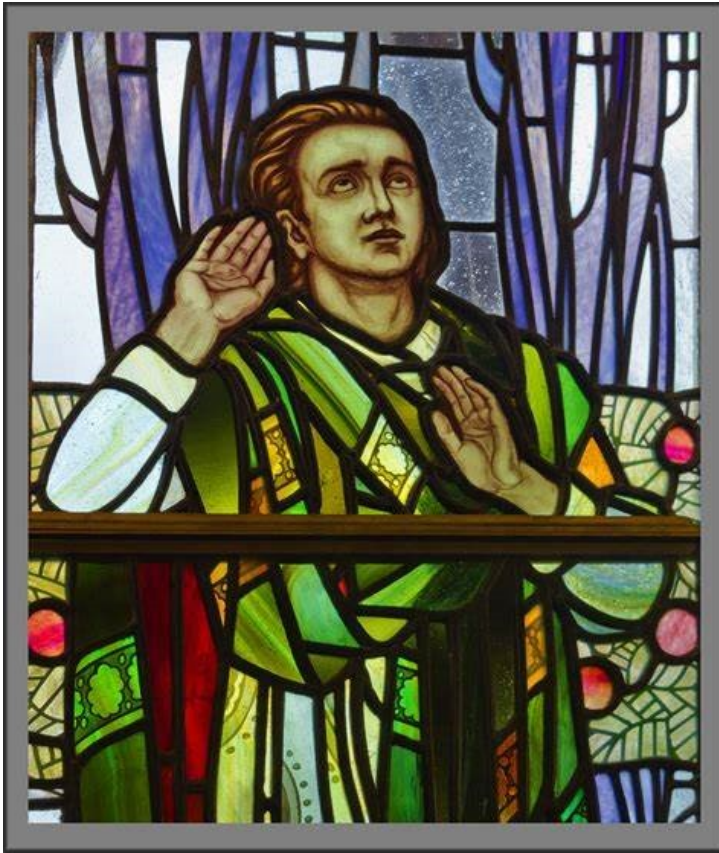


Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Hello friends,

Let's take a minute to do a seasonal recap. The Church year is off from the calendar year just enough to make things confusing – rather than starting the new liturgical year on January 1, it all starts with the First Sunday of Advent (December 2/3 last month). This is on purpose – as we draw into the literally darkest time of the year we enter spiritually into that same work of acknowledging darkness in our own lives – of discerning where it is that we need Christ's light to break into the darkness. I hope I effectively communicated that this isn't just work we do by our own power, in our own minds, but rather a cooperative effort with the Holy Spirit – that prayer, "help me to see where I need Your light." This all leads up to the moment of Christ's birth, when his light abruptly breaks into the darkness and shines into our own hearts. For a few weeks we celebrate Christmas until we celebrate his baptism (admittedly as a thirty-year-old, not a thirty-day-old).

Last Tuesday (ironically a snow day and the likely beginning of stick-around-snow) I donned the green vestments of Ordinary Time to celebrate Mass with a small intrepid crowd up in Viroqua. Up until Ash Wednesday (supplanting Valentine's Day this year) we'll stay in this season of slow, steady growth, inviting the work begun in Advent and Christmas to continue opening up and blooming, despite the very snow-buried vegetation on the ground outside. Once Lent starts up we'll do a similar deep dive into our own hearts, this time focusing on *(continued on page 2)*

January 14, 2024
2nd Sunday in
Ordinary Time

*Readings are in the hymnal,
#1096*

Eucharist

Saturdays - 6:30 PM

Sundays - 10:30 AM

Wednesdays - 5:15 PM

Fridays - 8:00 AM

Livestreaming Mass

www.facebook.com/StMarysCoonValley

Diocese of La Crosse

Televised Mass on

Channel 19, Sunday, 9:30 AM

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 parish office for information and scheduling.

Confession

Sat. 5:45 PM, Sun. 9:45 AM,
Wed. 5:45 PM during Adoration

Rosary:

The Holy Rosary is prayed 30 minutes before all Masses

Eucharistic Adoration

1st Friday each month after Mass
Benediction at 10 AM;
Every Wednesday 5:45 PM

Giving:

Phone app - https://tithe.ly/give_new
On-line -

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

Parish Offices & Church:

OPEN: MTWF- 8 AM-4 PM

Sat. - 9 AM-7:30 PM

Sun. - 9 AM-Noon

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

Father Joseph M. Richards, Pastor, (608) 606-9787; Deacon Tony Shay; Diana Hernandez-Torres, Sacristan

Beth Lakmann, Music & Liturgy Director, bethlakmann@icloud.com; (608) 637-7711

Fran Campbell, Secretary/Bookkeeper, stmaryparish@mwt.net, (608) 637-7711; Parish Kitchen (608) 637-7878

400 Congress Avenue, Viroqua, WI 54665

January 14, 2024

(continued from page 1) Christ's upcoming Passion and death. A very important thing – Lent is not actually a leadup to Easter, but rather to the Easter Triduum (the Lord's Supper, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil) – one long three-day liturgy taking in the whole of what we refer to as the Paschal Mystery. Much more on that later. Once the Triduum runs its course, we celebrate the even longer-than-Lent Easter Season, encountering Christ in his resurrection, before diving once again into the ordinary movement of the Holy Spirit in Ordinary Time until next (longer) Advent.

As we walk through the liturgical year and enter Ordinary Time, allow me to invite you to keep up the good work you've been doing for the last month and a half. I imagine that'll show up in the homily this weekend.

God bless you, pray well!

Fr. Joe

The PCCW will meet January 17. We will start with a simple soup luncheon and fellowship at noon with meeting to start at 12:45. We will be planning our 2024 budget. Did you know all the things that the PCCW support? We support two seminarians with a monthly contribution. We give to Project Milk and Casa Hogar Juan Pablo II and the tv Masses. Locally, we give donations to the area nursing homes, Toys for Tots, and Food Pantry. In our parish we purchase the hosts, give a scholarship, gifts for the servers at Christmas, gifts for confirmation and flowers and cards to the home bound. We do all this plus maintain items needed in our parish kitchen. Please consider joining us in our mission to provide for our parish and the wider community. If you have questions or comments, contact Joyce Humfeld at 608-606-0873 or 608-634-4059.

Our parish is organizing the monthly Community Meal at Good Shepherd's on **Monday, January 22**, and we are still calling for volunteers. Sign up in the atrium.

50th Wedding Anniversary

Please contact the parish office with the names of couples celebrating their 50th Jubilee Wedding Anniversaries in the year 2024 by **January 22, 2024**.

January 14, 2024

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of Jan. 2-7, 2024
Offertory: \$2,695.75
Retired Religious: \$5.00
Solemnity of Mary: \$10.00
Total: \$2,710.75
Needed Weekly: \$4,600.00
November E-gifts: \$1,847.79

2023-2024

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Target: \$36,130.00
Pledged: \$31,742.50
Cash to date: \$28,434.58

THANK YOU!

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 13 January, 6:30 PM +Jerry & Daffy Bina
(Jerry & Paula Cina)
Sunday, 14 January, 10:30 AM +Elrita Leis
(St. Mary's Choir)
Wednesday, 17 January, 5:15 PM +Philip Brueggen
(Dave & Sue Fanta)
Friday, 19 January, 8:00 AM +Angie Dickman
(Dave & Sue Fanta)
Saturday, 20 January, 6:30 PM +Lucille Krause
(Pat Biebl)
Sunday, 21 January, 10:30 AM +Guy Nicks
(Guy Nicks Family)

CHURCH CALENDAR

PCCW CIRCLE FOR JANUARY: ST. JOSEPH

Saturday, 13 January, 10:00 AM-6:00 PM Marriage Retreat in Marian Hall
Sunday, 14 January, 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal
Monday, 15 January, Parish Office closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Tuesday, 16 January, 1:00 PM Library Club meets in parish library
Wednesday, 17 January, 10:30 AM-noon St. Mary's Quilters in Marian Hall
Wednesday, 17 January, Noon PCCW Soup luncheon with meeting following in Marian Hall
Wednesday, 17 January, 6:30 PM Finance Council meeting in parish library
Thursday, 18 January, 6:30-8:00 PM Little Rock Scripture Study in Marian Hall
Friday, 19 January, 5:00 PM Vesbak/Larse Wedding Rehearsal
Saturday, 20 January, 2:00 PM Eric Vesbak/Janie Larse Wedding
Saturday, 21 January, 5:45 PM Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, 21 January, 9:00 AM Confirmation Instruction
Monday, 22 January, 5:00-6:30 PM Community Meal at Good Shepherd Church

Ministry Schedule

Sat., Jan. 13, 6:30 PM

Pat Biebl Eucharistic Minister
Will Fisher Altar Server
Seth Kiedinger Altar Server
Mark Brueggen Lector

Sun., Jan. 14, 10:30 AM

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister
Amelia Kimmet Altar Server
Jacob Kimmet Altar Server
Stephen Lambert Lector

If not able to serve as scheduled, please request a sub through MSP. Thank you!

Healthy Living with Chronic Pain Workshop

Where: Virtually

When: Wednesdays, February 7 - March 13, 8:30 to 11:00

Cost: \$30, includes textbook

Pre-register by calling (608) 775-6870 or visit gundersenhealth.org/living-well. After registering, you will be sent an email with a link to join the class and a book which you can keep.

January 14, 2024

Pastoral Council Members

Kris Brueggen	kbrueggen01@gmail.com
Phyllis Krause	phylliskrause63@gmail.com
Parker Moore	parkerm53@gmail.com
Pat Peterson	peterson.pata@gmail.com
Cathy Poshepny	cposhepny@gmail.com
Dcn. Tony Shay	ashay@diolclergy.org
Dennis Vinger	dennis.vinger@gmail.com

Our Pastoral Council is here to serve. They help us discern the needs of our community and the call of the Spirit in our time. **Please feel free to contact them** with your concerns.

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Stephanie M. Hopkins

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Rosanne & Rod Aspenson
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meatsusa@mw.net
608-634-4515

Roger and Joyce Humfeld
R&J's HONEY FARM



S2676 Haugen Ln.
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Mary Sime 608-778-9369
Torrey Kramer 608-306-2115
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"...the Lord came...calling out as before, 'Samuel, Samuel!'... 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'" ~ 1 Samuel 3:10