

# ANNUNCIATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY PARISH



## This Week in Our Parish

**Sunday Meals for Fortney Hotel Residents** – Sunday, **March 4<sup>th</sup>**, is the next date we will be providing the meal. Food should be delivered to the kitchen in Marian Hall on Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup> by 12 PM Noon. Pans, with instructions, will be out in the Atrium this weekend. Take a pan home, make a hot dish, salad or desert and return next weekend. Join in feeding the hungry!

*But Jesus called them to Him, saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."*-Luke 18:15-17 Are you interested in being in the refreshing presence of children and sharing the Word of God with them? St. Mary's is bringing back the Children's Ministry during the liturgy of the word at the 11:00 AM Mass, and we are in need of leaders. Please consider being a part of this important ministry for the families of our parish. If interested, please contact Aaron and Andrea Kane at 638-4645 or [akane6335@yahoo.com](mailto:akane6335@yahoo.com).

The Parish Council is interested in getting more parishioners to participate in bringing up the gifts during Mass. There will be a small wooden carved fish that says "give us our daily bread" on the table where the gifts sit before Mass. If you would like to bring up the gifts that day, simply take the wooden fish and hold onto it until it is time for you to bring up the gifts. Please return the fish when you go back to bring up the gifts. Don't be afraid to volunteer, we'd like to see everyone participate. The ushers may also be asking for volunteers to bring up the gifts if the fish has not been taken before Mass begins.

**Library news:** Two chairs are on loan for preview this weekend for the library project. Feel free to check them out and share your opinions; but please be respectful as we have not purchased these items, and they will be returned on Monday. The intention is to choose one of the styles and then purchase two matching chairs for the space.

This is Fr. Joe's last weekend with us. On **Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup> after the 11:00 AM Mass, we will be having a farewell appreciation potluck lunch at noon.** It will be an opportunity for us to say our goodbyes and express our gratitude for all of Fr. Joe's prayers and ministry on our behalf. Let's all come together for a grand sendoff!

## February 25, 2018

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent

**Sunday Mass**

**Saturday**

6:00 PM

**Sunday**

7:30 AM & 11:00 AM

**Daily Mass**

Monday, Tuesday

8:00 AM

**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

**Friday 2 March** - 4:30 PM rosary  
5:00 PM Stations of the Cross  
followed by evening prayer

**Wednesday 7 March** - 7:30 AM  
rosary---8:00 AM Communion  
Service followed by morning prayer

**Friday 9 March** - 4:30 PM rosary  
5:00 PM Stations of the Cross  
followed by evening prayer

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 25, 2018

## Suffering Leads to Glory

Today is the Second week of the Holy Lent during which we are invited to reflect upon the Transfiguration of Jesus on the Mount Tabor. Mountains suggest peace and rest for people. If we happen to go up to the mountain, we can relax and experience its cool weather; and it makes us recharged and rejuvenated and refreshed and ready to face the life challenges.

In the Sacred Scripture Mountains are known to be the places of prayer. In the life of Jesus, after His hectic activities, He went up to the Mountain to pray and spend time in deeper intimacy with His Father. It was on Mount Sinai Moses spent forty days in prayer and received the Ten Commandments from God. It was on the Mount Prophet Elijah found God. From all these it is clear that Moses and Elijah had their most intimate experience of God's presence on a Mountain top.

Today's Gospel speaks about the Transfiguration of Jesus on the Mountain. The word Transfiguration means a change from one state of appearance to another state. The event of Transfiguration depicts Christ's glory, and it is a Preview of His resurrection. This glorious event of the Transfiguration according to Jesus is to be achieved only through suffering and pain. Hence, there is no Glory or Victory if there is no suffering and cross {Mathew 16.21-23}. When Jesus told His Disciples that He had to suffer greatly and rejected by the elders and chief priests, specially Peter rebuked Jesus and said, "Lord let this not happen to you. We won't allow such a thing to happen."

But Jesus said to Peter, "Get behind Satan. You are an obstacle to the ways and will of my Father, and your ways are not the ways of my Father and your thinking is not the thinking of my Father." This implies that it is the wish and will of His Father that He had to suffer and die on the cross for the salvation of the whole mankind. But the Disciples did not want a suffering Messiah. They expected a Messiah who would conquer all the foreign domination and subdue all the enemies of Israel and raise up Israel as a powerful Nation. But they were totally disappointed and confused at the saying of Jesus.

At this point of their frustration and depression, Jesus took them up to a high Mountain; and He was transfigured before them. As they saw this state of His glory, they were thrilled with great joy and hope. They saw Moses and Elijah appearing and having conversation with Jesus. They were talking about the suffering that Jesus had to undergo for the salvation of all. Seeing this state of Christ's Glory, they said, "Lord, how nice and pleasant it is to be with You in this state." Hence, Peter said, "Lord, if You wish, I will make three booths, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah."

This is the state of Glory Jesus would obtain after His suffering and death on the cross, that is His resurrection. Now the Disciples got a new hope and trust in the Lord. Therefore, after our suffering and death we must trust that we have a glorious life in the risen Lord. So, our life is not ended, but it is changed into a new life of glory. This is our Transfiguration. Suffering is a part of our life which we can't forgo; but if we accept, this is being changed into a new life. Hence, the event of Christ's Transfiguration is the anticipation of the glory of Jesus' resurrection, and it paves a way for our resurrection. ~ **Fr. Joe**

**Please pay attention:** Kindly maintain silence inside the church. If you wish to talk and visit, please move to Atrium because some parishioners are praying.

**"Soup, Socks & Skivvies"** - RE Department Lenten Almsgiving initiative - Donations of soup, NEW socks, and NEW underwear accepted through **Sunday, March 18th**. Drop spot located in a corner of the atrium. Please **DO NOT** drop donations at the RE office or parish office. Thank you for giving!

# February 25, 2018

## MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Weekend February 18, 2018

Adults: \$2,738.35

Offertory: \$427.94

Youth: \$3.82

Ash Wednesday: \$585.00

CCHD: \$55.00

Total: \$3,810.11

Needed Weekly: \$3,400.00

THANK YOU!

### 2017-2018

### DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Target: \$34,455.00

Pledged: \$34,613.00

Cash to date: \$30,783.00

**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**

**Monday**, 26 February, 8:00 AM +**Patty Lovstad**  
(John & Jennifer Stoltz)

**Tuesday**, 27 February, 8:00 AM +**Reinie Leis**  
(Angie Leis)

**Wednesday**, 28 February, 8:00 AM +**No Mass**

**Thursday**, 1 March, 8:00 AM +**No Mass**

**Friday**, 2 March, 5:00 PM +**No Mass**

**Saturday** 3 March, 6:00 PM +**People of St. Mary's Parish**

**Sunday**, 4 March, 7:30 AM +**Ann Mary Kuehn**  
(Jim Kuehn Family)

**Sunday**, 4 March, 11:00 AM +**Santina Matiosian**  
(Pat Rubasch)

### **Schedule of Area Daily Masses:**

St Mary (Gays Mills) Monday & Thursday 8:30 AM

St Philip (Rolling Ground) Tuesday 8:30 AM

Sacred Heart (Cashton) Tuesday & Friday 8 AM

Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe 11 AM

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**Fr. Maria Dass will celebrate the weekend Masses March 3-4, and Fr. Billy Dodge will celebrate the weekend Masses March 10-11. The La Crosse Diocese will continue to send a priest to cover weekend Masses after February 28<sup>th</sup>; but there will be no week-day, Monday through Friday, Masses after February 27, until further notice.**

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Ecumenical Lenten Rotation - **Wednesday, February 28** – Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 5:15 PM – Bread and Soup; free-will offering; 6:30 PM – Worship Service.

**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](http://diolc.org/live).

This month, the blood drive is community effort sponsored by the Viroqua High School National Honor Society. By donating at this blood drive, you are helping one or more graduating seniors earn a scholarship! **The next Red Cross Blood Drive will be held: Tuesday, March 6, 2018; 11:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.;** Viroqua High School Gymnasium (*please note change of time and place*).

**Bethel Home & Services, Inc. – Annual Meeting; March 20, 2018; registration, 6:30 PM; meeting, 7:00 PM.** Please contact Greta Olson, Executive Secretary, to confirm names and addresses of the congregational delegates, 608-637-6354 or [golson@bethelhome.org](mailto:golson@bethelhome.org).

### **Lenten Program**

**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 **Viroqua Dental Center, LLC** as the bulletin sponsor of the week.  
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*Saints of the Week*  
 \*St Katharine Drexel

"Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer." ~ (Rom 12.12)