

# Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Hello friends,

I have one last pre-Ash-Wednesday exhortation for you here. In just a few days Dcn. Tony and I will hang up our green vestments, Megan and Clarice will set out our purple (violet if we're getting technical) liturgical accoutrements, and the Gloria will go quiet until the Easter Vigil. These last few days before all that give us a final moment to prepare for the purifying, liberating work of Lent.

It's no coincidence that the fortyish non-Sunday days of Lent (there's actually 43 ½ days in Lent) mirror both the Exodus and Jesus' own fasting in the desert. When the Lord led His People out of Egypt, He wasn't just bringing them from A to B. For several centuries the Israelites had been living among Egyptians (peacefully at first, then slavishly toward the end), eating like the Egyptians, grasping at the cultural artifacts of the Egyptians – for all practical purposes they had become Egyptian themselves. The whole Exodus from Egypt through the wilderness into the Promised Land, including the laws and ritual practices set out throughout books 2-5 of the Bible, is the story of God reminding His people who they are over the course of 40 years. The plagues that God brought through Moses on the Egyptians strongly shakes the false foundation of Egyptian safety the Israelites had come to hold dear. In this whole scene, God is reminding His people that they are made for more, and that transition wasn't always comfortable.

In a related scene, Jesus' own 40-day retreat into the desert reenacts the people's Exodus many centuries before. Jesus goes into the wilderness hunting down the devil, intentionally letting Himself be uncomfortable and relive those 40 years of trusting God's providence. He emerges having defeated Satan on his own turf, and with His authority firmly established Jesus quickly launches into His teaching ministry.

*(continued on page 2)*

**February 11, 2024**  
**6th Sunday in**  
**Ordinary Time**

*Readings are in the hymnal,  
#1108*

## **Eucharist**

**Saturdays - 6:30 PM**

**Sundays - 10:30 AM**

**Wednesday - 12:10 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)* In both these scenes, we see this image of going into and emerging from the wilderness as a transitional moment – a formal act of trust that the Lord will provide, especially when I stop white-knuckling my own way through things. A season like Lent is a good moment to look into my own heart and discern where I am already trusting well and where I am too afraid to let the Holy Spirit lead. It's a chance to take intentional steps to let myself be led, growing in that gradual trust that He will match whatever receptivity and teachability I allow into my life with His own providence and redemption. One more time for good measure, these last few days offer an important window to plan out your own Lent – the old phrase “failing to plan is planning to fail” gently nudges you and me to take the time before Wednesday comes to ask the question, “how are you leading me into greater freedom, Lord?”

God bless you,

Fr. Joe

This Sunday we welcome **Axton Lee Collier** into the Christian community through the Sacrament of Baptism. Axton is the son of Tyler Collier and Brooke Cina. Welcome to this community of faith!

Over the course of Lent we are presenting a seven-part Small Group series centered on the Eucharistic Revival, "**Jesus and the Eucharist.**" Both parishes are welcome to attend our Thursday evening sessions **(starting February 15) from 6:00-8:00 PM** in Marian Hall. Please contact Pat Obernberger at 262-822-1850 with questions or to RSVP.

**The PCCW and Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish are both offering a \$500 scholarship** to two graduating seniors of our parish. Scholarship applications can be picked up in the atrium or downloaded from the parish website, [www.stmaryparish.org](http://www.stmaryparish.org) . Scholarship applications are due in the parish office by **Monday, April 15.**

## **Ash Wednesday, on February 14**

- Communion service in Viroqua at 7:00 AM
- Mass in Viroqua at 12:10 PM
- Mass in Coon Valley at 5:15 PM (this replaces our customary Wednesday Mass in Viroqua this week only)

## **Wednesdays (starting February 21) in Viroqua**

- 5:15 Stations of the Cross
- 5:45 Daily Mass
- 6:15-7:00 Adoration & Confessions

# February 11, 2024

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of Jan. 29-Feb. 4, 2024

Offertory: \$2,939.25

Solemnity of Mary: \$20.00

CCHD: \$805.00

Total: \$3,764.25

Needed Weekly: \$4,600.00

December E-gifts: \$2,208.29

## 2023-2024

## DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Target: \$36,130.00

Pledged: \$33,527.50

Cash to date: \$30,689.16

THANK YOU!

## MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, 10 February, 6:30 PM +Brent Waddell**

(Brent Waddell Family)

**Sunday, 11 February, 10:30 AM People of the Annunciation & St.**

**Mary's Parishes**

**Wednesday, 14 February, 12:10 PM +Daniel Seifert**

(Robert Seifert)

**Friday, 16 February, 8:00 AM +Gary Teadt**

(Carol Teadt)

**Saturday, 17 February, 6:30 PM +Elrita Leis**

(St. Mary's Choir)

**Sunday, 18 February, 10:30 AM +Lucille Krause**

(Ann Graham)

## Ministry Schedule

**Sat., Feb. 10, 6:30 PM**

Dennis Vinger Eucharistic Minister

Will Fisher Altar Server

Lane Fisher Altar Server

Reid Fisher Altar Server

Paul O'Rourke Lector

**Sun., Feb. 11, 10:30 AM**

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister

Logan Curti Altar Server

Alayna Curti Altar Server

Megan Prorok Lector

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

## CHURCH CALENDAR

**PCCW CIRCLE FOR FEBRUARY: ST. ANTHONY**

**Sunday, 11 February, 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal**

**Sunday, 11 February, 12:00 PM Axton Lee Collier baptism**

**Wednesday, 14 February, Parish Office closed in observation of  
Ash Wednesday**

**Wednesday, 14 February, 7:00 AM Communion Service**

**Wednesday, 14 February, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM St. Mary's Quilters  
in Marian Hall**

**Wednesday, 14 February, 12:10 PM Ash Wednesday Mass**

**Wednesday, 14 February, 5:15 PM Ash Wednesday Mass in Coon  
Valley**

**Thursday, 15 February, 6:00-8:00 PM Eucharistic Revival in  
Marian Hall**

**Saturday, 17 February, 4:30-7:00 PM Chili Cook-off at Viroqua  
United Methodist Church**

**Saturday, 17 February, 5:45 PM Choir Rehearsal**

**Sunday, 18 February, 9:00 AM Confirmation Instruction**

**Sunday, 18 February, 10:00 AM Children's Choir Rehearsal**

## **RICE BOWLS for LENT**

Available in the Atrium.

## **MITE BOXES for LENT**

Available in the Atrium now.

## 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.

**Abby Johnson Speaking at April 13, DCCW Convention in La Crosse**—You are invited to come hear pro-life leader Abby Johnson at the Radisson Hotel in La Crosse on Saturday, April 13, at the La Crosse Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (DCCW) Biennial Convention. Abby was a Planned Parenthood director before undergoing a profound conversion in 2009, when she witnessed an ultrasound-guided abortion. Her story was portrayed in the major 2019 film *Unplanned*. To learn more, visit [dccw.org](http://dccw.org); registration forms available in the Atrium.

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