

# Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Hello friends,

Pardon me while I go on a bit of a reflective ramble. I am back from Lincoln, typing away on Friday afternoon from my rolltop up in Viroqua. I've mentioned that my primary role over the past few weeks was to celebrate the sacraments (especially Mass and confessions) and to provide spiritual direction for FOCUS' new and veteran missionaries during their annual training. My chaplaincy down there was about being a missionary to those missionaries, a role I feel quite at home in. Thank you for your patience with to-dos during my absence, your prayers for myself and the missionaries I was serving, and your welcome back.

I'm also making some space right now to let some of the movements of my own heart over the last few weeks (and the last three years) rest, expand, and rise. I find myself in a strange moment returning here now, trying to make sense of my own freed-up processing from the last two admin-removed weeks, while also plugging away at some piled up time-sensitive jobs. Two things are at the front of my mind: A) my own living order, vitality, and long-term pastoral viability, and B) our shared response to the Lord. In the middle of our parishes' development & growth and diocesan conversations around strategic planning & restructuring, I keep feeling this invitation and desire for my parishioners to be missionary – for us to bring ourselves to the Lord, to be (individually and communally) drawn together and made whole by His Eucharist, and to carry Him out with us into the community.

In a few short weeks you and I will officially ring the three-year anniversary bell. In one sense, three years is not too terribly long. In another (*continued on page 2*)

**June 8, 2025**  
**Pentecost Sunday**

*Readings are in the hymnal,  
#1084*

## 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

# June 8, 2025

*(continued from page 1)* sense, I am keenly aware of how long three years is in the light of both our parishes' tendency toward frequent pastoral turnover. It's important to remember that our goal is not permanence or familiarity but salvation (although tenure certainly brings a welcome relief with it). Every day is a new day, as they say, and another moment in this story. For as long as we're together (whether that's another year or another decade), I intend and I hope you'll join me in asking the Holy Spirit the very simple question, "where do you want us right now, Lord?" As a Jesuit friend recently reminded me, the Lord isn't so interested in showing the whole road ahead as He is in taking the next footstep with us. He has plans for us, my friends; and I invite you to explore them with me.

God bless you,

Fr. Joe

Please extend congratulations to **Ryan David Vesbach and Alyssa Mae Matthes** who were joined in marriage on June 7, 2025, at the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Viroqua, Wisconsin.

**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](mailto:office@shspec.org)". Please put "25th Anniversary" in the subject line.

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 8, 2025

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of May 26-June 1, 2025

Offertory: \$3,125.00

Catholic Life: \$480.00

Total: \$3,605.00

Needed Weekly: \$4,600.00

April E-gifts: \$2,343.93

## 2024-2025

## DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Goal: \$35,560.00

Received to date: \$38,575.00

Donors: 91

THANK YOU!

## MASS INTENTIONS

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

(PCCW)

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

(Royal & Barbara Ross)

**Wednesday, 11 June, 5:15 PM +Casper & Eleanora Leis**

(Angie Leis)

**Friday, 13 June, 8:00 AM +Deceased Relatives of Skowron Family**

(Biebl Family)

**Saturday, 14 June, 6:30 PM People of the Annunciation & St. Mary's  
Parishes**

**Sunday, 15 June, 10:30 AM +Guy Nicks**

(Family of Guy Nicks)

## CHURCH CALENDAR

**PCCW CIRCLE FOR JUNE: ST. THERESA**

**Sunday, 8 June, 12:00-2:00 PM Contemplative Reading Group meeting in  
the parish library**

**Monday, 9 June, 1:30-4:00 PM Girls' Bible Study in new parish library/  
meeting room**

**Tuesday, 10 June, 5:00-7:00 PM Grief Share Support Program in Marian  
Hall**

**Wednesday, 11 June, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM St. Mary's Quilters in Marian  
Hall**

**Thursday, 12 June, 6:00 PM Finance Council meeting in the parish  
library**

**Friday, 13 June, 4:30-9:00 PM Healing Service beginning with Adoration  
& Mass at 5:30 PM**

## Ministry Schedule

**Sat., June 14, 6:30 PM**

Dennis Vinger Eucharistic Minister

Sebastian Kimmet Altar Server

Dan Kiedinger Lector

**Sun., June 15, 10:30 AM**

Matthew Tubbin Eucharistic Minister

Francis Corr Altar Server

Reuben Stevenson Altar Server

Melanie Halvorson Lector

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

Women and girls of all ages: You  
are invited to a **women's tea  
party on Saturday, June 21st at  
noon** in Marian Hall. Please take  
an invitation from the gathering  
space for more details! If you  
have any questions, please  
contact Jenny Leum or Carly  
Zadow.



**Monday, June 30-Thursday, July 4: Annunciation of the BVM Parish-  
Viroqua is hosting Vacation Bible School** with area parishes, conducted  
by the Dominican Sisters of Mary Mother of the Eucharist.

Proposed schedule: 8:30 AM Mass  
9:00 AM-12:00 PM Sisters' Program for K-6  
Friday, July 4, 11:30 AM-2:00 PM, day at  
Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, La Crosse

**More information to come.**

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>.

# June 8, 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).

**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.*



Estate Planning, Probate, Trust, and Litigation  
608-784-1605; [Scott@lacrosslaw.com](mailto:Scott@lacrosslaw.com)



## 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

**R&J's HONEY FARM**  
Roger and Joyce Humfeld  
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608-634-4059 (home)  
608-606-0832 (cell)  
[rjhoneyfarm@hotmail.com](mailto:rjhoneyfarm@hotmail.com)

## WESTBY LOCKER & MEATS

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



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*"Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth." ~ Psalm 104:30*