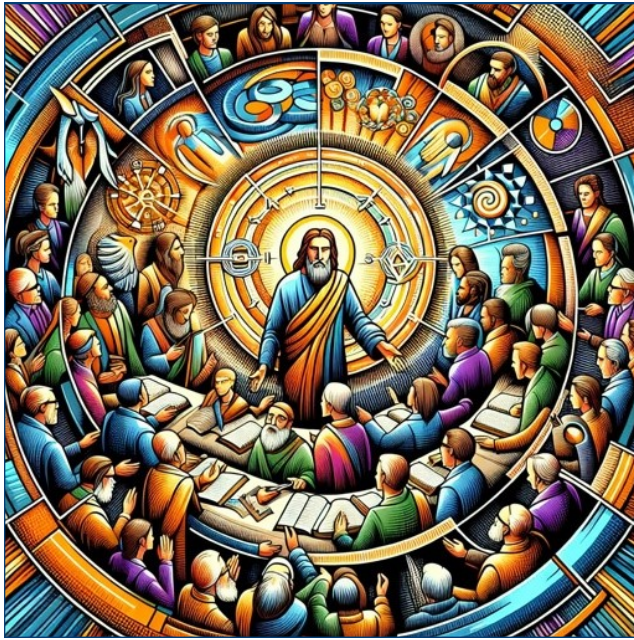


# Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Hello friends,

Before getting into some commentary, let me first take a minute to thank everybody who helped with and attended last Sunday's Pancake Breakfast and Wednesday's Fall Dinner. These events are both great for a fantastic meal and visibility in the community, but I remain stubbornly convinced that their greatest benefit is bringing us together in service and fellowship – excellent community building. There is a lot that goes into rallying for these Moments, and I am deeply grateful to everyone involved!

Now for the commentary. Last weekend I mentioned the tension between global concern and local action. Building on that, I'd now like to get political (which is not at all the same as "partisan"). Take a deep breath, and let's name a few election-related elephants in the room (pun not intended). Elephant One: there are Democrats in our parishes, there are Republicans in our parishes, and there are independent voters in our parishes. I am very glad that we can share the space of liturgical worship and community together. Elephant Two: Jesus Christ founded neither the Republican Party nor the Democratic Party – He founded the Catholic Church. Elephant Three: Jesus was not non-political. The political struggles between Pharisees and Sadducees, Romans and Jews, Jews and Gentiles weave throughout His story; and He doesn't shy away from these struggles.

It is good for you and me to be interested and involved in politics with charity and integrity. The part that I tend to lazily forget is the need to form my mind and conscience to vote well. If you are looking for a tool to help you understand how to vote as a Catholic, allow me to point you to a document the US Bishop's Conference (USCCB) recently updated: "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship." In this document, the Bishops start with the Four Principles of Catholic (*continued on page 2*)

**October 20, 2024**  
**29th Sunday in**  
**Ordinary Time**

*Readings are in the hymnal,  
#1177*

## **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**

OPEN: MTWF- 8 AM-4 PM

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 Oberberger, Coordinator of Ongoing Formation, [stmaryformation@mwt.net](mailto:stmaryformation@mwt.net); (608) 637-7711

Beth Lakmann, Music Director, [stmaryparish@mwt.net](mailto:stmaryparish@mwt.net); (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

# October 20, 2024

*(continued from page 1)* Social Teaching: the Dignity of the Human Person, Subsidiarity, the Common Good, and Solidarity. From there they develop how Catholic Social Teaching considers some of the specific major issues in today's political landscape by topic: Human Life, Promoting Peace, Marriage and Family Life, Religious Freedom, Economic Justice, Health Care, Immigration, Education, Promoting Justice and Countering Violence, Combatting Unjust Discrimination, Care for Our Common Home, Communications & Media & Culture, and Global Solidarity. A quick Google search for the document title will pull it right up, or you can find it directly at <https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/upload/forming-consciences-for-faithful-citizenship.pdf>. From there it's up to us to study up on the candidates for both national and local elections and handpick who best lines up with our tuned-up consciences. Again, if you're wondering who to vote for as a Catholic, I have good and bad news for you. The bad news is I'm not going to tell you who to vote for. I only get to vote once, not 427 times. The good news is that God trusts us enough to let us use the minds and hearts He's given us.

God bless you, and happy studying,

Fr. Joe

## Advance Care Planning Workshops

If you could not speak for yourself, who would you want to make medical decisions for you? What would you want this person to know about your healthcare goals and values? Life is so unpredictable. We never know when an illness or injury will occur. That is why it is extremely important to write your wishes down.

An Advance Directive is a legal document that allows you to designate a person to make your healthcare decisions, **only if you cannot make them yourself!** It also allows you to include specific treatment preferences and instructions for your care. In collaboration, St. Mary's and The Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary churches will host two free Advance Care Planning Workshops. These workshops will address Catholic beliefs, treatment options and assist you in creating or updating your own Advance Care Plan.

Date: October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Time: 12-2 pm

Location: Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

400 Congress Avenue, Viroqua, Wisconsin

Pre-registration is encouraged by calling either parish at 608-452-3841 or 608-637-7711. You may also register by email to [StMaryFormation@mwt.net](mailto:StMaryFormation@mwt.net). Please leave your name(s) and telephone number. Walk-ins will be welcomed.

**Miracles of the Eucharist Exhibit at MMOC:** In the history of the Catholic Church, there have been Eucharistic miracles approved by the Catholic Church. They are visible proof of Jesus Christ's Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist. This Exhibit was created by Blessed Carlo Acutis, a 15-year old from Milan, Italy. The Exhibit will be available for viewing at Mary Mother of the Church parish on Saturday, Nov. 9th thru Monday, Nov. 11th, with a presentation by Patrick Brueggen on Monday, Nov. 11th at MMOC (2006 Weston Street, La Crosse, WI) at 7 pm. We highly encourage you to view the exhibit during this Year of the Eucharistic Revival.

Viewing times at MMOC, of the Exhibit and Relics are:

Saturday, Nov. 9th, 3 pm to 6 pm (Mass time is 4 pm)

Sunday, Nov. 10th, 7 am to Noon (Mass times are 8 am and 10 am)

Monday, Nov. 11th, 5 pm to 7 pm, Speaker Patrick Brueggen at 7 pm.

All are welcome to attend. No reservations necessary. This event is free and sponsored by Mary Mother of the Church PCCW and Men's Club.

# October 20, 2024

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of Oct.7-13, 2024

Offertory: \$2,624.15

Mission Sunday: \$10.00

Total: \$2,634.15

Needed Weekly: \$4,600.00

September E-gifts: \$2,054.13

## 2024-2025

## DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Goal: \$35,560.00

Received to date: \$550.00

Donors: 3

THANK YOU!

## Ministry Schedule

### **Sat., Oct. 19, 6:30 PM**

Amy Matthes Eucharistic Minister  
Will Fisher Altar Server  
Pat Biebl Lector

### **Sun., Oct. 20, 10:30 AM**

Jacque Shay Eucharistic Minister  
Francis Corr Altar Server  
Reuben Stevenson Altar Server  
Stephen Lambert Lector

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

## **Couples Celebrating 50th Wedding Anniversary in 2025 or 2026?**

If you or someone you know will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary in 2025 or 2026, please contact the parish office to ensure your wedding date is listed in parish records. The Diocese sends out certificates and an invitation to attend one of three celebrations that includes Mass with the Bishop followed by dinner.

## MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, 19 October, 6:30 PM +Don Stirling**

(Peg O'Rourke)

**Sunday, 20 October, 10:30 AM Women of the Parish**

(PCCW)

**Wednesday, 23 October, 12:10 PM +Pat Klos**

(Barbara Gronemus)

**Friday, 25 October, 8:00 AM +Bernie Harter**

(Jane Harter & John Harter)

**Saturday, 26 October, 6:30 PM +Gary Teadt**

(Carol Teadt)

**Sunday, 27 October, 10:30 AM People of Annunciation & St. Mary's  
Parishes**

## CHURCH CALENDAR

**PCCW CIRCLE FOR OCTOBER: ST. ANTHONY**

**Wednesday-Tuesday, starting at noon 16-22 October, Parish Office  
closed** Fran attending granddaughter's wedding in Missouri

**Saturday, 20 October, 5:45 PM Choir rehearsal**

**Sunday, 20 October, 9:00-10:15 AM Confirmation Class in Marian  
Hall & classroom**

**Sunday, 20 October, 9:00-10:30 AM Family of Faith & Safe  
Environment training at St. Mary's church basement in Coon  
Valley**

**Sunday, 20 October, 10:00 AM Children's Choir rehearsal**

**Monday, 21 October, 3:00-5:00 PM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd  
in CGS classroom**

**Monday, 21 October, 5:00-7:30 PM Marriage Group in Marian Hall**

**Wednesday, 21 October, St. Mary's Quilters in Marian Hall**

**Wednesday, 23 October, 6:30-7:30 PM RCIA in Marian Hall**

**Thursday, 24 October, 6:30-8:00 PM Little Rock Bible Study in  
Marian Hall**

**Friday, 25 October, 9:00-10:30 AM Little Rock Bible Study in Marian  
Hall**

**Sunday, 27 October, 8:00-10:00 AM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd  
in CGS classroom**

**Sunday, 27 October, 9:00-10:15 AM Theology of the Body in basement  
classroom**

**Sunday, 27 October, 9:15 AM Choir rehearsal**

**Sunday, 27 October, 12:00-2:00 PM Advanced Care Planning in  
Marian Hall**

**Monday, 28 October, 5:00-6:30 PM Community Meal at Good  
Shepherd Church**

**World Mission Sunday is a special day that unites Catholics worldwide in prayer, solidarity, and support for the Church's mission efforts.** Always celebrated on the second to last Sunday of October, this year it will be marked on October 20th. This year's theme, chosen by Pope Francis, is rooted in the Gospel of Matthew: "Go and Invite Everyone to the Banquet," reflecting the inclusive and urgent call to bring God's love to everyone. Join us in this universal mission to spread the Gospel and invite all to experience the joy of Christ's message! *If contributing by check, please make your check payable to 'Annunciation of the BVM'.*

## Pastoral Council Members

Kris Brueggen  
Phyllis Krause  
Parker Moore

Cathy Poshepny  
Pat Peterson  
Dcn. Tony Shay

Dennis Vinger

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. If you wish to speak with a Council member about your concerns, please contact the parish office - 608-637-7711 or [stmaryparish@mwt.net](mailto:stmaryparish@mwt.net).



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**R&J's HONEY FARM**  
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**"...whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant;" ~ Mark 10:43**