

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Ten Lepers Healed by William West

Hello friends,

First off, a big thank you to Msgr. Hirsch and all of our people who are pitching in to make a weekend without the Pastor happen. For my part, I'm down in Rolla, Missouri (a town I had never heard of until I heard of it) for the baptism of a brand-new godchild, Miriam Sophia – pray for her and her family as she enters the Lord's Church. For your part, allow me to introduce Msgr. Hirsch. Back when he was "Fr." Hirsch (which he still is) in the 2000's, Fr. Hirsch shook my hand and said (paraphrased) "welcome to our seminary program, Joe." I entered for a year and a half then left toward the end of his time as vocation director, only to return later with a "gotcha." Anyhow, I'm grateful to have Msgr. Hirsch as a brother priest and to have him here with all of you this weekend. Our Diocese has run Casa Hogar as a primary mission for some decades now, and I am curious to hear your impressions of what he has to share and of the work we're doing with the good folks of Peru.

Second, I'd like to share something I've been reading this past week. Last weekend, dear college friend and coworker in the (Winona-Rochester) vineyard Brian spent a few days at the rectory with me making a retreat. He's a Third Order Franciscan, and he selected St. Francis' feast day to take a moment of withdrawal into the wilderness with the Lord. Brian has always been a font of wisdom for me – a deeply reflective, earnest, and spiritually profound brother. As we sat up on the deck after Saturday's Masses, we got talking shop about our current Diocesan pastoral planning. He has since shared with me a challenging article, titled "What is a Parish?" by an unknown-to-me Matthew Walther – a *(continued on page 2)*

October 12, 2025
28th Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Readings are in the hymnal,
#1175

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

October 12, 2025

(continued from page 1) google search for “The Lamp What is a Parish” will pull it right up. Mr. Walther is addressing a very important question for us to grapple with – not to re-write church structures but to understand the nature of the most regularly-accessed and readily-familiar institution to most Catholics, the parish. This isn’t very light reading (nor is it a medical textbook), but if you’re looking for a thought-stirrer I’ll at least say it’s stirring my thoughts. It’s considering questions about a parish’s purpose, structure, and ultimately the needs of our imminent future and immediate present.

I am very grateful to all of you for following along on this current ride and into this current season in the Church. Viroqua’s own listening session is a good example of our curiosity – we had some 80-90 folks settle into Marian Hall for that session, and I’ve witnessed that same curiosity at several other sessions since then. If you haven’t had a chance to get to one and hope to, I have good news – La Crosse’s sessions are coming up over this next week: October 16, at 6:30 at Blessed Sacrament, October 19, at 1:00 at Mary Mother of the Church, and October 21, at 6:30. These sessions are an excellent opportunity to enter into the big conversations going on around the Diocese.

God bless you all,

Fr. Joe

Please extend condolences to the family of **Mary Ellen Hatton** who passed away Thursday, October 9, 2025. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held here on Saturday, October 18, 2025, with lunch immediately following in Marian Hall. May she rest in peace.

Fall Dinner Updates: the fall dinner is this Wednesday, October 15th from 4-7!

- The sign up sheets still have a lot of open spots. Please do consider signing up for a shift if you haven’t already. There are jobs available for all skill levels. Take a look after Mass.
- Reminder that each family is asked to donate 2 pies for the dinner. Cherry, Apple or Pumpkin only, as the others can be messy to cut. Pies can be dropped off any time Tuesday or by 3:00 pm on Wednesday.

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

LIBRARY CORNER *My First Communion Prayer Book*

There are 75 shopping days ‘til Christmas. We do not, as of yet, have a Christmas gift for our grandson, Simon. I did, however, order his First Communion gift earlier this week. Our parish library has multiple copies of a book titled: ***My First Communion Prayer Book***. The author of this book is Angela M. Burrin, and the illustrator is Maria Cristina Lo Casscio. It has a 2020 copyright. The ISBN: 978-1-59325-163-5. If you plan to purchase a First Communion gift for someone, please stop by the library and take a look at this title. I don’t know if this is the “perfect” gift; but I do know that it is a really, really good consideration. Simon will receive his First Communion in 204 days, Christmas is in 75 days, and his birthday is (continued on page 4)

October 12, 2025

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of Sep. 29-Oct.5, 2025

Offertory: \$4,219.40

Mission Sunday: \$20.00

Total: \$4,239.40

Needed Weekly: \$4,600.00

September E-gifts: \$2,497.80

THANK YOU!

Ministry Schedule

Sat., Oct. 18, 6:30 PM

Matthew Tubbin Eucharistic Minister

Reid Fisher Altar Server

Lane Fisher Altar Server

Amy Matthes Lector

Sun., Oct. 19, 10:30 AM

Raven Stevenson Eucharistic Minister

Basil Stevenson Altar Server

Pearl Stevenson Altar Server

Al Mislivecek Lector

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 11 October, 6:30 PM +Joe & Roger Biebl

(Biebl Family)

Sunday, 12 October, 10:30 AM +Carl P. & Margaret S. Simon

(Joe Simon)

Wednesday, 15 October, 12:10 PM +Ambrose Timmerman

(Timmerman Family)

Friday, 17 October, 8:00 AM +Con Henderson

(Ann Graham)

Saturday, 18 October, 6:30 PM +Mike Culek

(Pat Effinger)

Sunday, 19 October, 10:30 AM +Howard Olson

(Jim Olson)

CHURCH CALENDAR

PCCW CIRCLE FOR OCTOBER: ST. THERESA

Friday-Tuesday, 10-14 October, Fr. Joe in Missouri

Saturday-Sunday, 11-12 October, Mission Coop Weekend with Msgr.

Joseph Hirsch

Sunday, 12 October, 10:00 AM Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, 12 October, 12:00 PM OCIA Neophyte Gathering in basement

RE room

Monday, 13 October, Parish Office Closed

Wednesday, 15 October, 4:00-7:00 PM Annual Fall Dinner & Quilt Raffle in Marian Hall

Saturday, 18 October, 11:00 AM Mass of Christian Burial for Mary Ellen Hatton, lunch following in Marian Hall

Saturday, 18 October, 5:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, 19 October, 9:00-10:15 AM Confirmation Class in Marian Hall & basement RE room

Sunday, 19 October, following Mass Christmas Pageant rehearsal

Any youth interested in participating in this year's **Christmas Pageant** should sign up on the form in the Gathering Space. Rehearsals will begin on **Sunday, October 19th after Mass**. Any questions, email Beth at bethlakmann@icloud.com.

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.

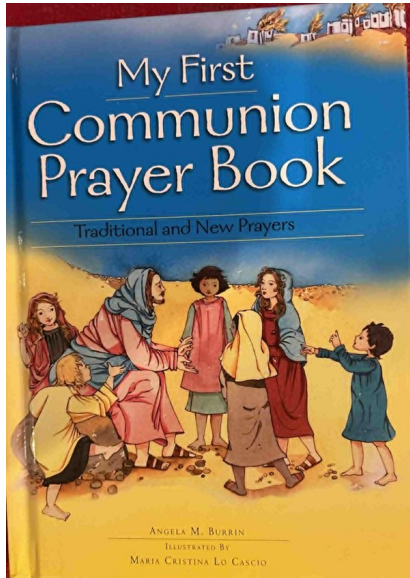
CRAFTERS NEEDED: Are you a crafter? Would you like to use that skill to donate to the PCCW craft fair held at Coon Valley? It benefits our sister parish when we rent table space, and our own PCCW profits from any sales to help our local parish ministry. **The craft fair will be December 6th in Coon Valley.**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

Hello Parish Family, There has been a **change in the CGS schedule!** We have taken out the Level 2 Tuesday morning session and replaced it with a Sunday morning option. Here is the updated schedule:
Level 1 (3-6 y/o): Mondays 9:30 am to 11:30 am OR 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Level 2 (6-9 y/o): **Sundays 8:00 am to 10:00 am** OR Wednesdays 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm
There is still time to sign up for CGS! Please contact me with questions or if you would like to have your child join us. God bless you! Carly Zadow (608-792-4872 or zadow2021@gmail.com)

October 12, 2025

(continued from page 2) in 70 days. So much shopping for just one little boy... I wonder if Simon will be reading this.

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.

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

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"Stand up and go; your faith has saved you." ~ Luke 17:19