

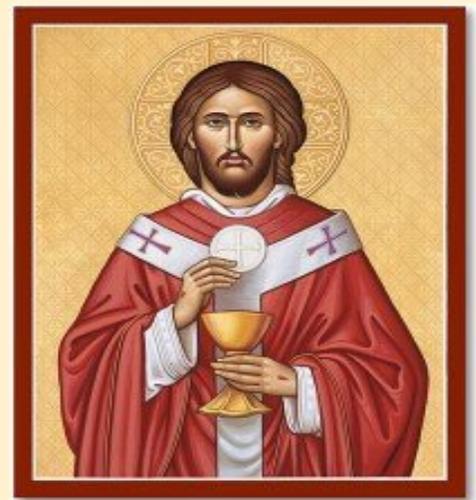
WEEKLY UPDATE

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 25, 2022



Happy Priesthood Sunday, Fr. Bill

Thank you for
your many years
of priestly ministry
and for being our
good shepherd
at St. Mary Parish.



Beacon Registration

FAITH FORMATION & SACRAMENT PREP



PRAYER

PURPOSE

PARTICIPATION

SCAN TO REGISTER
Begins 9/14



Pancake Breakfast



**Sunday, Oct. 2
8:30-11:30am
Community Room**

**All are welcome!
free will offerings accepted**

**buttermilk pancakes
french toast sticks**

coffee, milk & OJ



bacon, sausage, fresh fruit





The Burning Bush
Ex 3:1-12

Listen to the
Voice of Creation
SEASON OF CREATION 2022

*Pick up our
helpful tips
handout
in the back of
church.*

October 2 after the 9:45 am Mass
“Connected to Creation and One Another”
presented by Jason Wilde.



Empty to Full (E2F) Pans for Pillars!

Provide simple, homemade, nutritious food to clients of Pillars shelters. Pick up an empty pan at church on the weekend of October 1 & 2. Using the simple grocery list found in the pan, purchase recipe ingredients. Ingredients will cost approximately \$14.00. Use the recipe found in the pan to assemble the meal. (Great family activity). Place the prepared pan in your freezer. Bring the prepared pan to church the weekend of October 8 & 9 or drop it off in the office the week of October 3-6. Enjoy the great feeling of using your gifts to nourish others!



WHY NONVIOLENCE?

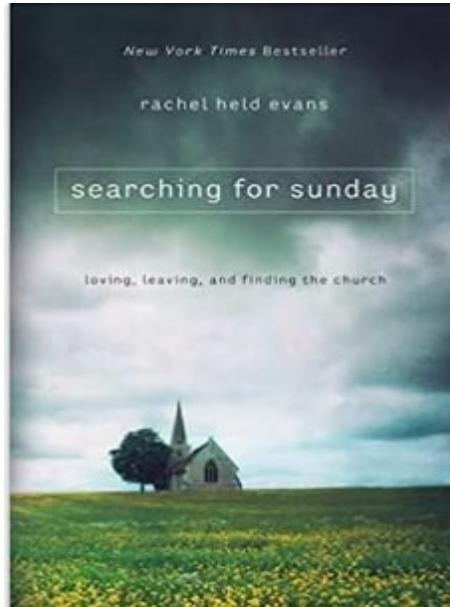
This fall, **explore gospel-based active nonviolence** with the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative.

Watch and discuss the virtual lectures
St. Mary Community Room | 6:30pm
OCT 4, 11, 18, 25 and NOV 3

Sign up at stmaryparish.org or



St. Mary's Book Club



The next St. Mary/St. Joseph book club discussion will take place at 6 pm, on Tuesday, October 11, in Room L4 at St. Mary on State Street. The book selected for discussion is *Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving, and Finding the Church* by Rachel Held Evans. Like millions of her millennial peers, the author didn't want to go to church anymore. The hypocrisy, the politics, the gargantuan building budgets, the scandals--church culture seemed so far removed from Jesus. Yet, despite her cynicism and misgivings, something kept drawing her back to Church. And so she set out on a journey to understand Church and to find her place in it.

For November 8 our book selection is *The Orphan Keeper* by Camron Wright.

For more information, please contact Mary Schulz, 920-809-4474. New members are welcome to join anytime.

EVER THINK OF BECOMING CATHOLIC?



Do you, or someone know, have questions about the Catholic faith?

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) is a program for anyone considering joining the Catholic Church.

CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION

WE'D LOVE TO JOURNEY WITH YOU!



Songs Stories & Fun!

at St. Francis Xavier Elementary School

October

14 Marquette Street Campus

19 McDonald Street Campus

All events begin at 9:00 a.m.



Open to children ages 2-5 with their parents/grandparents.
FREE! Younger sibs welcome!
RSVP requested. Walk-ins welcome!

Register Online Here
or at bit.ly/ssf22-23



Admissions@XavierCatholicSchools.org

XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL

PREVIEW NIGHT

PREPARE YOUR STUDENT TO BE AN AGENT OF GOOD IN OUR COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD



Join us to learn about the faith, academic, fine art, co-curricular, and Christian service offerings.

Monday, October 17 6:30 pm



RSVP **HERE** →

at bit.ly/xhspn2022 or by calling XHS at (920)733-6632



Spectacular holiday fun for the whole family!



CHRISTMAS STARS 2022

7:00 pm December 1-3 & 8-10
1:00 pm December 3*, 4, 10, 11



*An American Sign Language Interpreter will be provided at the 1pm performance on December 3rd.



The Xavier Fine Arts Theatre is equipped with a hearing loop.

Xavier Fine Arts Theatre • 1600 W. Prospect Avenue, Appleton

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

Christmas Stars ticket sales are open online and at the Xavier Fine Arts Theatre box office. Box office hours are Mondays and Wednesdays from noon until 3pm. Come and be delighted by a spectacular Broadway-style revue featuring religious and secular holiday music performed by a cast of singers, dancers and actors ages five to senior citizen. Experience the dazzling Christmas parade, a visit from Santa and the breathtaking "Living Nativity" finale. An American Sign Language interpreter will be provided at the 1pm performance on December 3rd. For ticket purchases or questions, please call 920-733-8840 or visit www.christmasstars.org. To visit the Xavier Theatre Box Office, please use the main theatre entrance, located under the arched canopy, on the west end of the school building.

Bell Ringers Needed!

The Bells of St Mary Handbell Choir is looking for three to four additional ringers for the Christmas season. Rehearsals, held weekly in the choir loft from 6:30-8:00PM, begin on Monday, October 3rd. If you're interested in joining the group or would like more information, contact Martha Paalman at mpaalman@stmaryparish.org or 920-420-6481.



Video Operators

Help St. Mary Parish spread the Good News of the Lord! Learn how to operate the videos and livestream Mass, giving access to the homebound, sick, or those just out of town! Shadow us to learn what it is all about. We'll be happy to assist you until you tell us you are comfortable enough to do it on your own! Call Chris Higgins at 920-739-5119 or email him for details at chiggins@stmaryparish.org!



Funny Name. Easy Fundraising.

This ministry is growing at St Mary's and we are in need of sellers at all the Masses during the weekend. There is a minimal time commitment as most Scrip is sold within the first 15 minutes after Mass is over. This would be a great ministry for families with children but we welcome anyone who would like to volunteer. If you would like to know more about it, call the parish office at 920-739-5119 and ask to speak with Julie Morse. You can also sit with one of the current volunteers and watch how it's done before making a commitment.

Mass Times Intention

Mon., September 26, 12:05pm	Gerald Noskowiak
Tue., September 27, 8:00am	Mass at St. Bernard Parish
Wed., September 28, 8:00am	Mass at St. Bernard Parish
Thur., September 29, 12:05 pm	Dolly Duffy
Sat., October 1, 4:30pm	Mike Sprissler
Sun., October 2, 7:45am	Ed & Mary Holtz
9:45am	Parishioners of St Mary
6:30pm	Living & Deceased members of the Murad and Panto Families

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 920-739-5119.

Prayer Requests

Contact Laurie Richter (lauriejrichter@gmail.com) or Ann Walkowski (920-428-0969) if you have a prayer need. Please remember the requests in our prayer baskets.

Events Calendar

Monday, September 26

7:00pm Boy Scouts/St. Anne Room
8:00pm Al-Anon Meeting/ Lower Level Room 6

Tuesday, September 27

9:00am Connect Group/Lower Level Room 7
2:00pm Rosary Group/Church
6:15pm Confessions/Chapel

Wednesday, September 28

9:30am Connect, Pray, Reflect on the Sunday Scriptures/Lower Level Room 7
4:30pm Adoration/Church
4:45pm Beacon - Grades 1 to 5/Lower Level Rooms
6:30pm Beacon - Grades 6 to 12

Thursday, September 29

CIA-FMO Group/Lower Level Room 7

Friday, September 30

Parish Office closed!

Saturday, October 1

9:00am Confessions/Chapel



In Joy & Sorrow

with Fr. Bill Swichtenberg

ST. MARY PARISH | 312 S. STATE STREET APPLETON, WI | 920.739.5119 |

09.25.2022

26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The number of critics that buzz like bees around the words and deeds of Pope Francis is significant. One should not be surprised by this. Jesus Himself was surrounded by critics; some of them were the religious leaders of his time. These critics of the Lord did all in their power to silence the messenger because they did not like the message. A good prophet, who speaks truth to power, always encounters resistance.

As Pope Francis arrived in Kazakhstan last Tuesday, September 13, to attend the Congress of Leaders of World Religions, one of the Auxiliary Bishops of that country, Athanasius Schneider, was already challenging the Pope. Attending such a meeting was “dangerous” because it could “undermine the uniqueness and absoluteness of Jesus Christ as savior and of our mission to preach to all nations, to all religions, Jesus Christ.”

I would respectfully remind Bishop Schneider of the work of Vatican Council II which stressed the importance of dialogue, grounded in mutual respect, with our sisters and brothers of other Christian religions, as well as our sisters and brothers of non-Christian religions. This topic of religious freedom caused a slugfest between the bishops of Vatican Council II. Yet it was the work of the Holy Spirit, and the consensus finally of the Council Fathers, that there are glimmers of truth in other religions, that God is at work in other faiths, and that holding a respect for the diversity of beliefs among us is a value. To say that the fullness of truth resides in the Catholic Church is not to say that aspects of that truth cannot be found in other Christian and non-Christian religions. We are no longer living in the Middle Ages, when the Church triumphant taught that there was no salvation outside of the Catholic Church. I can say emphatically that the Church no longer teaches that because of the teaching of Vatican Council II.

I remember the outcry from some after Pope Francis affixed his signature to the Document on “Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together,” right alongside the signature of the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, at a meeting in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates, in February of 2019.

The following line upset some people: *Freedom is a right of every person: each individual enjoys the freedom of belief, thought, expression and action. The pluralism and the diversity of religions, color, sex, race and language are willed by God in His wisdom, through which He created human beings. This divine wisdom is the source from which the right to freedom of belief and the freedom to be different derives. Therefore, the fact that people are forced to*

adhere to a certain religion or culture must be rejected, as to the imposition of a cultural way of life that others do not accept...

Certainly this statement is in keeping with the spirit of Vatican Council II which extolled the value of religious freedom.

In his Opening Address to the Plenary Session of the Congress of Leaders of World Religions on Wednesday, September 14, in Kazakhstan, Pope Francis said this: *The great Kazakh poet [Abai] insists in his words, "he who abandons learning deprives himself of a divine blessing" and "a person who ... is not capable of compassion cannot be considered a believer." So, brothers and sisters, let us purify ourselves of the presumption of feeling self-righteous, with no need to learn anything from anyone. Let us free ourselves of those reductive and destructive notions that offend the name of God by hardness, extremism and forms of fundamentalism and profane [God's name] through hatred, fanaticism, and terrorism, defiling the image of man as well.*

On a final note closer to home, I visited with Jax and her friend, Adam, after last Sunday morning's Mass at 7:45 am. They were standing across the street from our Church's front door, holding signs which advocated for a woman's right to choose an abortion. I had a respectful conversation with them, indicating the Church's firm conviction of the sanctity of the unborn child. I did emphasize, as well, that we all have a responsibility to provide the necessary social safety network to support that baby and his or her mother and father, once that child is born. I talked about some of the other pro-life issues as well, including fixing our broken immigration system, addressing gun violence and climate change, and being more respectful and welcoming of those who feel marginalized. It was a good dialogue. We can always disagree with each other, but that disagreement must always be grounded in mutual respect. Jax and Adam expressed their disappointment that some people leaving Church scolded them, stating that they should "be ashamed of themselves." I apologized to them and said that their report upset me. Folks, again, we need to always treat every person with respect, sensitivity and compassion. Those who disagree with us must never feel beat up by us or ignored by us. We need to call once again upon our better angels!

Fr. Bill +

St. Mary Parish Office

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

Website: stmaryparish.org

MINISTERS & SUPPORT STAFF***Fr. Bill Swichtenberg, Pastor***

wdswitz@stmaryparish.org

cell 920-422-4316

Deacon Gerry Schraufnagel

schraufnagel@stmaryparish.org

cell 920-540-9594

Chris Higgins

Director of Business Administration &
Information Technology

chiggins@stmaryparish.org

Nadine Duncan

Director of Pastoral Administration &
Pastoral Care

nduncan@stmaryparish.org

Tom Walter

Liturgical Music

twalter@stmaryparish.org

Chip Acker

Cemetery & Facilities Management

cacker@stmaryparish.org

Parish Trustees

Ted Suess 920-636-8855

Carol Frahm 920-733-0207

Pastoral Leadership Council Chair

Beth Power 703-819-4829

Finance Council Chair

Larry Bonneville 920-419-3097

Business Hours:

Mon - Thurs, 9am-4pm

closed Fridays

Contact us:

stmary@stmaryparish.org

Tracy Turba

Minister of Young Disciples

tturba@stmaryparish.org

Emily Wallace

Communication Coordinator &
Project Specialist

ewallace@stmaryparish.org

Julie Morse

Administrative Assistant

stmary@stmaryparish.org

Marriage

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

Baptism

Congratulations! Contact Nadine Duncan for
information.

Confession

Sat. 9-10am and Tues. 6:15-7:15pm

St. Mary Cemetery

920-882-4158

cemetery@stmaryparish.org

Website: stmaryparishcemetery.org

Xavier Catholic School System

920-735-9380