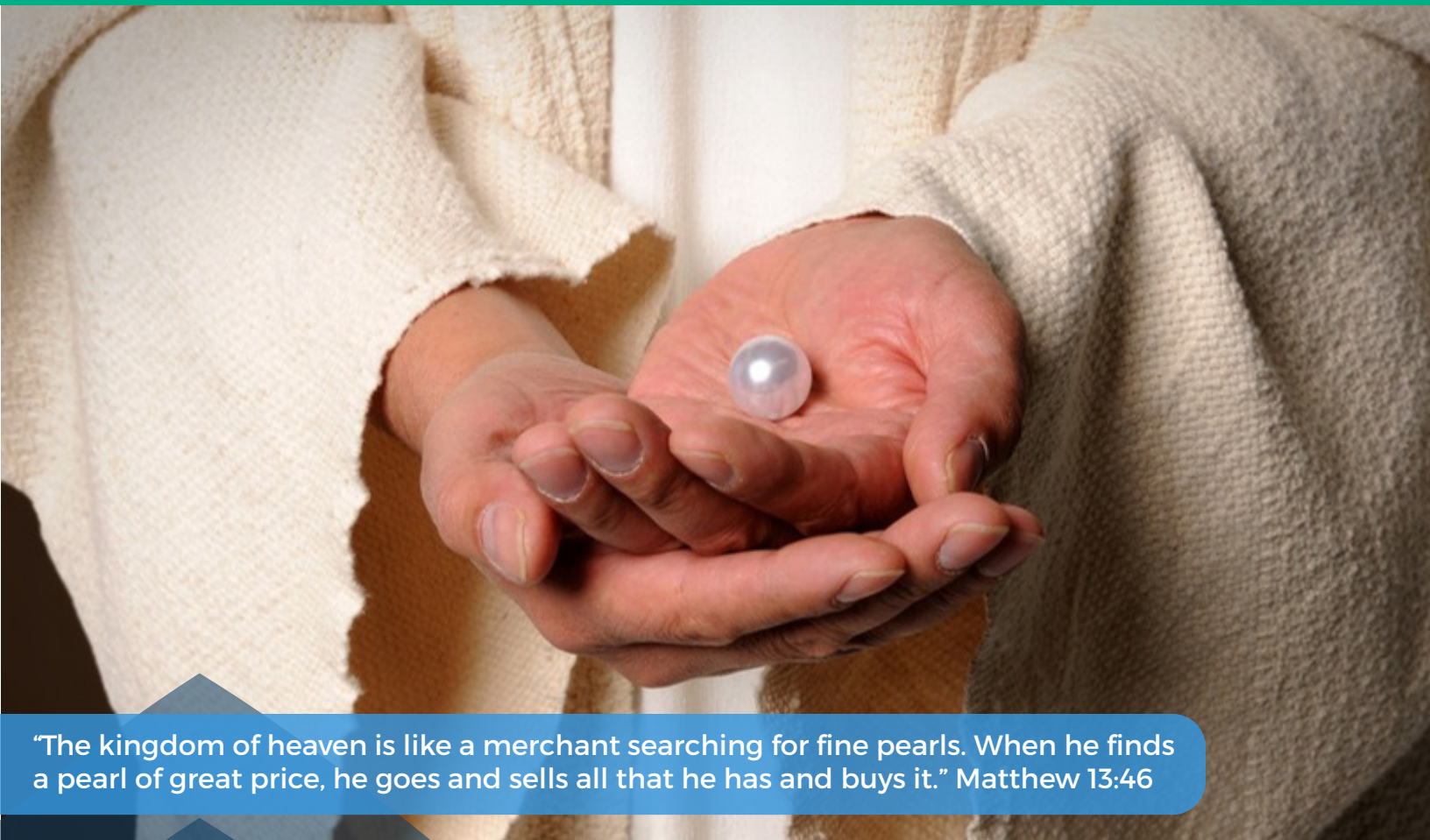


17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • JULY 26, 2026

ST. MARY PARISH

PHONE: (920) 739-5119 • EMAIL: STMARY@STMARYPARISH.ORG

312 SOUTH STATE STREET • APPLETON, WI 54911



“The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it.” Matthew 13:46

Regular Mass Times

Saturday 4:30pm

Sunday 7:45am, 9:45am

Monday 12:05pm

Tuesday No mass

Wednesday No mass

Thursday 12:05pm

Friday No Mass

Pastor - Fr. Bill Swichtenberg

wdswitz@stmaryparish.org
cell 920-422-4316

Deacon - Gerry Schraufnagel

dcngerry@stmaryparish.org
cell 920-540-9594

Cemetery Info - Chip Acker

cacker@stmaryparish.org
cell 920-882-4158

Parish Office Hours:

920-739-5119
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, 9am-4pm
Friday-Office Closed

Sacrament of Matrimony

Getting Married?
Congratulations! Call Fr. Bill
at least six months before your
planned wedding date.

Interested in joining the Parish?

Contact Lori Lavalle
llavalle@stmaryparish.org

Confession times:

Saturday 9-10am or by
appointment



Eucharistic Adoration

Every 3rd Wednesday, 4:30-8pm
We must have one person
with the Eucharist at all times.
Register online
<https://bit.ly/49Wm3k5>

JOIN US FOR A

Pilgrimage

TO

OUR LADY OF CHAMPION SHRINE

*A day of faith, fellowship,
and devotion as we honor
Our Blessed Mother.*



TUESDAY, AUGUST 25

Come as you are.

LEAVE RENEWED.



Departing
St. Joe's
8:30 AM



Returning
3:30 PM

**SIGN UP BY
AUGUST 17**

Spots are limited!

RESERVE YOUR SEAT TODAY!



Scan QR or
click the link
to sign up!
bit.ly/4p4r1sy

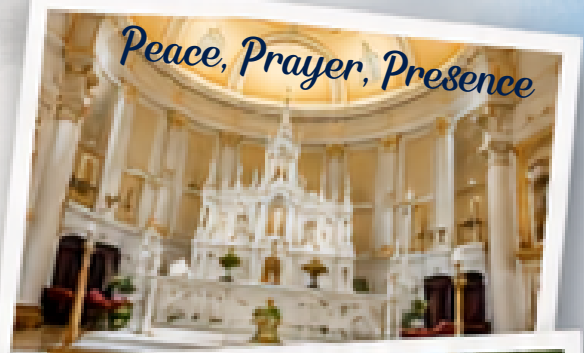


**OR CONTACT THE
PARISH OFFICE
920-739-5119**



**\$50
PER PASSENGER**

*Box lunch
included!*



*Don't miss this
opportunity to grow in
faith and community!*

INSPIRING *the Next Generation* OF FAITH

RAISING VOCATIONS COLLECTION



NEXT WEEKEND: AUGUST 1-2, 2026



The Raising Vocations Collection kicks off across the Diocese of Green Bay. This annual collection provides critical support to ministries that help our young people discover Jesus, encounter Christ, and answer God's call for their lives.

**YOUR GENEROSITY DIRECTLY IMPACTS
THE FUTURE OF OUR CHURCH.**

GIFTS TO THIS COLLECTION FUND:



YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCES:

Sending young people to events like the Steubenville Youth Conferences, SEEK conferences, and the Blessed Carlo Acutis Youth Day.



CAMPUS MINISTRY:

Supporting students on local college campuses (such as UW-GB and UW-Oshkosh) to deepen their faith and discern their vocation.



SEMINARIAN FORMATION:

Helping us reach our diocesan goals for seminary formation and priestly vocations.

Special Guest!
Seminarian

NICK VANDE HEY
will be joining us at the
August 15 & 16 Masses.



**He will be ordained to the
diaconate on October 1, 2026,
and the priesthood on July 3, 2027**

*Come hear his story and be
inspired by his "yes" to God's call!*



Every family in the diocese will receive a letter and pledge card from Bishop Ricken inviting your support. Please prayerfully consider a gift to the Raising Vocations Collection to help our youth say "yes" to His call.



BY MAIL:

Gifts can be made via direct mail using your pledge card.



ONLINE:

Give anytime at the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Green Bay Give Page.



*Scan to
Give!*



*Thank you for your continued
prayers and generous support!*



CATHOLIC FOUNDATION
FOR THE DIOCESE OF
GREEN BAY



ST. JOSEPH FOOD PROGRAM

Fighting Hunger  Sustaining Hope

Collection: August 8 & 9

The August 8th and 9th St. Joseph Food Program collection is for any type of drink item such as powdered milk, juices, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, individual sizes when possible.

*Thank you for helping those
♡ who are in need. ♡*

ST. JOSEPH MINISTRIES TO NEIGHBORS IN NEED

July Needs List

Please drop off/or send in your items (from Amazon or Walmart) to the parish office marked Grab & Go! Thank you!

[Click here to view list and sign up](#)

Morning Coffee

Help serve and have coffee with our neighbors on weekday mornings from 7 am - 9 am.

[Click here to sign up](#)

CHILDREN'S LITURGY + COFFEE & DONUTS

happens on the same day



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

During Mass, children hear the Gospel and learn about God in a way they can understand.



COFFEE & DONUTS

Stay after Mass to enjoy coffee, donuts, and great fellowship!



JOIN US
SUNDAYS
JULY 26

AUGUST 9, 16, 30



SCAN OR
CLICK HERE
to help with
coffee and
donuts!

Faith, Friends, Fellowship! ♡

SAVE THE DATE!

**IRISH
FOX CITIES
FEST**

**SEPTEMBER
18TH & 19TH**

**JONES PARK
APPLETON**



Which one of the virtues does the Catholic Church say is the most excellent?

Welcome

OUR NEW MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR TIM METNIK



We are excited to welcome our new Maintenance Team Member to St. Mary Parish! His hard work behind the scenes helps keep our church and grounds safe, beautiful, and welcoming for all who enter.



A LITTLE ABOUT HIS BACKGROUND

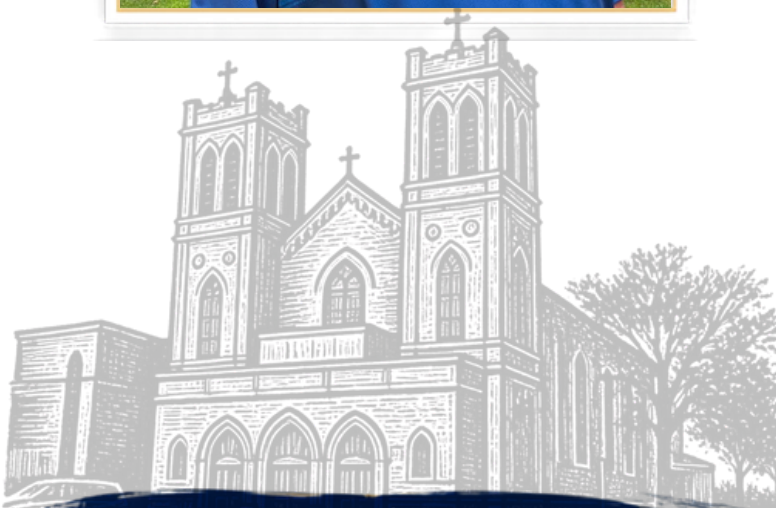
Tim brings more than 15 years of maintenance experience, along with a strong work ethic and a practical approach to solving problems. Throughout his career, he has developed a wide range of skills that allow him to tackle just about any project that comes his way.



A LITTLE ABOUT HIM

Tim has been happily married to his wife for 35 years, and together they have been blessed with three children. Family is at the center of his life, and he treasures the time they spend together creating lasting memories.

Welcome to our parish family!



“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.”

COLOSSIANS 3:23

*Difference.
Be Recognized.*

*Interested in applying for the
Michael Hurley Volunteer Scholarship?*

Michael Hurley VOLUNTEER Scholarship



*Your
Faith in action can
open doors for your
future!*

Who Can Apply?

Any parishioner entering their **junior year** of high school (public or parochial)

A college tuition scholarship for a high school junior who goes **above and beyond** in volunteering in the Church their Junior and Senior year.

PLEASE STOP BY THE PARISH OFFICE
FOR AN APPLICATION!

*Faith.
Service.
Future.*





Marriage Preparation

2026 - 2027 Upcoming Dates

TRANSFORMED
IN *love*

JULY 18 & 19

St. Norbert Abbey, De Pere

MARCH 6 & 7

Prince of Peace Parish, Green Bay

AUG. 22 & 23

Prince of Peace Parish, Green Bay

MAY 1 & 2

Prince of Peace Parish, Green Bay

JANUARY 30 & 31

Nativity of Our Lord Parish, Green Bay



Click [HERE](#) to
register or scan
the QR code!
dioc.io/marriage



marriageministries@gbdioc.org



920-272-8315



Diocese of
Green Bay

Diocesan Youth Choir Camp



August 12-15, 2026 • Ages 8-12
National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion

Wed.-Fri.: 8-11:45 a.m.
Sat.: 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Sing at 11:30 a.m.
Assumption of the
Blessed Virgin Mary Mass
with Bishop David Ricken

Cost: \$30/child
*Includes T-shirt,
snacks & materials
*Need-based
financial assistance



TO REGISTER,
scan the QR code.
Email questions to:
wmiller@gbdioc.org.



Diocese of
Green Bay



dioc.io/camp

BEYOND THE BIRTH PLAN:

PEER SUPPORT GROUP

*A monthly support group for pregnant
& new moms.*



Are you a new or expecting mom?

Join us for a **free monthly support group** designed for moms who are pregnant through 2 years postpartum.

First Tuesday of Every Month
11:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.
Catholic Charities, Green Bay

Each gathering includes:

- Free lunch for each participant
- Conversation, encouragement, and peer support
- A welcoming space to connect with other moms

Why Join Us?

- Looking to meet other moms who understand what you're experiencing?
- Want a supportive place to talk about pregnancy, postpartum, and the joys and challenges of motherhood?
- Hoping to build friendships and a community you can lean on?
- Looking for a reason to get out of the house and connect with others in a relaxed, judgment-free environment?

Come enjoy lunch, conversation, and community with other moms walking a similar journey. Whether you're expecting or up to two years postpartum, there's a place for you.



Catholic Charities
of the Diocese of Green Bay

To reserve your spot, contact:
920-272-8240 | mvanlanen@gbdioc.org

EVENTS CALENDAR

Mass Intentions

Week of July 26-Aug 2

Sunday, July 26

Totus Tuus Begins

Coffee & Donuts

7:45 am Mass

9:45 am Mass/Livestreamed/Children's Liturgy

Monday, July 27

12:05 pm Mass

7:00 pm AA Meeting/LL1

Tuesday, July 28

9:00 am Connect Group/LL7

6:30 pm Men's Ministry/LL7

Wednesday, July 29

9:30 am Connect Group/LL7

1:00 pm Summer Bible Study/LL7

Thursday, July 30

10:00 am Little Lambs Playgroup - Babysitting Rm

12:05 pm Mass

Friday, July 31

Parish Office Closed

Saturday, Aug 1

Raising Vocations Collection begins

9:00 am Confessions

4:30 pm Mass

Sunday, Aug 2

7:45 am Mass

9:45 am Mass/Livestreamed

12:30 pm Timber Rattlers Faith & Family Day

Sun., July 26

7:45 am Margie & Alan Hopfensperger
9:45 am Steven Moore

Mon., July 27

12:05 pm Living & Deceased members of SMP

Thu., July 30

12:05 pm Ed Sabish

Sat., Aug 1

4:30 pm Ted Miller

Sun., Aug 2

7:45 am Kermit Frahm
9:45 am Marcia Navarette



Prayer Requests Contact **Laurie Richter** (lauriejrichter@gmail.com), **Mary Jo Zilisch** (920-734-1182) or **Ann Walkowski** (920-428-0969) if you have a prayer need. Please remember these requests in our prayer baskets.

Generosity CORNER

Thank you for your support of the parish. We are starting out the new fiscal year a little slowly. With so many summer activities and travels, remember to keep the parish in mind. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

MONTH	INCOME	BUDGET	VARIANCE
July	\$41,264.87	\$64,500.00	-\$23,235.13

Your giving at work in the parish:

- Totus Tuus kicks off this week. It is an opportunity for kids grades 1-12 to experience and learn about their faith in a fun summer camp-like atmosphere.
- On August 2nd, we have a group from the parish along with St. Joe's going to a Timber Rattlers game for a family faith outing.



Love (Charity)

in Joy & **SORROW**

ST MARY PARISH - APPLETON // 7.26.2026
WITH FR. BILL SWICHTENBERG



"Anyone who does not know how to pass the ball, even if they have talent, has not yet understood the game. Anyone who does not know how to live with and for others has not yet understood life." — Pope Leo

Six weeks later, 48 teams at the start, 104 matches played, a champion crowned, FIFA World Cup 2026 reached its end. I admit that before this year's World Cup, I never paid too much attention to this *football*, which captivates the whole world to a greater degree than here in the US. We Americans are enamored of another kind of football. I am paying more attention to soccer now!

I had to do some studying to figure out the basics of soccer, like instead of the game clock winding down, soccer's clock winds up to 45 minutes at the half and 90 minutes at the final whistle. There is what is called *stoppage time*, which is the time accumulated when play is stopped on the field, because of an injury or the review of a call or a hydration break, that is added to each half. I learned about the penalty knockout round, which follows a tie after the extra time period and which is really exciting to watch!

Other than that, I have no idea what determines *off sides* and pretty much everything else. I was saddened that I did not get to watch the match for third place between England and France as the final was England 6, France 4. Ten goals in a single match would have been fun to watch. Both teams may have let their defenses down.

Pope Leo observed, "Soccer reminds us of something we must not forget: life is not a race to show off on our own, but a path we learn to walk together. Anyone who does not know how to pass the ball, even if they have talent, has not yet understood the game. Anyone who does not know how to live with and for others has not yet understood life."

What inspired me was that for six weeks the global community experienced a bit of what solidarity feels like. In the midst of the violence, conflict and extreme weather that is consuming our planet, we could step back and just enjoy the art of soccer, to witness such passion, and to celebrate the beauty of young and old footballers inspiring one another and all of us, on and off the *pitch*. We desperately need some inspiration on these trying days.

Perhaps you have seen the photo depicting a tale of legends, the great Leo Messi of Argentina, holding the little baby, Lamine Yamal of Spain, helping with Yamal's bath. I don't know how this photo came to be but it went viral on those World Cup days.

After Sunday's victory at MetLife Stadium in NewYork/New Jersey, Lamine Yamal reflected, "Tonight I lifted the World Cup for Spain, but I also experienced something I'll tell my children one day. The man who once held me as a baby was standing on the other side of the pitch, fighting for the same dream. Football has a beautiful way of bringing stories full circle."

"When I looked at Messi after the final whistle, I didn't just see an opponent. I saw the player who made millions of kids, including me, believe football could be art. I saw the man whose videos I watched over and over, trying to copy things that nobody else could do."

"I know this defeat will hurt him. You don't play with that much passion, carry your country again and again, and lose a World Cup final without feeling pain. Even in defeat, he kept demanding the ball, creating chances and refusing to stop believing. That's what champions do."

"People will talk about Spain winning this World Cup, and they should. But they'll also remember that, at an age when most legends have already retired, Messi was still making the world's best defenders panic every time he touched the ball. That's extraordinary."

"The photo of Messi bathing me became one of football's most iconic images. Today we took another picture together, but this time I could thank him face-to-face. Without players like him, kids like me wouldn't dare dream this big."

"One day another generation will replace mine too. That's football. But there will never be another Lionel Messi. Records can be broken and trophies can be won, but inspiring an entire generation to fall in love with a game is something only a few people in history will ever achieve."

"Tonight belongs to Spain. Tomorrow the debates will continue. But my respect for Lionel Messi will never change. He didn't need to win this final to prove who he is. For me, he'll always be one of the greatest players football has ever seen, and sharing the pitch with him was a privilege I will carry for the rest of my life."

A reporter asked Lamine Yamal how he handles the pressure of carrying Spain at the young age of 19. His answer was heartfelt. "My mother had me when she was 16, that's real pressure. My father picked things off the street to bring food home, that's pressure. All I have to do is play football."

That's the whole story of who Lamine is and most fans only know the surface of it.

Before he was born, his teenage parents fell behind on rent. Two neighbors named Lamine and Yamal covered them, and his father vowed his son would carry both names forever. His legal name is a permanent record of a debt his family couldn't repay in money. In Arabic, the names mean "the trustworthy" and "beauty," respectively.

His parents split when Lamine was around five. His mother raised him in Granollers on a wage earned at a fast food establishment. And here's the detail almost nobody knows: That job is the reason he became a footballer. Through work she met the daughter of the youth coordinator at CF La Torreta, his first club. When Lamine's mom worried she couldn't cover the fees, the youth coordinator told her that if the boy wants to play, money will never be the reason he can't.

As a kid, Lamine told his parents: If you're counting on me getting a normal job, we're in trouble. But if I become a footballer, you'll never have to worry again. He signed with Barcelona at 7. He kept his promise by 15. After every goal, Mr Yamal flashes 304 with his fingers - the end of 08304, the postal code of Rocafonda, the neighborhood where those strangers paid his family's rent before he existed. Today, at 19, he plays for the World Cup. And if he scores tonight, somewhere in the biggest broadcast on Earth, two neighbors will hear their names, and a postal code will flash on 2 billion screens. (from X Feed)

Lionel Messi reflects on his embrace of Lamine:

"When I hugged Lamine, I didn't just see Spain's newest World Cup champion. I saw another La Masia (the Barcelona Soccer Youth Academy) kid living the dream we all once had. I told him, I'm proud of you. Not just because you won, but because of the way you play with joy, humility and courage. Never lose that."

On being Lamale's inspiration: "It means more than any individual award. We all leave something behind in football, and knowing that a boy from La Masia watched me, believed in his own dream and is now making history himself, that's beautiful. I put my hand on his head and said, Now it's your turn. Inspire the next generation the way others inspired us. Take care of that badge, take care of La Masia and keep making people fall in love with football. Enjoy every moment, kid. Stay humble, protect that smile and always remember where you came from. The world will remember you as a champion, but Barcelona will always remember you as one of its own."

One caution in all of this: Passion for a sport or any other focus in life can never be allowed to supersede the place of kindness and compassion for all on both sides of the ball or of any issue. The Greatest Of All Time among us, I believe, are our sisters and brothers who shine bright in showing compassion always to all, especially the least among us!

By the way, Spain 1 - Argentina 0, in extra time! Thanks to all who made it possible for the World Cup to be hosted here in the US, as well as in Mexico and Canada!

Fr. Bill +