

# Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Hello friends,

You may have heard me throwing out the terms “Pastoral Council” and “Finance Council” and thought to yourself, “Just look confident, don’t let anyone know you don’t know what that is.” The Finance Council is a team of parishioners well suited to look at, understand, and help the Pastor understand the movement of the Parish’s income and expenses. They’re concerned with the dollars and cents of the parish. The Pastoral Council is all about the culture of the parish – liturgy, formation, programming needs, etc. They’re about helping the Pastor see the needs of his people and extending his vision and mission to the parishioners. A critical element is the way both Councils provide important continuity between Pastors.

Anyway, just a few days ago the Pastoral Councils from both our parishes got together for a potluck and meeting down in Coon Valley. Both of these councils have been invaluable to me over the last few years, but there’s always been the hiccup that a member of one parish’s council has no official communication about what’s going on in the other parish’s council (past the fact that we have Humfelds on each). This meeting was all about building a bridge and giving the councilors in each group a chance to know the other.

If by “business” we mean scheduling events or starting up new programming, we didn’t get much “business” done on Thursday. We didn’t even get through the full set of three questions I had them consider beforehand (what unifies our parishes, what makes my parish distinct, and what challenges will we face working together?). Before anything we introduced ourselves – who am I, how long have I actively involved myself in the parish, and what particularly interests me about our parish life? Common themes included community building, faith formation, and liturgical ministry. Once we finally tucked into the questions we saw even more commonality come out – love for the feel and aesthetic of each parish, the variety of ages at our liturgies and the crossover of parishioners from one parish to the other, collaborating and participating in picnics and Passion Plays, pooling resources for Religious Education and adult formation, the list goes on. We saw common concerns – the need to welcome and open ourselves up to outsiders exploring our established communities (that is to say, “hello, I’m Scott, are you new to St. Mary’s?”), the need to develop/build up Men’s Clubs in the parishes, getting kids involved in things like serving and community (*continued on page 2*)

**September 8, 2024**  
**23rd Sunday in**  
**Ordinary Time**

*Readings are in the hymnal,  
#1159*

## **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:**

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](http://www.stmaryviroqua.org); Parish Fax (608) 299-3721

Father Joseph M. Richards, Pastor, (608) 606-9787; Deacon Tony Shay; Diana Hernandez-Torres, Sacristan

Pat Obernberger, Coordinator of Ongoing Formation, [stmaryformation@mwt.net](mailto:stmaryformation@mwt.net); (262) 822-1850

Beth Lakmann, Music 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

# September 8, 2024

*(continued from page 1)* events. As for the third question, we had already blown past the hour and a half I had asked of the councils, so we tabled it until our next combined meeting in half a year. I am grateful for the evening, both to hear points of pride and concerns and common desires and also (more importantly even) for the moment of shared community. Please continue to pray for all our work, and thank you again for welcoming me here as your Pastor!

God bless you,

Fr. Joe

**Religious Education** - Our informational parent meeting to set Family of Faith expectations and provide materials will be held on **September 8, in Viroqua in Marian Hall**, after the 10:30 AM Mass. We are planning our Family of Faith activities for the upcoming season to start in October (1st and 3rd Sundays each month) with this year's theme: The Sacraments. **Safe Environment training** for parents, families, volunteers, and paid parish staff will be offered starting at noon as part of the informational meeting.

## **Victory of the Light Leadership Conference**

Date: Saturday, **September 21, 2024**

Time: 10 AM-4 PM.

Location: St. Mary of the Assumption Parish

460 W. Fourth Street

Richland Center, WI 53581

Cost: \$10; includes catered lunch

Registration: **RSVP by September 14, 2024**

*(registration form available/atrium bulletin board)*

Please join us for the **Little Rock Scripture Study series on the Gospel of Luke**. We will be offering each session on Thursday evenings and again on Friday mornings, to accommodate different schedules. Luke is presented in two parts. Part 1 has six sessions which are scheduled for Thursdays at 6:30 pm and Fridays at 9 am on October 10 & 11, 17 & 18, 24 & 25, November 7 & 8, 14 & 15 and 21 & 22. Part 2 will pick up in the New Year with five sessions running from January 9 through February 8.

We ask for a free will offering --suggested donation \$15-- to cover the cost of the LRSS books used in the study, containing scripture readings, commentary by Catholic biblical scholars, and study questions. If you'd like to join us or have questions, please contact Melanie Halvorson by email ([melhalvor@gmail.com](mailto:melhalvor@gmail.com)) or text (312-315-9048).

# September 8, 2024

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of Aug. 26-Sep. 1, 2024

Offertory: \$4,360.42

Total: \$4,360.42

Needed Weekly: \$4,600.00

July E-gifts: \$2,274.20

THANK YOU!

## Ministry Schedule

### Sat., Sep. 7, 6:30 PM

Amy Matthes Eucharistic Minister  
Lane Fisher Altar Server  
Reid Fisher Altar Server  
Dennis Vinger Lector

### Sun., Sep. 8, 10:30 AM

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister  
Logan Curti Altar Server  
Alayna Curti Altar Server  
Mary Ellen Hatton Lector

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

Some parishioners are getting together to discuss C.S. Lewis' *The Great Divorce*. Group size will be limited, so if you are interested in hearing more or signing up, please contact Jackie at [jsredmer@yahoo.com](mailto:jsredmer@yahoo.com) or Melanie at [melhalvor@gmail.com](mailto:melhalvor@gmail.com).

## MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, 7 September, 6:30 PM +Fr. Lawrence Mayer**  
(Veronica Tresner)

**Sunday, 8 September, 10:30 AM +Judy Phinney**  
(Dan & Renae Harter)

**Wednesday, 11 September, 5:15 PM +Debra Skildum**  
(Angie Leis)

**Friday, 13 September, 8:00 AM +Ambrose Timmerman**  
(Donnie & Joann Wiederholt)

**Saturday, 14 September, 6:30 PM +Joe & Roger Biebl**  
(Biebl Family)

**Sunday, 15 September, 10:30 AM +Joyce Dolan**  
(Rosanne Aspenson)

## CHURCH CALENDAR

### **PCCW CIRCLE FOR SEPTEMBER: ST. JOSEPH**

**Sunday, 8 September, after Mass Religious Education Information Session & Safe Environment Training**

**Sunday, 8 September, after Mass Children's Choir**

**Monday, 9 September, 4:30-9:00 PM Healing Service & Mass at Sacred Heart Church, Cashton**

**Wednesday, 11 September, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM St. Mary's Quilters in Marian Hall**

**Sunday, 15 September, 9:30-10:00 AM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd parents' meeting in parish library**

**Sunday, 15 September, Albrecht baptism during Mass with reception following Mass in Marian Hall**

**Sunday, 15 September, 12:00-1:30 PM 'The Great Divorce' book discussion in the parish library**

## **Parish Pumpkin**

Thank you to all the children who participated in guessing the weight of our parish pumpkin. The official weight was 41 lbs. **The winner is Hoyt Fisher** who guessed the exact weight! Your prize is in the sacristy.

**Attend Rural Life Day | Sept. 18, from 10 AM-2 PM | Schmidt Family Farm in Lone Rock:** All are invited to Join hundreds of the faithful for the 43rd Annual Rural Life Day at the Schmidt Family Farm on Wednesday, **September 18, from 10 AM-2 PM** at 29281 Fairview Road in Lone Rock. Bishop Battersby will celebrate Mass at 10 AM, after which he will present awards recognizing parishioners and farm families, and bless animals, crops and machinery. Lunch will be served. Join us as we joyfully thank God for the food that sustains our lives, the land on which it is grown, and the dedicated families who farm it. Learn more at [diolc.org/rural-life](http://diolc.org/rural-life).

## Pastoral Council Members

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 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.

Deacon Matthew receiving quilt from St. Mary's Quilters



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