

# Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



**2025 Confirmation - confirmed at Assumption of the BVM-Richland Center**  
**Fr. Joe, Rhet, Nettle, Braelyn, Ilise, Bishop Battersby, Kolbie, Abigail, Owen, Kendal, Frankie**  
Hello friends!

Language is important – sometimes it's a set of words, sometimes a set of shared experiences, sometimes it's a matter of common perspective – language is an important thing. It's maybe telling that one of the first scriptural results of common sin – when the people of Babel join each other in the vanity of building a tower so high it would pierce heaven – God's punishment is to allow the natural results of the disunity of pride and the isolation of vanity by taking away the unity of common language from the people.

Anyhow, language is important. Over the last week and a half, we've been sitting with the reality of a new Holy Father, this one from our very own United States. Unfortunately, he's from Chicago; but as he's spent a good few decades as a missionary outside of Chicago I will let that slide. This is the first time that I know of that a pope's native language has been my own native language (English, although mine is a Californian dialect). As I shared his opening speech last week, today I would like to share the first formal public words he spoke in English – a note before he preached his first homily as pope (which he then delivered in Italian, since he is now the bishop of an Italian diocese). Now from the Holy Father, untranslated:

*(continued on page 2)*

**May 18, 2025**  
**5th Sunday of**  
**Easter**

*Readings are in the hymnal,  
#1075*

## **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 18, 2025

*(continued from page 1)* "I want to repeat the words from the Responsorial Psalm: 'I will sing a new song to the Lord, because He has done marvels,' and indeed, not just with me but with all of us.

"My brother Cardinals, as we celebrate this morning, I invite you to reflect on the marvels the Lord has done, the blessings that the Lord continues to pour out on all of us through the Ministry of Peter.

"You have called me to carry that cross, and to carry out that mission, and I know I can rely on each and every one of you to walk with me, as we continue as a Church, as a community of friends of Jesus, as believers, to announce the Good News, to announce the Gospel."

We each have a place in the Church, you and me and the Holy Father and those guys I went to seminary with in Chicago (my animosity makes more and more sense, doesn't it?) and those folks who have forgotten that they have a place in the Church and those folks who haven't discovered their place in the Church yet. Like Ananias approaching the newly converted Paul with courage in the face of very understandable fear, it is for each of us to build up each other and the kingdom of God on Earth and in the next life together. Let's get building.

God bless you,

Fr. Joe

Please extend condolences to the family of **Michael "Mike" Culek** who passed away May 9, 2025. A Mass of Christian Burial was held Friday, May 16, 2025, at the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish - Viroqua. Mike was laid to rest at St. James Cemetery, Rising Sun. May he rest in peace.

This Sunday we welcome **Lucy Josephine Hewitt**, daughter of Cole and Sara (Pronschinske) Hewitt *AND* **Theodin Joseph Fisher**, son of Drew and Veronica (Kramer) Fisher into the Christian community through the Sacrament of Baptism. Welcome to this community of faith!

**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.

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.

# May 18, 2025

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of May 5-11, 2025

Offertory: \$3,990.00

Total: \$3,990.00

Needed Weekly: \$4,600.00

Roses for Life: \$523.00

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, 17 May, 6:30 PM Mathew K.**

(Darlene Chart)

**Sunday, 18 May, 10:30 AM +Ambrose Timmerman**

(Timmerman Friends)

**Wednesday, 21 May, 5:15 PM +Francis Thayer**

(Jeanette Amundson)

**Friday, 23 May, 8:00 AM +Ione Hauser**

(Harlan & Delores Melby)

**Saturday, 24 May, 6:30 PM +Matthew Keenan**

(Peter & Susan Walby)

**Sunday, 25 May, 10:30 AM +Ione Hauser**

(Bud Hauser)

## CHURCH CALENDAR

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

**Sunday, 18 May, 8:00-10:00 AM, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd in CGS classroom**

**Sunday, 18 May, 9:00 AM Family of Faith May Activity at St.**

**Mary's Parish-Coon Valley with annual Jeopardy game**

**Sunday, 18 May, 10:00 AM Children's Choir practice**

**Sunday, 18 May, Hewitt baptism during Mass with reception following Mass in Marian Hall**

**Sunday, 18 May, Fisher baptism during Mass**

**Sunday, 18 May, 11:45 AM-1:30 PM OCIA in Marian Hall pie room**

**Monday, 19 May, 3:00-5:00 PM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd in CGS classroom**

**Monday, 19 May, 5:00-6:30 PM Community Meal at Good Shepherd Church**

**Tuesday, 20 May, 1:00 PM St. Mary's Book Club in parish library**

**Tuesday, 20 May, 5:00-7:00 PM Grief Share Support Program in Marian Hall**

**Wednesday, 21 May, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM St. Mary's Quilters in Marian Hall**

**Sunday-Friday, 25 May after Mass-6 June, Fr. Joe out of state for FOCUS training**

**Monday, 26 May, Parish Office closed in observance of Memorial Day**

## Ministry Schedule

**Sat., May 24, 6:30 PM**

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister

Will Fisher Altar Server

Mark Brueggen Lector

**Sun., May 25, 10:30 AM**

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister

Basil Stevenson Altar Server

Reuben Stevenson Altar Server

Matthew Tubbin Lector

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

## **Parish & PCCW Scholarship Awards:**

Seth Kiedinger

Devin Nedland

Reid Fisher

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 Sacred Heart in Cashton**

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. Sacred Heart Parish, 1223 Front St., Cashton, WI.

# May 18, 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).

**Hearts on Fire: A Discernment Retreat** for single women 19 – 45. In anticipation of Pentecost, join Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa to explore the yearnings of your heart and discover how to discern God's loving plan for your life. The retreat will be in New Berlin, WI, **May 24-25**. To register or for more information, contact Michelle Horton [mhorton@sinsinawa.org](mailto:mhorton@sinsinawa.org) or (608)695-6060.

# MARCH FOR LIFE WISCONSIN

Saturday, June 14, 2025 | Wisconsin State Capitol

## WESTBY LOCKER & MEATS

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402 N. Main St., Westby, WI 54665  
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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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*"As I have loved you, so you also should love one another." ~ John 13:34*