

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Hello friends,

I'm writing this article with our combined Pastoral Council meeting coming up this evening (meaning that by the time you read this, it's already happened, but for me it hasn't yet). I'm sure I'll have something to say about our proceedings, which on the agenda include everything from sharing feedback to working through some of your gathered questions to workshopping a summer seminarian's assignment to brainstorming about collaboration between our parishes. I continue to be grateful to Fr. Martin and the Bishop and the people over at the Diocese for getting us these assignments with a longer-than-usual leadup before July 1, when it all starts – that time lets us shift from “here's the plan” to “let's discover the plan.”

For now I want to invite you to renew your engagement with this “Fragrance Prayer” we're praying through the Easter season. As we pray it together at Mass, I perceive a numbing reluctance with this prayer which, to put it bluntly, indicates a spiritual resistance. I ask you very specifically to lean into the Holy Spirit, to make this part of your daily prayer, and as you pray it to ask Him the question, “Lord, how do you desire to expand in me and through me?” Notice in these words any phrase that rankles or resonates, any place that your attention turns off or that catches your breath, and invite the Lord into that specific place with a “Lord, be with me here.” Once again, the Fragrance Prayer by St. John Newman:

(prayer continues on page 2)

*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;*

May 3, 2026
5th Sunday of
Easter

Readings are in the hymnal,
#1073

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

May 3, 2026

*The light, O Jesus will be all from You; none of it will be mine;
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

Ladies Night Out is this **Sunday, May 3rd, Old Towne Inn at 5:30 PM**. All ladies from the Viroqua and Coon Valley parishes are invited. See you there!

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.

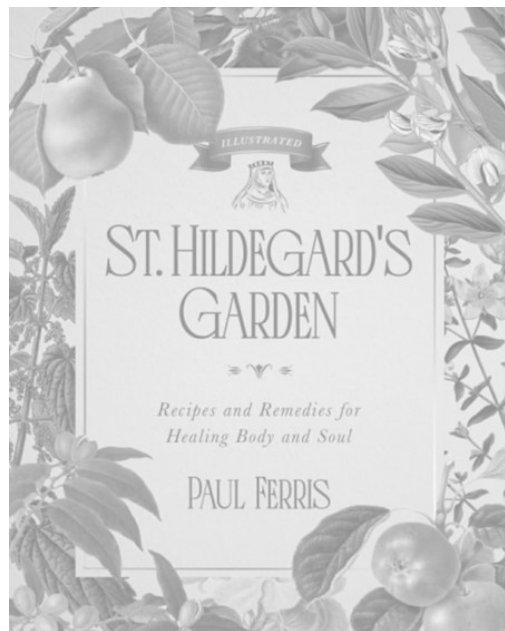
CONNECTING THREADS: Do you like to sew, quilt, knit, crochet, embroider, weave or do other crafts? Would you like to learn from others who do? Would you like to share your skills with others? Would you like to meet with other parish members who share this common interest? If you said yes, please fill 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.

LIBRARY CORNER *ST. HILDEGARD'S GARDEN* by Paul Ferris

Years ago I had a mental list that I would sometimes utter aloud. It was titled: **"If I live to retirement."** That list included things like travel, reading, a Great Dane and a Jeep Wrangler. What it did not include was the word "GARDEN." Cindy and I are lucky to say this is year 4 of retirement.. This spring will mark year 4 with a garden, and I am increasing it in size for the third time!

St. Hildegard was a Doctor of the Church. Hildegard was a pioneer of phytotherapy (yes, I had to look that word up). This book applies Hildegard's pioneering thought to everyday living in our time. You will learn:

- "Hildegard's elixir" for curing common ailments
- Ways to include delicious herbs in your dinner and dessert recipes to fortify your health
- The herbs that will help you relieve forgetfulness and ease muscle tension
- Effective treatments for nervous, digestive, circulatory, respiratory, and hormonal illnesses
- Recipes for preparing everything from breakfast dishes and soups to medicinal wines, teas, poultices, ointments, oils, plasters, and eye drops
- Which "herb of the angels" is used to treat anxiety, fatigue, and much more.



I am still dreaming of the Great Dane that sits beside me in my dream open top Jeep Wrangler...maybe that will happen in year 5?

Tom Leis,
Parish Librarian
saintmaryparishlibrary@gmail.com

May 3, 2026

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of April 20-26, 2026

Offertory: \$4,349.55

Good Friday: \$10.00

Total: \$4,359.55

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: \$38,472.45

Donors: 79

MASS INTENTIONS

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

(Jeanette Amundson)

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

(Robert Hauser)

Wednesday, 6 May, 5:15 PM +Judy Crapser

(Jeanette Amundson)

Friday, 8 May, 8:00 AM +Ivan & Mary Cowell

(Angie Leis)

Saturday, 9 May, 6:30 PM +Larry Cina

(Dick & Sandra Tuszynski)

Sunday, 10 May, 10:30 AM +Msgr. Carl E. Steiner

(Ben & Carly Zadow)

Ministry Schedule

Sat., May 9, 6:30 PM

Gladys Jacobson Eucharistic Minister

Will Fisher Altar Server

NOT FILLED Altar Server

Paul O'Rourke Lector

Sun., May 10, 10:30 AM

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister

Logan Curti Altar Server

Mariah Sullivan Altar Server

Matthew Tubbin Lector

If not able to serve as scheduled, please contact bethlakmann@icloud.com to request a sub. 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*.

CHURCH CALENDAR

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

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

Wednesday, 6 May, Parish Office Closed

Wednesday, 6 May, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM St. Mary's Quilters in Marian Hall

Wednesday, 6 May, 6:30 PM Finance Council Meeting in parish library

Saturday, 9 May, 12:00-2:00 PM Well-read Moms in the sitting room

Saturday-Sunday, 10 May, following Masses Mother's Day Weekend Roses Sale

Sunday, 10 May, 9:30 AM Choir rehearsal

Reminder to please update your address, phone number(s) and email address(es) with the parish office.

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



**R&J's
HONEY FARM**
52676 Haugen Ln.
Westby, WI 54667
608-634-4059 (home)
608-606-0832 (cell)
rjhoneyfarm@hotmail.com



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

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