

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Hello friends,

In last weekend's bulletin, I dropped some important words about Bishop Battersby's presentation on pastoral planning at the previous week's Fall Ministry Days. If you didn't get a chance to read that article, let me encourage you to dig it out or find it online – it's a warmup for upcoming structural changes across the Diocese. The short version is that the Bishop is taking steps to get to know his people and priests over the next few years with an eye to the changing cultural landscape of the Church, listening to the needs of our churches and deaneries to craft for each area the arrangement each area needs. I am a big fan of the Bishop's intention to tailor any pastoral planning to local needs and to receive local feedback – Vernon County is very different from Monroe County or Chippewa Falls.

Something that you and I need to be keenly aware of is that our churches and communities first came together to serve the Church and people of some hundred years ago with the resources and personnel of some hundred years ago. Needs and resources change, decline, and develop a lot over a century. Some folks talk about a priest shortage, which is a concern; but proportionally our priest-to-people ratio is consistent with recent history. More importantly, 1) people moving in and out of the area, 2) birth and death rates, and 3) disaffiliation, conversion and reconciliation mean we have been and are in a season of transition. Some kind of rearrangement is necessary across the Church – I don't know what it looks like, and the Bishop doesn't know what it looks like. That's why he's taking a few years to study it rather than rushing in like a proverbial bull in a China shop. I can say that as unknown as the future is, I feel hopeful about it and what it means for my home here in Viroqua and Coon Valley (and Westby and Viola and Chaseburg and La Farge).

The Bishop has three phases in this pastoral planning process -- again, look back at last weekend for a fuller breakdown. Phase One (July 2024-*(continued on page 2)*)

November 3, 2024
31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings are in the hymnal, #1183

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; (608) 637-7711

Beth Lakmann, Music Director, stmaryparish@mwt.net; (608) 637-7711

Fran Campbell, Secretary/Bookkeeper, stmaryparish@mwt.net, (608) 637-7711; Parish Kitchen (608) 637-7878

400 Congress Avenue, Viroqua, WI 54665

November 3, 2024

(continued from page 1) Lent 2025) is heavily focused on the ongoing conversion, reconciliation, and holiness of his priests. Bishop Battersby is driven by the Holy Spirit and is fostering that in his priests through communal prayer, adoration, outreach and intentional communication with us. As he told Fr. Daniel and me at his “welcome-to-the Diocese” reception, “just be holy, men. We don’t have time for anything else.” We will follow his lead here in Viroqua and Coon Valley, starting with daily adoration at one or the other parish through the season of Advent. The precise schedule remains TBD for a bit; but as we already approach the next liturgical season, let me encourage you to consider setting a half hour or hour aside once or twice a week to let yourself be quiet with and rooted in the Lord. More to come.

May God bless you and keep you always,

Fr. Joe

This Sunday we welcome **Crispin Clarence King** into the Christian community through the Sacrament of Baptism. Crispin is the son of Nathan and Clare (Leis) King. Welcome to this community of faith!

The Children's Atrium is in need of lights! We are looking for a few table lamps and floor lamps to light up the children's work spaces. If you have one of these going unused at your home that you would be willing to donate to our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program, please contact Carly Zadow at 608-792-4872. Thank you so much!

Calling all Crafters! - our parish will support St. Mary's in Coon Valley by having a table (or two) at their craft show on December 7, from 8 AM-2 PM. We are looking for crafts and people to help with set up, take down, and to man the tables. Call Joyce Humfeld at 608-606-0873 if you have questions.

United Country-Oakwood Realty, LLC is once again sponsoring Something For Seniors throughout November. Something For Seniors is like Toys For Tots, but Christmas gifts are collected and given to our seniors in local healthcare and assisted living facilities. Crafts, puzzles, body care products, and socks are just a few ideas for donation items. A complete list of ideas is found on the collection boxes located at: The Market Place (Cenex) in Gays Mills, Hansen's IGA in Westby, Valley Market in Coon Valley; and in Viroqua: Nelson Agri-Center, The Viroqua Food Coop, The Dollar Tree, St Marys Catholic Church, Vernon County Aging & Disability Resource Center. We ask that only “New” items be donated. Gifts can also be purchased through Amazon. For more information and gift ideas, please visit SomethingForSeniors.Org or join the Something For Seniors Facebook Group. Thank you!

November 3, 2024

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of Oct.21-27, 2024

Offertory: \$4,406.75

Mission Sunday: \$898.00

Total: \$5,304.751

Needed Weekly: \$4,600.00

September E-gifts: \$2,054.13

2024-2025

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Goal: \$35,560.00

Received to date: \$12,275.00

Donors: 41

THANK YOU!

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 2 November, 6:30 PM +Bernard Fox

(Jeanette Amundson)

Sunday, 3 November, 10:30 AM +Ambrose Timmerman

(Timmerman Family Friend)

Wednesday, 6 November, 5:15 PM Women of the Parish

(PCCW)

Friday, 8 November, 8:00 AM +Sharon Weiher

(Jeanette Amundson)

Saturday, 9 November, 6:30 PM +Ivan Cowen

(Angie Leis)

Sunday, 10 November, 10:30 PM +William Chart

(Darlene Chart)

CHURCH CALENDAR

PCCW CIRCLE FOR NOVEMBER: ST. BRIDGET

Saturday, 2 November, 5:45 PM Choir rehearsal

**Sunday, 3 November, 8:00-10:00 AM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
in CGS classroom**

**Sunday, 3 November, 9:00-10:15 AM Confirmation Class in Marian
Hall & classroom**

**Sunday, 3 November, 12:00-1:00 PM Family of Faith monthly
overview**

Sunday, 3 November, following Mass Children's Choir rehearsal

**Sunday, 3 November, 1:00 PM Baptism of Crispin Clarence King
followed with light refreshments in gathering space for family**

**Monday, 4 November, 3:00-5:00 PM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
in CGS classroom**

**Wednesday, 6 November, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM St. Mary's Quilters in
Marian Hall**

**Thursday, 7 November, 6:30-8:00 PM Little Rock Bible Study in
Marian Hall**

**Friday, 8 November, 9:00-10:30 AM Little Rock Bible Study in
Marian Hall**

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

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

Sunday, 10 November, 9:15 AM Choir rehearsal

Sunday, 10 November, 12:00-1:30 PM RCIA in Marian Hall pie room

**Sunday, 10 November, 12:00-1:30 PM The Great Divorce in parish
library**

**Sunday, 10 November, 12:00-2:00 PM Holiday Grief Share workshop
in Marian Hall**

**Monday, 11 November, 3:00-5:00 PM Catechesis of the Good
Shepherd in CGS classroom**

Monday, 11 November, 5:00-7:30 PM Marriage Group in Marian Hall

Ministry Schedule

Sat., Nov. 2, 6:30 PM

Dcn Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister

Seth Kiedinger Altar Server

Pat Biebl Lector

Sun., Nov. 3, 10:30 AM

Raven Stevenson Eucharistic Minister

Not filled Altar Server

Not filled Altar Server

Al Mislivecek Lector

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

We will be offering a **memorial Mass** for all miscarried, stillborn, and aborted children at **5:15pm on Friday, November 22nd** at our Viroqua Parish. After Mass, there will be an hour of Adoration with small teams available for further individual prayer. The evening will conclude with a light dinner. There will be more information available in the coming weeks, but if you would like to learn more in the meantime, please contact either Father Joe, or Carly Zadow at 608-792-4872.

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.



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