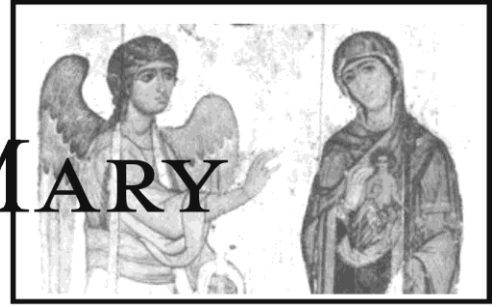


ANNUNCIATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY PARISH



This Week in Our Parish

SYMBOLON “The Catholic Faith Explained” series, church library, Sundays, 9:15 – 10:15 AM.

The PCCW is still collecting gifts for the residents of Vernon Manor this week. There is a list in the Atrium of suggested gifts for the residents. Gifts should be wrapped and labeled exactly what it is so that staff can distribute appropriately.

The Social Justice Committee has a basket in the Atrium to collect donations for the La Crosse Warming House and Catholic Charities from now until Christmas. A list of needed items is posted in the Atrium or choose an ornament (or two) of a needed item off the tree as a donation reminder.

Retirement Fund for Religious - The annual collection in parishes for the national Retirement Fund for Religious is scheduled for this weekend, **December 8-9**. Aging religious need your help. Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests ministered for years for little to no pay. Their sacrifices now leave their religious communities without adequate retirement savings. Your gift to today’s second collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands of elderly religious. We pray for a generous response to the Retirement Fund for Religious, both by prayer and financial assistance.

Our first Finance Council meeting will be **Tuesday, December 11, at 6:30 PM in Marian Hall**. The Finance Council will be meeting every other month.

Sunday, December 16, 10:30 AM youth Mass; Grade 5 students will take on all the roles (except cup/host ministers) - 2 readers, 4 ushers, 2-4 greeters (open doors and hand out bulletins), and 3 gift bearers. The rest of the students will sit in the first pews on the tabernacle side of the church. We will let the servers who are already scheduled perform those roles.

In preparation for Christmas, there is a parish-wide **Sacrament of Reconciliation Thursday, December 20, at 6:30 PM**. There will be four priests to hear confessions – Father Michael Klos, Father Nathan Kuhn, and Father Zacharie Beya-Tshingimba will assist our pastor, Father Janusz.

December 9, 2018

2nd Sunday of Advent

today’s readings are in the hymnal, page 996

Sunday Mass

Saturday

5:15 PM

Sunday

8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Daily Mass

Tuesday

5:15 PM

Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday
8:00 AM

Youth Mass – 3rd Sunday 10:30 AM
Mass, November to May

Liturgy of the Hours

This ancient communal prayer of the Church is prayed after all weekday Masses

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Confessions are heard 30 minutes before all Weekend and 20 minutes before all Weekday Masses

Rosary

The Holy Rosary is prayed 30 minutes before all 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 & 10:00 AM

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

First Friday of each month after 8:00 AM Mass until Noon

Parish Website www.stmaryviroqua.org; Parish Fax (608) 299-3721

In case of emergency, Fr. Janusz Kowalski, Pastor (715) 456-1450

Frances Campbell, Secretary/Bookkeeper (M-Tu & Th-F – 8 am-4 pm) stmaryparish@mwt.net (608) 637-7711

Tony Shay, DRE ABVM.youthfaithformation@gmail.com (608) 638-7879

400 Congress Avenue, Viroqua, WI 54665

December 9, 2018

HELP WANTED! Parishioners, please stay after the **December 23, 10:30 AM Mass** to help decorate the church in preparation for the birth of Christ. Men especially needed for various carrying and lifting tasks, setting up the tree, etc.

Dates and times of special Masses:

Youth Mass, Sunday, December 16, 10:30 AM

Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24, 5:00 PM Children's Mass

Christmas Day Masses, Tuesday, December 25 – Holy Day of Obligation: Midnight

8:00 AM

10:30 AM

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, Tuesday, January 1, 8:00 AM and 5:15 PM – Holy Day of Obligation

The Pilgrimage for Life to Washington, D.C., sponsored by the Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry, runs **Jan. 16-20, 2019**. Visit www.diolc.org/yya and click on "Pilgrimage for Life" to sign up. Anyone 13 and older may participate and will travel as a group. The "Early Bird Price" (forms and full payment in diocese office by **January 2nd**) is \$330.00 per person/\$300.00 per chaperone. After January 2nd, "Regular Price" is \$350.00 per person/\$320.00 per chaperone. **Sponsors: Anyone who would like to be a part of supporting life from conception to natural death but would not be up to the bus trip to Washington DC may be interested in sponsoring youth going on the Pilgrimage For Life please contact the parish office.**

Polish Priest Prepares Pierogis for Pro- Life: Come to learn how to make pierogis (Polish dumplings). Everyone is invited to join Father Janusz and our youth with this fundraiser on **Saturday, January 12th at 9:00 AM** in Marian Hall. The pierogis will be sold after all the Masses on January 12/13th - 5 for \$3.00, 10 for \$5.00

Diocesan Annual Appeal – Endurance in Hope

Despite the negative messaging in the news media, the Church continues to work to fulfill its mission. The Diocesan Annual Appeal is how we as a diocesan community fund our commitment to do our part of fulfilling the mission. The good works continue as our story is told through the appeal, connecting with those who want to invest in the many good works. Thank you to all parish leaders who continue to promote this vital ministry. Remember to keep developing this ministry, as it is the largest source of funding for our charitable works and ministries.

As of December 3, 2018:

- We are at 61 % of our goal, up 9% from the Nov 13, 2018, Chancery Bulletin
- There are 22 Parishes over goal, up 8 parishes from up the previous report
- 2,019 people who invested last year this time, have increased their investment in the appeal this year; their overall dollar increase is up 40.3%
- 3,061 people who had not invested in the appeal by this time last year have already invested or have committed to invest this year
- 56 Parishes have raised more this year than last year at this time. A 25% gain
- 24 Parishes are 75% of goal or better, a net gain of 12 over the previous report
- 190 new investors to the Annual Appeal, up 21 people/families from the previous report
- 512 Investors who were lapsed for at least one year are now re-engaged, up 66 from the previous report
- The Average Pledge is \$465.48, compared to \$417.00 last year

December 9 , 2018

FINANCIAL REPORT

Weekend December 2, 2018

Adults: \$1,957.10

Offertory: \$137.90

Christmas Flowers: \$335.00

Total: \$2,430.00

Needed Weekly: \$3,400.00

2018-2019

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Target: \$32,405.00

Pledged: \$19,266.00

Cash to date: \$13,058.50

THANK YOU!

Saints of the Week

**St. Damasus I*

**St. Lucy*

**St. John of the Cross*

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday, 8 December, 8:00 AM +David Lenske

(Joseph & Patricia Biebl)

Saturday, 8 December, 5:15 PM +Gerald Stoltz

(Joyce & Roger Humfeld)

Sunday, 9 December, 8:00 AM +Charlie & Lucille Dickman

(Jay & Diana Thurston)

Sunday, 9 December, 10:30 AM +People of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish

Monday, 10 December, +No Mass

Tuesday, 11 December, 5:15 PM +Paul Penchi, Sr.

(Lucille Krause)

Wednesday, 12 December, 8:00 AM +Elvera Bekkum & Alex Everhart

(Bekkum Family)

Thursday, 13 December, 8:00 AM +Virginia Leis

(Jim & Shirley Wuensch)

Friday, 14 December, 8:00 AM +Agnes Thielker

(Charles & Rhonda Antony)

Saturday, 15 December, 5:15 PM +Paul Penchi, Jr.

(Paul Penchi Family)

Sunday, 16 December, 8:00 AM +Tony Spaeth

(Pat Spaeth Family)

Sunday, 16 December, 10:30 AM +People of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish

Bishop Callahan's Advent Prayer Request Automated Phone Message - Dec. 6 ~ Bishop Callahan will be sending out his Advent Prayer Request via an automated call originating from 608-352-9565 on December 6, 2018. To submit an intention, just leave it as a message when you receive the call. Alternatively, you can call 608-352-9565, or you can go to diolc.org/pray to submit your request. All intentions will be presented and prayed for at his Christmas Masses.

Diocesan Lay Formation Institute classes begins in fall of 2019 - Draw closer to Christ and deepen your knowledge of the Faith in a joyful community of learners! Registration is now underway for the next two-year cycle. Brochures and application forms can be downloaded at www.diolc.org/lay-formation. You can also watch a 3-minute slideshow shot at St. Anthony's Retreat Center. If you are interested, discuss this with your pastor. For more information, contact the Office for Ministries and Social Concerns at ministries@diolc.org or call (608) 791-2667.

Make your reservation soon for this upcoming event at St. Anthony Spirituality Center in Marathon, Wisconsin! Please call St. Anthony's at 715-443-2236 or visit us online at our Facebook page or at www.sarcenter.com to register. If you would like to stay at St. Anthony's on the night before or after this event, please call to inquire about the cost and availability of overnight accommodations. **December 31st - January 1st = New Year's Eve Retreat: Pray Always** - We are excited to welcome back Fr. Tom Zelinski, OFM Cap, who will help us consider the importance and scope of prayer in our lives, especially as we look to the new year and the resolutions we would like to keep. This one-night retreat begins with the evening meal and includes a Holy Hour of Adoration, a late night social to count down to the New Year, and Mass on New Year's Day. The cost of this retreat is \$95.

This week we highlight **Moser Trucking Inc.** as the bulletin sponsor of the week.
Please Support the Businesses that Support Our Parish Bulletin

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish's Mission Statement

As a community of faith, St. Mary Parish celebrates the love of Jesus through sacred worship and religious education; we cherish the dignity of each person, and we aspire to minister to all. We revere our history, embrace God's presence among us each day, and walk hopefully into the future.

Please note:

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish Book Club will meet regularly the third Tuesday of every month at 1:00 PM in the church library. Everyone is welcome to attend and share and discuss your current reading selection – biographies, historical, religious, human interest.


Youth Masses will be celebrated the 3rd Sunday 10:30 Mass, November to May.

A children's Mass is scheduled for Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24, 2018 at 5:00 PM.

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“And he came to her and said, "Hail, Full of Grace, the Lord is with you!". ~ Luke 1:28

‘And Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.’ ~ Luke 1:38