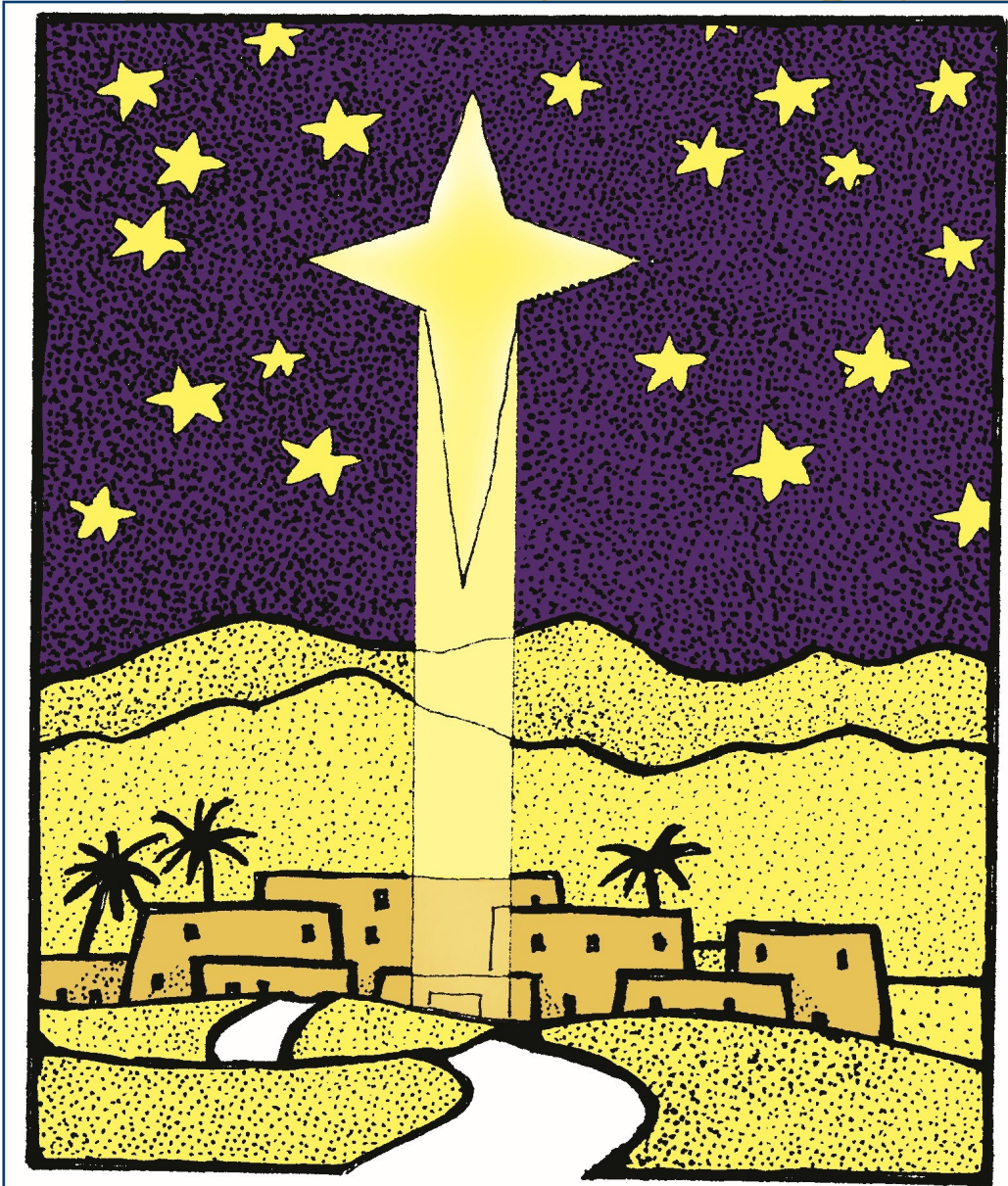


# Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Hello friends,

I want to thank all of you who participated in any way in our liturgies over the last few weeks here. From our regular daily and weekend Masses to Christmas to the Feast of the Holy Family, the liturgy has always seemed to me the heart and most important part of what we do and who we are. This certainly doesn't mean the rest of our lives and ministries and parish cultures are unimportant – just that everything we do is given life first and foremost by our encounter with Jesus Christ in His Word and His Body.

Now let me share an important disclaimer before diving into a rabbit hole: this is not a commentary on how great or horrible any parish (*continued on page 2*)

## January 4, 2026 Epiphany of the Lord

*Readings are in the hymnal,  
#1011*

### 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 4, 2026

*(continued from page 1)* anywhere is – it's just an observation that maybe says something about our sister parishes and the state of the Church today. As I gathered with my fraternity for a few days after last weekend's Masses and as we hashed out our experience with Christmas in our respective parishes, one big thing struck me: our Christmas Mass attendance was not all that much higher than our regular weekend attendance (perhaps a ten to fifteen percent rise but not a particularly massive increase). This has not always been the norm, in fact I might anecdotally say it is a bit novel. More common perhaps is a sharp and noticeable increase in attendance at Christmas and Easter, giving rise to an unhappily pejorative criticism of "Chreasters" – members of the faithful attending only for these two moments but not during the rest of the year. This narrative didn't line up with my experience this year.

So why do I bring all this up? Again, firstly to highlight my gratitude for your participation at our highest moments but also your regular participation in our regular life. Secondly, to note that I don't know if this phenomenon is actually limited to our parishes. As we go about our Big Picture work with the Rebuild My Church initiative one of our studies involves trends in Mass attendance since 2005. From 2005 to 2019 we saw a decline of roughly 45% in the numbers of people across the Diocese attending Mass on the weekend. COVID obviously marked an outlying Moment in this trend, but since then we've been witnessing positive growth (slow, but steady) across the board. I personally think we're seeing the results of A) the Holy Spirit's movement and B) the Lord's People responding in hopeful desire to His initiative. Anyhow, again I just want to thank you for responding to the Lord – for inviting His light into your life and your families, for engaging Christmas with open hearts and minds, and for living our shared discipleship alongside each other and myself.

God bless you, and Merry Christmas,

Fr. Joe

Please extend condolences to the family of **Barbara "Barb" Ann (Leonard) Vesbach** who passed away Friday, December 26, 2025. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary-Viroqua on Wednesday, December 31, 2025. May she rest in peace.

**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!

# January 4, 2026

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of Dec. 22-28, 2025

Offertory: \$10,308.55

Retired Religious: \$45.00

Total: \$10,353.55

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: \$15,564.00

Donors: 55

## MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, 3 January, 6:30 PM Skowron Family**

(Biebl Family)

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

(Joseph Simon)

**Wednesday, 7 January, 5:15 PM Fr. Joseph Richards**

**Friday, 9 January, 8:00 AM +Mary Bina**

(Robert Schug)

**Saturday, 10 January, 6:30 PM +Louise Melby**

(Duane Melby)

**Sunday, 11 January, 10:30 AM +Douglas Wagner**

(Don & Linda Wagner)

## CHURCH CALENDAR

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

**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**

**Wednesday, 7 January, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM St. Mary's Quilters in Marian Hall**

**Wednesday, 7 January 3:00-5:00 PM Catechesis of the Good**

**Shepherd Level 2 in CGS classroom**

**Friday, 9 January, 5:00 PM Conover/Stevenson wedding rehearsal**

**Friday, 9 January, 6:00-9:00 PM Conover/Stevenson wedding rehearsal dinner in Marian Hall**

**Friday, 9 January, 6:00 PM OCIA Neophytes at Tubbin residence**

**Saturday, 10 January, 12:00-2:00 PM Well-read Moms in sitting room**

**Saturday, 10 January, ? PM Conover/Stevenson wedding**

**Saturday, 10 January, 5:30 PM Choir rehearsal**

**Sunday, 11 January, 9:00-10:15 AM Decision Point in confirmation classroom**

## Ministry Schedule

**Sat., Jan. 10, 6:30 PM**

Gladys Jacobson Eucharistic Minister

Will Fisher Altar Server

NOT FILLED Altar Server

Dennis Vinger Lector

**Sun., Jan. 11, 10:30 AM**

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister

Alexis Scoville Altar Server

Sasha Scoville Altar Server

Stephen Lambert Lector

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



## DIOCESE OF LA CROSSE GUIDELINES FOR REPORTING INSTANCES OF CHILD ABUSE:

The Diocese of La Crosse, through its policies and procedures, seeks to provide a prompt, appropriate, and compassionate response to reporters of sexual abuse of a child by any diocesan agent (bishop, priest, deacon, employee, religious, vendor, or volunteer). Anyone wishing to make a report of an allegation of sexual abuse should send that report to Mrs. Teresa Brown, Complaint Intake Agent, at the Diocese of La Crosse, P.O. Box 4004, La Crosse, WI 54602-4004. Alternatively, you can contact Mrs. Brown at 608.791.0179 or [intakeagent@diolc.org](mailto:intakeagent@diolc.org). The reporting form is available through the Diocese of La Crosse Office of Safe Environment or on the diocesan website at: [diolc.org/safe-environment/reporting](http://diolc.org/safe-environment/reporting). Individuals are also encouraged to submit their reports directly to the appropriate civil authorities. Copies of the

## 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).

diocesan policy are available through your local parish and on the diocesan website. If you have any questions about the Diocese of La Crosse and the implementation of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, please contact Teresa Brown at 608.791.2679 or [tbrown@diolc.org](mailto:tbrown@diolc.org).



Estate Planning, Probate, Trust, and Litigation  
608-784-1605; [Scott@lacrosselaw.com](mailto:Scott@lacrosselaw.com)



### 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



52676 Haugen Ln.  
Westby, WI 54667  
608-634-4059 (home)  
608-606-0832 (cell)  
[rjhoneyfarm@hotmail.com](mailto:rjhoneyfarm@hotmail.com)

### 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



Roth Family  
Cremation Center  
and Funeral Services

Personalized Dental Care  
For The Entire Family!



Lecanne Klum, D.D.S.

NEW PATIENTS ALWAYS WELCOME



637-2655  
1225 Favor Drive  
Viroqua



Oakwood Realty LLC

608-606-5344  
[dan@oakwoodrealty.com](mailto:dan@oakwoodrealty.com)

Dan Kiedinger



Let me help you sell your home, farm, or vacant land.



*"Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you." ~ Isaiah 60:1*