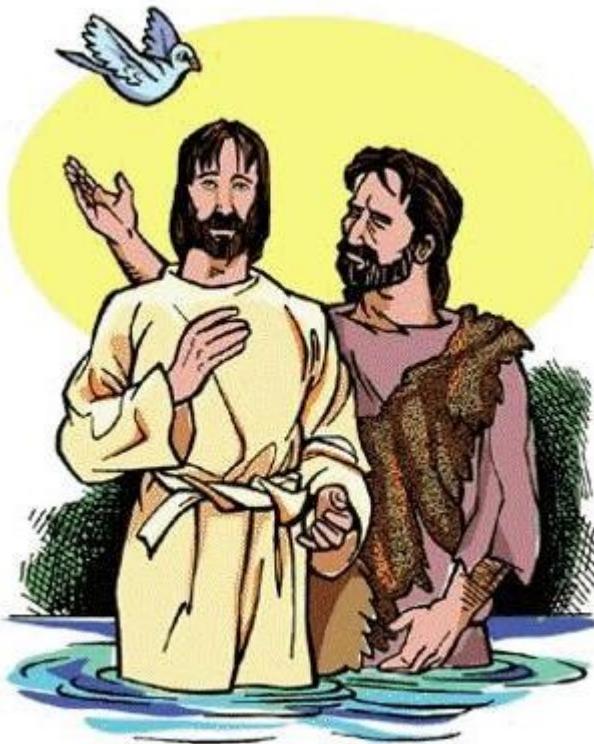


Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Hello friends,

In case you found yourself elsewhere last weekend, here's a note about what's going on priest-wise this weekend. We've got Monsignor Scheckel stepping in to cover in Coon Valley and Viroqua, while I strangely step in to cover Masses out in Cazenovia and Keyesville and Lone Rock – Fr. Aro's (and formerly Fr. Nathan's) cluster. This rides along with one of my Dean duties, to make occasional visits to the other parishes in the Deanery – we've got a smaller number of parishes in our Deanery with Fr. Bauer and Fr. Kuhn filling in the other two spots in Richland Center and the Hillsboro area. Anyhow, I'm looking forward to getting down to warmer Southeast climates, to seeing a few new-to-me spots and meeting some more of the Good Lord's Good People. In the meantime, please welcome Monsignor Scheckel and thank him for stepping out of retirement for a bit!

In other news, this weekend we're closing out the Christmas season with one final feast – the Baptism of the Lord. For a month and a half our liturgical life (which at least for me flavors the rest of my life) has been marked by this movement from the invitation of Advent into the welcome of Christmas and finally through the Epiphany and Baptism into carrying Christ out with us. The Baptism of the Lord is an important day, including the 30-year time jump between last weekend and this. That weeklong time jump mirrors the anonymity of Jesus' (*continued on page 2*)

January 11, 2026

The Baptism of the Lord

*Readings are in the hymnal,
#1012*

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

January 11, 2026

(continued from page 1) 30 years at home before He follows the last and greatest prophet, His cousin John, into the wilderness to be baptized in the Jordan and begin His public ministry.

One of the big shifts that comes with Christianity is following Christ through life into death into resurrection – His Baptism is what opens the door up for us to do that. A few weeks ago, we had a funeral out in Viroqua for Barb Vesbach. One of the artifacts we use to pray the funeral liturgy is the very Easter candle we light for the first time at the Easter Vigil Mass – the high moment of Christ’s resurrection. Outside of the Easter season we also light that candle for baptisms, and on Barb’s funeral day it struck me that the last time we had lit that candle was at her great grandson’s baptism just a week or two before, a sacrament for which she was present, too. I see some elegance in this link between the baptism and funeral rites; all tied to Easter. You and I are baptized into Christ’s life and His death and His resurrection. He invites us through our own baptism to follow Him – to let our lives be different because of His life, to let ourselves die differently by following Him, to recognize that death is not the end for us because He draws us into resurrection too. Anyhow, baptism. Starting Monday, we follow Jesus into what comes after His baptism. For today, we simply rest with Jesus in this one moment.

God bless you,

Fr. Joe

Please extend congratulations to **Benjamin Conover and India Stevenson** who were joined in marriage on Saturday, January 10, 2026.

Beginning on **Sunday, January 25th**, the women of our parishes are all invited to pray the **Novena to St. Joseph** together, asking for his loving, fatherly intercession in the lives all of the men and boys in our parishes. The novena will conclude on Monday, February 2nd, which is the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord (the 4th Joyful Mystery!). If you've never prayed a novena before, it is simply 9 days of specific prayers for a particular petition, or in preparation for a feast day. If you are interested in joining us in this time of prayer, there are copies available in the gathering space. You can also find the novena online at <https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/devotions/st-joseph-full-novena-13879>. God bless you!

LIBRARY CORNER *The Curse He Chose* Allison Regina Gliot, FSP

Happy New Year! It has been a couple months since I have asked Fran to find some space for the library in the bulletin. I have read hundreds of Young Adult novels in my lifetime. I had never read a YA novel that combined vampires, young love, adolescent issues and Catholicism...until ***The Curse He Chose***. I also had never read a novel written by a Catholic nun prior to this. I did not find this title on my own, but rather it was suggested to me by one of our parishioners. Fran ordered the book for me, and when it arrived I looked at the cover and hoped I could read “just enough” to write a brief summary to appease the parishioner who had suggested it. In a matter of a few days I found myself on page 300 and near the end of a *(continued on page 4)*

January 11, 2026

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of Dec. 29, '25-Jan. 4, 2026

Offertory: \$3,712.00

Retired Religious: \$20.00

Total: \$3,732.00

Works of Charity: \$1,035.25

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: \$24,805.00

Donors: 61

Ministry Schedule

Sat., Jan. 17, 6:30 PM

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister
NOT FILLED Altar Server
NOT FILLED Altar Server
Mark Brueggen Lector

Sun., Jan. 18, 10:30 AM

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister
Basil Stevenson Altar Server
Pearl Stevenson Altar Server
Matthew Tubbin Lector

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

Baklava is a sweet treat from the Mediterranean diet. Learn how to make it on **Sunday, January 25, at 2:00 pm in Marian Hall.**

Guest baker, Alexandria Ccle, will lead the lesson. Contact Pat Peterson at 608 606-1761 if interested. All are welcome. Cost of supplies will be shared by attendees.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 10 January, 6:30 PM +Louise Melby
(Duane Melby)

Sunday, 11 January, 10:30 AM +Douglas Wagner
(Don & Linda Wagner)

Wednesday, 14 January, 5:15 PM +Dale Fipplinger
(Patricia Rubasch)

Friday, 16 January, 8:00 AM +Irene Reinstra
(Angie Leis)

Saturday, 17 January, 6:30 PM +Ray & Therese Armstrong
(Patricia Biebl)

Sunday, 18 January, 10:30 AM +Guy Nicks
(Family of Guy Nicks)

CHURCH CALENDAR

PCCW CIRCLE FOR JANUARY: ST. ANTHONY

Saturday, 10 January, 5:30 PM Choir rehearsal

Tuesday, 13 January, 3:30-4:45 PM Middle School Girls' Bible Study in parish sitting room

Wednesday, 14 January, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM St. Mary's Quilters in Marian Hall

Thursday, 15 January, 6:30 PM Finance Council meeting in the parish library

Friday, 16 January, Parish Office closed

Sunday, 18 January, 9:00-10:15 AM Confirmation Class in confirmation basement classroom & Marian Hall

Sunday, 18 January, 9:00-10:15 AM Decision Point in parish library

Sunday, 18 January, 9:30 AM Choir rehearsal

Monday, 19 January, Parish Office closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr., Day

Domestic Church Evangelization Retreat

April 25-26, 2026

Franciscan Spirituality Center

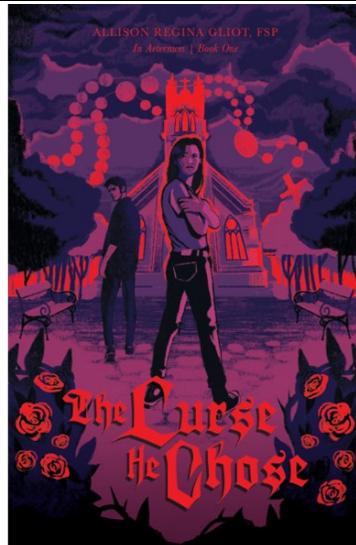
920 Market St. La Crosse, WI 54601

The Domestic Church Evangelization Retreat provides sacramentally married couples with an opportunity to begin their spiritual journey together (or deepen it if it already exists). The retreat can fruitfully be attended by any sacramentally married couple. The retreat includes daily Mass, talks, and time for couples to encounter the Lord together. The retreat also serves as an introduction to the Domestic Church movement for those interested in beginning formation in a Domestic Church circle.



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(continued from page 2) book that I was making time in my day to read! As a reader I wear a number of hats: dad, grandfather, educator, Catholic, parish librarian and parent of a nun. I can say that every one of those hats felt comfortable as I read this title. The target population is obviously young adult, but this 61-year-old considers his time well spent on this novel. I do not care for the cover, but that likely has much more to do with my age than its artistic merit. I am confident the publisher, Pauline Books & Media, chose this cover art very deliberately. This title is the first in our effort to create a YA fiction



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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.

shelf in our library. Even if you do not decide to read this book, I do encourage you to google the author. She is a charismatic speaker and her vocation story is one that gives this reader, who wears many hats, great hope!



Sr. Allison Gliot, FSP



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

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