

# ST. MARY PARISH



*Ripples of God's love... Through our hearts, to all hearts*

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## BULLETIN REMINDER OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**Please call the office if you have any questions.**

### This Weekend:

- August 16 - 24 we will be having our Annual School Supplies Drive and School Shoe Drive. All that is collected will go to the Appleton Area Schools.
- Attention Parents! It's time to register for Beacon and for Sacrament prep. If you have questions, please call the parish office or you can register on our website at [stmary@stmaryparish.org](mailto:stmary@stmaryparish.org).
- Be a part of the Habitat for Humanity Faith Build! Here are our scheduled dates and tasks: Sept 2 - Siding, Oct 1 - Prepare a Meal, Oct 2 - Wall Rock, Oct 25 - Paint and Stain. To sign up for building activities, please contact Ray Fuchs at [rfuchs1944@gmail.com](mailto:rfuchs1944@gmail.com). and Sarah Fraley at [sfraley@new.rr.com](mailto:sfraley@new.rr.com) if you'd like to prepare or serve a meal.
- We are looking for volunteers for Babysitting Ministry, Middle School Catechist, & Elementary Catechist & Aids. Contact the parish office for more information.
- Save the date to Celebrate Our Feast Day Weekend, September 13 & 14.
- Save the date for the parish roll-out of the Hallow Prayer App on September 20 & 21.
- Small Group opportunity-Men's Ministry will meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday from 6:30 to 8:00pm, starting on August 26.
- Small Group opportunity-Woman's Ministry will meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday from 6:00 to 7:30pm, starting September 18.
- Join us on Sunday for Coffee & Donuts after the 7:45 am and 9:45 am Masses.
- We will have Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 9:45 am Mass on Sunday.
- The Adult Choir and Bell Choir will resume singing and ringing for our Masses after the Labor Day weekend. Come share your time and talents with them. Contact Tom Walter [twalter@stmaryparish.org](mailto:twalter@stmaryparish.org) or Martha Paalman if you wish to join and share in this ministry!

# in Joy & SORROW



You have heard the sayings: “*Like mother, like daughter*” and “*Like father, like son.*” Your experience may agree with these and, then again, maybe not. Stereotypes may be helpful until they aren’t! I am not a big fan of stereotypical thinking!

In many ways, I find myself to be like my father and, in other ways, like my mother. Character traits I share with my Dad are a love for the outdoors, an aversion to taking shortcuts or doing things haphazardly, being honest and reliable, and a willingness to be helpful. My Mom and I always work hard, love books and reading, music and art, prefer routine, and are pretty good cooks and housecleaners. On second thought, my housekeeping these days leaves a lot to be desired. Sorry, Mom.

This week our liturgical calendar presents a rare occurrence. On Wednesday, we remember Saint Monica, and on Thursday, we remember Augustine, son of Monica, Bishop, and Doctor of the Church. In the fourth century, in what is modern-day Algeria (Africa),

*On Wednesday, we remember Saint Monica, and on Thursday, we remember Augustine, son of Monica, Bishop, and Doctor of the Church.*

Augustine was a handful and a constant source of heartache for his Mother.

He was a playboy of sorts, the father of a son who was conceived with his girlfriend, restless, constantly exposing himself to new philosophies, quickly changing his mind and adapting to something else for who knows how long, and, because he was such an intellectual and always up in his head, always struggling to come to a belief in the Christian God.

Monica never gave up on her son. She constantly found a way to be where he was even if it took her a bit to find out where that was. Monica followed Augustine all the way to Milan, Italy. Here is where Augustine was mesmerized by the preaching of the great Saint Ambrose and was eventually baptized by this holy Bishop of Milan.

Of late, I have taken an interest in learning about Augustine. I am reading his autobiography, which is a spiritual classic for all the ages, titled "*The Confessions*." Why my sudden interest in this Bishop and Doctor of the Church?

My interest is sparked by the fact that Pope Leo is a "son of Augustine," a member of the Order of Saint Augustine, a former Prior General of this community of religious men, who oozes the spirit of Saint Augustine. In Leo's preaching, it is glaringly apparent that Leo knows well the works of Saint Augustine, notably *The Confessions*, *The City of God*, the 500 plus homilies of Saint Augustine, and so much more.

In his short pontificate of three months or so, Pope Leo's emphases center around the Augustinian themes of peace, unity, and the values of friendship and community.

Pope Leo's episcopal motto is *In illo uno unum, In the One, we are one*. Indeed, in the waters of baptism, we have been made one in Christ Jesus, incorporated into His Body, which is the Church, the People of God. Saint Paul was clear that when one of us rejoices, all of us rejoice, and when one of us suffers, we all suffer. Paul was certain that *we are many parts but One Body*.

Pope Leo has quoted a number of times Augustine's conviction that, "With you, I am a Christian and, for you, I am a Bishop." A Bishop, including the Pope, who is the Bishop of Rome, is never apart from his flock but stands with them, always with their smell on his clothing. Humility like this is so transforming. This humility looks like Bishop Robert Prevost of Chiclayo, during a flood, standing in the washed-out street of a poor Peruvian village, wearing his hip boots.

Saint Augustine reminds us that conversion is an ongoing process in our lives. We admit that sometimes we need a course correction because we find ourselves straying away from the Lord. The Lord, however,

never strays away from us. Augustine resonates with our need to always be turning back to the Lord.

Let me end this little reflection with Augustine's great plea to the Lord:

*Too late have I loved you, O Beauty so ancient, O Beauty so new.*

*Too late have I loved you! You were within me but I was outside myself, and there I sought you!*

*In my weakness, I ran after the beauty of the things you have made.*

*You were with me, and I was not with you.*

*The things you have made kept me from you – the things which would have no being unless they existed in you!*

*You have called, you have cried, and you have pierced my deafness.*

*You have radiated forth, you have shined out brightly, and you have dispelled my blindness.*

*You have sent forth your fragrance, and I have breathed it in, and I long for you.*

*I have tasted you, and I hunger and thirst for you.*

*You have touched me, and I ardently desire your peace.*

Saint Monica and Saint Augustine, Mother and Son, pray for us!

*Fr. Bill +*