33 | \$2,154.63 |

### Your giving at work in the parish:

- We have suffered a profound loss to our parish when Margie Hopfensperger was welcomed home to the Lord. She was a staple at masses making sure things were prepared and organized. She was a cheerful welcoming presence to all who entered our parish doors. We will miss her.
- Summer is a time for outdoor projects. For us this includes safety projects, outdoor repairs and maintenance, landscaping, network upgrades and some sprucing up projects around the parish. We could use some planning and design help with a couple projects. We are looking for help with landscape design, and an architect/engineer for design/plan of a garage for the rectory. Contact Chris Higgins in the parish office ([chiggins@stmaryparish.org](mailto:chiggins@stmaryparish.org)) if you can help.



Pope Leo, X (1513-1521)

# *in Joy &* **SORROW**

ST MARY PARISH - APPLETON // 5.3.2026  
WITH FR. BILL SWICHTENBERG



As we greet the month of May, I was reminded of this reflection from our own Bishop Robert Morneau's [There Is A Season](#):

"It is in May that billions of seeds journey into the darkness of the soil, that teachers and students begin their farewells, that parks are peopled, that trees cannot contain their joy and burst into verdant song, that the family dog has not seen for weeks, that mud and boy lose each other by merging, that tents become castles in the backyard, that mosquitoes break jail by the millions and in hordes vandalize every vein in sight, that blue books are filled with truths and stories (*You know about blue books, right? Back in the day, blue books were distributed and used in college course examinations - Fr Bill*), that the garage, now empty of wood, awaits an autumn meal, that despair attacks the heart of a candidate whose doctoral dissertation has been rejected, that the crack of a gun follows the *On your mark,...*, that the fields welcome back the housed-in farmer. *These have been some of my Mays — what about yours?*"

"It was in May that certain lessons and insights came home: that school bells ring two ways: a calling to and sending forth; that the loneliness of the long distance runner is real; that one waits to plant seeds until after Jack Frost has left the country; that every season and friendship has its romantic period; that a golf course is a microcosm of life;

*The Church  
turns to Mary,  
the Mother of  
God and a  
Woman of Quiet  
Strength,  
during May.*

that fears and tears are about the same reality; that lilies of the valley make a fine Mother's Day gift; that the bumblebee, despite its size, is to be carefully respected. *These have been some of my Mays — what about yours?"*

The Church turns to Mary, the Mother of God and a Woman of Quiet Strength, during May. We treasure Mary, in the center of the disciples, awaiting the descent of the Holy Spirit in the Upper Room at the time of Pentecost. We celebrate the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, on the Monday following the Solemnity of Pentecost. This memorial is a gift from Pope Francis, who added it to the Church's liturgical calendar in 2018.

Pope Leo would encourage us to look to Mary as a practitioner *par excellence* of the presence of God. See Mary in her home in Nazareth, caring for her husband and son, involved in the many household tasks of a wife and mother. She did all of these with a deep sense of God the Father's presence within and all around her. She took time to pause in prayer to ponder all her holy experiences. Whether in incredible joy or excruciating sorrow, Mary trusted in the Lord's closeness to her.

Outside of her home, at the peripheries, as Pope Francis would say, Mary stood tall with her lowly and marginalized sisters and brothers, reassuring them that the Lord would lift them up, while at the same time, pushing the powerful and unjust from their high pedestals. Mary never lost sight of this radical "turning of the tables" to protect the weakest against the law of the strongest, orchestrated by our merciful and just Lord God. Every night at Vespers (Evening Prayer), the Church sings with Mary about this revolution in her Magnificat, her Great Yes.

Echoing the prayer of Pope Leo XIV on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary at the Spanish Steps in Rome on Monday, Dec 8, 2025, we address Mary,

*May the kingdom of God come, the newness you longed for so deeply and to which you opened yourself completely, as a child, as a young woman, and as mother of the nascent Church.*

*Inspire new insights in the Church that journeys in Rome and in the particular Churches which, in every context, gather up the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of our contemporaries, especially the poor and all those who suffer.*

*May baptism continue to bring forth men and women, holy and immaculate, called to become living members of the Body of Christ, a Body that acts, consoles, reconciles, and transforms the earthly city in which the City of God is being prepared.*

*Intercede for us, Mary, grappling with changes that seem to find us unprepared and powerless.*

*Inspire dreams, visions, and courage, you who know better than anyone that nothing is impossible for God, and also that God does nothing alone.*

*Set us on our way, with the haste that once moved your steps toward your cousin Elizabeth, and with the trembling eagerness with which you became an exile and pilgrim, to be blessed, yes, but blessed among all women, first disciple of your Son, Mother of God-with-us.*

*Help us to be always a Church with and among the people, leaven in the dough of a humanity crying out for justice and hope.*

*Immaculate one, woman of infinite beauty, watch over this city, over this humanity. Point them to Jesus, lead them to Jesus, present them to Jesus.*

*Mother, Queen of Peace, pray for us.*

*Fr. Bill +*