

# Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish

Hello friends,

Let's talk seasons for a minute. With Daylight Savings Time (beginning?) last weekend and the days naturally getting shorter, the morning sun now shines into the rectory chapel at just the right angle to light up my morning holy hour through several color-changing maples. It's time to admit it – summer is over (if the forecast is correct, there may even already be some light snow on the ground by the time you read this).

You may or may not know that I halfway grew up in Northern California – out there seasons consist exclusively of seventy-four-degree summers and fifty degree “rainy season” winters. My memory brings back my first experience with proper seasons with dubious accuracy, when I first started coming out to Wisconsin to visit a grandparent in Elroy in '97 or '98. Winter meant bundling up to go outside, slipping around on the driveway and road (it's Elroy, the backroads aren't heavily traveled), and squeezing that daylight like a lemon. Spring meant wet and still chilly, and despite summer being beautiful and plenty long it seemed just a bit less adventurous than the cold months. I may be alone in this, but to this day I still enjoy the shifting of seasons, especially the expectant change of fall and spring.

I bring all this up because liturgically we are in a similar shifting pattern. With just a few more weeks of Ordinary Time, we are not far from a brand-new liturgical year, starting with Advent on November 30. Pardon a 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 we're back into Ordinary Time. After a few months we're into Lent to prepare for Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection, followed by the main event itself – the three-day Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter itself). Then comes a whopping 50 days of celebrating the resurrection before it's back to Ordinary Time again to let the seeds of grace planted in these extraordinary seasons grow slowly and steadily.

As for Advent, it's designed to be an intentional season of simplification, expectation, and watchful waiting – there is a certain *(continued on page 2)*



*Lateran Basilica - interior*

## November 9, 2025 Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

*Readings are in the hymnal,  
#1211*

### Eucharist

Saturdays - 6:30 PM

Sundays - 10:30 AM

Wednesday - 5:15 PM

Fridays - 8:00 AM

### Livestreaming Mass

[www.facebook.com/StMarysCoonValley](https://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](http://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](mailto:stmaryformation@mwt.net); (608) 637-7711

Beth Laurdan, Music Director, [stmaryparish@mwt.net](mailto:stmaryparish@mwt.net); (608) 637-7711; Tom Leis, Librarian, [saintmaryparishlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:saintmaryparishlibrary@gmail.com)

Fran Campbell, Secretary/Bookkeeper, [stmaryparish@mwt.net](mailto:stmaryparish@mwt.net), (608) 637-7711; Parish Kitchen (608) 637-7878

400 Congress Avenue, Viroqua, WI 54665

# November 9, 2025

(continued from page 1) pregnant pause built into Advent (see what I did there?). You and I both know that December typically ends up being anything but quiet, simple, watchful – it tends to fill up with school events, shopping and extra chores, and end-of-year busyness. An attitude of simplification and expectation ironically takes serious effort – I’m still workshopping how to approach Advent myself this year, but for now let me extend an invitation to you to join me in asking the question, “Lord, what do You want for me in this season?” It’s a simple question, and perhaps that is exactly why it needs to be asked.

God bless you,

Fr. Joe

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Join us for a **cozy family-friendly Movie Night at St. Mary's in Coon Valley!** Next **Friday, November 14th** we will be showing the movie: *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. Come at **6:00 PM for some pizza**, and we will begin the **movie at 6:30 PM**. Bring your blankets, friends and festive spirit! Please email Bridget Goodwin at [bladams50@gmail.com](mailto:bladams50@gmail.com) to RSVP the number of people joining so we can plan for pizza.

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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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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!

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## LIBRARY CORNER *Saint John Paul the Great: His Five Loves*

Our library has a section for biographies of saints and of popes. This week’s feature title qualifies for both categories. *Saint John Paul the Great: His Five Loves* was written by Jason Evert and was published in 2014. I have not read this title, but Mrs. Leis has. Cindy found the section about his early life as a priest in communist Poland of greatest interest to her. The second part of the book addresses his five loves: Young People, Human Love, The Blessed Sacrament, The Virgin Mary, and The Cross. JP II is the pope us older folk grew up with. I remember watching the white smoke announcing his selection in October of 1978. I was 14 and sitting in my desk at Sacred Heart Catholic School in Cashton. October 22 was his feast day.

(continued on page 4)

# November 9, 2025

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of Oct. 27-Nov. 2, 2025

Offertory: \$4,567.00

Mission Co-op: \$100.00

Total: \$4,667.00

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: \$2,621.00

Donors: 6

## Ministry Schedule

**Sat., Nov. 15, 6:30 PM**

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister  
Reid Fisher Altar Server  
Lane Fisher Altar Server  
Sheryl Robinson Lector

**Sun., Nov. 16, 10:30 AM**

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister  
Jacob Kimmet Altar Server  
Sebastian Kimmet Altar Server  
Paul O'Rourke 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**

*(signup sheets in gathering space)*

## MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, 8 November, 6:30 PM +Memory of Bill Chart**  
(Darlene Chart)

**Sunday, 9 November, 10:30 AM +Thomas O'Rourke**  
(Paul O'Rourke)

**Wednesday, 12 November, 5:15 PM Fr. Joseph Richards**

**Friday, 14 November, 8:00 AM Women of the Parish**  
(PCCW)

**Saturday, 15 November, 6:30 PM +Agnes Thielker**  
(Angie Leis)

**Sunday, 16 November, 10:30 AM +Guy Nicks**  
(Family of Guy Nicks)

## CHURCH CALENDAR

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

**Saturday, 8 November, 12:00-2:00 PM Well-read Moms in the new library/meeting room**

**Sunday, 9 November, 8:00-10:00 AM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level 2 in CGS classroom**

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

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

**Monday, 10 November, 9:30-11:30 AM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level 1 in CGS classroom**

**Monday, 10 November, 3:00-5:00 PM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level 1 in CGS classroom**

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

**Wednesday, 12 November 3:00-5:00 PM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level 2 in CGS classroom**

**Wednesday, 12 November, 6:00-7:30 PM Decision Point in confirmation classroom**

**Wednesday, 12 November, 6:00 PM 1st Reconciliation Class in basement classroom**

**Thursday, 13 November, 5:30 PM Finance Council Meeting in the parish library**

**Thursday, 13 November, 6:30-8:00 PM Little Rock Bible Study in Marian Hall**

**Friday, 14 November, Movie Night at St. Mary's, Coon Valley: 6:00 PM/ pizza, 6:30 PM movie/*The Best Christmas Pageant Ever***

**Friday-Sunday, 14-16 November, Camp Gray High School Retreat, Reedsburg, WI**

**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**

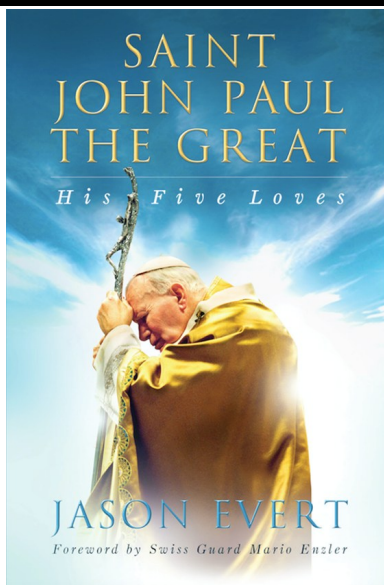
**Sunday, 16 November, following Mass Christmas Pageant rehearsal**

**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**

(continued from page 2)

Tom Leis,  
Parish Librarian  
saintmaryparishlibrary@gmail.com



## 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 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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[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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Westby, WI 54667  
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608-606-0832 (cell)  
[rjhoneyfarm@hotmail.com](mailto:rjhoneyfarm@hotmail.com)

## WESTBY LOCKER & MEATS

The Sausage & Meat Shop  
Rosanne & Rod Aspenson  
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[meatsusa@mwt.net](mailto:meatsusa@mwt.net)  
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Dan Kiedinger



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*"Brothers and sisters: You are God's building." ~ 1 Corinthians 3:9c*