

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish

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Hello friends,

On Thursday last week we had a number of Saints to choose from in our Mass celebration – while we landed with St. Margaret Mary Alacoque (the seventeenth-century promoter of devotion to the Sacred Heart), St. Hedwig offered another possibility as well as the more obscure St. Longinus. Longinus is an interesting figure – depicted in Viroqua’s new sanctuary artwork as the soldier holding a lance. Going back to the seventh or eight centuries, the Church has identified the soldier of John 19:34 with Saint Longinus.

Skip past this part if you’ve got a queasy stomach, as it’ll have a few more gruesome details. As the story goes in the Gospel of Good Friday, at Jesus’ crucifixion He was crucified along with two criminals on the day before the Sabbath. For context, crucifixion typically worked its effects over the course of a few days, culminating in a death by suffocation when the person’s muscular system couldn’t support their weight to catch a breath. Crucifixion was a cruel way to punish someone and send a hard and public message to any sympathizers or “colleagues,” intended to heap shame and clear defeat on top of a rather unpleasant death. It was also customary not to leave crucified victims/criminals alive through the Jewish Sabbath (Saturday), so after a few hours the crucifiers set about hurrying up the process by breaking first the criminals’ legs, then finding Jesus already expired. As John 19:33-34 goes, “when they came to Jesus and found that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus’ side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water.”

This is Longinus’ moment of encounter with Jesus Christ (*continued on page 2*) –

October 19, 2025
29th Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Readings are in the hymnal,
#1178

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 19, 2025

(continued from page 1) there in the power of blood and water flowing from Jesus' side to sanctify and renew. Longinus stands as the first person after Jesus' death to have their life turned around by the same power of His sacrifice, and as Longinus' legendary (which is not to say "untrue") story continues, he ultimately followed Jesus into martyrdom himself. All this time later we hold him up as a Saint made in Christ's image, following Jesus into death. Whether we choose it or not, the Cross is a charged, challenging, and demanding symbol to us even 2000 years after the initial fact. I find such a tremendous power in the ways the Lord accompanies us in hard moments. Discipleship is not a matter of pleasant familiarity but of following Jesus through this life, through death after Him, and into new life in the wake of His resurrection. I am so grateful to witness Christ moving in your own lives (and mine), and I invite you to spend some time with the many ways Jesus is knocking at the door of your own heart, whether that be in joy or sorrow. There is hope in all things by His grace.

God bless you,

Fr. Joe

The donations from fellowship this weekend will go to Casa Hogar.

FALL DINNER A big thank you to everyone that helped with the Fall Dinner. And while I don't have final numbers for you as of the printing of the bulletin, I can whole heartedly say I consider it a rousing success. Congratulations, parish family! Watch next week's bulletin for the official summary. I hope to have some pictures to share, as well. As a last note, the **Fall Dinner follow up meeting** will be this **Thursday** evening, **October 23, at 5:15 pm in Marian Hall.**

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 *Beauty of Catholicism Facebook (FB) page*

Becoming the parish librarian is not the only reason I retired...almost 4 years ago. Cindy and I also retired to take care of our grandkids and to travel. As it turns out, it was/is, a perfect plan for us. Having said that, we spend more time with our grandkids than we expected, and we spend more time traveling than our kids expected. I also spend more time on FB than I should, which brings us to this week's posting. Just a few weeks ago a friend posted this site on FB. It is described as "a virtual pilgrimage of the Catholic Church." I have posted some sites of local interest to this page; and in the next month, I hope to post some sites from afar as we live out the traveling part of our retirement dream. See screenshots following. ***(continued on page 4)***

October 19, 2025

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of Oct.6-12, 2025

Offertory: \$3,589.00

Mission Co-op: \$1,190.00

Total: \$4,779.00

Needed Weekly: \$4,600.00

September E-gifts: \$2,497.80

THANK YOU!

Ministry Schedule

Sat., Oct. 25, 6:30 PM

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister
Will Fisher Altar Server
NOT FILLED Altar Server
Amy Matthes Lector

Sun., Oct. 26, 10:30 AM

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister
Logan Curti Altar Server
Mariah Sullivan Altar Server
Matthew Tubbin Lector

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

RAFFLE PRIZE WINNERS

1st-queen quilt	Katie Moser
2nd-twin quilt	Sue Fanta
3rd-baby quilt	Tom Johnson
4th-\$100	Karen Hundt
5th-\$100	Glenice Halfman
6th-\$100	Carol Hall
7th-\$100	Dcn. Tony Shay
8th-\$100	Dan Kiedinger

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.

MASS INTENTIONS

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

(Pat Effinger)

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

(Jim Olson)

Wednesday, 22 October, 5:15 PM Women of the Parish

(PCCW)

Friday, 24 October, 8:00 AM People of the Annunciation and St. Mary's Parishes

Saturday, 25 October, 6:30 PM +Mary Bina

(George & Jean Schug)

Sunday, 26 October, 10:30 AM +Gary Teadt

(Carol Teadt)

CHURCH CALENDAR

PCCW CIRCLE FOR OCTOBER: ST. THERESA

Saturday, 18 October, 5:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, 19 October, 9:00 AM Family of Faith monthly activity, St.

Mary's, Coon Valley

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

Sunday, 19 October, following Mass Christmas Pageant rehearsal

Monday, 20 October, 9:30-11:30 AM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level 1 in CGS classroom

Monday, 20 October, 3:00-5:00 PM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level 1 in CGS classroom

Tuesday, 21 October, 1:00 PM St. Mary's Book Club in parish library

Wednesday, 22 October, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM St. Mary's Quilters in Marian Hall

Wednesday, 22 October, 3:00-5:00 PM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level 2 in CGS classroom

Wednesday, 22 October, 6:00-7:30 PM Decision Point in confirmation classroom

Wednesday, 22 October, 6:00 PM 1st Reconciliation Class in basement classroom

Thursday, 23 October, 5:15 PM Fall Dinner Wrap-up in Marian Hall

Thursday, 23 October, 6:30-8:00 PM Little Rock Bible Study in Marian Hall

Friday, 24 October, 10:30 AM Visitation, 11:00 AM Funeral Mass for Mary Therese and Ray Armstrong, lunch following in Marian Hall

Sunday, 26 October, 8:00-10:00 AM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level 2 in CGS classroom

Sunday, 26 October, 9:00-10:15 AM Encounter Class in pie room

Sunday, 26 October, 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, 26 October, 11:45 AM-1:30 PM OCIA in pie room

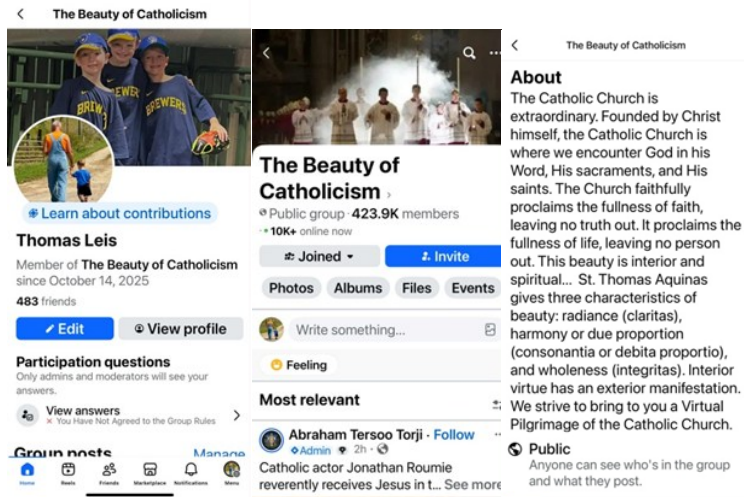
Sunday, 26 October, following Mass Christmas Pageant rehearsal

Monday, 27 October, 9:30-11:30 AM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level 1 in CGS classroom

Monday, 27 October, 3:00-5:00 PM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level 1 in CGS classroom

Monday, 27 October, 5:00-6:30 PM Community Meal at Good Shepherd Church

(continued from page 2)



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.

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
Westby, WI 54667
608-634-2365

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
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608-606-0832 (cell)
rjhoneyfarm@hotmail.com

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COUNTS LLC**

"Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones...?" ~ Luke 18:7