

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Hello friends,

After Masses next weekend I'll be heading up North for a week and a half in the Boundary Waters. I'll put our Mass schedule below, but first let me thank you for your good grace when I go away for a time like this. As one of my seminary priests (who had a few decades as a Pastor under his belt) put so eloquently, "gentlemen, you make sure you take your time away A) so you get a break from your people, but more importantly B) so your people get a break from you." Fair. It hurt, but it was fair. Honestly, I've been walking you and y'all through quite a bit of stretching lately with various renovations and encouragements to be missionary and big picture talk concerning diocesan business; and I am grateful for a moment to take a little breath before we dive deeper together.

I've been looking forward to this time for a while now, all sparked back in January when one of my college roommates texted me, "so you want to go up to the Boundary Waters?" When timing works out, that's not a hard thing for me to say yes to – I find deep rest in the strange mix of solitude, physical exertion (just last week I talked plans with this roommate, Sam, and he's ambitious), and the simple being-surrounded by a powerful Nature that's just as concerned with keeping me alive as it is with taking my life (that is, not concerned at all). *(continued on page 2)* I

August 3, 2025
18th Sunday in
Ordinary Time

*Readings are in the hymnal,
#1145*

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 3, 2025

(continued from page 1) have a lot of opportunity for control in my life, surrounded by flat walls and perfectly functional roofs, ignorant in the AC about the harshness of the hotter days we've had, with freedom to manage my schedule how I like – I find that stepping into the wilderness hones my sense of the present moment and wakes me up to the need to be intentional, to receive whatever is going on around me without competition or the need to manipulate circumstances. As my friend St. Paul says, "in my weakness, His strength is made perfect." It's an okay thing sometimes to be aware of our weakness and need of His grace.

Anyway, this is all to give you a heads up that I will be away for some time coming up (specifically August 11-22). While I'm away, if a priest emergency should come up please reach out to Frs. Reither (at St. Charles in Genoa) or Bowe (Cashton, etc.) or Kuhn (Richland Center). This window also overlaps with a Solemnity and holy day of obligation – the Assumption on August 15. We'll have Fr. John Parr coming down to take us through that full solemnity into the weekend. You can attend one of our Masses here or head over to our neighbors for a workable time. While the weekend's schedule remains unaffected, our Assumption schedule stands:

- August 14 at 5:15 in Coon Valley (Vigil Mass)
- August 15 at 12:10 and 5:15 in Viroqua

Okay, that's it for today. 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.

LIBRARY CORNER I do not read a lot of nonfiction, but when I do, it is generally historical in nature. As I was organizing the shelves a few months back The Priest Barracks: Dachau, 1938-1945, by Guillaume Zeller caught my eye. I put it aside and a month or so later started to read it. I don't think you need to be a history buff or an expert on priestly life to appreciate this title; having said that, it was not an easy read for me. It might be because it was originally written in French by Zeller in 2015 and then translated by Michael J. Miller in 2017. It may also be due to the heaviness of this point in our world's history. I did start and stop reading it a few times. Some parts I read more quickly than others but reread the ending a couple of times. Yes, the horrors of concentration camp life are described, but these descriptions do not seem to overpower the story itself. The author also makes a point of describing both the heroic virtues and the human weaknesses of this very specific group of prisoners. The setting of this story is the Nazi concentration camp Dachau, three barracks out of thirty occupied by clergy from 1938 to 1945. The majority of the nearly *(continued on page 4)*

August 3, 2025

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of July 21-27, 2025

Offertory: \$2,898.24

Total: \$2,898.24

Needed Weekly: \$4,600.00

June E-gifts: \$2,486.42

THANK YOU!

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 2 August, 6:30 PM +Gary Teadt

(Carol Teadt)

Sunday, 3 August, 10:30 AM +Carl P. & Margaret S. Simon

(Joe Simon)

Wednesday, 6 August, 5:15 PM Women of the Parish

(PCCE)

Friday, 8 August, 8:00 AM +Helen Pedretti

(Pedretti Family)

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

(Diana Hernandez)

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

(Patricia Peterson)

Ministry Schedule

Sat., Aug. 9, 6:30 PM

Julie Moore Eucharistic Minister

Will Fisher Altar Server

Paul O'Rourke Lector

Sun., Aug. 10, 10:30 AM

Den. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister

Alexis Scoville Altar Server

Sasha Scoville 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 AUGUST: ST. BRIDGET

Monday, 4 August, Concrete work at front entryway to begin

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

Tuesday-Wednesday, 5-6 August, Parish Office Closed

**Wednesday, 6 August, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM St. Mary's Quilters in
Marian Hall**

**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

**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**

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.

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

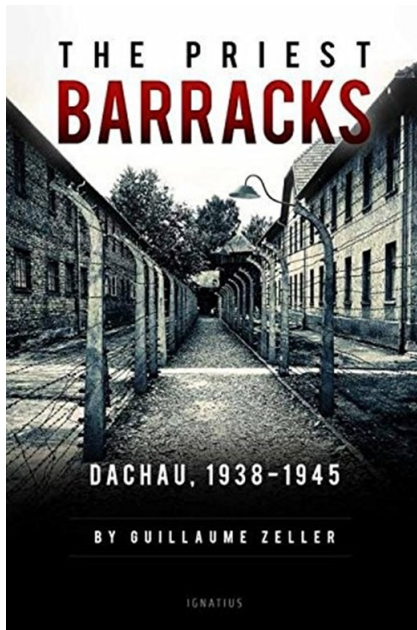
November 2 & 16

August 3, 2025

(continued from page 2) 3,000 imprisoned in these barracks were Catholic priests, monks, and seminarians from all over Europe.

Fran is helping me create an order of new titles for our library. If you have titles you would like considered, please send me an email.

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.



Ladies' Night Out at Old Towne Inn

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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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608-606-0832 (cell)
rjhoneyfarm@hotmail.com

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KINDNESS
COUNTS LLC

"Take care to guard against all greed...one's life does not consist of possessions." ~ Luke 12:15