

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



1st Communion Class ~ Sophia, Sloane, Madelynn, Isaac, Tegan, and Josie

Hello my friends,

As of this writing (and roughly timed, your reading), I'm halfway through my time down in Lincoln. I mentioned last weekend how much I love supporting the missionaries in an organization that played such a role in my own story – consoling and strengthening brand new missionaries, encouraging and bolstering veterans, seeing the work I handed over ten years ago continuing longish after I've gone. I'll always have a good dose of gratitude in my heart for my own experience as a missionary – after having left seminary in college with no intention of returning, it was on a FOCUS campus that I decided to come back and again consider becoming a priest (spoiler alert, I followed through). I re-entered seminary as a missionary fully intending for my priesthood to be a missionary endeavor (and I'm not a unique case).

This is also a handy lens to hold when it comes to understanding my own heart, priesthood, and pastoral direction. We are in a peculiar season in the Church – in many places we are seeing many of the long-standing institutions (developed to suit the needs of a time of fuller pews and deeply ingrained cultural Catholicism) being left behind. Many of the tools and experiments and ideologies we've tried over the last few hundred years have proven insubstantial and *(continued on page 2)*

June 1, 2025

The Ascension of the Lord

*Readings are in the hymnal,
#1079*

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

June 1, 2025

(continued from page 1) fleeing when they're not centered exclusively on Jesus Christ. Massive demographic shifts among both the laity (who's filling the pews) and the clergy (who's in front of the pews) are very soon going to force the reality that even the parish structures we know and love and have grown up in literally cannot continue under the status quo. We don't have a choice but to let our participation in Jesus' Church be changed by the question, "what next?"

If we were in the business of managing and resting on what we've received this would all be serious trouble, but we simply are not in that business. Our business is to hear Jesus' Word: "all authority in Heaven and on Earth has been given to me, so I say to you 'go, make disciples of all nations.'" Jesus' final Word on this Earth is LOUD. The Holy Spirit is moving powerfully, restoring wounded hearts, finding the lost, establishing and building a People centered entirely on Jesus Christ. The Christian vision all comes down to this: you are not made for this world – you are made A) to be loved by a God who made you specifically because He loves you, B) to carry His love with you to people who desperately need to know Him and His love for them. You and me being His missionaries isn't an option, folks – it's a powerful opportunity that He gives us to let our lives be about His life. I'm willing, and I pray that you are willing, and I hope to be with you missionaries together.

God bless you, and I love you very much,

Fr. Joe

Please extend condolences to the family of **Alice Harriet (Rodenschmit) Atteln** who passed away May 28, 2025. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Tuesday, June 3, 2025, at 11:00 AM at the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish - Viroqua; Monsignor Roger Scheckel will officiate. Visitation will be in the church gathering space from 10:00 AM until time of services, with a parish rosary at 10:30 AM. A luncheon in Marian Hall will follow Mass. Burial 2:30-2:45 PM at St. John's Summit Ridge Catholic Cemetery, Norwalk, WI. May she rest in peace.

This summer, we will be hosting a **bible study for girls ages 9-13**. We will be meeting 5 times on Monday afternoons throughout the season. There is a sign up sheet in the gathering space with further details on dates and times. If you'd like more information, please contact Carly Zadow (608-792-4872 or zadow2021@gmail.com). **Please sign up no later than Sunday, June 8th**. Thank you!

Our seminarian, **John Francis**, who started the Bible Study group, will be participating in a **mission program this summer called Biking For Babies**. It is an organization that raises funds to help pregnancy resource centers. John Francis will be biking from Lincoln, NE to St. Louis, MO in July, a 600-mile trip. His personal goal is to raise \$6000, with a total missionary goal of \$450,000. I wanted to provide you with the address to help support him and his mission work. You can donate online at <https://givebutter.com/b4b-2025missionary/ne-team-1> or mail a check to Biking for Babies, PO Box 644, St. Charles, MO, 63302. **MAKE SURE TO PUT HIS NAME IN THE MEMO LINE TO GIVE HIM THE CREDIT FOR HIS GOAL.**

Thanks for considering this worthy cause. He asked that if we are unable to contribute financially, please keep in your prayers the women going through crisis pregnancies that they will be able to utilize services at pregnancy resource centers.

June 1, 2025

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of May 19-25, 2025

Offertory: \$4,371.00

Catholic Life: \$35.00

Rice Bowl: \$227.42

Mite Box: \$28.52

Total: \$4,661.94

Needed Weekly: \$4,600.00

April E-gifts: \$2,343.93

2024-2025

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Goal: \$35,560.00

Received to date: \$38,475.00

Donors: 90

THANK YOU!

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 31 May, 6:30 PM Hernandez Family

(Diana Hernandez)

Sunday, 1 June, 10:30 AM +Anthony Parks

(Patricia Rubasch)

(Fr. Joe will say the weekday Mass intentions while away)

Wednesday, 4 June Fr. Joseph Richards

Friday, 6 June, Mary Larson & Family

(Diana Hernandez)

Saturday, 7 June, 6:30 PM Women of the Parish

(PCCW)

Sunday, 8 June, 10:30 AM +Matthew Keenan

(Royal & Barbara Ross)

CHURCH CALENDAR

PCCW CIRCLE FOR MAY: ST. ANTHONY

PCCW CIRCLE FOR JUNE: ST. THERESA

**Sunday-Friday, 25 May after Mass-6 June, Fr. Joe out of state for
FOCUS training - no weekday Masses**

**Tuesday, 3 June, 10:00-11:00 AM Visitation for Alice H. Atteln in
the gathering space, with parish rosary in the church at
10:30 AM**

**Tuesday, 3 June, 11:00 AM Mass of Christian Burial for Alice H.
Atteln, with luncheon following in Marian Hall**

**Tuesday, 3 June, 5:00-7:00 PM Grief Share Support Program in
Marian Hall**

**Wednesday, 4 June, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM St. Mary's Quilters in
Marian Hall**

**Wednesday, 4 June, 5:15 PM Communion Service with Adoration
following**

Friday, 6 June, 4:00 PM Vesbach/Matthes Wedding Rehearsal

**Saturday, 7 June, 2:00 PM Ryan Vesbach & Alyssa Matthes
Wedding**

Ministry Schedule

Sat., June 7, 6:30 PM

Pat Biebl Eucharistic Minister
Lane Fisher Altar Server
Reid Fisher Altar Server
Sheryl Robinson Lector

Sun., June 8, 10:30 AM

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister
Jacob Kimmel Altar Server
Amelia Kimmel Altar Server
Stephen Lambert Lector

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

REMINDER: please pick up your dishes from the Mike Culek funeral.

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*.

Healing Service – Friday, June 13 at Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Viroqua Come experience God's supernatural love! The evening begins at 4:30 PM with Adoration, followed by 5:30 PM Mass, corporate prayer for healing, and individual healing ministry. All are welcome—come for part or all of the evening. Annunciation of the BVM Parish, Viroqua, WI.

June 1, 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.

Mark your calendar - June 29-July 5 (including July 4), Annunciation of the BVM Parish-Viroqua is hosting Vacation Bible School with area parishes. More information to come.

MARCH FOR LIFE WISCONSIN

Saturday, June 14, 2025 | Wisconsin State Capitol

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

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"All peoples, clap your hands. Cry to God with shouts of joy!" ~ Psalm 47:1