

ANNUNCIATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY PARISH



This Week in Our Parish

First Reconciliation Service is being held on Wednesday, January 17, at 6:30 pm.

Patrick Corr will be representing our parish at the 45th Annual March for Life in Washington, DC, January 19th.

Adult Formation Classes will be held Sunday mornings in the Atrium beginning January 21, through March 25, from 9:30 am – 10:45 am. Please see bulletin insert for more information.

Deacons Holy Hour for Life. The bishops of the United States have established January 22 as the National Day of Penance and Prayer for Life. This day has been designated “as a particular day of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion, and of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life.” Bishop Callahan has asked the deacons of the diocese to preside at a Holy Hour for Life. In accordance with his wishes, Deacon Donald Tully will preside at a Holy Hour at St. Mary’s on **January 23, 2018 after the 8:00 am Mass.**

It has been 44 years since the Supreme Court in the case of Roe v Wade legalized abortion in the United States on January 22, 1973. January 22 each year is now a Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. The March for Life attended by many thousands takes place in Washington DC around this date. Our parish will participate in a baby bottle collection through January to support the work of Door of Hope Pregnancy and Family Center here in Viroqua. Please take a bottle home with you and put in what you can to help support the Center’s work. **Please return the bottles by February 3-4.**

If you currently have a key to the church or rectory and have not received a combination yet for the new locks, please contact the rectory and talk to Fran. The goal is to have the locks changed by the end of January.

The parish committees of family life, social justice and education will meet on **Wednesday January 31st at 6:30 p.m.**

The **Diocesan Sesquicentennial book, “The History of the Diocese of La Crosse”**, is available for purchase in the parish office during the week - Mondays & Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Fr. Joe reminds us we are in need of Mass intentions.

January 14, 2018

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday Mass

Saturday

6:00 PM

Sunday

7:30 AM & 11:00 AM

Daily Mass

Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday

8:00 AM

Wednesday and Friday

5:00 PM

Liturgy of the Hours

This ancient communal prayer of the Church is prayed after all weekday Masses

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Confessions are heard before all Sunday Masses and after all weekday masses

Rosary

The Holy Rosary is prayed 30 minutes before all Weekend and Daily Masses

Bethel Home

Mass and Rosary held on 3rd Friday of each month at 10:15 AM

Norseland

Mass and rosary held on 2nd & 4th Wednesday each month at 9:30 AM

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

First Thursday of the Month
8:30 AM -10:00 AM

Holy Hour for Life

January 23, 2018
after the 8:00 AM Mass

Parish Website www.stmaryviroqua.org

Fr. Joseph Arokiam OFM Cap, Parochial Administrator (715)-937-5117

Frances Campbell, Secretary/Bookkeeper (M-Tu & Th-F – 8 am-4 pm) stmaryparish@mwt.net (608)637-7711

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400 Congress Avenue, Viroqua, WI 54665

January 14, 2018

Will You Hear God's Call to Participate in His Mission?

This week we are invited to reflect on the Call to Discipleship. God's call is personal and unique; and He invites every individual to build a close relationship with Him. The Bible constantly narrates the instances of God calling people and demanding responses from them. We have the examples of Abraham, Moses, prophets like Isaiah, Jeremiah and several other persons who were called by God for some specific purposes to build up God's Kingdom on earth. They responded to Him by sacrificing everything to obey His invitation. In the New Testament we have the Call of Mary to be the Mother of God at the Annunciation, the Call of Peter and his companions at the Lake, Call of Mathew the tax collector, Call of Paul and several others. In the Gospel of John, we hear Jesus telling His disciples, "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit" {John 15.16}.

God calls us to participate in His mission and expects us to respond to His call. In the first reading we have God calling young Samuel as he was sleeping in the Temple. Once Samuel recognizes God's call, he responds to Him saying, "Speak Lord, your servant is listening." Once he is ready to listen, God gives him the message and the Mission. In the Gospel, we have John the Baptist identifying the Messiah in Jesus and telling his disciples that Jesus is the Lamb of God. He encourages his disciples to be the followers of Jesus as his Mission was over with the arrival of Jesus. Hence, he handed over his disciples to be the followers of his Master Jesus. Then the disciples in their turn invited others to come to be with Jesus on His Mission.

The disciples who came to follow Jesus were originally the disciples of John the Baptist. They were Andrew, Peter, James and John the Evangelist. Now as the Mission of John the Baptist was over, he handed over his disciples to the Leadership of Jesus to follow Him. The first question asked by the disciples of John to Jesus was, "Rabbi, where do you stay?" The answer Jesus gave was, "Come and see", which means come and stay and experience. As they stayed with Him, they experienced a deeper intimacy with the Lord. They acknowledged Him as the Savior of the World and a Light Shining into the Darkness.

Discipleship therefore consists in learning to stay or dwell with the Lord, letting all our senses be transformed to recognize Jesus for who He is. Like Samuel, we are to sit in the presence of the Lord in the Temple of the living God and profess, "Speak, for your servant is listening" {1 Samuel 3.10}. Jesus chose the lowly, simple ordinary persons, some of them fishermen, some tax collectors, some freedom fighters. They were not men of education and social standing; but He trained them and made them persons to carry out His Mission and to be His witnesses on earth. This is the way Jesus continued His Mission over the past two thousand years building God's Kingdom amidst us.

God's call is a gift, which is given to each and every person; but it demands a response and readiness to work for Him. He has called people to various kinds of vocations such as to be parents, to be priests and religious, preachers, teachers, social workers, medical practitioners, nurses. Some received a special call within their call to serve the humanity. For example, the Mother Theresa got a call which was a forced call within the call to go and work in the slums and care for the poorest of the poor in India. Fr. Damien of Molokai worked among the lepers, and finally he became a leper. St. Francis Xavier got a call to leave his motherland; he had to travel to distant lands like India, Japan to set the world on fire. God wants each one of us to experience the Lord and encounter Him. The experience of Him He wants us to share with others to build up God's Kingdom on earth in all that we do as parents, priests, missionaries, teachers, social workers, doctors, nurses, by our calls.

~ Fr. Joe

January 14, 2018

FINANCIAL REPORT

Weekend January 7, 2018

Adults: \$3,322.10

Offertory: \$249.53

Youth: \$2.50

Solemnity of Mary: \$40.00

Christmas: \$25.00

Total: \$3,639.13

Needed Weekly: \$3,400.00

THANK YOU!

2017-2018

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Target: \$34,455.00

Pledged: \$33,813.00

Cash to date: \$28,883.00

Saints of the Week

**St Anthony*

**St Fabian*

**St Sebastian*

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday, 13 January, 6:00 PM +People of St. Mary Parish

Sunday, 14 January, 7:30 AM +Lorraine Groh

(Jerry & Paula Cina)

Sunday, 14 January, 11:00 AM +Deceased Relatives of the Biebl Family

(Patricia & Joseph Biebl)

Monday, 15 January, 8:00 AM +Ann Marie Kuehn

(Jim Kuehn Family)

Tuesday, 16 January, 8:00 AM +Jerry Downing

(Roger & Joyce Humfeld)

Wednesday, 17 January, 5:00 PM +Mass

Thursday, 18 January, 8:00 AM +Deceased Relatives of the Skowron Family

(Patricia & Joseph Biebl)

Friday, 19 January, 10:15 AM +Mass at Bethel Home

Saturday, 20 January, 6:00 PM +PJ Hauser

(Hauser Family)

Sunday, 21 January, 7:30 AM +Scott Lasky

(David & Carol Hall)

Sunday, 21 January, 11:00 AM +Kathleen Brasfield

(Pat Rubasch)

9 Days for Life Jan. 18-26 - 9 Days for Life is a "digital pilgrimage" of prayer and action focused on cherishing the gift of every person's life. A multi-faceted novena highlighting a different intention each day provides reflections, bonus information, and suggested actions. Visit www.diolc.org/respect-life to learn how to join and receive the 9 Days for Life app, daily emails, or daily texts.

The Truth About Organ Donation, lecture by Dr. Paul A. Byrne, former president of the Catholic Medical Association, La Crosse Main Library Auditorium, 800 Main Street in La Crosse. **Wednesday, January 24th, 6:00 PM.** For more information, see website: <http://www.truthaboutorgandonation.com/index.html>

Marriage Problems? We can help. Retrouvaille is for couples with marital problems that want marriage help. Those who are considering marriage separation and those who are already separated or divorced are encouraged to consider the Retrouvaille Program. There is always hope of reviving your relationship. The next Retrouvaille weekend retreat will be held February 9-11, 2018 at St. Anthony's Spirituality Center in Marathon, WI. Space is limited. Email centralwi@retrouvaille.org for more information.

National Marriage Week – February 7-14. In just over a month, the USCCB will celebrate the observance of National Marriage Week (Feb. 7-14, 2018) and World Marriage Day (Sunday, Feb. 11, 2018). Every year, it is an opportunity to focus on building a culture of life and love that begins with supporting and promoting marriage and the family. In 2018, World Marriage Day (celebrated on the second Sunday of February) coincides with the World Day of the Sick (Feb. 11

This week we highlight **Effinger Equipment** as the bulletin sponsor of the week.

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"Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire!"
 ~ St. Catherine of Siena