

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Hello friends,

Team FOCUS conference has successfully made it back! I've heard from at least seven people so far that Fr. Parr did a great job with both liturgical celebrations he came out for, and I am grateful to him and you for making space for me to get out to Salt Lake City for the week. We had a group of eight parishioners that made their way out, joining with some 878 (I think that's the number) other parishes from across the country as well as a ballpark 17,000 college students. That's a few people. During their time, our folks learned about FOCUS' model of evangelization and small group work, rooted in a relational introduction to Jesus Christ and His Church, supplementing it with topical work on parish ministries like OCIA, focused work on prayer, and the regular course of keynotes and speakers that fill these conferences.

For my part, I took on a bit of a chaplain's role through the week. You may recall that before seminary I was a missionary, and last summer I went out to Lincoln for FOCUS' new staff training to pray and walk with new missionaries. On my end, these moments are far from physically or emotionally restful, but the concentrated pastoral work reflect a lot of the *why* behind my initial desire (*continued on page 2*)

January 12, 2025 The Baptism of the Lord

Readings are in the hymnal,
#1012

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

January 12, 2025

(continued from page 1) as a FOCUS missionary to pursue the priesthood. Here are a few of the profound moments from my own week in Salt Lake City:

- Joining some 300 other priests in line to concelebrate daily Masses, including fifteen or so guys I haven't seen since my own seminary days, when COVID brought our final year to an abrupt end;
- Running into some of the High Schoolers (now college students) from my first assignment up in Wausau and seeing how they've expanded and matured;
- Praying and processing with our parishioners with a retreat day after the conference;
- Reconnecting and praying with a missionary couple I had accompanied through a miscarriage when I was down in Lincoln;
- Meeting in person with several missionary spiritual directees that I've been meeting with on video for half a year;
- Stepping back from the big full-conference Mass one day to celebrate a Mass for the on-the-run event-producing missionaries, taking a thirty-five minute moment to rest in the Lord with some folks that really needed to rest in the Lord;
- Helping to hear roughly 6000 confessions over the course of the week (not all by myself).

Again, I am grateful to you for holding things together here while I stepped away. I'm working on the physical recuperation from SEEK and Christmas, but I feel spiritually revitalized to launch into 2025 with you. God bless you!

Fr. Joe

Church Family, it's January, and it's time to take our turn making and serving
Viroqua's Community Meal.

This is the **monthly free Community Meal at Good Shepherd's**.

We expect between 90-140 people will attend.

Serving from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. on **Monday, January 27th**.

Set-up begins at 4:15 at Good Shepherd's. We should finish by 7:30. Shifts can be divided.

All are welcome.

Visiting with folk is an essential part of this ministry. You are encouraged to share the meal
during the evening.

Donations for the dessert table are very much needed.

Bring your best collaborative spirit to help make this event a success.

Many hands make light work.

Sign up in the Atrium.



Our parish will once again remember our elderly and homebound with **valentines**. We are especially wanting the youth to get involved, too. Let's be creative and let them know we are thinking of them.



January 12, 2025

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of Dec. 30-Jan. 5, 2024

Offertory: \$2,642.00

Total: \$2,642.00

Needed Weekly: \$4,600.00

Works of Charity: \$1,036.00

November E-gifts: \$2,310.88

2024-2025

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Goal: \$35,560.00

Received to date: \$33,320.00

Donors: 83

THANK YOU!

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 11 January, 6:30 PM +Philip Brueggen

(Dave & Sue Fanta)

Sunday, 12 January, 10:30 AM +Ione Hauser

(Bud Hauser)

Wednesday, 15 January, 5:15 PM +Verna Mae Buhr

(Pat Biebl)

Friday, 17 January, 8:00 AM +Brother Michael Mandernack

(Veronica Tresner)

Saturday, 18 January, 6:30 PM +Joyce Dolan

(William & Betty Brendel)

Sunday, 19 January, 10:30 AM +Reinie Leis

(Angie Leis)

CHURCH CALENDAR

PCCW CIRCLE FOR JANUARY: ST. ANTHONY

Saturday, 11 January, 5:45 PM Choir rehearsal

Sunday, 12 January, 8:00-10:00 AM Catechesis of the Good

Shepherd in CGS classroom

Sunday, 12 January, 11:45 AM-1:30 PM RCIA in Marian Hall pie room

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

Monday, 13 January, 3:00-5:00 PM Catechesis of the Good

Shepherd in CGS classroom

Wednesday, 15 January, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM St. Mary's Quilters in Marian Hall

Thursday, 16 January, 4:00 PM Pastoral Council Meeting in Marian Hall

Thursday, 16 January, 6:30-8:00 PM Little Rock Bible Study in Marian Hall

Friday, 17 January, 9:00-10:30 AM Little Rock Bible Study in Marian Hall

Saturday, 18 January, 5:45 PM Choir rehearsal

Sunday, 19 January, 8:00-10:00 AM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd in CGS classroom

Sunday, 19 January, 9:00-10:15 AM Confirmation Class in Marian Hall & classroom

Sunday, 19 January, 12:00-2:30 PM Teilhard Discussion Group in pie room

Monday, 20 January, Parish Office Closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr., Day

Monday, 20 January, 3:00-5:00 PM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd in CGS classroom

Monday, 20 January, 5:00-8:00 PM Marriage Group in Marian Hall

Ministry Schedule

Sat., Jan. 18, 6:30 PM

Amy Matthes Eucharistic Minister

Lane Fisher Altar Server

Reid Fisher Altar Server

Dennis Vinger Lector

Sun., Jan. 19, 10:30 AM

Kyle Prorok Eucharistic Minister

Francis Corr Altar Server

Reuben Stevenson Altar Server

Matthew Tubbin Lector

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

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 teilhardproject.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.

Parish Library

We are hoping to increase the content in the Parish Library by adding some new books. If you would like to donate money as a way to support this effort, please make your check out to the Annunciation of the BVM with 'parish library' in the memo line or cash in envelope marked 'for the parish library'. Donations may be mailed to or dropped off at the parish office or placed in the weekend's contributions baskets.

United Country-Oakwood Realty, LLC in Viroqua would like to thank our local communities for their growing awareness and generous contribution to the "Something For Seniors" 2024 Christmas gift campaign. Through the generosity of many people, **267** local senior residents living within our local assisted living and health care facilities received Christmas gifts and more importantly were remembered and thought of during the holiday season. We want to thank and encourage you to support the following businesses who assisted with this year's gift drive: (Viroqua) Nelson Agri-Center, The Viroqua Food Coop, WDRT & WVRQ Radio, Hazel Media; (Westby) Hansen's IGA, (Gays Mills) The Marketplace Cenex, (Coon Valley) Valley Market. A special thank you to the Aging and Disabilities Resource Center of Vernon County for their ongoing support, and fine people who work and volunteer at our health care facilities. Without their gracious participation, this wouldn't be possible. Finally, thank you Fr. Joe and the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish for allowing us, once again, to have a gift drive receptacle box in the atrium during the month of November.

WESTBY LOCKER & MEATS

The Sausage & Meat Shop
Rosanne & Rod Aspenson
402 N. Main St., Westby, WI 54665
meatsusa@mwt.net
608-634-4515

If you would like to advertise on this page, please contact 608-637-7711

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KINDNESS
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"...and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove." ~ Luke 3:21