

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



A continuing Happy Advent to you, Friends,

Bear with me while I mention again that I find the timing of Advent quite elegant. We spent just over half a year in the appropriately named “Ordinary Time” – a season of slow and steady grace mirroring agricultural seasons (in the Northern hemisphere, anyhow). Now we have this short little season of watching and waiting – preparing for Christ’s warmth and light to radiate into the winter’s chill and darkness, accompanying Mary and Joseph on the walk to Bethlehem, and “nesting” in our own hearts to make a crib-throne for the coming little King. With just three and a half

weeks, Advent offers a manageable timeline to enter deeply and intentionally into new life with Christ. We’re right about at the halfway mark of the season – please accept my gentle encouragement to persevere in your intentionality, to renew your openness to the Lord, and to keep asking that question: “how are you preparing my heart, Lord?”

Last week I mentioned one good opportunity to enter into this renewal and deep season – our area’s quarterly healing service over in Cashton. We’ve been running this for a few years here now with a number of local lay folks and clergy joining forces to bring things together. We typically start off with a holy hour (adoration) at 4:30, Mass at 5:30, and specific healing prayers at 6:30(-ish, that is, when Mass is over). Those latter prayers vary each time, with the team praying beforehand about where the Holy Spirit is leading us to focus; but they consistently conclude with opportunities to pray individually with prayer teams. Confessions will be going on through the evening as well, meaning it could be a good opportunity if you’re looking to make an Advent confession as well. Anyhow, you’re warmly invited to join us for this service this Monday (the fifteenth) at Sacred Heart in Cashton. Come to stay for as long or as little as you like!

Finally, you’ve perhaps been holding your breath to hear our Christmas schedule. We’ll follow the same schedule we started a few years ago that has served us well – on Christmas Eve 4:00 in Coon Valley and 6:30 in Viroqua; *(continued on page 2)*

December 14, 2025 3rd Sunday of Advent

*Readings are in the hymnal,
#997*

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

December 14, 2025

(continued from page 1) on Christmas Day 12:00 AM in Coon Valley and 10:30 AM in Viroqua. A few notes on how this has historically gone for your planning purposes – the 4:00 and 10:30 tend to fill up most and often call for some extra seating. The midnight serves the type of folks (myself included) who like the extra adventure of, well, Midnight Mass. Coon Valley is perfectly oriented to draw out the intimacy and “Silent Night” of the occasion – I don’t want to celebrate midnight Mass every day, but I really like it once a year. The 6:30 is typically well populated but might offer a little more breathing room than the two other more accessible times. I hope that helps you map out what things will look like in a week and a half!

God bless you, and Happy Advent,

Fr. Joe

Please come and join us for this year’s **Christmas Musical “Gloria’s Christmas.”** It is a show about a little girl’s adoption story, as she tells her friends of the waiting, wonder and excitement her parents experienced before her birth, and how Mary and Joseph experienced these same things while waiting for Jesus to be born. You will enjoy wonderful music and a charming story that will prepare your heart for the coming of our Savior.

Our performance will be held at **1 pm on Sunday, December 14th** in the church. We hope to see you there!

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 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.

Christmas Dinner: St Mary’s will again be having a Christmas Dinner for parishioners who are interested in celebrating the day together. It will be held at noon on Christmas Day in Marian Hall. The parish will provide the main course, potato and vegetable so you can bring a dessert to share, if you’d like (it is not mandatory). Please do RSVP either on the sign up sheet in the gathering space or via email at christmasdinnerviroqua@gmail.com. If you have any questions, please reach out to Julie Moore, call or text 307-359-2322.

(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 in Viroqua on December 20

December 14, 2025

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of Dec. 1-7, 2025

Offertory: \$5,638.16

Retired Religious: \$30.00

Total: \$5,668.16

Needed Weekly: \$4,600.00

November E-gifts: \$2,632.86

THANK YOU!

2025-2026

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Goal: \$36,920.00

Received to date: \$14,340.00

Donors: 47

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 13 December, 6:30 PM +Ivan Cowell

(Angie Leis)

Sunday, 14 December, 10:30 AM +Irene Reinstra

(Dan & Renae Harter)

Wednesday, 17 December, 5:15 PM Fr. Joseph Richards

Friday, 19 December, 8:00 AM +Bill & Corinne Finn

(Biebl Family)

Saturday, 20 December, 6:30 PM +Reinie Leis

(Angie Leis)

Sunday, 21 December, 10:30 AM +Guy Nicks

(Family of Guy Nicks)

CHURCH CALENDAR

PCCW CIRCLE FOR DECEMBER: ST. BRIDGET

Saturday, 13 December, 5:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, 14 December, 8:45 AM Ladies of the Parish meeting in Marian Hall

Sunday, 14 December, 9:00-10:15 AM Decision Point in confirmation basement classroom

Sunday, 14 December, 1:00 PM 'Gloria's Christmas' Christmas pageant

Tuesday, 16 December, 1:00 PM St. Mary's Book Club meets in parish library

Wednesday, 17 December, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM St. Mary's Quilters in Marian Hall

Thursday, 18 December, 6:30-8:00 PM Little Rock Bible Study in Marian Hall

Friday, 19 December, 9:00-10:30 AM Little Rock Bible Study in Marian Hall

Saturday, 20 December, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM Fellowship & Ornament-making for parish Christmas trees in Marian Hall

Sunday, 21 December, 9:00-10:00 AM Family of Faith Virtues Charades in Coon Valley

Sunday, 21 December, 9:00-10:15 AM Confirmation Class in confirmation basement classroom & Marian Hall

Sunday, 21 December, 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal

Monday, 22 December, 5:00-6:30 PM Community Meal at Good Shepherd Church

Wednesday, 24 December, 6:00 PM Choir will be singing 30 minutes prior to Mass

Ministry Schedule

Sat., Dec. 20, 6:30 PM

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister
Will Fisher Altar Server
NOT FILLED Altar Server
Dennis Vinger Lector

Sun., Dec. 21, 10:30 AM

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister
Amelia Kimmet Altar Server
Jacob Kimmet Altar Server
Dale Pertzborn Lector

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

Christmas Mass Schedule

Wednesday, Dec. 24: 4:00 PM - Coon Valley
6:30 PM - Viroqua
Thursday, Dec. 25: Midnight - Coon Valley
10:30 AM - Viroqua

Solemnity of Mary

Wednesday, Dec. 31: 5:15 PM - Viroqua
Thursday, Jan. 1: 8:00 AM - Coon Valley
12:10 PM - Viroqua

THANK YOU CRAFTERS for sharing your talents and beautiful crafts for the craft fair. Our net profit of \$519 will help support the projects of the PCCW. Thanks again!

SERVERS - you can pick up a gift bag with your name on it in the sacristy the weekend of December 20 & 21.

During Advent, **please donate non-perishable food items** to the Living Faith Food Pantry Food Drive. Boxes for your 'gift of food' are located in the gathering space. Thank you!

Retirement Fund for Religious collection this weekend: They gave their lives in service - now they need your help. For decades, women and men religious have cared for others, teaching, praying, and serving those in need. Many now face retirement without sufficient savings. Your support ensures they receive the care they deserve. Let us now offer them the dignity they have so selflessly granted to others. Your generosity today is not just a donation - it's a way of thanking them for their lifelong service. Please give to the Retirement Fund for Religious.

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.

Quarterly Healing Service at Sacred Heart Church, Cashton; Monday, December 15

All are welcome.

4:30 Adoration with praise and worship, rosary,
Divine Mercy, and confessions

5:30 Mass

6:00 Corporate prayer for healing

7:00 Individual healing ministry

Come for part or all of the night.

Poster in gathering space.



Estate Planning, Probate, Trust, and Litigation
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"Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord." ~ James 5:7