

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Hello friends,

Forgive me for belaboring a point about the Church's year again, but there's a lot to be taken from the way our calendar flows. A new Church year started back on December 1, with the First Sunday of Advent, and for the last several weeks we've built in a number of elements to build up to this coming Wednesday. In the readings we're hearing very preparatory, prophetic words from the likes of John the Baptist, Mary, Elizabeth, and Paul. In our physical space we've seen the building illumination of the Advent Wreath – it's no coincidence that the fourth candle completes the brightness of the wreath this weekend, with Saturday being the winter solstice/darkest and shortest day of the year. That color purple that I'm wearing for most of the season points to the kingdom of God, firmly rooted in Christ's royal entry into the world. If you feel like there's a building tension, a bated breath and strange watchfulness in the last few days before Christmas here, you're nailing it. This whole season of Advent is designed to differentiate this Moment – to make perfectly clear that there is something different about this week. It's all about invitation – an invitation to each one of us to invite the Lord to shine His light into our hearts and through us into the world.

Just as important as Advent is the time that comes right after. It feels like we've seen Christmas decorations up around town and in stores for a good three or four months now, likely to disappear in roughly four days. This is a bit backwards – Christmas (like Easter) is such a monumental event that we don't just celebrate it on December 25, but for a full eight days starting December 25, *(continued on page 2)*

December 22, 2024
4th Sunday of Advent

*Readings are in the hymnal,
#1002*

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

Merry Christmas!

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

December 22, 2024

(continued from page 1) and even then with the Christmas Season. I'm guilty in my own personal practice of cutting Easter and Christmas short, and it's something I need to remind myself of all the time that it takes real and good work to celebrate well, just like it takes real and good work to go through those preparatory seasons (Lent and Advent) well. Ordinary Time is around the corner in just a bit, but not yet. Those few months of deep winter between Christmas and Lent always strike me as odd. Once the ground is definitively covered in snow and the thermometer stays below 32 for more than little stints, we'll feel the slow-and-steady of Ordinary Time. I try to slow down in January and February and allow myself, like a bear (which incidentally doesn't truly hibernate – they lied to you about that one), to stop producing quite so much for a bit (harder said than done) – It's important to let grace expand in quiet. Then comes Lent, into the springtime of Easter and new life, and before you know it we're back into the Ordinary Time of summer and fall.

Each year's a new year, and even while you and I have been here before, we haven't necessarily been *here* before. The Lord's mercy and grace and restoration are always new, and He always wants to draw you deeper and deeper in.

God bless you, and happy final few days of Advent.

Fr. Joe

This Sunday we welcome **Enoch Theodosius Stevenson** into the Christian community through the Sacrament of Baptism. Enoch is the son of Raven and Emily (Ekern) Stevenson. Welcome to this community of faith!

This Sunday we also welcome **Oliver Morgun Oldham** into the Christian community through the Sacrament of Baptism. Oliver is the son of Morgun and Megan (Wimme) Oldham. Welcome to this community of faith!

*If you are looking for a place to celebrate a Christmas meal with your parish family, **please join us at noon on Christmas Day in Marian Hall.** The parish will provide ham, potatoes, and vegetables; salads and desserts are potluck. If you can join us, please RSVP by December 22, to christmasdinnerviroqua@gmail.com.*

The **Parish Council of Catholic Women (PCCW)** represents the women of our parish. All women are automatically enrolled and encouraged to get involved in the activities of the council. Recently, the PCCW met to vote on the annual disbursements for the year. Over \$15,000 has been allocated. To read the report and see all the ways the PCCW is supporting needs both near and far, pick up a summary sheet on the bulletin table. We encourage all women to become active members of our PCCW.

Gift Dating for End of Year: As a reminder, all gifts postmarked 12/31/2024 or earlier will be posted and processed for the calendar/tax year 2024. Because the calendar year ends midweek and many parish offices are closed or lightly staffed, we will extend the mailing deadline for gifts left at the parish. Diocesan Annual Appeal and Inspired By The Spirit gifts received at the parish must be sent in a parish envelope and postmarked by 1/7/2025 to be included in the 2024 calendar/tax year.

For end of year gifts/contributions to St. Mary's - Viroqua, please have them arrive at the church no later than December 31, to be sure of processing for 2024.

December 22, 2024

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of Dec. 9-15, 2024

Offertory: \$3,483.06

Retired Religious: \$320.00

Total: \$3,803.06

Needed Weekly: \$4,600.00

November E-gifts: \$2,310.88

2024-2025

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Goal: \$35,560.00

Received to date: \$21,455.00

Donors: 70

THANK YOU!

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 21 December, 6:30 PM +Mary Joan Meyer & Storey Meyer

(Leon Meyer)

Sunday, 22 December, 10:30 AM Women of the Parish
(PCCW)

Tuesday, 24 December, 6:30 PM +Living & Deceased Members of Chart Family
(Darlene Chart)

Wednesday, 25 December, 10:30 AM +Carol Weber
(Patricia Biebl)

Friday, 27 December, 12:10 PM +Reinie Leis
(Angie Leis)

Saturday, 28 December, 6:30 PM +Darlene Abert
(Carol Teadt)

Sunday, 29 December, 10:30 AM +Pat Hovezak
(Roger & Phyllis Krause)

Ministry Schedule

Sat., Dec. 28, 6:30 PM

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister
Lane Fisher Altar Server
Reid Fisher Altar Server
Sheryl Robinson Lector

Sun., Dec. 29, 10:30 AM

Kyle Prorok Eucharistic Minister
Basil Stevenson Altar Server
Mariah Sullivan Altar Server
Mary Ellen Hatton Lector

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

ADORATION (ending Dec. 24-Viroqua):

Sunday: 11:30-3:00 PM in Viroqua
(except December 22, when we'll start at 12:30 after a baptism)

Monday: 7:00-7:30 AM in Viroqua

Tuesday: 12:05-12:35 in Viroqua, 4:30-5:00 PM in Coon Valley

CHURCH CALENDAR

PCCW CIRCLE FOR DECEMBER: ST. THERESA

Sunday, 22 December, during Mass Stevenson Baptism

Sunday, 22 December, 11:45 AM-1:30 PM RCIA in Marian Hall pie room

Sunday, 22 December, 12:00 PM Oldham Baptism

Monday, 23 December, 5:00-6:30 PM Community Meal at Good Shepherd Church

Tuesday-Friday, 24-27 December Parish Office Closed in observance of Christmas

Tuesday, 24 December, 6:30 PM Christmas Eve Mass

Wednesday, 25 December, 10:30 AM Christmas Day Mass

Wednesday, 25 December, Noon Parish Christmas Day Meal in Marian Hall

Friday, 27 December, 12:10 PM Friday Mass (instead of 8 AM)

Monday-Tuesday, 30 December-7 January Fr. Joe out of state

Tuesday-Thursday, 31 December-2 January Parish Office Closed in observance of New Years holiday

Wednesday, 1 January, 12:10 PM Solemnity of Mary Mass

Wednesday, 1 January, 5:15 PM Solemnity of Mary Mass

Friday, 3 January, No Mass

All of the children of the parish are invited to make ornaments for our parish Christmas tree this year! If your child would like to make an ornament or two, please drop them off in the basket in the gathering space no later than **Sunday, December 22nd**. Thank you!

December 22, 2024

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.

Mother Mary's Baby Item Drive

We are collecting items for the Door of Hope Pregnancy & Family Care Center in Viroqua from now through **Sunday, December 22nd**. The following items are requested: *canned baby formula (sensitive Enfamil or Similac), new boy & girl baby clothes (newborn – 3T), wraps & carriers, new baby toys and books, waterproof bibs, teething, baby soap items, and hygiene products for moms.*

****diapers/wipes/quilts not needed – already well-stocked****
Please leave the items in the basket in the atrium. Thank you for your generosity!

LAW OFFICES OF HOPKINS & HOPKINS, LLP

George A. Hopkins
Stephanie M. Hopkins

608-637-6710

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402 N. Main St., Westby, WI 54665
meatsusa@mwt.net
608-634-4515

Roger and Joyce Humfeld



S2676 Haugen Ln.
Westby, WI 54667
608-634-4059 (home)
608-606-0832 (cell)
rjhoneyfarm@hotmail.com



Kickapoo Counseling

110 N. Main Street
Westby, WI 54667
608-634-2365

info@kickapoo-counseling.com

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Mary Sime
608-778-9369

OFFICE: 608-637-0524

Torrey Kramer
608-306-2115

Mary & Torrey look forward to serving you.
We offer In-Home Services if needed.

CEMETERY MONUMENTS, VETERANS MEMORIALS, SIGNAGE



"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." ~ Luke 1:41