

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Hello folks,

Earlier this week I put on my green vestments for the first Ordinary Time Mass this year in the rectory chapel. At the risk of repeating myself, the green of ordinary time illustrates the slow, steady growth of grace outside of big seasons, just like vegetation slowly growing outside (not right now). This little Ordinary Time blip before Ash Wednesday (March 5) is a favorite of mine – it’s a short step back from the deep work of Advent and Christmas to let those seeds take root and start to shoot up through the soil. Ordinary Time is an excellent moment to let ourselves explore different angles on our relationship with God and the Church, to let ourselves workshop and invite the Lord to reveal Himself to us in new ways.

I mentioned last weekend that I see this year being big for “the heart.” I referenced Pope Francis’ latest letter, “Dilexit Nos,” where he opens up “the heart” as the place of encounter, decision, and relationship. It’s that place in “me” where I see and am seen by “you” – not so much a physical spot in the upper-middle-just-to-the-left of my chest but the spiritual place of identity and self. It’s something more than a psychological reality, perhaps the outward-facing and receptive manifestation of the soul. One of the most beautiful lines of scripture refers to Mary holding on to her Mother’s witness of her Son, “and she kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.”

There’s a deep tradition in Catholicism of devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Going back some 800 years to St. Francis of Assisi and his (*continued on page 2*)

January 19, 2025
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Readings are in the hymnal,
#1097*

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 19, 2025

(continued from page 1) almost-contemporary St. Bernard of Clairvaux, Christ's wounds have fascinated Christians; and four hundred years later St. Margaret Mary Alacoque opened up the theme of Jesus Christ's Sacred Heart. Maybe you've seen images of Jesus showing His heart, usually with a clear and inviting radiance – an invitation to intimacy and connection with His outpouring mercy and love for us. It's as if He's saying, "Here's my heart, can I share it with you?"

A few months ago, Bishop Battersby asked all the priests in the Diocese to exercise a spiritual practice in their rectories known as an "Enthronement to the Sacred Heart." In this practice the household (or in this case, myself and a few folks I invited over for the moment) places an image of the Sacred Heart in a prominent place in the house, to invite Jesus through His Sacred Heart to watch over, protect, provide for, and take His throne as the King of the home and the people living there. I want to extend an invitation to you – whether it's during Ordinary Time or Lent or Easter – to consider doing this in your own homes. If you'd like, I can even come over and we can go through the prayers together; or if you'd like to do it on your own, I can get you the prayers, too. As for an image, you can find one pretty easily up at the Shrine gift shop or Noelke's in La Crosse, or with a quick Google search. Check it out, and if you have any questions feel free to send them my way!

Fr. Joe

Please extend condolences to the family of **Matthew "Matt" Keenan** who passed away January 14, 2025. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Monday, January 20, at 11:00 AM at the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish - Viroqua. Father Joseph Richards will officiate. Visitation on Sunday, January 19, 3:00-6:00 PM at the church and also from 9:00-11:00 AM until time of service at the church on Monday. Burial in the Viroqua Cemetery. May he rest in peace.

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.

January 19, 2025

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of Jan. 6-12, 2024

Offertory: \$4,113.00

Total: \$4,113.00

Needed Weekly: \$4,600.00

December E-gifts: \$3,104.73

2024-2025

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Goal: \$35,560.00

Received to date: \$33,320.00

Donors: 83

THANK YOU!

MASS INTENTIONS

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

(William & Betty Brendel)

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

(Angie Leis)

Wednesday, 22 January, 5:15 PM +Verna Mae Buhr

(Joanne Krueger)

Friday, 24 January, 8:00 AM +Edwin Matthews Marks

(Roger & Joyce Humfeld)

Saturday, 25 January, 6:30 PM +Carol Weber

(Jane Harter)

Sunday, 26 January, 10:30 AM +Martin Zadow

(Ben & Carly Zadow)

Ministry Schedule

Sat., Jan. 25, 6:30 PM

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister

Sebastian Kimmet Altar Server

Pat Biebl Lector

Sun., Jan. 26, 10:30 AM

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister

Royce Scoville Altar Server

Mariah Sullivan Altar Server

Al Mislivecek Lector

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

CHURCH CALENDAR

PCCW CIRCLE FOR JANUARY: ST. ANTHONY

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, after 8:00 AM Mass Fr. Joe will go over parts

of Mass with children followed by snacks and a game

downstairs

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

pie room

Sunday, 19 January, 3:00-6:00 PM Visitation for Matthew Keenan

in church gathering space

Monday, 20 January, 9:00-11:00 AM Visitation and 11:00 AM

Matthew Keenan Funeral

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

Tuesday, 21 January, 1:00 PM Parish Book Club in library

Wednesday, 22 January, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM St. Mary's Quilters in

Marian Hall

Thursday, 23 January, 6:30-8:00 PM Little Rock Bible Study in

Marian Hall

Friday, 24 January, 9:00-10:30 AM Little Rock Bible Study in

Marian Hall

Sunday, 26 January, 8:00-10:00 AM Catechesis of the Good

Shepherd in CGS classroom

(Church Calendar continued from right)

Sunday, 26 January, 9:00-10:15 AM

Theology of the Body in

basement classroom

Sunday, 26 January, 11:45 AM-1:30

PM RCIA in Marian Hall pie

room

Monday, 27 January, 3:00-5:00 PM

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

in CGS classroom

Monday, 27 January, 5:00-6:30 PM

Community Meal at Good

Shepherd Church

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.

In Need of New Steward for Church Garden

We are looking for someone or a family to run the garden this coming summer. If you are interested or want to learn more information about what that entails, please contact Matt Kararo at 708-299-0573 or kararofamily@gmail.com

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

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!



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

Roger and Joyce Humfeld

R&J's
HONEY
FARM

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



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Dan Kiedinger



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Effinger Equipment
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