

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Hello friends,

In just two weeks here we're flipping over into a new liturgical year with the start of Advent (the evening of November 29). Pardon a possibly repetitive note on how the liturgical year works – Advent starts a new Church year with its preparation for Christ's birth, then after some Christmas time (more than just December 25) we're back into Ordinary Time. After a few months of OT, we're into Lent to prepare for Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection, then comes the main event with the three-day Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter itself), followed by a whopping 50 days of celebrating the resurrection. Then it's back to Ordinary Time again to let the seeds of grace planted in extraordinary seasons grow slowly and steadily.

So again, Advent is coming. While Advent and Lent share a penitential and reflective flavor, what's specially important about Advent is the relationship between darkness and light that runs through it. For one thing, the season lands squarely over the darkest time of year outside, with the Winter Solstice on December 21. The readings and prayers in Mass have a certain foreboding and deep breathing, as if they're winding up for something (someone) New to break in. All of this leads up to Christmas Eve and Day, when God's light finally breaks into the world through the birth of Jesus Christ.

It's a good idea to plan ahead for seasons like Advent or Lent – to spend some time in the leadup asking the Lord "how are you trying to move in my life? How are you trying to prepare my heart to receive Your light?" I find it important in my own life during Advent and Christmas to structure in space to be still with the Lord – real rest certainly takes real work. Following up on last year's (*continued on page 2*)

November 16, 2025
33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings are in the hymnal, #1190

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 16, 2025

(continued from page 1) daily adoration, we're adding in a few extra timeslots for adoration, including one for families on December 13 and 20. I have these times scattered across the day with the hopes that one of them will work out in your schedule – don't feel like you need to be at every spot, but please receive my invitation to join us for one of these moments (beginning December 1):

- Monday: 7:00-7:30 AM in Viroqua
- Tuesday: 4:30-5:00 PM in Coon Valley (continuing after Advent)
- Wednesday: 5:45-6:30 PM in Viroqua (continuing after Advent)
- Thursday: 7:30-8:00 AM in Coon Valley
- Friday: 8:30-9:30 AM in Viroqua
- Saturday: 9:00-10:00 AM, changing locations – in Viroqua on December 6 and 20, in Coon Valley on December 13

God bless you!

Fr. Joe

The donations from fellowship this weekend will go to Toys for Tots.

On **Friday, November 21st**, we will be offering a **memorial Mass for all lost infants at 5:15 pm here in Viroqua**. The Mass will be followed by an hour of Adoration with prayer teams and confessions available, with a soup dinner to conclude the evening down in Marian Hall. This will be a time set apart to remember and pray for the little lives lost to miscarriage, abortion, stillbirth, or any other cause of infant loss. It also will provide a space for us, both as individuals and as a community, to properly grieve the loss of these little lives.

All are warmly welcome, whether you have personally lost a child, grandchild, niece/nephew, or friend, or you simply would like to support and pray for those who have experienced this kind of loss.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to either Father Joe, or Carly Zadow at 608-792-4872.

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This Advent, deepen your longing for the Messiah's coming as you encounter Jesus as Emmanuel "God with us," in a study of The Infancy Narratives. This **Little Rock Scripture Study** series explores the stories of the conception and birth of Jesus in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke—Old Testament roots, themes, and the current relevance of the stories for us today. This study is just three sessions beginning Thursday evening, **December 4 or Friday morning, December 5**, depending on the preferences of the participants. If there are enough participants we can offer sessions on both Thursday night and Friday morning. We will end on either **December 18 or 19**.

For more details about the Little Rock Study Series and how each session is conducted, contact Melanie Halvorson ([melhalvor@gmail.com](mailto:melhalvor@gmail.com) or 312-315-9048). If you know you'd like to join us, email or text Melanie with your name, email and telephone number, and the session day in which you are interested. If you have any questions about the studies, please call Melanie as well. Please join us.

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United Country-Oakwood Realty, LLC is sponsoring the 4<sup>th</sup> 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!

# November 16, 2025

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of Nov. 3-9, 2025

Offertory: \$2,683.00

Mission Co-op: \$500.00

Total: \$3,183.00

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: \$5,056.00

Donors: 15

## Ministry Schedule

### **Sat., Nov. 22, 6:30 PM**

Sheryl Robinson Eucharistic Minister

Will Fisher Altar Server

NOT FILLED Altar Server

Amy Matthes Lector

### **Sun., Nov. 23, 10:30 AM**

Raven Stevenson Eucharistic Minister

Basil Stevenson Altar Server

Pearl Stevenson Altar Server

Megan Prorok Lector

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

## **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](mailto:secretary@smash3p.org).

## **Viroqua Community Free Thanksgiving Dinner**

**Thursday, November 27, 2025**

**11:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

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

*delivery - 608/637-3983*

*(signup sheets in gathering space)*

## MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, 15 November, 6:30 PM +Agnes Thielker**

(Angie Leis)

**Sunday, 16 November, 10:30 AM +Guy Nicks**

(Family of Guy Nicks)

**Wednesday, 19 November, 5:15 PM +Joseph & Roger Biefl**

(Biebl Family)

**Friday, 21 November, 8:00 AM for Thanksgiving**

(Biebl Family)

**Saturday, 22 November, 6:30 PM +Debra Skildum**

(Angie Leis)

**Sunday, 23 November, 10:30 AM People of the Annunciation & St.**

**Mary's Parishes**

## CHURCH CALENDAR

**PCCW CIRCLE FOR NOVEMBER: ST. JOSEPH**

**Saturday, 15 November, 5:30 PM Choir Rehearsal**

**Sunday, 16 November, 8:00-10:00 AM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd  
Level 2 in CGS classroom**

**Sunday, 16 November, 9:00-10:15 AM Confirmation Class in Marian Hall  
& Confirmation classroom**

**Sunday, 16 November, following Mass Christmas Pageant rehearsal**

**Monday, 17 November, 9:30-11:30 AM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd  
Level 1 in CGS classroom**

**Monday, 17 November, 3:00-5:00 PM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd  
Level 1 in CGS classroom**

**Tuesday, 18 November, 1:00 PM St. Mary's Book Club meets in parish  
library**

**Wednesday, 19 November, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM St. Mary's Quilters in  
Marian Hall**

**Wednesday, 19 November 3:00-5:00 PM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd  
Level 2 in CGS classroom**

**Wednesday, 19 November, 6:00-7:30 PM Decision Point in confirmation  
classroom**

**Wednesday, 19 November, 6:00 PM 1st Reconciliation Class in basement  
classroom**

**Friday, 21 November, 5:15 PM Memorial Mass for Lost Children, light  
supper following in Marian Hall**

**Sunday, 23 November, 8:00-10:00 AM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd  
Level 2 in CGS classroom**

**Sunday, 23 November, 9:00-10:15 AM Encounter Class in pie room**

**Sunday, 23 November, 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal**

**Sunday, 23 November, following Mass Christmas Pageant rehearsal**

**Monday, 24 November, 9:30-11:30 AM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd  
Level 1 in CGS classroom**

**Monday, 24 November, 3:00-5:00 PM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd  
Level 1 in CGS classroom**

**Monday, 24 November, 5:00-6:30 PM Community Meal at Good  
Shepherd Church**

**Thursday, 27 November, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM Viroqua Community Free  
Thanksgiving Dinner**

# November 16, 2025



Photo courtesy of Carly Zadow

## 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](mailto:stmaryparish@mwt.net).

**CRAFTERS:** It's time! Please place your crafts in the basket in the atrium by **November 30th** for the Coon Valley Craft Fair. Please price your items and let us know if you want them returned if they do not sell. Otherwise we will use them for other PCCW activities. A sign-up sheet for booth workers is also out for anyone available to take a short shift at the fair or after Mass that same weekend. Thanks for participating in this joint parish PCCW effort! Cathy Lund 608-637-7109



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[info@kickapoo-counseling.com](mailto:info@kickapoo-counseling.com)

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

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Dan Kiedinger



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KINDNESS COUNTS LLC

*"Let the rivers clap their hands, and the hills ring out their joy..." ~ Psalm 98:8*