

ST. MARY

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Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8 AM to 4:30 PM

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150 Years of St. Mary Parish ~ Recognizing Our "Fathers"

Fathers... the men we traditionally rely on to provide for our needs. We want them to protect us, feed us, guide us, and most of all love us. We need them to be strong and demanding at times; tender and compassionate at others. To be blessed with such a man to call *Father*, whether it be at home or here at church, is truly a gift.

To read the history of St. Mary is to recognize the role that "our Fathers," particularly those with the title of Pastor, have played in assuring everything from our parish's very existence to today's bounty. We cannot imagine the stress that some of them have borne, nor the unique joy that can only come through such service to God. We simply say thank you to each of them and to the Lord above for leading them to St. Mary Parish.



Fr. J.N. Pfeiffer, 1859-1860

A missionary priest from Little Chute, considered the founder of St. Mary of the Seven Dolours.

Fr. Louis Dael 1860-1867 First Pastor

One of several priests who served the area before St. Mary was founded.



"(He) is a gentleman, well calculated to endear himself to his Church and favorably impress the public generally."
The Appleton Crescent, Oct. 20, 1860

Fr. William Wilkins 1867-1868

Fr. Benedict Smeddink 1868 (3 months)

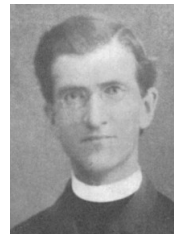
Fr. Edmund Walsh 1868 (3 months)

Fr. Anthony Verbeck 1868-1872

Fr. Bonfiglio Baldi 1872-1875

Member of Servite Fathers; initiated construction current brick church.

Fr. Ferdinand Tanquay 1875-1887



"During his pastorate, the church was completed, the debt liquidated, a new parsonage erected, and the parish grew in strength and unity and took its place among the foremost in the diocese."
--1911 Golden Jubilee Booklet

Msgr. Walter Fitzmaurice 1881-1930



One of our most admired shepherds, "Fr. Fitz" served 49 years at St. Mary's, 43 as pastor. He built, from meager beginnings, a parish that served the educational, social and spiritual needs of the congregation and went beyond to the Appleton area. His death, it was reported, "shocked" the parish. *"Modest, retiring, a simple and beautiful character...His congregation loved him; to them, his death was an irreparable loss."*

-- 1933 Parish History

Fr. Leo Binder 1930-1931

Fr. James Meagher 1931-1937

Fr. William Grace 1938-1953

Msgr. Adam Grill 1954-1970

Fr. James Putnam 1970-1981

Fr. Robert Schiavone 1981-1986

Fr. Michael O'Rourke 1986-Present



It was with youth and a sense of innocence that Fr. Mike came to us in 1986. His looks may have changed but we continue to be blessed by his compassion and desire to be a window to God and His Son. In reflecting on his vocation, he says, "Priesthood has blessed me more than I could ever have dreamed." St. Mary Parish says in return, "You, Fr. Mike, have blessed us more than we could ever have dreamed. THANK YOU!"

TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
June 21, 2009

St. Mary Parish 150 Years of Faith

