

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Hello friends,

In a few short days we're back into an extraordinary season with the start of Lent – for a month or so we've been praying through the start of Ordinary Time (and especially encountering Jesus' words in Matthew), and now it's time for the penitential season of Lent, the deep and temporally-short story work of the Triduum, and the long celebratory season of Easter. In the spirit of Lenten preparation, follow me down a little ramble here.

We've talked about this before, but the traditional devotional approach to Lent is through three big elements: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. This can get a bit reductionist sometimes – “I'll give up this or that thing, because that's what I do in Lent” – but I think perhaps the Lord might be inviting you and me to a certain expansiveness this year. That prayer is *for* something – intimacy with the Lord. That fasting is *for* something – stripping away those things that I use for control, comfort, independence. That almsgiving is *for* something – remembering that holiness is just as much about lifting up the other as it is about lifting up ourselves. The gospel this weekend is kind of resonating with me here – Jesus is taking the very direct laws of the Old Testament (don't kill each other, don't commit adultery, etc.) and expanding them (nurtured and welcomed anger and hatred are related to killing, harboring lust is related to adultery, etc.). This is really one of the invitations of Lent – to take the baseline of Christian belonging and explore the Lord's invitation to go deeper, to expand, to root and ground ourselves more in Him. Those Big Three practices (prayer, fasting, and almsgiving) are a very good start to entering into Lent – now let me encourage you to invite the Lord to show you where in those areas He wants to draw you further in to Him. *(continued on page 2)*

February 15, 2026
6th Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Readings are in the hymnal,
#1107

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

February 15, 2026

(continued from page 1) On a final note, over the last few weeks we've been praying with these beautiful prayers – Jesus' own Beatitudes to start the Sermon on the Mount two weeks ago and last weekend the Prayer of St. Francis (maybe written by St. Francis, maybe not, beautiful either way). I'd like to do with Lent something like what we did with the Unity Prayer during Advent and Christmas – at the end of Mass, where we customarily pray the St. Michael Prayer let's pray the St. Francis prayer together. I've got a bunch of holy cards on order from our friends over at EWTN, and we'll pop them in the missals or pews for Ash Wednesday.

God bless you,

Fr. Joe

Do you enjoy meeting new people? Are you excited to welcome new parishioners? Here is your opportunity! **We are starting a new hospitality committee** whose purpose will be to welcome new parishioners, and to assist with events and activities to help everyone feel welcome in our parish community! If this is a ministry that calls to you, please call, text or email Kris Brueggen at 608-306-0349, or kbrueggen01@gmail.com. I would love to hear from you!

A Parish Kitchen cleaning day is being planned for Wednesday, March 11th at 1:00 pm. It's time to give the kitchen that's served us so well a good, deep clean which includes wiping down appliances and cabinets, etc. This is an open invitation to everyone and help would be appreciated. It's a big job, but many hands make light work!

LENTEN SCHEDULE

Ash Wednesday, February 18 - Communion Service - 7:00 AM/Viroqua

Mass - 12:10 PM/Viroqua

Mass - 5:15 PM/Coon Valley

Fridays during Lent, beginning Friday, February 20 - Stations of the Cross - 5:15 PM/Viroqua, led by John & Debbie Zak (806-535-3553)

A simple soup supper and reflection on the Stations of the Cross follows in

Marian Hall - 6:00-6:45 PM

LIBRARY CORNER *The Catholic Kids' Cookbook*

Cookbooks!

We have two cookbooks in our library collection. The newest is: ***The Catholic Kids' Cookbook: Holy Days and Heavenly Food***. We have had this book in the Leis kitchen for a couple years. A personal favorite of mine is the recipe for St. George Dragon Eggs (pg. 132). It is a fun addition to our Easter table. Then there is a **MISSING** cookbook: ***Cooking With the Saints***. It was added to our library collection several months ago and has been missing for several months since! Please stop in the library and look for ***The Catholic Kids' Cookbook*** then go home to your kitchen and look for: ***Cooking With the Saints!*** (see page 4 for book covers)

Tom Leis,

Parish Librarian

saintmaryparishlibrary@gmail.com

February 15, 2026

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of Feb. 2-8, 2026

Offertory: \$3,361.00

CCHD: \$250.00

Total: \$3,611.00

Needed Weekly: \$4,600.00

January E-gifts: \$2,701.29

THANK YOU!

2025-2026

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Goal: \$36,920.00

Received to date: \$31,795.00

Donors: 68

Ministry Schedule

Sat., Feb. 21 6:30 PM

Pat Biebl Eucharistic Minister
Will Fisher Altar Server
NOT FILLED Altar Server
Amy Matthes Lector

Sun., Feb. 22, 10:30 AM

Matthew Tubbin Eucharistic Minister
Sebastian Kimmet Altar Server
Amelia Kimmet Altar Server
Al Mislivecek Lector

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

The contemplative reading group is postponing discussion of *Honey and Salt: Selected Writings of Bernard of Clairvaux* from **February 22, to April 19, from 12:00-1:30 PM**, as this currently overlaps with the Lenten discussion of "Fratelli Tutti." More time to read the book and join us!

Now Enrolling at Sacred Heart School - Discover the difference at Sacred Heart School, where faith and learning grow together. We proudly serve students in **Pre-K through 8th grade** in a Christ-centered environment rooted in Charity, Truth, and Excellence. At Sacred Heart, we believe in skills over standards, helping students build confidence, character, and a strong foundation for life. Schedule a tour or call 608-654-7733 to learn more today!

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 14 Saturday, 6:30 PM +**Alice Atteln**
(Carol Spencer)

Sunday, 15 Sunday, 10:30 AM +**Guy Nicks**
(Family of Guy Nicks)

Wednesday, 18 February, 12:10 PM +**Mary Ellen Hatton**
(Alvin Felch)

Friday, 20 February, 8:00 AM +**Esther Cook**
(Angie Leis)

Saturday, 21 February, 6:30 PM +**Mary Bina**
(Bina Family)

Sunday, 22 February, 10:30 AM +**Mary Cowell**
(Angie Leis)

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, 15 February, 9:00-10:00 AM **Family of Faith Divine Mercy/Act of Contrition in Coon Valley**

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

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

Sunday, 15 February, 9:30 AM **Choir rehearsal**

Sunday, 15 February, 11:45 AM-1:00 PM **"Fratelli Tutti" discussion in confirmation basement classroom**

Tuesday, 17 February, 1:00 PM **St. Mary's Parish Book Club in parish library**

Wednesday, 18 February, **Parish Office closed in observance of Ash Wednesday**

Wednesday, 18 February, 7:00 AM **Communion Service**

Wednesday, 18 February, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM **St. Mary's Quilters in Marian Hall**

Thursday, 19 February, 6:30-8:00 PM **"Fratelli Tutti" discussion in confirmation basement classroom**

Friday, 20 February, 5:15 PM **Stations of the Cross**

Friday, 20 February, 6:00-6:45 PM **Soup Supper & Reflection on the Stations of the Cross in Marian Hall**

Saturday, 21 February, 5:30 PM **Choir rehearsal**

Sunday, 22 February, 9:00-10:15 AM **Encounter Class meeting in the pie room**

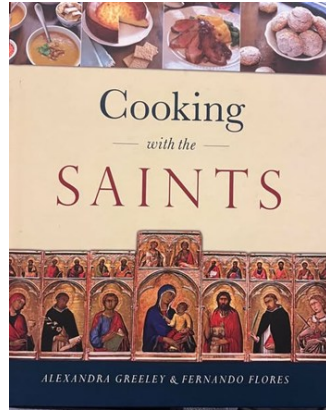
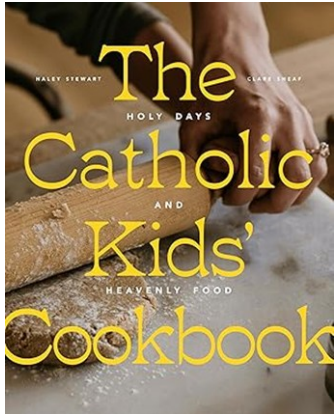
Sunday, 22 February, 9:00-10:15 AM **Decision Point in confirmation basement classroom**

Sunday, 22 February, 11:45 AM-1:00 PM **"Fratelli Tutti" discussion in confirmation basement classroom**

Monday, 23 February, 5:00-6:30 PM **Community Supper at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**

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. Scholarship applications are due in the parish office by **Wednesday, April 15.**

LIBRARY CORNER *continued from page 2*



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.

Please join us for **Grief Share**, where you can find comfort, strength, and hope! If there is someone you know who may benefit from Grief Share, please invite him or her to attend. All are welcome!

When: Tuesdays 5:00 - 7:00 pm

March 10th through June 2nd, 2026

Where: Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church
400 Congress Ave.
Viroqua, WI 54665

Facilitators: Janet Olmstead, AAGC Certified Grief Counselor (608) 790-4543
Deacon Anthony Shay, Ed. D, LPC, CRC

Registration Fee: \$20.00

Financial assistance available as needed

To Register: contact the church office at 608-637-7711, email stmaryparish@mwt.net, or go to the website at www.griefshare.org



Kickapoo Counseling

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

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
Rosanne & Rod Aspenson
402 N. Main St., Westby, WI 54665
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

Viroqua
Dental Center, LLC

637-2655
1225 Favor Drive
Viroqua



Dan Kiedinger



Oakwood Realty LLC

608-606-5344

dan@oakwoodrealty.com

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

