

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Hello friends,

A few weeks ago, we celebrated the feast day of an interesting saint, St. Peter Claver, the self-titled “slave of slaves.” St. Peter was a Jesuit 400 years ago who came from Spain to the Americas and dedicated his life to serving a singular demographic – Africans sold into the American slave trade. My imagination can’t stretch far enough to picture what it must have been like for these poor folks to live this story – abduction from their homes, being stripped away from family, being marched onto overpacked ships, enduring that voyage knowing nothing good was waiting at the end and having no idea what that nothing good would look like, and finally reaching American shores long weeks later and marched to another scattering from family and friend and brother and sister in a slave market.

St. Peter injected himself into this scene, with his brothers wandering through the crowds of African captives to tend one sore, bathe one body, feed one hungry mouth at a time. Peter’s congregation had been effectively and efficiently stripped of every shred of humanity. Despite knowing their ministrations and ministry could do nothing to change the earthly fate of these folks or end the depersonalizing problem right in front of them, day after day Peter and company went out simply to communicate a very simple and very personal “you are human, I see you, I love you.” That message communicated something even more important “no matter what you’ve been put through and are being put through, even in the middle of this moment, Jesus sees you, knows you, and loves you.”

My friends, I want to put St. Peter Claver forward as a model of accompaniment. This is one of those pastoral momentums being asked for by our Bishop in his “missionary pivot” – going out of our way to enter into the *(continued on page 2)*

September 21, 2025
25th Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Readings are in the hymnal,
#1166

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

(continued from page 1) lives of the lost, wounded, unwelcomed and hopeless and walk with them, showing Christ's love, and inviting personally to an encounter with the God we hopefully know and love ourselves. Accompaniment is uncomfortable. It demands an ever greater and greater selflessness and other-full-ness. It demands open eyes to perceive the listless wanderer. It demands a love greater than any love I could ever generate or foster myself – it demands Jesus' own life and love lived in mine (and at least for myself, the getting-out-of-the-way that needs to happen first). I believe that in both of my parishes we are being invited to three specific things right now: trust in God's providence, the unity that comes exclusively from the Holy Spirit, and an expansion out of our own comfort and familiarity into missionary accompaniment. I ask you to join me in asking St. Peter Claver (and his modern colleague Mother Teresa) to help us enter this season.

God bless you,

Fr. Joe

Fall Dinner Updates:

- Sign-up sheets are out in the gathering space. Please prayerfully consider how/where you can help. Many hands make light work; and as a bonus, it's a really fun, spirit filled time!
- We have a chef coming to give us a turkey cooking/carving class on Tuesday, September 23rd in the parish kitchen. Class starts at 5:30 and is **open to everyone**. So if you're cooking or carving a turkey for the Fall Dinner, or you've never cooked one before and are interested in learning, here's your opportunity. See you there!

As always, if you have any questions, suggestions or concerns, please reach out. I'm happy to visit – Julie Moore, 307-359-2322 cell.

Casa Hogar Juan Pablo II Mission – October 11-12, 2025 - Msgr. Joseph Hirsch is looking forward to visiting your parish and sharing the powerful story of Casa Hogar Juan Pablo II with your parish family. As someone who has lived and served at Casa Hogar for many years, he offers a firsthand look into the daily life, challenges, and incredible transformation taking place in the lives of vulnerable children in Peru.

Through his personal stories and deep connection to the mission, Msgr. Hirsch will bring to life the legacy of Father Joseph Walijewski—a missionary priest from the Diocese of La Crosse—whose dream was to create a home where children could grow up feeling safe, loved, and supported. Casa Hogar is more than an orphanage; it's a faith-filled community where children not only survive, but thrive—emotionally, spiritually, and academically.

(continued on page 4)

September 21, 2025

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of Sep. 8-14, 2025

Offertory: \$2,872.50

Total: \$2,872.50

Needed Weekly: \$4,600.00

August E-gifts: \$3,135.30

THANK YOU!

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 20 September, 6:30 PM +Helen Pedretti
(Pedretti Family)

Sunday, 21 September, 10:30 AM +Guy Nicks
(Family of Guy Nicks)

Wednesday, 24 September, 5:15 PM The Most Reverend Gerard W. Battersby

Friday, 26 September, 8:00 AM +Alice Atteln
(Dave & Sue Fanta)

Saturday, 27 September, 6:30 PM Parishioners attending the Rome Pilgrimage

Sunday, 28 September, 10:30 AM +Alice Atteln
(Madonna Brueggen & Monica Kehlen)

Ministry Schedule

Sat., Sep. 27, 6:30 PM

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister
Reid Fisher Altar Server
Lane Fisher Altar Server
Sheryl Robinson Lector

Sun., Sep. 28, 10:30 AM

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister
Basil Stevenson Altar Server
Mariah Sullivan Altar Server
Melanie Halvorson Lector

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

CHURCH CALENDAR

PCCW CIRCLE FOR SEPTEMBER: ST. ANTHONY

Sunday, 21 September, Family of Faith & Safe Environment meets following 8 AM Mass in St. Mary's church basement, Coon Valley

Sunday, 21 September, 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, 21 September, 12:00 PM OCIA Neophyte Gathering in basement classroom

Sunday, 21 September, 12:00-2:00 PM Contemplative Reading Group meets in the parish library

Monday, 22 September, 5:00-6:30 PM Community Meal at Good Shepherd Church

Tuesday, 23 September, 5:30-8:30 PM Turkey Cooking/Carving Class in Marian Hall

Wednesday, 24 September, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM St. Mary's Quilters in Marian Hall

We are just a couple weeks away from our first sessions of the **Little Rock Scripture Study of *The Holy Spirit in the Bible***. There is room for more participants. The Holy Spirit study is six weeks long, starting **October 2 or 3, and ending November 13 or 14**. For details or to sign up, contact Melanie Halvorson at melhalvor@gmail.com or talk to Neil Lonergan after Mass on Sunday.

The Little Rock Scripture Study program uses Roman Catholic biblical scholarship in a program that helps Catholic adults read, study, pray, and live the Word of God. Past participants have found it has given them a new perspective on the life of Christ, and built their community among other parishioners.

Please join us.

(continued from page 2) Father Walijewski's vision continues today, made possible by the compassion and generosity of countless supporters from the Diocese of La Crosse and across the United States. We look forward to welcoming Msgr. Hirsch and learning more about how we, too, can be part of this life-changing mission.

Learn more about the Fr. Joseph Walijewski Legacy Guild and Casa Hogar Juan Pablo II at www.frjoesguild.org.

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.

Annual Pancake Breakfast – October 12, 2025 - St. Mary Parish, Coon Valley will hold their annual Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, October 12, 2025 from 7:30 AM – gone or Noon (whichever comes first). Meal includes: delicious stack of pancakes with local real maple syrup, eggs, sausage, applesauce, milk, orange juice and coffee! Also purchase a tasty treat to take home from the bake sale! \$10 for adults, \$5 children ages 6-12, 5 and under free. Make your pancakes just the way you like them with our topping bar! Your choice of maple syrup, blueberries, strawberries, chocolate syrup, sprinkles, whip cream and peanut butter (while supplies last).



Estate Planning, Probate, Trust, and Litigation
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