

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



*A big thank you to all who attended the turkey cooking/carving class on Tuesday.
It was a great class, and we learned a lot!*

Hello friends,

With Deacon Tony preaching this weekend I want to get my two cents in on the readings – especially Paul’s “But you, man of God, pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness” to Timothy. Timothy is a dear friend and mentee of Paul, a third-generation disciple of Jesus Christ through the work and model of the second-generation (debatably first) St. Paul. There’s a lot to be seen about spiritual expansion in that image right there. Evangelization is not about inventing a new kind of wheel (sometimes it’s a matter of the wheels just doing their job) – evangelization is a simple matter of handing on what we have first received. Again, sometimes we get that backwards – in our desire to bring people back or bring new people in we put the work of discipleship before the discipleship itself. In order, discipleship looks like an encounter with the Lord, entering and investing in a relationship with Him, and *then* going out on the mission he has in store for each of us.

Anyway, “But you, man of God, pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness.” St. Paul is encouraging the already-docile and already-earnest Timothy to the work of discipleship here. “Righteousness – living a rule of life ordered around right relationship; “devotion” – choosing to focus on and invest in important building blocks (which also means saying “no” to less important things); “faith” – conviction in and commitment to what the Lord reveals about who He and we are; “love” – conscious self-gift and focus on the other; “patience” – accepting and working through what is not “my way;” and “gentleness” – the skillfully controlled application of force and restraint to foster and cultivate growth and restoration.

Before all these qualities Paul uses a very important word, “pursue.” Discipleship takes active pursuit, active work. Take weightlifting as an analogy – regular training doesn’t make intentional exercises any easier – it just makes the weightlifter stronger to lift with more frequency or greater *(continued on page 2)*

September 28, 2025
26th Sunday in
Ordinary Time

*Readings are in the hymnal,
#1169*

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

September 28, 2025

(continued from page 1) weight or better control (and more precisely all three). I would argue that the pursuit of discipleship actually makes life harder rather than easier – the more I say “yes” to the Lord, the more I’m saying “no” to “non-lords” that I have made “lord,” and that dying is a hard business. If we were hedonists focused on maximizing pleasure and minimizing pain, it would be worth abandoning discipleship and thank you Lord that You haven’t made us to ever be ultimately satisfied as hedonists.

Okay, ramblings over. God bless you, and hear that Word one more time, “But you, man of God, pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness.”

Fr. Joe

Please extend condolences to the family of **Mary Therese Armstrong** who passed away Sunday, September 14, 2025. May she rest in peace.

The first meeting of the Little Rock Scripture Study of The Holy Spirit in the Bible is next Thursday, October 2.

There is room for more participants. For this Study, we will have just one session each week, on Thursday evenings. The Holy Spirit study is six weeks long and will meet on October 2, 9, 23, 30, November 6 and 13, at 6:30 PM in Marian Hall. Study books are available in the library, and a free will offering will be collected at the first session (suggested donation of \$18). For details or to sign up, contact Melanie Halvorson at melhalvor@gmail.com.

Please join us for a study that could deepen your understanding and broaden your community.

Fall Dinner Updates:

- St. Mary's major fundraiser for the year is our annual fall turkey dinner. Along with the turkey dinner we also have a raffle. This year our raffle is for three quilts made by our quilting group and five cash prizes of \$100. We ask that you pick up tickets to purchase yourself and to sell to family and friends. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5 or a book of 12 tickets for \$20. Tickets are available for pick up in the gathering space.
- This year, we will also be adding in an opportunity for intentional prayer in the form of a holy hour during the event. From 2 pm-8 pm, you can sign up for a half hour or two to pray in the presence of Jesus in the Tabernacle, offering the time up for the people of our parish and broader community at the dinner. We see this as a great way of truly participating in the event for those who like to help out downstairs, but are unable to do so due to either physical or time restraints. There will be a sign up sheet in the back alongside the rest of them for this important work!

40 Days for Life is a worldwide movement to end abortion through prayer and fasting. This year's **fall campaign runs from September 24-November 2**. Please consider fasting and praying as you are able for the babies in the womb.

La Crosse Life League is asking for people to join their 40-day prayer campaign at the Planned Parenthood clinic in La Crosse. If interested call Marie 608-799-9196.

LIBRARY CORNER *Life and Holiness* by Thomas Merton. Every now and then I read a book that causes me to take notes. This past week I read *Life and Holiness* by Thomas Merton. I took several pages of notes in my journal that I hope will cause my grandkids to read his work in the future.

Thomas Merton (1915-1968) is considered one of the most influential American Catholic authors of the twentieth century. His autobiography, *The Seven Storey Mountain*, has sold over one million copies. I hope to find a copy...and take a few more notes!

Merton wrote that a life of holiness is one that encompasses human activity in every area, not only what we traditionally associate with the sacred. *Life and Holiness* was published in 1963 (a [continued on page 4])

September 28, 2025

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of Sep. 15-21, 2025

Offertory: \$4,448.25

Total: \$4,448.25

Needed Weekly: \$4,600.00

August E-gifts: \$3,135.30

THANK YOU!

Ministry Schedule

Sat., Oct. 4, 6:30 PM

Gladys Jacobson Eucharistic Minister

Will Fisher Altar Server

NOT FILLED Altar Server

Pat Biebl Lector

Sun., Oct. 5, 10:30 AM

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister

Alexis Scoville Altar Server

Sasha Scoville Altar Server

Stephen Lambert Lector

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

CRAFTERS NEEDED: Are you a crafter? Would you like to use that skill to donate to the PCCW craft fair held at Coon Valley? It benefits our sister parish when we rent table space, and our own PCCW profits from any sales to help our local parish ministry. **The craft fair will be December 6th in Coon Valley.** Mark your calendar and get crafting!

MASS INTENTIONS

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

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

Wednesday, 1 October, 5:15 PM Fr. Joseph Richards

Friday, 3 October, 8:00 AM +Matthew Keenan
(Pat Effinger)

Saturday, 4 October, 6:30 PM Women of the Parish
(PCCW)

Sunday, 5 October, 10:30 AM +Guy Nicks
(Family of Guy Nicks)

CHURCH CALENDAR

PCCW CIRCLE FOR SEPTEMBER: ST. ANTHONY

PCCW CIRCLE FOR OCTOBER: ST. THERESA

Sunday, 28 September, 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, 1 October, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM St. Mary's Quilters in Marian Hall

Wednesday, 1 October, 6:00 PM 1st Communion Prep basement RE room

Thursday, 2 October, 6:00 PM Rebuild My Church Listening Session at St. Aloysius, Hillsboro

Thursday, 2 October, 6:30-8:00 PM Little Rock Bible Study in Marian Hall

Friday, 3 October, First Friday Adoration following Mass

Friday, 3 October, Camp Gray Middle School Retreat registration deadline

Saturday, 4 October, 5:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, 5 October, 9:00-10:15 AM Confirmation Class in Marian Hall & basement RE room

Sunday, 5 October, 10:00-10:15 AM Confirmation Parent meeting in parish library

Sunday, 5 October, 11:45 AM-1:00 PM Family of Faith Parental Prep

Casa Hogar Juan Pablo II Mission – October 11-12, 2025

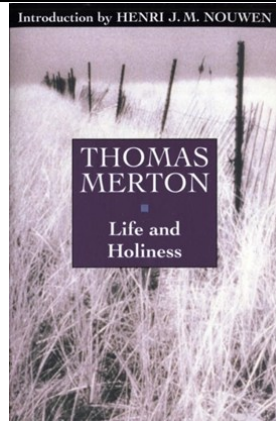
Msgr. Joseph Hirsch is looking forward to visiting your parish and sharing the inspiring story of Fr. Joseph Walijewski and the legacy that lives on in his name. Affectionately known as Padre José by the people of Bolivia and Peru, Father Walijewski received a \$50,000 gift from St. Pope John Paul II in 1985 to establish Casa Hogar Juan Pablo II—an orphanage rooted in faith and modeled on the values of a loving, healthy family. Today, Casa Hogar continues to offer hope and a brighter future to children in Peru.

As Director of Casa Hogar, Msgr. Hirsch brings a unique and deeply personal perspective on the life-changing work happening there. Through powerful stories, he will share what life was like for the children before arriving at Casa Hogar—and how their lives have been transformed thanks to the compassion and support of individuals and organizations from the Diocese of La Crosse and across the United States.

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

[continued from page 2] year before I was born), but this short book has caused me to look at every aspect of my life and spirituality (and take notes) sixty-two years later.

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.

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
608-784-1605; Scott@lacrosselaw.com



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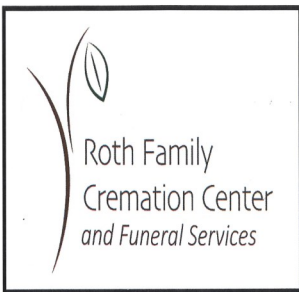
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Dan Kiedinger



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Westby, WI 54667
 Kindness Counts LLC

"...pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness." ~ 1 Timothy 6:11