

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Hello friends,

I have two things for you this weekend. First, a quick recap – last weekend Deacon Tony shared a helpful meditation on the Holy Family and what it means to honor family members, especially when honoring family members is tough. We're blessed to have in Deacon Tony both a man of the cloth and also an accomplished therapist, and I thought he blended the Word and tangible practice very well. Let me name those five practical points again for your continuing digestion:

1. Separate the person from their actions – honoring is not excusing bad behavior but honoring their roles in our lives and treating them with dignity.
2. Set healthy boundaries and limits – boundaries aren't about cutting someone out but about protecting your own and their own emotional wellbeing.
3. Practice forgiveness – this isn't excusing the other person but choosing not to hold onto resentment. When we forgive, we reflect God's mercy, which is always greater than our hurt. Remember – forgiveness is a process, and God walks us through it.
4. Pray for your parents – Ask God to bless them, heal their hearts, and guide their actions. Give Him permission to transform your relationship.
5. Focus on your own actions – we are ultimately responsible for our own response, regardless of what or who we're dealing with.

Second, this weekend we're celebrating the feast of the Epiphany. In some Christian churches (especially the Orthodox and Eastern Catholics), the Epiphany bears as much weight as Christmas – it's the moment when Christ starts to be revealed not just to the Holy Family and the shepherds, but to the whole world. Here come these three very non-Jewish scholars/philosophers(*continued on page 2*)

January 5, 2025 The Epiphany of the Lord

Readings are in the hymnal,
#1011

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 5, 2025

(continued from page 1) /royals from the East following a supernatural breakthrough into the natural order (that is, the star) to the true Light they've been looking for. The mission of the Magi is first to find Christ, but even more than that to reveal Christ to the world. They are, in a real sense, some of the first spreaders of the Gospel, some of the first evangelists. We have a deep tradition of marking the top of the main door or multiple doors in your house with the date and the letters C, M, B for the names of the Three Magi – Caspar, Melchior, Balthasar. If you would like to take part in this door marking, we've got some blessed chalk ready to go in the back of our churches. Just take a piece home and mark at the top of the doors "20 + C + M + B + 25" – it's a good way to inaugurate the new year and a good way to remind yourself whenever you look up and see those letters that there's something different about a home marked by Christ's birth, revelation, death and resurrection.

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.

DIOCESE OF LA CROSSE GUIDELINES FOR REPORTING INSTANCES OF CHILD ABUSE: The Diocese of La Crosse, through its policies and procedures, seeks to provide a prompt, appropriate and compassionate response to reporters of sexual abuse of a child by any diocesan agent (bishop, priest, deacon, employee, religious, vendor or volunteer). Anyone wishing to make a report of an allegation of sexual abuse should send that report to Mrs. Teresa Brown, Complaint Intake Agent, at the Diocese of La Crosse, P.O. Box 4004, La Crosse, WI 54602-4004. Alternatively, you can contact Mrs. Brown at 608.791.0179 or intakeagent@diolc.org. The reporting form is available through the Diocese of La Crosse Office of Safe Environment or on the diocesan website at: diolc.org/safe-environment/reporting. Individuals are also encouraged to take their reports directly to civil authorities. Copies of the diocesan policy are available through your local Parish and on the diocesan website. If you have any questions about the Diocese of La Crosse and the implementation of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, please contact *Teresa Brown, Diocese of La Crosse, at 608.791.2679 or tbrown@diolc.org*.

January 5, 2025

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of Dec. 23-29, 2024
Offertory: \$8,799.50
Retired Religious: \$503.00
Total: \$9,302.50
Needed Weekly: \$4,600.00
November E-gifts: \$2,310.88

2024-2025

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Goal: \$35,560.00
Received to date: \$29,500.00
Donors: 77
THANK YOU!

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 4 January, 6:30 PM Women of the Parish
(PCCW)
Sunday, 5 January, 10:30 AM +Jim Graham
(the Biebl Family)
Wednesday, 8 January, 5:15 PM Martha Torres
(Diana Hernandez)
Friday, 10 January, 8:00 AM +James Kuehn
(Randy & Julie Schafer)
Saturday, 11 January, 6:30 PM +Philip Brueggen
(Dave & Sue Fanta)
Sunday, 12 January, 10:30 AM +Ione Hauser
(Bud Hauser)

CHURCH CALENDAR

PCCW CIRCLE FOR JANUARY: ST. ANTHONY
Monday-Tuesday, 30 December-7 January Fr. Joe out of state
Sunday, 5 January, 9:00-10:15 AM Confirmation Class in Marian Hall & classroom
Wednesday, 8 January, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM St. Mary's Quilters in Marian Hall
Thursday, 9 January, 6:30-8:00 PM Little Rock Bible Study in Marian Hall
Friday, 10 January, 9:00-10:30 AM Little Rock Bible Study in Marian Hall
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
Sunday, 12 January, following Mass Children's Choir rehearsal
Monday, 13 January, 3:00-5:00 PM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd in CGS classroom

Ministry Schedule

Sat., Jan. 11, 6:30 PM

Sheryl Robinson Eucharistic Minister
Will Fisher Altar Server
Pat Biebl Lector

Sun., Jan. 12, 10:30 AM

Den. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister
Amelia Kimmet Altar Server
Sebastian Kimmet Altar Server
Melanie Halvorson 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 teilhاردproject.com.

Automatic Transfers for Tithing – St. Mary Parish provides a system for the members of the parish to support the church using the convenience of automatic transfers from their checking or savings account. Avoid the inconvenience of writing a check. Save on the cost of support envelopes. Please pick up a form today in the Atrium for making your contributions to the parish by means of an automatic transfer. 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.

Peace begins with a smile


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608-606-0832 (cell)
rjhoneyfarm@hotmail.com



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CEMETERY MONUMENTS, VETERANS MEMORIALS, SIGNAGE

“Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.” ~ Matthew 2:2