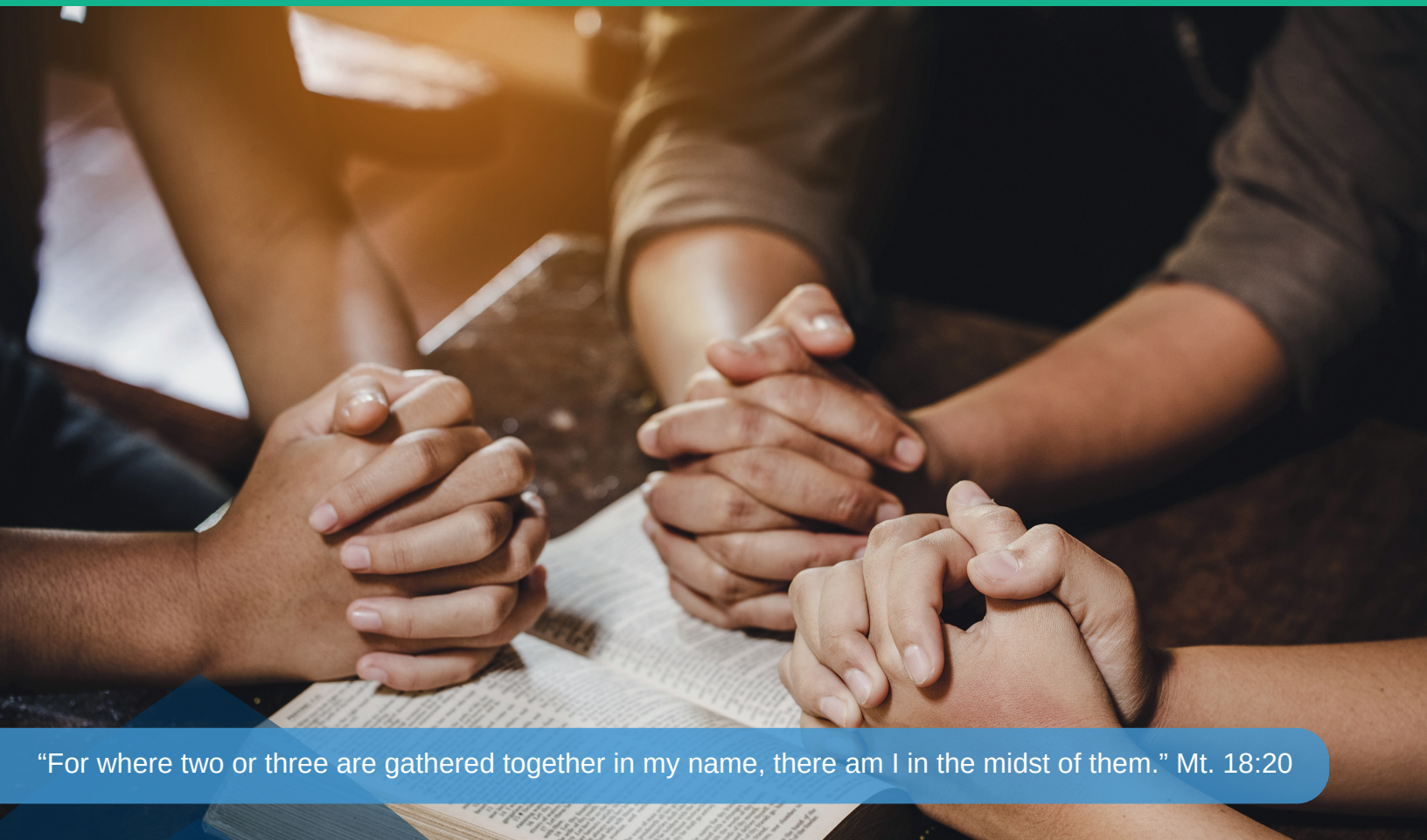


23ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • SEPT 6, 2026

ST. MARY PARISH

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

312 SOUTH STATE STREET • APPLETON, WI 54911



“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” Mt. 18:20

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

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

IN TIMES OF
GREAT NEED

AFFECTED BY THE TORNADO AND NEED ASSISTANCE?

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

LOOKING FOR WAYS TO SUPPORT TORNADO RELIEF?

Contact Catholic Charities LEAVEN COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

1475 Opportunity Way,
Menasha

Providence Promise Ministries at St. Joseph Church

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](#)



LABOR DAY



PARISH OFFICE
CLOSED

Monday, September 7



MASS WILL
BE HELD AT
8:00 AM

— All are welcome! —



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.

Hallow Hub

Do you have questions about Hallow?

Visit one of our Parish's Hallow Heralds after Masses in the Marian Way, Sept. 12-13 to help with your Hallow experience



IMMERSION IN LIVING WATER

Ezekiel 47:9, 12

Living Water

Season of Creation 2026

September 1 - October 3, 2026

This year we will be guided by the vision of the prophet Ezekiel (47:1-12): a river flowing from the temple of God, which grows without stopping and brings life where everything seems barren.

Water heals, restores, and makes creation flourish. But it also challenges us: to recognize ecological damage, to embrace our interconnectedness, and to immerse ourselves in the responsibility of caring for and restoring our Common Home.

May this Season of Creation be a path for the healing of the Earth and human well-being to flourish together.



COFFEE & DONUTS

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



Faith, Friends, Fellowship!

St. Mary Summer Pilgrimage

a day of beauty, peace, and encounter.

Thank you to
all our participants!

JOIN A SMALL GROUP *This Fall!*

REAL PEOPLE.
REAL CONVERSATIONS.
A DEEPER FAITH.

Small groups are a great way to grow in faith,
build friendships, and journey together as disciples
of Christ. All are welcome!



GROUPS FOR
MEN



GROUPS FOR
WOMEN



MIXED
GROUPS



MEET DURING
THE DAY OR
IN THE EVENINGS

FAITH GROWS TOGETHER



INTERESTED IN JOINING A SMALL GROUP?

Contact Andrew Reimer at

📞 (920) 739-5119 x110

✉️ areimer@stmaryparish.org

"Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."
— Matthew 18:20

Meet Noelle after the Sunday
Masses on September 13

SPIRITUS



NOELLE ATHA

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



What prayer is known as the
"Angelic Salutation"?

— St. Mary's — HAND BELL CHOIR

"The Bells of St. Mary"

DEMONSTRATION/RECRUITMENT SESSIONS

Curious about hand bells? Come see, hear and try ringing with us!



**SATURDAY,
SEPT. 5**

Back of the Church



**SUNDAY,
SEPT. 6**

Back of the Church



**SATURDAY,
SEPT. 12**

Marian Way



**SUNDAY,
SEPT. 13**

Marian Way

Demo's will take place before or after mass



NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!

We provide fun, fellowship
and beautiful music.



Questions? Contact the Parish Office
or a member of The Bells of St. Mary.

JOIN US!



for our FIRST EVER Fundraiser!

Thursday, September 17th

Holiday's Pub & Grill

**3950 North Richmond Street
Appleton, WI 54913**



Doors Open

4:30pm

BINGO starts

6pm



Play BINGO Win Prizes Change Lives!



**\$2,500+ in raffles
and cash prizes!
\$500 BINGO
Blackout Prize!**

Get your tickets here for
a night of Bingo, community
and FUN in support of the
young adults of the Fox Cities!



Thanks for supporting
this important mission
in support of the former
foster youth of the Fox Cities!

— JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL —

CELTIC MASS



SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 19
@ 4:30 PM



ST. MARY PARISH -
APPLETON
312 S. State St.
Appleton, WI



ADVANCE TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE
ONLINE. FREE ADMISSION FOR KIDS
14 AND UNDER.



irishfestfoxcities.com



Celebrate Faith. Honor Tradition. Embrace Community.



EVENTS CALENDAR

Mass Intentions

Week of Sept 6 - Sept 13

Sunday, Sept 6

7:45 am Mass
9:45 am Mass/LS

Monday, Sept 7

Office Closed for Labor Day

8:00 am Mass
6:30 pm THEO/CR
7:00 pm AA Meeting/LL1

Tuesday, Sept 8

9:00 am Connect Group/LL7
5:30 pm Mixed Small Group/ Scout Rm
6:00 pm Men's Ministry/ LL7
6:30 pm Pastoral Leadership Council/CR

Wednesday, Sept 9

9:30 am Connect Group/LL7
6:30 pm Confirmation Night of Reflection/Church

Thursday, Sept 10

10:00 am Little Lambs Playgroup - Babysitting Rm
12:05 pm Mass
6:00 pm Adult Choir/ MR

Friday, Sept 11

Parish Office Closed

Saturday, Sept 12-Hallow Hub

9:00 am Confessions
4:30 pm Mass

Sunday, Sept 13-Hallow Hub

Meet our Spiritus Intern, Noelle!

Coffee & Donuts

7:45 am Mass
9:30 am Flock of Sparrows/LL5
9:45 am Mass/LS/Children's Liturgy
11:15 am Confirmation Rehearsal/Church

Sun., Sept 6 7:45 am Members in the Military
9:45 am Sis & Bob Balliet

Mon., Sept 7 8:00pm Sally Thompson

Thu., Sept 10 12:05 pm Robert Vanderheiden

Sat., Sept 12 4:30 pm Living and Deceased Members of SMP

Sun., Sept 13 7:45 am Marjorie Elizabeth Nabbefeldt
9:45 am Morris DeBruin



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

With 5 weekends in August, we ended the month very strong. Thank you so much for your generous support of the parish.

MONTH	INCOME	BUDGET	VARIANCE
August	\$77,507.87	\$57,800.00	\$19,707.87

Your giving at work in the parish:

- Thank you to everyone for providing feedback regarding the potential for replacing our Stations of the Cross. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive with a few people expressing some very good questions and concerns. With the positive feedback, we will begin a more in depth look into what it will take to move forward with the project and the total cost of purchase and installation.
- The cemetery clean up continues, but it will take a much slower pace as we enter September. With other projects having been put on hold, the cemetery board will be looking into the next steps of clean up and the other cemetery projects. The board is looking for new members, if you are interested please contact Chip (cacker@stmaryparish.org).



Hail Mary

in Joy & SORROW

ST MARY PARISH - APPLETON // 9.6.2026
WITH FR. BILL SWICHTENBERG



“
The pursuit of greater
profits cannot justify
choices that systematically
sacrifice jobs, because the
human person is an end,
not a means.

”
— POPE LEO XIV,
MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS, ¶152

As we observe the unofficial ending of summer, back to school, and Labor Day on Monday (9/7), of all places, my thoughts turn to the effects that Artificial Intelligence (AI) will have on workers.

The rapid development of AI has caught me by surprise, for sure. I certainly do not rely on AI to prepare my homilies. Maybe you wish I did.

I once asked ChatGPT to write a prayer for me based on the themes in Fr Henri Nouwen's book, [The Return of the Prodigal Son](#). I am secure enough in my own self-image to admit that the prayer produced was very fine, better than what I may have written and, to my amazement, indicated an awareness of the themes in the book.

Automation and technological development driven by AI can be either a wonderful blessing in the life of the worker or it can be a frightening bane that may eliminate the worker. If efficiency and productivity are all that matters, AI can devise ways to improve both without any thought whatsoever to the human person and his or her need to work to deepen one's sense of self-worth. Maximizing profits while running roughshod over the dignity of the worker is not the way we want to go.

Pope Leo elaborates more on this very topic in his Encyclical Letter *Magnifica Humanitas* in the section titled “The dignity of work in a time of digital transition.”

The Holy Father writes: "Created in the image of the Creator, our own work in some way continues God's, for thereby we contribute to the progress of society and the common good, put to good use the capabilities we have received, improve and beautify the world, support our families, engage in cooperative relationships and, through listening and dialogue, learn to build together something that no one could achieve alone."
(paragraph 148)

Growing up and watching my dad at work as a homebuilder, I was aware of how much pride he took in his work. He was a perfectionist and his homes were works of art. He loved to go to work.

After us kids were all in school, my mom worked a number of different jobs in retail stores in the shoe department, housewares department, and in a vitamin store. After studying to receive her real estate license, mom worked hard selling homes. She was always kind, conscientious and reliable.

Pope Leo suggests, "It is certainly desirable for technology to relieve humans of arduous, repetitive or dangerous tasks and to provide intelligent support for human activity. Yet, the protection of employment opportunities and the irreplaceable role of the individual must remain the general rule. The pursuit of greater profits cannot justify choices that systematically sacrifice jobs, because the human person is an end, not a means, and the economic order must remain subordinate to human dignity and the common good."
(paragraph 152)

On this Labor Day, let us pray with Pope Francis.

*Lord God, look down upon us! Look at this city, this country, and this world.
Look upon our families.*

Lord, you were not without a job, you were a carpenter, you were happy.

Lord, we have no work.

The idols want to rob us of our dignity. The unjust systems want to rob us of hope.

Lord, do not leave us on our own. Help us to help each other; so that we forget our selfishness a little and feel in our heart the "we", the "we" of a people who want to keep on going.

Lord Jesus, you were never out of work, give us work, and teach us to advocate for work and bless us all.

In the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Happy Grilling!

Happy Back to School!

Happy Labor Day!

Happy Autumn!

Go Packers!

Go Brewers!

Fr. Bill +