



## ATTENTION PLEASE

This bulletin will cover the next 2 weeks. Please watch your email for updates and reminders. Thank you.



## ST. MARY PARISH

312 S STATE STREET, APPLETON, WI | 920.739.5119 | [STMARY@STMARYPARISH.ORG](mailto:STMARY@STMARYPARISH.ORG)

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024**

## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT



*“Every valley shall be filled  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low.  
The winding roads shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth,  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”*

*- Lk 3:5-6*



# GRATITUDE AND GIVING



## Christmas Flowers

If you would like to contribute to the 2024 Christmas Flower & Worship Fund in memory of a loved one, please complete and return this form with payment to the parish office no later than **Sunday, December 15**

**PLEASE PRINT VERY CLEARLY so we can ensure accurate spelling!**

Your last name/family name \_\_\_\_\_

Your first name \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Circle one: CASH CHECK<sup>ck#</sup>( ) Faith Direct

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

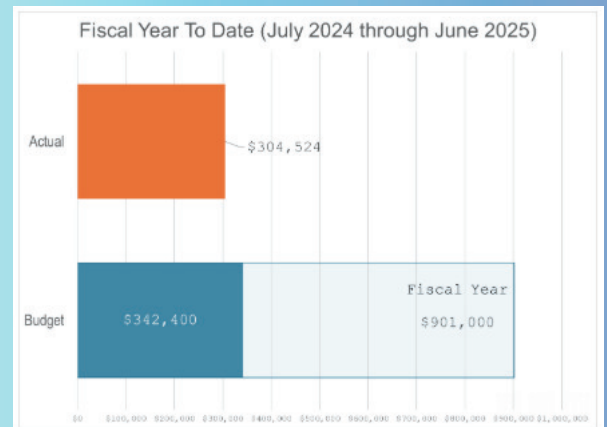
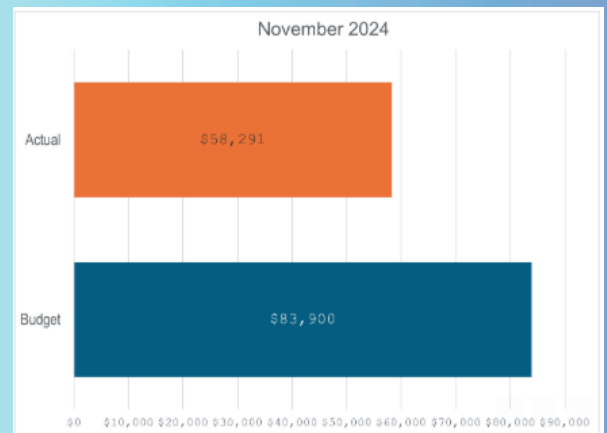


## Keeping the Lights On

Sacrament of  
Reconciliation  
with Fr. Bill  
December 16,  
6 pm - 9 pm

# RECONCILIATION

## Offertory Numbers November





# GRATITUDE AND GIVING



## **IT'S TIME TO DECK THE HALLS!**

Volunteers are urgently needed.  
Mark your calendars for Tuesday,  
December 17, starting at  
9:00 am sharp!

We will be doing the Christmas  
decorating in the church (including  
putting up all the trees), the chapel,  
the Marian Way, and the  
community room.

We need your help!



# GRATITUDE AND GIVING



## Prayer Shawl Give-a-way

Saturday, December 14 after 4:30pm mass

Sunday, December 15 after 9:45am mass

Handmade shawls created by:

*The St. Joseph & St. Mary Prayer Shawl Ministry*



**SEND US  
YOUR PIC**

**to [info@stmaryparish.org](mailto:info@stmaryparish.org) by DEC. 16**

 **put name (or family last name) in subject line**

**view parish family Christmas card at [stmaryparish.org](http://stmaryparish.org) beginning Dec. 24**



# ST. MARY NEWS & EVENTS



## The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

St. Mary will be celebrating this holy day of obligation  
on  
**Monday, DEC 9 @ 12:05 pm**

## Christmas Masses



Christmas Eve: 4 pm, 6:30 pm,  
10 pm (Concert at 9:30 pm)  
Christmas Day: 9:45 am



# ST. MARY NEWS & EVENTS



*Fr. Bill is  
turning 70!*



**Join us for cupcakes and donut holes in  
the Community Room, Saturday,  
December 14, after the 4:30 mass or  
Sunday, December 15, after all masses.**

**BIRTHDAY**



Let us pray

Evening worship experiences at St. Mary, Appleton

# Xavier High School Christmas Concert

December 19 | 7pm

Join us for an evening filled with the sounds of the season, as our talented students perform Christmas classics and hymns that celebrate the hope and joy of Christ's birth. Whether you're part of the parish family, the school community, or simply love the joy of the Christmas season, come celebrate with us!

**When: Thursday, December 19 | 7pm**

**Where: St. Mary Church, Appleton**

**Who: ALL are invited. Come as you are!**

*Celebrate 165 years  
with us!*



Join us for a simple dinner of soup, salad, and delicious bread at 5:30 PM in the Community Room. If you have any questions, please contact Kate at the Parish Office at (920) 739-5119 x 110 or [kminczeski@stmaryparish.org](mailto:kminczeski@stmaryparish.org).

Register at <https://bit.ly/letusprayadvent>  
OR use the QR code by Monday, December 16th!



You won't believe your eyes!

# CHRISTMAS STARS 2024



Spectacular holiday fun for the whole family!

7:00 pm Dec 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14  
1:00 pm Dec 7\*, 8, 14, 15

\*An American Sign Language Interpreter will be provided at the 1:00 pm performance on December 7th. 

**Family Night Discounts: 7pm Performances, Dec 5 & Dec 12**  
**Adults & Seniors \$14 • Children \$9**

**Adults \$18 • Senior Citizens & High School Students \$17 • Children \$10**  
Age 60 & above 8th Grade & under

Ticket prices do not include service fees on credit card purchases. These fees are established by cur8, our box office vendor, and are nonrefundable.

[www.christmasstars.org](http://www.christmasstars.org) • (920) 733-8840

2024 Show Sponsors

Doug and Sue  
Hahn



Wallace Family  
Foundation

In Memory of  
Willard & Myrtle Bourassa  
and  
Don & Gerri Verchart

Rachel & Charlie  
Uihlein

In Loving Memory  
Bonnie Bach

**Xavier Fine Arts Theatre • 1600 W. Prospect Avenue, Appleton**  
A Program of the St Francis Xavier Catholic School System



Please order ADA seats by phone or in-person at the box office.

Hearing loop equipped. 



# MASS INTENTIONS

Sat., Dec 7, 4:30pm Diann Schoenfelt  
Sun., Dec 8, 7:45am Sis and Bob Balliet  
9:45am Ted Miller  
5:30pm Mary Margaret Vertin

Mon., Dec 9, 12:05pm Ann Van Grinsven (Immaculate Conception Mass)

**Tues., Dec 10, 8:00am Mass at St Bernard Parish**

**Wed., Dec 11, 8:00am Mass at St Bernard Parish w/Fr. Bill**

Thur., Dec 12, 12:05pm Janice Clark

Sat., Dec 14, 4:30pm Christine Ulman

Sun., Dec 15, 7:45am Don Huck

9:45am Ed Salm

5:30pm

**In Loving Memory** Please pray for the family and friends of Marjorie Nabbefeldt. May your memories comfort you at this time.

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 these requests in our prayer baskets.

## EVENTS CALENDAR

### Saturday, Dec 7

9:00am THEO/LL1  
9:00am Confessions  
4:30pm Mass  
Bake Sale After Mass

### Sunday, Dec 8

Bake Sale Before and After AM Masses  
7:45am Mass  
9:45am Mass (Livestreamed)  
11:00am Flock of Sparrows/LL5  
5:30pm Mass

### Monday, Dec 9

12:05pm Mass (Immaculate Conception Mass)

### Tuesday, Dec 10

9:00am Connect Group/LL7  
2:00pm Rosary Prayer Group/Chapel  
6:00pm Book Club/ LL4

### Wednesday, Dec 11

9:00am Connect Group/Kitchen  
4:30pm Adoration/Church  
4:45pm Beacon Faith Formation 1st -5th grade  
6:30pm Beacon Faith Formation 6th -11th grade

### Thursday, Dec 12

12:05pm Mass  
6:30pm Men's Group/ LL7

### Friday, Dec 13


Parish Office Closed

### Saturday, Dec 14

9:00am Confessions  
10:00am Neuro Endocrine Cancer Support Group/LL7  
4:30pm Mass  
St Mary & St Joe's Prayer Shawl give away After Mass

### Sunday, Dec 15

7:45am Mass (B M Arneson Baptism)  
9:45am Mass (Livestreamed)  
St Mary & St Joe's Prayer Shawl give away After AM Masses  
5:30pm Mass



**HOLY** Question:  
Who was the first pope to ride in an airplane?

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.

[Click here or scan below](#)



SCAN ME

# MASS INTENTIONS

Sat., Dec 14, 4:30pm Christine Ulman

Sun., Dec 15, 7:45am Don Huck

9:45am Ed Salm

5:30pm

Mon., Dec 16, 12:05pm

**Tues., Dec 17, 8:00am Mass at St Bernard Parish**

**Wed., Dec 18, 8:00am Mass at St Bernard Parish w/Fr. Bill**

Thur., Dec 19, 12:05pm Carol Frahm

Sat., Dec 21, 4:30pm Janice Clark

Sun., Dec 22, 7:45am Bill Garvey

9:45am Deceased members of the Daniel & Janine Dennik Family

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 these requests in our prayer baskets.

## EVENTS CALENDAR

### Saturday, Dec 14

9:00am Confessions

10:00am Neuro Endocrine Cancer Support Group/LL7

4:30pm Mass

St Mary & St Joe's Prayer Shawl give away After Mass

### Sunday, Dec 15

7:45am Mass (B M Arneson Baptism)

9:45am Mass (Livestreamed)

St Mary & St Joe's Prayer Shawl give away After AM Masses

11:00am Flock of Sparrows/LL5

5:30pm Mass

### Monday, Dec 16

12:05pm Mass

6:30pm Worship Committee/LCR

### Tuesday, Dec 17

9:00am Church Christmas Decorating

9:00am Connect Group/Kitchen

2:00pm Rosary Prayer Group/Chapel

6:00pm Book Club/ LL4

6:30pm Matthew 25-Community Rm

### Wednesday, Dec 18

8:00am Quilting/Community Rm

9:00am Connect Group/Kitchen

4:30pm Adoration/Church

4:45pm Beacon Faith Formation 1st -5th grade

6:30pm Beacon Faith Formation 6th -11th grade

### Thursday, Dec 19

8:30am XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL REHEARSAL/Church

12:05pm Mass

1:00pm Hooks & Needles/Community Rm

5:30pm Concert Dinner/Community Rm

7:00pm XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR CONCERT

### Friday, Dec 20

Parish Office Closed

### Saturday, Dec 21

9:00am Confessions

9:00am THEO/LL1

4:30pm Mass (E L Wasielewski Baptism)

### Sunday, Dec 22

Coffee & Donuts

7:45am Mass

9:45am Mass (Livestreamed)

5:30pm Mass

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.



[Click here or](#)

[scan below](#)



SCAN ME

# In Joy + Sorrow



**ST. MARY PARISH-APPLETON**

**WITH FR. BILL SWICHTENBERG**

12.08.2024

We celebrate a banner Second Week of Advent as we look to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Son of God and the Son of Man, and Mother of the Church. Alongside the great Prophets, Isaiah and John the Baptist, Mary helps us enter into the Mystery which is Advent. During her unplanned pregnancy, Mary is a model of trust, watching and waiting, hoping against all hope that everything would be well. The Conception of Jesus, by the power of the Holy Spirit, was a quandary for her and her spouse-to-be, Joseph. Remember that they were only engaged at this point. The angel Gabriel's message packed a solid punch that would make their lives difficult to explain to their families and friends. The rumor mill would have been fierce and brutal. Even Joseph would have been urged to report his fiancée for committing the sin of infidelity, punishable by being stoned to death.

I love this poem which captures the spirit of the Annunciation of the Lord Jesus. It is titled "In the Kitchen," by Fr Killian McDonnell, OSB. Pause for a moment, take a couple of deep breaths, and ask the Holy Spirit to be with you. What strikes you as you pray this poem?

Giotto\* got it wrong.  
I was not kneeling  
on my red satin cushion  
in a shaft of light,  
head slightly bent.  
Actually I had just  
come back from the well.  
Placing the pitcher  
on the table I bumped  
against the edge  
spilling the water on the floor.  
As I bent down to wipe it up  
suddenly a glow  
as though someone had opened the  
door

to the sun.  
Rag in hand,  
hair across my face,  
I turned to see  
who was coming in  
uninvited, unannounced.  
All I saw was a light bright  
against the wall.  
A voice.  
You will conceive  
the Son of the Most High  
who will save Israel.  
I stood afraid.  
Someone closed to the door  
and I dropped the rag.

\*Giotto (de Bondone) was a thirteenth/fourteenth century Italian painter

A number of things strike me: (1) The Lord is always drawing near to us, indeed, in the most ordinary events of our daily lives. It is so easy to not be paying attention to His closeness! (2) Is it necessary to make a distinction between the profane and the sacred? Is it not so that all around us and all within us are charged with the sacred? (3) For some reason, I like the phrase “light bright” rather than “bright light.” I remember us as kids, on Christmas morning, receiving a “Light Brite Set” from Santa. You created a picture with different colored bulbs, like “paint by number” but using bulbs instead. When you turned on the light which was inside the unit, your picture came alive with light.

On Monday, December 9, we celebrate the Solemn Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. Beware, though, because just above I described the Immaculate Conception of Jesus. Monday’s feast celebrates the Conception of Mary in the womb of her mother, Anne. During the pregnancy and after, Joachim was there every step of the way to love and support his wife and his daughter.

The mystery of Mary’s Conception was proclaimed as an infallible teaching of the Roman Catholic Church by Pope Pius IX in 1854. Because of Mary’s upcoming holy role to become the Mother of God, the Church proclaims that no stain of original sin ever touched her. The grace of Jesus’ Passion and Death, saving us all from sin forever, was applied to Mary all those years even before Jesus’ Death. The phrase prevenient grace in the Prayer over the Gifts at this Feast’s Mass captures this mystery.

Then on Thursday, December 12, the Church remembers Our Lady of Guadalupe (She who crushes the serpent of stone.) This is a huge feast among our Hispanic sisters and brothers. On December 9, 1531, on a hill called Tepeyac, just outside Mexico City, Mary appeared to the peasant farmer, Saint Juan Diego. He was on his way to daily Mass. Mary, appearing as a Mestizo companion, dressed in the robes of an Aztec princess, requested that Juan Diego go to the Bishop to report that Our Lady of Guadalupe wanted a basilica to be constructed on that hill.

This is the dialogue between Juan and Mother Mary, so beautiful:

Juan Diego: I beg you, entrust your mission to one of the important persons who is well known, respected, and esteemed. You know I am a nobody, a nothing... You have sent me to walk in places where I do not belong.

Our Lady: My dear little son, let nothing discourage you, nothing depress you. Am I not here who am your Mother? Are you not in the folds of my mantle, in the crossing of my arms? Is there anything else you need?

Mary, a brave and relentless advocate of our sisters and brothers who are poor, oppressed, and pushed to the side by the powerful and rich of the world, is not some meek and mild, plaster-of-Paris-like statue, all gussied up in flowing blue satin robes. No, not at all! Mary is an undaunted Mother, fierce and always standing on the side of our marginal sisters and brothers.

On Our Lady of Guadalupe's Feast, let us pray:

- O God, you choose the little ones of the world to confound the mighty. Give us true humility of spirit... Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us.
- The image of the Mother and your Son was imprinted on the garment of Saint Juan Diego with features of his race. Imprint within us a fearless acceptance of all races and peoples... Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us.
- In Jesus, the Incarnate Word, you have shown us that you are ever close to us. Have mercy on the downtrodden, our immigrant sisters and brothers across this land, the abused and neglected of the world ... Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us.
- Through Saint Juan Diego, you showed your love for the simple and the humble. Forgive us the injustices imposed on native peoples of the earth and redress the wrongs they have suffered... Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us. (These prayers are taken from the People's Companion to the Breviary, the Carmelite Sisters of Indianapolis, 1971)

Lord God, may we who rejoice in Our Lady of Guadalupe live united and at peace in this world until the day of the Lord dawns in glory. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

# STAFF AND OTHER CONTACTS

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Office Closed on Fridays

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

**Finance Council Chair**  
Sarah Higgins | 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 Kate Minczeski for  
more information.

Trivia Answer:  
Pope Paul VI

