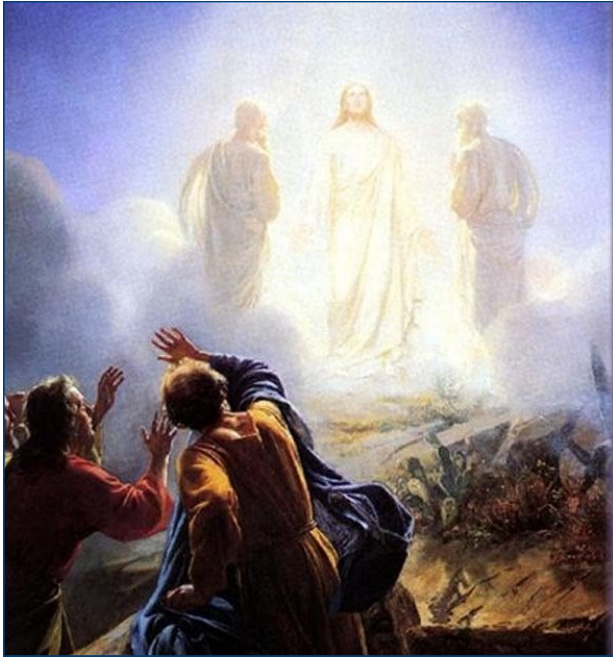


Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Hello friends,

In just a few days (March 19, the Feast of St. Joseph the Workman), we've got the anniversary of Bishop Battersby's announcement as our new bishop. Right around 6:02 AM I got a flurry of texts (I think starting with Msgr. Kachel), saying something like "did you hear the news?" Since I usually wait until at least 6:05 to check the news I responded that no, I hadn't, then pulled up the announcement, along with the note that there was a press conference coming up later that morning in La Crosse introducing the new boss. I promptly cancelled an appointment (I can't remember who it was with – I apologize if it was you) and jumped in my car to go meet him. You've maybe heard Bishop Battersby speak by now, in which case you've heard his comforting extemporaneous style; but at the end of his address he really hit the nail on the head when he looked out at the priests and curia gathered together and let us know in clear terms, "I am not the bishop you need me to be. If you want me to be the bishop you need, you'll need to pray and fast for me."

Over the next few months, after preliminary listening to his priests and people and perceiving a general fatigue and heaviness across our parishes and presbyterate (the group of priests), Bishop Battersby proceeded to develop and implement a three stage plan for Diocesan renewal, starting with growing a relationship with his priests (last year through Lent this year), then with his people (Easter through Advent), then fostering a deeper relationship amongst his people and their priests (Advent through Pentecost 2026). One tangible moment I want to invite you to is coming up in just a week and a half here – a Mass of (*continued on page 2*)

March 16, 2025
2nd Sunday of Lent

*Readings are in the hymnal,
#1021*

Eucharist

Saturdays - 6:30 PM

Sundays - 10:30 AM

Wednesday - 5:45 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. 6:15 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 6:15 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 16, 2025

(continued from page 1) Reparation on March 27, at 10:00 AM at the Cathedral. By my friend Fr. Sakowski's announcement about this event,

“What is this day about? We will precede the Mass with prayers seeking reparation for any and all grave harm perpetrated in our diocese during our 157-year history, including harm caused by our priests and bishops. None of us can undo that harm, but we can call on Jesus to remove the barriers to his love that we have imposed, with confidence that he is eager to unleash the fire of his love throughout our diocese. With humility and repentance, we give him full permission to do what only he can do.”

You are welcome to join myself and my brother priests for this moment of prayer walking together toward restoration and healing under our Bishop's leadership. In the meantime, please pray for this whole process to play out under the Holy Spirit's guidance. He has a plan for His Church, and I am grateful and (with trepidation) excited to participate in it with you. God bless you,

Fr. Joe

Last Sunday we welcomed **Elias Rogerly Stevenson** into the Christian community through the Sacrament of Baptism. Elias is the son of Raven and Emily (Ekern) Stevenson. Welcome to this community of faith!

Please extend condolences to the family of **Kevin E. McGuire** who passed away March 12, 2025. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at 11:00 AM at the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish - Viroqua. Father Joseph Richards will officiate. A luncheon will be served in the parish hall following services. Burial is in the Viroqua Cemetery. Visitation on Monday, March 17, 2025, 5:00-7:00 PM, and Tuesday, March 18, 2025, from 9:30 AM until time of service at the church. May he rest in peace.

The Passion: We are looking for volunteers to help with the performance of the Passion of Christ on Good Friday. Sign up in the atrium or contact Brenda Corr - (608) 632-5208 or brendacorr@mwt.net. Rehearsals will be Mondays and Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 PM with additional times during Holy Week. **Rehearsals begin March 17th.**

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

March 16, 2025

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of Mar. 3-9, 2024

Offertory: \$4,048.00

Total: \$4,048.00

Needed Weekly: \$4,600.00

Works of Charity: \$575.00

February E-gifts: \$2,233.65

2024-2025

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Goal: \$35,560.00

Received to date: \$35,020.00

Donors: 86

THANK YOU!

Ministry Schedule

Sat., Mar. 22, 6:30 PM

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister
Will Fisher Altar Server
Seth Kiedinger Altar Server
Sheryl Robinson Lector

Sun., Mar. 23, 10:30 AM

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister
Alayna Curti Altar Server
Logan Curti Altar Server
Dale Pertzborn Lector

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

The contemplative reading group is planning to meet on **March 30**, in the library from **12-1:30** to discuss *Julian of Norwich: The Showings* by Mirabai Starr.

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

Come enjoy a delicious Fish Fry at St. Charles School, 707 Eagle Street, Genoa, WI on 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!

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 15 March, 6:30 PM +Verna Mae Buhr

(Garith & Julie Steiner)

Sunday, 16 March, 10:30 AM +Ione Hauser

(Ann Graham)

Wednesday, 19 March, 5:45 PM +Howard & Eleanor Olson

(Jim Olson)

Friday, 14 March, 8:00 AM +Pete Swanson

(Tom & Mary Bolstad)

Saturday, 22 March, 6:30 PM Torres Family

(Diana Hernandez)

Sunday, 23 March, 10:30 AM +Guy Nicks

(Family of Guy Nicks)

CHURCH CALENDAR

PCCW CIRCLE FOR MARCH: ST. JOSEPH

Sunday, 16 March, 8:00-10:00 AM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd in CGS classroom

Sunday, 16 March, NO Monthly RE activity in Coon Valley-Community Service Project month

Sunday, 16 March, 10:00 AM Children's Choir rehearsal

Sunday, 16 March, 9:00-10:15 AM Confirmation Class in Marian Hall & basement classroom

Sunday, 16 March, 11:30 AM-1:30 PM First Communion Class in basement classroom

Monday, 17 March, 3:00-5:00 PM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd in CGS classroom

Monday, 17 March, (4:00 PM for family) 5:00-7:00 PM Visitation for Kevin McGuire in gathering space

Monday, 17 March, 5:00-8:00 PM Marriage Group in Marian Hall

Monday, 17 March, 6:30-8:30 PM *The Passion of Christ* rehearsal

Tuesday, 18 March, 9:30 AM Visitation for Kevin McGuire in gathering space with funeral Mass at 11:00 AM; luncheon in Marian Hall following

Tuesday, 18 March, 1:00 PM St. Mary's Book Club in parish library

Wednesday, 19 March, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM St. Mary's Quilters in Marian Hall

Wednesday, 19 March, 5:15 PM Stations of the Cross, Mass and Adoration following

Thursday, 20 March, 6:30-8:30 PM *The Passion of Christ* rehearsal

Sunday, 23 March, 8:00-10:00 AM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd in CGS classroom

Sunday, 23 March, 11:30 AM-1:30 PM First Communion Class in basement classroom

Sunday, 23 March, 11:45 AM-1:30 PM OCIA in Marian Hall pie room

Monday, 24 March, 3:00-5:00 PM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd in CGS classroom

Monday, 24 March, 5:00-6:30 PM Community Meal at Good Shepherd

Monday, 24 March, 6:30-8:30 PM *The Passion of Christ* rehearsal

March 16, 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.

St. Mary's Men's Club Spaghetti and Pasta Dinner

The Men's Club will be hosting a spaghetti and pasta dinner on **March 29, 2025 from 4-7 PM** at St. Mary's Church, 900 Central Ave, Coon Valley. \$12 adults, \$5 kids under 12, and children under 3 free. Get a plate of spaghetti or pasta with sauce and meatballs, garlic bread, salad, coffee, milk or water and ice cream for dessert. Wine and beer will be available for purchase.

Parish Family,

If you are interested in participating in a parish-wide (non-monetary) birthday gift for Father Joe in April, please get into contact with Carly Zadow, either after Sunday Masses, or at 608-792-4872 / zadow2021@gmail.com.

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**.

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

Roger and Joyce Humfeld

R&J's
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Dan Kiedinger



Oakwood Realty LLC

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dan@oakwoodrealty.com

Let me help you sell your home, farm, or vacant land.



"This is my chosen Son; listen to him" ~ Luke 9:35