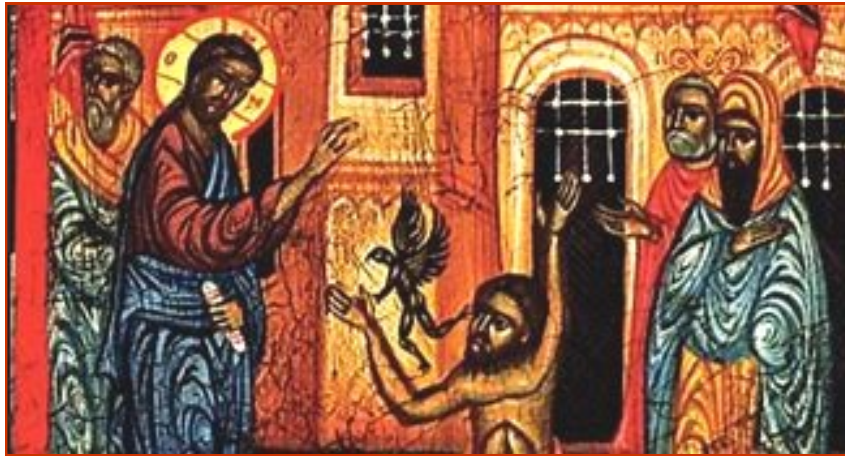


Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Hello friends!

We just celebrated the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on Friday – this moment has, at different points in history and in different rites, marked the end of the Christmas season. Nowadays we culturally have the Christmas schedule skewed a bit, starting celebrations before Advent is over (and with stores putting out decorations before Thanksgiving is even on the horizon) and ending our festivities prematurely. That's a shame, because Christmas is such a big day that we should keep riding the wave of celebration all the way to the Baptism of the Lord. Incidentally, Lent and Easter are similar – there are just over a long six full weeks of Lent to get ready for Jesus' Passion, Death, and Resurrection (aka the Paschal Mystery), while there are a full seven weeks after Easter Sunday to ride out that wave of feasting celebration. The Church knows what she's doing when it comes to fasting and feasting.

Anyway, the Presentation. This is the day when Mary and Joseph brought the tiny baby Jesus to the Temple and encountered Simeon and Anna – really the culmination of the God-revealing work of Christmas, with Jesus' first entry into the temple and revelation to the Jewish people. Again, the whole labor of Advent is a preparation for Christ's light to break into the darkness in our own hearts and the world, followed by the work of Christmas where Christ's light shines into our own hearts, and through us shines into the world.

Lent has a similar flavor but a distinct character from Advent. During this upcoming season we're preparing for Christ's death (which we need to remember is followed by His resurrection) by acknowledging those places of real spiritual (I don't use that word lightly) death in our own lives. Some relevant questions for us to prepare for the season: where am I bound by sin and un-free to love God and the people He gives me? Where do I need to invite Christ's resurrection into my life? Where am I too turned in on myself to turn outward? Lent is all about softening our hearts, much like kneading dough before letting it rise, all for *(continued on page 2)*

February 4, 2024
5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Readings are in the hymnal,
#1105*

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

(continued from page 1) the sake of making room for Christ's resurrection to *mean* something. Again, take some time over the next week and a half to prepare yourself for this *very* important season before it starts. In the meantime, I'll leave you with a few possible recommendations according to the Big Three Lenten traditions – don't try to do all, but maybe one listed or unlisted thing out of each category:

- Prayer (relationship building): Daily Gospel reading (perhaps a chapter of Mark each day, followed by a chapter of Acts), Stations of the Cross, adoration, a daily Mass each week, join our Eucharistic Revival small group study.
- Fasting (self-sacrifice): Skip snacks between meals, don't drink alcohol for the season, give up streaming/television, jump off social media, get to confession.
- Almsgiving (self-gift): Give an extra 1-5% of your income to the charity of your choice, volunteer at the food pantry, spend an intentional half hour each day playing with your kids.

There's a very non-exhaustive list. The point is, take some time before the fact to pray with how you can let the Lord lead you to greater depths with Him over Lent. God bless you, and happy preparation!

Fr. Joe

This Sunday we welcome **Kooper Cody Cauffman** into the Christian community through the Sacrament of Baptism. Kooper is the son of Kaleb and Kylie (Hewitt) Cauffman. 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 . Scholarship applications are due in the parish office by **Monday, April 15.**

THANK YOU, Cathy Lund! for your service as parish librarian.
Alex & Matt Kararo are taking up the mantle of librarian this month.

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 4, 2024

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of Jan. 22-28, 2024

Offertory: \$3,922.12

CCHD: \$195.00

Total: \$4,117.12

Needed Weekly: \$4,600.00

December E-gifts: \$2,208.29

2023-2024

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Target: \$36,130.00

Pledged: \$32,527.50

Cash to date: \$29,689.16

THANK YOU!

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 3 February, 6:30 PM +Reinie Leis

(Angie Leis)

Sunday, 4 February, 10:30 AM +Guy Nicks

(Guy Nicks Family)

Wednesday, 7 February, 5:15 PM Hernandez Torres Family

(Diana Hernandez)

Friday, 9 February, 8:00 AM +Carol Cade

(Esther Sullivan)

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

CHURCH CALENDAR

PCCW CIRCLE FOR FEBRUARY: ST. ANTHONY

Saturday, 3 February, 5:45 PM Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, 4 February, 9:00 AM Confirmation Instruction

Sunday, 4 February, Family of Faith Religious Ed & Early

Childhood Religious Ed/Activities following 10:30 AM Mass

Sunday, 4 February, Children's Choir Rehearsal during Religious Ed following 10:30 AM Mass

Sunday, 4 February, 12:30 PM Kooper Cauffman baptism

Wednesday, 7 February, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM St. Mary's Quilters in Marian Hall

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

Friday, 9 February, 6:00 PM Charcuterie Night in Marian Hall

Sunday, 11 February, 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, 14 February, 7:00 AM Communion Service

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

Ministry Schedule

Sat., Feb. 3, 6:30 PM

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister

Will Fisher Altar Server

Seth Kiedinger Altar Server

Sheryl Robinson Lector

Sun., Feb. 4, 10:30 AM

Pat Obernberger Eucharistic Minister

Francis Corr Altar Server

Reuben Stevenson Altar Server

Melanie Halvorson Lector

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

RICE BOWLS for LENT

Available in the Atrium now.

Our parish will once again be collecting **valentines for the homebound and the residents in our local nursing homes and assisted living facilities.** Please help us show our love and faith by letting them know that the people of St. Mary's parish is thinking of them.

All the ladies of St. Mary's are invited to a **charcuterie board party February 9th at 6 p.m. in Marian Hall.** This is your opportunity to show off your creative culinary self with others. Your mission is to produce a board that is appealing, delicious and shareable. You can also bring along your favorite bottle of wine or another beverage of your choice. We look forward to your creation!

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; registration forms available in the Atrium.

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 608-606-0832 (cell)
 rjhoneyfarm@hotmail.com



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