

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Wednesday, June 24: The Nativity of St. John the Baptist

Friends,

I am a horrible accountant. Truly horrible. One of the greatest gifts the twenty-first century has given me is online banking – my checkbook would otherwise be off by a few digits this way or the other. For my sake and our parishes' sake, it is a tremendous blessing to have Amy and Fran sitting in the chairs they sit in – for my sake, they and all our staff and volunteers keep things ticking along and in good shape to free me up to do the pastoral work I do. For our parishes' sakes, let's just say it's good that I'm not the bookkeeper.

Anyway, we've established that my forte is not in keeping tidy books. One tidy book I have managed to keep over the last six years is a little black book (actually Volume Two now), tracking when I celebrate which Mass, and less accurately what the Mass intentions are offered for (again, Fran and Amy make sure those are in order on gameday). What this little black book does tell me is how many Masses I'm at, and all things being equal this Saturday at our 6:30 Mass ought to be turning the number over to Mass #3000. Mass 3000 is no different than Mass 2999 or Mass 3172, but still there's something cool about a good round number.

Mass 3000 also has me thinking over anniversaries. This coming Saturday will be my sixth anniversary of priestly ordination (May 4 for deacon ordination, but that date's in the rearview mirror now), and in just a bit (July 5, I think) we'll be turning over our own fourth anniversary together. I am grateful today for these last four years together. I was a true greenhorn when I moved into this Viroqua rectory (where I'm writing this article on Thursday night), inexperienced in what it means to be a Pastor and walk the focused walk of shepherding with a dedicated flock. You have all been remarkably gracious through these four years together, helping me to figure out the business and the ministry and the accompaniment of Pastorship, and your good grace has opened the door for us to receive the Holy Spirit's presence together with docility and receptivity. I am confident that in twenty or thirty or two years I'll look back on where I am in my Pastorship today with a kind "man, I was just a kid." For now, I am simply grateful to you and to the Lord for the gift of our time together.

As I gear up for my own expansion Eastward, I invite you to join me in cultivating a renewed curiosity about the Lord's goodness, creativity, and invitation. This season is a curveball that I certainly didn't expect four years ago, and I remain convinced that the Holy Spirit has great work and freedom in mind for us. Pray for me, pray for our brothers and sisters in Wonewoc and Hillsboro, and know of my prayers for you.

God bless you,
Fr. Joe

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 Oberberger, 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

June 21, 2026
12th Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Readings are in the hymnal.

#1125

Eucharist

Saturdays - 6:30 PM

Sundays - 10:30 AM

Wednesday - 5:15 PM

Fridays - 12:10 PM

Livestreaming Mass

www.facebook.com/StMarysCoonValley

Diocese of La Crosse

Televised Mass

Channel 19: Sunday, 9:30 AM,
also livestreamed on Diocesan
Facebook page.

Pastoral Visits:

Please contact the parish office
if you or a loved one is in need of
a pastoral visit or if you would
like to be remembered in our
parish's public prayers.

Baptism

Call the parish office for
information and scheduling.

Confession

Sat. 9:30 AM during Adoration,
& 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 1:30 PM;
Every Tuesday 4:30 PM in CV
Every Wednesday after Mass
Benediction at 6:30 PM
Every Saturday 9:30 AM

Online Giving:

<https://diolc.org/annunciation-of-the-blessed-virgin-mary-parish-viroqua>

Parish Offices

OPEN: MTWF- 8 AM-4 PM

June 21, 2026

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

Hello parish family! There is still time to join our **Crux Bible Study**. This study is centered on proclaiming the core message of the Gospel, and helps to create a space for encounter both with our Lord and with our community. Bring an open heart and prepare to encounter the Gospel in a new way. Please don't hesitate to reach out to Levi Spaeth or to Carly Zadow (608-792-4872 / zadow2021@gmail.com) with any questions!

Where: Marian Hall (basement)

When: 6:30 PM on Thursdays July 2, 9, 16, and 23

Please extend congratulations to **Matthew Viney** and **Mackenzie Schneider**, who were joined in matrimony on Saturday, June 20, 2026!

Update from the Hospitality Committee: Our monthly fellowship gatherings after Mass will go on hiatus this summer (June, July and August). To encourage the development of a community with a welcoming spirit, we would like to open the work of organizing and conducting the fellowship weekends to the entire community. Over the summer, please consider whether you would like to continue to participate in fellowship weekends, and whether you would be able to occasionally assist in making the fellowship meetings happen, along the lines of the recent highly successful volunteer process for Funeral Luncheons. In August, there will be sign-up sheets in the gathering space to volunteer for the tasks of fellowship weekends – set up, preparing refreshments, serving refreshments, greeting, and clean up. Those responses will allow us to resume fellowship weekends in September. Please give this your prayerful consideration in the coming months. Any questions? Contact any of the members of the Hospitality Committee: Kris Brueggen (kbrueggen01@gmail.com), Pat Baranczyk (patbaranc@gmail.com), Pat Biebl (bieb5@mwt.net), Melanie Halvorson (melhalvor@gmail.com), Cathy Lund (cnlund@icloud.com), Megan Prorok (prorokmegan@gmail.com) or Carly Zadow (zadow2021@gmail.com).

“WHOSOEVER DIES IN THIS GARMENT SHALL NOT SUFFER ETERNAL FIRE.”

The Brown Scapular devotion traces back to a profound promise given by Our Blessed Mother to St. Simon Stock in 1251. For centuries, the faithful have embraced the scapular as a quiet but powerful form of prayer — a sign of belonging to Mary and of trusting in her motherly protection.

Just as Our Lord taught us to pray the Our Father, Our Lady has taught us the spiritual value of the scapular. When we wear it with faith and use it as a prayer of the heart, she gently draws us closer to the Sacred Heart of her Divine Son. The scapular is not merely a garment; it's a reminder of Mary's care, intercession, and desire to lead us to Christ.

To learn more about the history, meaning, and promises associated with the Scapular of Carmel, please contact **Pat Obernberger at StMaryFormation@mwt.net**. For those who feel called through prayer and discernment, Fr. Joe will offer enrollment in the Brown Scapular Confraternity, making you eligible for the spiritual benefits Our Lady has promised to those who faithfully live this devotion.



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.

Finance Council Members

Matt Bomkamp	Paul O'Rourke
Melanie Halvorson	Dale Pertzborn
Rhonda Kiedinger	

Our Finance Council assists the pastor in the administration of the parish's financial resources, responsibilities, and building and grounds. It meets regularly to review our income & expenses, to discuss any issues with our facilities, and to draft an annual budget.

June 21, 2026

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of June 8-14, 2026

Offertory: \$3179.50

Catholic Life: \$55.00

Total: \$3,234.50

Needed: \$4,600.00

May E-gifts: \$2,494.85

THANK YOU!

2025-2026

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Goal: \$36,920.00

Received to date: \$41,146.00

Donors: 85

Ministry Schedule

Sat., June 27, 6:30 PM

Dcn. Anthony Shay	Eucharistic Minister
Will Fisher	Altar Server
Lane Fisher	Altar Server
Dan Kiedinger	Lector

Sun., June 28, 10:30 AM

Al Mislivecek	Eucharistic Minister
Logan Curti	Altar Server
Basil Stevenson	Altar Server
Melanie Halvorson	Lector

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

If you wish for your contribution to the Annual Appeal to be credited for 2026, it must be postmarked **before June 30, 2026.** Please make checks payable to the **Diocese of La Crosse.**

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 20 June, 6:30 PM +Art & Agnes Leis

(Angie Leis)

Sunday, 21 June, 10:30 AM +Larry Cina

(Angie Cina)

Wednesday, 24 June, 5:15 PM +Larry Cina

(Angie Cina)

Friday, 26 June, 8:00 AM +Anna Mae Krause

(Ann Graham)

Saturday, 26 June, 6:30 PM +Mary Leis Cowell

(Pat Biebl)

Sunday, 27 June, 10:30 AM Father Matthew Szymanski

(Sonja Finn)

CHURCH CALENDAR

Wednesday, 24 June 10:00 AM-12:30 PM St. Mary's Quilters in

Marian Hall

Wednesday, 24 June 6:30 PM Finance Council Meeting

Wednesday, 24 June, 6:40 PM *Return* book study in Marian Hall

Friday, 26 June, 8:00 AM — Note the MASS TIME CHANGE for this date only due to Priest Unity Days

Saturday, 27 June NO Adoration & Confession due to Priest Unity Days

Sunday, 28 June, Lee baptism during 10:30 AM Mass

The parish office is looking to expand our roster of **Collection Counters** this summer. We have two members who are looking to retire from their roles, one leaving in August and one in January. We have three teams on a 6 week rotation who meet at 8:30am on Mondays in the office for about 45 minutes-1 hour to count the weekend's collections. **If you are interested in learning more, please contact the parish office!**

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.

Please drop off your **Door of Hope Baby Bottles** in the gathering space no later than **this Monday, June 22nd**. They will be picked up Tuesday, June 23rd



THRESHOLD
RETREAT
— HIGH SCHOOL VOCATIONS CAMP —

July 10–12, 2026
Holy Cross Diocesan Center • La Crosse, WI
For young men entering grades 9–12

PRAYER • RECREATION • REFLECTIONS ON THE PRIESTHOOD



DIOCESE of LA CROSSE
Office for Vocations

Please contact Carly in the parish office with any questions about the Threshold retreat, or for information on other Diocesan vocational discernment opportunities for both men and women!
Registration link: <https://diolc.org/priesthood/events/threshold-retreat/>

Jesus' first words in his public ministry were "Come and See". We invite you to bring your friends, family, co-workers or anyone else who wants to explore the meaning of life and the basics of the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment. **ALPHA** is a series of interactive sessions that will take place on **Mondays from 6:00-8:00 pm from 9/21-11/30/2026 and the weekend of 11/6-7**. Dinner is provided each night! The sessions are in the Parish Hall. To register or for more information, please visit our website <https://www.mmoclacrosse.org/adults> or email alpha@mmoclacrosse.org.

WESTBY LOCKER & MEATS
The Sausage & Meat Shop
Rosanne & Rod Aspenson
402 N. Main St., Westby, WI 54665
meatsusa@mwt.net
608-634-4515

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



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