

# Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Hello friends,

For the past few weeks my lungs have had a hearty coating of sawdust keeping various other contagions at bay (yes, I exercise dust management, but that really only goes so far). I've been sanding away at, chiseling, and shaping the original corpus (body) from St. Mary Viroqua's crucifix, a six-foot tall statue with (past tense) a bit of mouse damage and some of the mildew that comes with deeply aged wood. If you've been around Viroqua for the last few weeks (and the last few years of leadup), you may recall hearing that this last week we began our 2025 renovation, and my part in that is getting the restored crucifix ready to go.

For the sake of backtracking and letting you in on a thing that's important to your priest, when I was at Mundelein down in Chicago I took full advantage of the seminary woodshop. My old man is a tradesman by original profession, having supported our family as a general contractor when we were still out in California, carrying on the family business he had first inherited from his own father (who, coincidentally, spent a good bit of time building churches in the mid-1900's church building boom). From time to time my dad would bring us out to the jobsite, and maybe since then I've always had an appreciation for folks that have some grime under their fingernails. Anyhow, starting as a kid and during my time in that Mundelein shop, I've found the process of woodworking to be remarkably cathartic, rejuvenating. Wood generally does exactly what you tell it to do, which puts the responsibility squarely on the woodworker to tell it to do the right thing. It moves, it breathes, even decades after it's cut down and processed. One wrong smack with a chisel can ruin days' worth of work, and even the work of repairing that kind of damage adds remarkable character and narrative to the end product.  
*(continued on page 2)*

**February 23, 2025**  
**7th Sunday in**  
**Ordinary Time**

*Readings are in the hymnal,  
#1112*

### **Eucharist**

**Saturdays** - 6:30 PM  
**Sundays** - 10:30 AM  
**Wednesday** - 5:15 PM  
**Fridays** - 8:00 AM

### **Livestreaming Mass**

[www.facebook.com/StMarysCoonValley](http://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](http://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](mailto:stmaryformation@mwt.net); (608) 637-7711

Beth Lakmann, Music Director, [stmaryparish@mwt.net](mailto:stmaryparish@mwt.net); (608) 637-7711

Fran Campbell, Secretary/Bookkeeper, [stmaryparish@mwt.net](mailto:stmaryparish@mwt.net), (608) 637-7711; Parish Kitchen (608) 637-7878

400 Congress Avenue, Viroqua, WI 54665

# February 23, 2025

*(continued from page 1)* It's been strange working on this old corpus. After practicing away at woodworking for a decade now, I get to ply those same strokes and cuts I've been learning on a fixture of this liturgical home. The strange part of all this is the hunching over Jesus' face and feet and kneecaps, feeling like I need to apologize to Him for trimming up the crown of thorns, drawing out that sprained ankle or beat-up nose. Just as strange was cutting off half His hand where the mice had done their most effective work, carving down a new block and shaping new fingers to reflect those hands that worked the same miracles we hear about in the Gospels. The fact that Jesus has a Face, that He looks at you and I face to face, His simple *realism* is resonating.

Anyway, all that's to say that I'm glad that I get to encounter Christ with you and in you, to witness you encountering Him face to face. He loves you, He delights in you, and He is so remarkably glad to be a part of your story. God bless you,

Fr. Joe

**LADIES NIGHT OUT** St. Mary's Parish is planning another ladies night out. We will meet at **6:00 PM at Old Towne Inn** for a relaxing evening of friendship and fellowship, **Thursday, February 27. Please sign up by February 24th** (signup sheet in the gathering space), so that reservations can be made. Questions or comments, please call Joyce Humfeld at 608-606-0873 or 608-634-4059.

**Freedom in Forgiveness - March 8, 2025** at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, La Crosse. Come together with other like-minded men; attendees are empowered to find freedom in forgiveness and hope in healing. Register at: [menofthecross.org](http://menofthecross.org) or scan the code on the card (*available in the gathering space*).

**The PCCW and Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish are both offering a \$500 scholarship** to two graduating seniors of our parish. Scholarship applications can be picked up in the gathering space or downloaded from the parish website, [www.stmaryparish.org](http://www.stmaryparish.org) . Scholarship applications are due in the parish office by **Monday, April 14.**

# February 23, 2025

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of Feb. 10-16, 2024

Offertory: \$3,518.40

Retired Religious: \$100

CCHD: \$1.00

Total: \$3,520.40

Needed Weekly: \$4,600.00

January E-gifts: \$2,341.25

## 2024-2025

## DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Goal: \$35,560.00

Received to date: \$34,690.00

Donors: 85

THANK YOU!

## MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, 22 February, 6:30 PM +Pete Swanson**

(Joel & Kathryn Anderson)

**Sunday, 23 February, 10:30 AM +Matthew Keenan**

(Roger & Joyce Humfeld)

**Wednesday, 26 February, 5:15 PM +Richard & Helen Fanta**

(Dave & Sue Fanta)

**Friday, 28 February, 8:00 AM +Verna Mae Buhr**

(Roger & Phyllis Krause)

**Saturday, 1 March, 6:30 PM +Ed & Esther Skowron**

(Biebl Family)

**Sunday, 2 March, 10:30 AM +Ione Hauser**

(Bud Hauser)

## Ministry Schedule

**Sat., Mar. 1, 6:30 PM**

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister

Lane Fisher Altar Server

Reid Risher Altar Server

Matthew Tubbin Lector

**Sun., Mar. 2, 10:30 AM**

Raven Stevenson Eucharistic Minister

Alayna Curti Altar Server

Logan Curti Altar Server

Stephen Lambert Lector

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

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.

## CHURCH CALENDAR

**PCCW CIRCLE FOR FEBRUARY: ST. THERESA**

**PCCW CIRCLE FOR MARCH: ST. JOSEPH**

**Sunday, 23 February, 8:00-10:00 AM Catechesis of the Good**

**Shepherd in CGS classroom**

**Sunday, 23 February, 9:00-10:15 AM Theology of the Body in**

**basement classroom**

**Sunday, 23 February, 11:45 AM-1:30 PM OCIA in Marian Hall pic**

**room**

**Sunday, 23 February, 12:00-2:00 PM Reading Group meets in**

**Parish Library**

**Monday, 24 February, 3:00-5:00 PM Catechesis of the Good**

**Shepherd in CGS classroom**

**Monday, 24 February, 5:00-6:30 PM Community Meal at Good**

**Shepherd Church**

**Wednesday, 26 February, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM St. Mary's Quilters**

**in Marian Hall**

**Sunday, 2 March, 8:00-10:00 AM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd**

**in CGS classroom**

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

**Hall & basement classroom**

**Sunday, 2 March, following Mass Children's Choir Rehearsal**

**Sunday, 2 March, 12:00-1:00 PM Family of Faith monthly overview**

**Monday, 3 March, 3:00-5:00 PM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd**

**in CGS classroom**

# February 23, 2025

## 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](mailto:stmaryparish@mwt.net).

The **Viroqua Community Bell Choir** will be starting a beginning bell group on Tuesday, **February 25, from 4:30 - 5:15** at the Viroqua United Methodist Church, 221 S. Center Street, Viroqua. Prospective members should be age 12 and up, with the goal a mixture of youth and adults; players should have two years of musical experience in order to be comfortable with the process of counting and of reading notes. Music choices will be lively with a variety of bell special effects. Contact Cinda Woodward, [cindawoodward@aol.com](mailto:cindawoodward@aol.com), or 608-632-9266, texts welcome.

**WESTBY LOCKER & MEATS**  
The Sausage & Meat Shop  
Rosanne & Rod Aspenson  
402 N. Main St., Westby, WI 54665  
[meatsusa@mwt.net](mailto:meatsusa@mwt.net)  
608-634-4515



### Kickapoo Counseling

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

[info@kickapoo-counseling.com](mailto:info@kickapoo-counseling.com)

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

**R&J's HONEY FARM**  
52676 Haugen Ln.  
Westby, WI 54667  
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Dan Kiedinger



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COUNTS LLC**

*“Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give, and gifts will be given to you.” ~ Luke 6:37*