

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Christ Preaching in the Temple, painting by Ludovico Gimignani

Hello friends, and Merry Christmas!

Over the next few weeks, we've got a few temporary schedule adjustments. This week I'll be heading out to Salt Lake City with some parishioners for FOCUS' SEEK conference. Some personal history to catch you up – before seminary I was a FOCUS missionary, working primarily at the University of Minnesota Duluth with college students, leading Bible studies, coaching and mentoring, praying with them, and working together on a relationship with Christ. I'm a big fan of the work FOCUS does, including this conference, and I've intentionally remained involved with them in some staff formation and spiritual direction. The SEEK conference (along with FOCUS' 9-5 work) is directed primarily at college students, with a growing side hustle in parish ministry; and over the next week here I hope this group's experience will help us see if such missionary work might help serve our parishes well, too. Pray for our safe travels, for our openness to the Holy Spirit, and for the literal tens of thousands of Catholic young adults, parishioners, priests and religious who will be gathering in Salt Lake City and Washington, DC.

Anyway, back to local business. Since I'll be out of office from December 31 (my dad's and Linda Schulte's birthday)-January 7, we've got a *(continued on page 2)*

December 29, 2024
The Holy Family of
Jesus, Mary and
Joseph

Readings are in the hymnal,
#1007

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 Tuesday 4:30 PM in CV
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

December 29, 2024

(continued from page 1) few Mass adjustments. First, January 1, is the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God, also a Holy Day of Obligation. This Tuesday Fr. Parr (a Viroqua local) will celebrate a vigil Mass in Coon Valley at 5:15, and on Wednesday he'll celebrate 12:10 and 5:15 Masses in Viroqua. There will be no daily Mass on January 2 or 3, but the weekend will be business as usual. Finally, there will not be daily Mass on January 7; but on January 8, I'll be back in the saddle for our routine schedule.

Over the course of Advent, we set about the ambitious project of adoration every single day of the week. It was ambitious, and I was very happy with it. Three things. First, it is no longer Advent, so that extraordinary schedule no longer stands. Second, January 8, onward we'll return to our customary adoration times from 4:30-5:00 on Tuesdays in Coon Valley and 5:45-6:30 on Wednesdays in Viroqua. If you got something out of coming to one of those Advent adoration times (or, for that matter, if some other practice you took on was a Help), please be free to explore adding it into your regular schedule, too. Third, and finally, if you have any feedback on adoration times (such as "hey, that noon time was really helpful"), let me know. I can't guarantee it'll necessarily lead to a shift, but in my efforts to find what works best with y'all's (technical term) schedule that will be helpful information.

Alright. God bless you, and I'll see you soon!

Fr. Joe

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.

Wishing you all a Blessed New Year!

December 29, 2024

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of Dec. 16-22, 2024

Offertory: \$5,298.25

Retired Religious: 105.00

Total: \$5,403.25

Needed Weekly: \$4,600.00

November E-gifts: \$2,310.88

2024-2025

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Goal: \$35,560.00

Received to date: \$21,880.00

Donors: 70

THANK YOU!

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 28 December, 6:30 PM +Darlene Abert

(Carol Teadt)

Sunday, 29 December, 10:30 AM +Pat Hovezak

(Roger & Phyllis Krause)

Wednesday, 1 January, 12:10 PM +Joyce Dolan

(William & Betty Brendel)

Wednesday, 1 January, 5:15 PM +Ambrose Timmerman

(Timmerman Family Friends)

Friday, 3 January, no Mass People of the Annunciation & St.

Mary's Parishes (Fr. Joe will honor this intention while away)

Saturday, 4 January, 6:30 PM Women of the Parish

(PCCW)

Sunday, 5 January, 10:30 AM +Jim Graham

(the Biebl Family)

Ministry Schedule

Sat., Jan. 4, 6:30 PM

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister

Dennis Vinger Lector

Sun., Jan. 5, 10:30 AM

Al Mislivecek 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!

CHURCH CALENDAR

PCCW CIRCLE FOR DECEMBER: ST. THERESA

PCCW CIRCLE FOR JANUARY: ST. ANTHONY

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

Sunday, 5 January, 9:00-10:15 AM Confirmation Class in Marian Hall & classroom

Sunday, 12 January, following Mass Children's choir practice

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

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In Need of New Steward for Church Library — We have enjoyed running the church library this past year but are ready to pass it along (hopefully in February). Tasks typically involve restocking returned books and discerning which books to keep and donate. There is a fund, generously donated by parishioners, that can be used to purchase some new books for the library. If interested or if you would like to learn more, please contact Alex Kararo at kararofamily@gmail.com or 612-578-6706

The group that read *The Great Divorce* would like to propose another contemplative study for the month of January. This includes a viewing of the documentary *TEILHARD: Visionary Scientist*, with **discussion to follow on January 19, from 12:00-2:30 PM.** This film explores the life and work of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, an early 20th Century French Jesuit priest and scientist. Parishioners interested in learning more about Teilhard can go to the Teilhard Project teihardproject.com.

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.



CGS classroom

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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



"God sets a father in honor over his children; a mother's authority he confirms over her sons." ~ Sirach 3:2