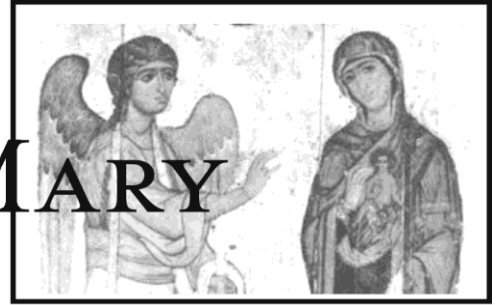


ANNUNCIATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY PARISH



This Week in Our Parish

Thank you to the parishioners of Saint Mary's for your prayers and support in sending me to the March for Life 2018 to help save the lives of the unborn. The March for Life is one of the biggest protests in the United States. Drawing crowds estimated to be as big as 650,000 people! We were addressed by President Donald Trump, Vice President Mike Pence, United States House of Representatives Paul Ryan, U.S. Representative Sean Duffy and many more. I-Patrick Corr-will be available to answer questions about my trip to the March for Life in the atrium after the 11 a.m. Mass, Feb 18th. I look forward to sharing my experience with you.

"Soup, Socks & Skivvies" - The RE Department is inviting the entire church community to join us in our Lenten Almsgiving initiative. We will be collecting cans of soup, NEW socks, and NEW underwear for our local communities. **Donations will be accepted Sun. Feb 18th - Sun. March 18th.** The drop spot will be located in the corner of the atrium. Please DO NOT drop donations at the RE office or parish office. Thank you for giving!

There will be a **PCCW meeting on Wednesday, February 21 at 2:00 PM** in Marian Hall. All women of the parish are invited to come and see what is new in the PCCW and help us plan our year.

Wednesday, February 21, at 5:30 PM, please join us for a free-will donation soup and bread supper in Marian Hall, followed by **Joe Rigelsky at 6:30 PM from Upstream International** speaking about his mission work around the world.

Farewell, Fr. Joe! On **Sunday, February 25th after the 11:00 a.m. Mass**, we will be having a potluck gathering in Marian Hall to express our appreciation and say our goodbyes to Fr. Joe. It will be a celebration for all of his time and prayerful ministry as our pastor. Hope to see you there. (Fr. Joe returns home to India on February 28th.)

The Diocese of La Crosse will be sending a priest to cover weekend Masses after February 28th; but there will be no week-day, Monday through Friday, Masses after February 27, until further notice.

February 18, 2018

1st Sunday of Lent

Sunday Mass

Saturday

6:00 PM

Sunday

7:30 AM & 11:00 AM

Daily Mass

Monday, Tuesday,

Wednesday and Thursday

8:00 AM

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

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

February 18, 2018

Do You Realize God Is Merciful Despite We Are Sinners?

Now we are in the great season of Lent during which the Church invites us to examine our lives to repent of our sins and do penance by means of fasting, penance and prayers. In doing these the faithful obtain strength and power to overcome sinful tendencies. The purpose of the Lent is to provide purification by weaning persons from sin and selfishness through self-denial and prayer, by creating in them the desire to do God's will and to make God's Kingdom alive and present in our hearts. The purpose of Lent above all else is to prepare all of us for the celebration of the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Church invites all of us to repent from evil ways and return to the Lord who is eagerly waiting for each one of us to come to Him. The first reading of today speaks about the story of Noah and the deluge came about to destroy the evil persons on account of their sins and unfaithfulness to God. At the end of the deluge only Noah and his family were saved because of their righteousness and faithfulness to God. Hence, the story of great deluge reminds us of two important facts: Man's disobedience and disloyalty to the Creator; and on the other hand, we see the infinite forgiving mercy of God.

As we reflect upon the First Reading of today, when people became so wicked and so sinful, God decided to wipe them off from the face of the earth. Hence, He sent flood and destroyed them. But when deluge ended, God made a pact or covenant with the human race through Noah in which He solemnly promised and declared that He will never send again such a similar deluge to destroy the people. This shows God's infinite and abundant mercy to the entire human race. This means to say that God does not want the sinners to die in sins, but rather desires sinners to return to Him with sorrow for their sins. If we do so, He is well prepared to forgive our sins.

If God is ready to forgive our sins, we must ask forgiveness to the Lord; and this implies and includes the intention of turning away from sin. Therefore, Lent is the special occasion for all of us to turn away from sins and to do penance for all of our past offences against God and our fellow men. In that way we will be able to fulfill our part of that pact or covenant that God made with Noah, by resolving to be faithful in future. Thus, we can ensure that we shall not be cut off from God by our sins, but we live in God's friendship. Jesus our intercessor is pleading with His Father for us that we may not be lost but live.

~ Fr. Joe

February 18, 2018

FINANCIAL REPORT

Weekend February 11, 2018

Adults: \$4,023.10

Offertory: \$287.57

Youth: \$.50

Ash Wednesday: \$40.00

Total: \$4,351.17

Needed Weekly: \$3,400.00

THANK YOU!

2017-2018

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Target: \$34,455.00

Pledged: \$34,613.00

Cash to date: \$30,673.00

Saints of the Week

**St Peter Damian*

**St Polycarp*

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday, 17 February, 6:00 PM +**Reinie Lies**

(James Kuehn)

Sunday, 18 February, 7:30 AM +**Sandi Kuehn**

(Jim Kuehn Family)

Sunday, 18 February, 11:00 AM +**People of St. Mary's Parish**

Monday, 19 February, 8:00 AM +**Patty Lovstad**

(John & Jennifer Stoltz)

Tuesday, 20 February, 8:00 AM +**Mary Will**

(Pat Spaeth)

Wednesday, 21 February, 8:00 AM +**Mass**

Thursday, 22 February, 8:00 AM +**Patty Lovstad**

(Teresa M. McCormick Family)

Friday, 23 February, 8:00 AM +**Health of Klos Family Members**

(Pat & Ed Klos)

Saturday 24 February, 6:00 PM +**Ed & Verna Mashak**

(Mashak Family)

Sunday, 25 February, 7:30 AM +**Wesley Schar**

Sunday, 25 February, 11:00 AM +**People of St. Mary's Parish**

Ecumenical Lenten Rotation - **Wednesday, February 21** – Immanuel Lutheran Church, 5:15 PM – Bread and Soup; free-will offering; 6:30 PM – Worship Service.

Cabin Fever Fest – February 25, 2018 Doors open 12:00 PM, Euchre Tournament starts 1:00 PM; \$10/person, includes soups, snacks, and beverages. St. Peters Parish, W695 State Road 33, Rockland, WI 54653; 608/486-2180.

Diocesan Sesquicentennial Opening Mass To celebrate the opening of our diocesan sesquicentennial, Bishop Callahan will celebrate Mass at St. Gabriel Church in Prairie du Chien on Saturday, **March 3, 2018, beginning at 10:00 a.m.** Reception to follow at St. John Church in Prairie du Chien. All are welcome. If you are unable to attend the Mass, you can view it via live stream at diolc.org/live.

Lenten Program

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.

This week we highlight **Oakwood Realty, LLC** as the bulletin sponsor of the week.

Please Support the Businesses that Support Our Parish Bulletin

LAW OFFICES OF
HOPKINS & HOPKINS, LLP
George A. Hopkins
Stephanie M. Hopkins
 637-6710
 Civil Litigation Accident & Personal Injury
 Workers Compensation
 Wills & Probate Estate Planning
 Traffic Law
 Members of St. Mary Parish

This space can be your
 business advertisement!

"Gather at Our Table."

BORGENS CAFE
 Friday Night Fish Fry
 Banquet Room and Catering Available
 www.BorgensCafe.com
 owners: Blane & Mary Charles
 109 Main St., Westby, Wisconsin phone: 608.634.4003

Thorson Funeral Home "Committed to Service"
 TRADITIONAL, NONTRADITIONAL & CREMATION SERVICES

Thor J. Thorson www.thorsonfuneralhome.com
 P.O. Box 248 856 South Rusk Avenue Viroqua, WI 54665
 608-637-7041 or 1-800-657-6741



BETHEL HOME & SERVICES, INC.
 Care Through Faith and Service
 Assisted Living • Independent Retirement
 Adult Day Care Services • Parish Nurse Ministry
 Independent Apartments • Food Pantry & Thrift Shop
 Personal & Supportive Home Services
 Transitional Care Therapy • Memory Care
 614 S. Rock Ave. | Viroqua, WI 54665
 608-637-2171 www.bethelhomeservices.org

Village Market
IN VIROQUA
 HWY 14 & Airport Rd.
 Viroqua, WI
 608-637-2476


M and K Carpentry, LLC
 licensed and insured
Jon Molledahl
 jonbeck@mw.net
 cell 608-606-0757
 home 608-634-2495
 E 9102 Olson Road
 Westby, WI 54667

This space can be your
 business advertisement!

This space can be your
 business advertisement!


MOSER TRUCKING INC.
 PH. 608-638-6996
 PO BOX 823
 405 RAILROAD AVE.
 VIROQUA, WI 54665
 MEMBER OF ST. MARY PARISH


Accounting & Tax Service
 of Viroqua, Ltd.
 Joy Vietinghoff
 Certified Public Accountant
 608.637.6800
 767 N. Main Street Fax 608.637.6878
 Viroqua, Wisconsin 54665 Toll Free 1.888.595.4829

WESTBY LOCKER & MEATS
 The Sausage & Meat Shop
 Rosanne & Rod Aspenson
 402 N. Main St., Westby, WI 54665
 meatsusa@mw.net
608-634-4515

LEUM 608-638-2030
Technologies 117 E. Terhune St.
 Viroqua, WI 54665

This space can be your
 business advertisement!

This space can be your
 business advertisement!

Personalized Dental Care
 For The Entire Family!

 NEW PATIENTS ALWAYS WELCOME
 Viroqua Dental Center, LLC
 637-2655
 1225 Favor Drive
 Viroqua
 Leanne Klum, D.D.S.


Oakwood Realty LLC
 www.oakwoodrealty.com

 Andrea Hurth (Agent)

 Rhonda Kiedinger (Agent)
 Dan Kiedinger (Broker)


VOSSETEIG-LARSON
 FUNERAL HOMES
 www.vossfh.com
 123 West Decker P.O. Box 88
 Viroqua, WI 54665
 Ph: 608-637-2100
 With locations in Westby, Viola, and De Soto


Vesbach
 OIL & PROPANE
 120 E. Decker
 Viroqua
 637-2200
 Todd and Tina
 Vesbach
 Propane - Heating Oil - Farm Fuels

Effinger Equipment
 SALES AND SERVICE
 608-637-7594 Viroqua, Wisconsin
 800 N. Main Street
 Complete Line of Outdoor Power Products

 SNAPPER KOHLER BCS
 STIHL Jonsered Country Clipper
 Mantis

ProLine
 PRINTING PH 608-637-3868
 223 S Main Street FX 608-637-8490
 Viroqua, WI 54665 info@prolineprintingwi.com

"Fasting of the body is food for the soul." ~ St. John Chrysostom