

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Hello friends,

First, some business. We're talking about money over the next few weeks, with the annual mission appeal next weekend, the broader World Missions Sunday the weekend after that, and at the end of the month the Diocesan Annual Appeal. This is an anomaly – typically the mission appeal weekend falls much earlier in the year, but this year we have a highly-sought-after priest coming in, our Diocese's own Monsignor Joe Hirsch. Bad timing aside, I am excited to have Msgr. Hirsch here – he was the vocation director when I started seminary and was formative in my high school years. More recently he has been the chief of our diocesan mission Casa Hogar in Peru. He's joyful, experienced, charismatic, and I look forward to his visit. Meanwhile, I'll be down in Missouri for a baptism – this won't affect our Mass schedules at all, but I will be unavailable Friday noon through Tuesday noon.

And now for a reflective word. If you've spent time in Viroqua's church over the last few months you've seen renovation pieces falling into place one at a time, like restoring the original crucifix, turning the altar around, more recently some woodwork, and a few weeks ago the installation of two pictures (Mary Mother of Jesus and John the Apostle on one side, Mary Magdalene and Longinus on the other) by artist Elizabeth Zelasko out in Colorado. One of Elizabeth's other works (this one of St. Peter) was recently gifted to Pope Leo, and she shared a beautiful reflection with her subscribers. Allow me to pilfer her beautiful words:

“Wait until you see this...” A text came from a friend with a photo attached.

Nowadays you can never tell if the photos and ‘news’ attached to any text thread is bearing joy or sorrow. They seem to come in equal measures lately. This one- pure unadulterated joy... The Pope, yes THE POPE,” had received one of my works of art as a gift from Legatus who commissioned the original piece. THE POPE, was looking at something I had done...

“My heart burst into a million pieces... Is this the pinnacle? *(continued on page 2)*

October 5, 2025
27th Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Readings are in the hymnal,
#1172

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 5, 2025

(continued from page 1) Do I get to retire now? No, I don't. (nor would I want to!) But what could be better for a Catholic artist than this moment—except perhaps the Lord himself coming down and saying, 'I really like that painting, Liz. Well done.'? The reality is that there is no absolute pinnacle in this life. There are just a series of hills and valleys until we reach our true and only pinnacle, Christ himself. But, I think I will sit peacefully on this hill for just a little while. Maybe even leave a memorial stone. Maybe even have a chat with that younger version of myself who thought she wouldn't accomplish much in this life. Who thought no one would appreciate her work. Who has hoped they would, but couldn't imagine the possibility... I am going to break the good news to her and sit with her for a little while, and celebrate. Thanks for celebrating with me."

I find tremendous grace in that image of hills and valleys, of pausing to take in the movement and flow of grace, of journeying on. And finally, I echo those words to you, thank you for celebrating with me, for praying this Mass, for walking with me to the Lord. God bless you,

Fr. Joe

Fall Dinner Updates:

- St. Mary's major fundraiser for the year is our annual fall turkey dinner. Along with the turkey dinner we also have a raffle. This year our raffle is for three quilts made by our quilting group and five cash prizes of \$100. We ask that you pick up tickets to purchase yourself and to sell to family and friends. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5 or a book of 12 tickets for \$20. Tickets are available for pick up in the gathering space.
- This year, we will also be adding in an opportunity for intentional prayer in the form of a holy hour during the event. From 2 pm-8 pm, you can sign up for a half hour or two to pray in the presence of Jesus in the Tabernacle, offering the time up for the people of our parish and broader community at the dinner. We see this as a great way of truly participating in the event for those who like to help out downstairs, but are unable to do so due to either physical or time restraints. There will be a sign up sheet in the back alongside the rest of them for this important work!

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.

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

Casa Hogar Juan Pablo II Mission – October 11-12, 2025 Msgr. Joseph Hirsch is looking forward to visiting your parish family and sharing the inspiring story of Casa Hogar Juan Pablo II - a home for children in Peru with a mission to provide high-quality care in a loving, family-style environment.

Today, Casa Hogar is home to 64 children and 8 families, with children ranging in age from 5 to 18. This vibrant community exists thanks to the vision and sacrifices of Fr. Joseph Walijewski, a missionary priest from our own Diocese of La Crosse, who believed every child deserves to grow up in a safe, nurturing home grounded in faith.

As Executive Director of Casa Hogar, Msgr. Hirsch brings a unique, firsthand perspective. Through his stories, he will offer insight into how the children's lives are transformed—from difficult beginnings to a place where they can heal, grow, and gain the confidence and skills needed for a more promising future. *(continued on page 4)*

October 5, 2025

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of Sep. 22-28, 2025

Offertory: \$4,006.50

Total: \$4,006.50

Needed Weekly: \$4,600.00

August E-gifts: \$3,135.30

THANK YOU!

Ministry Schedule

Sat., Oct. 11, 6:30 PM

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister

Will Fisher Altar Server

NOT FILLED Altar Server

Mark Brueggen Lector

Sun., Oct. 12, 10:30 AM

Pat Obernberger Eucharistic Minister

Amelia Kimmet Altar Server

Jacob Kimmet Altar Server

Megan Prorok Lector

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

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!

We are hoping to increase the content in the **Parish Library** by adding some new books. If you would like to donate money as a way to support this effort, please make your check out to the Annunciation of the BVM with 'parish library' in the memo line or cash in envelope marked 'for the parish library'. Donations may be mailed to or dropped off at the parish office or placed in the weekend's contributions baskets.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 4 October, 6:30 PM Women of the Parish
(PCCW)

Sunday, 5 October, 10:30 AM +Guy Nicks
(Family of Guy Nicks)

Wednesday, 8 October, 5:15 PM Women of the Parish
(PCCW)

Friday, 10 October, 8:00 AM Alonso Family
(Diana Hernandez)

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

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

CHURCH CALENDAR

PCCW CIRCLE FOR OCTOBER: ST. THERESA

Saturday, 4 October, 5:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, 5 October, 9:00-10:15 AM Confirmation Class in Marian Hall & basement RE room

Sunday, 5 October, 10:00-10:15 AM Confirmation Parent meeting in parish library

Sunday, 5 October, 11:45 AM-1:00 PM Family of Faith Parental Prep

Tuesday, 7 October, 8:00 AM-12:00 PM Parish Office Closed

Wednesday, 8 October, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM St. Mary's Quilters in Marian Hall

Wednesday, 8 October, 6:00 PM 1st Reconciliation Prep basement RE room

Thursday, 9 October, 6:30-8:00 PM Little Rock Bible Study in Marian Hall

Saturday, 11 October, 12:00-2:00 PM Well-read Moms in the new library/meeting room

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

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

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 5, 2025

(continued from page 2) This life-changing mission continues thanks to the generosity and support of countless individuals and organizations in the Diocese of La Crosse and throughout the U.S.

Learn more about the Fr. Joseph Walijewski Legacy Guild and Casa Hogar Juan Pablo II at www.frjoesguild.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.

Annual Pancake Breakfast – October 12, 2025 - St. Mary Parish, Coon Valley will hold their annual Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, October 12, 2025 from 7:30 AM – gone or Noon (whichever comes first). Meal includes: delicious stack of pancakes with local real maple syrup, eggs, sausage, applesauce, milk, orange juice and coffee! Also purchase a tasty treat to take home from the bake sale! \$10 for adults, \$5 children ages 6-12, 5 and under free. Make your pancakes just the way you like them with our topping bar! Your choice of maple syrup, blueberries, strawberries, chocolate syrup, sprinkles, whip cream and peanut butter (while supplies last).



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



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

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"Increase our faith." ~ Luke 17:5