

# Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Hello friends,

Last weekend I mentioned (almost Deacon) Matthew, our summer seminarian. Below is Matthew's autobiography for your own edification, but before we get to that allow me to extend an invitation to one of the happenings Matthew will be putting together – a summer Bible Study using Jeff Cavins' "Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible." This study takes a narrative walk through the Old and New Testament, tying in to the Great Adventure school of study. If you are interested in hearing more, put your name down on the signup sheet at the back of church or email Matthew, [mszymanski@sfs.edu](mailto:mszymanski@sfs.edu). Now, without further ado, Matthew's own words. ~ Fr. Joe

Hello, my name is Matthew Szymanski. I am a seminarian for the Diocese of La Crosse. A little bit about me....

I am the youngest of seven kids. I have an identical twin brother, Luke. I was born in Hartford, CT, but lived in a small Western Massachusetts town till I was 6 years old. My family then moved to southwest Kansas, Garden City. I lived there till I graduated high school when I was 17.

I felt God's call to be a priest when I was 15 years old. I am proud to have served active duty for four years in the United States Army. I was a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, NC. I had 25 mass tactical static line parachute jumps. I served from 1990 to 1994 and was honorably discharged with the rank of Sergeant, E-5 when my four-year enlistment was finished.

After my time in the Army, I studied to be a priest for the Archdiocese of Chicago. I graduated from the minor seminary for the Archdiocese, (*continued on page 2*)

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

**May 19, 2024**  
**Pentecost Sunday**

Readings are in the hymnal,  
#1084

## **Eucharist**

Saturdays - 6:30 PM

Sundays - 10:30 AM

Wednesday - 5:15 PM

Fridays - 8:00 AM

## **Livestreaming Mass**

[www.facebook.com/StMarysCoonValley](http://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

**May 19, 2024**

*(continued from page 1)* St. Joseph Seminary. I then went for theology studies at St. Mary of the Lake Seminary, also known as Mundelein Seminary. I was unsure of my vocation, and I left the seminary before the first semester ended.

I served as a police officer in Garden City, KS, for a year, then moved back to Chicago. I was a police officer for twenty and a half years with the Northbrook Police Department, a suburb of Chicago. I worked as a patrol officer for ten years, a detective for five years, and a patrol sergeant for my last five and a half years. I still felt a call to the priesthood for all those years after I left the seminary.

I retired from the police department in 2020, moved to Wisconsin, and became a seminarian for the Diocese of La Crosse. I just finished my third year of theology school at St. Francis de Sales Seminary in Milwaukee and will be ordained a transitional deacon on June 1<sup>st</sup>. I am looking forward to serving the parishes in Viroqua and Coon Valley this summer. God bless you all.

In Christ,

Matthew Szymanski

**Fr. Sam McCarty will celebrate a special Mass at 9:30 AM on Memorial Day at St. Mary's in Coon Valley. Please join us!**

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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**

*(For those who don't experience breakthroughs in corporate session.)*

**9:00 PM Closing**

*Times are approximate. Feel free to come and go as you please.*

**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. 27-29<sup>th</sup>)** and **Reedsburg, WI (Oct. 19-20<sup>th</sup>)**. For more information or to sign up go to [www.wwme.org](http://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](mailto:kararofamily@gmail.com)

# May 19, 2024

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of May 6-12, 2024

Offertory: \$3,570.56

Total: \$3,570.56

Needed Weekly: \$4,600.00

March E-gifts: \$2,177.15

**Roses for Life: \$794.25**

## 2023-2024

## DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Target: \$36,130.00

Pledged: \$34,162.50

Cash to date: \$33,612.90

THANK YOU!

## Ministry Schedule

### **Sat., May 18, 6:30 PM**

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister

Lane Fisher Altar Server

Reid Fisher Altar Server

Will Fisher Altar Server

Amy Matthes Lector

### **Sun., May 19, 10:30 AM**

Matthew Tubbin Eucharistic Minister

Sasha Scoville Altar Server

Royce Scoville Altar Server

Alexis Scoville Altar Server

Al Mislivecek Lector

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

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

## MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, 18 May, 6:30 PM +Ambrose Timmerman**

(Garith & Julie Steiner)

**Sunday, 19 May, 10:30 AM +Guy Nicks**

(Guy Nicks Family)

**Fr. Joe will say Mass intentions while away**

**Wednesday, 22 May, +Lucille Krause**

(Pete & Joann Swanson)

**Friday, 24 May, +Carol Cade**

(Garith & Julie Steiner)

**Saturday, 25 May, 6:30 PM +Joe & Roger Biebl**

(Biebl Family)

**Sunday, 26 May, 10:30 AM +Barbara Martinez**

(Biebl Family)

## CHURCH CALENDAR

**PCCW CIRCLE FOR MAY: ST. JOSEPH**

**Saturday, 18 May, 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal**

**Monday, 20 May, 5:00-6:30 PM Community Meal at Good**

**Shepherd Church**

**Monday-Friday, May 20-31, Fr. Joe chaplain for FOCUS' new staff training in Lincoln**

**Tuesday, 21 May, 1:00 PM Parish Book Club in the parish library**

**Tuesday, 21 May, 5:00-7:30 PM Marriage Group in Marian Hall**

**Wednesday, 22 May, Parish Office closed - Fran taking personal time off**

**Wednesday, 22 May, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM St. Mary's Quilters in Marian Hall**

**Wednesday, 22 May, 5:15 PM Communion Service**

**Sunday, 26 May, 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal**

**Monday, 27 May, Parish Office closed in observance of Memorial Day**

**Monday, 27 May, 9:30 AM Mass at St. Mary's - Coon Valley**

**Eucharistic Miracles Display** - "In the entire history of the Catholic Church, there have been numerous Eucharistic miracles approved by the Catholic Church as truly worthy of belief. The **Vatican Eucharistic Miracles Photographic Exhibition** faithfully recounts many well-documented miraculous occurrences for us. Knowledge of these miracles strengthens our faith in Christ and His Church. They are visible proof of Jesus Christ's Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist. The Exhibit was created by Blessed Carlo Acutis, a 15-year-old from Milan, Italy, who was beatified on October 10, 2020. The Exhibit will be available for viewing at **Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Cashton, WI on May 16-19, 2024**. We highly encourage you to schedule a time to view the exhibit during this Year of the Eucharistic Revival."

## 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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