

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Bible Art

Hello friends,

This last week we prayed a special Mass on Thursday – every January 22, the calendar anniversary of the Supreme Court’s original decision in Roe v. Wade to allow abortion up to the point of viability in a pregnancy, the Church in the United States holds a special day of prayer for the protection of the unborn. I think it’s pretty well established in most folks’ attention that respect for and protection of human life from conception to natural death is critically important to the Catholic Church. This all stems from a Catholic anthropology (the study of the human person) that understands the human person as being made in the image and likeness of God, a union of body and soul that comes together at the moment of conception (not at any point afterward) and lasts all the way until death (when body and soul are separated for a time, but not forever). Much social action has sprung out of the Catholic Church over the last fifty or so years since this initial decision, and our ongoing prayer and work for the preservation, protection, restoration and renewal of human life remains a major part of the Church’s life in the world.

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January 25, 2026

**3rd Sunday in
Ordinary Time**

*Readings are in the hymnal,
#1098*

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 25, 2026

(continued from page 1) Anyhow, on Thursday we came together to pray this Mass and entrust this work to the Lord. It made me recall back in 2022 when Roe v. Wade was overturned and the authority to make decisions about abortion went back to individual states, being struck by an important reality – even while there is some real sense of “victory” or “accomplishment” in the overturning of such a charged decision that so many people have been engaging for so many years, the fact remained that families and women and children in crisis on June 23, would still be in crisis on June 25. The responsibility still stood and is still often taken up by the Lord’s people to care for and accompany these people in their very real needs, for us, as Pope Francis liked to say, to go out to the peripheries.

I think this all highlights the beauty of the Church’s social teaching – when we do things well, we are not pretending that a decision or the presentation of a fact is all it takes to assist and accompany souls. As Pope Benedict elegantly put it in the opening of his powerful letter *Caritas in Veritate (Charity in Truth)*, “Love – *caritas* – is an extraordinary force which leads people to opt for courageous and generous engagement in the field of justice and peace.” Through my years actively serving the Church, I am grateful to have witnessed powerful responses to the Lord awakening His Church to His people’s needs. More work remains to do, a truth that will stand until the end of all time – just as much as ever before, the perennial question for us to ask in any given moment is not “Lord, how will you fix things?” but “Lord, what do you ask of me right now?”

God bless you,

Fr. Joe

Please extend condolences to the family of **Larry Cina** who passed away Thursday, January 22, 2026. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary-Viroqua on Saturday, January 31, 2026, at 11:00 AM; visitation in the gathering space from 9:00 AM until time of services. May he 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!

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 25, 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.



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




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Pastoral Council Members

Kris Brueggen
Phyllis Krause
David Hall

Cathy Poshepny
Jenny Leum
Dcn. Tony Shay

Dennis Vinger

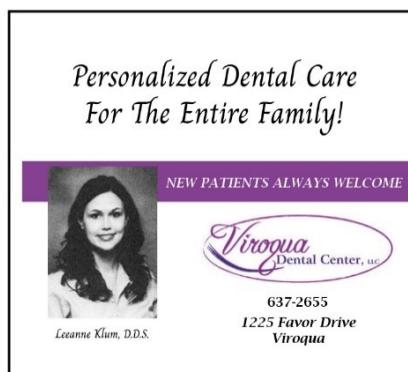
Our Pastoral Council is here to serve. They help us discern the needs of our community and the call of the Spirit in our time. If you wish to speak with a Council member about your concerns., please contact the parish office - 608-637-7711 or stmaryparish@mwt.net.

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**.



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

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The Sausage & Meat Shop
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“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” ~ Matthew 4:17