

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Hello friends,

This weekend I want to extend a simple invitation to you to experience the upcoming Triduum. This Sunday's own Masses already have a different flavor with the Gospel before Mass and the long account of Jesus' Passion from the Gospel of Mark – the different flavor of this liturgy has the added effect of saying “wait a minute...there's something different going on...” The marked contrast between Jesus' excitement-inducing entry into Jerusalem and the weeklong-time-jump to the Passion ten minutes later carries a jarring quality, inviting you and me into something out of the ordinary.

The Triduum starts with Holy Thursday's Mass of the Lord's Supper at 5:15 in Viroqua. This Mass begins in usual fashion, and at least for the last few years I have typically felt a bit cheerful, excited at the start of things. In my experience this beginning carries a certain dinner party flavor with it, which I suppose is fitting for the anniversary of the first Last Supper. This emotion shifts as the Mass progresses, with the Washing of the Feet marking another tangible departure from the familiar and status quo. This continues through the Liturgy of the Eucharist, a special moment for a priest as that first Mass and the start of the Eucharistic priesthood is prayed through. Finally, the liturgy concludes in even more strange fashion without a blessing or dismissal but rather with a solemn procession with the Blessed Sacrament out of the church's now-hollow space. From the bright beginning of the liturgy to the solemn, charged end, the tonal shift in the Mass of the Lord's Supper strikes me (again) as jarring, stirring.

(continued on page 2)

March 29, 2026

**Palm Sunday of the
Passion of the Lord**

*Readings are in the hymnal,
#1031*

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

March 29, 2026

(continued from page 1) Then comes Good Friday (12:10 in Viroqua, 3:00 in Coon Valley) – the one day in the year when Mass is not celebrated anywhere in the world. There are familiar elements here, with the readings and reception of Holy Communion, but the somber entrance and exit frame the reading of the Lord's Passion from John and the Veneration of the Cross mark this as its own very different moment.

Finally, the Easter Vigil (8:30 PM in Viroqua) concludes the Triduum. This whole Mass somehow starts most differently of all, with every single house light cut and the lighting of one single Candle at the back of the Church. As that Easter Candle processes forward and we light our own candles off of it, the flickering, building, radiating light reflects Christ's own light breaking into the darkness – the power of new life in His resurrection. The liturgy proceeds with extra readings focused on the Lord's movement throughout Salvation History, and finally we enter into our own 50-day celebration of the Easter Season.

Anyhow, I invite you again into this full story. These are my favorite three days of the year, and I look forward to praying them with you. God bless you,

Fr. Joe

LIVE OUTDOOR PERFORMANCE OF THE PASSION OF CHRIST

Join St. Mary parishioners as together we walk in memorial the final footsteps of Jesus' passion and death.

GOOD FRIDAY 7 PM

Please park in the upper parking lot as the lower lot will have limited spaces and be reserved for those less mobile.

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 or text/call 307-359-2322.

LIBRARY CORNER *Fratelli Tutti: On Fraternity and Social Friendship*

encyclical- (noun) a papal letter to the bishops of the church as a whole or to those in one country

I can now say I have read my first encyclical. I would not be able to say this if I had not been prompted by the two discussion groups made available to us at St. Mary's. I had assumed that an "encyclical" just by the sound of the word, would be well beyond my understanding...I suspect there are some of those encyclicals out there! **Fratelli Tutti** does not give an easy solution to problems in our world today, but it does give some obvious reasons for some of the world's problems. I could create quite a list of quotes from this document that caused me to take pause, and look at several of our world's concerns through the lenses of *fraternity* and social *friendship*.

Being a Good Samaritan is a daily decision.

The whole is greater than the part, but it is also greater than the sum of its parts.

The encyclical also states that COVID showed us how we do live in a Global Community. That caused me to pause and consider how true that seemed to me.

(continued on page 4)

March 29, 2026

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of Mar. 16-22, 2026

Offertory: \$4,347.51

Good Friday: \$20.00

Total: \$4,367.51

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: \$34,408.16

Donors: 70

MASS INTENTIONS

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

Sunday, 29 March, 10:30 AM +Ione Hauser
(Robert Hauser)

Wednesday, 1 April, 5:15 PM +Mary Bina
(Robert Schug)

Thursday, 2 April, 5:15 PM +Larry Humfeld
(Roger & Joyce Humfeld)

Saturday, 4 April, 8:30 PM +Judy Crapser
(Biebl Family)

Sunday, 5 April, 10:30 AM +Guy Nicks
(Family of Guy Nicks)

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, 29 March, 9:30 AM Choir rehearsal

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

Tuesday, 31 March, 5:00-7:00 PM GriefShare in Marian Hall

Wednesday-Monday, 1-6 April Parish Office Closed in observance of Holy Week

Wednesday, 1 April, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM St. Mary's Quilters in Marian Hall

Thursday, 2 April, 5:15 PM Holy Thursday Mass; Adoration following until Midnight in the chapel/sitting room

Friday, 3 April, 12:10 PM Good Friday Service

Friday, 3 April, 7:00 PM The Passion of Christ, an outdoor performance of the Lord's Passion

Saturday, 4 April, 8:30 PM Easter Vigil Mass

Sunday, 5 April, 10:30 AM Easter Sunday Mass

Monday, 6 April, 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

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

Ministry Schedule

Sat., Apr. 4, 8:30 PM

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister
Reid Fisher Altar Server
Lane Fisher Altar Server
Sheryl Robinson Lector

Sun., Apr. 5, 10:30 AM

Kyle Prorok Eucharistic Minister
Basil Stevenson Altar Server
Pearl Stevenson Altar Server
Dale Pertzborn Lector

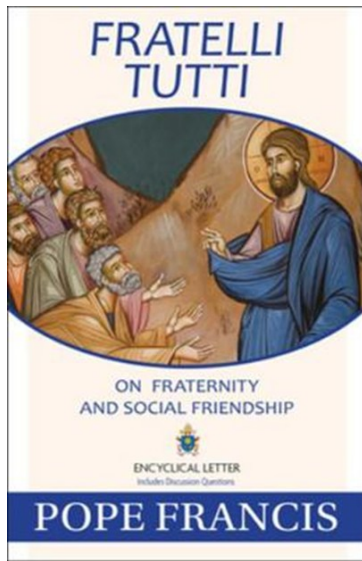
If not able to serve as scheduled, please request a sub through MSP. Thank you!

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.**

(continued from page 2) You may not have been able to join one of the discussion groups, but there are multiple copies available in our library. Please consider reading an encyclical...or another encyclical!

Tom Leis,
Parish Librarian
saintmaryparishlibrary@gmail.com



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.

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
608-634-2365

info@kickapoo-counseling.com

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

WESTBY LOCKER & MEATS

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KINDNESS
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"Behold, your king comes to you, meek and riding on an ass..." ~ Matthew 21:5