

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Bible Art

Hello friends,

I write this from Fr. Sam's rectory up in Ellsworth before heading out to California for the week. By the time you read it, it'll probably be a balmy 57 degrees with spring finally coming again; but back last Sunday the windy snow was still ripping by outside and my adrenaline was still coming down from the drive up through Minnesota. Anyhow, I want to take just a minute to thank everyone who rearranged their plans to make it in to Mass last weekend – it truly was an effective test of my “I’ll be derved before we ever cancel a Sunday Mass” conviction, and between Saturday’s full-house churches and Sunday’s intrepid adventurer crowds, it was quite simply a blessing to share that moment of prayer with each of you. Especially by the time we got to 10:30, I was just as shocked that you had made it as that I had. Thank you, and if you couldn’t make it in don’t beat yourself up. That was nasty weather.

Last weekend we also made the turn from the first half of Lent into the second. You may recall that Advent and Lent each have a pink/rose Sunday – each a joyful reminder of the way the difficult story finally comes to a happy resolution. It’s kind of like running a 5K, buckling down to do the work, then finally looking up to notice that there really is a finish line up ahead. There’s still more 5K to run, but it’s good to remember now and then that the hard work isn’t all *(continued on page 2)*

March 22, 2026
5th Sunday of Lent

*Readings are in the hymnal,
#1028*

Eucharist

Saturdays - 6:30 PM

Sundays - 10:30 AM

Wednesday - 5:15 PM

Fridays - 8:00 AM

Livestreaming Mass

www.facebook.com/StMarysCooonValley

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

March 22, 2026

(continued from page 1) there is. Anyhow, that was last Sunday – a midseason pause to look up to the Resurrection, reflected in the new lease on life Jesus gives the blind man and tries to give the crowds. Now it's time to buckle back down for the final run into Holy Week.

Holy Week is hands down my favorite week of the year. It's not sensibly pleasant, it's not necessarily emotional pleasant, and yet there is something to entering bodily into the prolonged story of Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection. From Palm Sunday's pre-Mass Gospel proclamation through Holy Thursday's Mass of the Lord's Supper (which always seems to me like its own swelling story, from the familial Passover gathering through the foot washing to the suspenseful departure from the church) to Good Friday's Passion account and weighty, heavy-laden veneration of the cross to Holy Saturday's budding light building to fill the darkness, this whole story is one big invitation to you and me to enter into the Story that first played out some 2000 years ago. Brothers and sisters, I invite you with my whole heart to participate in this story – you absolutely do not have to, but it may be a powerful opportunity to let the Holy Spirit open up new dynamics and places where He is present with you in your own story.

God bless you,

Fr. Joe

Please extend condolences to the family of **Judy Rose (Schroeder) Neuerburg** who passed away Thursday, March 12, 2026. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary-Viroqua on Friday, March 27, 2026, at 11:00 AM; visitation will be held on Thursday, March 26, from 4:00-7:00 PM at Vosseteig-Larson Funeral Home in Viroqua and in the church gathering space from 10:00 AM until time of services on Friday. Lunch to follow in Marian Hall. May she rest in peace.

Holy Week Schedule

Holy Thursday, 5:15 PM Mass; Adoration following until midnight/Viroqua

Good Friday, 12:10 PM/Viroqua

3:00 PM/Coon Valley

Holy Saturday, 8:30 PM/Viroqua

Easter Sunday, 8:00 AM/Coon Valley

10:30 AM/Viroqua

PCCW News: The PCCW is interested in transitioning it's responsibilities within the parish, a bit. One piece of that transition is the Funeral Luncheon Ministry. When a funeral mass is held in our parish, the family of the deceased is given the option to have the parish provide a luncheon for them after the funeral. It's a beautiful gift our parish gives to our parish family members who have lost someone. The PCCW circles have carried this ministry faithfully and unfailingly for as long as I can remember and what a gift it's been! However, now is the time for the broader parish to help carry this ministry into the future. A new Funeral Luncheon Ministry Group is being established. **All men and women of the parish are invited to join.**

If you would like to be a part of this ministry group there are several different ways you can serve. The areas of service include setting up and food prep, serving at the luncheon, dishes/cleanup crew and/or providing food (a salad or dessert). Please prayerfully consider whether this important parish ministry is something you are called to do. If it is, there is a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Space. Please leave your name, contact information and preference for communication. Alternatively, if you'd prefer, you can contact Julie Moore directly through email juliemoore29@gmail.com or via text/call at 307-359-2322.

Parish women/circle members please note: The circles will continue to provide the funeral lunches until this new group is in place. **And** your name will NOT automatically be added to the new group list. If you're interested in continuing to help with funeral luncheons, you'll need to let us know that by signing up.

March 22, 2026

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of Mar. 9-15, 2026

Offertory: \$2,544.00

Total: \$2,544.00

Needed Weekly: \$4,600.00

February E-gifts: \$2,385.11

THANK YOU!

2025-2026

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Goal: \$36,920.00

Received to date: \$34,338.16

Donors: 70

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 21 March, 6:30 PM +Mary Bina

(Bina Family)

Sunday, 22 March, 10:30 AM +Mary Ellen Hatton

(Don & Linda Wagner)

Wednesday, 25 March, 5:15 PM +Bernarda Lenske

(Biebl Family)

Friday, 27 March, 8:00 AM +Mary Bina

(Angie Leis)

Saturday, 28 March, 6:30 PM People of the Annunciation & St. Mary's Parishes

Sunday, 29 March, 10:30 AM +Ione Hauser

(Robert Hauser)

CHURCH CALENDAR

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

Sunday, 22 March, 9:30 AM Choir rehearsal

Sunday, 22 March, 11:45 AM-12:45 PM First Communion Class in basement classroom

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

Monday, 23 March, 4:30 PM-8:00 PM Healing Mass & Service

Monday, 23 March, 5:00-6:30 PM Free Community Meal at Good Shepherd Church, Viroqua

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

Tuesday, 24 March, 5:00-7:00 PM GriefShare in Marian Hall

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

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

Friday, 27 March, 11:00 AM Judy Neuerburg Mass of Christian Burial; 10:00-11:00 AM visitation in the gathering space; lunch following services in Marian Hall

Friday, 27 March, 5:15 PM Stations of the Cross

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

Sunday, 29 March, 9:30 AM Choir rehearsal

Sunday, 29 March, 11:45 AM-12:45 PM First Communion Class in basement classroom

Ministry Schedule

Sat., Mar. 28, 6:30 PM

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister

Reid Fisher Altar Server

Lane Fisher Altar Server

Dan Kiedinger Lector

Sun., Mar. 29, 10:30 AM

Al Mislivecek Eucharistic Minister

Alexis Scoville Altar Server

Sasha 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!

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**.

March 22, 2026

Healing Mass and Service Monday, March 23, 2026

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Viroqua

4:30 PM Adoration (with Praise & Worship, Rosary,
Divine Mercy, and Confessions)

5:30 PM Mass

6:00 PM Corporate Prayer for Healing

7:00 PM Individual Prayer Ministry

This evening is rooted in the sacramental life of the Church and offered in fidelity to Catholic teaching.

All are welcome.

Feel free to attend any portion of the evening.



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.



Hope you had a 'pickle' of a St. Patrick's Day!



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
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"Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord!" ~ Psalm 130:1