



Merry Christmas



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
XAVIER CATHOLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM 920-735-9380

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 25, 2019

THIS WEEK AT ST MARY

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 Confessions

4:30 PM Mass/Church

Sunday, December 29

8:00 AM & 9:45 AM Mass/Church

9:45 AM Sunday Children's Programming/L2

Monday, December 30

8:00 PM Al-Anon/L6

Tuesday, December 31 - Office Closed

8:30 AM Mass/Chapel

2:00 PM Schmidt-Strebig Wedding

2:00 PM NO Rosary/Perpetual Help Devotions

Wednesday, January 1 - Happy New Year!

Office Closed

8:30 AM Mass/Church

Thursday, January 2

12:05 PM Mass/Church

7:00 PM Cor Jesu/Church & Community Room

7:00 PM Gamblers Anonymous/L6

Friday, January 3

8:30 AM Mass/Chapel

Saturday, January 4-St. Joe's Food Program Collection

9:00 AM Confessions

4:30 PM Mass/Church

Sunday, January 5-St. Joe's Food Program Collection

8:00 AM & 9:45 AM Mass/Church

Coffee & Donuts after both Masses/Community Room

9:45 AM Sunday Children's Programming/L2

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

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
Mon., December 30	12:05 PM Mass at St. Joseph
Tue., December 31	12:05 PM Walter & Jean T. Consie
Wed., January 1	8:30 AM Harry Morse
Thur., January 2	12:05 PM Normand Massie
Fri., January 3	8:30 AM Parishioners of St. Mary
Sat., January 4	4:30 PM Kristopher Keen
Sun., January 5	8:00 AM Jeffery Voras
	9:45 AM Bill Hoffman

IN LOVING MEMORY



Please pray for the family of Pat Kiley. 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 Chidren'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.

ST. JOE'S FOOD PROGRAM

On the weekend of January 4-5, we'll be collecting international food items. Nothing glass or perishable please! Place donations near the altar.

PARISH CONTACTS



Fr. Bill Swichtenberg
Pastor
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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

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



WINDOW LIGHT DISPLAY

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.

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS - 8:30 AM

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!

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!

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who have helped make our Advent & Christmas seasons so meaningful! We're blessed to have such a kind and generous parish family.

- Advent Contemporary Choir
- St. Mary Adult Choir
- Bells of St. Mary Handbell Choir
- Xavier High School Chorus
- Window Display & Nativity Story Team
- Living Nativity planners & participants
- Christmas Parade Warming House Team
- ROCKs Group (Parish Advent Project & Birthday Party for Jesus)
- Advent Message Team
- New Logo Reveal Team
- Church, Marian Way & Community Room decorators
- All who helped at the Warming Shelter
- All who helped with the Needs Tree Project



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 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 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

As we celebrate the Christmas season, it's likely that you'll be busy with parties and family gatherings. Let eGiving with Faith Direct simplify your life. By supporting St. Mary Parish with e-giving, 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 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).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Monday, January 13 / 7pm / Xavier Fine Arts Theatre
CIA-Faith Mission Operatives presents "Your Church Has Too Many Rules" and Other Objections Catholics Need to Confront with radio host and author Jon Leonetti. Recommended by Matthew Kelly! No cost to attend.



December 25, 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.

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.

IPRF NEWS

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

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

NEW PARISHIONERS OF 2019

WELCOME TO THE ST. MARY PARISH FAMILY!

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Eric Tauber | Diane & Todd Lepak |
| Keith & Kathy Barth | Matthew & Jayanni Schmeichel |
| Michael & Maggie Reader | Jennifer & Michael Twombly |
| Benjamin & Katherine Romenesko | Luiza & Andrew Nelson |
| Nicholas & Alicia Peeters | Ariel Baker & Luke Snyder |
| Josee Zirimwabagabo & Aime Tutala | Ashley Baeten |
| Aaron Curran & Megan Scherer | Richard & Mary Getschow |
| Sylvia & Andrew Cooper | Jim Romenesko |
| James & Nancy Ourada | Michael & Ann Lutz |
| Jeffrey Voras | George & Kathleen Bresnahan |
| Dayne & Aristotle Peters | Laura DeBraul |
| Janine Vanevenhoven | Michael & Cindy Martin |
| Alyssa Surprise & Devin Bilek | Thomas & Gina Schupp |
| Jose Recinos & Ana Mejia | Larrie Brazner |
| Rochelle Altenhofen | Eric & Jessica Bersted |
| Ashley & Eric Sakowski | Robert & Kristine Loderbauer |
| Erin Donovan & Joshua Bellile | Erica Lorbecki & Nicholas VanPatten |
| Camie Kilsdonk | |
| Marie-Anne Bulonza | |
| Ignance Bajirebwinja | |
| Kara, Rob & Madie Main | |



welcome to **St. Mary**



- To all our visitors this holiday season -

We're so glad you're here! Your presence makes our celebrations even more special. If there is any way our office staff can assist you, please don't hesitate to contact us at (920) 739-5119 or stmary@stmaryparish.org. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

May love and laughter light your days,
and warm your heart and home.
May good and faithful friends be yours,
wherever you may roam.
May peace and plenty bless your world
with joy that long endures.
May all life's passing seasons
bring the best to you and yours!
-Irish Blessing

a

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