

# Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



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Hello friends,

This weekend I want to give Levi a minute to introduce himself. I know a number of you have already connected with him for lunch, introduction, having him over, etc. – thank you for so speedily making these connections! I mentioned a few weeks ago that my six months up at our parish in Ellsworth in the middle of my own seminary formation marked a personal transition in my own discernment from “I’m seriously considering the priesthood” to “all things being equal, full speed ahead.” The biggest part of my time up in Ellsworth was connecting with the parishioners – that is, getting to know the people I would be serving if I went through with ordination. Anyway, all that’s just to say thank you and keep up the good work, helping and letting Levi get to know the people of our diocese.

Before I hand Levi the microphone, I have one shout-out – Pope Leo’s new encyclical letter, Magnifica Humanitas, came out just this last week. As I read it, I disagree with the common headline “Pope Leo’s First Encyclical on AI.” Rather, keeping with the past century and a half’s potent developments on the Church’s social teaching, Pope Leo is using a current and pivotal social/technological reality to help us again remember the dignity, goodness, and destination of each human person. The focus is on the person, not on the technology – could be an interesting read for you. God bless you, and I give the floor to Levi,

Fr. Joe

**May 31, 2026**  
**The Most Holy**  
**Trinity**

*Readings are in the hymnal,  
#1086*

### **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

**May 31, 2026**

Hello parishioners! It has been such a blessing to start my summer with you all! Praise God! Thank you to all who have introduced themselves to me so far. You have given me such a warm welcome and have shown me great hospitality, which I am deeply grateful for. I am excited to spend this summer with Fr. Joe and you all.

Feel free to ask me questions, but I will share a little about myself here in this bulletin. I grew up in Sparta where I attended St. Pat's school and parish from kindergarten through 8th grade. I went to Sparta High School then moved up to UW-Stevens Point where I studied Paper Science and Chemical Engineering. Right after college I started as a process engineer at the paper mill in Tomahawk. I spent seven years in Tomahawk before I entered seminary. I have finished two years of seminary formation now. My first year was in La Crosse for what was called the "Journey Program", and I was in Milwaukee at St. Francis de Sales Seminary this last year. I have five more years, God willing, before priestly ordination. Please pray for me and the other seminarians on this journey!

I grew up out in the country, so I still enjoy doing just about anything outside including hunting, fishing, biking, kayaking, and many other activities. I am passionate about sports and fitness as well as good stories, so I rest with good books and movies. My family and I play all sorts of card, dice, and board games like euchre, cribbage, and piffle just to name a few. I have a deep love of learning which means I love hearing about other people's passions. My patron is St. Sebastian, and my closest saint friend is Maria Goretti.

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**CONNECTING THREADS:** A small, but enthusiastic batch of surveys were turned in; and our first event is being planned. Join us on **Saturday, June 6, from 10:00 AM-12:00 PM** for a no-sew weaving project and a chance to connect with others who like to sew, quilt, knit or embroider. We will meet in the lower level meeting area. Drop-ins are welcome. We hope to see you there!

Hello parish family! This summer, please consider joining us for **FOCUS' Crux Bible Study**. This study is centered on proclaiming the core message of the Gospel, and creating a space for encounter with both our Lord and with our local Catholic community. Throughout these 5 sessions, where we will explore questions like, "What am I made for?", "Who is this Jesus?", and "Do you know the Father's love?" Bring your difficult questions and an open heart, and prepare to encounter the Gospel in a new way. Please don't hesitate to reach out to Carly Zadow with any questions (608-792-4872 / [zadow2021@gmail.com](mailto:zadow2021@gmail.com))!

**Where: Marian Hall (basement)**

**When: 6:30 PM on Thursdays June 18 & July 2, 9, 16, and 23**

**Are you currently serving in or interested in serving in the following ministries: Altar Server, Lector, and/or Eucharistic Minister?** We are fortunate this summer to have Levi, who would like to provide an orientation for new people to these ministries and a refresher for those who are currently serving in them.

Please sign up in the gathering space if you are curious about these ministries and/or if you wish to continue participating in them. We will notify you of the dates and times of these sessions as they are scheduled.

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# May 31, 2026

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of May 18-24, 2026

Offertory: \$5,059.00

Total: \$5,059.00

Needed April E-gifts: \$2,583.00

THANK YOU!

## 2025-2026

## DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Goal: \$36,920.00

Received to date: \$39,881.74

Donors: 82

## Ministry Schedule

### Sat., June 6, 6:30 PM

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister

Reid Fisher Altar Server

Lane Fisher Altar Server

Amy Matthes Lector

### Sun., June 7, 10:30 AM

Matthew Tubbin Eucharistic Minister

Amelia Kimmet Altar Server

Jacob Kimmet Altar Server

Megan Prorok Lector

If not able to serve as scheduled, please contact [bethlakmann@icloud.com](mailto:bethlakmann@icloud.com) to request a sub. Thank you!

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\* **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. \*  
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## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**for McIntosh Memorial Library After School Program**

Call the library: 608/637-7151

Email: Youth Services Director, Emilia Jury - [e.jury@wrlsweb.org](mailto:e.jury@wrlsweb.org)

Program to run during the 2026-2027 school year starting August 25, 3:15-5:15 PM, Monday thru Thursday. Working with youth in first-fourth grade. Volunteer orientation and training will occur early August; must pass a background check. Will either help prepare snack and serve or work directly with youth activities and provide assistance. More information on atrium bulletin board. Commitments needed ASAP!

## MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, 30 May, 6:30 PM +Anna Mae Krause**

(Veronica Tresner)

**Sunday, 31 May, 10:30 AM +Teresa Armstrong**

(Veronica Tresner)

*Fr. Joe will say intention for Wednesday while away*

**Wednesday, June 3, +Anna Mae Krause**

(Biebl Family)

**Friday, 5 June, 12:10 PM +Mary Cowell**

(Angie Leis)

**Saturday, 6 June, 6:30 PM Women of the Parish**

(PCCW)

**Sunday, 7 June, 10:30 AM +Guy Nicks**

(Family of Guy Nicks)

## CHURCH CALENDAR

**Monday-Friday, 25 May-4 June, Father Joe out of state at FOCUS training**

**Saturday, 30 May, 5:30 PM Choir rehearsal**

**Monday, 1 June, 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**

**Wednesday, 3 June, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM St. Mary's Quilters in Marian Hall**

**Wednesday, 3 June, 5:15 PM Communion Service & Adoration**

**Thursday, 4 June, 3:30 PM PCCW Planning Meeting in Marian Hall**

**Friday, 5 June, First Friday Adoration following 12:10 PM Mass**

**Saturday, 6 June, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM Connecting Threads in Marian Hall**

**Sunday, 7 June, 9:30 AM Choir rehearsal**

**Monday, 8 June, 5:00-7:00 PM GriefShare in Marian Hall**

**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 (please make checks out to 'Door of Hope')—a little change CHANGES LIVES! The QR code on the bottle will take you to their website ([www.viroquahope.com](http://www.viroquahope.com)) to learn more about Door of Hope, and also for people to give online if they would rather do that.

**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  
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).



**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](mailto: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](mailto:rjhoneyfarm@hotmail.com)



**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  
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