

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Hello friends,

As a little glimpse behind the liturgical curtains, right before each weekend Mass I lead the ministers in a little prayer to get ready for what's about to happen. With occasional variation it goes something like "Lord Jesus Christ, thank you for the opportunity to celebrate this Mass, please help us to celebrate it worthily and well as if it were our first Mass, our last Mass, our only Mass. Guardian Angels, open our ears to hear the Lord's Word, help us to encounter Him in His Body and in His Blood." Then it's off to the races. This prayer calls out a few things – let's break them open a bit.

First, there's a significance to each and every Mass you and I pray. It can be easy when I'm at Mass every Saturday night or Thursday morning or every single day to become numb to the power of living out that Last Supper and Christ's sacrifice on the cross every time I go to Mass. It helps to remember that "first Mass, last Mass, only Mass."

Second, there is no such thing as a passive recipient in the Mass – in a sense I'm either there for it or I'm not. I may be distracted by a conversation earlier in the day, I may be chasing a kid down a side aisle, I may be fully locked in and oblivious to everything except what's going on in the sanctuary – all of these are powerful manifestations of the reality that the Mass draws in all of me and all of you, not just the tidy and organized parts. It's not the priest's work and it's not your work – it's the Lord doing His work through our work.

Third, our being here for Mass – our openness to God's Word and Body and Blood – brings about personal change and growth. 98% of the time I probably won't recognize the change while it's happening, but regular active (*continued on page 2*)

October 6, 2024
27th Sunday in
Ordinary Time

*Readings are in the hymnal,
#1171*

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

OPEN: MTWF- 8 AM-4 PM

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

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

Beth Lakmann, Music 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

October 6, 2024

(continued from page 1) participation in the Mass compounds to lasting change. It's kind of like exercise (or rather, exercise is like going to Mass) – as you and I spend more time and energy and intention, we grow more into who God makes us to be.

Finally, you are not alone here, even if it's just you and the priest in the church together. Over the last week we've had two days celebrating angels – on Saturday last weekend the Feast of the Archangels, on Wednesday the Memorial of Guardian Angels. The Guardian Angel part of that prayer is important – you and I each have a Guardian Angel who protects and supports us but even more who draws our gaze to God. It's worth giving your Guardian Angel permission to help you receive God's grace at each Mass – a little prayer under your breath like “Guardian Angel, help me to pray well in this Mass, to encounter the Lord in His Word and in His Body and Blood,” as things get started might take you a long way.

God bless you,

Fr. Joe

A big **Thank You** to everyone who helped, and/or attended, Rural Life Day for the Richland Deanery! From the 1st angelic sound of Saint Mary's school choir, through to Bishop Battersby and contingency of priests and deacons' celebration of Mass on the farm, the day was a success! Thanks for everyone's support and teamwork who helped make the make the day memorable!

Randy and Shelly, Ryan, Chrissy, Lilly, and Addie Schmidt - Schmidt Farms

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 15th, 2024

Time: 3-5 pm

Location: St. Mary's Catholic Church

900 Central Avenue, Coon Valley, Wisconsin

Date: October 27th, 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. Please leave your name(s), telephone number and which session you will be attending. Walk-ins will be welcomed.

October 6, 2024

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of Sep. 23-27, 2024

Offertory: \$3,136.50

Total: \$3,136.50

Needed Weekly: \$4,600.00

August E-gifts: \$2,292.03

THANK YOU!

Ministry Schedule

Sat., Oct. 5, 6:30 PM

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister

Will Fisher Altar Server

Amy Matthes Lector

Sun., Oct. 6, 10:30 AM

Sheryl Robinson Eucharistic Minister

Alayna Curti Altar Server

Logan Curti Altar Server

Megan Prorok 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.

The Fall Dinner is 1 1/2 weeks away! We will be making cranberry sauce on Wednesday the 9th at 9:00 am in the church kitchen so anyone willing to help is welcome. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Julie Moore at 307-359-2322 by call or text.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 5 October, 6:30 PM +Pat Klos

(Barbara Gronemus)

Sunday, 6 October, 10:30 AM +Guy Nicks

(Guy Nicks Family)

Wednesday, 9 October, 5:15 PM +Verna Mae Buhr

(Jeanette Amundson)

Friday, 11 October, 8:00 AM +Debra Skildum

(Angie Leis)

Saturday, 12 October, 6:30 PM +Ambrose Timmerman

(Timmerman Family)

Sunday, 13 October, 10:30 AM +Joe & Roger Biebl

(Biebl Family)

CHURCH CALENDAR

PCCW CIRCLE FOR OCTOBER: ST. ANTHONY

Saturday, 5 October, 5:45 PM Choir rehearsal

Sunday, 6 October, 9:00-10:15 AM Confirmation Class in Marian Hall & classroom

Sunday, 6 October, 10:00-10:15 AM Confirmation Parent meeting in parish library

Sunday, 6 October, 12:00-1:00 PM Family of Faith monthly overview

Sunday, 6 October, following Mass Children's Choir rehearsal

Wednesday, 9 October, 9:00 AM Preparing cranberry sauce in church kitchen

Wednesday, 9 October, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM St. Mary's Quilters in Marian Hall

Wednesday, 9 October, 6:30 PM Finance Council meeting in the parish library

Thursday, 10 October, 11:00 AM Community Thanksgiving Dinner planning meeting at Viroqua Church of Christ

Thursday, 10 October, 6:30-8:00 PM Little Rock Bible Study in Marian Hall

Friday, 11 October, 9:00-10:30 AM Little Rock Bible Study in Marian Hall

Sunday, 13 October, 9:15 AM Choir rehearsal

Sunday, 13 October, 12:00-1:30 PM "The Great Divorce" book discussion in the parish library

Annual Pancake Breakfast – October 13 St. Mary Parish, Coon Valley will hold their annual Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, **October 13, 2024 from 7:30 AM – Noon**. Meal includes: delicious stack of pancakes (from our own local Great American Pancake Co.) with local real maple syrup, eggs, sausage, cheese curds, applesauce, milk, orange juice and coffee! Also purchase a tasty treat to take home from the bake sale! \$10 for adults, \$5 children ages 6-12, 5 and under free. New this year – Pancake topping bar! Your choice of maple syrup, blueberries, strawberries, chocolate syrup, sprinkles, whip cream and peanut butter (while supplies last).

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.

Quilt Raffle 1st Prize!



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Mary Sime 608-778-9369 OFFICE: 608-637-0524 Torrey Kramer 608-306-2175

Mary & Torrey look forward to serving you.
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CEMETERY MONUMENTS, VETERANS MEMORIALS, SIGNAGE

"...a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." ~ Mark 10:7