

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Hello friends,

We are shifting into a new liturgical season in just a few days, with Lent starting up on Ash Wednesday. First, some scheduling business – on Ash Wednesday we’re changing our daily Mass schedule (one day only), with a 7:00 AM Communion Service and 12:10 Mass in Viroqua and a 5:15 Mass in Coon Valley. This is not a holy day of obligation, but the high attendance at services across the Church indicates the power of this day to start off Lent. Starting next week, we’ll have further schedule adjustments on Tuesday and Wednesday, with Stations of the Cross being prayed at 5:15 and Mass shortly after Stations are concluded. On Tuesdays through Lent let’s keep that 4:30 adoration time in Coon Valley, and on Wednesdays we’ll have some time for adoration after Mass is concluded too.

Okay, check mark for scheduling. I’ve mentioned before that I’ve always enjoyed both Advent and Lent – these two seasons of personal preparation and heart-work to get ready for our two biggest Moments. Advent tries to interrupt the busyness (and frankly commercialism) of the “holiday season” with a note of some somberness, withdrawal and retreat before the powerful lighting-up-the-world at Christ’s birth. Lent has a similar tone, preparing us not so much for Easter (the Resurrection) as for the entire Easter Triduum – the movement from the Last Supper (Holy Thursday) through Jesus’ arrest to His death (Good Friday), and finally to His Resurrection (the Easter Vigil). It’s no coincidence that both the high Mass at Christmas (Midnight) and the main Mass at Easter (the Vigil) share this imagery of light growing and piercing through the physical darkness of night – it shows what Jesus is always doing in you and me, every single day. Anyhow, Catholics are serious about that difference, that we’re not *(continued on page 2)*

March 2, 2025
8th Sunday in
Ordinary Time

*Readings are in the hymnal,
#1115*

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

March 2, 2025

(continued from page 1) putting the cart before the horse by jumping right to the Resurrection Moment, but rather taking in the full movement from Last Supper to Death to Resurrection. Story is important.

As far as our part in Lent goes, the Church has traditionally recommended three main (and effective) ways to prepare – in prayer, in fasting, and in almsgiving. Take some time over the next few days before Ash Wednesday comes along to ask some simple questions about these three categories. Practical action plans are important here. For prayer, “Jesus, how are you trying to draw me deeper into relationship with you?” For fasting, either (A) “what is getting in the way of my relationship with you that you’re asking me to let go of?” or (B, if there’s nothing needing cleaning up there), “what good thing are you asking me to let go of so I can learn to rely on you more?” For almsgiving, “how are you asking me to give to the point of discomfort to help those who need my help?” Of course this can be financial, but I also find extra time and effort to be personally fruitful. All simple things to pray with, and I pray for your beautiful and restorative Lent! God bless you,

Fr. Joe

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 or scan the code on the card (*available in the gathering space*).

Grief is a journey. It can often feel like you're walking alone in the dark or caught forever standing in a fog. No matter how long it has been since losing a loved one, grief can greatly affect your life, (spiritually, emotionally, physically, socially, mentally, financially, etc.).

Grief Share is a 13-week support program, being hosted jointly by the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Mary’s Parishes. Here you will hear insights from grief experts, meet others who understand what you’re going through and learn how to navigate your grief. Participants can share as much or little as they are comfortable. Topics to be discussed include anger, regret, loneliness, sadness, friendships, questions for God, feeling overwhelmed, selfcare and more. Please join us for Grief Share, where you can find comfort, strength, and hope! All are welcome.

When: Tuesdays 2:00 - 4:00 pm
April 1st through June 24th, 2025

Where: Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church
400 Congress Ave.
Viroqua, WI 54665

Facilitators: Janet Olmstead, GC-C
Deacon Anthony Shay, Ed. D, LPC, CRC

Registration Fee: \$20.00

To Register (or if you have questions), contact the church office at 608-637-7711, email stmaryparish@mwt.net, or go to the website at www.griefshare.org

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. Scholarship applications are due in the parish office by **Monday, April 14.**

March 2, 2025

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of Feb. 17-23 2024
 Offertory: \$4,028.25
 Total: \$4,028.25
 Needed Weekly: \$4,600.00
 January E-gifts: \$2,341.25

2024-2025

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Goal: \$35,560.00
 Received to date: \$34,870.00
 Donors: 86
 THANK YOU!

Ministry Schedule

Sat., Mar. 8, 6:30 PM

Julie Moore Eucharistic Minister
 Will Fisher Altar Server
 Seth Kiedinger Altar Server
 Amy Matthes Lector

Sun., Mar. 9, 10:30 AM

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister
 Jacob Kimmet Altar Server
 Amelia Kimmet Altar Server
 Mary Ellen Hatton Lector

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

Fish Fry at St. Charles, Genoa – March 7, March 21, and April 4

Come enjoy a delicious Fish Fry at St. Charles School, 707 Eagle Street, Genoa, WI on March 7, March 21, and April 4th! Eat in or get it to go. **Serving from 5 pm - 7 pm** or gone, in the cafeteria. Dinner includes: 3 pieces of cod fish, baked potato, coleslaw, baked beans and a bun for \$15. Drinks and desserts sold separately. While you visit, play some games & enjoy the camaraderie!

REMINDER: registration date for *Socialize Camp Gray Middle School Retreat*, March 14-16, is **March 7** - cost \$35/attende. Contact Pat Obernberger, stmaryformation@mwt.net for more information.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 1 March, 6:30 PM +Ed & Esther Skowron
 (Biebl Family)
Sunday, 2 March, 10:30 AM +Ione Hauser
 (Bud Hauser)
Wednesday, 5 March, 12:10 PM +Delbert Welper
 (Ben Zadow)
Friday, 7 March, 8:00 AM +Ambrose Timmerman
 (Timmerman Friends)
Saturday, 8 March, 6:30 PM +William Chart
 (Darlene Chart)
Sunday, 9 March, 10:30 AM People of the Annunciation & St. Mary's Parishes

CHURCH CALENDAR

PCCW CIRCLE FOR MARCH: ST. JOSEPH

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
Wednesday, 5 March, Parish Office Closed in observance of Ash Wednesday
Wednesday, 5 March, 7:00 AM Communion Service
Wednesday, 5 March, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM St. Mary's Quilters in Marian Hall
Wednesday, 5 March, 12:10 PM Ash Wednesday Mass
Friday, 7 March, First Friday Adoration following Mass
Sunday, 9 March, Daylight Savings Time begins - turn clocks ahead one hour
Sunday, 9 March, 8:00-10:00 AM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd in CGS classroom
Sunday, 9 March, 9:00-10:15 AM Theology of the Body in basement classroom
Sunday, 9 March, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM First Communion Class in basement classroom
Sunday, 9 March, 11:45 AM-1:30 PM OCIA in Marian Hall pie room
Monday, 10 March, 3:00-5:00 PM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd in CGS classroom
Wednesday, 12 March, 5:15 PM Stations of the Cross
Wednesday, 12 March, Mass and Adoration follow Stations of the Cross

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.



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



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

R&J's HONEY FARM
52676 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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David Hall
Auctioneer - Lic. # 4007-52
koch@mwt.net 608-632-4194

S3109 Prairie Edge Rd
Westby, WI 54667



**KINDNESS
COUNTS LLC**

"A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good..." ~ Luke 6:45