

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Hello friends,

I'm writing on Thursday this week from the retreat center we're using out in Oconomowoc. We're being directed by Fr. Boniface Hicks, a Big Name in the Church right now and (as I discover as this week continues) rightfully so. He has a beautiful awareness of the human heart and the way the Holy Spirit and community of brothers and sisters interact with the heart. Listening and accompaniment have comprised the running theme through the week – what it looks like for us as priests to be heard and accompanied/walked with, and what it looks like to enter into the space of accompaniment with “the Other.” After Peter's words last weekend (be always ready to give an explanation for the reason for your hope, with gentleness, reverence, a clear conscience), I can't help but notice these themes of evangelization and walking-with continuing and developing. We are in a beautiful season in the life of the Church, brothers and sisters; and beauty is not always (or even often, I think) easy or simple or quick. It is a gift and a responsibility that the Lord gives you and me to let ourselves be seen and known, to intentionally step into the space another person shares with us and the Lord and journey with each other. Anyway, I figured I'd share a few little nuggets Fr. Boniface has shared with us for your own musings before receding back into the retreat for the final day and a half:

- “Mary talks only a little, listens quite a lot, and when she speaks her words have great impact.” *(continued on page 2)*

May 17, 2026
The Ascension of the Lord

Readings are in the hymnal, #1079

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 17, 2026

- *(continued from page 1)* “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.”
- “We cannot accompany others into places we cannot go ourselves.”
- And a fascinating distinction between two major roles in the work of accompaniment: the Good Samaritan and the Innkeeper. The Good Samaritan is the one who finds the traveler beaten and crumpled on the side of the road and does the triaging/emergency/initial work to bind his wounds, stabilize him, and remind him that he is lovable and loved, worth being seen and known. He also shares the work of ongoing care and recovery/restoration for the traveler with the Innkeeper, who enters into the longer relational work of tending the traveler. I find myself often in the Samaritan role, leading the intake process and tending the presenting needs of the traveler (that is, the one being accompanied), and I am deeply grateful for a growing community within our community of Innkeepers – folks who intentionally step into the relational work of walking-with and long-term tending. There is an elegant teamwork in this.

Anyhow there are a few quick reflections from our time here. God bless you!

Fr. Joe

Fellowship donations this weekend go to the Door of Hope.

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.

Door of Hope SECOND annual baby bottle drive - the drive runs now thru Father’s Day, with all filled bottles to be returned on that day. Please take a bottle and fill it with coins, cash or checks—a little change CHANGES LIVES! The QR code on the bottle will take you to their website (www.viroquahope.com) to learn more about Door of Hope, and also for people to give online if they would rather do that.

May 17, 2026

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of May 4-10, 2026

Offertory: \$3,844.00

Total: \$3,844.00

Needed Weekly: \$4,600.00

Roses Sale: \$700.75

April E-gifts: \$2,583.00

THANK YOU!

2025-2026

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Goal: \$36,920.00

Received to date: \$38,997.45

Donors: 80

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 16 May, 6:30 PM Fr. Emmanuel Famiyeh for the Holy Spirit's guidance, strength, and wisdom to sustain him in his new mission as an associate pastor (in the parishes of Viroqua, Coon Valley, Hillsboro and Wonewoc)

Sunday, 17 May, 10:30 AM +Ione Hauser
(Robert Hauser)

Wednesday, 20 May, 5:15 PM +Deborah Biebl
(Biebl Family)

Friday, 22 May, 8:00 AM Women of the Parish
(PCCW))

Saturday, 23 May, 6:30 PM +Gerald & Betty Stoltz
(Roger & Joyce Humfeld)

Sunday, 24 May, 10:30 AM +Anna Mae Krause
(Veronica Tresner)

Ministry Schedule

Sat., May 23, 6:30 PM

Dennis Vinger Eucharistic Minister
Will Fisher Altar Server
NOT FILLED Altar Server
Mark Brueggen Lector

Sun., May 24, 10:30 AM

Pat Oberberger Eucharistic Minister
Royce Scoville Altar Server
Alexis Scoville Altar Server
Melanie Halvorson Lector

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

CHURCH CALENDAR

Saturday, 16 May, 5:30 PM Choir rehearsal

Sunday, 17 May, 9:00-10:15 AM Decision Point in Confirmation basement classroom

Monday, 18 May, 2:00 PM Hospitality Committee meeting in the gathering space/Atrium

Monday, 18 May, 5:00-6:30 PM Free Community Meal at Good Shepherd Church, Viroqua

Monday, 18 May, 5:00-7:00 PM GriefShare in Marian Hall

Tuesday, 19 May, 1:00 PM St. Mary's Book Club in parish library

Wednesday, 20 May, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM St. Mary's Quilters in Marian Hall

Sunday, 24 May, 9:00-10:15 AM Decision Point in Confirmation basement classroom - final class

Sunday, 24 May, 9:30 AM Choir rehearsal

Monday, 25 May, Parish Office Closed in observance of Memorial Day holiday

Monday-Friday, 25 May-5 June, Father Joe out of state at FOCUS training

We are hoping to increase the content in the **Parish Library** by adding some new books. If you would like to donate money as a way to support this effort, please make your check out to the Annunciation of the BVM with 'parish library' in the memo line or cash in envelope marked 'for the parish library'. Donations may be mailed to or dropped off at the parish office or placed in the weekend's contributions baskets.

* **Parish Gardens in need of** *
* **Volunteer Gardeners!** *
* Please contact the parish office if *
* willing and able to care for one *
* or more of our garden areas. *

May 26, to June 2, 2026 - A special exhibit on the Shroud of Turin is coming to the Diocese of Madison, exploring what science, history, and faith reveal about the burial cloth of Jesus. All are welcome to come and see. (<https://madisondiocese.org/shroud> for more information)

St. Bernard Catholic Church – Middleton

2015 Parmenter St., Middleton, WI 53562
Part of Holy Cross Parish

Pastoral Council Members

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Kris Brueggen | Cathy Poshepny |
| Phyllis Krause | Jenny Leum |
| David Hall | Dcn. Tony Shay |
| Aaron Kane | 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

WESTBY LOCKER & MEATS
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