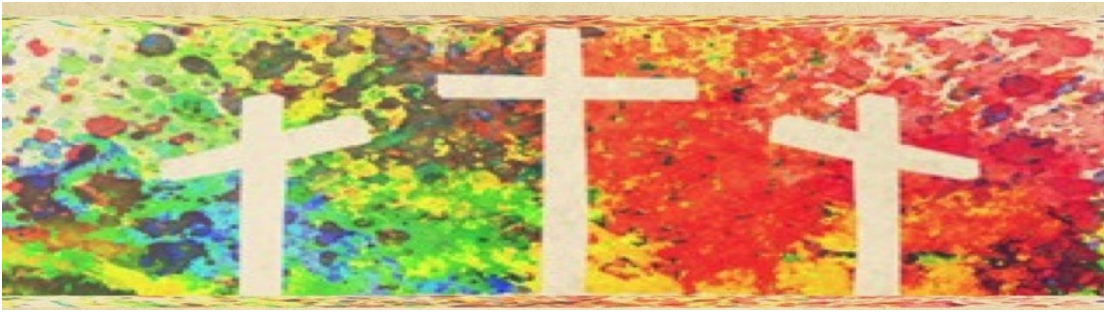


Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Hello friends,

We are quickly coming up to the climactic Easter Triduum. As we've been pointing out for the last few weeks, Lent is directed toward Christ's resurrection at Easter but more properly toward the full story of Christ's passion, death, and resurrection. The Easter Triduum marks this whole story with the following moments:

- Holy Thursday, Mass of the Lord's Supper (5:15 in Viroqua): This liturgy starts off just like any Sunday Mass, then immediately changes pace. We'll bring back the Gloria, and during the whole singing of this joyful song I'll have a server ringing the heck out of the bells. As they fade out, a somber spirit descends on the liturgy. The next anomaly comes halfway through, when following Jesus' washing of the apostles' feet at the first Holy Thursday, I'll wash twelve parishioners' feet. A bit further on I'll likely get choked up at the consecration, since this is the 1992nd anniversary of the first consecration. Finally, instead of the Mass ending as usual, the liturgy concludes with a procession with the Blessed Sacrament to a separate chapel, leaving the church suspensefully empty. We then keep watch with the Blessed Sacrament until midnight, following Jesus' "could you not watch with me one hour?"
- Good Friday (12:10 in Coon Valley, 3:00 in Viroqua): This service continues the liturgy of Holy Thursday in three parts – the Liturgy of the Word, the Veneration of the Cross, and the distribution of Holy Communion. Holy Thursday's suspenseful theme flows through this whole prayer, focusing us in on that Moment on Calvary two millennia ago. Later in the evening (7:00) we'll also have a presentation of a Passion Play from a dedicated group of our parishioners.
- Easter Vigil (8:15 PM in Viroqua): This is the liturgical high point of the entire year, finally celebrating the Lord's resurrection that we've been waiting for! The whole liturgy begins in darkness, with all the church's lights blacked out and unlit candles in each of your hands. A fire kindles in the entry, the Easter candle is lit and carried into the Church, and as we move forward everybody's candles are lit off of that one single flame. The extra readings this evening look at God's light revealing Him to the world throughout history, culminating in Mary Magdalene leading the apostles to the empty tomb. *(continued on page 2)*

March 10, 2024
4th Sunday of Lent

*Readings are in the hymnal,
#1026*

Eucharist

Saturdays - 6:30 PM
Sundays - 10:30 AM
Wednesday - 5:45 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. 6:15 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 6:15 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: MTWTF- 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

March 10, 2024

(continued from page 1) We'll also baptize one catechumen and bring another Christian into the Catholic Church at this Mass, which is pretty cool.

Looking at all of this together, you may notice that there is a defined continuity through the entire Triduum. If this is familiar to you, please join us again. If you have never experienced the full story like this, allow me to encourage you to give it a shot. It's a lot, it's time and energy intensive to participate in, and it is the single most significant moment in the life of the Church. God bless you, and may your Lent continue to bear profound fruit in your life.

Fr. Joe

I want to specially thank **Don and Marilyn Aasen's family** for a special gift from their estate – Don passed away in 2000 and Marilyn last year in Viroqua. Please take some time to pray for the repose of their souls, and thank you again to their family for this kind gift!

PASSION PLAY: St Mary's will have a live performance of the passion and death of Our Lord Jesus Christ on **Good Friday, March 29th at 7:00 PM**. It takes many hands to produce good theater so if you interested in helping with acting, costumes, props, set production, lighting, makeup, etc., please contact Brenda Corr 608.632.5208. Rehearsals will be Tuesdays and Fridays, 6-8 PM in Marian Hall during Lent with possible additional times during Holy Week. (Parental discretion is advised for children under the age of reason as this will be a realistic depiction of Christ's suffering and death on the cross.)

Coffee and Kids - Parents, grandparents, and caregivers, please join us on the first Tuesday of each month for coffee and conversation as our children play! We will meet in the downstairs classroom from 9:00-10:30am. Coffee and a snack will be provided. If you have any questions, please call/text Alex Kararo at 612-578-6706. We look forward to seeing you!

The PCCW and Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish \$500 scholarships available.

Application forms are in the atrium or may be downloaded from the parish website, www.stmaryparish.org. Applications due in the parish office by **Monday, April 15**.

March 10, 2024

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of Feb. 25-Mar. 3, 2024

Offertory: \$4,929.00

Good Friday: \$5.00

Total: \$4,934.00

Needed Weekly: \$4,600.00

January E-gifts: \$1,978.87

2023-2024

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Target: \$36,130.00

Pledged: \$33,502.50

Cash to date: \$31,276.24

THANK YOU!

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 9 March, 6:30 PM +Reinie Leis

(Angie Leis)

Sunday, 10 March, 10:30 AM +Sharon Weiher

(Jeanette Amundson)

Wednesday, 13 March, 5:45 PM +Rita Menne

(Family of Rita Menne)

Friday, 15 March, 8:00 AM +Cynthia Boudreau

(Timothy Boudreau)

Saturday, 16 March, 6:30 PM +Tony Hovezak

(Roger & Phyllis Krause)

Sunday, 17 March, 10:30 AM +Lucille Krause

(Dave & Sue Fanta)

Ministry Schedule

Sat., Mar. 9, 6:30 PM

Veronica Tresner Eucharistic Minister

Reid Fisher Altar Server

Lane Fisher Altar Server

Dennis Vinger Lector

Sun., Mar. 10, 10:30 AM

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister

Francis Corr Altar Server

Reuben Stevenson 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 MARCH: ST. BRIDGET

***Sunday, 10 March, 2:00 AM Daylight Savings Time begins ~ spring
ahead!***

Sunday, 10 March, 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal

**Sunday, 10 March, 2 March, St. Joseph Circle Meet/Greet Meeting
in Atrium following Mass**

**Tuesday, 12 March, 6:00-8:00 PM Passion Play rehearsal in Marian
Hall**

**Wednesday, 13 March, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM St. Mary's Quilters in
Marian Hall**

Wednesday, 13 March, 5:15 PM Stations of the Cross

**Thursday, 14 March, 6:00-8:00 PM Eucharistic Revival in Marian
Hall**

**Friday, 15 March, 6:00-8:00 PM Passion Play rehearsal in Marian
Hall**

Saturday, 16 March, 5:45 PM Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, 17 March, 9:00 AM Confirmation Instruction

Sunday, 17 March, 10:00 AM Children's Choir rehearsal

St. Joseph Circle Meet/Greet

**Meeting in the atrium following
Mass on Sunday, March 10th. St.**

**Joseph Circle Chairs, Sarah Olson
(608-606-5661) and Pat Peterson
(608-606-1761) will be available to
meet and gather information from
the St. Joseph Circle Members.**

**Members requested to attend one of
these short meetings not to exceed
30 minutes and provide input on
Circle activities.**

March 10, 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.

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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R&J's
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 Westby, WI 54667
 608-634-4059 (home)
 608-606-0832 (cell)
rjhoneyfarm@hotmail.com



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 110 N. Main Street
 Westby, WI 54667
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dan@oakwoodrealty.com

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"Whoever believes in him will not be condemned..." ~ John 3:17