

SOLEMNITY OF THE HOLY FAMILY, JANUARY 4, 2025

ST. MARY PARISH

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

312 SOUTH STATE STREET • APPLETON, WI 54911



• We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage. Mathew 2 : 2

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

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



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

will begin again
on Wed, Jan 7

REMOVING Christmas Decorations

Tuesday, January 13, 9am

We will be removing Christmas decorations in the chapel, Marian Way, and the community room. Your help would be much appreciated.



Needs TREE

Thank you

For giving someone a happy Christmas! We are grateful for your generosity.



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.



COFFEE & DONUTS

Returns on
SUN, Jan 4



ST. JOSEPH FOOD PROGRAM

Fighting Hunger 🍏 Sustaining Hope

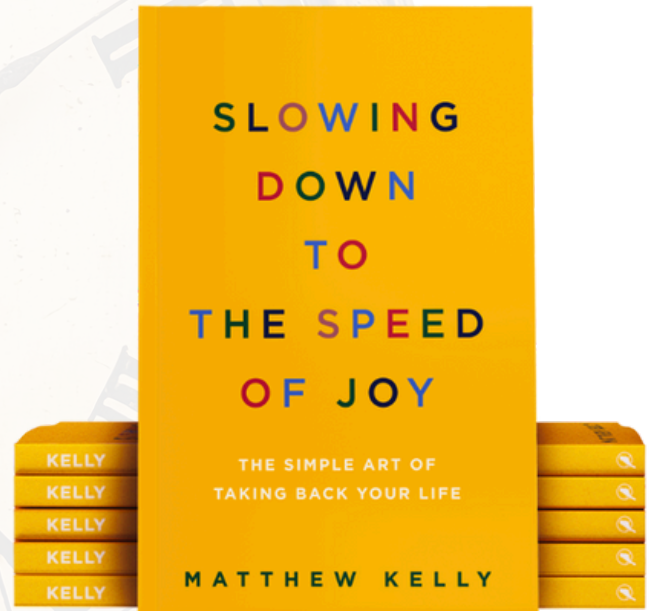
Collection is Jan 10 & 11

The collection is for International food items such as Mexican, Oriental, Italian, German, French or any others you may think of. No glass, perishable or past use by dates items. Thank you for helping those who are in need.



Please take home

a copy of
Slowing Down to the Speed of Joy
—a Christmas gift made possible
by the generosity of a donor to our
parish family.



**Save the date:
Blood Drive
Monday, January 19th**

The Blood Center of Wisconsin (Versiti) will be here on January 19, 2026 to conduct a blood drive in the community room.

January is typically a month short on blood. So, consider signing up to give blood.

Registration information will be available after the first of the year.

Join us with your child at either location!

Xavier Elementary Marquette Street: 500 W. Marquette St., Appleton OR
Xavier Elementary McDonald Street: 1810 N. McDonald St., Appleton



OPEN HOUSE

THURSDAY
JANUARY
15th

5:00 - 6:30 P.M.



RESERVE YOUR SPOT

admissions@xaviercatholicschools.org

OR CALL

(920) 735-9380



XAVIER MIDDLE SCHOOL PREVIEW NIGHT

Thursday
6:00 p.m.

January 22, 2026

Join us for an inside look, explore classrooms, try out cool breakout sessions, meet our awesome WEB mentors, and discover all the opportunities waiting for you! From STREAM adventures and world languages to sports, clubs, and service projects... there's something for EVERYONE!

RESERVE YOUR SPOT:
<https://bit.ly/4p4rdRH>
OR SCAN QR CODE BELOW



HAWKS

LEADERS

DISCOVER

CLUBS & ACTIVITIES



What was the 'new command' which Jesus gave to His disciples in John 13:34



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.



DISCIPLESHIP
ANNOUNCEMENT



SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

Men's Ministry:

- A laid-back space for guys to share how faith shows up in their daily lives—no homework, just bring whatever's on your heart.
- 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:

- Come join us for lively fellowship and meaningful Scripture reflection as we connect, encourage, and grow in faith together!
- 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, reach out to Nadine in the Parish Office – she'd love to help you find a perfect fit!

✉ nduncan@stmaryparish.org

☎ (920) 739-5119

THE AUGUSTINE
INSTITUTE SHOW
WITH DR. TIM GRAY



NEW YEAR'S
RESOLUTIONS
WITH DR. SCOTT HEFELFINGER

formed[™]

Forming Catholics for *Life*.

New Year's Resolutions | The Augustine Institute Show

What's your resolution this year? Dr. Tim Gray welcomes Dr. Scott Hefelfinger, Assistant Professor of Theology in the Augustine Institute Graduate School of Theology, to celebrate one year of the Augustine Institute Show!

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!



**NEW
UPDATE**



Help St. Joe's Provide Shelter this Winter!

St. Joe's recently had to pivot from their original overflow shelter plans. The city required several costly facility upgrades, and St. Joe's discerned that resources would be better used directly supporting guests by providing hotel accommodations.

St. Joe's is now partnering with the Super 8 in Appleton and just completed their first Cold Weather Emergency—serving 35 guests in 25 hotel rooms for five nights. They are happy to share that the experience went very well overall!

How Can You Help?

VOLUNTEER FOR A SHIFT: Daily shifts are from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM, with 4 volunteers on site at a time. Shifts are 3–4 hours long.

FOOD: St. Joe's currently has 7 food teams from other faith communities and local businesses that are providing meals. They are seeking a few additional teams to assist with meals for those staying in the hotel rooms. If you are interested, contact Sarah Fraley at sfraley@new.rr.com.

MONEY: Each room costs \$65. If you would like to sponsor a room, donate to BSC (Blessed Solanas Casey) and write "hotels" in the memo line. Checks can be mailed or dropped off at St Joe's.

For more information, stay tuned to the bulletin or contact Mike Mailand and at mmmailand@sbcglobal.net.

Christmas Flower Donations and Memorials

Donor

Bob & Judy Arnoldussen

Gary & Roxann Austin

Don Bengel

Dean & Cindy Boyer

Linda Butzen

Daniel Carew

Jim & Marilyn Cihowiak

Cindy Clark

Tom & Kathy Courtney

Cathy & Peter DeLuca

Steve & Angie Dungar

Rick & Jean Ebben

Janice & David Flenz

Brian & Judy Garvey

Mike & Carin (Fuerstenberg)
O'Rourke

Anna Geurts

Michael Gunther

Mary Gurnee

David & GERALYN Hartman

Richard Hebler

Greg & Susan Henderson

Deanna Hurley

Virginia Heegeman

Kenneth & Janet Jaeger

In Memory of

Steve & Gary Arnoldussen

Joe Woods

Sharon & Curt Bengel

Ivy Louise Peters

Carl J Butzen

Ruth Carew

Cihowiak & Braun Families

Deceased members of the Clark and Frahm Families

Ken & Betty Courtney, Jerry & Bea Cops, James & Jean Courtney

Wayne & Laura Krause

Charlie & Jackie Dungar

Lester Zitzelsberger, Gerald & Ethel Ebben

Joseph & Helen Sams

Bill & Marge Garvey, Jean Bradley & Cassie Garvey Backhaus

Conrad Fuerstenberg

John Peeters

Donna Gunther

Dellemann Family

Lauren Arkens, Gerald Noskowiak, Wilfred & Rita Hartman

Deceased members of the Hebler and Kokke Families

Henderson Family

Mike Hurley

Jack, Jamie, Ally, Mom, Dad & my five siblings

Deceased Family Members of the Jaeger & Winkowski families

Christmas Flower Donations and Memorials

Donor

Jeff & Carol Johnson

Ron & Lori Kelpinski

Jeanne & Dennis Kray

Bob & Jane Leveille

Richard & Susan Littmann

Troy & Kristin Mansfield

Mike Marsden

Patricia Melis

Judy Meyer

Mike & Julie Morse

Bobbie & Jeff Mullen

Mike & Pam Nabbefeldt

Kim & Tom Nelson

Shirley Probst

Laurie & Jim Richter

June & Charlie Klauck

Beverly Roberts

Dave & Sue Rogers

Theresa Rohm

Barbara Rutten

Mary Schulz

Paula & Jerry Sosalla

Ron Spoehr

Brenda Thiel

In Memory of

Deceased family members

Orville Ramona & Baby Robert Kelpinski

Melvin & Anita Lardinois, Gordon & Bernice Kray

Leo & Esther Leveille, Morris & Jeanne Gabert

Father Mike O'Rourke

Ivy Van Den Heuvel and Carol and James Van Den Heuvel

Wayne Buttner

Kathleen Gambel

Margaret , Jerry, Rose, Irene

The living & deceased members of the Bardon, Morse, & O'Connell families

Bob & Sis Balliet

Marjorie Nabbefeldt

Elsie Mitchell & Thomas Lee Nelson II

Tony & Ethel Boehler, Cecilia (Boehler) Fischer, Christian, Allen & Anthony Boehler

Bob & Gloria Louch, Curt & Edna Richter

Less Klauck, Marcellus Vogel & Mona Kramer

Jason C. Roberts & family

Rogers & Springer Families

Ricker, Diederich and Rohm Families

John Rutten

Schulz, Bruehl, Catlin and Wassenberg families

Harold & Mary Ann Hanson

Bryce & Ellen Spoehr

Robert & Rosella Wittlin

Christmas Flower Donations and Memorials

Donor

Robert Thomson

Sue Van Eeckhout

Donna & Dave Van Grinsven

Anne Van Stralen

Diane Vanderheiden

Steve & Marge Vertin

Ken Wydeven

Mary Jo Zilisch

Carol Ann Zuelzke

David & Mary Ellen Julien

Timothy & Judith Knox

Robert & Kristine Loderbauer

Carol Miller

Ben Romenesko

Don & Sharon Springhetti

Shield Smith

In Memory of

Sally Thomson

Van Eeckhout & Schmidt Families

Members of the Rodwell and Van Grinsven families

Ed and Mary Holtz and The Heenan Family

Robert Vanderheiden

Bernard & Mary Margaret Vertin and Charles and Katherine Andresen

George, Agnes, Jack, Carol and David Wydeven

Dr. Ken Pinegar

Jack Zuelske



EVENTS CALENDAR



Week of Jan 4 - Jan 10

Saturday, Jan 3

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

Sunday, Jan 4

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

Monday, Jan 5

12:05pm Mass
6:30pm Let Us Pray with Fr. Bill

Tuesday, Jan 6

1pm St Mary & St Joe's Prayer Shawl Group at St Joe's LL112
1pm SMP & SJP Book Club at SMP LL7
6:30pm Pastoral Council

Wednesday, Jan 7

8am Mass at St Bernard Parish with Fr. Bill
4:30pm Adoration
4:45pm-7:45pm Beacon Faith Formation
1st -12th grade

Thursday, Jan 8

10am Mom's Group
12:05pm Mass
1pm Hooks & Needles
7pm Cor Jesu

Friday, Jan 9

9am Bible Study

Saturday, Jan 10

9am Confessions
10am Neuro Endocrine Cancer Support Group
4:30 Mass

Mass Intentions

Thur. Jan 1	9:00am	Members of St. Mary Parish
Sat. Jan 3	4:30pm	
Sun. 4	9:45am	Paula Hebeler



Generosity CORNER

I hope you are having a happy Christmas Season. As we approach our calendar year end and our fiscal mid-year thanks to your generosity we are in a good place so far for the year. We are right on target for our historical giving. Thank you so much for your support of the work we do at the parish.

MONTH	INCOME	BUDGET	VARIANCE
Dec(to date)	\$118,195.64	\$75,083.33	\$43,112.31

Your giving at work in the parish:

This year we have been able to accomplish so many things such as needed infrastructure support, new equipment for liturgy needs, and the completion of the St. Anne Room renovation, including adding the restroom and decontamination shower. We have been able to offer a robust "Let Us Pray" series, programs like "Reach More" and "Formed", and we launched a parish partnership with "Hallow". There is more to come as we do some minor renovation to the Babysitting Room, LL1/The Bride's room, update some of our room locks for easier and more secure access, and purchase of new sanctuary furniture. All of this is done through your generous support.



To love one another



in Joy & SORROW

ST MARY PARISH - APPLETON // 1.4.2026

WITH FR. BILL SWICHTENBERG



In addition to celebrating Mary, the Holy Mother of God, on the first day of the New Year, the Church also marks a World Day of Peace. 2026 marks the 59th such celebration. Pope Leo titled his beautiful message for the holy first day of the New Year “Peace be with you all: *Towards an unarmed and disarming peace.*”

Here is a passage that caught my attention:

Dear brothers and sisters, whether we have the gift of faith or feel we lack it, let us open ourselves to peace! Let us welcome it and recognize it, rather than believing it to be impossible and beyond our reach. Peace is more than just a goal; it is a presence and a journey. Even when it is endangered within us and around us, like a small flame threatened by a storm, we must protect it, never forgetting the names and stories of those who have borne witness to it.

Peace is more than just a goal; it is a presence and a journey.

Pope Leo’s entire message deserves to be pondered and prayed over. Here is the link for you:



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

Peace is a principle that guides and defines our choices. Even in places where only rubble remains, and despair seems inevitable, we still find people who have not forgotten peace. Just as on the evening of Easter Jesus entered the place where his disciples were gathered in fear and discouragement, so too the peace of the risen Christ continues to pass through doors and barriers in the voices and faces of his witnesses. This gift enables us to remember goodness, to recognize it as victorious, to choose it again, and to do so together.

How this happens, I do not know, but the Holy Spirit helped me to recall “the names and stories of those who have borne witness to peace.” I remembered the holy occasion of the Camp David Peace Accord between Egypt and Israel that was signed by President Anwar Sadat of Egypt, Prime Minister Menachim Begin of Israel, and President Jimmy Carter on September 17, 1978.

The agreement culminated thirteen days of intense negotiations. At times, the two leaders from the Middle East were near fisticuffs. For a couple of days, President Carter had to separate them from each other, confining Begin and Sadat to their cabins at Camp David. The President went back and forth with the latest proposals.

The key sticking point was a major Jewish settlement that had been built on Egyptian soil. The Egyptians demanded that the settlement be dismantled and the Israelis refused. At one point, both Sadat and Begin, with their suitcases packed, were ready to leave the talks.

President Carter recalled that Prime Minister Begin asked him for eight official copies of the photograph of the three leaders that Begin hoped to give as a gift to his eight grandchildren. Instead of just handing Begin the photographs, President Carter took the time, or his secretary, I should say, on her own initiative, took the time to call Israel to obtain the names of Begin’s eight grandchildren. Carter then autographed each photo, with a sincere message, written in his own hand, addressed by name, to each of the Prime Minister’s grandchildren. When Begin received these precious mementos, he found himself wiping away his tears. In that moment, with his heart overwhelmed with a desire for peace for his dear grandchildren and future generations, the Prime Minister went back to the talks, agreed to dismantle the Jewish settlement that was the sticking point, and a just peace was brokered. Not a single directive of that Peace Accord has ever been broken over the last 47 years!

Many years later, President Carter revealed, "After we agreed, somebody told me that Begin had visited Sadat’s cabin and I was very worried about that because I was afraid

they'd get into another punching match. But when I went over there, they were hugging each other."

For sure, an inspiring and holy story! Yes, in the end what always needs to be remembered is that we are all in the same boat together, that what moves our hearts is of the one Holy Spirit's Breath, and that we can choose to row together! Peace is always possible if our desire is there and if there is a willingness to seek justice together!

Note that President Sadat and Prime Minister Begin received together the Nobel Peace Prize in 1978.

How about a short poem with which to end this New Year's reflection!

Wildpeace

by Yehuda Amichai and

translated by Chana Bloch & Stephen Mitchell

Not the peace of a cease-fire,
not even the vision of the wolf and the lamb,
but rather
as in the heart when the excitement is over
and you can talk only about a great weariness.
I know that I know how to kill,
that makes me an adult.
And my son plays with a toy gun that knows
how to open and close its eyes and say Mama.
A peace
without the big noise of beating swords into ploughshares,
without words, without
the thud of the heavy rubber stamp: let it be
light, floating, like lazy white foam.
A little rest for the wounds—
who speaks of healing?
(And the howl of the orphans is passed from one generation
to the next, as in a relay race:
the baton never falls.)

Let it come
like wildflowers,
suddenly, because the field
must have it: wildpeace. *Fr. Bill +*