

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Hello friends,

I would like to share in writing a few words from what I shared last weekend about assignments. The short version is that Fr. Bauer is heading up to St. Henry Catholic Church in Eau Galle while Fr. Emmanuel Famiyeh comes down from Loyal, Greenwood, and Willard to join us as Associate Pastor, keeping residence in Hillsboro. I'll take over Pastoral duties from Fr. Bauer, meaning that

Fr. Emmanuel and I will tag-team Coon Valley, Viroqua, Hillsboro and Wonewoc, all starting July 1. The official version:

The Very Reverend **Joseph M. Richards**, Pastor of Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Viroqua and St. Mary Parish in Coon Valley, and Dean of the Richland Center Deanery, is also appointed Pastor of St. Aloysius Parish in Hillsboro and St. Jerome Parish in Wonewoc, with continued residence at Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Viroqua, effective July 1, 2026.

The Reverend **Emmanuel S. Famiyeh**, Pastor of St. Anthony de Padua Parish in Loyal, St. Mary Help of Christians Parish in Greenwood, and Holy Family Parish in Willard, is appointed Associate Pastor of St. Aloysius Parish in Hillsboro, St. Jerome Parish in Wonewoc, Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Viroqua and St. Mary Parish in Coon Valley, with residence at St. Aloysius Parish rectory in Hillsboro, effective July 1, 2026.

The Reverend **Donald J. Bauer**, Pastor of St. Aloysius Parish in Hillsboro and St. Jerome Parish in Wonewoc, is appointed Pastor of St. Henry Parish in Eau Galle, with residence at the parish rectory, effective July 1, 2026.

This all remains an exploratory work in progress, trying to approach a real pastoral need from a new angle – happily we've received these assignments with a good bit of lead time, so there's time and space before July 1, to get some ducks in a row. The Bishop and Fr. Martin have also both made it abundantly clear that my back is not against the wall here, meaning that if it's too much for me to handle, I have the support and flexibility available to rearrange as needed. I imagine as we go forward we'll see some adjustments to things like Mass times, (*continued on page 2*)

April 19, 2026
3rd Sunday of
Easter

Readings are in the hymnal,
#1067

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

April 19, 2026

(continued from page 1) programming, and my own pastoral availability (as well as adding another priest into the mix), and my hope is that our current trend of lay initiative in both parishes plays a role in meeting the needs that come up. As far as where I am right now, A) this is all quite a bit and there is certainly the looming anxiety of transition and the unknown, B) I am encouraged by the amount of “how can I help?” and “how are you doing?” I have received, and C) I maintain the conviction that the Holy Spirit is moving in ways we’ll understand best in hindsight. Our job is to walk on with curiosity about and receptivity to His movement, and trust that He’ll take care of the rest! We’ll gather the Pastoral Councils again in a week and a half – feel free to share any feedback or questions or concerns with our councilors (listed in the bulletin). As will be the norm, more to come and all will be well.

God bless you,

Fr. Joe

Fellowship donations this weekend will go to our parish Works of Charity account.

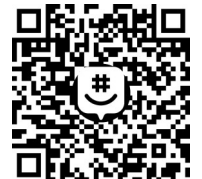
PRAYER MINISTRY: If you signed up to be on the revised prayer chains, please pick up your envelope in the back of church. We will begin using the new system starting May 1st. Thanks to so many of you who joined!

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!

The **end of the year Family of Faith Parent Meeting is the first Sunday in May (5/3) in Viroqua**, following the 10:30 AM Mass. Ann Lankford from the Diocese of La Crosse is going to join us and give a presentation on Lectio Divina prayer, how to practice it and how to include our children in the process. Please bring a bible (we will have some on hand if you forget yours) and your Journey Boards to share with others. Although it is for the Family of Faith parents, all are welcome to join us for her presentation. *(please see page 4 for more on the presentation)*

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.



CONNECTING THREADS: Do you like to sew, quilt, knit, crochet, embroider, weave or do other crafts? Would you like to learn from others who do? Would you like to share your skills with others? Would you like to meet with other parish members who share this common interest? If you said yes, please fill out a survey (available in the gathering space) so we can gauge the interest in this type of parish group. Membership is open to anyone age 10 and up. Come connect with us.

April 19, 2026

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of April 6-12, 2026
Offertory: \$4,170.00
Good Friday: \$45.00
Total: \$4,215.00
Needed Weekly: \$4,600.00
March E-gifts: \$2,538.91
THANK YOU!

2025-2026

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Goal: \$36,920.00
Received to date: \$36,548.16
Donors: 76

Ministry Schedule

Sat., Apr. 25, 6:30 PM

Amy Matthes Eucharistic Minister
Will Fisher Altar Server
Reid Fisher Altar Server
Dennis Vinger Lector

Sun., Apr. 26, 10:30 AM

Raven Stevenson Eucharistic Minister
Jacob Kimmet Altar Server
Amelia Kimmet Altar Server
Al Mislivecek Lector

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 18 April, 6:30 PM +Sandra McCandless
(Biebl Family)
Sunday, 19 April, 10:30 AM +Ione Hauser
(Robert Hauser)
Wednesday, 22 April, 5:15 PM +Agnes Thielker
(Angie Leis)
Friday, 24 April, 8:00 AM +Mary Ellen Hatton
(Alvin Felch)
Saturday, 25 April, 6:30 PM +Philip Brueggen
(Dave & Sue Fanta)
Sunday, 26 April, 10:30 AM People of the Annunciation & St. Mary's Parishes

CHURCH CALENDAR

Saturday, 18 April, 5:30 PM Choir rehearsal
Sunday, 19 April, Family of Faith end of year party & Journey Board presentation in Coon Valley
Sunday, 19 April, 9:00-10:15 AM Confirmation Class in Marian Hall & Confirmation basement classroom
Sunday, 19 April, 9:00-10:15 AM Decision Point in parish library
Sunday, 19 April, 11:45 AM-1:15 PM First Communion Class in basement classroom
Sunday, 19 April, 12:00-1:30 PM Contemplative Reading Group in the parish library
Tuesday, 21 April, 1:00 PM St. Mary's Book Club in parish library
Tuesday, 21 April, 5:00-7:00 PM GriefShare in Marian Hall
Wednesday, 22 April, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM St. Mary's Quilters in Marian Hall
Wednesday, 22 April, 6:00-7:00 PM 1st Communicants' Reconciliation
Saturday, 25 April, 10:00 AM-3:00 PM 1st Communion Retreat at Leum residence
Sunday, 26 April, 9:00 AM-10:15 AM Decision Point in Confirmation basement classroom
Sunday, 26 April, 9:30 AM Choir rehearsal
Sunday, 26 April, during 10:30 AM Mass Sacrament of First Communion
Monday, 27 April, 5:00-6:30 PM Free Community Meal at Good Shepherd Church, Viroqua

Join us for a **Spring Luncheon on Saturday, April 25, 2026, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM** at St. Mary Parish, 900 Central Avenue, Coon Valley, WI. Enjoy a delicious lunch for just \$10 per person. Children 10 and under eat free! This event is open to the public, so bring your family and friends. At 11:30 AM, guest speaker John Zak will present: "*Why is There Contention Between Science & Religion These Days—Is it Real?*" John is a Professor Emeritus from the Department of Biological Sciences at Texas Tech University, where he taught for nearly 40 years, and he has extensive experience in faith-centered education. Door prizes will be available! This event is hosted by St. Mary's PCCW, with all proceeds supporting St. Mary Parish. We look forward to seeing you there!

Ann Lankford Presentation on May 3rd

Come and experience a way of praying with a passage of Sacred Scripture in which the Holy Spirit makes a connection between the passage and your own life. Whether you have never opened a Bible or you take a bit of time each day to read a chapter, this way of praying with the Bible is for you! This simple way of pondering a Scripture passage is referred to as *Lectio Divina*.

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.



CHESTERTON ACADEMY OF PRAIRIE DU CHIEN

A new joyfully Catholic, classical high school (hopefully opening in **fall 2027** and starting with **grades 9-10**) is being discerned in Prairie du Chien, WI as part of the Chesterton Schools Network. It will feature an integrated curriculum of humanities, math & science, and the fine arts—forming students in faith, virtue, and the pursuit of truth, goodness, and beauty.

If you're interested in this exciting opportunity for your children, we invite you to learn more and help shape our growing community.

It will offer:

- **Strong Catholic identity**, including **daily Mass**
- **Oath of Fidelity** required for all staff, faculty, and Board members
- **Rigorous, classical education** taught through the lens of the Catholic faith
- **Affordable tuition** within reach of working and middle-class families

Contact us today!

mcaro@prairiecatholic.org

(608) 326-6511



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608-606-0832 (cell)
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Kickapoo Counseling

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Westby, WI 54667
608-634-2365

info@kickapoo-counseling.com

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

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KINDNESS
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“ my heart rejoices, my soul is glad...” ~ Psalm 16:9