

# Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



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Hello friends,

My. Goodness. I may write to the Diocese to officially petition them to award Fr. Aro (the pastor out in Cazenovia, Keyesville, and Lone Rock) the “Windiest Commute” award (not “windy” like “wind” – that’s Fr. Bowe and the Ridge parishes – but “windy” like “turny, curvy, ‘don’t drive in the snow’ type “windy”). I made my way down to Lone Rock last Saturday for the first Mass of the weekend, and the faithful regulars greeted me warmly and with open hearts. After supper with Fr. Kuhn and an overnight in Keyesville, I celebrated the Masses in Keyesville and Cazenovia (that stretch of road was the specially “windy” part) before making my way back here Sunday afternoon. A few hundred miles and a new set of axles later, and we’re back on track. Again, thank you for your understanding and good grace as I stepped away for the weekend – it’s one of the more niche responsibilities of a Dean to make himself known in other Deanery parishes, and I am grateful for the chance to visit these folks and get to meet them. I love being here and I love being your pastor, but perhaps there’s something I miss from my associate days (that is, when our parishes could be covered by just myself or my pastor in a pinch) about sporadically covering Masses elsewhere in the roughly Wausau area. There’s a unique feel to a given parish – a blend of history and culture and present fears and excitements and relationships that comes together to give a place some sense of character (“personality” is almost too strong a word).

Anyhow, now back to it for Ordinary Time. Last weekend we prayed through the last moment of the Christmas season – after Advent’s sense of invitation and Christmas’ welcome of the child Jesus into our hearts, we now follow the magi and John and Jesus Himself into the wilderness, entering this *(continued on page 2)*

**January 18, 2026**  
**2nd Sunday in**  
**Ordinary Time**

*Readings are in the hymnal,*  
**#1095**

## **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

# January 18, 2026

*(continued from page 1)* season where the movement of extraordinary grace expands and takes root in the ordinariness of our lives. We'll see what 2026 brings us.

And finally, two notes on brother priests. First, please pray with me a little prayer of gratitude for Monsignor Scheckel for his generosity and presence last weekend. Speaking with one of you, the word we came up with him is “expansive” – I’m grateful to have known him before ordination and then to have him for a neighbor as I started Pastoring, now it is a blessing to have him helping out here. Second, a congratulations to Fr. Dhein (who has had a relationship with both our parishes at different times and for a long time ran much of the business side of things at the Diocese) on being named a “Prelate of Honour to His Holiness Pope Leo” – that is to say, a Monsignor. I don’t quite know what a timeline looks like for things, but I know there will be a celebratory Mass coming up at some point – keep your eyes open.

God bless you, Fr. Joe

Please extend condolences to the family of **Judith Crapser** who passed away Tuesday, January 13, 2026. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary-Viroqua on Saturday, January 24, 2026, at 11:00 AM. May she rest in peace.

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!

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**.

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Please pick up your **ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS FOR 2025**, available in the gathering space and arranged in alphabetical order by last name. Statements not pick up will be mailed out the last week in January.

# January 18, 2026

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of Jan. 5-11, 2026

Offertory: 4,961.44

Total: \$4,961.44

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: \$24,830.00

Donors: 62

## MASS INTENTIONS

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

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

**Wednesday, 21 January, 5:15 PM +Janet Lucey**  
(Ann Graham)

**Friday, 23 January, 8:00 AM +Mary Bina**  
(Bina Family)

**Saturday, 24 January, 6:30 PM +Mary Ellen Hatton**  
(Mark & Kristine Brueggen)

**Sunday, 25 January, 10:30 AM +Mary Ellen Hatton**  
(Don & Linda Wagner)

## CHURCH CALENDAR

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

**Sunday, 18 January, 9:00-10:00 AM Commandments Activity at St. Mary's-Coon Valley**

**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**

**Tuesday, 20 January, 1:00 PM St. Mary's Book Club meeting in parish library**

**Wednesday, 21 January, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM St. Mary's Quilters in Marian Hall**

**Saturday, 24 January, 5:30 PM Choir rehearsal**

**Sunday, 25 January, 9:00-10:15 AM Encounter Class meeting in the pie room**

**Sunday, 25 January, 9:00-10:15 AM Decision Point meeting in the confirmation basement classroom**

**Sunday, 25 January, 2:00 PM Baklava Baking Lesson in Marian Hall & Parish Kitchen**

**Monday, 26 January, 5:00-6:30 PM Community Meal at Good Shepherd Church**

## Ministry Schedule

**Sat., Jan. 24, 6:30 PM**

Sheryl Robinson Eucharistic Minister  
NOT FILLED Altar Server  
NOT FILLED Altar Server  
Pat Biebl Lector

**Sun., Jan. 25, 10:30 AM**

Pat Obernberger Eucharistic Minister  
Jacob Kimmet Altar Server  
Sebastian Kimmet Altar Server  
Al Mislivecek 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.

# January 18, 2026

## 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.



## 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)



S2676 Haugen Ln.  
Westby, WI 54667  
608-634-4059 (home)  
608-606-0832 (cell)  
[rjhoneyfarm@hotmail.com](mailto:rjhoneyfarm@hotmail.com)

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

### WESTBY LOCKER & MEATS

The Sausage & Meat Shop  
Rosanne & Rod Aspenson  
402 N. Main St., Westby, WI 54665  
[meatsusa@mwt.net](mailto:meatsusa@mwt.net)  
608-634-4515



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*"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." ~ John 1:29*