

# Fourth Sunday of Advent



## CONNECT WITH US

312 S. State Street  
Appleton, WI 54911



920-739-5119  
stmaryparish.org  
stmary@stmaryparish.org

**BAPTISM** Contact Betsy in the parish office  
**CONFESSION** Saturdays, 9 AM & by appt. (privacy assured)  
**MARRIAGE** Congratulations! Contact Fr. Bill in the parish office at least 6 months before your planned wedding date.  
**ST MARY CEMETERY** 920-882-4158  
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**INTER-PARISH-RELIGIOUS FORMATION (IPRF)** 920-738-7413 / inter-parish.org  
Diane Cahall, Coordinator K-4  
Jennifer Schubring, Coordinator 5-8  
Ben Wolf, Coordinator 9-12



December 22, 2019

## THIS WEEK AT ST MARY

### Monday, December 23

5:00 PM Bell Choir Potluck/St. Anne Room  
6:30 PM Bell Choir Practice/Choir Loft  
8:00 PM Al-Anon/L6

### Tuesday, December 24

#### Office Closed

2:00 PM NO Rosary/Perpetual Help Devotions  
4:00 PM Mass/Church  
6:30 PM Mass/Church  
9:15 PM Sacred Music Concert/Church  
10:00 PM Mass/Church

### Wednesday, December 25 - Merry Christmas!

#### Office Closed

8:30 AM Mass/Church

### Thursday, December 26

#### Office Closed

12:05 PM Mass/Church  
7:00 PM Gamblers Anonymous/L6

### Friday, December 27

8:30 AM Mass/Chapel  
2:00 PM Eggerss-Altenburg Wedding

### Saturday, December 28

9:00 AM Confession  
4:30 PM Mass/Church

### Sunday, December 29

8:00 AM & 9:45 AM Mass/Church  
9:45 AM Sunday Children's Programming/L2

## END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS

The IRS requires donations to be received ON or BEFORE Dec. 31, 2019 to qualify for your 2019 deductions. The parish office will be closed on Dec. 31 & Jan. 1 (we will be open 8am-4:30pm on Monday, December 30). Checks intended for 2020 MUST be dated 1-1-2020 or after. Thank you for your financial support!

## WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Mon., December 23  | 12:05 PM Mass at St. Joseph                                   |
| Tue., December 24  | 4:00 PM Fr. Mike O'Rourke                                     |
|                    | 6:30 PM Maurie DeBruin  |
|                    | 10:00 PM Joanie Streck  |
| Wed., December 25  | 8:30 AM Frank & Lois Olson                                    |
| Thur., December 26 | 12:05 PM Spiritual & Physical Well-being of Lee & Mary Hurley |
| Fri., December 27  | 8:30 AM Spiritual & Physical Well-being of Paul Gerard Engel  |
| Sat., December 28  | 4:30 PM Spiritual & Physical Well-being of Ellen Marie Hoover |
| Sun., December 29  | 8:00 AM Bryce & Ellen Spoehr                                  |
|                    | 9:45 AM Harold Hanson   |

## IN LOVING MEMORY



Please pray for the family of Nell Krupp. May fond memories comfort you at this time. If you have lost a loved one and would like him or her to be remembered in the bulletin, call the parish office at 739-5119.

## CONTRIBUTIONS

Weekend—\$8,454.00  
Office—\$34,112.65    Children's—\$23.00

## PRAYER NEEDS

Contact Mary Jo Zilisch (920-734-1182 or 920-843-1249) or Laurie Richter (laurierichter@gmail.com) if you have a prayer need. Please remember the requests in our prayer baskets.

## WELCOME THE NEWEST MEMBER OF OUR PARISH FAMILY

• **LILLIAN GRACE**,  
daughter of Nicholas and  
Cassandra Laszewski  
Baptized December 15, 2019



# PARISH CONTACTS



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



**Dcn. Gerry Schraufnagel**  
Minister of Pastoral Care  
cell 920-540-9594



**Betsy Pfantz-Hokamp**  
Minister of Family Life



**Mary Ann Otto**  
Minister of Missionary  
Discipleship



**Nadine Duncan**  
Minister of Neighborhood  
Pastoral Outreach &  
Parish Vitality



**Tom Walter**  
Minister of Liturgical Music



**Theresa Rohm**  
Minister of Business  
Administration



**Pam Acker**  
Minister of Bookkeeping



**Chip Acker**  
Minister of Cemetery &  
Facilities Management



**Ben Wolf**  
Youth Minister  
738-7413



**Joseph Galarowicz**  
Parish Trustee  
419-1166



**Ted Suess**  
Parish Trustee  
636-8855



**Cindy Boyer**  
Pastoral Leadership  
Council Chair 858-7345



**Mike Hurley**  
Finance Council Chair  
740-7077

Fourth Sunday of Advent



## WINDOW LIGHT DISPLAY

Now through Epiphany, take an evening drive past the display in our Marian Way windows along State Street. Tune your car radio to 89.5 FM to hear the story and enjoy music while you view the scene.

## LIVING NATIVITY & BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS

Don't miss the Indoor Living Nativity (in church) on December 22 from 6-8pm! Kids - stop in the Community Room to enjoy treats and make a craft. Bring items to donate for birthday bags at St. Joseph Food Pantry (cake mix, frosting, sprinkles, and candles) to help our neighbors in need. Help us celebrate the birthday of Baby Jesus!

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

**Christmas Eve: 4pm, 6:30pm, 10pm**

**Christmas Day: 8:30am**

New this year: we have a large digital screen to livestream Mass mounted in our freshly refurbished Community Room - which will also be gorgeously decorated for Christmas. The Community Room may come in especially handy for those with kids whose Christmas Spirit is running at full speed! To be clear - you are welcome and encouraged to sit anywhere with kiddos here at St. Mary, but if you feel you'd be able to enjoy Mass more if your little ones had some room to move, we've got you covered in the Community Room!

## SACRED MUSIC CONCERT ON CHRISTMAS EVE

The St. Mary Adult Choir and the Bells of St. Mary handbell choir will present a sacred music concert preceding the 10:00pm Mass on Christmas Eve. The concert will begin at 9:15pm in church.

## ST. MARY HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The parish office will be closed December 24-26 and December 31-January 1. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! You and your loved ones are always in our prayers!

## NO ROSARY/PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTIONS ON DECEMBER 24 OR 31

We'll begin again on January 7 - see you then!



December 22, 2019

# IN JOY & SORROW

With Fr. Bill Swichtenberg

I treasure Ann Weem's book of poetry, *Kneeling in Bethlehem*, and make a point to take it off of my shelf every Christmas Season. This book has become a good guide to my prayer during this holy time of the year. In that spirit, here is Ms. Weem's poem titled, "What Do I Want For Christmas?"

|                                       |                                      |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <i>What do I want for Christmas?</i>  | <i>to lay at the feet</i>            |
| <i>I want to kneel in Bethlehem,</i>  | <i>of him who gives life.</i>        |
| <i>the air thick with alleluias,</i>  | <i>What do I want for Christmas?</i> |
| <i>the angels singing</i>             | <i>To see in that stable</i>         |
| <i>that God is born among us.</i>     | <i>the whole world</i>               |
| <i>In the light of the Star,</i>      | <i>kneeling in thanks</i>            |
| <i>I want to see them come,</i>       | <i>for a promise kept:</i>           |
| <i>the wise ones and the humble.</i>  | <i>new life.</i>                     |
| <i>I want to see them come</i>        | <i>For in his nativity</i>           |
| <i>bearing whatever they treasure</i> | <i>we find ours.</i>                 |

Let us all spend time this Christmas Season in silence and stillness before our nativity scenes in Church and in our homes. Don't forget our Parish Family Window Nativity Scene as well! Parents and grandparents, bring our dear children before Jesus in the manger. Tell them the story of God's great love for us. Our God, the Creator of Billions of Galaxies, has made God's self so small so as to enter into our human nature. It would be as if you or I decided to make ourselves into goldfish, to hop into an aquarium, so to tell other goldfish some good news!

Saint Athanasius reminded us that our Good God became human, so that we might become divine. Christmas is about you and me becoming more like the Lord, knowing His Heart, and inviting the Lord to place His Heart into our hearts. Christmas is more than remembering something that happened a long time ago. Christmas is more than nostalgically remembering our childhoods. Christmas is more than children and grandchildren. Christmas is realizing that Jesus has entrusted us in our own time and place to bring his peace, joy, justice, and forgiveness into every situation in our lives. Christmas is about making the Lord's love visible in our own lives. The Lord's love is never selfish or manipulative; the Lord's love is never controlling or quid pro quo. The Lord's love is without

boundaries, always inclusive, and always magnificent. We love each other as Jesus loved us.

On the First Sunday of Advent, Pope Francis wrote a beautiful meditation on the "enchanted image of the Christmas creche." I would strongly encourage you to go on line, print it, and spend some time in prayer this Christmas Season letting the Holy Father guide you." Referring to the starry background of the Nativity Scene, Pope Francis writes, "We can think of all those times in our lives when we have experienced the darkness of night. Yet even then, God does not abandon us, but is there to answer our critical questions about the meaning of life. Who am I? Where do I come from? Why was I born at this time in history? Why do I love? Why do I suffer? Why will I die?"

Pope Francis mentions the symbolic figures we place into our Nativity Scenes. "First there are the beggars and the others who know only the wealth of the heart... The poor are a privileged part of this mystery; often they are the first to recognize God's presence in our midst... we are reminded that we cannot let ourselves be fooled by wealth and fleeting promises of happiness...By being born in a manger, God launches the only true revolution that can give hope and dignity to the disinherited and the outcast: the revolution of love, the revolution of tenderness."

Looking to Mary and Joseph, "the birth of a child awakens joy and wonder; it sets before us the great mystery of life. Seeing the bright eyes of a young couple gazing at their newborn child, we can understand the feelings of Mary and Joseph, who, as they looked at the Infant Jesus, sensed God's presence in their lives."

During these holiest of days, may you experience the Lord's tender closeness to you. Remember, too, that he entrusts you to share the Lord's tender closeness with all those you love, as well as with those who are strangers to you.

Merry Christmas!

Father Bill +



## ST. MARY JOB OPPORTUNITIES

St. Mary Parish is a vibrant parish that is fully embracing the transition from a model of maintenance to a model of mission with focus on missionary discipleship and evangelization. We are seeking two energetic, creative, and engaging individuals who are on fire with a love for Jesus and His church and are excited to share that love with our parish. Parish membership is essential.

- **Minister of Family Discipleship**

Full Time position including benefits. This position coordinates all family ministry activities at the parish, Baptism preparation, weekend children's liturgy programs, collaborates with our Religious Formation Program and Catholic school systems, and utilizes technology and social media to connect with parish families.

- **Administrative Assistant / Communications**

Part time (12-16 hrs/wk). Provides secretarial and communications support to the parish. Knowledge of Microsoft Office & Google experience necessary. Background in promotions, creation of print and online communication pieces, social media, and website management preferred.

To apply, contact St. Mary Business Manager Theresa Rohm at [trohm@stmaryparish.org](mailto:trohm@stmaryparish.org) or 920-739-5119.

## NEW! TECH/LOGISTICS TEAM

We've gotten a lot of positive feedback about some of the technology upgrades we've implemented - including using the Aquos board to enhance Father Bill's homilies and making video of those homilies available on our website. This is just the beginning! Do you have professional experience with or an interest in how technology can help us improve the way we connect with our parishioners and community? Work in the audio/visual field? Are you a social media expert? Do you know your way around sound equipment? We want you! Contact St. Mary Business Administrator Theresa Rohm at [trohm@stmaryparish.org](mailto:trohm@stmaryparish.org) or 739-5119.

## SHAMROCK SHENANIGANS III

St. Mary Parish parishioners: in the Marian Way, beginning on the weekend of December 21-22, there is an envelope with your name that has your raffle tickets to support the St. Mary Parish Shamrock Shenanigans III fundraiser. Purchase the tickets yourself or sell them to family and friends. Extra tickets are available in the Marian Way.

Save the date! Shamrock Shenanigans III is scheduled for March 13, 2020 at Waverly Beach in Menasha. Invite your adult family and friends for a night of fun, food, games, music, silent auctions and bucket raffles.

## E-GIVING WITH FAITH DIRECT

During Advent we prepare our minds and hearts for the real meaning of Christmas - the birth of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. As we reflect on the upcoming Christmas season, it is likely that we will be busy with parties and family gatherings. That's where eGiving with Faith Direct can help simplify your life. By supporting St. Mary Parish, both you and our parish can save some time and peace of mind this holiday season.

Signing up is easy! Just find the "Donate" button at [stmaryparish.org](http://stmaryparish.org) or text the word ENROLL to 920-294-1189. Already using Faith Direct? Log in to add your Christmas or End-of-Year contributions to your account, or text a dollar amount to 920-294-1189 to make a one-time gift today!

## ST. MARY SECURITY TEAM

We're looking for parish members to join the St. Mary Security Team. Ushers and anyone with security, military, medical, or law enforcement experience are encouraged to join. Our team members will help keep our parish safe during Mass and special events. If you have questions or are interested in joining, contact Michael Ste.Marie (920-810-1261 or [freecompanion7@gmail.com](mailto:freecompanion7@gmail.com)).



December 22, 2019

## THANK YOU CHRISTMAS STARS

Christmas Stars was phenomenal once again this year! Over 40 women, men, and children from St. Mary played a role in making the show a success as singers, dancers, backstage crew members, or helpers at cast dinners. Thank you to these St. Mary family members for your hard work and for bringing the joy of Christmas to our community!

## NEEDS TREE & ST. NICK GIVING WEEKEND RECAP

Together, we racked up some impressive numbers for our annual Needs Tree Project! This year, there were a total of 410 tags on the trees. 406 were filled by you and the remaining 4 were filled by the Human Concerns Committee. We were able to make the holidays brighter for 13 nursing or group homes and 8 individual families!

On St. Nick Giving Weekend, we collected 300 gifts that went to Pillars and the Harbor House.

Thank you again to all who generously donated to these projects. Our Human Concerns Committee would like to stress that they would be unable to touch so many lives without each parish family member that helps out. We are making a difference together!

## HANDY MEN & WOMEN NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to help insulate our parish garage. Skill with staple gun, screwgun, and circular saw a plus. Refreshments will be provided! Date to be determined. If interested, email Chip at [cacker@stmaryparish.org](mailto:cacker@stmaryparish.org).

## STAY CONNECTED WITH FLOCKNOTE

To receive event updates, weekly news, student service hour opportunities, emergency cancellations, and more from St. Mary, text **stmaryapple** to **84576**. You'll be able to create an account and manage your preferences.

I alone cannot  
*Change the world,*  
but *I can* cast a pebble  
across the water to  
*Create many ripples.*  
- St. Mother Teresa

## IPRF NEWS

No classes on December 31, January 1 or January 8. Have a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year! See you on January 15!

## XAVIER REGISTRATION NIGHTS

### • XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL

Set a course for success! Join us in the XHS Theatre on Monday, January 27 or Tuesday, January 28 at 7pm to learn about the Xavier curriculum. Advice will be provided regarding course selection for the upcoming year and tours of the building will be available. More information about this event, tours and/or shadows is available at (920)733-6632 or [mmauthe@XavierCatholicSchools.org](mailto:mmauthe@XavierCatholicSchools.org).

### • XAVIER MIDDLE SCHOOL

Considering middle school options for fall? Parents and prospective students are invited to learn about the XMS experience by joining us at the Preview Night coming up on Wednesday, January 22 at 6:30pm. Take a tour, attend breakout sessions, learn about WEB mentoring and see what opportunities could be in store for your future 5th-8th grade student, including: STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics), Service, World Language, Athletics, and Co-curriculars. More information is available at [Admissions@XavierCatholicSchools.org](mailto:Admissions@XavierCatholicSchools.org) or (920)735-9380.



# in stock **SCRIP**



## WHAT IS SCRIP?

Scrip is a gift card resale program. The gift cards are worth exactly what you pay for them, but by purchasing them through St. Mary, you generate revenue that can be used for parish needs. When you take advantage of Scrip, you earn money just by making your regular household purchases. Instead of paying with cash or credit, you use prepaid gift cards.

## IN STOCK SCRIP AT ST. MARY

We keep gift cards from the following retailers in stock and available for purchase after weekend Masses and in the parish office during regular business hours (M-Th 8am-4:30pm and Friday 8am-noon).

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Questions? Stop by the Scrip table after a weekend Mass or contact Julie Morse in the parish office ([jmorse@stmaryparish.org](mailto:jmorse@stmaryparish.org) or 739-5119).

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