

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Hello friends,

By the time you're reading this we are either into or all the way through the continuous narrative of the Triduum – 52 hours of the greatest liturgical season to ever grace the Church. Now we come up on an important seasonal note that plagues two of our highest holy days – Christmas and Easter. Just like with Christmas (this year I saw the first decorations on November 2, and the last ones go down somewhere around December 26), Easter tends to get shortchanged. There's a big leadup to both (two months of commercialism secularly or four weeks of Advent for Christmas, forty-something days of Lent for Easter), then the celebrations end a bit abruptly.

The particularly pronounced problem with this is that Easter isn't just something that happens over the nine hours it takes to go from morning Mass to family brunch to an Easter egg hunt. This Resurrection event is such a big deal that the Church structures a full *fifty* days of Easter Season in before Pentecost. That's a long time to bask in the Change Jesus brings about. Just as it takes work to make Lent tangible and attainable with defined fasts and culturally-ingrained disciplines, it takes real work to celebrate for such a long time. Allow me to share one major encouragement and one quick pro-tip.

First, the encouragement. Over the last forty-something days you've been heroically stepping into freedom by stripping away a good thing you didn't need or by placing intentional limits on a bad thing you really didn't need. Perhaps you made a confession to root out some vice or moment that's held you bound. There's a freedom that comes with that discipline, with tilling the soil for the Holy Spirit to plant His seeds. The real fruit of this uprooting-of-vice is not that it makes me a less horrible person – it's that it makes room for virtue (that is, habits that make me more fully alive and human) to sink its own roots. As we turn into the Easter season now, do not be afraid to let yourself live differently in the freedom you've experienced. Choose virtue, live selflessly, receive the Holy Spirit in openness and generosity.

(continued on page 2)

March 31, 2024 Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

*Readings are in the hymnal,
#1065*

Eucharist

Saturdays - 6:30 PM

Sundays - 10:30 AM

Wednesday - 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://dioc.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

March 31, 2024

(continued from page 1) Finally, the pro-tip: just like with Lenten fasts, Easter celebration takes intention. As the old aphorism goes, failing to plan is planning to fail. If you've benefitted from an extra Mass during the week, keep that practice up. If you've received freedom in confession, don't wait until December before your next one. If you've intentionally structured an extracurricular Kindness into your day, let that continue. We grow in love by intentionally choosing to love and receive the love God has in store for us.

Happy Easter my friends, and may Christ's resurrection be a palpable reality in your life,

Fr. Joe

Please turn in your Rice Bowls and Mite Boxes in the baskets in the atrium.

Coffee and Kids Meeting Tuesday April 2nd

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 9:00-10:30 am. Coffee and a snack will be provided. (Cancelled if there is a funeral.) 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 31, 2024

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of March 18-24, 2024

Offertory: \$3,768.35

Easter: \$45.00

Easter Flowers: \$40.00

Good Friday: \$15.00

Total: \$3,868.35

Needed Weekly: \$4,600.00

February E-gifts: \$2,172.05

2023-2024

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Target: \$36,130.00

Pledged: \$33,652.50

Cash to date: \$31,928.32

THANK YOU!

Ministry Schedule

Sat., Mar. 30, 8:15 PM

Amy Matthes	Eucharistic Minister
Reid Fisher	Altar Server
Lane Fisher	Altar Server
Pat Biebl	Lector

Sun., Mar. 31, 10:30 AM

Dcn. Anthony Shay	Eucharistic Minister
Francis Corr	Altar Server
Reuben Stevenson	Altar Server
Mary Ellen Hatton	Lector

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

Join Pro-Life Wisconsin for a night out with fellow pro-lifers at our Spring Social on **April 18, 2024** from 6pm-8pm at the Lodge at Mauston (104 Lodge Lane Mauston, WI 53948). Enjoy dinner, drinks, fantastic company, and hear powerful real-life testimony from one of our faithful sidewalk counselors, Mr. Don Hudzinski. **Tickets are \$40 each available through Monday, March 25.** For more information and to register go to ProLifeWI.org/spring-social.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 30 March, 8:15 PM +Mary Joan Meyer & Storey Meyer
(Leon Meyer)

Sunday, 31 March, 10:30 AM +Rita Menne
(Family of Rita Menne)

Wednesday, 3 April, 5:15 PM +Jim Kuehn
(Randy & Julie Shafer)

Friday, 5 April, 8:00 AM +Carol Cade
(Roger & Joyce Humfeld)

Saturday, 6 April, 6:30 PM Kim Larson & Family
(Diana Hernandez)

Sunday, 7 April, 10:30 PM +Guy Nicks
(Guy Nicks Family)

CHURCH CALENDAR

PCCW CIRCLE FOR MARCH: ST. BRIDGET

PCCW CIRCLE FOR APRIL: ST. THERESA

Saturday, 30 March, 8:15 PM Easter Vigil

Sunday, 31 March, 10:30 AM Easter Mass

Sunday, 31 March, following Mass Easter Brunch in Marian Hall

Monday, 1 April, Parish Office closed in observance of Easter

Tuesday, 2 April, 9:00-10:30 AM Coffee & Kids in Marian Hall

Wednesday, 3 April, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM St. Mary's Quilters in Marian Hall

Thursday, 4 April, 6:00-8:00 PM Eucharistic Revival in Marian Hall

Friday, 5 April, First Friday Adoration following Mass

Sunday, 7 April, 9:00 AM Confirmation Instruction

Sunday, 7 April, Family of Faith Religious Ed & Early Childhood Religious Ed/Activities following 10:30 AM Mass

Sunday, 7 April, First Communion Instruction following 10:30 AM Mass in the parish library

Sunday, 7 April, Children's Choir Rehearsal during Religious Ed following 10:30 AM Mass

St. Mary's Men's Club Spaghetti and Pasta Dinner—The Men's Club will be hosting a spaghetti and pasta dinner on **April 13, 2024 from 4-7 PM** at St. Mary's Church, 900 Central Ave, Coon Valley. \$12 adults, \$5 kids under 12, and children under 3 free. Get a plate of spaghetti or pasta with sauce and meatballs, garlic bread, salad, coffee, milk or water and ice cream for dessert. Wine and beer will be available for purchase.

March 31, 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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 608-634-4059 (home)
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 rjhoneyfarm@hotmail.com



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