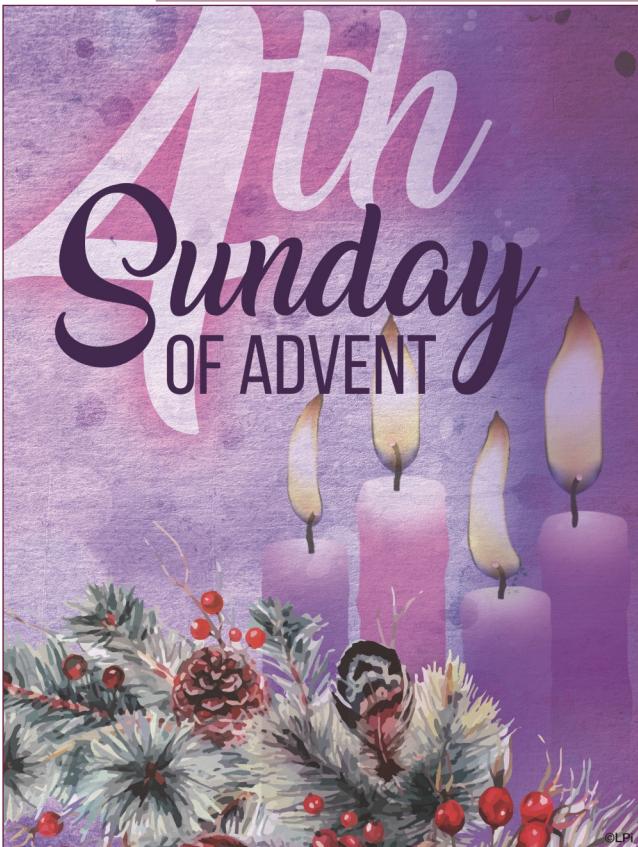


Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Hello friends,

First, I have to apologize – right about 10:47 last Saturday I was at the Diocesan Center kicking myself and saying, “why didn’t I broadcast this?” The event in question was our summer seminarian John Francis’ Rite of Candidacy – a significant moment in a seminarian’s formation when he declares his intention, all things being equal, to continue in seminary formation to ordination and when the Diocese declares its blessing, all things being equal, for the seminarian to do just that. By analogy, it’s much like engagement – as a man and woman date and build interest and understanding and love for each

other, there eventually comes the point when they say “I intend to marry you.” In a similar way, “candidacy” is a bit like moving from dating to engagement, except on the way to priesthood. Of course, engagements can end, and after a seminarian becomes a Candidate for ordination he or the Diocese can still back out, but there’s a different gravity that comes after such an intention (engagement or candidacy) is declared. I recall my own Rite of Candidacy back in 2016 or 17 – it was one of a few pivotal moments in my formation and approach toward priesthood (2020) that bore a significant weight and emotional charge. I don’t think I understood that moment then as well as I do now, and it was a real blessing to be present at this moment for John. The part I was kicking myself about was not making all this known beforehand for you to come and participate too. Anyway, if you make contact with John wish him happy engagement.

Second, we’re coming up on Christmas in just a few days here. Thank you for walking so earnestly through the last three weeks of Advent – I think Christmas done well is just like a graduation party or an anniversary date night done well – the event will still happen with little planning, but with big planning and intention it draws out the bigness of the day that much more. So thank you for leaning into the season. We’ve got a few schedule adjustments coming up for Christmas (and the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God the next week). For Christmas, our schedule starts on Christmas Eve: 4:00 in Coon Valley, 6:30 in (*continued on page 2*)

December 21, 2025

4th Sunday of Advent

*Readings are in the hymnal,
#1000*

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 21, 2025

(continued from page e1) Viroqua. At Midnight we're back in Coon Valley with carols starting at 11:30 PM. We're back in Viroqua for a 10:30 Mass on Christmas Day, followed by a Christmas dinner for any of our folks from either parish who'd like to join (email christmasdinnerviroqua@gmail.com to RSVP). Please note we will be shifting the 8:00 AM Mass in Viroqua on December 26, to 12:10 PM on December 26. The next week we celebrate the Solemnity and Holy Day of Obligation of Mary, Mother of God on January 1. We'll start with a Vigil Mass in Viroqua at 5:15 on December 31, then on January 1, an 8:00 AM Mass in Coon Valley and 12:10 Mass in Viroqua.

Okay, that's all for now. God bless you, and happy Advent!

Fr. Joe

Last Saturday we welcomed **Ezekiel Walter Vesbach-Lecocq** into the Christian community through the Sacrament of Baptism. Ezekiel is the son of Timothee and Kristi (Vesbach) Vesbach-Lecocq. Welcome to this community of faith!

Donations for fellowship the weekend of December 20-21, will go to the food pantry.

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)

December 21, 2025

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of Dec. 8-14, 2025

Offertory: \$3,756.00

Retired Religious: \$453.00

Total: \$4,209.00

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: \$15,114.00

Donors: 52

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 20 December, 6:30 PM +Reenie Leis
(Angie Leis)

Sunday, 21 December, 10:30 AM +Guy Nicks
(Family of Guy Nicks)

Wednesday, 24 December, 6:30 PM People of the Annunciation & St. Mary's Parishes

Thursday, 25 December, 10:30 AM +Richard Rubasch, Sr.
(Patricia Rubasch)

Friday, 26 December, 12:10 PM +Jack Roou & Roou Family
(John & Tracy Roou)

Saturday, 27 December, 6:30 PM Liniewski Family
(Biebl Family)

Sunday, 28 December, 10:30 AM +Darlene Abert
(Carol Teadt)

CHURCH CALENDAR

PCCW CIRCLE FOR DECEMBER: ST. BRIDGET

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-Friday, 24-26 December, Parish Office Closed in observance of Christmas holiday

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

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Thursday, 25 December, 12:00 PM Parish Christmas Dinner in Marian Hall

Sunday, 28 December, 10:00 AM Choir rehearsal

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

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

December 21, 2025



Gloria's Christmas

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.



Estate Planning, Probate, Trust, and Litigation
608-784-1605; Scott@acrosselaw.com



Kickapoo Counseling
110 N. Main Street
Westby, WI 54667
608-634-2365
info@kickapoo-counseling.com

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Auctioneer - Lic. # 4007-52
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Westby, WI 54667



“...the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel.” ~ Isaiah 7:14