

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Hello friends,

I'd like to invite you all to one of our upcoming Listening Sessions (a part of the pastoral/strategic planning work at the Diocese, formally titled "Rebuild my Church"). Fr. Derek Sakowski is heading up this whole process and moving us now into the next phase – a series of townhall style evenings or afternoons to share vision with the people of the Diocese and (most importantly in reality and in intention) to hear from the people of the Diocese what their needs, fears, strengths, and hopes are. When we started this whole process up a year or so ago, there was some desire amongst the priests to jump right ahead to "what's the plan?" It's a fair request, and I'm grateful to have witnessed my brother priests and yourselves allowing it to be tabled. While it takes a lot more work to make something truly consultative, I've been impressed by the slow-and-steady work of sparking and building momentum rather than skipping gears to the end.

Anyway, we're shooting for some 40 of these Listening Sessions over the Fall and getting it started early in the Richland Center Deanery. Our first session will be right in Viroqua (I imagine Marian Hall) on September 7, at Noon. This will give folks a chance to get kids home after Mass as needed, grab a quick bite, or come in from other parishes' Masses. We want and I want you to come if you're a time/resource/position-invested stakeholder in the parish, if you're a there-every-weekend parishioner, if you're sporadic- or travelling-often parishioner, if you're... That's to say I just want you there. The whole goal of this process is to understand where we are as a People, to have the best sense we can of where the Holy Spirit is moving and where He is leading His people, and to take into *(continued on page 2)*

August 17, 2025
20th Sunday in
Ordinary Time

*Readings are in the hymnal,
#1151*

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

August 17, 2025

(continued from page 1) clear account how the Lord is inviting us as a Diocese to respond to present and future needs and opportunities with present and future resources. Scarcity, fear, the deeply-ingrained narrative of old grievances and wounds – these are all important to notice specifically so we can hand them to the Lord in freedom. The Holy Spirit is inviting us into a season of curiosity and opportunity here – let’s walk into it together!

The short version: mark your calendar for September 7, at noon in Viroqua. God bless you all,

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.

FALL DINNER: Save the date and mark your calendars, the parish **Fall Turkey Dinner is Wednesday, October 15th.** We will be having our first planning meeting, **Thursday, August 21st, at 5:30 PM in Marian Hall.** Anyone interested in helping, please plan to attend.

LIBRARY CORNER **A Jonah Day (Perfect in His Sight)** written and illustrated by Phil A. Smouse was published in 1994. This story is ancient, and this book is old. It retells in rhyme the story of Jonah’s ride in a fish from Jonah’s point of view. I especially enjoyed the humor used to tell this Biblical story that we all grew up with. What I appreciated even more was that the word “**whale**” was not used! This story explains that Jonah was swallowed by a “**fish**.” The early Greek and Hebrew translations of the Bible also used the word *fish* or *sea creature*. I did not know this detail until I was in my 50’s. Most translations of the Bible use the word *fish* or *sea creature*, yet most story books use *whale*. I know it seems like a little thing, but the fact is that there is no species of whale capable of swallowing a human! The illustrations *(continued on page 4)*

August 17, 2025

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of July 28-Aug. 3, 2025

Offertory: \$3,067.50

Total: \$3,067.50

Needed Weekly: \$4,600.00

July E-gifts: \$2,929.93

THANK YOU!

MASS INTENTIONS

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

(Ann Graham)

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

(Family of Guy Nicks)

Fr. Joe will say intentions while away

Wednesday, 20 August, +Deceased Friends

(Biebl Family)

Friday, 22 August, Women of the Parish

(PCCW)

Saturday, 23 August, 6:30 PM +Mike Culek

(Patricia Biebl)

Sunday, 24 August, 10:30 AM People of the Annunciation & St.

Mary's Parishes

Ministry Schedule

Sat., Aug. 23, 6:30 PM

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister

Mark Brueggen Lector

Sun., Aug. 24, 10:30 AM

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister

Alayna Curti Altar Server

Logan Curti Altar Server

Mary Ellen Hatton Lector

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

CHURCH CALENDAR

PCCW CIRCLE FOR AUGUST: ST. BRIDGET

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

Monday, 18 August, 1:30-4:00 PM Girls' Bible Study in the new

library/meeting room

**Tuesday, 19 August, 1:00 PM St. Mary's Book Club meeting in the
parish library**

Tuesday-Wednesday, 19-20 August, Parish Office Closed

**Wednesday, 20 August, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM St. Mary's Quilters in
Marian Hall**

Wednesday, 20 August, 5:15 PM Communion Service

Thursday, 21 August, 5:30 PM Fall Turkey Dinner Planning

Meeting in Marian Hall

Friday, 22 August, No Mass

**Monday, 25 August, 5:00-6:30 PM Community Meal at Good
Shepherd Church**

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.

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:

September 6 & 20

November 2 & 16

October 5 & 19

December 6 & 20

August 17, 2025

(continued from page 2)

look 30 years old, and I do not think many children today would pick this book up for that reason. I read this picture book to our grandkids this past week and no one climbed off the couch before I was finished. Yes, I did make a big deal about the *whale* vs *fish* terminology.

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@lacrosselaw.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

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Westby, WI 54667

KINDNESS
COUNTS LLC

"I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!" ~ Luke 12:49