

# Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Hello friends,

Bible Art

First, Ash Wednesday Business: after meeting with both Pastoral Councils last week and processing our survey responses a bit, we have a schedule. At 7:00 AM we'll have a Communion service led by Dcn. Tony in Viroqua, at 12:10 we'll have Mass number one in Viroqua, and at 5:15 PM Mass number two in Coon Valley. \

Second, this last week Bishop Battersby sent out the following note to the priests and deacons of the Diocese. Let me share his words with you first, then I'll give you some further invitation. From +BB to his clergy (and now through us to you):

“Dear Brothers,

The recent events in Minneapolis remind me that we are not helpless regarding the chaos that seems to be so prevalent at this time. Prayer is able to move mountains so let's move a mountain together. I would ask that every parish participate in a sacrifice of prayer in the next two weeks. The following might be a way for your communities to participate: A mass for Justice and peace; a holy hour for civil calm; a group rosary in every parish; individual rosaries in families; a day of fasting are just some of the ways parishes can participate. Please make an intercession for this same purpose over the next two weeks. Please avoid the political *(continued on page 2)*

**February 1, 2026**  
**4th Sunday in**  
**Ordinary Time**

*Readings are in the hymnal,*  
**#1101**

## **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

# February 1, 2026

*(continued from page 1)* angle, we have one thing to offer our people and that is Jesus who is the answer to every question that is human. Please keep Archbishop Hebda, his priests, deacons, religious and laymen and women in your prayers. For the unbeliever prayer is the last refuge of the incompetent, for the believer it is confidence in a loving Father's providence.

Peace, +BB"

I think we have a good opportunity as a parish to follow the Bishop's invitation to present ourselves and our brothers and sisters to the Lord, and I suggest three ways to start. First, I invite you to an intentional day of fasting this coming Friday. Fasting is a powerful way of remembering that I am not in control, that I am not made for comfort, and that tying our own suffering to Christ's suffering opens the door to His resurrection wider. This coming Friday, I invite you to fast in some way for the intention of peace in our country and particularly in the Twin Cities area – that fasting can be giving up condiments, cream in your coffee, a meal or two or three, etc – be reasonable, but be bold. Second, I invite you to extra prayer in some capacity over the next week in your home, perhaps even following the Bishop's request for a family rosary. Finally, I invite you to join together as a parish for a rosary after each of next weekend's Masses – we'll take a moment after Mass for anyone who needs to depart to depart, then we'll proceed with the rosary shortly after. I have a particular fondness for the Marian title "Our Lady, Undoer of Knots" – perhaps this title may be a help right now, too.

For now, thank you for sharing this moment in eternity with me and with each other. May God bless you and keep you through this week,

Fr. Joe

Please extend condolences to the family of **Anna Mae (Klema) Krause** who passed away Tuesday, January 27, 2026. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary-Viroqua on Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at 11:00 AM; visitation in the gathering space from 9:00 AM until time of services. Lunch to follow in Marian Hall. May she rest in peace.

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You are invited to join a discussion on Pope Francis's encyclical "Fratelli tutti" – "All my Brothers," which may enhance your Lenten preparation for Holy Week. We are all aware of division and long for the unity within and without for which we have prayed as a community of believers. **We will have six consecutive Sunday sessions beginning on February 15. We will begin at 11:45 AM and end by 1:00 PM.** A light lunch will be provided.

Books are in the library: a copy of "Fratelli tutti" and a study guide. Please take one of each for each participant and sign your name and contact information on the sheet provided.

The discussions will be in the **basement Confirmation classroom** (at base of stairs). There is no charge.

# February 1, 2026

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of Jan. 19-25, 2026

Offertory: \$3,433.00

Total: \$3,433.00

Needed Weekly: \$4,600.00

December E-gifts: \$2,734.27

THANK YOU!

## 2025-2026

## DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Goal: \$36,920.00

Received to date: \$26,465.00

Donors: 66

## MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, 31 January, 6:30 PM The Chart Family**

(Darlene Chart)

**Sunday, 1 February, 10:30 AM +Mary Bina**

(Robert Schug)

**Wednesday, 4 February, 5:15 PM +Ralph JaDouL**

(Joan Elsing)

**Friday, 6 February, 8:00 AM +Therese Armstrong**

(Ann Graham)

**Saturday, 7 February, 6:30 PM +Barb Vesbach**

(Patricia Biebl)

**Sunday, 8 February, 10:30 AM People of the Annunciation & St. Mary's Parishes**

## Ministry Schedule

**Sat., Feb. 7, 6:30 PM**

Dennis Vinger Eucharistic Minister

Lane Fisher Altar Server

Reid Fisher Altar Server

Dan Kiedinger Lector

**Sun., Feb. 8, 10:30 AM**

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister

Amelia Kimmet Altar Server

Jacob Kimmet Altar Server

Mariah Sullivan Altar Server

Paul O'Rourke Lector

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

## CHURCH CALENDAR

**PCCW CIRCLE FOR JANUARY: ST. ANTHONY**

**PCCW CIRCLE FOR FEBRUARY: ST. THERESA**

**Sunday, 1 February, 9:00-10:15 AM Confirmation Class in confirmation basement classroom & Marian Hall**

**Sunday, 1 February, 9:00-10:15 AM CANCELLED-Decision Point in parish library**

**Sunday, 1 February, 9:30 AM Choir rehearsal**

**Sunday, 1 February, 12:00-1:00 PM Family of Faith monthly overview**

**Monday, 2 February, 6:00 AM Women of the parish gather to pray the Rosary for the needs and intentions of the Annunciation and St. Mary's Parishes**

**Tuesday, 3 February, 11:00 AM Mass of Christian Burial for Anna Mae Krause, 9:00-11:00 AM visitation in gathering space, lunch following in Marian Hall**

**Wednesday, 4 February, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM St. Mary's Quilters in Marian Hall**

**Friday, 6 February, following 8:00 AM Mass First Friday Adoration**

**Saturday, 7 February, 5:30 PM Choir rehearsal**

**Sunday, 8 February, 9:00-10:15 AM Encounter Class meeting in the pie room**

Our parish is again asking for **Valentines** for the Homebound. If you would like to make some - all ages welcome to do so! - please leave them in the gathering space by **February 10th**.

The contemplative reading group will be reviewing *Honey and Salt: Selected Writings of Bernard of Clairvaux* on **February 22, from 12:00-1:30 PM**. We will read segments of the text together lectio divina style so it is possible for one to join the discussion even if you haven't read the book.

The PCCW and Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish are both offering a \$500 scholarship to two graduating seniors of our parish. Scholarship applications can be picked up in the gathering space or downloaded from the parish website, [www.stmaryparish.org](http://www.stmaryparish.org). Scholarship applications are due in the parish office by **Wednesday, April 15**.



**HEALING THE WHOLE PERSON:** *Do you want to be healed? Do you want freedom from unhelpful patterns of thought or sin you can't seem to break? Do you want to know yourself or others better? Wherever you find yourself now is not the end of your story. God is here. God has more for you.*

This Lent, you are invited into a unique opportunity to encounter Jesus. **HEALING THE WHOLE PERSON**, an 8-week series from the John Paul II Healing Center, provides the framework for understanding and receiving Christ's healing and peace in the heart of the Catholic Church. Using videos featuring Dr. Bob Schuchts and Sr. Miram James Heidland, each session includes a guided prayer experience and private reflection, journaling, and prayer. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available, along with opportunities to receive prayer with prayer ministry teams trained by the John Paul II Healing Center.

Sessions start February 5 through March 26, every Thursday at 6:30-8:30 pm. Location is at Mary Mother of the Church parish hall in La Crosse. There is no cost to attend; space limited to 50 people, please register early. For more information or to register, email Natalie Elskamp at [LaxLoveHeals@gmail.com](mailto:LaxLoveHeals@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).



### Kickapoo Counseling

110 N. Main Street  
Westby, WI 54667  
608-634-2365

[info@kickapoo-counseling.com](mailto:info@kickapoo-counseling.com)

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



### WESTBY LOCKER & MEATS

The Sausage & Meat Shop  
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*"Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted." ~ Matthew 5:4*