

MARCH 16 THROUGH MARCH 29 // 2025

ST. MARY PARISH

312 SOUTH STATE STREET • APPLETON, WI 54911

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



YOU ARE MY CHOSEN PEOPLE. I LOVE YOU.

BULLETIN

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

Pastor - Fr. Bill Swichtenberg

wdswitz@stmaryparish.org

cell 920-422-4316

Cemetery Info

cacker@stmaryparish.org

cell 920-882-4158

STATIONS OF THE CROSS & SOUP SUPPER

Thursdays at 5:30pm
Stations first, soup to follow

Sign-up to make soup,
desserts or volunteer!

March 6 – St. Mary
March 13 – St. Joseph
March 20 – St. Mary
March 27 – St. Joseph
April 3 – St. Mary
April 10 – St. Joseph



Everyone, young and old,
Catholic and non-Catholic, can
take part in this prayerful and
popular Lenten tradition.

SIGN UP NOW



<https://bit.ly/42F27QS>



LENTEN EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Fridays 9am-9pm
Saturdays 8am to noon

Enter door 3
Parking lot behind church
In the chapel
Mar 7 - Apr 12

Sit with Jesus, find peace and
escape the noise.

SIGN UP or SHOW UP?



<https://bit.ly/40ZcTPf>



There is a children-friendly
adoration hour from 11am-Noon
every Friday during Lent

Hooks & Needles Craft Fair

Saturday and Sunday,
March 29 & 30th
after the 4:30, 7:45 & 9:45 mass

The Fair will be in the
Marian Way.
Proceeds from sales support
Pillars Food Ministry



COFFEE & DONUTS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



<https://bit.ly/4gCBclw>





PATHWAY
OF
HOPE

LENTEN ALMS PROJECT

Pathway of Hope is a Salvation Army approach to create a path out of poverty. They provide targeted services to families with children under the age of 18, both traditional and non-traditional family structures, that desire to break the cycle of crisis.

Through case management, we focus on a family's capabilities and raise hope by empowering them to

overcome barriers on the path to stability. Families set their own goals, and we partner with them to provide the resources needed to accomplish each one.

Contributions can be placed in the box in the back of church or sent to the parish office.



LENTEN JOURNEY ON MARCH 27TH

Everyone is welcome to join us
on a **Lenten Journey through
the eyes of Brother Ray!**

He is from St. Joe's in Appleton and this
presentation will be held in
Fellowship Hall from 6 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

Please join us for a wonderful
evening and invite your friends!



Question:
Who is Jorge Mario Bergoglio?

Kate's CORNER

Preparing for Lent with Formed

We're now in the third week of Lent, and by this point, you may be feeling the weight of the season. Maybe your Lenten promises have been challenging, or perhaps you're looking for ways to stay inspired. Remember, Lent isn't about perfection—it's about drawing closer to Christ. As Fr. Bill said on Ash Wednesday, Lent is a time to unplug, restart, and refocus...as many times as we need.

To help you continue your journey, St. Mary Parish invites you to explore FORMED, a free online resource filled with Catholic movies, studies, reflections, and more. Whether you need encouragement, a fresh perspective, or a new way to pray, FORMED offers something for everyone this Lent.

If you haven't had a chance to check out FORMED, use the following directions to create a FREE account.

Getting started is easy!

1. Visit www.formed.org
2. Click on "Find Your Parish Subscription"
3. Type in St. Mary Parish, Appleton and create your account
4. Browse and find content you like!

Don't know where to start?

Here are some of Kate's suggestions!

☐ Check out the series "How to Lent" coming to Formed February 12th.



St. Patrick's Day is right around the corner. Learn more about the history of St. Patrick through the two-film series titled "In the Footsteps of Saint Patrick," which was produced right in Ireland. The short series is an inspiring docu-drama and spiritual adventure that recreates Patrick's pilgrim journey through Ireland, using letters written by him, as well as Monastic records from the 10th Century. Once a slave of the Irish people, after his escape he discerned the call of God to return to them as a priest and evangelize the Irish with the Catholic faith. Follow that amazing journey to the many places of Patrick's adventure through Ireland.

As we enter the Lenten desert, let's embrace this time of prayer, reflection, and renewal. How is the Lord nudging you this Lent?

☐ There is still time to tap into a Lenten series.

A great way to spend 15-20 minutes a week in intentional time with Jesus is by watching one of the many powerful videos from the series "**Fearless: A Lenten Video Series**" featuring Chris Stefanick as he interviews a special guest each week. "Fearless" is a video series that will accompany you on your Lenten journey. Time and again, the people of God are called to 'be courageous' and 'be not afraid.' Yet, we live in a time where fear seems to guide our very existence. Watch one, a few, or all of the videos!

Kate Minczeski
Minister of Adult Discipleship





live your best life in love

Whether you've been
married 5 months
or 50 years,
Worldwide
Marriage
Encounter
is for you!

March 29 & 30
Neenah, WI



The Marriage Encounter experience is a heart haven that helps you listen, share, and connect more deeply. There's no group discussion. It's just about the two of you learning to be the best, most loving and thriving couple you can be.



Catholic Digital Citizenship

DATE: MARCH 25, 2025

LOCATION: XAVIER MIDDLE
SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

TIME: 6:00 PM

**JOIN US FOR A
PRESENTATION BY PAUL
SANFRANCESCO,
NATIONAL DIGITAL
CITIZENSHIP EDUCATOR,
CALLED "RAISING
CATHOLIC DIGITAL
LEARNERS: WHAT PARENTS
NEED TO KNOW TO
SURVIVE."**

Paul Sanfrancesco has worked in Catholic, private, and public education as a Teacher and Assistant Principal and in collegiate teaching at St. Joseph's University and Neumann University throughout the last 24 years. The National School Boards Association named him one of the "20 to watch" educators for his work in Instructional Technology.



ALL RISE!

THE NORTHEAST WISCONSIN PASSION PLAY
2025

*An original, uplifting dramatic musical based on the ministry,
teachings, Passion and Resurrection
of Our Lord*

7:00 pm April 10, 11, 12

1:00 pm April 12*, 13

* An American Sign Language interpreter will be provided
at the 1:00 pm performance on April 12.

Hearing Loop equipped.

Adult \$14 • Senior Citizen \$12 • Student \$9 (College & under)
Opening night discounts: Adult & Senior \$10 • Student \$6
Ticket prices do not include service fees on credit card purchases.
These fees are established by curbs, our box office vendor, and are nonrefundable.

www.newpassionplay.org • (920) 733-8840

Xavier Fine Arts Theatre Box Office Hours: Noon to 3:00 pm

Through March 26* Mondays & Wednesdays

March 31-April 11 Monday - Friday

Also open one hour before each performance

*Closed March 10-14 for spring break

Xavier Fine Arts Theatre • Appleton, WI
A Program of the St Francis Xavier Catholic School System

EMPTY TO FULL
E2F Pans



We have E2F (Empty To Full) pans to give out this weekend. They will be in the Marian Way. Three different recipes. There will be a copy of each recipe on the table for people to read. All the other instructions are in the pans. If anyone asks, they put the meal together according to the recipe and then freeze it. They do not bake it. It is to be brought to church frozen. They can be returned during the week when the office is open, Monday -Thursday. Someone in the office will put it in the freezer.

HOLY THURSDAY POTLUCK DINNER



We are thrilled to announce that our very own St. Mary tradition is making a comeback! Join us for a casual meal before Holy Thursday Mass begins at 7pm.

GROUND RULES:

Everyone is welcome. Bring someone along! Bring something to share. Anything goes. Have a specialty? Let's see it. Don't feel like cooking? Hit a drive through on the way. Bring enough for 10 people.

We provide water, wine, grape juice, milk, place settings, and unleavened bread.

THU, APRIL 17TH @ 5:30PM
St. Mary Parish-Appleton |
312 S. State St.



<https://bit.ly/4h017h0>





Let us pray

Evening worship experiences

Mary's Way March 20
Of the Cross | 5:30pm

Part of our Lenten Stations
 and Soup series



SPIRITUS

Lock out fears

LOCK-IN hope

OPEN TO STUDENTS IN GRADES 8-12

March 21 @7pm -
 March 22 @
 1:15pm

Mount Tabor Center
 522 2nd Street
 Menasha, WI 54952

SIGN UP HERE!

Please register for this event by filling out the Google form attached to the QR code above. Contact marinella@stmaryparish.org for any questions.



GB Diocese Council of Catholic Women Convention: The Joy of the Lord is My Strength. Saturday, April 12 at St. John the Baptist Parish, Howard. All women are invited to this gathering. The day begins with 8:00 AM Registration followed by 8:30 Mass with Fr. Matthew Simonar presiding.

Our speakers are Fr. Dave Pleier and Sr. Pam Biehl, OSF. There will also be a Continental Breakfast, luncheon, rosary for vocations, business meeting and an exhibit area with interesting exhibitors available throughout the day. The Green Bay DCCW Service Commission will collect for the Awaken, an outreach program to combat Human Trafficking. Registration is \$30 per person or \$125 for a group of five attendees. All registrations are due March 28. To receive a registration form or contact information visit our website at www.gbdcw.org and click on the Events tab.

LENTEN SPRING CLEAN OUT



ASH WEDNESDAY (March 5) - EARTH DAY (April 22)

Bring in these hard-to-get-rid of items:

- Christmas lights
- Batteries
- Printer Cartridges
- CDs/DVDs/BlueRay discs/albums
- Books/Magazines
- Egg cartons
- Reuseable grocery bags

Items will be reused or properly recycled by:

- Outagamie County Resource Recovery Park
- St. Joes Food Pantry
- Office Depot
- Half Price Books

Collection bins in the Marian Way



Sponsored by the St. Mary Care for Creation Ministry

Mass Intentions

Sat. Mar 15 4:30pm Fran & Bob Drephal

Sun. Mar 16 7:45am ---

9:45am Marge Brouillard

5:30pm ---

Mon. Mar 17 12:05pm ---

Thur. Mar 20 12:05pm ---

Sat. Mar 22 4:30pm Vernon & Alice McGinnis

Sun. Mar 23 7:45am ---

9:45am Molly Grow

5:30pm ---

Mon. Mar 24 12:05pm Jean Bradley

Thur. Mar 27 12:05pm Adam Ruh

Sat. Mar 29 4:30pm Donna & John Franeck Family

Sun. Mar 30 7:45am ---

9:45am Harry Morse

5:30pm ---



Please pray for the family and friends of those who have recently passed. May your memories comfort you at this time.

Mary Ellen Schwaller
February 24, 1932 - March 2, 2025

Mary Ellen Rushkofske
February 12, 1941 - March 3, 2025

Elizabeth Milhaupt
January 30, 1922 - March 4, 2025

Mary Ann Hanson
November 30, 1931 - March 9, 2025



Easter Flowers

Donations for Easter flowers can be dropped off at the parish office, mailed in, or put in the collection basket. Please include your name and if you want the flowers to be in memory of a loved one, please include the name. Donations need to be in by Palm Sunday. Thank you for your generosity!

Please Print Clearly

Your name: _____

Amount: _____

Please Circle one: Cash or Check (Check #):

In Memory of:

2025 BISHOP'S APPEAL

GOAL \$72,433

60,360

48,288

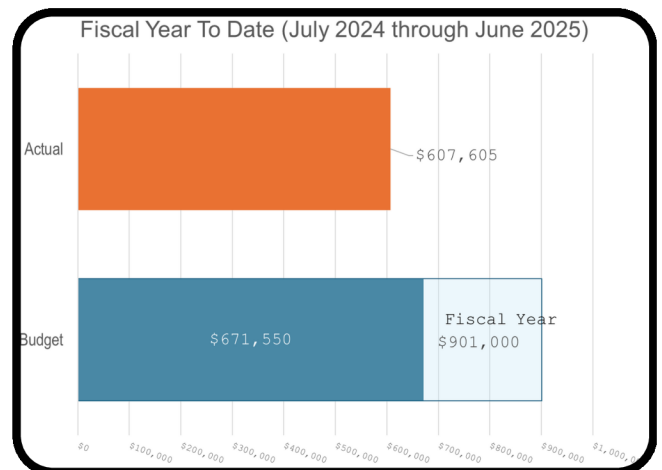
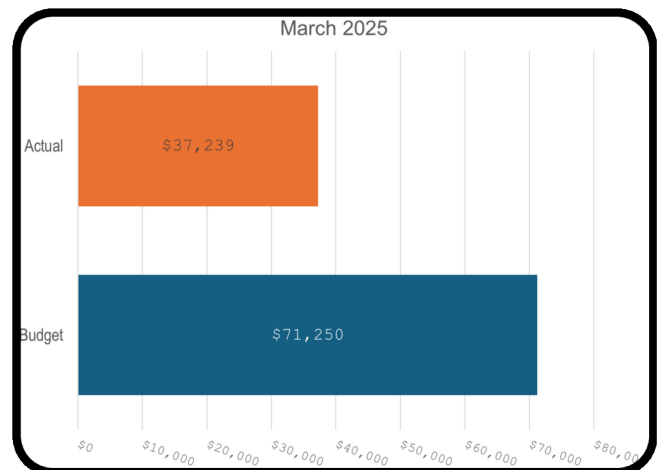
36,216

24,144

12,072



Offertory Information



EVENTS CALENDARS

Week of MARCH 15-21

Saturday, Mar 15

E2F Pan hand out

8:00am - 12:00pm Adoration

9:00am THEO

9:00am Confessions

4:30pm Mass - Anointing at all Masses

6:00pm Shamrock Shenanigans Event

Sunday, Mar 16

E2F Pan hand out

Coffee & Donuts after morning masses

7:45am Mass-Anointing

9:45am Mass /Livestreamed -Anointing

5:30pm Mass -Anointing

Monday, Mar 17

12:05pm Mass

6:30 Handbell practice

Tuesday, Mar 18

9:30am Connect Group/LL7

1:00pm Prayer Shawl Group at St Joe's LL112

1:00pm Book Club/LL7

2:00pm Rosary Prayer group

6:30pm Matthew 25-Community Room

6:30pm Connect Group/LL7

Wednesday, Mar 19

8:00am Quilting/CR

9:00am Connect Group

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

5:00 Flock of Sparrows/LL5

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

6:30pm Confirmation Class

Thursday, Mar 20

12:05pm Mass

1:00pm Hooks & Needles/CR

5:30pm Mary's Way of the Cross & Soup Supper

6:00pm Adult Choir

6:00pm Lenten Small Group/LL3, LL1, St.Anne Rm

6:30pm Small Group/LL7

Friday, Mar 21

Parish Office Closed

7:00am-4:00pm Bridges Staff Dev./St. Anne Rm

9:00am - 9:00pm Adoration

9:00am Small Group/LL7



Week of March 22-29

Saturday, Mar 22

E2F Pan return day

8:00am - 12:00pm Adoration

9:00am Confession

4:30pm Mass/Katie Schmanski from Pathway of Hope

Sunday, Mar 23

E2F Pan return day

Coffee & Donuts after morning masses

7:45am Mass/Katie Schmanski from Pathway of Hope

9:45am Mass /LS/Katie Schmanski from Pathway of Hope

5:30pm Mass/Katie Schmanski from Pathway of Hope

Monday, Mar 24

12:05pm Mass

6:30pm Handbell practice

Tuesday, Mar 25

9:30am Connect/LL7

9:00am Mary Ann Hanson Visitation

11:00am Mary Ann Hanson Funeral

12:00am Mary Ann Hanson Luncheon

2:00pm Rosary Prayer group

6:30pm Connect/LL7

Wednesday, Mar 26

9:30am Connect Group/Kitchen

Thursday, Mar 27

12:05pm Mass

6:00pm Lenten Small Group/LL3,LL1, St. Anne

6:00pm Adult Choir

6:30pm Small Group/LL7

Friday, Mar 28

Parish Office Closed

9:00am - 9:00pm Adoration

9:00am Small Group/LL7

Saturday, Mar 29

8:00am - 12:00pm Adoration

9:00am Confession

4:30pm Mass

5:30pm Spring Hooks & Needles Craft Sale



Answer:

Pope Francis, born in 1936 and ordained a Jesuit priest in 1969. He chose Francis as his papal name in honour of Saint Francis of Assisi

Clergy

Pastor, Fr. Bill Swichtenberg

wdswitz@stmaryparish.org
cell 920-422-4316

Deacon Gerry Schraufnagel

schraufnagel@stmaryparish.org
cell 920-540-9594

Pastoral Team

Nadine Duncan (Ext. 116)

Director of Pastoral
Administration
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Lori Lavalle (Ext. 121)

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Kate Minczeski (Ext. 110)

Minister of Adult Disciples
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Tracy Turba (Ext. 119)

Minister of Young Disciples
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Tom Walter (Ext. 114)

Minister of Liturgy and Music
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cell (920)-422-8669

Parish Leadership

Kara Main

Pastoral Leadership
Council Chair
plc@stmaryparish.org

Sarah Higgins

Finance Council Chair
fcchair@stmaryparish.org

Business Office

Chris Higgins (Ext. 102)

Director of Business
Administration
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Kristina Resterhouse (Ext.

101) Administrative Assistant
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Mary Ellen Fisher (Ext. 103)

Bookkeeping Assistant
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Michael Kozoroz (Ext 100)

Communication Coordinator
mkozoroz@stmaryparish.org

Facilities & Cemetery

Chip Acker

cacker@stmaryparish.org
cell 920-882-4158

Chad Tisdell

ctisdell@stmaryparish.org

Important Contacts

Parish Office Hours:

920-739-5119
Mon, Tues, Thurs, 9am-4pm
Wednesday, 9am-6:30pm
Office Closed on Fridays

Sacrament of Matrimony

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

Funeral Information

Contact Tom Walter
cell (920)-422-8669

Mass Intentions

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

Confession times:

Saturdays 9-10am, or by
appointment

Parish Website:

stmaryparish.org

Cemetery Website:

stmaryparishcemetery.org

No Wed Adoration during Lent

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.

Prayer Requests:

Contact Laurie Richter
laurierichter@gmail.com
Mary Jo Zilisch (920-734-1182) or
Ann Walkowski (920-428-0969)



SCAN ME

in Joy & SORROW

ST MARY PARISH - APPLETON // 3.15.2025

WITH FR. BILL SWICHTENBERG



IT SHOULD COME AS NO SURPRISE THAT I AM A VORACIOUS READER OF ALL THINGS THAT ARE CATHOLIC.

Included in that long list of books and monthly and weekly journals is The National Catholic Reporter. This is a publication that is focussed on the ministry of Pope Francis and his dream for a Synodal Church, always grounded in the teachings of Vatican Council II, with contributions from theologians who are provocative and forward thinking. The NCR should not be confused with the National Catholic Register, which, in my humble opinion, sometimes presents a narrow view on what it means to be Catholic. I believe the Register is affiliated with the Eternal World Television Network (EWTN), of which I am not a big fan. EWTN's disrespect for Pope Francis appalls me.

I have always paid close attention to the contributions of Daniel Horan to the NCR. I find his study to be prophetic, courageous and in keeping with the spirit of synodality which Pope Francis has

I find his study to be prophetic, courageous and in keeping with the spirit of synodality which Pope Francis has declared constitutive of what it means to be Church.

declared constitutive of what it means to be Church.

Last fall, after a hard period of prayerful discernment, Fr Dan decided to leave the Order of Friars Minor. He announced his decision on the Feast of the Transitus of Saint Francis of Assisi, October 4. The *Transitus* refers to St Francis' passing from this life to eternal life. For the friend of Jesus, death is not the enemy nor does it end our lives. Death is a birth into eternal life.

In a sense, not just at the end of our lives but throughout our lives, there are moments of *transitus*. I am filled with hope when I encounter in my own life and in the lives of others a willingness to be open to something new. To change one's mind and heart is a beautiful thing. To encourage a new perspective that is contributed by someone else, not something that you or I thought of, is a beautiful thing.

The NCR stretches me to consider new ideas and perspectives. I find Mr Horan's contributions stimulating.

Recently I learned the storyline of the 1959 play "Rhinoceros" by the Romanian-French writer Eugene Ionesco. The setting is a small town where the protagonist named Berenger, while talking with his friend, Jean, in a cafe, witnesses a rhinoceros running through the street. At first, Jean tries to convince Berenger that he is imagining things or daydreaming, but over the course of the three-act play more and more people in the town turn into rhinoceroses. Eventually Berenger's initially dismissive and

skeptical friend, Jean, also turns into one, as does his love interest, Daisy.

Let me quote from Dan Horan here (NCR, 3.6.25):

Ionesco's creative framing highlights the dangers of mass mentality, group thinking, and social pressures to conform and the chaos that can ensue as a result.

It's not just fear that leads many of the humans to turn into rhinoceroses. Instead, there is a shift in desire, a cultural repositioning and social construction that results in many actually wanting to become a rhinoceros in the end. They long to be part of the crowd and, fairly quickly, collectively move from fearing the dangerous beasts to hoping to become one of them.

Throughout the play, Berenger resists the transformation and struggles to hold onto his humanity in the face of pressure from his friends and neighbors who embrace their new animalistic identities. In the last scene of the play, when it appears that every other human has transformed into a rhinoceros, Berenger offers a soliloquy in which he momentarily thinks that perhaps he made a mistake, that maybe he, too, should have given in and joined the mass movement by becoming a rhinoceros.

But in the last lines of the play, he appears to snap out of that brief self-doubt to proclaim: "People who try to hang on to their individuality always come to a bad end! Oh well, too bad! I'll take on the whole of them! I'll put up a fight against the lot of them, the whole lot of them! I'm the last man left, and I'm staying that way until the end. I'm not capitulating!"

Ionesco's play has long been interpreted as a cautionary tale about the conformity that leads to totalitarianism and the ease with which people, often ordinary people of goodwill, can be swept into dangerous ideologies.

Being an expert on all things having to do with the Trappist monk, Father Thomas Merton, Mr Horan refers to Fr Merton's essay in 1965 titled "Rain and the Rhinoceros."

[Merton] believed there is a moral imperative that Christians have to resist the dehumanizing ideologies that result from the kind of collective thinking represented by Ionesco's rhinoceros.

Merton explains that this kind of dangerous collectivity "needs not only to absorb everyone it can, but also [needs] implicitly to hate and destroy whoever cannot be absorbed.

Paradoxically, one of the needs of collectivity is to reject certain classes, or races, or groups, in order to strengthen its own self-awareness by hating them instead of absorbing them."

Merton understood the challenge to maintain one's individuality and freedom, which he associated with one's "true self." The condition of the possibility of becoming part of the dangerous herd is the surrender of who we really are in order to put on a "false self."

Merton's spiritual wisdom and Ionesco's social criticism provide us with a warning about the dangers of joining the herd mentality and giving up one's individuality, distinctive perspective and moral compass.

As Ionesco's character Berenger notes, it is not easy to resist collective thinking, particularly

when you are convinced that it is the only way to succeed, be re-elected or obtain power or influence. However, those tempted to forgo their humanity to become a rhinoceros ought to reflect on the spiritual costs, too. For, as Jesus himself once asked, "What good would it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?" (Matthew 16:26).

I am reminded of the prophetic wisdom from the long-serving and long-suffering Congressman of Georgia, Representative John Lewis:

- "When you see something that is not right, not just, not fair, you have a moral obligation to say something. To do something."
- "We have been too quiet for too long. There comes a time when you have to say something. You have to make a little noise. You have to move your feet. This is the time."
- "We cannot thrive as a democracy when justice is reserved for only those with means."

I offer the above reflections for your thought and prayer as we move through these chaotic and troubling days in our nation and world.

Fr. Bill +