

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



"Christus und Die Kinder" by Emil Nolde

We are looking for teachers for our Religious Education (RE) program at this time. If we don't have enough volunteers, then parents will simply have to teach from home this year. Younger students will have RE on Sunday mornings, older students Wednesday evenings. Teachers are welcome to express a preference in grade but may be asked to teach a different class. We will be using textbooks so teachers don't need to recreate the wheel. Two adults must be present in the classroom at all times. If a teacher is teaching alone, they must have another parent present to chaperone. A solo teacher is paid \$50 per class. Team teachers are paid \$30/person per class. Teachers for 1st Communicants and Confirmation students are paid \$60 or \$35 per class. Teachers must complete Safe Environment training and paperwork before classes can start. There are NO fees for RE this year. **Interested teachers should contact Fr. Matt ASAP:** mmarshall@diolclergy.org OR (608) 738-6806.

Fr. Matt

September 19, 2021

**25th Sunday in Ordinary
Time**

*Readings are in the hymnal,
#1165*

Eucharist

Saturdays - 6:30 PM

Sundays - 10:30 AM

Wednesdays - 6:30 PM

Fridays - 8:00 AM

Livestreaming Mass

www.facebook.com/StMarysViroqua

**St. Mary's prerecorded
Masses on Channel 15:**

Sunday Mass airs:

Tues. 11:30 am; Wed. 9:30 am;

Thur. 7:30 am; Fri. 5:30 am;

Sat. 3:30 am; Sun. 4:30 pm;

Mon. 2:30 pm.

Pastoral Visits:

Please contact the parish office if you or a loved one is in need of a pastoral visit. Let us know if you would like to be remembered in our parish's public prayers.

Baptism

Call the church office,
(608) 637-7711, for information
and scheduling.

Confession

by appointment or
in church library (*see Church
Calendar on page 3*)

Eucharistic Adoration

First Fridays after Mass
Benediction at 10 AM

Giving:

Phone app –

https://tithe.ly/give_new

On-line –

<https://diolc.org/annunciation-of-the-blessed-virgin-mary-parish-viroqua/>

Parish Office & Church:

OPEN: MTuWF – 8 AM-4 PM

Sat. – 9 AM-8 PM

Sun. – 9 AM-Noon

Parish Website www.stmaryviroqua.org; <https://www.facebook.com/StMarysViroqua>; Parish Fax (608) 299-3721

Fr. Matthew N. Marshall, Pastor (608) 637-7711; mmarshall@diolclergy.org; for emergencies (608) 738-6806

Frances Campbell, Secretary/Bookkeeper stmaryparish@mwt.net (608) 637-7711

Religious Education stmaryparish@mwt.net, (608) 637-7711; Parish Kitchen (608) 637-7878

400 Congress Avenue, Viroqua, WI 54665

September 19, 2021

Weekday Readings

by Kieran O'Mahony, OSA

Monday 20 September ~ *Ezra 1:1-6 (Ss Andrew Kim Taegon, Paul Chong Hasang, and their Companions)*

Ezra (and Nehemiah) worked at the time of the return from the Exile in Babylon. The book opens with the permission to return, granted by the Persian king, Cyrus the Great.

Luke 8:16-18

The first part of this reading is plain, especially if you consider that a lamp, in those days, meant a naked flame! The second part is more difficult, but certainly a warning against any hint of complacency or sitting on our “laurels”!

Wednesday 22 September ~ *Ezra 9:5-9*

The context for the prayer in this reading helps. After the return from Exile, there was a risk of intermarriage and Ezra was very much against that, thinking it would bring another national disaster. Hence he does penance and offers prayer.

Luke 9:1-6

The Twelve are empowered to do *exactly what Jesus did*. Just like him, they are to depend on the providence of God and the kindness of strangers. Shaking off the dust is a prophetic gesture of judgement and rejection (cf. Luke 10:11; Acts 13:51; 18:6).

Thursday 23 September ~ *Haggai 1:1-8 (St Padre Pio)*

The prophet Haggai was active just after the return from the great Exile. The reading gives a very exact date, the year 520. Haggai preaches the rebuilding of the Temple, because the prosperity of the nation depends on it.

Luke 9:7-9

The Herod here is not Herod the Great, as he was long since dead. Herod Antipas, son of Herod the Great, ruled from 4 BC to AD 39, sharing the rule of his father's realm with his two brothers. He makes a unique appearance in Luke's Gospel (only) at the trial of Jesus. Today's story catches nicely the callousness of the powerful, combined with the inevitable effect of Jesus, even on such unlikely people.

Friday 24 September ~ *Haggai 1:15-2:9*

Our reading is a kind of divine proclamation for the rebuilding of the Temple. Reconstruction after catastrophe—the task of the Israelites—is also our task today.

Luke 9:18-22

We associate this story with Caesarea Philippi, but Luke gives no geographical context. Rather, the context is that of the prayer of Jesus, consistent with Luke's portrait of Jesus as a man of prayer. It is interesting that he spares the blushes of Peter by omitting Peter's rejection of Jesus' destiny.

Saturday 25 September ~ *Zechariah 2:5-9, 14-15*

Zechariah wrote at roughly the same time as Haggai and faced the same problem of reconstruction. Using engineering language, the prophet assures the inhabitants that God will be the “measure” of the city.

Luke 9:43-45

The vain temptation to complacent admiration never really goes away. It's likely that whenever the church enjoys uncritical admiration that it is not at its most gospel.

You are invited to “Sing a new song!” The **choir will begin singing again starting September 26th for the 10:30 Mass**. Rehearsals happen at 9:15 as we prepare for Mass and anyone grade 6 - Adult is invited to join in the fun! Hope you can come.

The La Crosse Diocesan Council of Catholic Women is hosting a Service Commission SHARESHOP!

Come on Saturday, October 16, beginning with 8:00 am Mass ending at 3:45 pm. We have two speakers, a tour of the Cathedral, sharing Deanery ministries, Adoration, lunch--and time to be together!

The day is free, but you are asked to RSVP your lunch count by October 13th to: secretary@ldccw.org or call Candace at 608-647-0400. All details are on our website at ldccw.org

September 19, 2021

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of August 23-29, 2021

Adults: \$2,455.00

Offertory: \$202.00

Total: \$2,657.00

August E-gifts: \$1,419.06

Needed Weekly: \$3,400.00

MASS INTENTIONS & CHURCH CALENDAR

Saturday, 18 September, 6:30 PM Women of the Parish
(PCCW)

Sunday, 19 September, 10:30 AM +Diana Hemmersbach
(Angie Leis)

Monday, 20 September, No Mass

Tuesday, 21 September, No Mass

Wednesday, 22 September, 6:30 PM +Paul Cook
(Angie Leis)

Thursday, 23 September, No Mass; Parish Office Closed
September 23-24, Fr. Matt giving retreat at St.

Anthony's, Marathon

Friday, 24 September, No Mass

Saturday, 25 September, No Confessions

Saturday, 25 September, 6:30 PM +Deceased Friends
(Pat Biebl)

Sunday, 26 September, 10:30 AM +Reinie Leis
(Angie Leis)

Thursday, 7 October, 6:00 PM, Liturgy Committee
Meeting, Church Library



“Vovazione di San Matteo” by Caravaggio

Who, Me? Yes, You!

On Tuesday we celebrate the feast day of St. Matthew. Since he and I share a name, he has always been a hero of mine. But his story has something for us all to remember, Matthew or not! It's beautifully illustrated here by this painting from Caravaggio.

For the longest time I always thought that Matt was the man with the pointing finger. Maybe like he was pointing at himself with surprise! *Who, me?* That's definitely one way to read it. But one of my professor's pointed out a different way too. What if he is pointing at that seemingly, totally disinterested guy on his left. Yeah, the one just looking glumly at the tabletop! *Who, him?* That might be the case too. Either way, breaking in (like the light in the painting) is Jesus. He's calling. He believes Matt has something to offer. Even if he doesn't believe in himself, even if others don't either.

It's interesting to consider this moment in the light of the other two Gospels. We believe that Matt, like Peter, was not his original name. That's common in other cultures, receiving new names at many times in life. In the Hmong community I know a man with three names. And we kinda do the same at Confirmation still. The Gospels of Mark and Luke talk about Jesus calling a man by the name of Levi who sounds a lot like the man we have come to know as Matt. I doubt an accident. Maybe Jesus gave Matt a new name too. Maybe the community did. Or maybe Matt renamed himself, like Paul would do years later when he converted. I wonder if that might be it. 'Cause you know what *Matt* means, right? Kind of a double meaning: *gift from God AND gift for God*. Boy, that really does describe it. That moment up above...the call. People would come to understand that there was a lot more to Matt than met the eye. He would come to see that about himself too. But Jesus already knew. God knows that about us all.

Fr. Matt


Beginning September 20th, 2021, our parish will no longer receive copies of *Our Sunday Visitor* weekly newspaper. With the great diversity of media resources available about Catholic news I would much rather that parishioners decide for themselves what they would like to read. I think it equally unhelpful either to subscribe on behalf of the parish to resources that I don't think helpful, or to simply subscribe to resources I find helpful, but others may not. As in all things...the choice is yours! If you have questions about Catholic periodicals, you are always welcome to ask my opinions. If you would like financial assistance subscribing to a Catholic resource, please also let me know. **Happy reading!**

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