


4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 21, 2025

# ST. MARY PARISH

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

312 SOUTH STATE STREET • APPLETON, WI 54911



“Therefore, the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel.” Isaiah 7:14

# 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](mailto:wdswitz@stmaryparish.org)

cell 920-422-4316

## **Deacon - Gerry Schraufnagel**

[dcngerry@stmaryparish.org](mailto:dcngerry@stmaryparish.org)

cell 920-540-9594

## **Cemetery Info - Chip Acker**

[cacker@stmaryparish.org](mailto: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](mailto: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



# END OF THE YEAR



As we come to the close of the year, and the holiday season, the office will be open limited hours. If there are any end of year gifts or donations that you would like to make, please reach out to us soon.

Our last deposit for the year will be made on December 30, 2025.

On December 29 and 30, 2025, the office will be open from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm.

The office will be closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, as well as New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

## Let us pray

Evening worship experiences at St. Mary, Appleton

Thank you for attending our

### Concert & Sing-a-Long

### There will be no Adoration on DEC 24 & 31

### Join us Adoration on JAN 7

## Was Santa Claus a REAL PERSON?

WHAT CATHOLICS  
believe

## formed™

Forming Catholics for *Life*.

### What Catholics Believe About Christmas: Traditions, Santa Claus

Join Dr. Michael Barber as he answers some of the Internet's most popular questions about Christmas. What are the 12 days of Christmas? Was Santa Claus a real person? What is Advent?

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



## Christmas Eve

**4:00 pm Mass**

(Livestreamed)

**3:55 pm Children's  
Nativity Pageant**

**6:30 pm Mass**

**10:00 pm Mass**

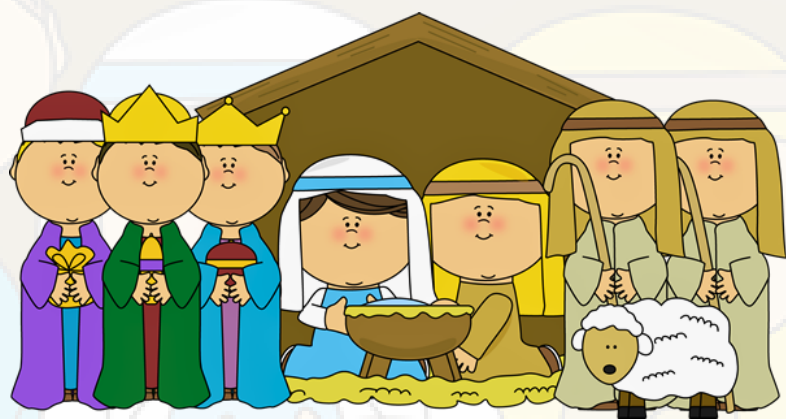
(Livestreamed)

**9:30 Choir &  
Handbell Concert**

## Christmas Day

**9:45 am Mass**

(Livestreamed)



## Children's Nativity Play

Kids (Grades K-5)!

Be in the Christmas Nativity Play  
before the Christmas Eve 4 pm Mass!

Practice is **THIS Sunday, December 21st,**  
directly following the 9:45 am Mass.



## Bake Sale

# THANK YOU!



Thank you to our  
bakers and volunteers,  
as well as to all who  
attended and  
supported the event.





# THANK YOU

## CHRISTMAS DECORATORS

Who graced us with their artistry in adorning our cherished Church.



### SOLEMNITY OF MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

### JANUARY 1ST, 9AM



**St. Joe's Emergency Overflow  
Shelter December Needs**



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

The following items are needed:

- Men's snow pants (L-XXL)
- Women's snow pants (M-XL)
- Men's sweat pants (L-XXL)
- Women's sweat pants (L-XXL)

If you are able to help with any of the items needed, please scan the QR code or click the link.



[bit.ly/48lo03d](http://bit.ly/48lo03d)

If you are interested in helping support the shelter with donations or volunteer time, 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](#)



[bit.ly/44E4iED](http://bit.ly/44E4iED)



# Coffee & Donuts

# Volunteers needed

We are seeking volunteers to serve in 2026. If you're interested in lending a hand, please sign up using the link below.

Thank you for considering this opportunity. Your time and talent play a vital role in building our community.



[bit.ly/48Al48q](https://bit.ly/48Al48q)



# MERRY CHRISTMAS

Behold! Joy! Joy! Angels Sing



From your St. Mary Parish Team

## OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
DEC 21	22	23	24	25	26	27
<b>CLOSED</b>	<b>9AM-4 PM</b>	<b>9AM-4 PM</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28	29	30	31	JAN 1	2	3
<b>CLOSED</b>	<b>9AM-1PM</b>	<b>9AM-1PM</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>

# Sacrament of Reconciliation

**SAT, DEC 20 from 9AM - 10AM**  
**“Fr. Bill Keeping the Lights On”**  
**DEC 22 from 6PM - 9PM**



## Church DOORS

To help minimize disruptions to Mass and to increase safety for our parishioners, there are a couple changes regarding the church doors starting the weekend of December 6 & 7.

1. The side ramp entrance to church (Door 6) will not be used for winter months, December through March and possibly longer.
2. The main church doors (Door 7) will be locked 10 minutes after Mass begins. You will still be able to attend Mass. After that time, please use the office entrance (Door 1) or the back lot entrance (Door 3).

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

# NO COFFEE & DONUTS

**UNTIL JANUARY**



Who created the first- ever Nativity scene?



# EVENTS CALENDAR



## Week of Dec 20- Dec 28

### Saturday, Dec 20

9:00am Confessions/Chapel  
 9:00am THEO/ Comm Rm  
 1:00pm Claire Nate - Zachary Oninski Wedding  
 4:30pm Mass

### Sunday, Dec 21

7:45am Mass  
 9:45am Mass/Livestreamed  
 After 9:45am Mass, Nativity practice

### Monday, Dec 22

12:05pm Mass  
 6:00pm-9:00pm Keeping the Lights On/Chapel  
 6:30pm The Bells Of St Mary Handbell Choir  
 6:30 pm Let Us Pray w/ Fr.Bill/Chapel

### Tuesday, Dec 23

9:00am Connect Group/LL7  
 6:30pm Men's Ministry/LL7

### Wednesday, Dec 24

**No Adoration**

**Parish Office Closed**

4:00pm Christmas Eve Mass-Childrens Nativity Pageant  
 6:30pm Christmas Eve Mass  
 9:30pm St.Mary Choir and Handbell Concert  
 10:00pm Christmas Eve Mass

### Thursday, Dec 25

**Parish Office Closed**

9:45am Christmas Day Mass/Junior Tutala Baptism

### Friday, Dec 26

**Parish Office Closed**

### Saturday, Dec 27

9:00am Confessions/Chapel  
 4:30pm Mass

### Sunday, Dec 28

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



St Francis of Assisi in Greccio,  
 Italy, in 1223.

## Mass Intentions

Sat. Dec 20	4:30pm	Conrad Fuerstenberg
Sun. Dec 21	7:45am	Carol Frahm
	9:45am	Harold Hanson
Mon. Dec 22	12:05pm	Bill Garvey
Wed. Dec 24	4:00pm	Gerald & Sally Grall
	6:30pm	Morris (Mor rece)DeBruin
	10:00pm	Richard & Patricia Pachotta
Thur. Dec 25	9:45pm	Joan Geenan & Julie Sabish
Sat. Dec 27	4:30pm	Members of St. Mary Parish
Sun. Dec 28	7:45am	Rudolph Larry Konz
	9:45am	Roseann Rodwell



## Generosity CORNER

We are in full swing for Advent and halfway through December. It is a season of hope and joy. We thank you for your support. Historically, in December, giving is almost double compared to other months. With your generosity we are on target to meet that goal.

Month	Income	Budget	Variance
Dec(to date)	\$65,248.32	\$75,083.33	-\$9,835.01

### Your giving at work in the parish:

- If you have any end of year stock transfers, or other gifts, please let us know. Through the end of the year the office will be open December 22 & 23 normal hours, and December 29 & 30 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Our last deposit for the year will be on December 30th.
- Our Let Us Pray! The Christmas Concert was a beautiful evening of prayer and song. If you missed it you can watch it here



<https://bit.ly/48FVccL>

# in Joy & SORROW

ST MARY PARISH - APPLETON // 12.21.2025

WITH FR. BILL SWICHTENBERG



I like Madeleine L'Engle's poem "First Coming [of the Son of God]!"

*He did not wait till the world was ready,  
till men and nations were at peace.  
He came when the Heavens were unsteady,  
and prisoners cried out for release.*

*He did not wait for the perfect time.  
He came when the need was deep and great.  
He dined with sinners in all their grime,  
turned water into wine.*

*He did not wait till hearts were pure.  
In joy he came to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.  
To a world like ours, of anguished shame  
he came, and his Light would not go out.*

*To a world like ours,  
of anguished shame  
he came, and his Light  
would not go out.*

*He came to a world which did not mesh,  
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.  
In the mystery of the Word made Flesh  
the Maker of the stars was born.*

*We cannot wait till the world is sane  
to raise our songs with joyful voice,  
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,  
He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!*

So true it is that our world is still in such a state of turmoil. There is a mood of dark uncertainty around us. There is an unease about the chaos and the spirit of brutality in our land that can be overwhelming if you and I dwell upon it at too great a length. What we stand for as Christian believers and as citizens grounded in a democratic dream that was forged by the blood, sweat, and tears of our forefathers and foremothers is being challenged. We wonder if we will have the determination to stand firm.

This I know without any equivocation whatsoever: The Son of God, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, our Savior Jesus became like us so that we might become like Him. Jesus was undeterred in proclaiming in word and deed that every human being is charged with a God-given dignity that can never be denied or denigrated. This is the foundation of the Gospel that defines Christianity. Every action in our personal lives and in the life of our society and its governing bodies must be influenced by this incontrovertible reality. For you and me, the Gospel is the organizing principle of our lives. Sadly, some of our fellow Christians are of the mind that the Gospel no longer works for us; it is weak.

To vilify another human being is to participate in the work of Satan, whose only intent is to plunge us into the dark pit of division and despair.

Our Jewish brothers and sisters have great dignity and a right to celebrate with joy their great feast of Hanukkah, assured of their safety! Antisemitism is a soul sickness still too much in the hearts of some.

Our young people have a right to a peaceful education on our campuses, where they do not have to fear that gunfire will ring out in their midst and take their friends and classmates away from them.

We look for glimmers of holiness in every family. We agonize with families who have a loved one chained to addiction and tormented by mental illness. Healing is possible though hard.

Our immigrant sisters and brothers are not aliens or vermin or garbage. Whatever their immigration status, they have a right to be treated with the dignity that is their due as daughters and sons of God.

Sadly, this above list could go on and on. Every social ill and every darkness in our world begins when you and I do not treasure and speak out on behalf of every human person who has great worth in the eyes of Jesus.

This realization is at the heart of the Mystery of the Incarnation of Our Lord Jesus Christ. While the Incarnation broke into our world a long time ago, today and every day is the Day of Christmas. Jesus only wants for us to open our hearts to Him today. If Jesus is to be born into our world, He must be born into your heart and my heart now. You and I are called to be living witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus.

Conformed to the mind and heart of Jesus, we shape all of our words, actions, viewpoints, and perspectives to align with Jesus's. Any prejudice or discrimination or refusal to come to a new understanding or perspective give credibility to a process that I would call "dis-Incarnation." There are realities in our world that have a power to cover over the grace of the Lord's Incarnation. The Light of the Father's Love for us made human in Jesus is still pushing against the darkness. Incarnated in you and me is the only way this Light will grow brighter and scatter the darkness which is sometimes our "tangled, tarnished, and anguished" world.

I pray that you will be blessed with the joy and peace that are Jesus' gifts to you on these holy Christmas days. May your celebrations with family and friends give you a greater resolve to be the beacon of Love that so many of our sisters and brothers are desperately waiting to experience!

As the Jubilee Year of Hope comes to a conclusion, let us imprint upon our hearts this prayer:

"Jesus, be with me now! In You, I place all my hope! You will never disappoint me!"

*Fr. Bill +*