

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Hello friends,

Last weekend I ended up preaching on something entirely other than I had planned, and I am very okay with that. The reading we didn't touch on (the second, from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians) is important for a few reasons – first, because it starts off the next several weeks of 1 Corinthians in the second readings, and second, because it addresses some issues important both to the early Christian community in Corinth and (because this is how the Holy Spirit works) our own community a few thousand years later.

For some context, the church in Corinth was kind of a big deal. Paul planted this church on his second missionary voyage fifteen years after Jesus' resurrection, and they took the Gospel to heart – when you looked at the Corinthian church, you'd probably think to yourself “now *that's* a church.” They were responding to the Holy Spirit, they were exercising very real spiritual gifts, and they were growing as disciples of Jesus Christ. At the same time, they experienced very real growing pains: confusion about sound doctrine and spirituality, backbiting, and some manifest hypocrisy – in a word, they were causing and experiencing what is now often referred to as “church-related trauma.” Paul's letter (and a follow-up visit) were directed at these issues to deliver a “don't get ahead of yourselves” to a growing community.

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January 26, 2025
3rd Sunday in
Ordinary Time

*Readings are in the hymnal,
#1100*

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 Oberberger, 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 26, 2025

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Last weekend, and continued with this Sunday's reading, Paul is establishing an important fact about Christian community: the Holy Spirit gives to each disciple different spiritual gifts – to some He gives gifts of wisdom, others knowledge, others faith, others gifts of healing or mighty deeds or prophecy or discernment of spirits or the speaking of and interpretation of tongues. An important note – every spiritual gift is lived out perfectly only in Jesus Christ. However, part of being the body of Christ on Earth is that He lives out these gifts in us individually for the building up of the whole community. You need the community if you are going to live a complete Christian life, and the whole community needs the particular gifts the Lord wants to work through you.

Anyhow, back to the Corinthians. These folks were explicitly exercising these gifts in their day-to-day life, but there remained a heart-shaped disintegration under the surface. There's a reason Paul puts the speaking and interpretation of tongues last – because the Corinthians were the most enamored with them. In a sense they were so focused on external manifestations of the Holy Spirit that they were blind to the deeper work He was trying to do through these gifts. They needed the love that only comes from the Lord. I rejoice to see the Holy Spirit planting seeds, nurturing, and pruning in our churches, and I ask you with me to make an earnest invitation to Him: "Come Holy Spirit. Pour out your gifts in my life, and help me to communicate them with love in the lives of my brothers and sisters."

God bless you,

Fr. Joe

Please extend condolences to the family of **Helen R. Pedretti** who passed away January 21, 2025. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at a future date at the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish - Viroqua. May she 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 26, 2025

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of Jan. 13-19, 2024

Offertory: \$9,426.00

Total: \$9,426.00

Needed Weekly: \$4,600.00

December E-gifts: \$3,104.73

2024-2025

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Goal: \$35,560.00

Received to date: \$33,835.00

Donors: 84

THANK YOU!

MASS INTENTIONS

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

(Jane Harter)

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

(Ben & Carly Zadow)

Wednesday, 29 January, 5:15 PM Martha Torres

(Diana Hernandez)

Friday, 31 January, 8:00 AM +Patricia Kearns

(Patricia Rubasch)

Saturday, 1 February, 6:30 PM Women of the Parish

(PCCW)

Sunday, 2 February, 10:30 AM +Verna Mae Buhr

(Anna Mae Krause)

CHURCH CALENDAR

PCCW CIRCLE FOR JANUARY: ST. ANTHONY

PCCW CIRCLE FOR FEBRUARY: ST. THERESA

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

Shepherd in CGS classroom

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

Wednesday, 29 January, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM St. Mary's Quilters in

Marian Hall

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

Marian Hall

Friday, 31 January, 9:00-10:30 AM Little Rock Bible Study in

Marian Hall

Sunday, 2 February, 8:00-10:00 AM Catechesis of the Good

Shepherd in CGS classroom

Sunday, 2 February, 9:00-10:15 AM Confirmation Class in Marian

Hall & basement classroom

Sunday, 2 February, following Mass Children's Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, 2 February, 12:00-1:00 PM Family of Faith monthly

overview

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

Shepherd in CGS classroom

Ministry Schedule

Sat., Feb. 1, 6:30 PM

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister

Will Fisher Altar Server

Seth Kiedinger Altar Server

Mark Brueggen Lector

Sun., Feb. 2, 10:30 AM

Kyle Prorok Eucharistic Minister

Alexis Scoville Altar Server

Sasha Scoville Altar Server

Matthew Tubbin Lector

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

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.

Be ye fishers of men.

You catch them—He'll clean them.

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!



Kickapoo Counseling

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

info@kickapoo-counseling.com

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

WESTBY LOCKER & MEATS

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

Roger and Joyce Humfeld

R&J's
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FARM

52676 Haugen Ln.
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Dan Kiedinger



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David Hall
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Westby, WI 54667



KINDNESS
COUNTS LLC

“Now you are Christ’s body, and individually parts of it.” ~ 1 Corinthians 12:27