

Living a Life of Integrity



Hello friends,

This liturgical year is just full of happy coincidences. The latest is the timing of this weekend's Gospel (Martha & Mary) ten days before the feast day of Martha, Mary, and Lazarus (July 29). This opens the door beautifully for a novena – a nine-day season of prayer – starting this Monday and ending on their feast. I imagine I'll preach on this a bit, but the story work and character (*continued on page 2*)

July 20, 2025
16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings are in the hymnal, #1139

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 Laurdan, 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

July 20, 2025

(continued from page 1) development of these folks (especially Martha) paints a vivid picture of the tangible and lasting effects of an encounter with Jesus Christ. In the first scene, Martha and Mary and Lazarus (siblings) host a dinner. Lazarus is fairly absent here, Mary famously remains present and receptive to Jesus, and Martha bustles about and distracts herself from the Present Moment with Him. She is so caught up in an immediate need that she can't see Jesus right in front of her. Jesus offers a gentle correction, which Martha takes to heart. On their feast day (July 29) we'll read part two, where Martha and Mary's brother Lazarus has passed away. Mary remains undeveloped as a character but still beautifully present to her brother, while Martha is in a totally different place – she leaves behind the apparent need of the present moment (remaining at home and grieving her brother) and flies to Jesus to open her heart and real needs to Him.

Anyway, Martha and Mary open up a beautiful angle on the over-time effect of an encounter with Jesus – they draw out themes of busyness, retreat, presence, humility, and story. With this happy coincidence before Martha and Mary and Lazarus' feast day, I want to invite you to a special season of prayer with these stories. If you feel the press of busyness and the small calling to rest in Him, if you feel in a rut in your relationship with Christ, if you feel moved by this weekend's encounter with Martha and Mary and Jesus, I invite you to set fifteen minutes aside over each of the next nine days to retreat – to hear Jesus' call to step away from the familiar and the known and the expected and simply be with Him – to pray very intentionally with these figures. The following might be a helpful rhythm:

- First: Make the Sign of the Cross and pray a simple deep-breathing "Come Holy Spirit." Take a full minute to repeat this and turn this over.
- Second: Pray this weekend's Gospel scene – Luke 10: 38-42. Re-read it, ask the Lord "What are you saying to me here?" Take a few minutes to quiet down and listen to the Holy Spirit.
- Third: Present yourself and your present need to the Lord, especially through Martha and Mary and Lazarus' intercession – "Lord Jesus, through the intercession of Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus I entrust and submit my (fill-in-the-blank: busyness, restlessness, feeling put-upon, resentment, fear, slothfulness, etc.) to You. Draw me into encounter and abiding with You.
- Fourth: Pray with part two, John 11: 19-27.

God bless you, brothers and sisters,

Fr. Joe

Please extend congratulations to **Steve Laurdan and Beth Lakmann** who were joined in marriage on July 19, 2025, at the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Viroqua, Wisconsin.

July 20, 2025

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of July 7-13, 2025

Offertory: \$4,235.00

Total: \$4,235.00

Needed Weekly: \$4,600.00

June E-gifts: \$2,486.42

THANK YOU!

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 19 July, 6:30 PM +Bernarda Lenske

(Biebl Family)

Sunday, 20 July, 10:30 AM +Guy Nicks

(Family of Guy Nicks)

Wednesday, 23 July, 5:15 PM People of the Annunciation and St.

Mary's Parishes

Friday, 25 July, 8:00 AM +Kevin McGuire

(Angie Leis)

Saturday, 26 July, 6:30 PM +Ambrose Timmerman

(Timmerman Family)

Sunday, 27 July, 10:30 AM Patrick and Kevin Hall

(Larry Rehman)

Ministry Schedule

Sat., July 26, 6:30 PM

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister

Reid Fisher Altar Server

Lane Fisher Altar Server

Amy Matthes Lector

Sun., July 27, 10:30 AM

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister

Francis Corr Altar Server

Reuben Stevenson Altar Server

Al Mislivecek Lector

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

CHURCH CALENDAR

PCCW CIRCLE FOR JULY: ST. JOSEPH

Saturday, 19 July, Fellowship following the 6:30 PM Mass

Sunday, 20 July, Fellowship following the 10:30 AM Mass

Wednesday, 23 July, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM St. Mary's Quilters in

Marian Hall

Saturday, 26 July, 11:00 AM-4:00 PM 3rd Annual Picnic on the

**Lawn - Community Celebration, St. Mary's Parish, Coon
Valley**

Ladies' Night Out - All the women of the parish are invited to a night out for friendship and fellowship. We will be joined by the women of St. Mary's, Coon Valley. **The evening will be held at Old Towne Inn in Westby on July 31, at 6:00 PM.** For *reservations*, please call or text Joyce Humfeld at 608-606-0873 by **July 25th**.

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!

July 20, 2025

Pastoral Council Members

Kris Brueggen
Phyllis Krause
David Hall

Cathy Poshepny
Jenny Leum
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.

MARCH FOR LIFE WISCONSIN

RESCHEDULED

NEW DATE:

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

Enjoy Teaching History and Geography?

Sacred Heart Catholic School is looking for a Catholic middle-school history and geography teacher. This is a part-time position for the afternoons. We are seeking someone who is interested in the Catholic intellectual tradition, dedicated to the formation and well-being (including spiritual) of students, and devoted to the Catholic apostolate of forming disciples of Christ. A teaching license is preferred but not required. For more information, email principal@smash3p.org or call (608) 654-7733.

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

Roger and Joyce Humfeld
R&J's HONEY FARM
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608-606-0832 (cell)
rjhoneyfarm@hotmail.com

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KINDNESS
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"Who does no wrong to a neighbor, who casts no slur on a friend,..." ~ Psalm 15:3bc-4ab