

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Christ, King of the Universe ~ All Saints Parish

Hello friends,

Next weekend we're starting Advent up – for most of the month of December we'll be praying through these final weeks of Mary's pregnancy, walking with her and Joseph from Nazareth to Bethlehem, and (hopefully) quieting down into the stillness of winter. That image of Mary's pregnancy always strikes me as a bit poignant. As well as this celibate not-a-father can, I imagine that going on a hundred mile hike a week before her due date could offer plenty of stress, question marks, uncertainty, concern. What if this child comes early? Where are we going to deliver this child? Will there be anyone there to help us? And yet every sound tradition (never trust an artistic Hollywood exaggeration) points to their trust – "Lord, You have asked us into this, and we trust you to lead us through it."

Anyhow, Advent. I want to share two things for your consideration as we enter this season, both oriented toward our own re-orientation to the manger. The first, as we shared last weekend, concerns Eucharistic adoration. Sidebar: "Eucharistic Adoration" truly refers to any time we pray in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, whether He's in the tabernacle or out of it. Most of the time, though, when we refer to "Adoration" we're really referring to prayer with the Blessed Sacrament (*continued on page 2*)

November 23, 2025
Our Lord Jesus
Christ, King of the
Universe

Readings are in the hymnal,
#1193

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 23, 2025

(continued from page 1) exposed, that is, with the host displayed in a prominent stand (sidebar over). In standard operations we already have time set aside every Tuesday before Mass and every Wednesday after Mass. During Advent we'll add a few more opportunities: Mondays at 7:00 AM in Viroqua, Thursdays at 7:30 AM in Coon Valley, Fridays after Viroqua's 8:00 AM Mass, and Saturdays at 9:00 AM (Viroqua on December 6 and 20, Coon Valley on December 13). These sessions offer a powerful moment to simply be quiet – to step back and let Jesus step forward. If you've never tried it before, please PLEASE do. I'm convinced that Eucharistic Adoration is a place where saints are made, and you're welcome there too.

Second, I reintroduce a prayer I shared back in September, the Unity Prayer. Back then I shared this prayer for us to pray intentionally in the wake of that series of violent attacks, intending it to contribute in some small way to big scale healing and peace. I now share this prayer specifically to intercede for unity and healing within two groups: our families (that is, your family) and our two parishes. I perceive a particular need for this right now (really a number of needs coming together into one broader theme), especially when it comes to letting the Holy Spirit lead and guide and be the true source of our hope and reconciliation and community. Discipleship is hard, and we need to support and be supported by each other. To this end, next weekend I'll have the Unity Prayer popped into our hymnals or pews to pray, throughout the Season of Advent, during the time at the end of Mass in which we customarily pray the Saint Michael prayer. I'm confident that the curious hands of our kids won't let at least 34% of those prayer cards survive until the end of the season, and that curiosity is an okay thing too.

God bless you,

Fr. Joe

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**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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(Adoration, 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

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Advent starts in just one week! Consider adding to your spiritual practice during this time with a group study of the **Infancy Narratives** in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. This **Little Rock Scripture Study** series explores the stories of the conception and birth of Jesus in the Gospels—their Old Testament roots, themes, and the current relevance of the stories for us today. This study is just three lessons offered in two different meeting times: Thursdays at 6:30 PM and Fridays at 9:00 AM. **Our first sessions will be in Marian Hall on Thursday, December 4 and Friday, December 5. We will end on December 18 and 19.**

Contact Melanie Halvorson ([melhalvor@gmail.com](mailto:melhalvor@gmail.com) or 312-315-9048) to sign up for the session and obtain your study book in time to prepare for the first meeting. Please provide your name, email, telephone number, and the meeting day in which you are interested. Contact Melanie for more information about the study or for any other questions you may have.

# November 23, 2025

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of Nov. 10-16, 2025

Offertory: \$3,757.00

Mission Sunday: \$25.00

Total: \$3,782.00

Needed Weekly: \$4,600.00

October E-gifts: \$2,996.27

THANK YOU!

## 2025-2026

## DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Goal: \$36,920.00

Received to date: \$11,601.00

Donors: 28

## Ministry Schedule

**Sat., Nov. 29, 6:30 PM**

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister

Reid Fisher Altar Server

Lane Fisher Altar Server

Paul O'Rourke Lector

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

Al Mislivecek Eucharistic Minister

Sebastian Kimmet Altar Server

Amelia Kimmet Altar Server

Mariah Sullivan Altar Server

Melanie Halvorson Lector

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

## **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)*

## **Masses for Immaculate Conception**

Sunday, December 7, 7:00 PM - Viroqua

Monday, December 8: 10:00 AM - Cashton

12:10 PM - Viroqua

5:15 PM - Coon Valley

7:30 PM - Norwalk

## MASS INTENTIONS

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

(Angie Leis)

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

**Mary's Parishes**

**Wednesday, 26 November, 5:15 PM Women of the Parish**

(PCCW)

**Friday, 28 November, 8:00 AM +Con Henderson**

(Ann Graham)

**Saturday, 29 November, 6:30 PM +Kathy Spears**

(Tom & Cindy Leis)

**Sunday, 30 November, 10:30 AM +Mary Bina**

(Biebl Family)

## CHURCH CALENDAR

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

**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**

**Wednesday, 26 November, 9:00-11:00 AM Turkey pickup in Marian Hall**

**Wednesday, 26 November 3:00-5:00 PM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd**

**Level 2 in CGS classroom**

**Thursday, 27 November, 7:30-9:30 AM Roast Turkey delivery in Marian Hall**

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

**Thanksgiving Dinner**

**Friday, 28 November, Parish Office Closed in observance of**

**Thanksgiving**

**Sunday, 30 November, 8:00-10:00 AM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd**

**Level 2 in CGS classroom**

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

**Sunday, 30 November, during 10:30 AM Mass Tucker Lovelace 1st**

**Communion**

**Sunday, 30 November, following Mass Christmas Pageant rehearsal**

**Monday, 1 December, 9:30-11:30 AM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd**

**Level 1 in CGS classroom**

**Monday, 1 December, 3:00-5:00 PM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd**

**Level 1 in CGS classroom**

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If anyone has **unused live Christmas tree stands** they would like to donate to the church, please get in touch with Megan. She could use two stands for this year's Christmas arrangement. Thank you! Megan Prorok (608) 632-3376  
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# November 23, 2025

## 2025 Viroqua Community Bell Choir Holiday Concert

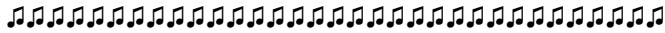
Sunday, November 30, 2025

2:00 PM

Viroqua United Methodist Church

221 S. Center Avenue

No Admission - Free Will Offering Only



## ST. MARY'S ANNUAL CRAFT SHOW

Saturday, December 6, 2025

8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Coon Valley Village Hall

108 Roosevelt St.

Free admission

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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

## 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).

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](http://SomethingForSeniors.Org) or join the Something For Seniors FaceBook Group. Thank you!



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

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*"Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord." ~ Psalm 122*