

2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, JANUARY 18, 2026

# ST. MARY PARISH

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

312 SOUTH STATE STREET • APPLETON, WI 54911



“Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.” John 1:29

## 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

# YOUR BLOOD IS A Lifeline



NATIONAL BLOOD DONOR MONTH

Monday  
January  
**19**

10:00AM - 2:00PM



## St Mary's Parish

LOCATION  
Community Room  
312 S State St, Appleton WI 54911

APPOINTMENTS PREFERRED  
Call 877.232.4376 or visit [versiti.org/WI](http://versiti.org/WI)

Helpful tip:  
Make sure to eat a healthy meal and drink plenty of water before donating.



## Meet & Greet SPIRITUS Missionaries!

Inspiring Youth & Forming Leaders

Wed. January 21 9:00am

St. Pius X Church  
500 W. Marquette St.  
Appleton, WI

Friday, February 6, 7:00am

St. Thomas More Church  
1810 N. McDonald St.  
Appleton, WI

- Weekday Mass + 30 minute social
- Light refreshments
- Great stories, fun giveaway
- Be inspired like our youth

Please meet us there and bring a friend!



# Let us pray

Evening worship experiences at St. Mary, Appleton

## PRAYER SERVICE FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

### MONDAY, JAN 19, | 6 PM-7 PM

Join Fr. Bill and Pastors from different Christian denominations to pray for unity among the Christian churches.



## Coffee & Donuts

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.

Scan here



# Volunteers Needed



# 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



HAWKS



DISCOVER

LEADERS



CLUBS & ACTIVITIES



## XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL REGISTRATION NIGHTS

INCOMING  
FRESHMAN

JOIN US TO LEARN ABOUT XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL  
OR TO BEGIN COURSE SELECTION

RESERVE YOUR SPOT



**JANUARY  
26 OR 27**

**7:00PM IN THE  
XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL  
THEATER**



Which pope lasted only 33 days?



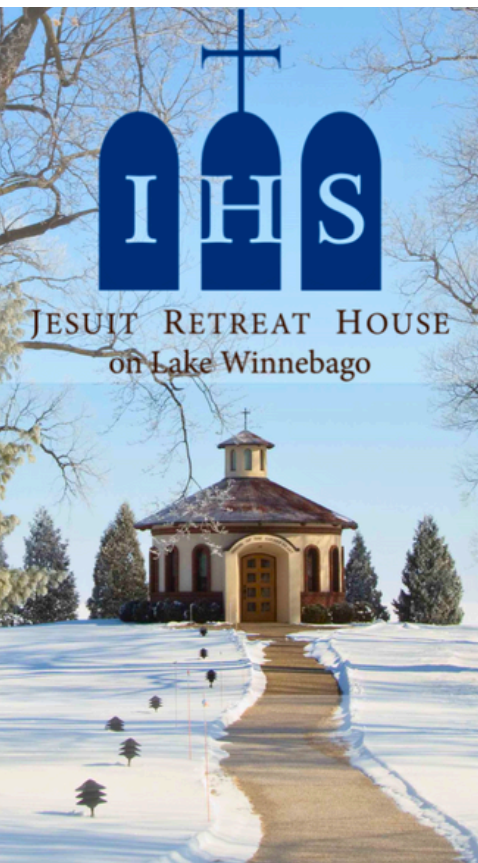


# Help St. Joe's Provide Shelter this Winter!

Click this link to help with the [January Grab & Go Needs](#) or scan the QR Code.

Click this link to [volunteer](#) or scan the QR Code.

For more information contact Mike Mailand at [mmmailand@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mmmailand@sbcglobal.net).



## Step into the quiet. Let God do the rest.

**Join Joe Drusch & Jim Richter Jan 29-Feb 1 for men's preached retreat at JRH in Oshkosh**

Join other men of faith from St. Mary's and local parishes and step away from daily distractions and rest in Christ's loving presence. All men are welcome! Invite a friend!



Scan this code to register for the Jan 29-Feb 1 retreat.



The Jesuit Retreat House also offers other retreats for men, women, couples, and 12-Step communities. Scan the code to find out more about retreats in 2026 .

## Bingo Night! Save the date



Join us for fun on Saturday,  
**February 21st from 5:30-7:00 PM**  
in the Community Room

## Performing Baptisms During Lent

A Reminder for Parents Seeking Baptism for Their Child  
Lent is traditionally a season of preparation for baptism, especially for adults (catechumens). During Lent, the Church generally refrains from celebrating baptisms, though exceptions may be made for infants, emergencies, or other pastoral needs.

If you have questions or would like to discuss baptism for your child during Lent, please contact Fr. Bill.



# SIGN UP FOR STATIONS & SOUP

**Thursdays at 5:30pm**

Stations of the Cross first, soup to follow.

**February 19** - St. Joseph

**February 26** — St. Mary

**March 5** — St. Joseph

**March 12** — St. Mary

**March 19** — St. Mary

**March 26** — St. Joseph

Everyone, young and old, Catholic and non-Catholic, can take part in this prayerful and popular Lenten tradition.



Sign Up!



<https://bit.ly/4sxrXk8>

# Welcome



Welcome Andrew! The new Minister of Adult Disciples!



## GLOBAL OUTREACH

LET'S BUILD A CIVILIZATION OF LOVE



<https://bit.ly/4jG19dD>

## ***17th Annual "Taste of Europe" Fundraising for Scholarships***

**Hosted by the Global Outreach Catholic Exchange Program  
St. Patrick Catholic Community, 320 Nicolet Blvd, Menasha.  
February 14, 2026, 4 pm - 8:30 pm**

Join us for an evening of Faith, Food, Fellowship, Family, and Fun starting with Mass at 4 pm, featuring Global Outreach student musicians, followed by student entertainment, a European dinner buffet, and desserts.

Cost: \$40 (13+), \$10 (ages 5-12), free under 5.

NEW: Table Sponsor — \$250 (7 guests).

**RSVP by Feb. 6** at [globaloutreachprogram.com/taste-of-europe](http://globaloutreachprogram.com/taste-of-europe) or mail your check to Dorothy Flees, 9522 County Road T, Marshfield, WI 54449.

# KID'S NIGHT OUT!

## PARENTS' NIGHT OFF!

FEB 13

We got this covered!  
Enjoy a special Valentine's  
date out or free time off  
while we take care of  
the kids!



We are committed to creating a safe and nurturing environment for children in our care. Rest assured—our adult leaders are Safe-Environment trained and certified.

This means they have: completed background checks, participated in training on child safety and protection, and are committed to following strict safety protocols to ensure your child's well-being

### EVENT DETAILS

- **Friday, February 13th**
- St. Mary Parish - St. Anne Room
- **4:30-8 PM** \*Drop in anytime.
- \*Pickup at 8 PM sharp.
- Open to children ages 2-12
- Activities include: movie night, face painting, games and crafts!
- Includes dinner and snacks for the kiddos.



### REGISTER FOR YOUR SPOT NOW!

Please complete the form using the link below or QR code by Friday, February 6th.



# Pancake Breakfast

buttermilk pancakes  
french toast sticks  
bacon, sausage, fresh fruit

**SUNDAY, FEB. 15**  
**8:30-11:30 AM**  
**COMMUNITY ROOM**

**All are welcome!**  
**free will offerings accepted**



# TO THE HEIGHTS YOUNG ADULT RETREAT

Become Fully Alive with  
St. Pier Giorgio Frassati!



Diocese of  
Green Bay

AGES  
21-35

**JAN. 23 - JAN. 25**

**7PM FRI. - 12 PM SUN.**

**CAMP TEKAKWITHA**

***Bilingual Event***

With the spirit of St. Pier Giorgio Frassati as our guide, we'll explore what it means to climb higher (spiritually and literally) and hear God's voice more clearly. Expect good conversations, powerful prayer, time in nature, and a community you'll want to keep climbing with.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**  
Kately Javier | [kjavier@gbdioc.org](mailto:kjavier@gbdioc.org)

**REGISTER!**



- **MASS & ADORATION**
- **TALK SESSIONS**
- **FOOD, BONFIRES, AND MORE!**



You are invited !

# Diocesan Marriage Enrichment Retreat



Feb. 13-15, 2026

Starts: Friday, 4:00 P.M.

Ends: Sunday, 2:30 P.M.



Green Lake  
Conference Center

W2511 WI-23, Green Lake, WI

All are welcome to participate, whether you are a newlywed couple or are celebrating a milestone wedding anniversary. The weekend will include:

- Guest speakers
- Small group sessions
- Confession
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Holy Mass

Cost is \$250 per couple. Includes accommodations, materials and meals.

Organized by the Office of Marriage & Family Life



Click [HERE](#) to register or scan the QR code!

[dioc.io/enrichment](https://dioc.io/enrichment)



Diocese of  
Green Bay



For more information, contact the Office of Marriage & Family Life:  
[marriageministries@gbdioc.org](mailto:marriageministries@gbdioc.org) | 920-272-8383

# EVENTS CALENDAR



## Week of Jan 18 - Jan 25

### Sunday, Jan 18

Coffee and Donuts after the Masses  
7:45 am Mass  
9:45 am Mass/Livestreamed  
11am OCIA

### Monday, Jan 19

12:05 pm Mass  
6 pm Let Us Pray: Ecumenical Prayer Service  
10 am - 2 pm Donating Blood

### Tuesday, Jan 20

1 pm St Mary & St Joe's Prayer Shawl Group at St Joe's LL112  
1 pm SMP & SJP Book Club at SMP LL7  
6:30 pm Finance Committee Comm Rm  
6:30 pm Matthew 25 Lg Conf Rm

### Wednesday, Jan 21

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

### Thursday, Jan 22

10 am Mom's Group - Babysitting Rm  
12:05 pm Mass  
6 pm Adult Choir - Choir Rm

### Friday, Jan 23

9 am Bible Study

### Saturday, Jan 24

9 am Confessions  
4:30 pm Mass

### Sunday, Jan 25

Coffee & Donuts after Masses  
7:45 am Mass  
9:45 am Mass/Livestreamed  
11 am OCIA

## Mass Intentions

Sun, Jan 18	7:45am 9:45am	Members of St Mary Parish Margaret Higgins
Mon, Jan 19	12:05pm	Paula Hebler
Thur, Jan 22	12:05pm	Members of St Mary Parish

If you'd like a Mass intention, contact or visit the parish office.

## Generosity CORNER

Once again, I want to thank you for your generous support of the parish over the holiday season. As we start the new year, your continued support is greatly appreciated.

MONTH	INCOME	BUDGET	VARIANCE
January	\$27,931.25	\$75,083.33	\$-47,152.08

### Your giving at work in the parish:

- January is a bit of a prep month as we get ready to launch the new season of the **Let Us Pray** series kicking off on January 19, and as we begin preparing for Shamrock Shenanigans on March 14th. Donations for silent auction and the bucket raffle are welcome any time.
- REMINDER: If you would like an annual giving statement, contact the parish office at [stmary@stmaryparish.org](mailto:stmary@stmaryparish.org) or call 920-739-5119.



Pope John Paul I. He reigned for only 33 days. He was the first pope to have a double name.



# *in Joy &* **SORROW**

ST MARY PARISH - APPLETON // 1.18.2026  
WITH FR. BILL SWICHTENBERG



As we observe a Week of Prayer for Christian Unity from January 18th to January 25th, an image that strikes me is to imagine the Christian Community, Catholics and members of our Sister Christian Churches, standing, hands linked together, in a huge circle that encompasses our common home, our Mother Earth. As we sing together, "Lord, you are the center of my life. I will always praise You. I will always serve You. I will always keep You in my sight," we move towards the Lord, doing good works together in His Holy Name. As we do so, we move closer and closer to one another.

It is a beautiful thing when sisters and brothers live together in unity. Unity never means uniformity but makes space to celebrate the beauty of the gifts of diversity. Formed by the teachings of Vatican Council II, we Catholics celebrate the glimmers of truth in all religions, Christian and non-Christian. We do not impose our teachings upon

It is a beautiful thing when sisters and brothers live together in unity.



others, but in conversations in the Spirit, we listen to one another with the ears of our hearts, identifying what unites us, and patient as we embrace those differences among us. We are not proselytizing in the hopes of making new Catholics. No, we journey alongside one another, trusting that the Lord is showing us the way, the truth and the life.

On the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul, January 25th, the Church of Rome annually celebrates Solemn Vespers [Evening Prayer] in the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls, having invited many of our sisters and brothers from our Sister Christian Churches to share in the prayer. Last year, our beloved Pope Francis, encouraged all in the assembly,

“Dear brothers and sisters, let us never forget that hope does not disappoint! Hope never disappoints! Hope is like a rope anchored on the shore that we cling to; it never disappoints. This is also important for the life of Christian communities, our churches and our ecumenical relationships. At times, we are overwhelmed by fatigue and discouraged by the results of our labors. It can even seem as if the dialogue and the efforts made on both sides are hopeless, almost doomed to failure. All of this makes us experience the same anguish as Martha, [who along with her sister, Mary, were grieving the loss of their dear brother, Lazarus, who Jesus promised to raise to new life] but the Lord comes to us. Do we believe this? Do we believe that he is the resurrection and the life? That he rewards our efforts and always gives us the grace to continue our journey together? Do we believe this?”

“This message of hope is at the heart of the Jubilee we have begun. The Apostle Paul, whose conversion to Christ we commemorate today, declared to the Christians of Rome, “hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us” (Romans 5:5). We have all received the same Spirit, all of us, and this is the foundation of our ecumenical journey. The Spirit guides on this journey. There are no practical things that help us understand it better. No, there is the Spirit, and we have to follow the Spirit’s lead.”

“The Jubilee Year of Hope celebrated by the Catholic Church coincides with an anniversary of great significance for all Christians: the 1700th anniversary of the first great ecumenical council: the Council of Nicaea. This Council sought to preserve the unity of the Church at a very difficult time, and the Council Fathers unanimously approved the Creed that many Christians still recite each Sunday at the celebration of the Eucharist. This Creed is a common profession of faith that transcends all the divisions that have riven the Body of Christ over the centuries. The anniversary of the Council of Nicaea is therefore a year of grace, an opportunity for all Christians who

recite the same Creed and believe in the same God. Let us rediscover the common roots of the faith; let us preserve unity! Let us always move forward! May the unity we all are searching for be found. What comes to mind is something that the great Orthodox theologian Ioannis Zizioulas used to say: *I know the date of full communion: the day after the final judgment! In the meantime, we must walk together, work together, pray together, love together. And this is something very beautiful!*"

At the observance of the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicea in modern-day Izbik, Turkey, on November 28th, Pope Leo XIV declared during the ecumenical prayer service,

"We are all invited to overcome the scandal of the divisions that unfortunately still exist and to nurture the desire for unity for which the Lord Jesus prayed and gave his life. The more we are reconciled, the more we Christians can bear credible witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which is a proclamation of hope for all. Moreover, it is a message of peace and universal fraternity that transcends the boundaries of our communities and nations (cf. Francis, Address to participants in the Plenary Session of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, 6 May 2022)."

"Today, the whole of humanity afflicted by violence and conflict is crying out for reconciliation. The desire for full communion among all believers in Jesus Christ is always accompanied by the search for fraternity among all human beings. In the Nicene Creed, we profess our faith in one God, the Father. Yet, it would not be possible to invoke God as Father if we refused to recognize as brothers and sisters all other men and women, who are created in the image of God (cf. Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, Declaration Nostra Aetate, 5)."

"There is a universal fraternity of men and women regardless of ethnicity, nationality, religion or personal perspectives. Religions, by their very nature, are repositories of this truth and should encourage individuals, groups and peoples to recognize this and put it into practice (cf. Leo XIV, Address at the conclusion of the Meeting for Prayer for Peace, 28 October 2025)."

"Furthermore, we must strongly reject the use of religion for justifying war, violence, or any form of fundamentalism or fanaticism. Instead, the paths to follow are those of fraternal encounter, dialogue and cooperation."

Let us pray for a greater openness to the promptings of the Holy Spirit as we Christians all walk together, building the Lord's City of God of love, joy, hope, peace, justice and forgiveness on this earthly city!

*Fr. Bill +*