

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Hello friends,

I'm writing this on Wednesday, getting ready for the next few days' Priest Unity Days (the annual gathering of priests in the Diocese) up in La Crosse. There's a whole lot of flipping into "this next year" going on in church business right now – some of the guys you've met like Frs. McCarty, Sedlacek, and Reither are starting new assignments, you and me are rounding into the start of our fourth year together, we're entering year two with Bishop Battersby – these starts-of-a-new-year lend themselves to reflection and forecasting. At last year's Priest Unity Days, Fr. Sakowski launched us into pastoral and strategic planning with Bishop Battersby's blessing (say that five times fast), and for the last year he's been working to understand just how the Diocese is doing – a project that includes taking in a broad mix of ethnic groups, demographics, city and rural life, some thriving and some recessing populations, old High School rivalries, deep story, animosity and kinship, old wounds and forgiveness – all to say we are a Church of La Crosse made up of many parts. Over this next year we'll see this whole movement toward pastoral planning shift toward on-site consultation.

Practically speaking, "pastoral planning" involves parish mergers, new associations, and rearrangements to honestly address current needs and opportunities with current resources. Beyond tangible resources and personnel and assets & liabilities, our chief limiting factor is a fear of losing what is known and familiar. The chief opportunity here is to acknowledge and respect the ways we're currently serving the 5% of people in the geographic Diocese of La Crosse (*continued on page 2*)

June 29, 2025
13th Sunday in
Ordinary Time

*Readings are in the hymnal,
#1130*

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 29, 2025

(continued from page 1) who are actively involved in the Church and to ask how we can serve the 95% of people who are not. Both of these require respect and good will.

Fr. Sakowski plans to reach out to the Deans throughout the Diocese (again, a Dean is the Diocese's executive branch rep in smaller geographic regions – in our case, Vernon and Richland Counties) to schedule a series of listening sessions in the fall. Together with several team members he'll be travelling around to hear from folks on the ground what their parish's needs, concerns, and hopes are and to communicate more directly what our shared needs, concerns and hopes are. Keep your ears open for those, and I'll publish them thoroughly. Again, I find tremendous hope in this whole season we're in – I've just wrapped my fifth year as a priest, and I am deeply curious where the Holy Spirit is leading us through these next five years, thirty-five years (my retirement age), and hundred years (the end of which you and I will likely not witness). Perhaps next weekend I'll share some words about the signs of parish vitality we're rallying around; and in the meantime, I invite you to pray a simple prayer of invitation with me, "Come Holy Spirit."

God bless you,

Fr. Joe

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, July 14-19, 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.

3rd Annual Picnic on the Lawn – A Community Celebration; Saturday, July 26, 2025 | 11:00 AM–4:00 PM; St. Mary Parish, Coon Valley, WI All are welcome to join us for a fun-filled afternoon at our 3rd Annual Picnic on the Lawn! This free community event features delicious pork prepared by Simply Smoked, walking tacos, kids' hot dogs and ice cream treats. Live music by Jen Wilder (11:30 AM – 1:00 PM) and Leather and Lace (1:00 – 3:00 PM), a bounce house, dunk tank, parents vs. kid's games, and more! Goodwill donations are appreciated. Some of the entertainment and beverages will be available for a small fee. Don't forget your lawn chair—and come enjoy a wonderful summer day with friends, family, and neighbors!

Parishioner Participation Needed: It's rained, and it's rained, and the weeds have really grown. Help is needed to weed the tiered beds next to the South walkway and also around the rectory. This is NOT an ongoing commitment. It's a short-term job with beauty as the reward. Older youth and available adult participation will be greatly appreciated. Meet at the top of the tiered bed on **Tuesday, July 1st, 9:30 - 11:30**. Bring your favorite gardening tools, gloves and water bottle.

Contact Cathy Lund for more information. 608-637-7109.

June 29, 2025

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of June 16-22, 2025

Offertory: \$2,436.00

Catholic Life: \$25.00

Total: \$2,461.00

Needed Weekly: \$4,600.00

May E-gifts: \$2,532.00

2024-2025

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Goal: \$35,560.00

Received to date: \$40,175.00

Donors: 93

THANK YOU!

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 28 June, 6:30 PM People of the Annunciation & St. Mary's

Parishes

Sunday, 29 June, 10:30 AM +Helen Schneider

(Phyllis Krause)

Wednesday, 2 July, 5:15 PM Fr. Joseph Richards

Friday, 4 July, 8:00 AM Women of the Parish

(PCCW)

Saturday, 5 July, 6:30 PM +Kevin McGuire

(Biebl Family)

Sunday, 6 July, 10:30 AM Women of the Parish

(PCCW)

CHURCH CALENDAR

PCCW CIRCLE FOR JUNE: ST. THERESA

PCCW CIRCLE FOR JULY: ST. JOSEPH

Monday, 30 June, 8:30 AM Mass, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM Vacation Bible

School grades K-6 in Marian Hall

Monday, 30 June, 6:30 PM Dominican Mission at St. Mary's, Gays

Mills

Tuesday, 1 July, 8:30 AM Mass, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM Vacation Bible

School grades K-6 in Marian Hall

Tuesday, 1 July, 5:00-7:00 PM Grief Share Support Program in

Marian Hall

Tuesday, 1 July, 6:30 PM Dominican Mission at St. Charles, Genoa

Wednesday, 2 July, 8:30 AM Mass, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM Vacation Bible

School grades K-6 in Marian Hall

Wednesday, 2 July, 6:30 PM Dominican Mission & Soup Supper in

Marian Hall

Thursday, 3 July, 8:30 AM Mass, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM Vacation Bible

School grades K-6 in Marian Hall

Thursday, 3 July, 6:30 PM Dominican Mission at Sacred Heart,

Cashton

Friday, 4 July, Parish Office Closed in observance of Independence

Day

Friday, 4 July, 8:00 AM First Friday Mass & Adoration

Friday, 4 July, 11:30 AM Join Dominican Sisters at Our Lady of

Guadalupe Shrine, La Crosse - meet outside church

11:45 AM Rosary walk

1:00 PM Mass

3:00 PM Divine Mercy

Sunday, 6 July, Martino Baptism during 10:30 AM Mass

Ministry Schedule

Sat., July 5, 6:30 PM

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister

Will Fisher Altar Server

Dennis Vinger Lector

Sun., July 6, 10:30 AM

Sheryl Robinson Eucharistic Minister

Reuben Stevenson Altar Server

Stephen Lambert Lector

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

**MARCH FOR LIFE
WISCONSIN**

RESCHEDULED

NEW DATE:

Saturday, July 26, 2025
2-4pm Wisconsin State Capitol

The **122nd St. Charles Homecoming Picnic** will be held on **Sunday, July 6th, at the church, 707 Eagle St., Genoa, WI.** The annual event is held on the first Sunday in July. Food will be served from **11 a.m. to 2 p.m.** Each meal includes Pogy's grilled chicken and sides, as well as a serving of homemade risotto, which is a cheesy rice delicacy passed down through generations of Italian immigrants who settled in the area. Raffle drawings will begin at 3 p.m. Most events will be held outdoors, with dining options available inside the adjacent school. Entry is free and open to the public. Meals cost \$15 each, smaller hot dog plates available for younger attendees for \$6. For more information, visit St. Charles School and Parish Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/StCharlesSchoolGenoa>.

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@mwmt.net.

Diocesan Annual Appeal—For we are God's co-workers: The Appeal ends June 30, 2025. **Any gift postmarked by June 30, 2025**, will be included in this year's appeal. Parishes will have until July 6, 2025, to mail any gifts received at the parish before June 30, 2025, to us the gifts collected. *Any gift postmarked after June 30, 2025, for individuals and July 6, 2025, from parishes will be credited to next year's appeal.*

Fr. Michael Klos' 25th Anniversary Celebration will take place on Sunday, July 20, 2025, at Sacred Heart Church - Eau Claire. The celebration will begin with Holy Mass at 3:30 pm and will be followed by a celebratory luncheon in the church hall. Because you have been an important part of this 25 year journey, I would be honored if you would join me in giving thanks to God. RSVP to "office@shspec.org". Please put "25th Anniversary" in the subject line. *(if unable to attend, mailing address: Rev. Michael Klos, Parish Life Center, 448 North Dewey Street, Eau Claire, WI 54703-3241)*



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