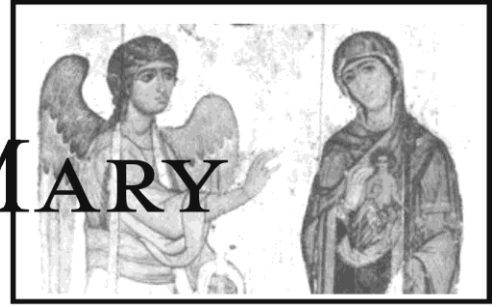


ANNUNCIATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY PARISH



This Week in Our Parish

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.

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.

In the midst of so much pain in the world, a little good news helps. So, congratulations from the Mission Office. As a result of World Mission Sunday, St. Mary Parish in Viroqua has helped to support the work of missionaries in over 1,100 areas of the world where the Church shares in the poverty of her members, friends and neighbors. May God bless you for your financial contribution of \$2,105.38 and all your prayers. We will forward the total to the National Office of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

"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!

On behalf of St. Mary's Parish, we would like to congratulate Ryan and Tylor 'Truck' Hannah on their 3rd placing at the Madison Kohl Center at the WIAA Individual State Wrestling Tournament. Ryan is a senior and Tylor is a sophomore at Viroqua High School.

March 4, 2018

3rd Sunday of Lent

Sunday Mass

Saturday

6:00 PM

Sunday

7:30 AM & 11:00 AM

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Confessions are heard before

Saturday Mass

Rosary

The Holy Rosary is prayed 30 minutes before all Weekend Masses

Bethel Home

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

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

Friday 16 March - 4:30 PM rosary

5:00 PM Stations of the Cross

followed by evening prayer

Wednesday 21 March - 7:30 AM

rosary---8:00 AM Communion

Service followed by morning prayer

Friday 23 March - 4:30 PM rosary

5:00 PM Stations of the Cross

followed by evening prayer

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

March 4, 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

This is my last pastoral letter to the good people of St. Mary's Parish Viroqua and Coon Valley. I take this opportunity to give thanks and appreciation to you as I move on to my next assignment in my Franciscan Capuchin Order India. I thank you for your prayers, fraternal concern, cooperation for the past two years. Your love and kindness have given me the courage and strength to do my ministry so well.

I also wish to thank the Parish Council members, the Parish Secretary/Bookkeeper and Administrative Assistant, Parish Finance Council members, PCCW women members, Sacristan, Religious Education Teachers, volunteers, Altar servers, Holy Eucharistic Ministers, Peace and Justice Commission members, St. Joseph Workmen Association members, Family Association members, youth members and others for their support during my time here. I sincerely thank all of our parishioners for their kindness and support in the parish.

Please keep me in your prayers. Just as the Apostle St. Paul prayed the people of Ephesus, "I pray for you", I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and your Love toward all the saints; and for this reason, I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. God bless you all,

~ **Fr. Joe**

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

St Charles (Genoa) M/W/Th/F 8:00 AM, Tuesday 8:30 AM

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.

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).

Ecumenical Lenten Rotation - **Wednesday, March 7** – Viroqua United Methodist Church, 4:30 PM – Taco Feed; free-will offering; 6:30 PM – Worship Service.

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.

March 4, 2018

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

FINANCIAL REPORT

Weekend February 25, 2018

Adults: \$2,787.10

Offertory: \$165.25

Youth: \$2.00

Ash Wednesday: \$5.00

Easter Flowers: \$30.00

Total: \$2,989.35

Needed Weekly: \$3,400.00

THANK YOU!

2017-2018

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Target: \$\$34,455.00

Pledged: \$34,713.00

Cash to date: \$31,033.00

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)

Monday, 5 March, 8:00 AM +**No Mass**

Tuesday, 6 March, 8:00 AM +**No Mass**

Wednesday, 7 March, 8:00 AM +**No Mass**

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

Friday, 9 March, 5:00 PM +**No Mass**

Saturday 10 March, 6:00 PM +**Reinie Leis**

(Ralph & Betty Schedivy)

Sunday, 11 March, 7:30 AM +**Ed Pedretti**

(Helen Pedretti)

Sunday, 11 March, 11:00 AM +**Wesley Schar**

Saints of the Week

**SS Perpetua & Felicity*

**St John of God*

St Francis of Rome

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 28th; but there will be no week-day, Monday through Friday, Masses after February 27, until further notice.

Eucharist, Sacred Listening and Caregiving Retreats at St. Anthony's - March 16-18 - "Mass as Heaven on Earth Eucharist Retreat": Presented by Fr. Bob Streveler (Cost: \$185). **March 23-25** - "Sacred Listening and Speaking Silent Retreat for Women": Presented by Lee Ann Niebuhr, Betsy Schussler and Sr. Jolynn Brehm, FSPA (Cost: \$185). Contact St. Anthony Spirituality Center at 715-443-2236, info@sarcenter.com. Go to www.sarcenter.com to register for an upcoming event. St. Anthony's is located 8 miles outside of Wausau on 40 beautiful acres of wooded land.

Arise! A Come and See Day with the Sisters! **Who:** Girls ages 9 - 13, who are interested spending some time with the Sisters and others who enjoy spiritual things, while finding out more about religious life. **When:** Saturday, **March 17, 2018**
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. **Where:** Mater Redemptoris House of Formation; 3730 East Avenue South; La Crosse, WI 54601 **Cost:** Donations accepted. **Register:** Online registration at www.materredemptoris.org. **Questions:** Please contact Sister M. Consolata at materredemptoris@gmail.com or 608-788-4530.

Annual Spring Carnival: St. Charles PTO In Genoa, WI is hosting their 32nd Annual Spring Carnival on Sunday, **March 18th from 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM.**

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 **Thorson Funeral Home** as the bulletin sponsor of the week.
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"Although the life of a person is in a land full of thorns and weeds, there is always a space in which the good seed can grow. You have to trust God." ~ Pope Francis