

ST. MARY PARISH-APPLETON

312 S. STATE ST. APPLETON, WI 54911

SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2024

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and everyone that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit." - Jn 15:1-2

CATHOLIC TRIVIA- JUST FOR FUN

Question: According to the Catholic Church, in what year was it founded?

(Answer is under the events calendar in the bulletin)

FR. BILL IN ROME

Father Bill is scheduled to be in Rome from April 28th to May 2nd, during which period we will be hosting guest priests.

We kindly request your prayers for Father Bill's safe travels, as well as for the Pope and all the priests worldwide participating in this mini-synod alongside Pope Francis.

BISHOP'S APPEAL

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has backed the Bishop's appeal. Take a look at the graph below to monitor our progress towards the target. Your donation today will bring us one step closer to reaching our goal.

Goal: \$65,143



This is our dream: getting Fr. Bill this close to Pope Francis!



CEMETERY CLEAN-UP

If you're looking for a way to care for the Earth as well as honor those people who have gone before you, consider coming to St. Mary Cemetery in Appleton from 9 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 4, to join us in the third annual cemetery cleanup. The event will be held rain or shine. Please bring gloves and a rake. This is a great opportunity for students to earn service hours.

The cemetery is located at 2121 W. Prospect Ave. along the shores of the Fox River. You will be part of a community-wide effort to remove trash from the Fox and Wolf riverbanks that day. During this community event last year, more than 1,600 volunteers cleaned up 65 public sites in the watershed, removing over 7,000 pounds of trash.

If you have questions, please contact Chip Acker, manager of the cemetery, at 920-882-4158 or cacker@stmaryparish.org



PYX RETURN

If you have any pyx you are not using, please consider returning them to the parish office so others can use them.



E2F PANS

Empty to full pans will be distributed during the weekend of May 11/12, with a designated return deadline of May 18/19.

PARISH TREASURE HUNT

Can you find me?

Clue: I am carried by the very first person in the opening procession at Mass.
Can you find me?

Jesus high for all to see ... and follow.
Fact: The processional cross lifts an image of

©LPi

GRADUATION 2024

***BE WHO GOD MEANT YOU
TO BE AND YOU WILL SET
THE WORLD ON FIRE.
-ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA***

**Sunday, May 19
9:45am Mass**

- Give our high school seniors a big send off and show them how proud we are!

At ALL Masses May 18/19

- Grads of ALL AGES will be recognized (preschool, kindergarten, elementary & middle school, college, technical, grad school, etc.)
- **ALL GRADS:** be sure to pick up a ribbon at the table in the back of church

*Families of
high school
seniors -
watch your
inbox for
details*



2024 TOTUS TUUS REGISTRATION

Looking for an affordable, faith-based activity for your kids this summer? Check out Totus Tuus. We're teaming up with a few parishes throughout Appleton to gather kids (grades 1-6 in day program, grades 7-12 in the evening) together to have fun, grow in their faith, and make new friends in active ways. Register and learn more [here](#). If you have any questions or need financial assistance, reach out to tturba@stmaryparish.org.



ST. JOSEPH FOOD PROGRAM

THE ST. JOSEPH FOOD PROGRAM COLLECTION IS MAY 11TH & 12TH. THE COLLECTION IS FOR CANNED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES. GLUTEN FREE, SUGAR FREE AND LOW SODIUM ITEMS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED. NO GLASS CONTAINERS, PERISHABLE ITEMS OR ITEMS PAST THE DUE DATE.



YOU MAKE THIS POSSIBLE!

Your generosity is the superhero that swoops in when things go kaput. Dennis scored a new grass cutter, all thanks to your thoughtful contributions. Your support keeps the gears turning smoothly, ensuring our parish grounds stay in tip-top shape. Dennis sends a big thank you your way for making our community hub a cozy and tidy oasis. Thank you for contributing to your parish.





From Kara Main, Pastoral Council Chair

St. Mary Parish Family

It's nomination time for the St. Mary Pastoral Council, and we're asking you to participate! The purpose of the council is to promote and foster the growth and vitality of the St. Mary Parish community. We are filling three at-large seats in 2024 (length of commitment: 3 years). New members will be selected on Pentecost (5/19).

WHY CONSIDER BEING A COUNCIL MEMBER?

It's an opportunity to deepen your connection to your parish family and better understand what goes into the work of the parish. You'll also spend time with people who can help you grow in your relationship with Jesus.

NOMINATION PROCESS

- Nominations begin April 20 and will be accepted through April 29
- All parishioners who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation and are 18 years of age or older are eligible to serve on the Council
- You may nominate yourself or another parishioner
- We are filling three (3) at-large seats in 2024

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Attend monthly meetings September - June (first Tuesday evening of the month)
- Serve as a liaison to one of the five mission/vision committees
- Contribute your talents and energy to meet the council's annual goals

SUPPORT PROVIDED

- Orientation meeting
- September Retreat
- Ongoing interaction with council leaders and parish staff

HELPFUL GIFTS

- Desire to keep St. Mary and its unique mission moving forward
- Good communication and listening skills
- Passion for being a follower of Jesus



Nominations can be submitted here by scanning the QR Code provided.





CELEBRATE MOMS


Mother's Day | May 12


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



NEED A GIFT IDEA?

Star Of Bethlehem Handicrafts will be in the Marian Way with hand-carved olive wood gifts from the Holy Land.





Annual Vida Collection

APRIL 27 - MAY 12

Help moms & kids in need

- take a tag from the tree in the Marian Way
- return item(s) by May 12 - Mother's Day
- view a list of current Vida needs at stmaryparish.org



Vida

The logo features the word "Vida" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The letter "V" is stylized with three diagonal lines in shades of blue and green extending upwards from its top left corner. The logo is set against a white background within a light beige rectangular border.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., April 29, 12:05pm	John Nussbaum
Tues., April 30, 8:00am	Mass at St Bernard Parish
Wed., May 1, 8:00am	Mass at St Bernard Parish
Thur., May 2, 12:05pm	Fr. Bob Lexa
Sat., May 4, 4:30pm	Special Intentions
Sun., May 5, 7:45am	Helen & Gordon Pippert
9:45am	Jeff Fisher
5:30pm	

In Loving Memory

If you have lost a loved one and would like them to be remembered in the bulletin, call the parish office at 920-739-5119.

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 the requests in our prayer baskets.

EVENTS CALENDAR

Monday, April 29

5:00pm FOCCUS Couple's Meeting/Large Conference Room
6:30pm New Horizons Jazz Group
6:30pm Reach More Small Group

Tuesday, April 30

9:00am Connect Group/Lower Level Room 7
2:00pm Rosary Prayer/Church

Wednesday, May 1

9:30am Connect Group/Lower Level Room 7
4:30pm Adoration
6:30pm Reach More Small Group

Thursday, May 2

1:00pm Hooks & Needles/Community Room
6:00pm Adult Choir/Music Room
7:00pm Cor Jesu

Friday, May 3

Parish Office Closed

9:00am Friday Morning Meeting/Lower Level Room 7

Saturday, May 4

9:00am Cemetery Clean-up

Sunday, May 5





04.28.24

As most of you peruse this reflection, I will have arrived in Rome for the International Meeting of Parish Priests for the Synod. Three hundred priests have been selected by their respective Conferences of Catholic Bishops to attend this important meeting. Note well that Pope Francis did not select me! The US Bishops did that!

While the month-long session on Synodality last October in Rome was an incredible gathering of 350 plus delegates, including Cardinals, Bishops, religious women and men (This group would have included a few priests.) and lay women and men, it was noted that there were very few parish priests in attendance.

If the notion of the synodal pastor and synodal parish is to catch on, the Holy Father needs to convince parish priests that this model is constitutive of how the Church needs to conduct itself moving forward.

Realizing that synodality was the *modus operandi* of the early Church, we need to polish off this diamond which glimmers with such beautiful faces. Those faces include journeying together to build the Lord's Kingdom, trusting that the Holy Spirit is very much at work in the heart of every baptized believer, listening to the lived experiences of every person, celebrating the unity that is always present in diversity, empowering every baptized believer to take seriously the call to be a holy friend and follower of Jesus, and to be a witness to others of the hope and healing of the Gospel. The Holy Spirit is the only protagonist of the synodal Church. Together, people and parish leaders are the agents of the Holy Spirit!

The meeting will open with celebration of Mass on Sunday evening.

Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday are full days.

On Monday morning, the assembly of parish priests will be welcomed by Cardinal Grech, the Secretary General of the Office of the Synod, Cardinal You Heung-sik, who heads up the Dicastery for the Clergy, Cardinal Tagle, who oversees, alongside Pope Francis, the Dicastery of Evangelization, and Cardinal Gugerotti, who is the Prefect of the Dicastery for the Oriental Churches.

Of this group, I am familiar with Cardinal Grech, who recently addressed the role of a synodal bishop at the McGrath Institute of Church Life, on the campus of Notre Dame University.

Cardinal You Heung-sik just gave an interview to Vatican News on vocations to the priesthood, saying this: "The world, society and the Church need profoundly human priests, whose spiritual style is summed up in Jesus' same style: not a spirituality which separates us from others or makes us cold

masters of abstract truth, but the capacity to embody God's closeness to humanity, God's love for every creature, God's compassion for whomever is marked by life's wounds." I would very much enjoy talking with this church leader one-on-one, with the help of a translator!

Cardinal Tagle, who hails from Manila, the Philippines, seems to me a younger version of Pope Francis. I consider him to be one of the papabile in the next conclave to elect a new Pope, although he may come in as too young at sixty-six today. People affectionately call him "Cardinal Chito."

There is a talk to focus the day around the theme of the face of a synodal Church.

Sister Nathalie Becquart, who is the Undersecretary of the Office of the Synod, and one of the highest-ranking women in the Vatican, will explain the notion of conversation in the Spirit.

The rest of Monday will happen at roundtables where there will be conversations in the Spirit around the notions of a synodal priest and a synodal parish. These conversations will then be summarized in the large group.

Mass in Spanish, followed by dinner at 8 pm, will conclude Monday's long day.

Tuesday and Wednesday will follow the same pattern. Mass in the Armenian Rite and Mass in English will be celebrated on Tuesday and Wednesday, respectively, followed by dinner at 8 pm. I will have to have some Maalox on hand as eating this late is not a good idea for me!

Early Thursday morning, the group will leave the Retreat Center, which is located north of Rome, boarding buses which will take us to the Vatican. Pope Francis will address us and take time for questions and dialogue. Two hours have been allotted for this. Mass at the Altar of the Chair of Saint Peter in Saint Peter's Basilica will conclude our meeting.

Upon the conference's conclusion, I am going to make my way back up to Assisi and spend some time in prayer and reflection, soaking up the spirit of Saint Francis. I have never been to Assisi and am looking forward to just resting in the Lord in that holy place.

When Archbishop Jorge Mario Bergoglio of Buenos Aires, Argentina, was elected on March 13, 2013, he was asked, as every new Pope has been asked through the centuries, "What name will you be called," he replied, "Francis!" Good thing someone had the presence of mind to congratulate him on choosing the name of the great Jesuit missionary, Saint Francis Xavier. It takes one good Jesuit to know another!

Pope Francis was quick to counter, "No, not that Francis, but Saint Francis of Assisi!" Little did the Church know, as it shook its head, that this Pope would be inspired by the Holy Spirit and by the holy spirits of St Francis of Assisi and of Good Saint Pope John XXIII! There is something ever new happening in our ever ancient Church with Pope Francis as its Universal Pastor!

I leave Rome early Saturday (5/4) to return to Appleton.

Please pray for our parish priests! Please pray for me!

Holy Spirit of Wisdom, open the hearts of our parish priests. May they trust that Your Grace is poured into the heart of every baptized believer. May they be gentle artists who practice holy listening, always recognizing the Lord present in the lived experiences of others. Give your Church the courage to always seek Your Guidance. May Your Church embrace transformation so that we may be more

authentic witnesses of the Lord's Gospel of tenderness, closeness and compassion. Bless Father Bill and the priests meeting in Rome on these holy days! Amen!

Thank you for your many kind gestures of love and support! Thank you for the St Mary Prayer Journal which I will be honored to present in your names to Pope Francis!

Fr. Bill +

STAFF AND OTHER CONTACTS

Fr. Bill Swichtenberg, Pastor
wdswitz@stmaryparish.org
cell 920-422-4316

Deacon Gerry Schraufnagel
schraufnagel@stmaryparish.org
cell 920-540-9594

Chris Higgins (Ext. 102)
Director of Business Administration
& Information Technology
chiggins@stmaryparish.org

Nadine Duncan (Ext. 116)
Director of Pastoral Administration
& Pastoral Care
nduncan@stmaryparish.org
cell 920-659-1337

Tom Walter (Ext. 114)
Minister of Liturgy and Music
twalter@stmaryparish.org

Dennis Douglas (Ext. 115)
Head of Maintenance
ddouglas@stmaryparish.org

Chip Acker
Cemetery & Facilities Management
cacker@stmaryparish.org
cell 920-882-4158

Tracy Turba (Ext. 119)
Minister of Young Disciples
tturba@stmaryparish.org

Mary Ellen Fisher (Ext. 103)
Bookkeeping Assistant
mefisher@stmaryparish.org

Parish Trustees
Ted Suess | Carol Frahm
trustee@stmaryparish.org

Kate Minczeski (Ext. 110)
Minister of Adult Disciples
kminczeski@stmaryparish.org

Xavier Catholic School System
920-735-9380

St. Mary Contact/Hours:
920-739-5119
Mon-Thurs, 9am-4pm
Office Closed on Fridays

Megan Knop (Ext. 121)
Communication and Technology Coordinator
mhafenbreadl@stmaryparish.org

Kristina Resterhouse (Ext. 101)
Administrative Assistant
stmary@stmaryparish.org

St. Mary Cemetery
920-882-4158
cemetery@stmaryparish.org
Website: stmaryparishcemetery.org

Pastoral Leadership Council Chair
Kara Main | plc@stmaryparish.org

Finance Council Chair
Larry Bonneville | fcchair@stmaryparish.org

Sacrament of Matrimony
Getting Married? Congratulations! Contact Fr. Bill
at least 6 months before your planned wedding
date.

Sacrament of Baptism
Need Baptism information?
Congratulations! Contact Nadine Duncan for more
information.

Funeral Livestream Link
<http://stmaryparish.org/funeral-livestream/>

Confession
Sat. 9-10am

Eucharistic Adoration
Wednesdays
4:30-8pm

Sign up for a slot to sit
with Jesus. We must
have one person
with the Eucharist at
all times.



SCAN ME

