

22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • AUGUST 30, 2026

ST. MARY PARISH

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

312 SOUTH STATE STREET • APPLETON, WI 54911



“Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” Mt. 5:9

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

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>

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 Lavalley
llavalle@stmaryparish.org

Confession times:

Saturday 9-10am or by
appointment

PARENTS! IT'S REGISTRATION TIME!

FAITH FORMATION



ALL youth are welcome to join **Beacon Faith Formation** on Wednesday nights to grow in faith and community. Classes will begin September 16.

Grades 1-5 | 4:45-6:00 pm
Grades 6-8 | 6:30-7:45 pm
Grades 9-12 | 6:30-8:00 pm

REGISTER HERE:

Faith Formation
bit.ly/4qdWf6v



Sacrament Prep
bit.ly/4iMmr0G



SACRAMENT PREP

Xavier Families: Do you have a child in 2nd or 11th grade who needs to prepare for First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, or Confirmation?

FYI: Catholic day school students prepare for and receive sacraments through their home parish (St. Mary Parish).

2nd Grade Students: First Reconciliation & First Communion (prep begins in September).

High School Juniors: Confirmation
(prep begins in February).



Questions about Beacon or sacrament prep?

Contact Lisa in the parish office
(llynch@stmaryparish.org or 920-739-5119).

DISCOVER YOUR
Faith.
— + —
Come Home.

JOIN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

The Catholic Church is more than a place—
it's a family, a faith,
and a life-changing
relationship with Jesus
Christ.



— + —
**You are
welcome here.**

WHEREVER YOU ARE
IN YOUR JOURNEY,
GOD IS CALLING YOU.

WHAT TO EXPECT



MEET JESUS -
Explore the beauty and truth of the Catholic faith.



GROW WITH JESUS -
Deepen your relationship with God through Scripture, prayer, and the sacraments.



SHARE JESUS -
Be a witness for Christ by serving others.

YOU MAY CONSIDER JOINING IF YOU...

- ✓ Are curious about the Catholic faith
- ✓ Have never been baptized
- ✓ Were baptized in another Christian tradition
- ✓ Are Catholic but have not received all your sacraments
- ✓ Want to grow deeper in your faith



OCIA CLASSES BEGIN

Sunday, September 27

11:00 am



TAKE THE NEXT STEP...

Minister of Adult Disciples
Andrew Reimer

areimer@stmaryparish.org
(920) 739-5119 x 110

AFFECTED BY THE TORNADO AND NEED ASSISTANCE?

LOOKING FOR WAYS TO SUPPORT TORNADO RELIEF?

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Green Bay is providing emergency assistance to those affected by the recent tornado, including financial support, and are taking donations to help with this assistance.



SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFO

dioc.io/disasterrelief

Contact Catholic Charities LEAVEN COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

1475 Opportunity Way,
Menasha

ST. JOSEPH MINISTRIES

Current Needs List

Please drop off/or send in your items (from Amazon or Walmart) to St. Joseph Parish (404 W Lawrence St, Appleton, WI 54911) marked Grab & Go! They are in desperate need of men's shoes (size 9-12) and old backpacks. Thank you!

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

Morning Coffee

Help serve and have coffee with our neighbors on weekday mornings from 7:00 am to 9:00 am. Please arrive at 6:30 am. If you are new, write in the comments of the sign-up so they can pair you with someone experienced with this ministry.

[Click here to sign up](#)

Sunday Sandwiches

Help serve Sunday sandwiches. It is an hour on Sunday from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm

[Click here to sign up](#)

Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ to our neighbors in need!



ATTENTION

all

ADULT WOMEN AND MEN



Deacon Gerry will be holding a

**SERVER
TRAINING
SESSION**

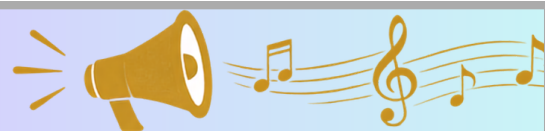


THURSDAY, SEPT. 17

**6:30 PM
IN CHURCH**



*Come if you are
interested in
assisting Fr. at Mass.*



3RD CALL!

**ST. MARY ADULT CHOIR RESUMES
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD!**

**COME AND JOIN THIS FUN AND VERY
MUSICAL GROUP OF SINGERS.**

YOU DON'T NEED TO READ MUSIC TO JOIN!

CONTACT TOM IF INTERESTED IN JOINING.

TWALTER@STMARYPARISH.ORG
920-739-5119



Remember...
**THEY WHO SING
PRAY...TWICE!**



SPIRITUS



NOELLE ATHENA

**ST. MARY'S
YOUTH MINISTRY INTERN**



A LITTLE ABOUT ME:

Born and raised in Boise, Idaho.
I am honored & excited to have the opportunity
to share our faith with your youth!
I look forward to meeting you all and growing
together in Christ!

**"THE MEASURE OF LOVE IS TO LOVE
WITHOUT MEASURE"- ST. FRANCIS DE SALES**

NOELLEATHA@SPIRITUSMINISTRIES.ORG

ST. JOSEPH FOOD PROGRAM

Fighting Hunger 🍏 Sustaining Hope

Collection: Sept. 12 & 13

The September 12 & 13, St. Joseph Food Program collection, is for anything for lunches. Items such as peanut butter & jelly, individual microwave meals. Sweet and salty snacks in individual size, nuts, pretzels, cookies, granola bars, trail mix, apple sauce, fruit cups, crackers and popcorn. Nonperishable, nothing in glass.

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

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
SUNDAY,
AUGUST
30



SCAN OR
CLICK HERE
to help with
coffee and
donuts!

*Faith,
Friends,
Fellowship!*

TIMBER RATTLERS BASEBALL!

SPECIAL DISCOUNTED TICKETS
FOR OUR PARISHIONERS

Since we hosted a group at the Faith & Family Day, the Timber Rattlers are offering our parishioners discounted tickets to another home game!



Get Your Tickets!



ORDER ONLINE:

[gofevo.com/
group/2026thank61](https://gofevo.com/group/2026thank61)



*Thank you for supporting
our parish community!*



JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL

celtic mass

Featuring musicians from
Skerryvore & The Bow Tides

Free admission to the last
evening of Irish Fest for those
attending the Celtic Mass.



Scan the
QR Code
for tickets
or go to:



Irishfestfoxcities.com

PASTORAL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

LISTENING • DISCERNING • SERVING TOGETHER

Hello St. Mary Parish Community!

I'm Amber Zak, the Chair for your 2026 – 2027 Pastoral Leadership Council (PLC for short). On September 8, we will begin meeting to plan our new pastoral year.

The parish's strategic goals are:

1. Build a culture where every parishioner experiences deep belonging and has opportunities to build meaningful relationships and serve.
2. Empower every parishioner to grow in discipleship and take ownership of their faith journey.
3. Strengthen parish outreach and communication to connect with an evolving community.

This is an important year as we begin to prepare for the transition of pastors. Fr. Bill has been with us for over twelve years and has led our spiritual family into a deeper relationship with Jesus and awareness of our brothers and sisters on the margins.

I want to thank our PLC members who completed their three-year term in June: **Tim Schraufnagel, Mary Ellen Julien, and Nathan Graff**. I cannot express how deep my gratitude is for the gifts you have shared with this team.

I also want to extend a joyful welcome to our incoming PLC members: **Kim Nelson, Keri McCormick, and Brian Garvey!** I look forward to the gifts you share and growing in the faith with you.

Blessings!
Amber Zak

You're Invited!

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE HELD
ON THE **FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH**
at 6:30 PM IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM.

*Our first meeting is on September 8
(because of Labor Day)*



Want to Stay Updated?

You can read the meeting minutes on our parish website:

stmaryparish.org/about/pastoral-leadership-council

Together, we build a parish centered in Jesus.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT!



ST. MARY CEMETERY TORNADO RECOVERY

A SAFETY UPDATE FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS

VOLUNTEER CLEANUP DAY 1 POSTPONED

The volunteer cleanup day previously announced for the weekend before Labor Day will not take place as planned. Significant tree removal and equipment work remain, and for everyone's safety, we need to wait until the cemetery is ready for volunteers.

WHERE WE ARE NOW

75

DAMAGED TREES

The majority have been removed.

35

TREE TRUNKS

Still need to be removed.

17

LARGE ROOT BALLS

Still remain on site.

60

STUMPS

Still need to be ground.

GOOD NEWS & CONTINUED PROGRESS

Nearly all displaced upright monuments have been professionally reset, and we have seen no significant unrepaired monument damage. Restoration continues with landscaping, resetting displaced flat markers, stump removal and final site cleanup.

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

More than 100 people helped during our July 31 cleanup day. We are deeply grateful to everyone who has given time, equipment, professional expertise, prayers and encouragement.

HELP RESTORE ST. MARY CEMETERY

This fund will help defray the cost of cleaning up and repairing St. Mary cemetery grounds following the tornado.

**DONATE
ONLINE:**



A NEW VOLUNTEER DATE WILL BE ANNOUNCED WHEN THE CEMETERY IS SAFE AND READY.

BEACON

News and Notes: Sneak Preview!

*"Let your light
shine before others,
that they may see
your good deeds
and glorify your
heavenly Father."*

– Matthew 5:16

With the new school year just around the corner, I wanted to provide a sneak preview of some of the things that will be happening in our Beacon Faith Formation program in the coming months.



OUR INCREDIBLE TEAM OF CATECHISTS

First and foremost, we have been blessed with an absolutely wonderful team of volunteer catechists, many of whom have been volunteering in this ministry for a very long time. I have been blown away by the level of care and creativity our catechists bring to their roles and to our parish families. Please be sure to **THANK** Barb Rowland, Nancy Lindo-Drusch, Natalie Sankey, Teri Kasdorf, Nicole Doden, Caitlyn Cheslock, Bob (Frankie) Frankenberg, Chris Fraley, and Anna Suess for all they do when you see them! Our Beacon and Xavier Sacrament Prep families are incredibly fortunate to have such gifted and strong mentors with huge hearts serving them and their children.



A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW CATECHISTS

We are also welcoming **three new catechists, one new classroom aide**, and a **new Spiritus intern** this year.

I would like to extend a very warm and grateful welcome to **Theresa VanHeck** (1st grade), **Karen Park** (2nd grade), **Shawn Lynch** (middle school), **Anna Lynch** (elementary classroom aide), and **Noelle Atha**, our new Spiritus intern, who will primarily be helping with our high school students. Please keep these new volunteers in your prayers in the weeks to come!



ADVENTURE CATECHISM: OUR NEW ELEMENTARY CURRICULUM

Our Beacon elementary program will launch a new curriculum called *Adventure Catechism*. This curriculum introduces students to important concepts of the Catholic faith through a spiraled approach, building children's knowledge of the faith from year to year throughout the series. *Adventure Catechism* is organized in the same manner as the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and in accordance with the guidelines for religious education from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.



Supplemental activities will also be incorporated each week to correspond with the weekly curriculum topics, as well as relevant liturgical events and seasons. Activities will include **games, arts and crafts, Catholic children's literature and other stories that teach character and Christian values, science and faith projects and experiments, service projects, social-emotional lessons, prayer activities, adoration, outdoor and gymnasium play, sacramental preparation retreats**, and more! Our goal is to keep children interested and engaged so that they will want to develop relationships with God, with each other, and with other members of their church family.



EDGE & LIFE TEEN

Middle school and high school students will continue to use the popular EDGE and Life Teen ministry programs. EDGE and Life Teen are designed to help modern teens and tweens grow closer to Jesus, deepen their Catholic faith, build lasting friendships, and discover how their faith applies to everyday life.



SEMESTER KICK-OFF – SEPTEMBER 16

For our Life Teen and EDGE semester kickoff on September 16, we will host a game night, as well as time for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Our middle school students will head across the street to the school gym for **Gaga Ball, tug-of-war, a giant parachute challenge**, and my favorite, the **Fishers of Men discipleship tag game**. Noelle, Frankie, Chris, and Anna also have some fun ideas brewing for our high school students.



We are all very excited for our Beacon students to fill the church with their energy and enthusiasm on Wednesday afternoons and evenings, beginning September 16. Please keep us all in your prayers, and feel free to contact me with any questions, ideas, or suggestions at llynch@stmaryparish.org.

Thank you for being a light in the lives of our children!



Lisa Lynch

Minister of Young Disciples
llynch@stmaryparish.org

EVENTS CALENDAR

Mass Intentions

Week of Aug 30 - Sept 6

Sunday, Aug 30

Coffee & Donuts

7:45 am Mass

9:30 am Flock of Sparrows/ LL5

9:45 am Mass/LS/Childrens Liturgy

Thank you to Tracy!

Monday, Aug 31

12:05 pm Mass

5:00pm Bells of St. Mary bell cleaning/CR

7:00 pm AA Meeting/LL1

Tuesday, Sept 1

9:00 am Connect Group/LL7

1:00 pm SMP & SJP Prayer Shawl Group/SJP LL112

3:00 pm - 8:00 pm Private Event/CR

4:00 pm Social Committee/LCR

5:00 pm Cooking Committee/LCR

5:30 pm Tue Night Faith Group/ Scout Rm

6:30 pm Pastoral Council/ St. Ann Rm

Wednesday, Sept 2

9:30 am Connect Group/LL7

6:30 pm Confirmation Class/St. Anne Rm

Thursday, Sept 3

9:30 am CIAFMO/LL7

10:00 am Little Lambs Playgroup - Babysitting Rm

12:05 pm Mass

1:00 pm Hooks & Needles/CR

6:00 pm Adult Choir/ MR

7:00 pm Cor Jesu

Friday, Sept 4

Parish Office Closed

Saturday, Sept 5

9:00 am Confessions

4:30 pm Mass

Sunday, Sept 6

7:45 am Mass

9:45 am Mass/LS



Encyclical

Sun., Aug 30

7:45 am

Bill Polley

9:45 am

Jacob Family

Mon., Aug 31

12:05 pm

Jerry Winters

Thu., Sept 4

12:05 pm

Living & Deceased members of SMP

Sat., Sept 5

4:30 pm

The Deceased members of the LeMoine Family

Sun., Sept 6

7:45 am

Members of th Military

9:45 am

Sis & Bob Balliet



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

Your continued support is extraordinary. We appreciate your support for the parish and its mission. We have exceeded our target for this month and have caught up to our target for the current fiscal year.

MONTH	INCOME	BUDGET	VARIANCE
August	\$68,425.62	\$57,800.00	\$10,625.62

Your giving at work in the parish:

- As we wind down the Summer we are also wrapping up a renovation of the rectory to provide a safer and more energy efficient household for Fr. Bill. We have painted, updated the floors, added LED light fixtures and new kitchen appliances replacing the ones from the 70's.
- The choir loft has seen a bit of a renovation to improve access for our growing choir. It expands the space used for both the Choir and Hand Bell Choir.
- A new episode of our young people's podcast called Flock of Sparrows is ready to drop (aka be released). It is a Prairie Home Companion-style podcast that discusses concepts of faith and spiritual growth. You can listen to it at <https://open.spotify.com/show/7wM5u07Xo5xw42VkJZTTrDH?si=784f7ef7f25d4fe1>

in Joy & **SORROW**

ST MARY PARISH - APPLETON // 8.30.2026
WITH FR. BILL SWICHTENBERG



“
As a spiritual work
of mercy, care for creation
calls for a grateful
contemplation of God’s world
which allows us to discover
in each thing a teaching
which God wishes to hand on
to us.

”

Tuesday (9/1) marks the 11th Annual Celebration of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. Upon the promulgation of his Encyclical Letter, *“Laudato Si (Mi Signore) [Praise be to you, my Lord]”* in 2015, Pope Francis designated this day of prayer to bring to the forefront the reality of global warming as an existential threat to the future of our planet. It is deeply disconcerting to me that some people would still want to doubt the reality of climate change, and among them are Catholics who discount Pope Francis’ Encyclical Letter.

By the way, an encyclical letter receives the highest rating in regard to the teaching authority of the magisterial Catholic Church. It is more binding than a letter, exhortation, address, or homily from the Pope. An encyclical letter penned by a Pope should be taken very seriously by the Catholic People of God and all people of good will. The option to negotiate over the teaching is really nonexistent.

Those who say that, in the history of our planet, dramatic swings in temperature have always occurred, are correct, but the increase in global warming since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution in the 18th century strongly suggests that the activities of human beings are contributing to the problem. This notion that global warming in our own time is precipitated by human beings is still being pushed back against by some people, as well.

Also at the initiative of Pope Francis, the Catholic Church has joined our other Christian sisters and brothers in observing the month of September as the Season of Creation, with this observance ending on the Memorial of Saint Francis of Assisi on October 4. In a sense, Pope Francis dedicated his Encyclical Letter on the Environment to Francis of Assisi, who is the patron saint of the environment.

In the Introduction to *Laudato si*, Pope Francis writes:

Just as happens when we fall in love with someone, whenever Francis of Assisi would gaze at the sun, the moon or the smallest of animals, he burst into song, drawing all other creatures into his praise. He communed with all creation, even preaching to the flowers, inviting them “to praise the Lord, just as if they were endowed with reason.” His response to the world around him was so much more than intellectual appreciation or economic calculus, for to him each and every creature was a sister and a brother united to him by bonds of affection. That is why he felt called to care for all that exists. His disciple Saint Bonaventure tells us that, “from a reflection on the primary source of all things, filled with even more abundant piety, Francis would call creatures, no matter how small, by the name of ‘brother’ or ‘sister.’” Such a conviction cannot be written off as naive romanticism, for it affects the choices which determine our behavior. If we approach nature and the environment without this openness to awe and wonder, if we no longer speak the language of fraternity and beauty in our relationship with the world, our attitude will be that of masters, consumers, ruthless exploiters, unable to set limits on their immediate needs. By contrast, if we feel intimately united with all that exists, then sobriety and care will well up spontaneously. The poverty and austerity of Saint Francis were no mere veneer of asceticism, but something much more radical: a refusal to turn reality into an object simply to be used and controlled. (paragraph 11)

Adding Care for Creation to both the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy, Pope Francis posits,

“We usually think of the works of mercy individually and in relation to a specific initiative: hospitals for the sick, soup kitchens for the hungry, shelters for the homeless, schools for those to be educated, the confessional and spiritual direction for those needing counsel and forgiveness...

As a spiritual work of mercy, care for creation calls for a grateful contemplation of God’s world which allows us to discover in each thing a teaching which God wishes to hand on to us.

As a corporal work of mercy, care for our common home requires simple daily gestures which break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness and makes itself felt in every action that seeks to build a better world.”

In his Message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation (8/15/26), Pope Leo suggests a direct link between war and its ravaging of the gifts of creation. The Holy Father writes,

Pope Benedict XVI reminded us that “the external deserts in the world are growing, because the internal deserts [in the human heart] have become so vast.” (Homily for the Solemn Inauguration of the Petrine Ministry, 24 April 2005) This calls us to recognize that, in some way, what is broken around us is also broken within us. In order to build a peaceful society, therefore, we must not only reform structures but also renew our hearts. The deep-set causes of conflict and the exploitation of creation stem from an ethical and cultural crisis, including the loss of a sense of limits, the desire for domination, the pursuit of immediate profit, and the inability to recognize the God-given dignity of each human person.

Pope Francis concluded his beautiful Encyclical Letter on Care for our Common Home with this prayer to be poured forth from the heart of every Christian.

*Father, we praise you with all your creatures.
They came forth from your all-powerful hand;
they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love.
Praise be to you!*

*Son of God, Jesus,
through you all things were made.
You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother,
you became part of this earth,
and you gazed upon this world with human eyes.
Today you are alive in every creature
in your risen glory.
Praise be to you!*

*Holy Spirit, by your light
you guide this world towards the Father's love
and accompany creation as it groans in travail.
You also dwell in our hearts
and you inspire us to do what is good.
Praise be to you!*

*Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love,
teach us to contemplate you
in the beauty of the universe,
for all things speak of you.
Awaken our praise and thankfulness
for every being that you have made.
Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined
to everything that is.*

*God of love, show us our place in this world
as channels of your love
for all the creatures of this earth,
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.*

*Enlighten those who possess power and money
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,
that they may love the common good, advance the weak,
and care for this world in which we live.*

*The poor and the earth are crying out.
O Lord, seize us with your power and light,
help us to protect all life,
to prepare for a better future,
for the coming of your Kingdom of justice, peace, love and beauty.
Praise be to you!*

Amen!

Fr. Bill +