

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Hello friends,

Toward the end of the academic year here, I want to take a minute to give you some updates on a few guys who have been or soon will be known around our parishes. I was thinking the other day that, while I get to hear a lot about the follow-up with some of these folks, you might not. So anyway, here are some updates:

- Our 2023 summer seminarian John Francis was out just a few weeks ago for Viroqua's Passion Play. John came out for that rainy windy night and shared that he's getting ready to go down to Casa Hogar (our mission down in Peru) for the summer for some Spanish immersion work and to serve for a few months with Msgr. Hirsch. I

haven't done the math yet to see if our parishioners are going to cross paths with him – we'll let the Holy Spirit coordinate that. He recently led the seminary basketball team to victory in an 18-seminary tournament, trounced Fr. Brandon Guenther at the Birkebeiner, and back in March was instituted as Lector (a formal step on the way to ordination). This is just about his halfway mark in formation.

- I mentioned my own assignment additions over the last few weeks, but our 2024 summer seminarian is getting his own new assignment this summer too. Now-Fr. Matthew is heading to Loyal, Willard, and Greenwood to replace our incoming Associate Fr. Emmanuel. Pray for Fr. Matthew as he steps into pastoral leadership – he's ready for it!
- We may be hearing this summer from one of our Viroqua natives who's becoming a missionary with FOCUS – Nick Schneider. This is an exciting thing for us – while there can be tremendous grace in receiving the presence and work of a missionary from outside (a priest/pastor fits that card), it reflects the vitality of a place differently to send missionaries out to serve elsewhere. This has been the model of the Church for 2000 years, to follow Jesus to the next town over sharing the good news.

(continued on page 2)

April 26, 2026
4th Sunday of
Easter

Readings are in the hymnal,
#1070

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 26, 2026

- *(continued from page 1)* Finally, this summer we'll be receiving another summer seminarian, Levi Spaeth. Levi has been in formation for a few years now after coming to seminary a little but not much later in life. I already gave him and La Crosse vocations boss Fr. Weller a warning that this summer will look a bit out-of-the-ordinary, and he's ready to jump in for the ride. Levi will hopefully be joining us part time halfway through May then fairly fulltime in June and July.

God bless you all,

Fr. Joe

Please extend condolences to the family of **Albert William Kemp, Jr.**, who passed away Sunday, April 19, 2026. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary-Viroqua on Friday, April 24, 2026; burial at St. Philip Catholic Cemetery, Rolling Ground. May he rest in peace.

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 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 3 for more on the presentation)*

On **Mother's Day weekend**, we will have roses available for sale. The suggested cash donation is **\$3.00 per rose, with ALL proceeds going to Wisconsin Right to Life.** Please be generous in supporting this good cause and in recognizing all the moms in our lives.

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 26, 2026

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of April 13-19, 2026

Offertory: \$3,258.00.00

Total: \$3,258.00

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: \$37,432.45

Donors: 77

MASS INTENTIONS

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

Wednesday, 29 April, 5:15 PM +Rosemary Johnson

(Parker & Julie Moore)

Friday, 1 May, 8:00 AM +Corinne Finne

(Biebl Family)

Saturday, 2 May, 6:30 PM +Eileen Young

(Jeanette Amundson)

Sunday, 3 May, 10:30 AM +Ione Hauser

(Robert Hauser)

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, 26 April, 9:30 AM Choir rehearsal

Sunday, 26 April, during 10:30 AM Mass Sacrament of First Communion

- River Breen, Mateo Morales Cruz, Ingrid Hendrickson, Blair

Jirschele, Calvin Obernberger, & Isaac Tully

Monday, 27 April, 5:00-6:30 PM Free Community Meal at Good

Shepherd Church, Viroqua

Tuesday, 28 April, 5:00-7:00 PM GriefShare in Marian Hall

Tuesday, 28 April, 3:30-4:45 PM Middle School Girls' Bible Study in the sitting room

Wednesday, 29 April, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM St. Mary's Quilters in Marian Hall

Wednesday, 29 April, 6:30 PM Pastoral Council Meeting in the sitting room

Thursday, 30 April, 5:30 PM Confirmation Rehearsal

Thursday, 30 April, 6:30-9:00 PM Mass, Sacrament of Confirmation, with reception following in the gathering space - Breyer Bothe, Allie Halvorson, Colton Hess (CV), Braun Jirschele, Jacob Kimmet, Olivia McCauley, AJ Pedersen, Nathaniel Steiger (CV), Adam Steiner (CV), Reuben Stevenson & Olivia Willis

Thursday, 30 April, 5:00-7:00 PM Food Prep for Feast of St. Joseph

Friday, 1 May, Parish Office Closed in observance of St. Joseph the Worker

Friday, 1 May, First Friday Adoration following 8:00 AM Mass

Friday, 1 May, 8:00 AM-5:00 PM Food Prep & Setup for Feast of St. Joseph Potluck

Friday, 1 May, 5:00-8:00 PM Feast of St. Joseph Potluck - main course provided - please bring dish to pass (see handouts in gathering space)

Saturday, 2 May, 5:30 PM Choir rehearsal

Sunday, 3 May, 12:00 PM End of Year Family of Faith Parent Meeting with Presentation by Ann Lankford

Sunday, 3 May, 5:30 PM Ladies' Night Out at Old Towne Inn

Monday, 4 May, 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

Ministry Schedule

Sat., May 2, 6:30 PM

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister

Will Fisher Altar Server

Reid Fisher Altar Server

Sheryl Robinson Lector

Sun., May 3, 10:30 AM

Pat Obernberger Eucharistic Minister

Pearl Stevenson Altar Server

Basil Stevenson Altar Server

Megan Prorok Lector

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

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*.

The Diocese of La Crosse Chapter of Catholic Rural Life, in partnership with a local family farm and a seed dealership, has been entrusted with a generous opportunity to give back to our farming community. We are pleased to offer 30 bags of current-year, high-quality 99-day seed corn -- free of charge -- to be shared among three deserving recipients. This gift is intended to support approximately 25–30 acres for each family farm. We recognize that agricultural finances can present challenges, and it is our privilege to walk alongside those in our community during difficult seasons. Please direct all inquiries to our Rural Life Committee Chair -- Anne Marie Ellwing:

Annemarie.elwing@wallstonellc.com.

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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"The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want." ~ Psalm 23:1