

# Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Hello friends,

I imagine I'll mention it at Mass this weekend, but I have a redaction to make. Following a spiritual trend through those few weeks of Ordinary Time before this last Wednesday, I announced my intention to pray together the St. Francis prayer after Masses through Lent (admittedly, this prayer was likely not written by Francis, who in fact wrote very little – even more dubious and I think less Franciscan is the frequently attributed “preach always, sometimes use words”). The Prayer of Saint Francis is a beautiful prayer worth spending serious time with, but I redact my intention to pray it together through Lent – my present intention is still to engage it together, likely during the even-longer-than-Lent Easter season.

This all came from an email from Bishop Battersby that I opened when I got back to my office after the 10:30 Mass last Sunday, asking his priests and deacons to ask his people (that is, y'all) to daily pray the Litany of Humility throughout Lent. Bishop Battersby's opening drive is for us all (as parishes and individuals) to “pivot from maintenance to mission” – he has recognized substantial work and limitations that need addressing throughout the Diocese, but rather than laying out The Plan (which I would name a limiting, scarcity-driven movement) he's quite beautifully leading us into an invitation to the Holy Spirit. The question isn't so much “what do I see is needed” as it is “what do You desire, Lord?” Programs and plans come and go, but providence has staying power. In his words, “our success in our missionary pivot does not rest on a plan or a program, our success *(continued on page 2)*

**February 22, 2026**  
**1st Sunday of Lent**

*Readings are in the hymnal,  
#1016*

## **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

# February 22, 2026

*(continued from page 1)* rests in submitting to the Holy Spirit and allowing His plan to unfold.”

Right, so the Litany of Humility. There’s not enough room to put the prayer in this article, but a Google search will pull it right up. This is a hard prayer, and I think it’s hard specifically because it so thoroughly challenges the current self-centered, self-aggrandizing zeitgeist. One characteristic element that I see come up for folks as they pray this prayer is a sidelining shame – perhaps the Holy Spirit prompts me to notice how much I do desire to be preferred by others or how much I do love being consulted or how afraid I am of being suspected, then (afraid of losing a foothold) the evil spirit twists “room-for-growth” and inflates it like a balloon into “this is all you are, all you’ll ever be.” If you notice yourself being challenged by this or that line in this prayer, let me invite you to explore that movement – to notice it, to name it with the Lord, perhaps to make it a topic of discussion with a competent and trusted brother or sister (I volunteer myself, but there’s only one of me to go around), and perhaps to grasp firmly to that “Come, Holy Spirit,” especially adding in “be with me here.” It’s all about freedom, folks.

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](mailto:kbrueggen01@gmail.com). I would love to hear from you!

## LENTEN SCHEDULE

**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

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LIBRARY CORNER *What Jesus Saw From The Cross*, by AD Sertillanges

*What Jesus Saw from the Cross* is new to our collection but was written early in this century. The author, Sertillanges, was a priest who lived in Jerusalem. This is a devotional that causes the reader to consider what Jesus would have seen, what He would have smelled, felt, thought... If you are the meditative type, this book may feel like a personal retreat. For me it caused me to consider the passion of Christ with all of my senses, which is not something I had ever done in the past. *(continued on page 4)*

Tom Leis,

Parish Librarian

[saintmaryparishlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:saintmaryparishlibrary@gmail.com)

# February 22, 2026

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of Feb. 9-15, 2026

Offertory: \$7,022.10

CCHD: \$25.00

Total: \$7,047.10

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: \$32,913.87

Donors: 69

## Ministry Schedule

### **Sat., Feb. 28, 6:30 PM**

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister  
Reid Fisher Altar Server  
Lane Fisher Altar Server  
Dennis Vinger Lector

### **Sun., Mar. 1, 10:30 AM**

Raven Stevenson Eucharistic Minister  
Royce Scoville Altar Server  
Alexis Scoville Altar Server  
Melanie Halvorson 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!

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## MASS INTENTIONS

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

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

**Wednesday, 25 February, 5:15 PM +Joseph Flock**  
(Angie Leis)

**Friday, 27 February, 8:00 AM +Shirley Olson**  
(Angie Leis)

**Saturday, 28 February, 6:30 PM +Reinie Leis**  
(Angie Leis)

**Sunday, 1 March, 10:30 AM +Janet (Harter) Lucey**  
(Dan & Renae Harter)

## CHURCH CALENDAR

**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**

**Tuesday, 24 February, 3:30-4:45 PM Middle School Girls' Bible Study in the sitting room**

**Wednesday, 25 February, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM St. Mary's Quilters in Marian Hall**

**Thursday, 26 February, 6:30-8:00 PM "Fratelli Tutti" discussion in confirmation basement classroom**

**Friday, 27 February, 5:15 PM Stations of the Cross**

**Friday, 27 February, 6:00-6:45 PM Soup Supper & Reflection on the Stations of the Cross in Marian Hall**

**Sunday, 1 March, 9:00-10:15 AM Confirmation Class in confirmation basement classroom & Marian Hall**

**Sunday, 1 March, 9:00-10:15 AM Decision Point in parish library**

**Sunday, 1 March, 9:30 AM Choir rehearsal**

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

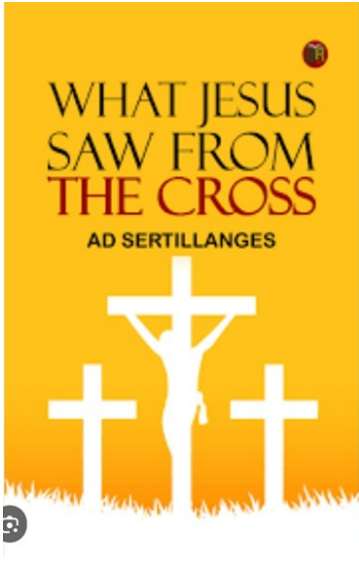
**Sunday, 1 March, 11:45 AM-12:45 PM First Communion Class in basement classroom**

**Sunday, 1 March, 12:00-1:00 PM Family of Faith overview in Marian Hall**

**Monday, 2 March, 6:00 AM Women of the parish gather to pray the Rosary for the needs and intentions of the Annunciation and St. Mary's Parishes**

**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.**

## LIBRARY CORNER *continued from page 2*



### 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*

## 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).

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](mailto:stmaryparish@mwt.net), or go to the website at [www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org)

### WESTBY LOCKER & MEATS

The Sausage & Meat Shop  
Rosanne & Rod Aspenson  
402 N. Main St., Westby, WI 54665  
[meatsusa@mwt.net](mailto:meatsusa@mwt.net)  
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David Hall  
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***"The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve." ~ Matthew 4:10***