

# Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Hello friends, and happy Easter!

I'm sharing some big news this weekend, for print next weekend. I've visited with both our Pastoral Councils together over the last week, and I invite you and encourage you please to freely ask myself or any of our councilors any questions you have – I'll share any details I can (which are fairly free), and if there's anything I don't know yet I'll let you know that too.

In the meantime, I want to invite you into another end-of-Mass prayer that I feel the Holy Spirit prompting us to pray with through the Easter season. This whole season is marked by the same invitation to expansive receptivity that marks Lent – rather than the prayer-fasting -almsgiving work of entering with Jesus into the preparation for His suffering, death, and resurrection that marks Lent, Easter is marked by learning just what it means for me and for you to live the new life of the Resurrection. In that spirit and in light of this weekend's big news, please receive St. John Henry Newman's

beautiful Fragrance Prayer. St. John Newman was an intellectual powerhouse of the nineteenth century, converting halfway through his life as an Anglican priest and academic at Oxford to Catholicism, where he was quickly ordained a priest and a few decades later made a cardinal. This prayer of his was later picked up by Mother Teresa, and her sisters continue to use it in their regular prayer today. Without further ado, the Fragrance Prayer:

*Dear Jesus, help me to spread Your fragrance everywhere I go.  
Flood my soul with Your spirit and life.  
Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly,  
That my life may only be a radiance of Yours.  
Shine through me, and be so in me  
That every soul I come in contact with  
May feel Your presence in my soul.  
Let them look up and see no longer me, but only Jesus!  
Stay with me and then I shall begin to shine as You shine,  
So to shine as to be a light to others;  
The light, O Jesus will be all from You; none of it will be mine; (cont'd page 2)*

**April 12, 2026**  
**Sunday of Divine Mercy**

*Readings are in the hymnal,  
#1066*

### **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 12, 2026**

*(cont'd from page 1) It will be you, shining on others through me.  
Let me thus praise You the way You love best, by shining on those around me.  
Let me preach You without preaching, not by words but by my example,  
By the catching force of the sympathetic influence of what I do,  
The evident fullness of the love my heart bears to You.*

God bless you,

Fr. Joe

Please extend condolences to the family of **Dennis M. Kearney** who passed away Wednesday, April 1, 2026. Graveside services and burial at St. James Cemetery, Rising Sun, took place Friday, April 10, 2026. May he rest in peace.

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**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! **This Sunday - April 12 - we will be wrapping up our initial name gathering.** For questions, call Cathy Lund - 608-637-7109.

\*\*\*\*\*

Hello, Parish Family! You may remember a while back, we invited the two parishes to pray the Novena to St. Joseph together for Father Joe. From **Monday, April 13 to Tuesday, April 21, you are invited to join for another Novena for Father, this time, primarily to Our Lady, Undoer of Knots** along with a different Saint to focus on daily. You can find copies in the gathering space. Please consider joining in this time of prayer! God bless you!

\*\*\*\*\*

**PCCW News** (from Julie Moore, your interim PCCW president): The new Funeral Luncheon Ministry group will be starting this month. If you signed up you'll be contacted when we have a funeral. Anyone still interested can contact Julie Moore directly at 307-359-2322.

Save the date - we'll be having another **Ladies Night out on Sunday, May 3, at Old Towne Inn at 5:30 PM.** All women of both the Viroqua and Coon Valley parishes are invited. A limited menu will be offered. We'll be honoring Joyce Humfeld and thanking her for her nearly 10 years as our parish PCCW president!

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**Gathered in Grace - Driftless Region** - Mom Group starting for local parishes. If you are a mom looking to enrich yourself spiritually, join the GroupMe group called "Gathered in Grace - Driftless Region" for more information. We will gain interest from the community and begin meeting once a week in September. If you have any questions, feel free to text/call Alex Kararo at 612-578-6706 or Sarah Gronemus at 608-386-9546.

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

**THANK YOU!**





## Pastoral Council Members

Kris Brueggen  
Phyllis Krause  
David Hall  
Aaron Kane  
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).



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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 **4:00 PM Wednesday, April 15.**



### 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

### WESTBY LOCKER & MEATS

The Sausage & Meat Shop  
Rosanne & Rod Aspenson  
402 N. Main St., Westby, WI 54665  
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