

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Bible Art

Hello friends,

Early last week our deacons and priests got together for our annual Fall Clergy Conference. This conference and the summer's Priest Unity Days make up the two official clergy gatherings every year, with Priest Unity Days traditionally leaning into fraternity and prayer and FCC into business. I mentioned last weekend that I was having my fraternity (Frs. McCarty, Gunther, Hokamp, Williams, and Schmitt) over for the evening, which unofficially started off the whole few days (with a really quite well-made moose stew). While these monthly meetings don't typically coincide with Diocesan business, it worked quite well to kick off our broader Diocesan fraternity with this focused group time.

Once the conference officially started on Monday we looked at personal renewal as a general theme – Fr. Mark Pierce (Pastor of my first assignment and a brilliant student and presenter of Sacred Scripture) invited us to let ourselves be lifelong students (that is, to not stop studying and expanding once we leave seminary), Dr. Jennifer and Mr. Nick Althoff invited us to take our physical health with a modicum of seriousness, and Diocesan liturgist Chris Carstens invited us to examine our *Ars Celebrandi* – that is, the Art of Celebrating the Liturgy. This afternoon blended our own wellbeing (parts, I suppose, of what may fit into the overused term “self-care”) with intentional and continuing formation. Perhaps it could all be summed up under the broader “sharpening the saw.”

On Tuesday Bishop Battersby kicked us off with his message – an exhortation to let our priesthoods be more Jesus' priesthood than our own. We were all predictably twitchy to hear if he had anything to say about restructuring, merging, etc. As has become its own norm, Bishop didn't give us a quick fix but instead invited us to curiosity and docility. Through this whole process the shared temptation to be handed “the Plan” has been a constant – there are big important numbers and big important needs and big important personnel and congregation trends out there, and you and I (and the gathered body of priests) wait in watchful expectation. Tension is hard, and it's built into us to want to “arrive” at a safe and final destination. The kicker with that is that (*continued on page 2*)

October 26, 2025
30th Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Readings are in the hymnal,
#1181

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 26, 2025

(continued from page 1) for 2000 years the Church has never been about “arriving” here on Earth – it’s been about journeying in the footsteps of the Good Shepherd to our final arrival in the next life. Through Fr. Sakowski’s listening sessions, our own cooperation between parishes, and the big picture work the Holy Spirit is leading us through, Bishop’s repeated narrative is a movement “from maintenance to mission” – honoring and stewarding what we’ve inherited, but above all following the example of the early disciples to ask in each moment, “where are You leading us right now, Lord?”

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!

All Souls’ Day: All Souls’ Day is next Sunday, November 2nd. See the Mass intentions in the bulletin for the list of deceased we will be especially remembering next Sunday. We have many this year that don’t have family in the area so if you are interested in standing in for one of those families, please reach out to Julie Moore at 307-359-2322.

Community Thanksgiving Dinner: The Community Thanksgiving Dinner will be held on Thanksgiving Day, November 27th and is being hosted this year by Immanuel Lutheran Church and, as usual, will be held at our parish. It’s a Viroqua Ministerial Association event, and all parishes come together to put this event together. The sign up sheet will be available next weekend in the gathering space. Julie Moore is the coordinator for our parish, so please reach out to her if you have any questions or would like more information. You can reach her at 307-359-2322.

DIOCESE OF LA CROSSE GUIDELINES FOR REPORTING INSTANCES OF CHILD ABUSE:

The Diocese of La Crosse, through its policies and procedures, seeks to provide a prompt, appropriate and compassionate response to reporters of sexual abuse of a child by any diocesan agent (bishop, priest, deacon, employee, religious, vendor or volunteer). Anyone wishing to make a report of an allegation of sexual abuse should send that report to Mrs. Teresa Brown, Complaint Intake Agent, at the Diocese of La Crosse, P.O. Box 4004, La Crosse, WI 54602-4004. Alternatively, you can contact Mrs. Brown at 608.791.0179 or intakeagent@diolc.org. The reporting form is available through the Diocese of La Crosse Office of Safe Environment or on the diocesan website at: diolc.org/safe-environment/reporting. (continued on page 4)

October 26, 2025

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of Oct.6-12, 2025

Offertory: \$6,347.07

Mission Co-op: \$2,065.00

Mission Sunday: \$142.00

Total: \$8,554.07

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

Ministry Schedule

Sat., Nov. 1, 6:30 PM

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister

Will Fisher Altar Server

NOT FILLED Altar Server

Dan Kiedinger Lector

Sun., Nov. 2, 10:30 AM

Kyle Prorok Eucharistic Minister

Royce Scoville Altar Server

Alexis Scoville Altar Server

Dale Pertzborn Lector

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

MASS INTENTIONS

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

(George & Jean Schug)

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

(Carol Teadt)

Wednesday, 29 October, 5:15 PM +Irene Reinstra

(anonymous)

Friday, 31 October, 8:00 AM +Bernie Harter

(Jane Harter & John Harter)

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

CHURCH CALENDAR

PCCW CIRCLE FOR OCTOBER: ST. THERESA

PCCW CIRCLE FOR NOVEMBER: ST. JOSEPH

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

Wednesday, 29 October, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM St. Mary's Quilters in Marian Hall

Wednesday, 29 October, 3:00-5:00 PM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level 2 in CGS classroom

Wednesday, 29 October, 6:00-7:30 PM Decision Point in confirmation classroom

Wednesday, 29 October, 6:00 PM 1st Reconciliation Class in basement classroom

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

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

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.

(continued from page 2) Individuals are also encouraged to take their reports directly to civil authorities. Copies of the diocesan policy are available through your local parish and on the diocesan website. If you have any questions about the Diocese of La Crosse and the implementation of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, please contact Teresa Brown, Diocese of La Crosse, at 608.791.2679 or tbrown@diolc.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.

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

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!



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