

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, NOVEMBER 30, 2025

ST. MARY PARISH

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

312 SOUTH STATE STREET • APPLETON, WI 54911



“Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.”
Matthew 24:44

BULLETIN

PLEASE NOTE: THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON THANKSGIVING.

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, Thurs, 9am-4pm

Wed, 9am-6:30pm

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 Lavallo

llavalle@stmaryparish.org

Confession times:

Saturdays 9-10am or by appointment

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesdays 4:30-8pm

Sign up for a time to sit with Jesus.

We must have one person with the Eucharist at all times.

Or scan with your phone.



SCAN ME

PREPARE YOUR HEART FOR JESUS THIS ADVENT

I have been using the Hallow app for 1.5 years and I truly enjoy it! I continue to discover more on the app like different prayer styles, different music to assist in my praise of God, various personal stories of others' encounter with God. One of my favorite things is the Saints in Seven Days series. I have learned so much about those who have gone before us and are examples of living a life in God and faith. I also truly love the 40 Day Lenten Challenge and Advent Challenge. I find it easier to keep my Lenten prayer commitment when praying with so many others.



I am much more intentional and committed to daily prayer with Hallow. It makes it so easy to be consistent and to know I am joined by so many others who are praying worldwide. It is also very exciting to be joining other St. Mary parishioners in prayer and to pray with one another for our intentions. I am grateful to have Hallow wherever I go, helping my relationship with God to strengthen, feeling a sense of community and connection, and deepening my faith.

-Mary Ellen Julien, St. Mary parishioner

You're Invited! Advent Pray25: Be Still

This Advent, we invite you to discover deeper stillness amidst the chaos of the holiday season just as Mary did that first Christmas. Join millions around the world as we dive into the story of the Nativity through reflections on the infancy narratives, powerful excerpts from *The Reed of God* by Caryll Houselander and *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry* by John Mark Comer, and moments of silence and contemplative prayer. Join us in this 25-day journey, starting Monday, December 1!

Kids Advent: Finding Fiat

Join Grace as she prepares for the lead role of Mary in her school's Nativity play. Grace, her brother, and her best friends will experience episodes of Mary's life, a new game show, and so much more!

Already using Hallow?

Simply open the app, tap the **Community** tab at the bottom of your screen, visit our **parish page**, and join the Advent prayer challenge.

New to Hallow?

Visit hallow.com/parish, search for our parish (54911 zip code works best), and follow the prompts. You'll receive a special trial with full access to Hallow's premium content. If you'd prefer to stay on the free version, tap "**Skip**" — you'll still have access to our parish page and the Advent prayer challenge.

Need help getting started?

Email: parishsupport@hallow.app



Is there a Catholic saint for every day of the year?



*Pick up
your
loved one's
candle in
the
Marian
Way*



Needs **TREE**

Give someone a happy Christmas. Take a tag from a tree in the church or the Marian Way.

GIFTS DUE - DEC 6/7 If possible, return gifts in a reusable, cloth, or vinyl shopping bag.

Most gift card requests are available at the scrip table. Donations may be made through Parish Soft.



**SEND US
YOUR PIC**

info@stmaryparish.org
by DEC 15

- Put your name (or family last name) in the subject line
- Don't forget your pets!



Christmas Flowers

If you would like to contribute to the 2025 Christmas Flower & Worship Fund in memory of a loved one, please complete and return this form with payment to the parish office no later than Sunday, December 14.

PLEASE PRINT VERY CLEARLY so we can ensure accurate spelling!

Your last name/family name: _____

Your first name: _____ Amount: _____

Circle one: CASH CHECK (check # _____)

In Memory of: _____



Church DOORS

Beginning December 6 and 7, the front and side church doors will be locked 10 minutes after Mass begins. There will be signs on the doors directing people to enter through Door 1 (the office entrance to the church) and Door 3 (the back parking lot entrance). This comes in response to recent incidents that have caused disruption in the back of the church and concerns about security during Mass.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Chris Higgins in the office or email him at: chiggins@stmaryparish.org.



Help St. Joe's Emergency Overflow Shelter this Winter!

St. Joe's will be operating an overnight shelter during winter months on nights with extreme cold.

Those seeking shelter will be provided bedding and a safe, warm place to sleep. Food (beverages, snacks and meals) will also be provided for guests.

Scan the QR code or click the link to find out more ways you can help this winter.



[St. Joe's Warming Shelter Volunteer Interest Form](#)



Say hello to St. Nick at all the Masses on December 6 & 7!

HELP BRING A SMILE TO CHILDREN THIS ST NICK!

Collecting on December 6 & 7

Please bring an unwrapped gift for a child.

SUGGESTED ITEMS ARE:

- TOYS
- BOOKS
- GAMES
- HATS
- MITTENS
- GIFT CARDS FOR FAST FOOD RESTAURANTS

THIS IS FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES, FROM THE LITTLE ONES TO TEENAGERS. DONATIONS WILL GO TO CHILDREN IN THE APPLETON SCHOOLS.

rooted
REDISCOVER THE JESSE TREE THIS ADVENT



formedTM
Forming Catholics for *Life*.

Rooted: Rediscover the Jesse Tree This Advent | Trailer

Hosted by Dr. Scott Hefelfinger, Rooted guides Catholics through a daily Advent reflection using the Jesse Tree model traditionally practiced by families. Each seven-minute episode introduces the ancestors of Jesus Christ, shares a Scripture passage, and offers an engaging, practical reflection.

Our parish has a free Formed subscription for you! Simply scan the QR code or visit formed.org/signup to create your account and select our parish to get free access to this content and much more!



An offering from the  AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE

Annual Advent **BAKE SALE**

DECEMBER 13
after 4:30 PM Mass

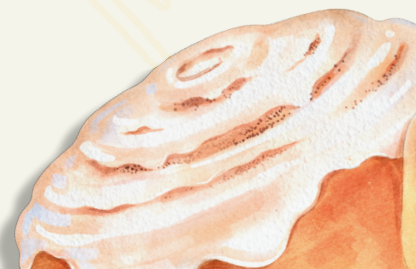
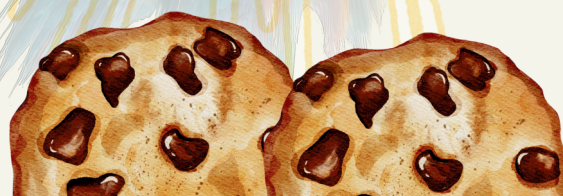
DECEMBER 14
after 7:45 AM
& 9:45 AM Masses



Mark your calendar for a bake sale on the weekend of
December 13-14.

Your favorite baked goods are always welcomed.

You may drop them off any time after 10am on Friday
(December 12) or Saturday(December 13) or before
7:45am Mass on Sunday (December 14).



Celebrate Bambinelli Sunday



Bring Baby Jesus from your nativity set with you to mass on Saturday December, 13 or Sunday December, 14 for a special blessing from Father!



Solemnity of the
Immaculate
Conception
of Mary

Monday,
December 8,
Mass at 8 am

Thank
you!



Thank you to the **anonymous** donor for the gift of the **Baby Grand Piano** in the choir loft. This replaces the digital piano that had been up there for a long time.

LIVE Nativity

December 5 and 6
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

St. Paul Parish
410 Wallace Street • Combined Locks

Drive through and experience the sights, sounds, and excitement of the very First Christmas!



www.stnaulri.com/nativity



Let us pray

Evening worship experiences at St. Mary, Appleton

Carols, Cocoa, & Candy Canes Concert & Sing-a-Long

Dec 15, 2025 | 6:30-8:00 PM

Do you love Christmas Carols?

Would you enjoy experiencing them in a deep and prayerful way?

Come and add your voice to the angels who sang to the shepherds as we sing and pray together, experiencing the Christmas story

Join us for fellowship after the carols with hot chocolate, cookies, and candy canes.



EVENTS CALENDAR

Week of Nov 29- Dec 7

Saturday, Nov 29

9:00am Confessions/Chapel
1:00pm Matthew Laveille/ Macy Koch Wedding
4:30 Mass Rourke (Rory) Paul Johnson Baptism

Sunday, Nov 30

Coffee & Donuts after each mass

7:45am Mass
9:45am Mass/Livestreamed

Monday, Dec 1

12:05pm Mass
6:30pm The Bells Of St Mary Handbell Choir
6:30 pm Let Us Pray w/ Fr.Bill/Chapel

Tuesday, Dec 2

9:00am Connect Group/LL7
1:00pm St Mary & St Joe's Prayer Shawl Group at St Joe's LL112
2:00pm Rosary Prayer group/Chapel

Wednesday, Dec 3

9:30am Connect Group/LL7
4:30pm Adoration
4:45pm-8:00pm Beacon Faith Formation

Thursday, Dec 4

12:05pm Mass
1:00pm Hooks & Needles/Comm RM
5:00pm Let Us Pray
6:00pm Adult Choir
6:00pm Women's Ministry
7:00pm Cor Jesu/Chapel, Church, Community

Friday, Dec 5

Parish Office Closed

Saturday, Dec 6

Needs Tree Gifts Due
St. Nick

9:00am Confessions/Chapel
9:00am THEO/Community Rm
4:30pm Mass

Sunday, Dec 7

Needs Tree Gifts Due

Coffee & Donuts after each mass

7:45am Mass
9:45am Mass/Livestreamed

Mass Intentions

Sat. Nov 29	4:30pm	Doris Jansen
Sun. Nov 30	7:45am 9:45am	Marge Garvey Ron Colling
Mon. Dec 1	12:05pm	Bill Polley
Thur. Dec 4	8:00am	Members of St. Mary parish
Sat. Dec 6	4:30pm	Ted Miller
Sun. Dec 7	7:45am 9:45am	Paula Hebel Tom Morse



Generosity CORNER

Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Advent. As November comes to a close we are right on par with our historical average for this time of year. Thank you for your generosity and support of the parish.

MONTH	INCOME	BUDGET	VARIANCE
Nov (week 4)	\$54,704.47	\$75,083.33	-\$20,378.86

Your giving at work in the parish:

- This is our 5th year holding an open house for those participating in the parade. It is a great event that brings many people from the community into the church.
- Our Needs Tree is in full swing. If you haven't picked a tag or two to help out yet, be sure to grab one (or more) from the tree in the Marian Way or the back of church.



Though they don't all get "officially" listed on our liturgical calendar, there is at least one saint for every single day of the year.



in Joy & SORROW

ST MARY PARISH - APPLETON // 11.30.2025

WITH FR. BILL SWICHTENBERG



A pet peeve of mine that usually happens on tours with a group of people is the insatiable drive of some to get the best photo or photos at a planned stop. I still remember arriving on the top of the mountain in the vicinity of Galilee where the Transfiguration of Jesus is believed to have occurred. Most of my fellow pilgrims were obsessed with taking photographs. It always feels like they really don't pause long enough to just soak in the beauty or grace or peace of the setting. Now for me, I just like to stop and *behold!*

There is a powerful invitation in the word *behold!* It means to slow down, to stop, to just breathe in the grace of that moment. I think we have all experienced beholding a gorgeous sunset or sunrise. It is usually a moment that is devoid of words and which is for just resting in the gracious presence of the Lord.

Behold means to slow down, to stop, to just breathe in the grace of that moment.

I say all of this as an introduction to the Holy Season of Advent. At our weekend Masses, I will be introducing each of the four Advent homilies with this notion: BEHOLD! IN THE STILLNESS, WAITING! The artwork accompanying this theme is the Annunciation of the LORD by the painter Henry Tanner. I think of Mary, who, according to the Great Bishop, Saint Augustine, first bore the Lord in her heart before she bore Him in her womb. [By the way, we are all called to give birth to the Lord in our hearts!] As Mary treasured so many experiences in her heart, experiences that she sometimes could not make heads or tails of, Mary's posture was one of beholding, just being still, just waiting for the Lord to pour upon her a new understanding or peace or hope.

Sacred Scripture is familiar with the word *behold*. "*Behold*, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son." "*Behold*, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world." "*Behold*, your son. *Behold*, your Mother." "*Behold*, I make all things new." "*Behold*, I am coming soon." Note that to truly *behold*, the comma that follows the word is a crucial reminder. Take a deep breath, pause and pay attention.

Advent is the season of paying attention, which requires a certain contemplative stance. I embrace the stillness and the silence. I am OK with not being in charge or in control.

While waiting is not our cup of tea, waiting implies letting go and trusting. Waiting for the light and a new way seems forever in the face of the pervasive darkness, which is the presence of selfishness in our world. Flowing from selfishness are violence, hatred, anger, self-righteousness, arrogance, a quickness to judge, and a drive to arm oneself, all which then spills over into how nations interact with other nations.

Responding to all of this with an overwhelming sense of disillusionment sometimes seems to be a matter of course. Disillusionment, however, is contrary to the holy season of Advent. Advent is the strong belief that hope will never disappoint. There is always reason to have hope.

As we observe the 3 ½ weeks of Advent, let us step away from the hecticness to behold! Making time for stillness and silence, let us wait in joyful hope for the coming of the Lord Jesus **now** into our lives and into the life of our world. Advent should change us, drawing us into the embrace of our loving Lord, who is the source of all peace and unity, all justice and hope!

Please join me in making time to behold the Lord's closeness to you and me! Check out the Hallow App's "25 Day Advent Challenge." Join me in taking the challenge.

And may I recommend this book by the theologian Fleming Rutledge for your spiritual reading during Advent? It is [Advent: The Once and Future Coming of Christ](#). I will be praying through this work this holy season. In fact, I have already gotten a jump start on the season, picked up my Kindle, and pondered the beginning of this book!

Here is a snapshot of our Advent journey together marked by the four Advent homilies.

**BEHOLD!
IN THE STILLNESS,
WAITING!**

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT — Nov 30

**BEHOLD!
A DISARMING PEACE,
GENTLE AND HUMBLE!**

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT — Dec 7

**BEHOLD!
DISCORD INTO HARMONY!**

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT — Dec 14

**BEHOLD!
ABUNDANT LIFE EVERYWHERE!**

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT — Dec 21

BEHOLD! THE MORNING STAR RISES IN OUR HEARTS!

A final thought from Black Elk (1863-1950), a medicine (holy) man of the Lakota tribe, a candidate for sainthood in the Catholic Church):

Behold, this day, for it is yours to make.

Fr. Bill +