

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Hello friends,

I apologize if you were at daily Mass a few days ago and are receiving some recycled material, but I just find a lot of grace in Saints Simon (not Peter) and Jude (not Judas). We gathered on Tuesday night in the now-effectively-heated Coon Valley church (thank you John and Mark for your prompt responses) to celebrate the Feast Day of these two Apostles. One of the things about Simon and Jude that strikes me as quite profound is their simple anonymity – yes, they are listed among Jesus' Apostles and yes, that automatically makes them really Big Deals, and yet there is a certain "unknown" about them. Allow me to elaborate:

- Both figures play second fiddle when it comes to names. In Simon's case, "Simon the Apostle" will forever bring "Simon Peter" to mind first. As for "Jude," that "Jude" was originally "Judas," changed to "Jude" to avoid the inevitable association with a certain other "Judas." They don't even get the credit of their own names (although admittedly Matthew and Mark distinguish "Jude" as "Thaddeus").
- Speaking of unfortunate name association, St. Jude is known as the Patron Saint of Lost/Hopeless Causes, since you have to be really desperate to call on the guy who shares his name with a certain other "Judas." He's the "tried everything else, couldn't hurt to give this guy a shot" saint, and he admittedly does impressive work.
- In Matthew, Mark, and Luke's lists of Apostles, Simon and Jude are dead last in the batting order before a certain other "Judas." As for John, he references Jude as another participant at the Last Supper, "Judas, not the Iscariot." Again, unfortunate name association.
- Beyond all this, we really don't know that much (*continued on page 2*)

November 2, 2025
All Souls' Day

*Readings are in the hymnal,
#1210*

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

November 2, 2025

(continued from page 1) about either Apostle's story. We know that Simon B.C. was a Zealot (very roughly analogous to a religious extremist) and that Jude asked Jesus about His order of operations, but that's about it.

So here are Simon and Jude, two comparatively unknown figures lined up next to the likes of John and Matthew and even a certain other "Judas". And yet how do we know them? As "Saint Simon, Apostle" and "Saint Jude, Apostle." My whole point here is that anonymity, smallness, being popularly unknown are all not so bad. Some of my favorite other Saint groupings are St. Denis and Companions, Saint Paul Miki and Companions, Saint Charles Lwanga and...you get the point. There is a real grace in following the Lord just for the sake of following the Lord – in receiving His invitation (which He extended once upon a time to Simon and Jude) and saying "yes" to Him, just like these great anonymous Saints.

Okay, that's enough for today. God bless you,

Fr. Joe

Grief Share, Surviving the Holidays

Grief can seem overwhelming, especially during the holiday season. What was once a joyous time is now dimmed by emotional pain caused by the loss of a loved one, (no matter how long they have been gone)! ***Surviving the Holidays*** provides encouragement, support, and valuable tools to navigate the season. Please join us for this special 2-hour event.

Date: Monday, November 3rd

Time: 5:00 to 7:00 pm

Place: Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church
400 Congress Avenue
Viroqua, WI 54665

To register: Call 608-637-7711, E-mail Stmaryparish@MWT.net, or go to griefshare.org/holidays

United Country-Oakwood Realty, LLC is sponsoring the 4th annual **Something For Seniors** gift drive throughout the month of November which is National Long Term Care Awareness Month. **Something For Seniors** is like **Toys For Tots**, but Christmas gifts are collected and given to our seniors living in local healthcare and assisted living facilities. Crafts, puzzles, body care products, socks, are just a few ideas of donation items. A full list of ideas is found on the collection boxes located at: The Market Place (Cenex) in Gays Mills, Hansen's IGA in Westby, Valley Market in Coon Valley, and in Viroqua: Nelson Agri-Center, The Viroqua Food Coop, Dollar Tree, St Mary's Catholic Church, Vernon County Aging & Disability Resource Center. We ask that only "New" items be donated. Gifts can also be purchased through Amazon. For more information and gift ideas, please visit: **SomethingForSeniors.Org** or join the Something For Seniors FaceBook Group. Thank you!

Viroqua Community Free Thanksgiving Dinner

Thursday, November 27, 2025

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Dining location: St. Mary's Catholic Church, Viroqua

Richland Center Deanery Council of Catholic Women

Fall Assembly

Date: Saturday, November 8, 2025; **Time:** Noon; **Location:** St. Mary of the Nativity Parish, 32605 Durst Lane, Keyesville, WI

Presentation by Patrick & Stephanie Schwingle. Potluck dinner. For more information, contact LDCCW President Candace McGrath - candace.ldccw@gmail.com or call 608-647-0400

November 2, 2025

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of Oct. 20-26, 2025

Offertory: \$3,361.11

Mission Co-op: \$235.00

Mission Sunday: \$623.00

Total: \$4,219.11

Needed Weekly: \$4,600.00

September E-gifts: \$2,497.80

THANK YOU!

2025-2026

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Goal: \$36,920.00

Received to date: \$521.00

Donors: 3

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 1 November, 12:10 PM People of Annunciation & St. Mary's Parishes

Saturday, 1 November, 6:30 PM +Mary Ellen Hatton
(Patricia Biebl)

Sunday, 2 November, 10:30 AM +All Souls' Day - Therese Fortney, Cal Hoffer, Matt Keenan, Kevin McGuire, Helen Pedretti, Mike Culek, Alice Atteln, Con Henderson, Mary Bina, Irene Reinstra, Janet Lucey, Mary Therese & Ray Armstrong, Mary Ellen Hatton

Wednesday, 5 November, 5:15 PM Women of the Parish
(PCCW)

Friday, 7 November, 8:00 AM +Fila Torres
(Diana Hernandez)

Saturday, 8 November, 6:30 PM +Memory of Bill Chart
(Darlene Chart)

Sunday, 9 November, 10:30 AM +Thomas O'Rourke
(Paul O'Rourke)

CHURCH CALENDAR

PCCW CIRCLE FOR NOVEMBER: ST. JOSEPH

Saturday, 1 November, 5:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, 2 November, 9:00-10:15 AM Confirmation Class in Marian Hall & Confirmation classroom

Sunday, 2 November, 10:30 AM Commemorative Mass for the Faithful Departed with brunch following in Marian Hall

Sunday, 2 November, 11:45 AM-1:00 PM Family of Faith Parental Prep

Sunday, 2 November, following Mass Christmas Pageant rehearsal

Monday, 3 November, 9:30-11:30 AM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level 1 in CGS classroom

Monday, 3 November, 3:00-5:00 PM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level 1 in CGS classroom

Monday, 3 November, 5:00-7:00 PM *Surviving the Holidays* in Marian Hall

Wednesday, 5 November, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM St. Mary's Quilters in Marian Hall

Wednesday, 5 November 3:00-5:00 PM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level 2 in CGS classroom

Wednesday, 5 November, 6:00-7:30 PM Decision Point in confirmation classroom

Wednesday, 5 November, 6:00 PM 1st Reconciliation Class in basement classroom

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

Friday, 7 November, Registration Deadline for Camp Gray High School Retreat

Saturday, 8 November, 12:00-2:00 PM Well-read Moms in the new library/meeting room

Sunday, 9 November, 8:00-10:00 AM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level 2 in CGS classroom

Sunday, 9 November, 9:00-10:15 AM Encounter Class in pie room

Sunday, 9 November, 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal

Monday, 10 November, 9:30-11:30 AM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level 1 in CGS classroom

Monday, 10 November, 3:00-5:00 PM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level 1 in CGS classroom

Ministry Schedule

Sat., Nov. 8, 6:30 PM

Gladys Jacobson Eucharistic Minister
Reid Fisher Altar Server
Lane Fisher Altar Server
Will Fisher Altar Server
Pat Biebl Lector

Sun., Nov. 9, 10:30 AM

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister
Logan Curti Altar Server
Basil Stevenson Altar Server
Al Mislivecek Lector

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

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.

Parish Bookkeeper Wanted

Fr. Matthew Bowe and the Tri-Parish Catholic Community of Cashton-Norwalk is seeking a part-time bookkeeper. If interested, please inquire at (608) 654-5654 (please leave a message) or email secretary@smash3p.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.

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!



Estate Planning, Probate, Trust, and Litigation
608-784-1605; Scott@lacrosslaw.com



Kickapoo Counseling

110 N. Main Street
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If you would like to advertise on this page, please contact 608-637-7711

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"The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want." ~ Psalm 23:1