

# Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Hello friends, and happy Easter!

First, I want to thank you for entering into Lent with such willing hearts this year. I found the inclusion of the Litany of Humility important for a few reasons: A) little acts of obedience like a “yes” to the Bishop’s request for daily engagement with it bear remarkable spiritual fruit; B) this Lent just felt a bit more cohesive/tied-together to me, like this overarching prayer offered a binding agent to it all; and C) (even if it felt simple) this brought us together in a radical spiritual openness to the Holy Spirit. With pride being the primordial turning-away from God and turning-inward of Lucifer’s fall, humility is (for us here on Earth, bound by baptism to Jesus’ suffering, death and resurrection) a *powerful* sharing in Jesus Christ’s work of salvation and turning-back-out to God and the other. Anyhow, this prayer together was more important and impactful on the inside than it may have seemed on the outside, and I am grateful to you for following me in following the Bishop into it.

Second, I want to wish you again a very happy Easter! For forty-something days we’ve been preparing for the last few days (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday), doing this intentional and often difficult work of inviting the Holy Spirit into our hearts, our lives, and our stories. Many of the Gospel encounters we’ve been praying with – the Samaritan Woman at the well, the Man born Blind, Lazarus and Martha and Mary, etc. – have reflected this exact opening-up-the-depths-of-the-heart that marks a Lent done well. All of these moments are designed to make us aware of the very real death that Jesus enters into, culminating in these deep meditations on Palm Sunday and Good Friday on Jesus’ own suffering and death – His descent into hell, into the post-original-sin separation of the human person from God. This itself is its own preparation for what happens at Easter – it’s saying “now that I’ve taken a bit more time becoming aware of the reality of death, let’s dive headfirst into just how impactful it is that Jesus didn’t stay dead, that He rose to new life, and, even more amazingly, draws you and me into *(continued on page 2)*

**April 5, 2026**  
**Easter Sunday of**  
**the Resurrection of**  
**the Lord**

Readings are in the hymnal,  
#1065

### **Eucharist**

Saturdays - 6:30 PM  
Sundays - 10:30 AM  
Wednesday - 5:15 PM  
Fridays - 8:00 AM

### **Livestreaming Mass**

[www.facebook.com/StMarysCoonValley](http://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

# April 5, 2026

*(continued from page 1)* new life with Him.” This movement (Jesus’ suffering→death→resurrection) is the heart of what we do, of who we are, and of what we are constantly receiving from the Lord.

Anyhow, take all of this as an encouragement to enter into the next fifty days as earnestly as you did the last forty-something. I think it’s important to remember that Easter lasts longer than Lent, even if Easter decorations will be disappearing from store shelves in roughly seven and a half hours. Next step for us, let’s learn how to live the resurrection with Jesus and each other!

God bless you,

Fr. Joe

**We are currently in the process of expanding our Prayer Chain (public prayer group whose members pray for specific intentions of parishioners) options and want to invite you to join us.** We invite any member of the parish of at least confirmation age, to sign up in the gathering space. You may receive your prayer notification by group text, group email, the traditional phone chain (where you get a call and then also pass on the phone message), or by phone notification (where you get a call, but don’t need to pass it on). The most important part is that we are praying for each other! Sign up today. For questions, call Cathy Lund - 608-637-7109.

**Funeral Luncheon Ministry:** It isn’t too late to join. The signup sheet is still in the Gathering Space. Or reach out to Julie Moore at [julie.moore29@gmail.com](mailto:julie.moore29@gmail.com) or text/call 307-359-2322.

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**REMINDER:** Please bring in/leave your Rice Bowls and Lenten Mite Boxes in the baskets in the Gathering Space at your earliest convenience.

**THANK YOU!**





## 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).

**R&J's HONEY FARM**  
52676 Haugen Ln.  
Westby, WI 54667  
608-634-4059 (home)  
608-606-0832 (cell)  
[rjhoneyfarm@hotmail.com](mailto:rjhoneyfarm@hotmail.com)

## Spaghetti Dinner

The St. Mary's Men's Club is hosting a Spaghetti Dinner on **Saturday, April 11, 2026. Serving from 4-7 PM.** Adults \$12, kids under 12 \$5, children under 3 free. Serving spaghetti/pasta (gluten free option available), sauce, meatballs, garlic bread, salad, beverage, and ice cream with toppings. Beer and wine available for purchase. Carry outs available. All are welcome!



## Kickapoo Counseling

110 N. Main Street  
Westby, WI 54667  
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[info@kickapoo-counseling.com](mailto:info@kickapoo-counseling.com)

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

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*"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad." ~ Psalm 118:24*