

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT, MARCH 8, 2026

ST. MARY PARISH



Daylight Savings Time is this Sunday. Don't forget to put your clocks forward. See you in Church!

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

312 SOUTH STATE STREET · APPLETON, WI 54911



“The water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”
John 4:14

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



SCAN ME

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.

(No Adoration on Wednesdays during Lent)

A Simple Way to Give This Lent

Lent is a sacred season of prayer, sacrifice, and generosity. As we prepare our hearts for Easter, we are invited to reflect on the blessings God has given us and how we can share them with others.

One meaningful way to live out this Lenten call is through eGiving.

eGiving is a simple, secure way to give online, making it easy to support our parish all year long. Please consider eGiving to support our parish and sustain ministries, programs, and services that strengthen our community and serve those in need every day.

It's easy to get started. Here are the ways to sign up:

- Call ParishSOFT Customer Service at 866-930-4774 option 6
- Scan the QR code
- Text "Give" to **920-294-1189**

Thank you and may God bless your generosity.



ParishSOFT
by Ministry Brands

Lenten Alms Project 2026

SCAN TO DONATE



Help young people aging out of foster care step into a hopeful future—surrounded by safe housing, meaningful mentorship, and a community that believes in them.

Place donations in the box in the back of church or the parish center. Make checks payable to "St. Mary Parish" and "alms" in the memo line. Sponsored by St. Mary Matthew 25 Committee



FRIDAY, MARCH 20th at 11:30 AM

If you are 55 years old or older, mark your calendar for our next get together.

We are going for a fish lunch at the Capitol Center, 725 W. Capitol Drive, Appleton. They have Junior and Regular size portions with the fish. Reservations are required.

Please let us know by **Monday, March 16**, if you will be joining us. Call or text **Sue Rogers** at **920-810-1545**, leaving your name and how many people. Thank you.

POTLUCK DINNER



Save the Date!

The Holy Thursday Potluck Dinner is scheduled for April 2nd at 5:30 PM.

If you are able to contribute a dish, we welcome any item you would like to share! Do you have a specialty that you enjoy making? We would love to sample it! If cooking isn't feasible, feel free to pick something up from a drive-through on your way. Please ensure you bring enough to serve approximately 10 people.

We will provide water, wine, grape juice, and milk. Additionally, this year we will be offering ham and rolls.

Please sign up below if you are willing to bring a dish.

Sign-up to help!



WORLD'S POOR COLLECTION

On the weeked of March 14 & 15 , we invite you to prayerfully participate in our World's Poor Collection.

Your generous support will help:

- **Provide food for the hungry**
- **Assist displaced refugees**
- **Bring Christ's love and mercy to vulnerable families here and around the world**

Through your compassion, lives are strengthened, hope is restored, and faith is made visible in action. Please give generously and help us share Christ's love with those who need it most.

"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." — Matthew 25:40

Easter Flowers

Donations for Easter flowers can be dropped off at the parish office, mailed in, or put in the collection basket. Please include your name and if you want the flowers to be in memory of a loved one, please include the name. Donations need to be in by Palm Sunday. Thank you for your generosity!

Your name: _____

Amount: _____

Please circle one: Cash or Check #

In Memory of: _____



Let us pray

Evening worship experiences at St. Mary, Appleton

SCRIPTURAL STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN ART March 23, Monday | 6:00pm

Join Fr. Jim Neilson, O. Praem., for a prayerful, biblical reflection on Christ's Passion through the Stations of the Cross, introduced by St. John Paul II in 1991 and experienced through sacred art.

Be the LIGHT
for those struggling



Many of our brothers and sisters struggle with stress, depression, loneliness, and financial insecurity.

Through it all, Catholic Charities continues to care for those in need.

With your support of the Bishop's Appeal, you will help us serve even more people across the diocese.



Please give generously at www.catholicfoundationgb.org/give

2026 BISHOP APPEAL

GOAL \$74,000

60,000

40,000

36,681

25,000

15,000



After His Resurrection to whom did Jesus first appear?



LENTEN EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Fridays 9 am-9 pm; Saturdays 8 am to noon, Feb 20 - March 28

(No Adoration on Wednesdays during Lent). Adoration is in the chapel.

Sit with Jesus, find peace and escape the noise.

Consider signing up so we can make sure we have two people/time slot. Scan the QR code, use the link, or sign up in the Marian Way.

[sign-up link](#)



LENTEN STATIONS & SOUP

Sign up to make soup, dessert or serve the meal!



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.

Thursdays during Lent

Stations of the Cross at 5:30pm with soup supper to follow.



Thank you

Thanks to everyone who helped plan or attended the **New Parishioner Brunch** last Sunday. It was a great way for the new parishioners in attendance to meet the staff, Council members, and each other. We are already planning another one for next Fall.



Help our parish make an impact on Earth Day!

ASH WEDNESDAY (Feb 18) - EARTH DAY (Apr 22)

Bring in these hard-to-get-rid-of items:

- Christmas lights
- Compact fluorescent lightbulbs
- Batteries (rechargeable and non)
- Printer cartridges
- CDs/DVDs/Blue Ray discs/albums
- Books/magazines
- Egg cartons
- Reuseable fiber, paper and plastic bags (Clean and dry)



Items will be reused or properly recycled by:

- Outagamie County Resource Recovery Park
- St. Joes Food Pantry
- Office Depot
- Half Price Books
- Home Depot

Any proceeds go to St. Joseph Food Program

Sponsored by the St. Mary Care for Creation Ministry

Sunday, March 29, 1:00-3:00 pm

Located in Houdini Plaza. Join hundreds to voice our scriptural mandate to love our brothers and sisters.

Solemn Novena in Honor of St. Joseph

March 11-19 | 7 p.m. Mass and Novena Prayers

Old St. Joseph Church
123 Grant St., De Pere, WI
(on the St. Norbert College campus)

Celebrants

- **March 11:** Fr. Johnathan Turba, O. Praem. (St. Norbert Abbey Vocations Director)
- **March 12:** Fr. Matthew Dougherty, O. Praem. (St. Norbert College Assistant Professor of Biology and Special Assistant to the President for Mission Integration)
- **March 13:** Fr. James Neilson, O. Praem. (St. Norbert College Assistant Professor of Art and Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Sacramental Vicar)
- **March 14:** Fr. Onwu Akpa, O. Praem. (St. Norbert College Assistant Professor of Social Sciences and Economics)
- **March 15:** Fr. Mike Brennan, O. Praem. (National Shrine of St. Joseph Chaplain and St. Norbert College Parish Pastor)
- **March 16:** Abbot Bradley Vanden Branden, O. Praem. (St. Norbert Abbey)
- **March 17:** Fr. Tim Shillcox, O. Praem. (St. Norbert Abbey Director of Formation and Chaplain to Norbertine Associates)
- **March 18:** Fr. Patrick LaPacz, O. Praem. (Norbert Dame Academy Theology Teacher)
- **March 19:** Abbot Bradley Vanden Branden, O. Praem. (St. Norbert Abbey)



To learn more about the National Shrine of St. Joseph, please visit www.norbertines.org/joseph

Please note this schedule is subject to change.

**MARCH 14TH
6:00 PM**



Shamrock Shenanigans

Fox Club at the Fox Cities Timber Rattler Stadium

Get your Irish on!

***And show your Irish pride
with what you wear.***

***Nominate the best dressed throughout the
night. One nominee will be drawn to get
an Irish basket with 2 Irish Fest passes***

SCRIP for Shenanigans!

Order gift card prizes using SCRIP

Help the parish in two ways. Order \$10-\$30

Gift Cards after Mass in the Marian Way.

Last chance to place your order will be

March 8th after 9:45 Mass

Diaconate Inquirer Event

Sunday, March 15, 2026
10am Mass, 11am Lunch

St. Bernard Catholic Parish
1617 W. Pine St., Appleton, WI 54914

Please RSVP to Tina Haanen at
thaanen@gbdioc.org
or 920-272-8189



SUPPORT BSC COMPANIES & THE OVERFLOW SHELTER

Scan the QR code or click
<https://bit.ly/4q2T9ok> to learn more
about BSC Companies and how you can
volunteer or donate to support their life-
saving winter shelter ministry. Checks
may be made payable to BSC Companies
and dropped off at the parish office or
at St. Joe's.



OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

LIFE-SIZED STATUE
VISITING THE

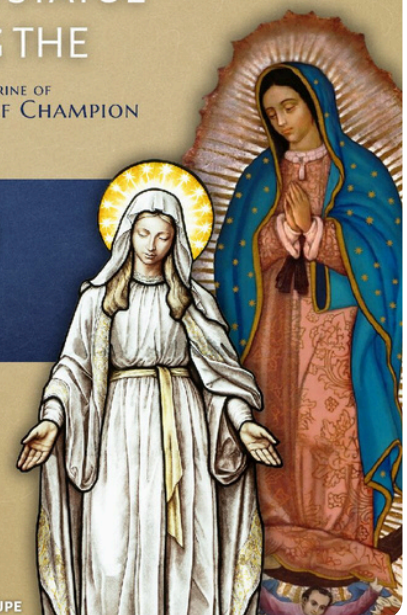
M THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF
OUR LADY OF CHAMPION

**MARCH
6-11**

LEARN MORE



CHAMPIONSHRINE.ORG/GUADALUPE





Needs TREE

Here are just a few thank you notes from our Need Tree recipients. These are notes from the Needs Tree, showing the beautiful ripples of generosity spreading through our St. Mary community. Thank you for making a real difference."

Happy New to you all! I wanted to extend a huge heartfelt thank you for this Christmas. The holidays were hard but your generosity made it bearable! I am blessed and feel very grateful for you and St. Marys for thinking of us all! Your hard work does not go unnoticed.
With Love, 😊

We thank you,
With love

Because of your kindness, Acts of love in Christ, you made our Christmas very merry & bright ♥♥♥ I wish you a prosperous new year, a happy beautiful, year 2026! With many more to come ♥♥♥

I was not looking forward to the Holidays having no family or friends and being in treatment. When I received a gift on Christmas morning it brightened my day. The socks, Art supplies, makeup and other trinkets were awesome. Oh and I loved the water bottle. Thank you so much for bringing cheer to Christmas.

It was just a great Christmas for our residents and a big reason we could give them such an amazing Christmas is because of your partnership. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts, even the Grinch's heart grew while handing out all the gifts! Seriously, we could not do this without your help. Thank you so much and hope you all had a Merry Christmas and are staying healthy!

Thank you for your time,

Alfie Gauss, ADC, Activity Director Certification

★ I appreciate the effort ★
St. Mary's has given the peers here at Apricity. I thank you for the Christmas gifts I have received. I'm so grateful for them and so happy & made my day for me and my son both.

Thank you, This Christmas has been so hard for a lot of us. Your donated gifts brought so much joy to this Rehab. Our hearts are so grateful. I know sometimes when we give, we just give. and we don't know how much its going to touch the person we are giving to. I hope you know that what you did for us made a huge difference. I can't explain how much it meant. We are truly joyful. May you be blessed back!
CasaGirls.

Hi Saint Marys church
Thank you for all the gifts you guys gave me like the robe and home shoes and a sleeping pants.

EVENTS CALENDAR

Mass Intentions

Sun, Mar 8	7:45am	Bill Polley
	9:45am	Paula Hebel
Mon, Mar 9	12:05pm	Available
Thur, Mar 12	12:05pm	Available
Sat, Mar 14	4:30pm	Bob & Fran Drephal
Sun, Mar 15	7:45am	Available
	9:45am	Available

Week of Mar 8-Mar 15

Sunday, Mar 8

St. Joe's Food Collection

Coffee & Donuts after Masses

7:45 am Mass

9:45 am Mass/Livestreamed

11:00 am Young Family Comm Mtg/LL7

1:00 pm Lenten Small Group/LL7

Monday, Mar 9

12:05 pm Mass

6:00 pm Shenanigans Committee Mtg/SR

6:30 pm St. Mary Bell Choir practice/Loft

6:30 pm Lenten Small Group/LL7

7:00 pm AA Meeting/LL1

Tuesday, Mar 10

9:00 am Connect Group/LL7

4:30 pm Safety Committee/CR

6:00 pm Facilities Committee/LCR

6:30 pm Men's Ministry/LL7

Wednesday, Mar 11

9:30 am Connect Group/LL7

4:30 pm Beacon Stations & Soup

4:45 pm-7:45 pm Beacon Faith Formation

6:30 pm Lenten Small Group/LL7

Thursday, Mar 12

10:00 am Mom's Group - Babysitting Rm

12:05 pm Mass

5:30 pm Stations & Soup/Church, CR

6:00 pm Adult Choir/MR

Friday, Mar 13

9:00 am Small Group/LL7

9:00 am-9:00 pm Lenten Adoration/Chapel

Saturday, Mar 14

World's Poor Collection begins

7:00 am CSJ Community/CR

8:00 am - 12:00 pm Lenten Adoration/Chapel

9:00 am Confessions

10:00 am NEC Support Group/LL7

4:30 pm Mass

6:00pm Shamrock Shenanigans/Fox Club

Sunday, Mar 15

Coffee & Donuts after Masses

World's Poor Collection

7:45 am Mass

9:45 am Mass/Livestreamed

11:00 am Baptism Prep Course/LL7

1:00 pm Lenten Small Group/LL7



Prayer Requests Contact **Laurie Richter** (lauriejrichter@gmail.com), **Mary Jo Zilisch** (920-734-1182) or **Ann Walkowski** (920-428-0969) if you have a prayer need. Please remember these requests in our prayer baskets.

Generosity CORNER

As we close February, we were able to surpass the average monthly target though we were behind our historical average a bit. For the year, we are doing very well staying on track with our monthly goals. Thank you so much for your generosity and support of the parish.

MONTH	INCOME	BUDGET	VARIANCE
February	\$75,098.75	\$75,083.33	\$15.42

Your giving at work in the parish:

- Stations and soup are wonderful lenten events. We had a great group for Mary's Way of the Cross on February 26th. Our next Stations and Soup is on March 12th. Come to pray the Stations of the Cross and stay for a delicious variety of soup and fellowship.



Mary Magdalene Mark 16:9

in Joy & SORROW

ST MARY PARISH - APPLETON // 3.8.2026
WITH FR. BILL SWICHTENBERG



I am motivated to look closer whenever there is a new development in the Church's understanding of theology, ecclesiology, liturgy, or whatever other discipline might present itself.

For decades the experience of bringing unbaptized persons or persons baptized into another Christian faith into the Catholic Church was named The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. I remember that Sister Joanne was determined to react against calling the RCIA a program. No way! It was a process that prepared catechumens (the unbaptized) and candidates (baptized Protestant) for the Easter Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. It was more than the handing on of knowledge about the faith. The RCIA process also engaged the hearts of the Elect to fall more deeply in love with the Lord and engaged their hands to reach out in humble service to others.

It was more than the handing on of knowledge about the faith. The RCIA process also engaged the hearts of the Elect to fall more deeply in love with the Lord and engaged their hands to reach out in humble service to others.

Within the last couple of years, there has been a name change for this experience. The RCIA is now the OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults). The difference between *Rite* and *Order* may be nuanced but I think it has to do with emphasizing the process nature of the entire journey to full communion in the Catholic Church. The word *Rite* seems to have a narrower sense to it.

In the Early Church, the journey to full membership in the Church took place over the course of three years or more. Those persons yearning for something more in their lives were encouraged to look closely at their lifestyles, to scrutinize their behaviors and attitudes, and to begin to make choices that turned their lives to faith and hope in the Lord Jesus, and to love of Him. To be a gladiator in the Roman Coliseum, training to do battle to the death with a worthy opponent, was contrary to the Christian Gospel. Certainly to make a living in prostitution was frowned upon. To be an adulterer would require a change of heart and lifestyle which did not happen overnight.

A closer look at the signs of the times suggests the following historical reasons for an extended period of formation for seekers (A shout out to Nadine, our OCIA catechist, for this information!):

- *Combating Heresy*: The 4th century saw massive debates, specifically the Arian controversy, questioning Christ's divinity. To counter this, bishops mandated detailed, long-term instruction to ensure new members understood the nuances of the Trinitarian faith.
- *Quality Control*: With Christianity becoming favored by the state, many sought baptism for social or political reasons rather than conviction. The often lasting, three-year, or even longer, catechumenate period allowed the church to vet the sincerity of converts.
- *The Postponement of Baptism*: Since the Sacrament of Confession was not established until the Middle Ages and the forgiveness of sins happened only once at Baptism, by the 300s, it became common practice to delay baptism, with many, including Emperor Constantine, waiting until the end of their lives. This resulted in a large, extended class of "catechumens" (learners) who were under instruction for long periods.

When ready for a more proximal preparation, which would bring the Elect to the celebration of the Easter Sacraments in the night of Holy Saturday at the Easter Vigil, there were moments when the Creed and the Our Father were entrusted to the Elect, when they were presented for the formal Rites of Scrutiny, and when they celebrated Reconciliation (Confession/Penance) for the first time. The journey was not isolated but occurred among others being received into the Church, as well as being a part of the

Sunday worshipping assembly until the moment of dismissal after the homily. Hopefully, some of this sounds familiar to you as these rites were restored when the RCIA was implemented.

There are some nuances recently that have fine-tuned the experience, notably at the Easter Vigil. The Easter Vigil is now reserved only for those who are unbaptized, and who will receive the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.) At the Easter Vigil this year at Saint Mary, no unbaptized persons have presented themselves. This year we do have, however, Joey and Jeff, two young men, who are baptized, but will receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist at a time other than the Easter Vigil. As pastor, I will have the faculty to administer those Confirmations.

We usually think of the Bishop as the presider of Confirmation and this must be so when the candidate has been baptized and received Holy Communion in the Catholic Church. It would be a rare occurrence that a priest would have permission to confirm in this instance.

Joey and Jeff will receive the graces of Confirmation and Eucharist, hopefully, at a Sunday Mass, sometime during the Easter Season, which is fifty days long. Interestingly and counterintuitively, if we would be celebrating Baptism at the Easter Vigil this year, then Joey and Jeff could have been confirmed at that service. Because the Easter Vigil is so closely connected to the actual celebration of Baptism, that is, the sign of the pouring of the holy water, invoking the Holy Trinity, and which includes the Renewal of Baptismal Promises on the part of the whole assembly, the reception of Confirmation and Eucharist for those baptized in another Christian tradition and intending to become Catholic, linked in this instance to the celebration of Baptism, can occur at the Vigil. Now that you are completely confused, so am I!

Throughout Lent, it does us good to pray for our brothers in our parish family, Joey and Jeff, as well as our sisters and brothers in Appleton, and throughout our nation and world who are joining the Catholic Church this Easter.

Let us pray:

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier, Holy Trinity, it is in Your Divine Nature to always reach out of Yourself, drawing all people into the Heart of Your Divine Love. You increase Your Church so that believers everywhere may be Your Disciples, commanded to go out into the world, building up Your Kingdom of Love and Joy, Justice and Peace. Bless our Elect near and far on these holy Lenten days. Fold Your Sacred Heart around their hearts. Speak softly that they may hear that they are Your Beloved, in whom you take delight. Write Your Gospel boldly upon their hearts and send them into their new parish spiritual families and into their families, places of work and communities as new radiant lights of Your Love for all people. Amen!