

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Hello friends,

I'm writing this article on Thursday – my second to last day at FOCUS' New Staff Training ("NST," but you don't have to remember that). FOCUS (the Fellowship of Catholic University Students) is a big part of my own history – after graduating from St. Mary's in Winona I went down to Champaign, IL for my first NST (they've since outgrown that space), then up to Duluth for three years as a college missionary. That time was formative for me – it's where I felt the call again to be a priest (fun fact, I went to seminary my first two years of college before switching out), and it's where some of my evangelistic and ministerial tendencies really took root. Being back in this ecosystem for a few weeks (much like the Holy Land pilgrimage I was chaplain for this time last year) has been rejuvenating and grounding. Especially as we navigate things in our parishes like a sanctuary remodel in Viroqua, following a new Bishop's lead, and the steady and beautiful work of integrating new families and parishioners into our established communities, it was important for me to take this deep breath and take some stock of the gifts God has given you and me to steward together.

FOCUS brought me down here to Lincoln to serve as a chaplain for a few weeks – that means celebrating daily Mass, hearing confessions, and making myself present to the missionaries between classes and at meals. The biggest time element has been spiritual direction. On a given day I've had an hour with five or six missionaries to listen for the voice of the Holy Spirit moving them, addressing anything from learning how to pray to healing and restoring old places of hurt and unforgiveness to working through family of origin issues to allowing Christ to develop a relationship of intimacy with them. I don't quite want to call it a mistake, but I certainly made the decision not to limit my own (*continued on page 2*)

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

June 2, 2024 The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

Readings are in the hymnal,
#1090

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:

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

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(continued from page 1) availability – this made for some long days; and I am immediately grateful for the good use of the Pastor’s time you and I invested in my presence here.

This all brings me to one final reflection. Practically speaking, we are not going to see the fruit of these missionaries’ labors in our corner of the Church very soon. But after several decades of withdrawing (or, to put it in tactical terms, “retreating”), the Church is entering a new springtime. We are seeing this in our own parishes, college chaplains like Fr. McCarty are seeing it in their students, and the Diocese is seeing it in the strange interest of young adults to return to the tradition and beating heart of the Church – the Eucharist. It is critically important that we invest ourselves in efforts like FOCUS and NET and the Eucharistic Revival. These last few weeks of my absence have been a real investment on your part, and I need you to know how grateful I am to you and to Frs. Kuhn and McCarty for helping invest my time in this labor for God’s kingdom.

God bless you,

Fr. Joe

Healing Service with Mass - Are you suffering from physical, spiritual, or psychological distress? God’s will is for you to be whole! A Healing Service will be held on **June 3rd at Sacred Heart Church-Cashton**. The evening **begins at 4:30 pm** with Adoration, devotions, confessions and Holy Mass (5:30), followed by prayers for healing using exorcised and blessed salt, oil, and water, with intercessory prayers by our clergy and lay prayer teams.

4:30 PM	Praise and Worship (Adoration)
5:30 PM	Mass
6:00 PM	Corporate Prayer for Healing
7:00 PM	Individual Healing Ministry
	<i>(For those who don’t experience breakthroughs in corporate session.)</i>
9:00 PM	Closing
	<i>Times are approximate. Feel free to come and go as you please.</i>

Coffee and Kids Tuesday, June 4th - 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. If you have any questions, please call/text Alex Kararo at 612-578-6706. We look forward to seeing you

REMINDER: Contributions for the 2023-2024 Unbreakable Annual Appeal must be postmarked no later than June 30, 2024 to be included in the 2023-2024 giving year. For those of you who have already contributed, thank you! For those who have not yet committed, won’t you please consider donating to this important fund-raising appeal.

June 2, 2024

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of May 20-26, 2024

Offertory: \$3,962.48

Total: \$3,962.48

Needed Weekly: \$4,600.00

April E-gifts: \$2,182.12

2023-2024

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Target: \$36,130.00

Pledged: \$35,537.50

Cash to date: \$35,427.50

THANK YOU!

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 1 June, 6:30 PM +Carol Cade

(Roger & Joyce Humfeld)

Sunday, 2 June, 10:30 AM +Lucille Krause

(Dan & Renae Harter)

Wednesday, 5 June, 5:15 PM +Ambrose Timmerman

(Timmerman Family)

Friday, 7 June, 8:00 AM +Jim Kuehn

(Randy & Julie Shafer)

Saturday, 8 June, 6:30 PM +Casper & Eleanora Leis

(Angie Leis)

Sunday, 9 June, 10:30 AM +Ambrose Timmerman

(Timmerman Family)

Ministry Schedule

Sat., June 1, 6:30 PM

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister

Will Fisher Altar Server

Seth Kiedinger Altar Server

Mark Brueggen Lector

Sun., June 2, 10:30 AM

Pat Obernberger Eucharistic Minister

Royce Scoville Altar Server

Alexis Scoville Altar Server

Sasha Scoville 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 JUNE: ST. ANTHONY

Tuesday, 4 June, 9:00-10:30 AM Coffee & Kids in downstairs classroom

Wednesday, 5 June, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM St. Mary's Quilters in Marian Hall

Friday, 7 June, First Friday Adoration following 8:00 AM Mass

Saturday, 8 June, Mike Clark & Kristen Schaub wedding

Saturday, 8 June, following 6:30 PM Mass Hospitality welcoming Dcn. Matthew

Sunday, 8 June, following 10:30 AM Mass Hospitality welcoming Dcn. Matthew

With a mix of emotions, I'm stepping away from my role as an outside gardener. In the past several years, I have had the joy and satisfaction of being responsible for the areas in front of the main church, the planters, and all the seasonal pots in this area. Thank you to those who have commented on their beauty. This volunteer position is important in maintaining the grace of our surroundings; and if you're interested in taking up this task, please contact Fr. Joe. Rhonda Kiedinger

Married Couples: Worldwide Marriage Encounter is a weekend for married Christian couples who value their relationship and desire a richer, fuller life together. Attend a Marriage Encounter weekend and learn the tools needed to keep your marriage strong. There is a non-refundable fee of around \$90 and then you can further donate, if you are able, during the weekend. There are many weekends all around the country but closer locations include **Dubuque, IA (Sept. 27-29th)** and **Reedsburg, WI (Oct. 19-20th)**. For more information or to sign up go to www.wwme.org. Matt and Alex Kararo really enjoyed their experience and would be happy to share that or help answer questions. Contact them at 708-299-0573 or kararofamily@gmail.com

June 2, 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.

Check out the **National Eucharistic Pilgrimage website** at:
<https://www.eucharisticpilgrimage.org/> as the route is coming through La Crosse on **June 7**, with a huge rally. Bring the family and witness an unprecedented outpouring of grace. Contact Pat Obernberger with questions - call or text 262-822-1850.

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Roger and Joyce Humfeld



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



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Dan Kiedinger



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"This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many." ~ Mark 14:24