

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Hello friends,

In case you were not in last weekend, I'd like to follow up on some of what I shared in my homily about renewal and pastoral planning. Two weeks ago, Fr. Derek Sakowski invited me to sit on a council supporting him in his work of studying and communicating the needs and resources of parishes throughout the Diocese. I expect that this will be a multi-year project whose practical ambition winds up with A) the rearrangement of parishes and pastorates and B) a healthy long-term treatment of both people and priests. A good example of this work is the collaboration we've already seen between Coon Valley and Viroqua – an arrangement that (I think effectively) respects the needs of both parishes as well as the resources we have available to us (personnel, pastorship, finances, etc.).

The central reality here is that the Diocese today is in a different place than it was three decades ago and where it will be a decade from now. For a while we've known there's a shortage of priests (the so-called "vocations crisis"), and more recently we've recognized a concurrent crisis in changing demographics (the "people crisis"): long-time parishioners are aging, a large portion of middle-aged parishioners and families have disaffiliated themselves from religious practice, and a surprising number of middle-aged and young parishioners and families are returning to or seeking out the Church for the first time. There's a strange tension here – many of you have experienced the deep question "what do I have to do to bring my (fill-in-the-blank) back?" At the same time, here and elsewhere we are witnessing the humanly-inexplicable phenomenon of folks responding to the Holy Spirit and integrating themselves into the life of the Church, seeking out a meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ and His people. All of this is to say that we are in a season of necessary change and development, *(continued on page 2)*

March 23, 2025
3rd Sunday of Lent

*Readings are in the hymnal,
#1024*

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 23, 2025

(continued from page 1) and I am curious, excited, and more than a little nervous (not the right word) to see how things shake out. Our job is to listen together for the voice of the Holy Spirit and try our darndest to follow where He leads.

It is telling that when Fr. Sakowski called me to invite me into this process (which I short-handedly refer to as “pastoral planning”), he specified clearly “I want you to help me with this process of renewal – I don’t even think ‘pastoral planning’ is the right term for it.” “Renewal” – that is an important word. The Lord is renewing His Church always. He has been for the last 1,970 years, and He will be for the next however-many years we have ahead of us. It is also telling that Bishop Battersby is inaugurating this process, roughly a year into his time as our Bishop, with a Mass of Reparation this coming Thursday (to which you are invited, 10:00 at the Cathedral), acknowledging and praying for restoration wherever harm has been done in our Church throughout our history. This is a healing and renewing process, and I invite you to join me in praying our way through it. If you have any questions along the way, I make the same offer I made last weekend – feel free to ask. I may not be able to give a full answer, but I’ll endeavor to give a straight answer. God bless you!

Fr. Joe

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 are on Mondays and Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 PM with additional times during Holy Week.

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**.

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 23, 2025

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of Mar. 10-16, 2024

Offertory: \$3,656.00

Total: \$3,656.00

Needed Weekly: \$4,600.00

February E-gifts: \$2,233.65

2024-2025

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Goal: \$35,560.00

Received to date: \$35,020.00

Donors: 87

THANK YOU!

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 22 March, 6:30 PM Torres Family

(Diana Hernandez)

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

(Family of Guy Nicks)

Tuesday, 25 March, 12:10 PM Martha Torres

(Diana Hernandez)

Wednesday, 26 March, 5:45 PM +Delbert Welper

(Ben Zadow)

Friday, 28 March, 8:00 AM People of the Annunciation & St.

Mary's Parishes

Saturday, 29 March, 6:30 PM +Pete Swanson

(Roger & Joyce Humfeld)

Sunday, 30 March, 10:30 AM +Carl P. Simon & Margaret S. Simon

(Joseph Simon)

Ministry Schedule

Sat., Mar. 29, 6:30 PM

Julie Moore Eucharistic Minister

Lane Fisher Altar Server

Reid Fisher Altar Server

Dan Kiedinger Lector

Sun., Mar. 30, 10:30 AM

Pat Obernberger Eucharistic Minister

Basil Stevenson Altar Server

Mariah Sullivan Altar Server

Melanie Halvorson 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.

CHURCH CALENDAR

PCCW CIRCLE FOR MARCH: ST. JOSEPH

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

Tuesday, 25 March, 8:00 AM-1:00 PM Parish Office closed for Agreed Upon Procedures financial audit

Tuesday, 25 March, 12:10 PM Annunciation of the Lord Mass

Wednesday, 26 March, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM St. Mary's Quilters in Marian Hall

Wednesday, 26 March, 5:15 PM Stations of the Cross, Mass and Adoration following

Thursday, 27 March, 6:30-8:30 PM *The Passion of Christ* rehearsal

Friday, 28 March, Parish Office open--computer installation to be rescheduled

Saturday, 29 March, 11:00 AM Mass of Christian burial for Helen R. Pedretti, lunch following in Marian Hall

Sunday, 30 March, 8:00-10:00 AM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd in CGS classroom

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

Sunday, 30 March, 12:00-1:30 PM Reading Group meeting in the parish library

Monday, 31 March, 3:00-5:00 PM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd in CGS classroom

Monday, 31 March, 6:30-8:30 PM *The Passion of Christ* rehearsal

Tuesday, 1 April, 2:00-4:00 PM Grief Share Support Program in Marian Hall pie room

Fish Fry at St. Charles, Genoa – April 4

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

March 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.

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.

Pie & Ice Cream Fundraiser

Date: Saturday, **March 29, 2025**

Time: 1:30-3:00 PM

Location: Northland Nursing Home
323 Black River Avenue, Westby

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



"God replied, 'I am who am'." ~ Exodus 3:14