

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Hello friends,

Before I get to the Big News from last week, a bit of business. If you're reading this after Mass, thinking, "that wasn't Fr. Joe," it's likely because that wasn't me celebrating Mass. I must apologize – I usually like to publish my absences with a bit more notice, but Easter threw regularity off a bit. This weekend I am out in Indianapolis for a spiritual directee's wedding (pray for Audrey and her now-husband Sean). I'm following this up immediately with a retreat out in Oconomowoc. I'll be back Thursday night in time for our Confirmations out in Richland Center and Friday morning Mass as usual. In the meantime, there will not be Mass on Tuesday or Thursday, but Dcn. Tony will lead a Communion service on Wednesday at 5:15, followed by adoration.

Now for the Big News. I'm sure you've heard by now that Pope Francis passed away last Monday after a lengthy stay at the hospital for double pneumonia and finally a stroke and cardiac arrest. His death reminds me of our last pope who died in office, John Paul II. John Paul II fostered a deep devotion to Divine Mercy and appropriately died on Divine Mercy weekend (that is, this weekend) twenty years ago. Similarly, Pope Francis died on Easter Monday – a fitting moment to pass through death with hope into Christ's resurrection. For a man deeply committed to letting Jesus Christ's work, teaching, and Paschal mystery *mean* something, this was a powerful moment for him to pass into the next life himself. On Saturday morning the Church celebrated his funeral Mass in Rome, (*continued on page 2*)

April 27, 2025
Sunday of Divine Mercy

*Readings are in the hymnal,
#1066*

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

April 27, 2025

(continued from page 1) and we join the Church across the world in mourning his death and thanking God for his life and selfless service.

This also brings us into an interesting season in the church – a period known as “Sede Vacante,” (the seat is empty), the preparation for the conclave that will choose the next pope. When a pope dies, the Church first enters a period of official mourning. All major decisions are put on hold save the selection of a new Holy Father. Meanwhile, within fifteen days after the pope’s death all the Church’s cardinals gather in Rome, hand in their phones, and enter a closed-door session to select the next pope. They proceed through a series of voting waves until a two-thirds majority is reached. With each failed wave, black smoke billows out of a special chimney at the Vatican, until finally white smoke billows to indicate a successful vote. Technically any baptized male is a candidate for the papacy, but the chances of someone like me or Fr. Sam getting nominated are thankfully slim. Most likely is that one of the cardinals at the conclave will be the one to step out on the balcony and be hailed as the new Holy Father with a “habemus Papam,” or “we have a pope!” I invite you to pray earnestly for the selection of our next Holy Father, perhaps even to join me in a daily rosary for that intention until the process is complete.

God bless you, and a very happy Easter to you,

Fr. Joe

St. Mary’s Lenten Food Drive

9 March	90 lbs.	
16 March	155 lbs.	
23 March	190 lbs.	
30 March	128 lbs.	
6 April	248 lbs.	
13 April	<u>78 lbs.</u>	
Total donated	889 lbs.	Thank you!

Please turn in your Rice Bowls and Mite Boxes in the baskets in the gathering space.

Divine Mercy Low Sunday Collection Next weekend a second collection will be taken to fund the ministries and outreach of the La Crosse Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. (There will also be envelopes labelled ‘Council of Catholic Women Collection’ in the pews. The envelopes can be returned in the general collection.) Councils seek to support, empower, and educate all Catholic women in the skills of spirituality, leadership, and service. There is a place in Councils for every woman! Thank you in advance for your generosity from the LDCCW!

April 27, 2025

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of Apr. 14-20, 2025

Offertory: \$7,149.97

Good Friday: \$1,121.00

Total: \$8,270.97

Needed Weekly: \$4,600.00

March E-gifts: \$2,109.45

2024-2025

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Goal: \$35,560.00

Received to date: \$37,000.00

Donors: 89

THANK YOU!

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 26 April, 6:30 PM +Ione Hauser

(Peter & Karen Hundt)

Sunday, 27 April, 10:30 AM +Ione Hauser

(Bud Hauser)

Wednesday, 30 April, Women of the Parish

(PCCW) *Fr. Joe will say this intention while on retreat*

Friday, 2 May, 8:00 AM +Ambrose Timmerman

(Timmerman Friends)

Saturday, 3 May, 6:30 PM +Lawrence George King

(Nathan & Clare King)

Sunday, 4 May, 10:30 AM +Carl P. & Margaret S. Simon

(Joseph Simon)

CHURCH CALENDAR

PCCW CIRCLE FOR APRIL: ST. BRIDGET

PCCW CIRCLE FOR MAY: ST. ANTHONY

Friday-Thursday, 25 April-1 May Fr. Joe leaving after Mass Friday & returning Thursday morning to attend wedding and retreat

Saturday-Sunday, 26-27 April Blest Art visiting parish

Sunday, 27 April, 8:00-10:00 AM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd in CGS classroom

Sunday, 27 April, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM First Communion Rehearsal

Sunday, 27 April, 11:45 AM-1:30 PM OCIA in Marian Hall pie room

Monday, 28 April, 3:00-5:00 PM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd in CGS classroom

Monday, 28 April, 5:00-6:30 PM Community Meal at Good Shepherd Church

Tuesday, 29 April, 5:00-7:00 PM Grief Share Support Program in Marian Hall

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

Wednesday, 30 April, 5:15 PM Communion Service followed by Adoration

Thursday, 1 May, 6:30 PM Confirmation at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Richland Center (5:30 PM practice)

Friday, 2 May, Parish Office Closed

Friday, 2 May, First Friday Adoration following Mass

Saturday, 3 May, 10:00 AM-3:00 PM First Communion Retreat at Leum residence

Sunday, 4 May, 8:00-10:00 AM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd in CGS classroom

Sunday, 4 May, First Communion

Sunday, 4 May, Children's Choir Practice following Mass

Sunday, 4 May, 12:00-1:00 PM Family of Faith parents' meeting

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

Ministry Schedule

Sat., May 3, 6:30 PM

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister
Pat Biebl Lector

Sun., May 4, 10:30 AM

Al Mislivecek Eucharistic Minister
Alayna Curti Altar Server
Logan Curti Altar Server
Mary Ellen Hatton 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 **June 8th**, in the library from **12-2:00 PM** to discuss *Dorothy Day: Spiritual Writings*.

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.

April 27, 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.

Jubilee Pilgrimage to Italy - 9/29-10/8/2025

Join Fr. Daniel Sedlacek and St. Charles Parish in Genoa for a profound spiritual journey through Italy as we celebrate the Jubilee Year and honor our patron St. Charles Borromeo. This pilgrimage offers a unique opportunity to deepen your faith while visiting sacred Catholic sites in Rome, Orvieto, Assisi, Milan, Arona, and more. Special highlights include the Diaconate Ordination of Kyle Lang of the Diocese of La Crosse at St. Peter's Basilica, walking through the Holy. Cost: \$6,277.00

Are you passionate about **faith-based education** and **academic excellence**? Saint Patrick's Catholic School, Sparta is seeking **dedicated teachers** and a **passionate administrator** to join our vibrant parochial school community! Interested candidates should email office@stpatrikssparta.net with one of the following subject lines: **Teacher Position** or **Administrator Position**

Saturday, May 3, 1st Communion Retreat

10 am- Arrive at the Leum Residence Noon- Lunch
—(E3664 State Hwy 56, Genoa, WI) 1 pm- Rosary Walk
10:15 am- Mass with Father Joe 2 pm- Afternoon activity/snack
11 am- Banner activity 3 pm- Closing prayer & child pick-up

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The Sausage & Meat Shop
Rosanne & Rod Aspenson
402 N. Main St., Westby, WI 54665
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608-634-4515



Kickapoo Counseling

110 N. Main Street
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info@kickapoo-counseling.com

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

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"Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." ~ John 20:29