



Weekly Update | August 29, 2021

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time



Beacon Child & Youth Ministry Registration is Open!

Together at St. Mary's with our families we desire to help youth know that they are loved, that they have a home in the church, and grow in their relationship with Jesus here in the present. We are looking forward to diving deeper in this with you as Beacon begins this October.

Health & Safety Information

With Covid-19 numbers increasing due to the Delta variant we want to remind everyone of our health and safety practices in place. We will continue to monitor and adjust to state, local, and Diocesan level health directives.

- Masks are **strongly** encouraged. Staff will be masking during Mass.
- Those who are **not** fully vaccinated **should** continue to wear a face covering in our indoor and outdoor spaces. Those who are fully vaccinated can attend Mass or be in any parish building without a face covering.
- Face coverings are *always* welcome for anyone, even if you are fully vaccinated.
- During Mass, the chapel and choir loft will be reserved for those wearing face coverings. You are always welcome to wear a mask in the church.

The Wisconsin Catholic Conference of Bishops released a statement this week regarding Covid-19 vaccinations.

"We also stress that a person's decision to refuse the COVID-19 vaccine finds its limits as we apply the Principle of the Common Good. In other words, the refusal to receive vaccination is also, for the conscientious person, a decision to use other means to protect his or her life and the lives of others against COVID-19. Every decision has consequences; and in this case, the person claiming a religious or ethical exemption should be ready to properly assume other scientifically recommended means of avoiding infection and contagion: face-coverings, social distancing, hand sanitizing, periodic testing, and quarantine."

Coffee & Donut Sunday

Have a tasty donut and hot cup of coffee after the 7:45 & 9:45 Masses this weekend!

Back Pack Blessing Weekend

Students of *all* ages are welcome to bring your backpacks to Mass this weekend for a special blessing. A special gift will be given to those who participate. All are welcome to join in Coffee & Donuts following the 7:45 & 6:30 Sunday Masses and ice cream treats following the Saturday 4:30 and Sunday 6:30 Masses.

College & Military Care Packages

We are searching for our young adults who will be in college or the military for 2021-2022. It is our intention to send *Ripples of God's love from our hearts to their hearts* via WONDERFUL CARE PACKAGES several times in the upcoming year.

To participate please send the following information on your young adult(s):

Name

College or Military Base

Address (at college or military base; be sure to include the correct zip code)

Name any food allergies _____

We are also looking to create a team of parents who might enjoy creating our WONDERFUL CARE PACKAGES and perhaps do some packaging. We will be sending three packages in 2021-2022.

Please send your young adult's information and/or if you are willing to help to Mary Ann Otto at motto@stmaryparish.org or call 920-739-5119.

Blood Drive

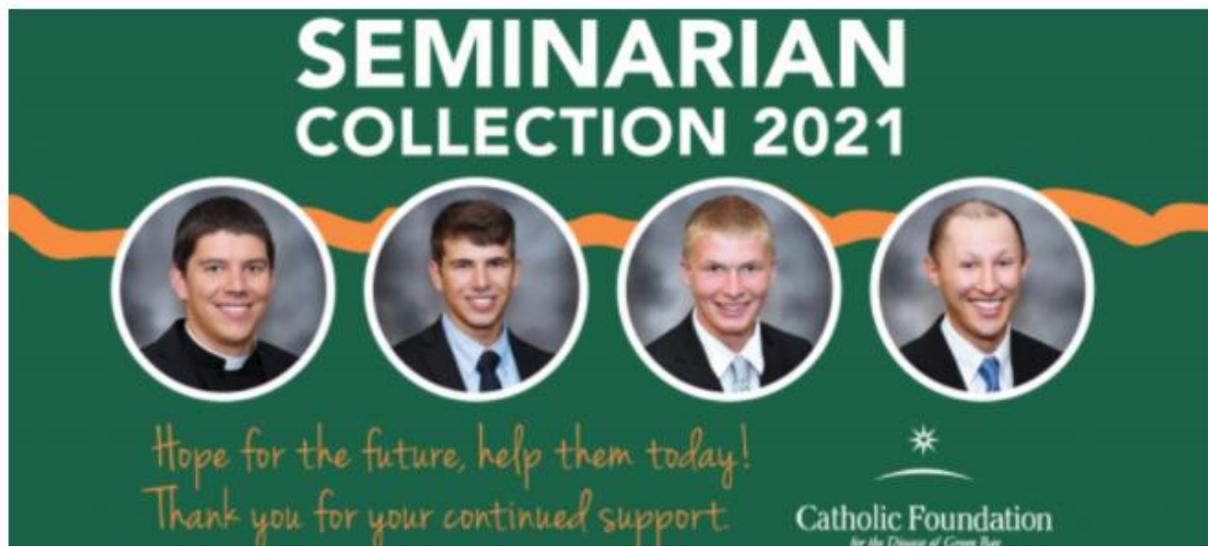
St. Mary's will be hosting a blood drive on **Sunday, September 5th** from 7 - 11:30 am. To schedule your lifesaving donation visit this **site**. Log in, click "Donate Now" and use sponsor code A364. You may also sign up by calling the Community Blood Center at (800) 280-4102.

Attention Teachers!

Thank you to everyone who is sending in teachers names! We'd love to collect a few more. Are you a teacher or do you work in the education system? Do you know a teacher in our parish family? We'd love to recognize our teachers in a special way this Fall. Please reply to this note and let us know if you fit in this category.

2021 Seminarian Collection

Our 16th annual Seminarian Collection is underway. By now, you have received a letter from Bishop Ricken inviting you to take part in the vocation mission. Please return the pledge card through the mail, or donate online at www.catholicfoundationgb.org/give. Whatever you are able to give is greatly appreciated.



Irish Fest Fox Cities

St. Mary's is happy to be sponsoring **Irish Fest Fox Cities** on September 17 - 18.

We'll be hosting several cultural events in the Community Room and our 4:30 Saturday Mass on September will be Celtic.

We could use a few volunteers in the areas below from the Parish to help make this exciting collaboration successful.

- Provide hospitality and welcome during the Community Room sessions on Friday and Saturday afternoon
- A history buff who would be interested in giving a brief history of St. Mary's Irish history
- Help assist with the coordinator of the Celtic Mass

Please contact Emily if you are interested in getting involved - ejenks@stmaryparish.org.

September St. Joseph Food Collection

Our St. Joseph Food Collection for September will be the weekend of the 5th & 6th. We'll be collecting items for lunch boxes (peanut butter, jelly, fruit cups, etc). Please no glass or perishable items!

A Grateful & Blessed Family

Ripples of God's Love - Through Our Hearts - To All Hearts!

St. Mary Parish Support			
August 2021	Budget	Received	Variance
received 8/16 - 8/20-2020		13,872	
August - month to date:	63,000	48,819	-14,181
7/1/21-8/31/2021			
Fiscal Year To Date :	127,000	133,269	6,269



Mass Times Intention

Mon., August 30, 8:00am	@ St. Bernard Parish
Tue., August 31, 8:00am	@ St. Bernard Parish
Wed., September 1, 12:05pm	Gary Malchow Family
Thur., September 2, 12:05pm	Parishioners of St Mary Parish
Sat., September 4, 4:30pm	Makswell Jacobson
Sun., September 5, 7:45am	Sally Thomson
9:45am	The Jacob Family
6:30pm	Diane Cahall

We have openings for intentions for weekday and weekend Masses. Please stop by the parish office or call us at 739-5119 to schedule a Mass in memory of a loved one. We are happy to take Mass intentions over the phone. The \$10 stipend can be sent via the mail or dropped in the weekend collection in an envelope with a note to apply it to your Mass intention.

Events Calendar

Monday, August 30

7:00pm Boy Scouts/St. Anne Room

8:00pm AA Meeting/L1&L3

Tuesday, August 31

2:00pm Rosary Group/Church

6:15pm Confessions/Chapel

Wednesday, September 1

9:00am Mom's Group/Community Room

9:00am Connect, Pray, Reflect on the Sunday Scriptures/L7

12:35pm Holy Hour/Church

Thursday, September 2

7:00pm Cor Jesu/Community Room/Chapel/Church

Friday, September 3

Parish Office closed

4:00pm Richard Jones/Susan Schmidt Wedding

Saturday, September 4

St Joe's Food Program Collection at all Masses!

9:00am Confessions/Chapel

Sunday, September 5

St Joe's Food Program Collection at all Masses!

7:00am Blood Drive

Mass Attendance

As we have plenty of socially distanced capacity at all weekday Masses, we will no longer be tracking and publishing weekday Mass counts. Please join us! Our weekday Masses offer a very safe worship environment.

Saturday, 4:30 pm (122)

Sunday, 7:45 am (82), 9:45 am (163), 6:30 pm (54)

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 739-5119.

Prayer Requests

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

St. Mary Parish Office

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

Hours

Monday-Thursday, 8:30am-4:30pm
 closed Fridays
 Contact us:
stmary@stmaryparish.org

MINISTERS & SUPPORT STAFF

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

Mary Ann Otto
 Missionary Discipleship
motto@stmaryparish.org

Dcn. Gerry Schraufnagel
 Deacon
 cell 920-540-9594

Tracy Turba
 Minister of Young Disciples
tturba@stmaryparish.org

Nadine Duncan
 Pastoral Care
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Emily Jenks
 Neighborhood Outreach & Parish
 Vitality, ejenks@stmaryparish.org

Tom Walter
 Liturgical Music
twalter@stmaryparish.org

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 Business Administrator
trohm@stmaryparish.org

Pam Acker
 Bookkeeper
packer@stmaryparish.org

Chip Acker
 Cemetery & Facilities Management
cacker@stmaryparish.org

Julie Morse
 Administrative Assistant
stmary@stmaryparish.org

Parish Trustees

Ted Suess 920-636-8855

Marriage

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

Pastoral Leadership Council Chair
 Beth Power 703-819-4829

Baptism

Congratulations! Contact Nadine Duncan for information.

Finance Council Chair
 Larry Bonneville 920-419-3097

Confession

Sat. 9-10am and Tues. 6:15-7:15pm
 (except for the 1st Tues. of the month)

St. Mary Cemetery
 920-882-4158

Xavier Catholic School System
 920-735-9380

In Joy & Sorrow with Father Bill +

Close to home, the challenges and stressors in our lives can become sources of discouragement. Many of us thought being vaccinated would give us a new lease on life and restore all that is so important and familiar to us as we live our lives. Now, with the emergence of the Delta variant of the coronavirus, we are pushed back and realize that the virus may continue to disrupt our lives. Our precious children under the age of twelve are still waiting to receive the vaccine. Some of us are afraid or feel we are being tricked by researchers who assure us that the vaccine is safe and effective. So there are about 95 million Americans who remain unvaccinated and the Delta variant is smart enough to make its home in many of them. Xavier Catholic and Appleton Public Schools have determined that to keep our teachers, children and teens safe as we begin the school year, they will all be required to don a face covering while indoors. This is a huge sacrifice and an *act of love* (words used so often by Pope Francis during this time of the pandemic) that each of them is being asked to make to keep each one of them safe. It is hard to wear a mask for a whole school day. We are discouraged about all of this, for sure.

Yet, as Pope Francis has reminded us, *The whole is greater than the part*. We experience our lives close to home, yet we live in a global community. Our problems are real and challenging and so are the problems and challenges of our sisters and brothers in other parts of the world. We gain a new perspective when we try to imagine what their lives are like and realize that just

maybe our problems and challenges are not as overwhelming. I often hear stories from our sisters and brothers undergoing cancer treatment. As they show up for their appointments, they rub shoulders and share stories with other patients whose cancers are so much more serious. Those stories of courage humble them.

Three hundred thousand of our Afghan brothers and sisters assisted our men and women serving in Afghanistan over the course of two decades. They were their translators. They became their friends and their families became dear to them. At present, we are only able to bring maybe twenty-two thousand Afghans to safety here in the US. Some of our Afghan sisters and brothers have already arrived at Fort McCoy in Wisconsin.

A news reporter shared her story of what it was like to be on one of those C17 cargo jets that left the airport in Kabul. Hundreds of people enter the plane. They remain standing until all are aboard. Then, they are directed to sit down together on the floor, to curl their feet underneath them, and to remain seated for the duration of maybe a three-hour flight. So many Afghans asked this reporter, "Where are we going? What will happen to the rest of my family? How can I charge up my cell phone? What will happen to me?" On these flights, three babies have come into the world. Can you imagine that?

In Joy & Sorrow with Father Bill +

My heart is overwhelmed! Where is the Lord in all of these disappointments, challenges, and paralyzing, terrorizing moments? Why does a unique people have to suffer so much more than many of us? I imagine Jesus seated in the midst of those passengers on that transport jet. I see him crying right alongside them. I see him as a sign of the endurance of hope in all things.

Saint Paul, convinced that nothing could impede the spread of the Gospel and the Lord's love, was stymied in every imaginable way by the powers that wanted to silence him. He writes to the People of God in Corinth: *We are afflicted in every way, but not constrained; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our body...Therefore, we are not discouraged; rather, although our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.* (2 Corinthians 4:8-10,16a)

The Good News leaves no one out of its hope-filled influence. Pope Francis says it this way:

The good news is the joy of the Father who desires that none of his little ones be lost, the joy of the Good Shepherd who finds the lost sheep and brings it back to the flock. The Gospel is the leaven which causes the dough to rise and is the city on the hill whose light illumines all peoples. The Gospel has an intrinsic principle of totality; it will always remain good news until it has been proclaimed to all people, until it has healed and strengthened every aspect of humanity, until it has brought all men and women together at table in God's kingdom. The whole is greater than the part. (The Joy of the Gospel, paragraph 237)

Let us never allow our own problems to overshadow or even erase our thoughts and prayers for our sisters and brothers who are experiencing trials which, for us to even imagine, can become terrifying. Jesus, give us a big heart, broken open by compassion for the whole human family!

Fr. Bill +