

ANNUNCIATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY PARISH



This Week in Our Parish

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 Atrium bulletin board 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.**

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 after the 11:00 a.m. Mass and in the parish office during the week - Mondays & Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Lenten Program

Ash Wednesday Mass will be held at **7:30 PM** on Wednesday, February 14.

Stations of the Cross will be held Fridays, February 16 – March 23 at **5:00 PM** followed by Mass.

Wednesdays, February 16 – March 23, **8:00 AM** Mass.

Palm Sunday Mass will be celebrated at **6:00 PM** on Saturday, March 24 and **7:30 AM** and **11:00 AM** Sunday March 25.

Holy Week

Holy Thursday Mass begins at **7:00 PM** on Thursday, March 29.

Good Friday Liturgy begins at **1:00 PM** on Friday, March 30.

Easter Vigil will begin at **8:30 PM** on Holy Saturday, March 31.

Easter Sunday Masses will be celebrated at **7:30 AM** and **11:00 AM** on Sunday, April 1.

January 21, 2018

3rd 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

Tara Lyons, Director of Religious Education ABVM.youthfaithformation@gmail.com (608)638-7879

400 Congress Avenue, Viroqua, WI 54665

What Is the Messianic Kingdom About?

Jesus, as He began His ministry, began His ministry with a message saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand: Repent and believe in the Gospel." The Kingdom of God He preached about was the Messianic Kingdom that would embrace all kinds of people on earth irrespective of caste, creed and religion. The essential requirement or need for becoming the members of this Messianic Kingdom on earth is Conversion--a change of life from one of sin to one of sanctity, a true return to God. Secondly, those who wish to enter the Kingdom must believe in the message of Christ which is the message of salvation; and this tells them how they can earn the eternal life in heaven.

Jesus' message of Kingdom of God is not about a place He is talking about, but about the proclamation of God's rule over us. It is the good news that God wants to share His Love with all His children, and He wishes all to be saved. We can get lost in the Kingdom of the world, attracted by its pleasures, depressed by its tragedies. The proclamation of the Messianic Kingdom is the central theme of Jesus' ministry. He shows us by exorcisms that there is no place for devil in the Kingdom He announces. He shows by His miracles that sickness and suffering will be eliminated. He feeds the multitude to show us no one will ever suffer from hunger. He shows us by raising the dead to life, and especially by his own resurrection that even death will be done away with. It's something different than the world has ever known. That's why He calls us to repent.

"Repent" is a word that means change. Change our mind, change our hearts, change our view point, change the direction of our lives, change our values and put His Kingdom first. "Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness" {Mathew 6.33}. Everything else is secondary. We have to live in this world, and we need to use the things of the world. Hence, we need to have clothes, food, warmth, a place to live, friends we need to support us. These are all necessary. But above all these, the priority is to be given first to God and His Kingdom; the rest will be given to us. The good news of God's Kingdom is the fact that God loves us in the person of Jesus because Jesus Himself is the Good news. Hence, the Kingdom of God is here in our midst in the person of Jesus. We have experienced the love and mercy of God in Jesus.

In order to spread and expand the Kingdom of God, He invited and chose fishermen, a simple people who did not have any qualification or any high standing in the society to be His disciples. They left their fishing nets, their boats, families, dear and near ones for the sake of God's Kingdom. This was their complete surrender and submission and renunciation for the love of God toward the proclamation of God's Kingdom. This was their great sacrifice on their part, because they encountered God in the person of Christ and believed in the good news of salvation. For this Kingdom they sacrificed their lives and underwent martyrdom. It is because of their sacrifice and shedding their blood, we have received the gift of faith; and we have become partakers of God's Kingdom. Now we are the hands and feet of Jesus to carry on the good news of salvation through our exemplary lives.

~ *Fr. Joe*

January 21, 2018

FINANCIAL REPORT

Weekend January 14, 2018
Adults: \$2,719.10
Offertory: \$184.76
Youth: \$.50
Solemnity of Mary: \$15.00
Total: \$2,919.36
Needed Weekly: \$3,400.00
THANK YOU!

2017-2018 DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Target: \$\$34,455.00
Pledged: \$34,213.00
Cash to date: \$29,393.00

Saints of the Week

**St Vincent*
**St Marianne Cope*
**St Francis de Sales*
**St Timothy*
**St Angela Merici*

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

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)
Monday, 22 January, 8:00 AM +**Reinie Leis**
(Angie Leis)
Tuesday, 23 January, 8:00 AM +**Mass**
Wednesday, 24 January, 5:00 PM +**People of St. Mary Parish**
Thursday, 25 January, 8:00 AM +**Mass**
Friday, 26 January, 5:00 PM +**Mass**
Saturday 27 January, 6:00 PM +**People of St. Mary Parish**
Sunday, 28 January, 7:30 AM +**Charlie Dickman**
(Jay & Diana Thurston)
Sunday, 28 January, 11:00 AM +**LeRoy & Mary Gronemus**
(Tom & Lindy Gronemus)

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.**

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.dioc.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>

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

Please pick up your 2017 Family Contribution Report in the Atrium.

This week we highlight **Moser Trucking, Inc.** as the bulletin sponsor of the week.
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"Seek first the Kingdom of God and all these things will be added to you."
 ~ Matthew 6:33