

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Hello friends,

For the past few weeks here I've been aware of the looming "March 1-9" in my schedule – an approaching flurry of extra activity demanding a bit more time and energy and intention. These extra things are all powerful and beautiful moments – things like Ash Wednesday, the healing service in Cashton, and a retreat I'm giving (by the time you read this, "gave") up in Wausau on Saturday – all moments for me to listen to the Holy Spirit and to witness His movement in folks like you and those Wausau folks on the receiving end of it all. In the first place, allow me to apologize if you've been on the receiving end of needing more of my time than I could give over the last few weeks (or anywhere along the last few years). In the second place, thank you for sharing in all the moments that made up the last few weeks here – weekend and daily Masses, those extra events, coming through to use our little chapel, etc.

The last few weeks are also maybe a good look at the way seasons like Lent and Advent sometimes go. They're seasons intended for both you and me to step back and breathe deeply with the Lord – to take on the physical and spiritual posture of receptivity and openness to His voice. One of my favorite passages from the Old Testament comes from 1 Kings 9: 9-18 – Elijah's cave. As it tends to go with him, Elijah is being hunted down for doing what the Lord asked (he had a habit of causing problems for folks in power), and he takes refuge in a cave up in the mountains to listen for the Lord's voice. The way the story (*continued on page 2*)

March 9, 2025
1st Sunday of Lent

*Readings are in the hymnal,
#1118*

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 9, 2025

(continued from page 1) plays out, the Lord tells Elijah to wait for his voice. A raging wind whips up against the mountain, strong enough to break boulders, but the Lord was not in the wind. Next an earthquake shakes the mountain to its roots, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. Next a fire sweeps across the mountain, but the Lord was not in the fire. Finally, after all this tumult, Elijah hears a quiet, gentle sound – this finally he recognizes as the Lord’s voice.

At our snowy Ash Wednesday Masses, I shared a peculiar phenomenon that unfailingly comes up in me on fasting days. Despite the fact that I’m usually not too terribly hungry until noon or one or so, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday morning never fail to wake me up with a compelling “my goodness I need a hamburger right now.” There’s a real spiritual component to this season – an invitation into the desert with Jesus, an invitation from the Holy Spirit to let this season be different, set apart, and a corresponding imposition from the very real and very annoying evil spirit to try and distract you from whatever the Holy Spirit is trying to do in you. It takes work to slow down into these seasons, to let this time be different, and that work is work worth doing.

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 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 9, 2025

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of Feb. 24-Mar. 2, 2024

Offertory: \$4,592.50

Total: \$4,592.50

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!

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 8 March, 6:30 PM +William Chart

(Darlene Chart)

Sunday, 9 March, 10:30 AM People of the Annunciation & St. Mary's Parishes

Wednesday, 12 March, 5:45 PM +William & Grace McGinley

(Jim McGinley)

Friday, 14 March, 8:00 AM +Ione Hauser

(Patricia Biebl)

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

(Garith & Julie Steiner)

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

(Ann Graham)

CHURCH CALENDAR

PCCW CIRCLE FOR MARCH: ST. JOSEPH

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, 11:30 AM-1:30 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, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM St. Mary's Quilters in Marian Hall

Wednesday, 12 March, 5:15 PM Stations of the Cross, Mass and Adoration following

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

Sunday, 16 March, after 8:00 AM Mass Monthly RE activity in Coon Valley

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

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

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.**

Ministry Schedule

Sat., Mar. 15, 6:30 PM

Pat Biebl Eucharistic Minister

Sebastian Kimmet Altar Server

Mark Brueggen Lector

Sun., Mar. 16, 10:30 AM

Al Mislivecek Eucharistic Minister

Francis Corr Altar Server

Reuben Stevenson Altar Server

Paul O'Rourke 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 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!

March 9, 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.

Hi! My name is Julie Fergot, and I am a local coordinator for International Experience. We are looking for families to host foreign exchange students arriving for the 2025-2026 school year. Our students come with their own spending money, insurance, and a strong desire to be a part of an American family. As a host family, you provide a bed, reasonable transportation, and three meals a day. If you've ever thought about it, let's chat. 608-632-9276; fergotjulie@gmail.com

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.

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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KINDNESS
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"One does not live on bread alone." ~ Luke 4:4