

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

ST. MARY PARISH

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

312 SOUTH STATE STREET • APPLETON, WI 54911

Love God, serve God; everything is in that -Clare of Assisi

BULLETIN

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

Cemetery Info - Chip Acker

cacker@stmaryparish.org

cell 920-882-4158



Hallow LAUNCH

We are thrilled to announce that we'll be partnering with Hallow this year, the #1 prayer app! Learn more after each Mass!

THIS WEEKEND

Maddy Cole from Hallow will introduce you to Hallow and how to use the app, plus a presentation on Praying with the Holy Spirit.

4:30 PM MASS

Hosted after Mass in Church.

7:45 AM & 9:45 AM MASS

Hosted after Mass in the Community Room.



Let us pray

Evening worship experiences at St. Mary, Appleton

Discover the Power of Lectio Divina with Fr. Bill

September 29 | 6:30-8:00 PM

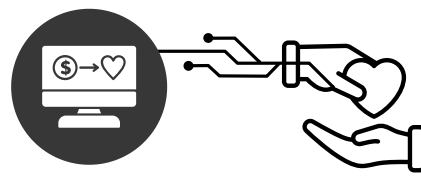
**Are you hungry for a deeper relationship with Jesus?
Are you longing to hear from God, but don't know how?**

Take a start-of-the-week pause to rest in God's word. Join Fr. Bill and experience *lectio divina* – an ancient form of prayer that draws us into a deeper relationship with Christ through Scripture. Whether you are experienced in this type of prayer experience or trying it for the first time, you are warmly welcome.

Come with an open heart. Leave with a renewed spirit!



ParishSOFT®



We're excited to share that Faith Direct will soon be upgrading to ParishSOFT Giving—our new, secure giving platform. This upgrade will happen automatically and securely. No action is required from you—your gift schedules and payment details will carry over seamlessly.

What's new about ParishSOFT Giving?

- **Weekly Giving:** If you selected weekly giving, your gifts will now be deducted each week instead of in one monthly batch.
- **More Flexibility:** Adjust your giving schedule to any date that works for you not just the 4th or 15th.
- **More Ways to Give:** Now you can donate using PayPal, Venmo, Apple Pay, or Google Pay.

We're committed to making this a smooth transition. You'll receive more information as we get closer to launch.

Pancake Breakfast

buttermilk pancakes
french toast sticks
bacon, sausage, fresh fruit

SUNDAY, OCT. 5
8:30 - 11:30AM
COMMUNITY ROOM

All are welcome!
free will offerings accepted



Pillars is low on E2F Pans that are meals for their residents. These are meals you can put together easily for about \$15-\$20. One pan can feed 10 people. **Pick up a pan on October 4th and 5th** after the Masses. Please follow the enclosed directions and **return the frozen meal on October 11th and 12th**. Thank you for helping.

Celebrate



Garden of Peace
Isaiah 32:14-18

PEACE WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2025

September 1 - October 4

St. Mary PRAYER TREE

LEAVE A PRAYER,
TAKE A PRAYER.
LOOK FOR OUR
PRAYER TREE IN
BACK OF
CHURCH.



Join Us on the Habitat for Humanity Faith Build

Oct 2 Wall Rock, Prepare a Meal

Contact Ray Fuchs rfuchs1944@gmail.com to build.

Oct 25 Paint and Stain, Prepare a Meal

Contact Sarah Fraley sfraley@new.rr.com for meals.

NEW SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

Men's Ministry:

- Meets on every 2nd and 4th Tuesday from 6:30-8:00 PM in LL7, starting Tuesday, August 26
- Contact: Jim Richter at jimrichtermd@gmail.com

Women's Ministry:

- Meets on every 1st and 3rd Thursday from 6:00-7:30 PM in LL7, starting Thursday, September 18
- Contact: Jane Leveille at leveille.jat@gmail.com

If you are interested in joining a small group but don't know where to start, contact Kate in the Parish Office. kminczeski@stmaryparish.org, (920) 739-5119 x 110



All parishioners 55 and older, are invited to join us for brunch on Sunday, September 28th at 11:30 am, at Pullman's Restaurant, 619 S. Olde Oneida St. We will order off the menu and it is self pay. Reservations required. Please call or text Sue Rogers @ 920-810-1545 with questions or reservations. Leave your name and the number of people attending by Friday, Sept. 26.



PARENTS!

IT'S REGISTRATION TIME



ALL youth are welcome to join Beacon Faith Formation on Wednesday nights to grow in faith and community.

Classes will begin 9/17

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

Grades 9-12 | 6:30-8:00pm



<https://bit.ly/4mf0vUY>

SACRAMENT PREP



<https://bit.ly/3UVICyf>

*Do you have a child of the age for First Communion or Confirmation?
It's time to register them for our sacramental prep programs.*

2nd GRADE STUDENTS: First Reconciliation & First Communion
(prep begins in September)

HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS: Confirmation
(Prep begins in the winter)



Confirmation Mass

Please pray for our Confirmation students who have been preparing over the last year and will be confirmed this month, 9/27.

Minister of Young Disciples, Grades 1-5, Children's Liturgy

Join Our Pastoral Team

Tracy is going part-time and will minister to our middle and high school students. We are hiring someone to minister to our students in grades 1-5 and our youngsters who attend Children's Liturgy of the Word.

Contact Nadine or Tracy for more information.

Interested?

Contact: Tracy@ tturba@stmaryparish.org

Nadine@ nduncan@stmaryparish.org

What is the name of the prayer that begins-
"Remember, O most gracious, Virgin Mary"



Calling All Widows!

Join the Widows of Prayer for a Mass Honoring your husband on Thursday, **Sept. 25, 2025 at 5:30 pm** St. Pius X Parish 500 W. Marquette St. Appleton, WI
Also, join us for dinner at a local restaurant Following Mass
Meet in the Narthex after Mass

CIA-Faith Mission Operatives

INVESTIGATE YOUR FAITH!
2025-2026 SERIES

Celebrate our 1st Millennial Saint!

MONDAY, SEPT. 22, 7 PM

MOVIE NIGHT!

CARLO ACUTIS

ROADMAP TO REALITY



Xavier Fine Arts Theatre

1600 Prospect Ave, Appleton, WI

No tickets needed / Free will offering encouraged

For details, google CIAFMO, email
ciafmo@gmail.com, or call 920-450-3025

EVENTS CALENDAR

Week of Sept 20-Sept 28

Saturday, Sept 20

9:00am Confessions/Chapel
 2:00pm Alexis Govan - Zachary Ziglinski Wedding
 4:30pm Celtic Mass-Hallow Kickoff

Sunday, Sept 21

Coffee & Donuts after mass

7:45am Mass-Hallow Kickoff
 9:45am Mass/Livestreamed-Hallow Kickoff
 11:00am Baptism Preparation Course
 11:00am Flock of Sparrows
 5:00pm Confirmation Rehearsal

Monday, Sept 22

12:05pm Mass

Tuesday, Sept 23

9:00am Connect Group/LL7
 2:00pm Rosary Prayer group/Chapel

Wednesday, Sept 24

9:30am Connect Group/LL7
 4:30pm Adoration/Chapel
 4:45pm Beacon Faith Formation 1st -5th grade
 6:30pm Beacon Faith Formation 6th -8th grade
 6:30pm Beacon Faith Formation 9th -12th grade

Thursday, Sept 25

10:00am St. Mary Young Families Small Group/BSR
 12:05pm Mass
 6:00pm Choir/Music room

Friday, Sept 26

Parish Office Closed

Saturday, Sept 27

9:00am Confessions/Chapel
 4:30pm Mass
 7:00pm Confirmation Mass
 8:00pm Confirmation Reception

Sunday, Sept 28

7:45am Mass
 9:45am Mass/Livestreamed
 11:00am Flock of Sparrows/LL5

Mass Intentions

Sat. Sep 20	4:30pm	Fran & Bob Draphal
Sun. Sept 21	7:45am 9:45am	Members of St. Mary Parish Nancie & Dennis Chuchel
Mon. Sept 22	12:05pm	Robert Mullen
Thur. Sept 25	12:05pm	Carol Smith
Sat. Sept 27	4:30pm	Nina Ellenbecker
Sun. Sept 28	7:45am 9:45am	Gloria Louch Members of St. Mary Parish



IN LOVING MEMORY

Please pray for the family and friends of those who have recently passed. May your memories comfort you at this time.

Generosity CORNER

Thank you for your generous donations since we kicked off the new fiscal year July 1st. This year we have divided our sacrificial giving target into 12 equal amounts. We still have two more weeks of collections to meet our September goal.

	2025 Income	Monthly Budget	Income vs Budget
July	\$83,511.86	\$75,083.33	\$8,428.53
August	\$59,635.00	\$75,083.33	-\$15,448.33
September	\$47,143.25	\$75,083.33	-\$27,940.08

Your generosity helps keep our lights on and our programs running. The Fall launch last weekend shows some of the activities supported by your gifts.

Clergy

Pastor, Fr. Bill Swichtenberg
wdswitz@stmaryparish.org
cell 920-422-4316

Deacon Gerry Schraufnagel
schraufnagel@stmaryparish.org
cell 920-540-9594

Pastoral Team

Nadine Duncan (Ext. 116)
Director of Pastoral
Administration
nduncan@stmaryparish.org
cell 920-659-1337

Lori Lavalle (Ext. 121)
Minister of Parish Vitality
llavalle@stmaryparish.org

Kate Minczeski (Ext. 110)
Minister of Adult Disciples
kminczeski@stmaryparish.org

Tracy Turba (Ext. 119)
Minister of Young Disciples
tturba@stmaryparish.org

Tom Walter (Ext. 114)
Minister of Liturgy and Music
twalter@stmaryparish.org
cell (920)-422-8669

Parish Leadership

Tim Schraufnagel
Pastoral Leadership
Council Chair
plc@stmaryparish.org

Sarah Higgins
Finance Council Chair
fcchair@stmaryparish.org

Business Office

Chris Higgins (Ext. 102)
Director of Business
Administration
chiggins@stmaryparish.org

**Kristina Resterhouse
(Ext. 101)**
Administrative Assistant
stmary@stmaryparish.org

Mary Ellen Fisher (Ext. 103)
Bookkeeping Assistant
mefisher@stmaryparish.org

Michael Kozoroz (Ext 100)
Communication Coordinator
mkozoroz@stmaryparish.org

Facilities & Cemetery

Chip Acker
cacker@stmaryparish.org
cell 920-882-4158

Chad Tisdell
ctisdell@stmaryparish.org

Prayer Requests

Contact Laurie Richter
lauriejrichter@gmail.com

Mary Jo Zilisch
(920-734-1182) or

Ann Walkowski
(920-428-0969)

Important Contacts

Parish Office Hours:
920-739-5119
Mon through Thurs, 9am-4pm
Office Closed on Fridays

Sacrament of Matrimony
Getting Married? Congratulations!
Contact Fr. Bill at least 6 months
before your planned wedding date.

Funeral Information

Contact Tom Walter
cell (920)-422-8669

Interested in joining the Parish?

Contact Lori Lavalle
llavalle@stmaryparish.org

Mass Intentions

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

Confession times:

Saturdays 9-10am, or by
appointment

Parish Website:

stmaryparish.org

Cemetery Website:

stmaryparishcemetery.org

Eucharistic Adoration Wednesdays

4:30-8pm

Sign up for a slot to sit with Jesus.
We must have one person
with the Eucharist at all times.

[Click here to schedule Adoration](#)

Or scan with your phone



SCAN ME



The Memorare

in Joy & SORROW

ST MARY PARISH - APPLETON // 9.21.2025

WITH FR. BILL SWICHTENBERG



In the spiritual life, prayer is nonnegotiable. If I am going to be a friend and follower of Jesus, I must be a person of prayer. I like to think of praying as being as lifesaving as inhaling my next breath.

I challenge people, often in the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession, Penance), to be able to answer these specific questions regarding a daily pattern for prayer: “When do you pray?” “Where do you pray?” “How do you pray?”

My prayer life is intentional. It cannot be hit or miss or compartmentalized to only attending Mass on the weekend.

I pray three times a day, sometimes really early, around 3 or 4 AM, then at 8:30 AM and then in the evening at 7:20 PM. The times are pretty fluid as I have to work around my schedule and the online schedules.

My prayer life is intentional. It cannot be hit or miss or compartmentalized to only attending Mass on the weekend.

I pray in my living room, seated in my La-Z-boy recliner, with artwork in my line of vision, like Jesus rescuing Peter from drowning in the Sea of Galilee, Mary, Our Lady of Good Counsel (Pope Leo's favorite), Mary, Health/Salvation of the [Roman] People (Pope Francis's favorite), the 21 young men martyrs of Egypt, slain by Islamic terrorists in 2015, the Divine Mercy image given in prayer to Saint Mother Faustina of Poland, and Rembrandt's Calling of the tax collector, Matthew. There are a few more pieces but my list is already long enough!

I pray the Liturgy of the Hours, specifically Matins (Vigils), Lauds (Morning Prayer), and Vespers (Evening Prayer). At the heart of the Liturgy of the Hours are the Psalms, attributed to the shepherd boy, David, the Great King of Israel. I recall that Jesus Himself prayed the Psalms throughout his short life, which deepens my closeness to Him. Just to imagine that Jesus is praying the Psalms with me is mind- and heart-boggling.

The Psalms are best chanted so I pray online with the Benedictine monks of Worth Abbey in England, the United Kingdom (Their prayer is recorded as they are seven hours ahead of us) or the Benedictine monks of Mount Angel Abbey and Seminary in Oregon (their prayer is live, remembering that they are two hours behind us). As a theology student, I was formed by the Benedictines of Saint John Abbey and School of Theology in Collegeville, Minnesota.

I love the Psalms and I love chanting them.

I am also committed to Adoration before the Risen Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament every Wednesday from 4:30 to 5:30 PM. For me, this sacred time is a time of stillness and silence, apart from my thoughts, practicing Centering Prayer. Centering Prayer just possibly quiets the monkeys that are constantly jumping around in my mind!

This I know! Jesus grew up in a school of prayer in Nazareth, embraced by His Mother Mary and His Stepfather Joseph, in their home. Both of His parents were persons of deep prayer and they faithfully handed down their witness to the power of prayer to their Beloved Son, Jesus.

This I know! Every family is encouraged to become a school of prayer. The home is the domestic Church, the first Church, if you will.

This I know! The parish family must be a school of prayer. The parish, like a sparkling diamond, has facets that focus on worship, discipleship, ministry, mission, and fellowship. Holding all of this together is the Holy Spirit praying through you and me. The Holy Spirit is adverse to the notion that there is a best way to pray. That is why the parish must provide ongoing opportunities to gather people around the many

different ways of praying. Prayer is an art and the Holy Spirit is the Master Artist or Teacher.

As we hone in on some well-proven ways of praying, I would encourage you to carve out some space to participate in our “Let Us Pray” series. As you are introduced to different styles of prayer, you may be stretched. You may discover a prayer form that touches your heart. You may be inspired to incorporate into your life a dedicated time for prayer each and every day.

To hear the Holy Spirit speak right at the center of our lives, silence and stillness are essential. As Father Thomas Merton often said, “You cannot be a friend of Jesus if you are not a friend of silence and stillness.” Prayer finds many ways to engage our minds, hearts, and bodies. When all is said and done, we are always being pulled deeper, where there is only silence and stillness. In this fast-paced life of ours, inundated with responsibilities, commitments, the constant tug of social media, and an insidious compulsion to keep scrolling and scrolling, the silence and stillness of prayer become a great respite. One must make space and time for prayer to avoid being buffeted to and fro by so many stimuli that take us away from the Lord.

This I know! Father Henri Nouwen, one of the great spiritual leaders of the 20th century is spot on when he poses:

Here arises a key question: “Can we see Christ in the world?” The answer is, “No, we cannot see Christ in the world, but only the Christ in us can see Christ in the world.” This means that through prayer the Christ within us opens our eyes to the Christ among us.

Let me conclude with this poem. Like with much poetry, it touches me in a way beyond words that might feebly attempt to explain it! Just let it seep through you, like the Holy Spirit!

Prayer

Jorie Graham

*Over a dock railing, I watch the minnows, thousands, swirl themselves, each a minuscule muscle, but also, without the way to create current, making of their unison (turning, re-
infolding,
entering and exiting their own unison in unison) making of themselves a visual current, one that cannot freight or sway by minutest fractions the water’s downdrafts and upswirls, the dockside cycles of finally-arriving boat-wakes, there where*

*they hit deeper resistance, water that seems to burst into
itself (it has those layers) a real current though mostly
invisible sending into the visible (minnows) arrowing
motion that forces change—
this is freedom. This is the force of faith. Nobody gets
what they want. Never again are you the same. The longing
is to be pure. What you get is to be changed. More and more by
each glistening minute, through which infinity threads itself,
also oblivion, of course, the aftershocks of something
at sea. Here, hands full of sand, letting it sift through
in the wind, I look in and say take this, this is
what I have saved, take this, hurry. And if I listen
now? Listen, I was not saying anything. It was only
something I did. I could not choose words. I am free to go.
I cannot of course come back. Not to this. Never.
It is a ghost posed on my lips. Here: never.*

Fr. Bill +