

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Hello friends,

First, a reminder that after Masses this weekend, I'll be heading up to the Boundary Waters for a week and a half. While I'm away, I have Frs. Bowe (Cashton), Reither (Genoa), and Kuhn (Richland Center) on retainer for hospital calls, emergencies, etc. This coming Friday is also the Solemnity of the Assumption, a Holy Day of Obligation. In addition to covering next weekend's Masses, Fr. Parr (a native son of Viroqua) will celebrate a Thursday 5:15 Mass in Coon Valley and a Friday 12:10 and 5:15 Mass in Viroqua. Hopefully one of those works in your schedule – otherwise look at one of those other priests' parishes for some alternatives.

Second, last week we celebrated one of my favorite feast days (I have several, and they do not compete with each other): the Transfiguration. This is a bit of a hinge in Jesus' public ministry – He takes Peter, James, and John up the mountain after they've been walking with him for a while, learning from him, watching him work miracles. By this point they know Jesus is a Big Deal – as far as people go, He's a strange and powerful one. Now that He's been established as part of their stories and as a Known Figure, He gives them a moment's glimpse of what's coming. For a heartbeat, Heaven meets Earth, Jesus is transfigured, Moses and Elijah appear, and Peter asks the very sensible question – “Lord, we've arrived. Can we just stay here?”

“Arrived” – big word. This mountaintop experience was beautiful and powerful and stirring for Peter & company – an experience of what Jesus had been and still was preparing them for, and it felt an awful lot like they had (*continued on page 2*)

August 10, 2025
19th Sunday in
Ordinary Time

*Readings are in the hymnal,
#1148*

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; Tom Leis, Librarian, saintmaryparishlibrary@gmail.com

Fran Campbell, Secretary/Bookkeeper, stmaryparish@mwt.net, (608) 637-7711; Parish Kitchen (608) 637-7878

400 Congress Avenue, Viroqua, WI 54665

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(continued from page 1) arrived. And yet Jesus knew He had to lead His disciples back down the mountain, back into the valley to Jerusalem. He knew what was waiting for Him there, He knew just how far into the valley He still had to walk (those three days' "descended into hell" show just how far He was willing to go) before gathering His sheep up and leading them through the Resurrection to that very thing the Transfiguration was only hinting at. Anyhow, it's a beautiful scene. Jesus loved Peter and James and John right through that whole realization – "I haven't arrived yet" – and kept on leading them further up and further in until they finally did.

As I head off for a bit here, accept my gratitude for this season of climbing and descending with you. The Lord has a long road ahead for each and every one of us and a long road for us together before we arrive, and He's with us every step of the way. God bless you,

Fr. Joe

Please join us for one of our upcoming Deanery Listening Sessions, part of the Rebuild My Church initiative. These sessions will be on September 7, at Noon in Viroqua; on September 10, at 6:30 PM in Keyesville; and on October 2, at 6:00 PM in Hillsboro. More information to come.

This Sunday we welcome **Dominic Michael Martino** into the Christian community through the Sacrament of Baptism. Dominic is the son of Dillon and Tyler (Deeny) Martino. Welcome to this community of faith!

Please extend condolences to the family of **Mary Bina** who passed away Friday, August 1, 2025. Funeral services were held on Thursday, August 7, 2025, at Popp Funeral and Cremation Services in Viroqua with Fr. Joseph Richards officiating. Mary was laid to rest at the Viroqua Cemetery. May she rest in peace.

Also, please extend condolences to the family of **Irene Marie Theresa Reinstra** who passed away Wednesday, August 6, 2025. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Saturday, August 9, 2025, at the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church-Viroqua with Fr. Joseph Richards officiating. Irene was laid to rest at Fancy Creek Cemetery, Gillingham, Wisconsin. May she rest in peace.

LIBRARY CORNER According to Google, the original Baltimore Catechism was published on April 6, 1885. Our library does not have this publication. In 1964 (my birth year), The New Saint Joseph Baltimore Catechism was published. **Thank you**, to the person who donated a copy of this 1964 teaching tool of our Catholic faith and practice. When I pulled this paperback book, with the pink cover, from the box, my mind went racing back to my childhood. I do not remember this text being used in my Catholic grade school, but a copy was kept in my childhood home.

While the Baltimore Catechism is no longer the official catechism of the Catholic Church in the United States, it is still considered valid in the sense that it contains the essential truths of the faith. *(continued on page 4)*

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FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of July 21-27, 2025

Offertory: \$4,928.00

Total: \$4,928.00

Needed Weekly: \$4,600.00

June E-gifts: \$2,486.42

THANK YOU!

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 9 August, 6:30 PM +Fila Torres

(Diana Hernandez)

Sunday, 10 August, 10:30 AM +Hiram Lund

(Patricia Peterson)

Wednesday, 13 August, Fr. Joseph Richards

Friday, 15 August, 12:10 PM +Jennie Norton

(Patricia Rubasch)

Friday, 15 August, 5:15 PM +Ursula Werner

(Sonja Finn)

Saturday, 16 August, 6:30 PM +Kevin McGuire

(Ann Graham)

Sunday, 17 August, 10:30 AM +Guy Nicks

(Family of Guy Nicks)

Ministry Schedule

Sat., Aug. 16, 6:30 PM

Amy Matthes Eucharistic Minister

Reid Fisher Altar Server

Lane Fisher Altar Server

Pat Biebl Lector

Sun., Aug. 17, 10:30 AM

Pat Obernberger Eucharistic Minister

Sebastian Kimmet Altar Server

Amelia Kimmet Altar Server

Matthew Tubbin Lector

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

CHURCH CALENDAR

PCCW CIRCLE FOR AUGUST: ST. BRIDGET

Sunday, 10 August, during 10:30 AM Mass Dominic Martino

Baptism

Monday - Friday, 11 August-22 August, Fr. Joe away from Parish

Tuesday-Wednesday, 12-13 August, Parish Office Closed

**Wednesday, 13 August, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM St. Mary's Quilters in
Marian Hall**

Wednesday, 13 August, 5:15 PM Communion Service

**Thursday, 14 August, 5:15 PM Vigil Mass, St. Mary's Parish, Coon
Valley**

**Friday, 15 August, 12:10 PM Mass, Assumption of the Blessed
Virgin Mary**

**Friday, 15 August, 5:15 PM Mass, Assumption of the Blessed
Virgin Mary**

**Monday, 18 August, 1:30-4:00 PM Girls' Bible Study in the new
library/meeting room**

Moving Through Grief Together

Emplify Health by Gundersen Drop-In Grief Support Group

First and third Saturdays of every month

Time: 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

Location: Ross Conference Room, Emplify Health by Gundersen Hospital-La

Crosse Campus, 1900 South Ave., La Crosse, WI.

The sessions are free of charge and advance registration is not required. The group
is open to the public (visitor guidelines must be followed). Directions to the Ross
Conference Room are available at the hospital main entrance information desk.

Upcoming 2025 dates:

August 2 & 16

October 5 & 19

December 6 & 20

September 6 & 20

November 2 & 16

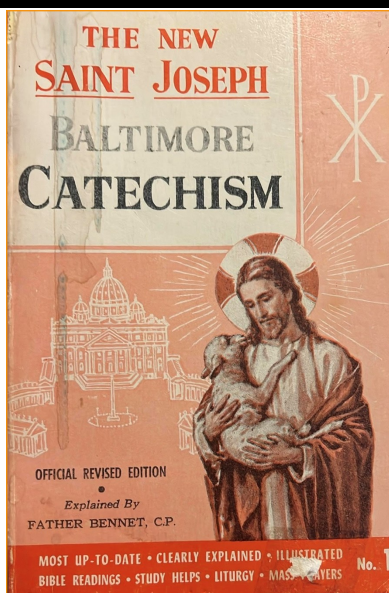
Come one and all to learn about
the **formation opportunities and
sacramental preparation** for the
upcoming year on **September 14,
after the 10:30 AM Mass!** Family
of Faith is in year four of its four
year cycle; and we will have
materials to hand out, along with
Safe Environment grade
appropriate training. CGS is
growing with a second level
atrium, and we will continue to
promote Bible studies for all ages.
Keep an eye on bulletin calendars
and send an Email to
stmaryformation@mwt.net if you
have any questions.

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(continued from page 2)

Why did God make us?
Stop by our library, you
can find the answer on
page 12.

Tom Leis,
Parish Librarian
saintmaryparishlibrary@gmail.com



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@mwt.net.

The **contemplative reading group** is gathering on **September 21, 2025**, in the parish library to discuss *The Interior Castle - St. Teresa of Avila* translation by Mirabai Starr.



Estate Planning, Probate, Trust, and Litigation
608-784-1605; Scott@lacrosslaw.com



Kickapoo Counseling

110 N. Main Street
Westby, WI 54667
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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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KINDNESS
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"Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for the upright." ~ Psalm 33:1