

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Hello friends, and happy Advent!

First, a point of business. There is snow outside. I may not like it, you may not like it, but the simple fact is it's our fault we haven't moved to New Mexico by now. As it does with everything, snow naturally affects our schedules around here. I will try my derndest to make sure weekend Masses happen as scheduled, even if it means taking a snowmobile down the hill, so generally count on those staying in place. As far as weekday Masses go, in Coon Valley we tend to follow the school systems (check Viroqua and Coon Valley) – if there's a snow day or snow delay it means no Mass that day. As for Viroqua, snow days usually don't change the weekday

Mass schedule, since I live a short little walk away.

Second, a Mass note. On Monday December 8, we're celebrating the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. This is a holy day of obligation, meaning it's a day when we're required to go to Mass at some point. There's a strangeness with this feast falling on a Monday – while you can have a vigil Mass (like the Saturday evening Mass is a vigil for Sunday), you can't double up with a Sunday evening Mass for both Sunday and the Solemnity. Short version – plan on attending one of our extra Masses for Immaculate Conception in addition to your customary Sunday Mass – 7:00 PM on Sunday the seventh in Viroqua, 12:10 on Monday in Viroqua, and 5:15 on Monday in Coon Valley.

And a final note that's on my mind with Thanksgiving last week (or tomorrow, depending on whether you're writing or reading this article), the word "thanksgiving" itself. I am perpetually at war with the busyness of late November into December – my ambition will forever look forward to (and seldom fully arrive at) quieting down through Advent in preparation for Christmas. I think there's something powerful about the intentional and reserved stepping into these last few weeks of Mary's pregnancy – it's a time of waiting and watchfulness, of taking stock and preparing for the Messiah to come into the world. Maybe there's an analog to my own Advent busyness in Mary and Joseph's own experience – as much as they may have desired and sculpted a "quiet" late pregnancy, that hundred-mile journey to Bethlehem still had to happen. Anyhow, quiet or not it's maybe appropriate that we lean into this season with Thanksgiving as a start. The word "eucharist" itself comes from the Greek "Eucharistein" – thanksgiving. Of the many words that we use for this important sacrament – *(continued on page 2)*

November 30, 2025

1st Sunday of Advent

Readings are in the hymnal, #991

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 30, 2025

(continued from page 1) “Holy Communion,” “Eucharist,” “Blessed Sacrament” – “Eucharist” effectively gets at the reality that whatever we have to give we have first been given ourselves. May God bless you as we lean into this season and prepare your heart to receive Him in a few weeks!

Fr. Joe

**A huge thank you to all that helped with the Community Thanksgiving meal on Thursday.
Over 400 meals were served to a very grateful community!**

Each weekend this Advent, we will be putting out a chapter of JPPII's Apostolic Letter "Novo Millennio Ineunte" ("At the beginning of the new millennium") in the gathering space. This letter was written to all Catholics at the close of the last Jubilee in 2000, and while we certainly live in a seemingly different world in 2025, there is much in this letter that could be applicable to not only our own walk with the Lord, but also to understanding what it means to be Christ's disciples together. It also seems fitting to read this in community at the close of our own Jubilee. We invite you to take a copy each Saturday or Sunday to read prayerfully, with openness to what the Holy Spirit may be trying to say to you through JPPII's words. The prayer "Come, Holy Spirit" a few times through may be a good way to get into the proverbial "zone" to read this beautiful work. God bless you!

Kids, we'll be celebrating **St. Nicholas' feast day (December 6)** again! Please bring your shoe/boot to the gathering space display **by Thursday, December 4**, for St. Nicholas to leave you a gift.

There's still time to join the study group for the **Infancy Narratives in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke**. Check in with either Kris Brueggen or Melanie Halvorson after Mass for details and to pick up the Study Book. We will be using the Little Rock Scripture Study format. 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 start next week in Marian Hall on **Thursday, December 4 and Friday, December 5**. We will end on December 18 and 19.

Join us for Family Adoration and Fellowship! All are welcome – especially little ones. Soft music will be played and activities will be provided. Come any time, for any length of time.

- Saturday December 13th from 9-10 am at St. Mary's in Coon Valley
 - Fellowship will follow in the Hall downstairs – *bring a snack to share*.
 - Saturday December 20th from 9-10 am at ABVM in Viroqua
 - Fellowship will follow in the Hall downstairs – *bring a snack to share*.
 - We will also be providing materials for the kids to make ornaments during Fellowship so we can decorate the trees of Marian Hall.
-

(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

November 30, 2025

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of Nov. 17-23, 2025

Offertory: \$4,253.00

Total: \$4,253.00

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: \$11,836.00

Donors: 31

Ministry Schedule

Sat., Dec. 6, 6:30 PM

Dennis Vinger Eucharistic Minister
Will Fisher Altar Server
NOT FILLED Altar Server
Pat Biebl Lector

Sun., Dec. 7, 10:30 AM

Matthew Tubbin Eucharistic Minister
Alexis Scoville Altar Server
Sasha Scoville Altar Server
Royce Scoville Altar Server
Stephen Lambert Lector

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

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At 6 am on Monday, December 8th,
we would like to invite all women of
the parish to join us at the church to
pray a Rosary together in honor of
the Feast of the Immaculate
Conception. If you have questions,
please reach out to Jackie Redmer or
Carly Zadow.
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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, 29 November, 6:30 PM +Kathy Spears

(Tom & Cindy Leis)

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

(Biebl Family)

Wednesday, 3 December, 5:15 PM +Kathy Spears

(Tom & Cindy Leis)

Friday, 5 December, 8:00 AM Women of the Parish

(PCCW)

Saturday, 6 December, 6:30 PM Martha Torres

(Diana Hernandez)

Sunday, 7 December, 10:30 AM +Louise Melby

(Duane Melby)

**Sunday, 7 December, 7:00 PM People of the Annunciation & St. Mary's
Parishes**

**Monday, 8 December, 12:10 PM People of the Annunciation & St. Mary's
Parishes**

CHURCH CALENDAR

PCCW CIRCLE FOR NOVEMBER: ST. JOSEPH

PCCW CIRCLE FOR DECEMBER: ST. BRIDGET

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

**Wednesday, 3 December, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM St. Mary's Quilters in
Marian Hall**

**Thursday, 4 December, 6:30-8:00 PM Little Rock Bible Study in Marian
Hall**

Friday, 5 December, following 8:00 AM Mass First Friday Adoration

**Friday, 5 December, 9:00-10:30 AM Little Rock Bible Study in Marian
Hall**

Saturday, 6 December, 5:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

**Saturday, 6 December, following 6:30 PM Mass Christmas Crafts Sale in
gathering space**

Sunday, 7 December, 9:00-10:15 AM Decision Point in parish library

Sunday, 7 December, 9:00-10:15 AM Encounter Class in pie room

**Sunday, 7 December, 9:00-10:15 AM Confirmation Class in confirmation
basement classroom & Marian Hall**

PICTURES to be taken

**Sunday, 7 December, following 10:30 AM Mass Family of Faith parent
meeting in Marian Hall**

Sunday, 7 December, following Mass Christmas Pageant rehearsal

**Sunday, 7 December, following 10:30 AM Mass Christmas Crafts Sale in
gathering space**

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

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

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

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.

be purchased through Amazon. For more information and gift ideas, please visit: **SomethingForSeniors.Org** or join the Something For Seniors FaceBook Group. Thank you!

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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Westby, WI 54667
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If you would like to advertise on this page, please contact 608-637-7711

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"...come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!" ~ Isaiah 2:5