

# ANNUNCIATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY PARISH



## This Week in Our Parish

Please be generous in this week's collection for the **Catholic Campaign for Human Development**. In the United States, one in seven people lives in poverty. With this collection you support programs that address the causes of poverty and provide a sustainable future for those who are struggling. In addition, 25% of funds collected remains in our diocese to fund local anti-poverty projects. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this collection and work on the margins. Envelopes may be found at each end of the pews and in the Atrium. More information about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development can be found at [www.uscch.org/cchd/collection](http://www.uscch.org/cchd/collection).

**Adult Formation Classes** will be held Sunday mornings in the Atrium beginning January 21, through March 25, from 9:30 am – 10:45 am. Episode 3 this Sunday – *That Than Which Nothing Greater Can Be Thought: The Ineffable Mystery of God*.

On **Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at the 6:00 p.m. Mass**, the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade religious education class students will be ministering as lectors, servers, choir members, ushers and greeters. Afterwards there will be a time of fellowship in the atrium. Please consider coming to worship at our youth involved Mass.

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.

Farewell, Fr. Joe! On **Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup>.)

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.

## February 4, 2018

### 5<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month at 10:15 AM

#### Norseland

Mass and rosary held on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](mailto:stmaryparish@mwt.net) (608)637-7711

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

400 Congress Avenue, Viroqua, WI 54665

**February 4, 2018**

## **Jesus Heals You**

In many cases, the Doctors who are qualified on medicine say, "We have done our part to the sick; but God only has to save." Jesus is the Savior and Healer of the body and soul by the fact that He was given the power to cure the sick. Jesus indeed seeing the miseries and sufferings of the sick, He could not bypass them; but He showed compassion and healed them. He heals a man with unclean spirit and then He goes to heal Peter's mother-in-law who was suffering from high fever. Then they brought to Him all who were sick or possessed with demons, and He cast out many demons. After having worked many more miracles of healing early in the morning, He went off to a lonely place to pray; but people did not leave Him, rather they were searching of Him all the time.

Peter and his companions approached Jesus and said, "Lord, people with all kinds of sickness are waiting to see You to be healed." Jesus would have sought a cheap popularity by continuing to do the healing ministries, but He opted to spend time in deep prayer to regain strength and support of His Father in His ministries. Jesus was quite aware that His mission would be inefficient and incomplete if He has not got personal contact and intimacy with His Father. Hence, He went off to a place to pray, not to escape from the pressures of the people but to be refreshed to do further service in an effective way.

Jesus has been portrayed as a "Man of prayer". His life is characterized as a "life spent in solitude, prayer, friendship, and intimacy with God the Father" in spite of the demands and pressures of life. Jesus communed with His Father through prayer. He prayed not only to learn the will of His Father but also to obtain the strength to do His Father's will. Hence, He fasted and prayed for forty days and forty nights at the beginning of His ministry {Mathew 4.2}. He prayed all night just before choosing his twelve apostles {Luke 6.12}. He prayed in the garden of Gethsemane {Mathew 26.39}. He never made any major decision without praying. Jesus prayed to renew and recharge Himself spiritually because healing drained Him of power. This is what we need to do as He did.

Like Jesus, we should find a place and time to spend in intimate conversation, intimacy and friendship with God in prayer. Many of us might say that "I am very busy", and I have no time to pray. Are we busier than the Lord? We say, "I have lot of commitments, and I am preoccupied with many things". Sometimes we have the reasons to justify ourselves by saying "my work, service, apostolate, or ministry is my prayer. These are all lame excuses.

The Gospel reports some incidents when the Lord could not even eat, drink and rest because He has to minister to the needs of the hungry, sick, handicapped, demoniacs, sinners, restless and the overburdened. But He never failed to pray. We need to recharge ourselves spiritually to live and lead a healthy, peaceful and happy life and to do our day to day work. When we are afflicted with sickness and disability, prayer helps to bear the sufferings and pains and gives comfort and consolation. When we are confronted with dilemmas, crisis trials and difficulties and temptations, let us never hesitate to approach Jesus in prayer for healing, strength, consolation and perseverance and enlightenment.

*~ Fr. Joe*

# February 4, 2018

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Weekend January 28, 2018  
Adults: \$2,654.10  
Offertory: \$209.73  
Youth: \$2.50  
Catholic Charities: \$65.00  
Total: \$2,931.33  
Needed Weekly: \$3,400.00  
THANK YOU!

## 2017-2018 DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Target: \$\$34,455.00  
Pledged: \$34,413.00  
Cash to date: \$30,083.00

### *Saints of the Week*

*\*St Agatha  
\*St Paul Miki & Companions  
\*St Jerome Emiliani  
\*St Josephine Bakhita  
\*St Scholastica*

## MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

**Saturday**, 3 February, 6:00 PM +**Mary Will**  
(Darlene Olson)  
**Sunday**, 4 February, 7:30 AM +**Reinie Leis**  
(Veronica Tresner)  
**Sunday**, 4 February, 11:00 AM + **People of St. Mary Parish**  
**Monday**, 5 February, 8:00 AM +**Mass**  
**Tuesday**, 6 February, 8:00 AM +**Mass**  
**Wednesday**, 7 February, 5:00 PM +**Virginia Leis**  
(Jay & Diana Thurston)  
**Thursday**, 8 February, 8:00 AM +**Mass**  
**Friday**, 9 February, 5:00 PM +**Jerry Downing**  
(Pat & Ed Klos)  
**Saturday** 10 February, 6:00 PM +**PJ Hauser**  
(Dick Hauser)  
**Sunday**, 11 February, 7:30 AM +**Dan Cina**  
(Angie Cina)  
**Sunday**, 11 February, 11:00 AM +**People of St. Mary's Parish**

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 return the bottles by February 3-4.**

**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).

## 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.

This week we highlight **Law Offices of Hopkins & Hopkins, LLP** as the bulletin sponsor of the week.  
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"If just one person realizes from this day that they or someone they know is being trafficked, we will have made a difference." ~ Bishop Eusebio Elizondo