

# Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Hello friends,

I like trees. I like making things out of trees, I like planting trees, I like hanging hammocks off of trees, I like trees. Right now, I'm writing this article from a retreat center surrounded by old trees (a mix of walnut and oak mostly, with a few patches of cedar splashing early green across the sky), and it's got me thinking on the tree planting we've been doing around both parishes over the last few years. Three years ago, when we put in those first five new trees in Viroqua (three maples and two slow-growing oaks that will certainly not be big enough to hang a hammock off of by the time you or I move on to other pastures) some priest or parishioner shared a line that's stuck with me ever since: "a society grows great when old men plant trees under whose shade they will never sit." I don't know who said this first, but it rings for me. Here at this retreat center, some old man planted these trees before old men today were even young men, without any idea that a hundred years later this group of priests would be joining a long history of folks coming here to pray, encounter and rest with the Lord, but he still bent over to dig each sapling into the ground. Now this youngish man gets to sit (hang) under their shade.

On an annual and a generational level, we're at a strange moment in the history of our Church and our churches. As far as the annual is concerned, on Monday the Bishop picked up his phone to call one then another priest sharing a reassignment (he didn't call me). This is the time of year when new priests get their first assignments, associates get new associate pastorships or become pastors for the first time, and when standing pastors are given new roles or parishes to serve. This has thankfully slowed down from a decade or so ago, but we'll still see some changes around us over the next week or two (one known new assignment is Richland Center, where Msgr. Scheckel has publicly announced his impending retirement). On a generational level, the Diocese (maybe try not to think of it as a monolithic institution, a.k.a. "the Man," so much as a conglomeration of *(continued on page 2)*

**May 4, 2025**  
**3rd Sunday of**  
**Easter**

*Readings are in the hymnal,  
#1069*

## **Eucharist**

**Saturdays - 6:30 PM**  
**Sundays - 10:30 AM**  
**Wednesday - 5:15 PM**  
**Fridays - 8:00 AM**

## **Livestreaming Mass**

[www.facebook.com/StMarysCoonValley](https://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](http://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](mailto:stmaryformation@mwt.net); (608) 637-7711

Beth Lakmann, Music Director, [stmaryparish@mwt.net](mailto:stmaryparish@mwt.net); (608) 637-7711

Fran Campbell, Secretary/Bookkeeper, [stmaryparish@mwt.net](mailto:stmaryparish@mwt.net), (608) 637-7711; Parish Kitchen (608) 637-7878

400 Congress Avenue, Viroqua, WI 54665

# May 4, 2025

*(continued from page 1)* many parts and people) is keenly aware of the Church's changing landscape – birth and death rates, disaffiliation and conversion, geographic movement, cultural animosity and movement away from religious connection, all these and more play into it. In short, we're trying to gracefully enter a season of transition.

So, what do you and I do? We plant trees. We harvest the fruit from the trees planted by our mothers and fathers and grandmothers and grandfathers. We do what our immediate and far-away ancestors did – we listen for and try to respond to the Holy Spirit as well as we can. We pay attention and follow where the Lord leads, and He's leading us somewhere good.

God bless you,

Fr. Joe

This Saturday we welcome **Cahl Brian Vesbach** into the Christian community through the Sacrament of Baptism. Cahl is the son of Phillip and Destinee (Welsh) Vesbach. Welcome to this community of faith!

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

**Divine Mercy Low Sunday Collection** This weekend a second collection will be taken to fund the ministries and outreach of the La Crosse Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. (Envelopes labelled 'Council of Catholic Women Collection' are 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!

# May 4, 2025

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of Apr. 21-27, 2025

Offertory: \$3,777.00

Good Friday: \$30.00

Total: \$3,807.00

Needed Weekly: \$4,600.00

March E-gifts: \$2,109.45

## 2024-2025

## DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Goal: \$35,560.00

Received to date: \$37,470.00

Donors: 89

THANK YOU!

## MASS INTENTIONS

**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)

**Wednesday, 7 May, 5:15 PM Alonso Hernandez Family**

(Diana Hernandez)

**Friday, 9 May, 8:00 AM +Fila Hernandez**

(Diana Hernandez)

**Saturday, 10 May, 6:30 PM +Corinne Finne**

(Biebl Family)

**Sunday, 11 May, 10:30 AM +Guy Nicks**

(Family of Guy Nicks)

## CHURCH CALENDAR

***PCCW CIRCLE FOR MAY: ST. ANTHONY***

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

**Leum residence**

**Saturday, 3 May, during 6:30 PM Mass Baptism of Cahl Brian**

**Vesbach**

**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**

**Tuesday, 6 May, 5:00-7:00 PM Grief Share Support Program in**

**Marian Hall**

**Wednesday, 7 May, Parish Office closed for Spring Diocesan**

**Finance Meeting in Mauston**

**Wednesday, 7 May, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM St. Mary's Quilters in**

**Marian Hall**

**Sunday, 11 May, 8:00-10:00 AM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd**

**in CGS classroom**

**Sunday, 11 May, 12:00 PM Schafer baptism**

## Ministry Schedule

**Sat., May 10, 6:30 PM**

Amy Matthes Eucharistic Minister

Will Fisher Altar Server

Seth Kiedinger Altar Server

Dan Kiedinger Lector

**Sun., May 11, 10:30 AM**

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister

Amelia Kimmet Altar Server

Jacob Kimmet 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 **June 8th**,  
in the library from **12-2:00 PM** to  
discuss *Dorothy Day: Spiritual  
Writings*.

# May 4, 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](mailto:stmaryparish@mwt.net).



Fr. Joe welcomes 5 new members to our Catholic community this Easter Vigil: Cate, Aspen, Sean, Andrew and Ashley, Welcome!

## 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

### WESTBY LOCKER & MEATS

The Sausage & Meat Shop  
Rosanne & Rod Aspenson  
402 N. Main St., Westby, WI 54665  
[meatsusa@mwt.net](mailto:meatsusa@mwt.net)  
608-634-4515



### Kickapoo Counseling

110 N. Main Street  
Westby, WI 54667  
608-634-2365

[info@kickapoo-counseling.com](mailto:info@kickapoo-counseling.com)

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

### Roger and Joyce Humfeld

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Dan Kiedinger



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



*"Sing psalms to the Lord, you faithful ones; give thanks to his holy name." ~ Psalm 30:4*