

# Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



*Thank you for all your good work!*

Hello friends,

You've heard me mention it enough to know we've got our local listening session shortly after the 10:30 Mass this Sunday. Again, these are happening all over the Diocese, some in big parishes, some in small parishes, some in schools, etc., to make it as accessible as possible for folks who want (and/or need) to come. Without having experienced one yet, I imagine there will be some relevant forecasting, some difficult coming-to-terms with where we are, some grieving and puzzling, and some invitation to curiosity.

Just speaking for priests, several of my brothers know I'm a member of Fr. Derek's exploratory team, which inevitably leads to them digging for answers about "what's going to happen to my parish?", "what places are closing/merging?", etc. These tangible questions are all important, relevant, and understandable, and my brother priests are inevitably disappointed and suspicious that I might be holding out when I answer (honestly) "I have no idea." It makes a transition season so much more difficult in-the-moment to slow things down, to try and consult effectively, to try and communicate honestly and sufficiently. The "I just want to know what's going to happen" makes perfect sense, and with big-picture stuff like this as well as focused-picture stuff like people's stories and struggles and graces and encounters, that desire to *arrive* is a really hard thing to table.

Accounting for all that desire for resolution, I am encouraged by the approach Bishop Battersby is taking with this whole season. I want to know what the business plan is, he wants to know where the Holy Spirit is leading. Before officially introducing *Rebuild My Church* a year ago, Bishop and his people first cast the vision of a movement across the diocese from *(continued on page 2)*

**September 7, 2025**  
**23rd Sunday in**  
**Ordinary Time**

*Readings are in the hymnal,*  
**#1160**

## **Eucharist**

**Saturdays - 6:30 PM**

**Sundays - 10:30 AM**

**Wednesday - 5:15 PM**

**Fridays - 8:00 AM**

## **Livestreaming Mass**

[www.facebook.com/StMarysCoonValley](https://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](http://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](mailto:stmaryformation@mwt.net); (608) 637-7711

Beth Laurdan, Music Director, [stmaryparish@mwt.net](mailto:stmaryparish@mwt.net); (608) 637-7711; Tom Leis, Librarian, [saintmaryparishlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:saintmaryparishlibrary@gmail.com)

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

400 Congress Avenue, Viroqua, WI 54665

# September 7, 2025

*(continued from page 1)* maintenance to mission. We have inherited a rich culture and infrastructure from the last century and a half of Catholicism in the upper Midwest, from our mothers and fathers and grandparents and great grandparents who first brought it over (predominantly) from a rich (and sometimes underdog) Catholic culture in Europe. Many of us have grown up in established and secure churches and come to associate Catholicism and “Church” with this or that church building and community, and there is a real grace to that security and reliability as a footing from which to launch and expand. It can also be limiting to rest on what is known and familiar. Our mothers and fathers didn’t have that opportunity to maintain what they had received – there could be nothing to maintain if they didn’t first build. So here we are in a moment of transition, mirroring those missionary questions of our ancestors 50 or 100 or 150 or 1000 years ago – “what now Lord? Where are you leading me, my community, my family today? How are you inviting me to be your disciple, your missionary, your son/daughter?” There’s nothing new under the sun, only new presentations of the Lord’s one living Gospel.

God bless you!

Fr. Joe

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Hello Parish Family! As mentioned last week, we will be starting our Montessori-based Early Childhood programming, **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd** (CGS), the week of October 20th. In very short form, the CGS is a place for children to encounter Our Lord through prayer and working with intentionally created materials made for their particular spiritual needs. We had two Level 1 (3-6 year old) sessions per week last year, and we are expanding this year by adding in two Level 2 (6-9 year old) sessions per week. Our options for this year are as follows:

Level 1 (3-6 y/o): Mondays 9:30am to 11:30am OR 3:00pm to 5:00pm

Level 2 (6-9 y/o): Tuesdays 9:30am to 11:30am OR Wednesdays 3:00pm to 5:00pm

If a child is in school, and won't be able to make it to one of the 3:00-5:00 sessions until closer to 3:30, that is absolutely fine. The Lord can do wonderful things in just 1.5 hours! If you have any questions, or would like your child(ren) to attend, please contact me at [zadow2021@gmail.com](mailto:zadow2021@gmail.com) or 608-792-4872.

Thank you, and God bless you! Carly Zadow

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**Camp Gray Retreats:** Link to register - <https://campgray.com/weekend-retreats/>

\$35/attendee with Check In: Friday @ 7:00 PM and Check Out: Sunday @ 2:00 PM

**MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT OCTOBER 10-12, 2025** with Registration Deadline: October 3, 2025

**HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT NOVEMBER 14-16, 2025** with Registration Deadline: November 7, 2025

**MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT MARCH 13-15, 2026** with Registration Deadline: March 6, 2026

**HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT APRIL 24-26, 2026** with Registration Deadline: April 17, 2026

Location: E10213 Shady Lane Road in Reedsburg, WI 53959

*Interested families please contact Pat Obernberger, [stmaryformation@mwt.net](mailto:stmaryformation@mwt.net), for more information or to inform her if you register.*

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We are planning **two Little Rock Scripture Studies** this fall, marking the start of our third year of this type of Bible study. The first is a six session study of **The Holy Spirit in the Bible**. The second is just three sessions, **perfect for Advent: The Infancy Narratives**. We will be offering sessions on Thursday evening and Friday morning for both studies. Holy Spirit starts October 2 and 3 and ends on November 13 and 14, taking a break in the week of the Fall Benefit. The Infancy Narratives will begin December 4 and 5 and end on December 18 and 19. Sign up for either or both!

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.

As a participant, you receive LRSS materials (suggested donation of \$18) that include the scripture readings for each meeting, commentary on the Scriptures by Catholic biblical scholars, and study questions. You'll *(continued on page 4)*

# September 7, 2025

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of Aug. 25-31, 2025

Offertory: \$1,743.00

Total: \$1,743.00

Needed Weekly: \$4,600.00

July E-gifts: \$2,929.93

THANK YOU!

## Ministry Schedule

### **Sat., Sep. 13, 6:30 PM**

NOT FILLED Eucharistic Minister

NOT FILLED Altar Server

NOT FILLED Altar Server

Mark Brueggem Lector

### **Sun., Sep. 14, 10:30 AM**

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister

Amelia Kimmet Altar Server

Jacob Kimmet Altar Server

Dale Pertzborn Lector

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

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.

## MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, 6 September, 6:30 PM +Mike Culek**

(Roger & Phyllis Krause)

**Sunday, 7 September, 10:30 PM +Carl P. & Margaret S. Simon**

(Joe Simon)

**Wednesday, 10 September, 5:15 PM +Debra Skildum**

(Angie Leis)

**Friday, 12 September, 8:00 AM +Dennis Boudreau**

(Tim Boudreau)

**Saturday, 13 September, 6:30 PM +Deceased Relatives of Biebl/Skowron**

**Families**

(Biebl Family)

**Sunday, 14 September, 10:30 AM People of the Annunciation & St.**

**Mary's Parishes**

## CHURCH CALENDAR

**PCCW CIRCLE FOR SEPTEMBER: ST. ANTHONY**

**Sunday, 7 September, 12:00 PM *Rebuild My Church* Listening Session in**

**Marian Hall**

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

**Marian Hall**

**Thursday, 11 September, 6:00 PM Finance Council Meeting in Parish**

**Library**

**Saturday, 13 September, 12:00-2:00 PM Well-read Moms meeting in new**

**library/meeting room**

**Sunday, 14 September, after 10:30 AM Mass Family of Faith & Safe**

**Environment in Marian Hall**

• **Sunday, September 14th: After the 10:30 AM Mass in Viroqua**

• **Sunday, September 21st: After the 8:00 AM Mass in Coon Valley**

It's time to register the whole family for our upcoming formation programs!

### **Program**

### **Age**

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) Atrium I

3-6

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) Atrium II

6-9

Blessed First Reconciliation

Gr 2-5

Blessed First Communion

Gr 2-5

Family of Faith (FoF)

K-Gr 9

Encounter: Bible Timeline

Gr 6-8

Decision Point

Gr 9

Confirmation Preparation

Gr 10-12

Bible Study for Sunday Gospel Preparation

Gr 11+

Little Rock Bible Study (6 & 3 session options)

Gr 11+

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

Adult

Contemplative Reading Group

Adult



(continued from page 2) read each week's lesson ahead of time, and discuss with a small group the questions associated with that week's lesson. We typically end with a 20 minute video lecture by a scripture scholar that summarizes and deepens what we've learned. We take 90 minutes for each meeting.

If you'd like to join us, email or text Melanie Halvorson ([melhalvor@gmail.com](mailto:melhalvor@gmail.com) or 312-315-9048) with your name, email and telephone number, and the studies and session days in which you are interested. If you have questions, contact Neil Lonergan at 608-692-1085 or [nlnrgn@chorus.net](mailto:nlnrgn@chorus.net). We'll have more details in future announcements.

Please join us.

**LDCCW SHARE SHOP - Saturday, September 20, 2025, at Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine, La Crosse**  
FREE admission; 9:30 AM registration OR to register, email [kay@pmcmgmt.com](mailto:kay@pmcmgmt.com) or call/text 608-780-0485.  
(see gathering space bulletin board for more information)

## 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](mailto:stmaryparish@mwt.net).

**Healing Service – Cashton** Come and experience God's supernatural love! Join us at **Sacred Heart Church, 1223 Front St., Cashton on Friday, Sept. 12** for Adoration & Confession at 4:30 PM, Mass at 5:30 PM, and Healing Prayer to follow. This evening is not only about physical healing but also about encountering Jesus and meeting the Divine Physician, who heals the heart, mind, and soul. Jesus promised, *"They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."* (Mark 16:17)  
Contact: **Sara Clements, 608-385-5285**



Estate Planning, Probate, Trust, and Litigation  
608-784-1605; [Scott@lacrosselaw.com](mailto:Scott@lacrosselaw.com)



### Kickapoo Counseling

110 N. Main Street  
Westby, WI 54667  
608-634-2365

[info@kickapoo-counseling.com](mailto:info@kickapoo-counseling.com)

If you would like to advertise on this page, please contact 608-637-7711

**Roger and Joyce Humfeld**  
R&J's HONEY FARM  
S2676 Haugen Ln.  
Westby, WI 54667  
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608-606-0832 (cell)  
[rjhoneyfarm@hotmail.com](mailto:rjhoneyfarm@hotmail.com)

### WESTBY LOCKER & MEATS

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