

# Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Hello friends!

Over the past few weeks, we've had Pastoral and Finance Council meetings at both parishes. The material we've had for these meetings has been a bit lower octane, which gave us the freedom to take our parish pulses and rehash some recent events and developments (I'm looking at you, Christmas Masses). I am remarkably grateful to all of you for the earnest work you put into praying the last few seasons well. We'll talk Christmas schedules again next November or so, but this year's attendance records (185 at the 4:00 in Coon Valley, 160 at the 6:30 in Viroqua, 85 at the midnight in Coon Valley, and 235 at the 10:30 on Christmas day in Viroqua) speak loudly about an effective schedule.

For now I would like to forecast the next bit of seasonal novelty -- Lent. Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day this year (February 14, for all of you celibates, that is, myself). Our schedule that day will include a 7:00 AM Communion service in Viroqua to catch the pre-work crowd, 12:10 PM Mass in Viroqua, and 5:15 PM Mass in Coon Valley. This is an alteration to our customary Wednesday Mass schedule (5:15 PM in Viroqua), but especially since more folks will hopefully be available during the lunch hour in Viroqua than in Coon Valley (where working in town is less common) I hope this schedule will best serve both parishes in cooperation with each other. Please note that Ash Wednesday is not a holy day of obligation (required to attend Mass), but it is an excellent way to kickstart your Lent in style.

*(continued on page 2)*

**January 21, 2024**  
**3rd Sunday in**  
**Ordinary Time**

*Readings are in the hymnal,  
#1099*

## **Eucharist**

**Saturdays - 6:30 PM**

**Sundays - 10:30 AM**

**Wednesdays - 5:15 PM**

**Fridays - 8:00 AM**

## **Livestreaming Mass**

[www.facebook.com/StMarysCoonValley](https://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](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](http://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](mailto:bethlakmann@icloud.com); (608) 637-7711

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

400 Congress Avenue, Viroqua, WI 54665

*(continued from page 1)* We will continue the practice of praying the Stations of the Cross this Lent, too. On Tuesdays and Wednesdays we usually have Mass at 5:15 in Coon Valley and Viroqua, respectively. Throughout Lent (starting February 20) we will pray the Stations of the Cross on Tuesdays in Coon Valley and on Wednesdays in Viroqua at 5:15, followed by Mass at 5:45. While we usually have adoration and confessions available from 5:45-6:30 on Wednesdays, we'll bump that back throughout Lent from the end of Mass (6:15) to 7:00 PM.

When we finally get to the Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil) we'll celebrate the primary liturgies in Viroqua to accommodate space needs, with the addition of a Good Friday service in Coon Valley. This schedule is not yet defined, but if I were a betting man I'd imagine Easter Sunday will also involve our customary 8:00 in Coon Valley and 10:30 in Viroqua.

I hope that is comprehensible. If not, feel free to ask questions and I'll endeavor to clarify. God bless you, and happy Ordinary Time!

Fr. Joe

Please extend congratulations to **Erik Vesbach and Janie Larse** who were joined in marriage on Saturday, January 20, 2024.

We want to extend our gratitude to all the volunteers who have come forward to support hosting the **Community Meal** at Good Shepherd's on **Monday, January 22**. If you plan to donate bars or cookies, please deliver them to our church kitchen on Sunday after the Mass or at Good Shepherd's on Monday after 2:00 PM. It would be delightful to see our friendly parishioners at the event. Please come and join us in sharing a meal with our neighbors.

### **50th Wedding Anniversaries**

Congratulations to all couples who are celebrating their 50th Jubilee Wedding Anniversary in 2024. The Diocese of La Crosse would like to invite you to a special Mass and social/dinner as an opportunity to celebrate your marriage and bless your covenant love. Please contact your Parish Office before **January 22, 2024**.

**Next week** our special collection will support the **Catholic Campaign for Human Development**. Nearly 38 million people in the United States live in poverty. This collection supports programs that empower people to identify and address the obstacles they face in bringing permanent and positive change to their communities. Learn more about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development at [www.usccb.org/cchd](http://www.usccb.org/cchd).

# January 21, 2024

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of Jan. 8-14, 2024

Offertory: \$5,017.00

Total: \$5,017.00

Needed Weekly: \$4,600.00

December E-gifts: \$2,208.29

## 2023-2024

## DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Target: \$36,130.00

Pledged: \$31,842.50

Cash to date: \$28,534.58

THANK YOU!

## MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, 20 January, 6:30 PM +Lucille Krause**  
(Pat Biebl)

**Sunday, 21 January, 10:30 AM +Guy Nicks**  
(Guy Nicks Family)

**Wednesday, 24 January, 5:15 PM +Lucille Krause**  
(Ann Graham)

**Friday, 26 January, 8:00 AM +Ambrose Timmerman**  
(Timmerman Family Friends)

**Saturday, 27 January, 6:30 PM +Rose Anna Hundt**  
(Angie Leis)

**Sunday, 28 January, 10:30 AM People of the Annunciation & St. Mary's Parishes**

## Ministry Schedule

### **Sat., Jan. 20, 6:30 PM**

Gladys Jacobson Eucharistic Minister

Will Fisher Altar Server

Seth Kiedinger Altar Server

Amy Matthes Lector

### **Sun., Jan. 21, 10:30 AM**

Kyle Prorok Eucharistic Minister

Logan Curti Altar Server

Alayna Curti Altar Server

Matthew Tubbin Lector

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

## CHURCH CALENDAR

### **PCCW CIRCLE FOR JANUARY: ST. JOSEPH**

**Saturday, 20 January, 1:30 PM Erik Vesbach/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**

**Wednesday, 24 January, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM St. Mary's Quilters in Marian Hall**

**Thursday, 25 January, 6:30-8:00 PM Little Rock Scripture Study in Marian Hall**

**Sunday, 28 January, 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal**

**PLEASE PICK UP YOUR ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT - they are in alphabetical order on the east windowsills in the atrium.** Statements not picked up will be mailed on January 29th.

**Thank you!**

**Library...** Another batch of library discard books is available for your home libraries. Please take them if you wish. The library has been newly arranged in smaller categories to help you find topics of interest much quicker. Stop in and select some good winter reading!

## **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](https://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 21, 2024

## Pastoral Council Members

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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.

LAW OFFICES OF  
**HOPKINS & HOPKINS, LLP**  
George A. Hopkins  
Stephanie M. Hopkins

**608-637-6710**

Members of St. Mary Parish


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**"Jesus said to them, 'Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.'" ~ Mark 1:17**