

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Hello friends, and Merry Christmas!

I have a smattering of stuff for you today – first, a quick warning, then some encouragement and finally a word from John. The warning: some of you have experienced a common scammer tactic – impersonating me (and other public figures), asking for money, gift cards, etc. Don’t be ashamed if you’ve gone down one of these rabbit holes – these guys are clever and skilled, fishing through Facebook likes, bulletins, website info, etc., to make a link between me and my people. I can’t stop them from being clever or manipulative, but what I can do is promise that if I ever need something from you I’ll ask personally and route it through the parish offices. Okay, moving on.

Second, thank you for walking through these last several weeks of Advent together – for joining in some extra time of quiet adoration, praying together the Unity Prayer, joining each other in waiting and watching and preparing a home for Jesus in your hearts. Now we are in another seasonal transition – moving from “waiting” into “receiving.” While the radio’s Christmas music starts in November and fades away on December 26, our Christmas timeline starts on December 24, passes through the Epiphany, and continues until the Baptism of the Lord on January 11. Here’s a gentle encouragement to let the next several weeks be different, just like you made the last month different. Take some extra time to rest in the Lord, to keep up a “Merry Christmas,” and to welcome the Lord into your Advent-prepared heart!

(continued on page 2)

December 28, 2025
The Holy Family of
Jesus, Mary, and
Joseph

Readings are in the hymnal,

#1007

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 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 28, 2025

(continued from page 1) And now for a word from John Francis. Last weekend I mentioned that he had celebrated a milestone in his seminary formation – I asked him to share a quick life update with us for the bulletin. Here it is: *“Dear Parishioners, merry Christmas to you all! I have just finished up my first semester of theology studies at St. Francis de Sales Seminary. As Father mentioned, I was also just accepted as a candidate for Holy Orders for the Diocese of La Crosse- a big step towards ordination to the priesthood! In total, I have 3 ½ years left until I would be ordained, please God. This semester was challenging, but fruitful. I am taking more classes which are also more difficult. In addition, I have been assigned a “teaching parish” which I attend on many weekends and shadow the pastor. Because of distance, the parish is in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, not the Diocese of La Crosse. I have been enjoying the ability to practice some ministry, and the parish reminds me a lot of St. Mary’s! This summer, I am going to the Casa Hogar Orphanage in Peru for two months with a fellow seminarian brother. There we will be learning Spanish and being a role model to the kids. I am a little nervous but very excited! In my free time, biking has slowed down but cross-country skiing has picked up thanks to the December snowfall!”* Keep praying for John and for his brothers in seminary formation. It’s a tough work, leaning into seminary in the way he is earnestly doing. Whether he becomes a priest or not (we’ll know in 3 ½ years), I am grateful for his “yes” and for the Holy Spirit’s work in his life.

God bless you all,

Fr. Joe

At 6 am on Monday, January 5th, we would like to invite all women of the parish to join us at the church to pray the Rosary together for the needs and intentions of our two parishes. Going forward, this will be a monthly occurrence on 1st Mondays, always at 6 am. If you have questions, please reach out to Jackie Redmer or Carly Zadow. God bless you!

A great big thank you to everyone who attended family adoration last Saturday and especially to the kids who stayed after to make ornaments for the Christmas tree in Marian Hall. They did a wonderful job! If you get a chance, stop down in Marian Hall and admire their handiwork!

A big heartfelt thank you to those who helped decorate the church for Christmas this year! Thank you for your willingness, patience and support! Thank you Scott and Jenny Leum, Michael and Frank Corr and Kyle and Vi Prorok - all your efforts are so appreciated!

Megan Prorok

United Country-Oakwood Realty would like to thank everyone who contributed a Christmas gift to the Something For Seniors Christmas gift campaign. Approximately 300 of our senior residents living in local health care facilities received gifts this year. Thank you for helping to make Christmas a little more special this year for all those who received gifts. Merry Christmas!

December 28, 2025

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of Dec. 15-21, 2025

Offertory: \$4,035.00

Retired Religious: \$1,230.00

Total: \$5,265.00

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: \$15,314.00

Donors: 54

MASS INTENTIONS

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

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

Wednesday, 31 December, 5:15 PM People of the Annunciation & St. Mary's Parishes

Thursday, 1 January, 12:10 PM +Mary Ellen Hatton
(Ann Graham)

Friday, 2 January, 8:00 AM Women of the Parish
(PCCW)

Saturday, 3 January, 6:30 PM Skowron Family
(Biebl Family)

Sunday, 4 January, 10:30 AM +Carl P. & Margaret S. Simon
(Joseph Simon)

Ministry Schedule

Sat., Dec. 27, 6:30 PM

Pat Biebl	Eucharistic Minister
Reid Fisher	Altar Server
Lane Fisher	Altar Server
Dan Kiedinger	Lector

Sun., Dec. 28, 10:30 AM

Raven Stevenson	Eucharistic Minister
Alexis Scoville	Altar Server
Sasha Scoville	Altar Server
Melanie Halvorson	Lector

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

CHURCH CALENDAR

PCCW CIRCLE FOR DECEMBER: ST. BRIDGET

PCCW CIRCLE FOR JANUARY: ST. ANTHONY

Sunday, 28 December, 10:00 AM Choir rehearsal

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Wednesday-Friday, 31 December-2 January, Parish Office Closed in observance of New Year holiday

Friday, 2 January, following Mass First Friday Adoration

Saturday, 3 January, 5:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, 4 January, 8:00-10:00 AM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level 2 in the CGS classroom

Sunday, 4 January, 9:00-10:15 AM Confirmation Class in confirmation basement classroom & Marian Hall

Sunday, 4 January, 12:00 PM Family of Faith in Marian Hall

Monday, 5 January, 6:00 AM Pray the Rosary

Monday, 5 January, 9:30-11:30 AM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level 1 in the CGS classroom

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

Solemnity of Mary Mass Schedule

Wednesday, Dec. 31: 5:15 PM - Viroqua

Thursday, Jan. 1: 8:00 AM - Coon Valley
12:10 PM - Viroqua

December 28, 2025

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.



Something for Seniors



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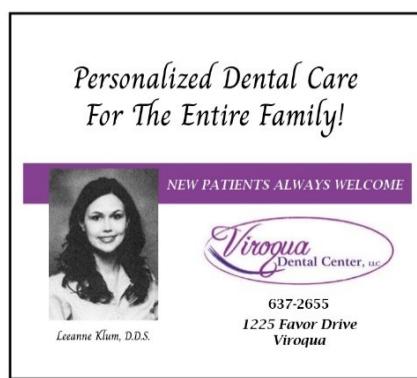
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110 N. Main Street
Westby, WI 54667
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Viroqua, WI
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“...whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus...” ~ Colossians 3:17