



312 S State Street
 Appleton, WI 54911
 920-739-5119
 stmary@stmaryparish.org



Ripples of Gods love...Through our hearts, to all hearts

1.12.2025

Your Ministers & Support Staff

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

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

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

Tom Walter (Ext. 114)
 Minister of Liturgy and Music
 twalter@stmaryparish.org
 cell (920)-422-8669

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

Kate Minczeski (Ext. 110)
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 kminczeski@stmaryparish.org

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 Minister of Parish Vitality
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 Communication Coordinator
 mkozoroz@stmaryparish.org

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

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

Mass Times

Saturday	4:30pm
Sunday	7:45am 9:45am 5:30pm
Monday	12:05pm
Tuesday	No mass
Wednesday	No mass
Thursday	12:05pm
Friday	No mass

Important Contacts

Parish Office Hours

St. Mary Contact/Hours: 920-739-5119
 Mon-Thurs, 9am-4pm Office Closed
 on Fridays
 Extended hours till 6:30pm on
 Wednesdays

Call office for all information on:
 Funeral Information -Tom Walter
 Confession times-Saturdays 9-10am
 St. Mary Cemetery-(920) 882-4158
 cemetery@stmaryparish.org Website:
 stmaryparishcemetery.org

Xavier Catholic Schools-(920) 735-9380

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.

Mass Intentions

Sat., Jan 11, 4:30pm	Eugene Dannecker
Sun., Jan 12, 7:45am 9:45am 5:30pm	Janice Clark Molly Grow
Mon., Jan 13, 12:05pm	
Tue., Jan 14, 8:00am	Mass at St. Bernard Parish
Wed., Jan 15, 8:00am	Mass at St. Bernard Parish w/ Fr. Bill
Thur., Jan 16, 12:05pm	
Sat., Jan 18, 4:30pm	Jaunilla Michels Corry
Sun., Jan 19, 7:45am 9:45am 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.

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

EVENTS CALENDARS

Saturday, Jan 11

9:00am Confession
1:30pm Isabel Cole/Jonah Casimir Wedding-Guest Priest
4:30pm Mass
4:30pm St. Joe's Food Program Collection-before mass

Sunday, Jan 12

7:45am St. Joe's Food Program Collection
Coffee & Donuts
7:45am Mass
9:45am Mass (Livestreamed)
11:00am Flock of Sparrows/LL5
5:30pm Mass

Monday, Jan 13

12:05pm Mass
6:00pm SMP Grief Support Group/Chapel @ SMP

Tuesday, Jan 14

9:00am Connect Group/LL7
9:00am Removing Christmas Trees and Decorations
2:00pm Rosary Prayer group

Wednesday, Jan 15

8:00am Quilting/Community Rm
9:00am Connect Group/LL7
9:00am Janice Mayer Visitation
10:00am Dan Lauer Funeral service at Wichmann w/Dcn. Gerry
11:00am Janice Mayer Funeral
4:30pm Adoration
4:45pm Beacon Faith Formation 1st -5th grade
6:30pm Beacon Faith Formation 6th -11th grade

Thursday, Jan 16

12:05pm Mass
1:00pm Hooks & Needles/Community Rm
6:00pm Adult Choir

Friday, Jan 17

Parish Office Closed

Saturday, 18

9:00am THEO greif group
9:00am Confession
4:30pm Mass

Sunday, Jan 19

Coffee & Donuts
7:45am Mass
9:45am Mass (Livestreamed) Mass/Virtual Mass Livestreamed
(C S Dziewit Baptism)
11:00am Flock of Sparrows/LL5
5:30pm Mass



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

Finance Council Chair
Sarah Higgins | fcchair@stmaryparish.org



HOLY



Question
Which saint is known
as the first martyr?



GRATITUDE & GIVING



Christmas Flower Donations and Memorials

Amy Merwald: In loving memory of Lewis & Patricia Skarda



ST. JOSEPH FOOD PROGRAM

Fighting Hunger  Sustaining Hope



The St. Joseph Food Program will be holding an international food collection on January 11th and 12th. We invite you to contribute items that reflect your heritage, such as ingredients for Italian, Mexican, German, Chinese, Dutch, French, or Irish cuisine. Please ensure that all donations are non-perishable, not in glass containers, and within their use-by dates. Thank you for your generosity.

St. Mary

Grief Support

Our next session starts January 13th, 2025

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Dealing with the loss of a loved one ranks as one of life's toughest challenges. Your faith family is here to help. This January, join us for an 8-week grief support program designed to accompany you on your journey and provide information and strategies to help you understand and deal with your loss.

- Monday evenings 6-8 PM starting January 13
- Facilitated by Chip Acker & Thomas Walter
(Certified ICare Specialists, International Grief Institute)
- Sessions are **free**; group size limited to 10 participants

cacker@stmaryparish.org • 920-882-4158

twalter@stmaryparish.org • 920-739-5119





GRATITUDE & GIVING



LOOKING FOR

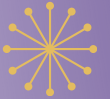


Handbell Choir Volunteers

THE BELLS OF ST. MARY HANDBELL CHOIR IS
LOOKING FOR PEOPLE INTERESTED IN
MINISTERING THROUGH MUSIC.
WE WOULD LIKE TO START REHEARSALS BY
JANUARY 27TH.



IF YOU'D LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE
HANDBELLS AND HOW TO JOIN THE CHOIR,
CONTACT MARTHA PAALMAN AT
MPAALMAN@STMARYPARISH.ORG.



**COFFEE &
DONUTS**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

REMOVING CHRISTMAS TREES

Tuesday, January 14th 9:00am.

We will be removing the trees
and Christmas decorations at
church. Your help would be
much appreciated.

Trivia Answer
St Stephen

Father Bill's Birthday Celebration



With heartfelt gratitude from Father Bill and the entire St. Mary staff, we thank you for helping to make his birthday truly special.



GRATITUDE & GIVING



2024
 Christmas
 Eve Pageant
 Thank you, Kids!





ST. MARY - APPLETON shamrock shenanigans *It's time to party again!*

March 15, 2025 at 6pm

The Fox Club, Timber Rattler Stadium

An evening of music, games, libations, and general merriment

Donation Information

Please note - we are not holding a basket raffle this year. We are looking for a few items for game prizes as well as items for the silent auction. We'd especially love to feature experiences or unique items; e.g. a home-baked dessert, a pontoon ride around the lake, time at a vacation rental, event tickets, or a gourmet meal. Questions? Ready to donate? Call Kathie Shadick at 920-427-8282.



Sponsor Shamrock Shenanigans

Why sponsor? We are dedicated to keeping Shamrock Shenanigans an affordable community event, and sponsors help us meet that goal.

NEW! Ticket Sponsors. Sponsor tickets for those who may not otherwise be able to attend. Please indicate below how many you would like to sponsor.

- Blarney \$50-249
- Smithwick's \$250-499
- Guinness \$500-999
- Jameson \$1000+
-

Name to be printed on promotional materials

Needed for donation receipt

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Donor Name

Business Name (if applicable) _____

*Mail or return this form to parish office by **FEB. 27, 2025** to be included on promotional materials.*





AREA NEWS & EVENTS



Xavier Registration and & Preview Night



You're invited to **Xavier High School
Registration Nights**

**January 27 OR 28 at 7 pm
in the XHS Theater**

Reserve
your spot
at
[bit.ly/REG
NIGHTS](http://bit.ly/REG
NIGHTS)



Course information, guidance with course selection, and tours will be available at the event.

More info at 920-733-6632



XAVIER ELEMENTARY
PK3 • 4K • KINDERGARTEN
THURS., JANUARY 23
5:00 - 6:30 P.M.

Reserve your spot at bit.ly/xeh2025 or



More info available at admissions@xaviercatholicschools.org/(920)735-9380



XAVIER MIDDLE SCHOOL

PREVIEW NIGHT

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22ND
6:30-8:00 P.M.

Reserve your spot at bit.ly/xmspn25 or



Admissions@XavierCatholicSchools.org/(920)735-9380



ENTRUST

DISCIPLES ON MISSION RETREAT

During this weekend intensive, attendees will receive the formation and practice for how to walk with others in their journey of faith. Thanks to the generosity of the Bishop's Appeal, this retreat is **free of charge** for staff, volunteers, and parishioners within the Diocese of Green Bay.

ST. BERNADETTE & ST. MARY

Friday, February 21

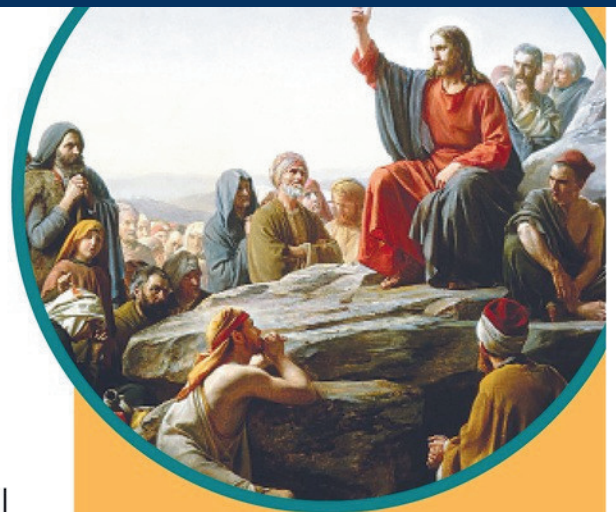
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 22

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

St. Bernadette Parish

2331 E Lourdes Drive
Appleton, WI 54915



SESSIONS INCLUDE:

- A New Pentecost
- Unpacking Missionary Discipleship
- Holy Spirit: The Flame of Divine Love
- Knowing & Sharing the Kerygma
- Knowing & Sharing Your Testimony
- The Art of Listening & Hospitality
- Discipling Others into Missionary Disciples
- Missionary Discipleship Practicum

"And what you have heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others as well." - 2 Timothy 2:2

Want to learn more or register?

www.gbdioc.org/entrust



Diocese of
Green Bay



AREA NEWS & EVENTS



JAN 30 - FEB 2, 2025

TRADITIONAL MEN'S RETREAT

Jesuit Retreat House on Lake Winnebago

Based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignasius of Loyola, this preached weekend retreat will provide a quiet opportunity to briefly step outside your day-to-day demands and distractions to renew and reinvigorate your faith and your relationship with God. This year's retreat director is Fr. Eric Immel, SJ who comes highly recommended by previous attendees of his retreats. Please feel free to text or call any of the coordinators of this year's retreat with any questions:

Jim Richter (920) 850-1813

Glenn Higgins (920) 716-8588

Joe Drusch (920) 851-3035

Open to Men of All
Ages

Open to Men of All
Faiths

Thursday 6 pm
until Sunday noon

Private room and
bath for retreat

ADA Accessible

Jesuit Retreat House

4800 Fahrwald Road

Oshkosh, WI

Register on Website:

jesuitretreathouse.org

or Call:

(920) 231-9060



AREA NEWS & EVENTS



LECTIO RETREAT WITH THE MISSIONARIES OF THE WORD FOR ALL AGES!

To live in Jesus, the Father's One Word...



SATURDAY, JANUARY
18TH 8AM-2PM AT ST.
PIUS X

This is an opportunity for all ages—bring your families. We will have break-out sessions for the different youth age groups in the Holy Family Hall led by the MOW Aspirants, with plenty of stories and games. Adults—young and old— and teens will gather in church for the presentation.

Babysitting provided for toddlers under 3.

SCHEDULE OF THE DAY:

- 8:00AM - Saturday morning Mass with a talk on Prayer after – Confessions will be available after Mass until 10AM
- 10:30-11:30AM - the Sisters will present Lectio Divina on the Sunday's scriptures
- A lunch for all will be provided. (Free will offering will be collected to cover some of the cost)
- 1:00PM - gather in our appropriate groups for Lectio
- 2:00PM - conclusion

Bring your Bibles and a journal for writing.

RSVP ONLINE OR BY FILLING OUT THE REGISTRATION BELOW BY JANUARY 13TH TO ST. PIUS X CATHOLIC CHURCH, 500 W. MARQUETTE ST., APPLETON, WI 54911

NAME (FIRST AND LAST): _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ NUMBER OF CHILDREN: _____

NUMBER OF ADULTS: _____ AGES OF CHILDREN: _____



In Joy + Sorrow

01.12.2025

ST. MARY PARISH-APPLETON

WITH FR. BILL SWICHTENBERG



In this Jubilee Year in the Universal Catholic Church and in our Spiritual Family of Saint Mary Parish, as we mark the 165th Anniversary of our Founding, we are a people on the lookout for signs of hope in this holy time of 2025!

There is always reason to have hope. We hold on tightly to the rope of the anchor, which is hope, always tethered closely to the Lord and to one another. Our Christian faith is tethered to the Holy Cross of Jesus. Nothing can stop His Love from being victorious. This hope never disappoints.

I am happy to announce two gifts of hope that Pope Francis gave the Church on the Traditional Feast of the Epiphany, Monday, January 6. (Not frankincense and myrrh!) Let me share these two announcements from the Holy See.

(I) The Holy Father has appointed the Reverend Sister Simona Brambilla, M.C., until now Secretary of the Dicastery for the Institutes of Consecrated Life and the Societies of Apostolic Life as Prefect of the same Curial Institution.

This is the first time in the history of the Catholic Church that a woman has been given the responsibility of heading up an Office of the Roman Curia. Interestingly, working closely with her in a subordinate position in the Dicastery will be a Cardinal. My friends, this is a huge step forward in affirming the dignity and gifts of women and placing them at the highest levels of decision-making and decision-taking in the Catholic Church. Notice the use of "Reverend" as a prefix in front of Sister's name!

(II) The Holy Father has appointed Cardinal Robert Walter McElroy as metropolitan archbishop of Washington, United States of America, transferring him from the diocese of San Diego, California, United States of America.

Pope Francis has given the Church an incredible gift in appointing this humble shepherd to our nation's capital. Cardinal McElroy has been on my radar for a number of years. His ministry in San Diego has been so beautiful as he is a servant leader who has the smell of God's sheep upon him. He has been an outspoken advocate for our immigrant sisters and brothers, so many of them at the border between San Diego and Mexico, affirming again and again their sacred dignity. Ditto the Cardinal's strong advocacy for the Church to be a place of welcome and affirmation of our sisters and brothers in the LGBTQ+ community.

Introduced on Monday to the People of God in Washington, DC, Cardinal McElroy spoke beautifully about Pope Francis' dream for a synodal Church. He was one of the delegates in both sessions of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops: For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission, meeting in October of 2023 and 2024.

The Cardinal is a brilliant intellect in the American Church. He has a doctorate in political science from Stanford and a doctorate in moral theology. He is well known for his compassionate and tender style.

David Gibson, director of Fordham University's Center on Religion and Culture, highlighted some of the political implications of the appointment.

The appointment is about promoting solidarity over division, and building what Francis has called 'a better kind of politics' rather than indulging in the worst kind of partisanship. McElroy has been one of the American church's most articulate voices for unity rather than culture warring, grace over grievance. He is the rare bishop in the U.S. hierarchy who, on a practical level, possesses both the heart and mind that can give voice to a truly Catholic and 'catholic' vision. That vision...will serve as a model for Catholics in the public square and at the ballot box." (From National Catholic Reporter, Jan 7)

Cardinal McElroy wrote this letter to the priests of the Diocese of San Diego on Monday, Jan 6:

"Today Pope Francis announced my appointment as archbishop of Washington. It is a wonderful Diocese with splendid priests and lay leaders, vibrant in faith and compassionate in heart.

Yet still I feel great sadness in leaving the diocese of San Diego, where a large part of my heart will continue to be. And a great deal of that sadness arises from the wonderful presence that the priests of San Diego have been in my heart and in my ministry during these past ten years. The strength of your commitment to God and the service of His people on every level has been the foundation for carrying out the work of the Lord during my tenure. And your kindness to me when I had to do difficult things or got it wrong has been immensely consoling. Ours is an exemplary presbyterate, and I hope that you all know that with as much certainty as I do."

For many reasons (the bold highlights are mine), this letter is so beautiful. As a priest, I feel affirmation for my own ministry, coming as it does all the way from San Diego.

Finally, let me share with you a portion of Pope Francis' Letter to the twenty-one newest Cardinals in our Church, which he wrote on October 6 of last year. The 21 Cardinals received their rings and red birettas from Pope Francis on Saturday, Dec 7, the day before the celebration of the reopening of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris.

I know the Pope's sentiments would resonate with the new eighth Archbishop of Washington, as well as with Archbishop Wilton Cardinal Gregory, who, after such a beautiful witness in our nation's capital since 2019, enters into a well-deserved time of retirement. The US Church is deeply grateful to Cardinal Gregory for his holy ministry. He played a crucial role as President of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops during the explosion of the clergy sex abuse scandal in 2000 and in adopting the Dallas Charter to Protect God's Children.

Here's Pope Francis:

I urge you to make every effort as a Cardinal to embody the three attitudes with which an Argentinian poet (Francisco Luis Bernárdez) once characterized Saint John of the Cross, and which are also applicable to us: "eyes raised, hands joined, feet bare."

Eyes raised, because your service will require you to lengthen your gaze and broaden your heart, in order to see farther and to love more expansively and with greater fervour. To sit with John of the Cross "at the school of his gaze" (Pope Benedict XVI), which is the pierced side of Christ.

Hands joined, because what the Church most needs – together with the preaching of the Gospel – is your prayer to be able to shepherd well the flock of Christ. Prayer is the realm of discernment that helps me to seek and discover God's will for our people, and to follow it.

Feet bare, because they touch the harsh realities of all those parts of the world overwhelmed by the pain and suffering due to war, discrimination, persecution, hunger and many forms of poverty; these will demand from you great compassion and mercy.

I thank you for your generosity and I assure you of my prayers that the title of "Servant" ("deacon") will increasingly eclipse that of "Eminence".

May the Holy Spirit spread Her Gentle Wings of Wisdom, Courage, and Humility over Sister Brambilla and Cardinal McElroy!

Hope never disappoints!

Fr. Bill +