

# Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Friends,

This Wednesday is gameday – the official start of my Pastoral extension to Hillsboro and Wonewoc. I am deeply grateful A) for the Diocese’s intentional effort to add another month into our lead time, and B) for your own response to all this movement and change. Regarding the longer timeline, there is a lot of movement going on across the Diocese (which isn’t to say it’s all simultaneous), and Bishop Battersby and Fr. Sam Martin (the Vicar for Clergy/my boss) have chosen to empower their priests to approach these movements with some level of autonomy and leadership (“subsidiarity” is a big word in Catholic social teaching for you to look up, if you’d like). Regarding the latter, you have received this whole process with tremendous grace (which isn’t to say “ease,” “comfort,” or “giddiness”). To that I simply say, “thank you.”

My own experience through the last several months (and especially the last month of immediate lead-up), has been marked by anxiety and curiosity. The anxiety has largely been tied to the intangibility of impending change – until this Wednesday all of this is still “coming up.” I see a remarkable similarity and (some important difference) between this transition and the one we went through four years ago when I showed up here. The similarity is reflected in rebuilding and my own real-time exploration of the people’s needs, hurts, and expectations. The biggest difference I notice (which isn’t to say there aren’t others) is related to tenure. Whereas both our parishes out here have a recent and longish history of short-pastoral-tenures, after a string of longer-tenured pastors that isn’t a reality that has entered the consciousness of Hillsboro and Wonewoc’s people. Rather, I perceive a need to be loved and shepherded with an open heart by myself and Fr. Emmanuel. The curiosity is tied to simply noticing the ways the Holy Spirit is lining business and ministry up – He is present in all of this!

Now, as may become the norm, allow me to share a few scheduling and business words. This next week I’ll be heading out East on Tuesday evening to get a bright-eyed start on Wednesday with an 8:00 Mass in Hillsboro. Fran and Pat and I will be doing a bit of scouting around town before I head back here. Our daily Mass schedule stands as usual around here, including noon Mass on Friday and adoration on Saturday at 9:30 – there won’t be confession for that (*cont. page 2*)

**June 28, 2026**  
**13th Sunday in**  
**Ordinary Time**

*Readings are in the hymnal.*  
**#1128**

### **Eucharist**

**Saturdays - 6:30 PM**

**Sundays - 10:30 AM**

**Wednesday - 5:15 PM**

**Fridays - 12:10 PM**

### **Livestreaming Mass**

[www.facebook.com/StMarysCoonValley](https://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– 9 AM-3 PM  
Thursday-11AM-3PM

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 Oberberger, 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)

Carly Zadow, Secretary & Fran Campbell, Bookkeeper, [stmaryparish@mwt.net](mailto:stmaryparish@mwt.net), (608) 637-7711; Parish Kitchen (608) 637-7878  
400 Congress Avenue, Viroqua, WI 54665

# June 28, 2026

(cont.) one, but Dcn. Tony will expose the Blessed Sacrament while Fr. Emmanuel and I are both in Hillsboro and Wonewoc. Fr. Raj will be here next weekend for this year’s Mission Appeal, then Fr. Emmanuel and I will both be here on July 11-12 to give you a chance to meet him. As he moves in and as Fr. Bauer moves up North to Eau Galle, please pray specially for each of us – next weekend will be important for first impressions and initial questions and tone-setting, so I would gladly receive any prayers targeted toward my own docility and resilience, as well as for the Holy Spirit to share those specific words He wants to share through me.

God bless you,

Fr. Joe

This Sunday, please welcome **Lyla Lauren Lee**, daughter of Brandon and Lauren (Woods) Lee into our Christian community through the Sacrament of Baptism. Welcome to this community of faith!

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](mailto:zadow2021@gmail.com)) with any questions! **Where: Marian Hall (basement) When: 6:30 PM on Thursdays July 2, 9, 16, 23.**

**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](mailto:kbrueggen01@gmail.com)), Pat Baranczyk ([patbaranc@gmail.com](mailto:patbaranc@gmail.com)), Pat Biebl ([bieb5@mwt.net](mailto:bieb5@mwt.net)), Melanie Halvorson ([melhalvor@gmail.com](mailto:melhalvor@gmail.com)), Cathy Lund ([cndlund@icloud.com](mailto:cndlund@icloud.com)), Megan Prorok ([prorokmegan@gmail.com](mailto:prorokmegan@gmail.com)) or Carly Zadow ([zadow2021@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 and expenses, to discuss any issues with our facilities, and to draft an annual budget.

# June 28, 2026

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of June 8-14, 2026

Offertory: \$3,514.15

Catholic Life: \$10.00

Total: \$3,524.15

Needed: \$4,600.00

May E-gifts: \$2,494.85

THANK YOU!

## 2025-2026

## DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Goal: \$36,920.00

Received to date: \$41,591.00

Donors: 85

## MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, 27 June, 6:30 PM +Mary Leis Cowell**

(Pat Biebl)

**Sunday, 28 June, 10:30 AM Father Matthew Szymanski as he**

**begins his new ministry**

(Sonja Finn)

**Wednesday, 1 July, 5:15 PM +Larry Cina**

(Pat Effinger)

**Friday, 3 July, 12:10 PM +Albert Kemp**

(Rose Ann Ruetten)

**Saturday, 4 July, 6:30 PM +Anna Mae Krause**

(Dave & Sue Fanta)

**Sunday, 5 July, 10:30 AM +Ralph JaDouL**

(Joan Elsing)

## Ministry Schedule

### **Sat., July 4, 6:30 PM**

Dcn. Anthony Shay	Eucharistic Minister
Will Fisher	Altar Server
NOT FILLED	Altar Server
Dan Kiedinger	Lector

### **Sun., July 5, 10:30 AM**

Dcn. Anthony Shay	Eucharistic Minister
Jacob Kimmet	Altar Server
Amelia Kimmet	Altar Server
Al Mislivecek	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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 \* **Fire Night:** Join us for a special  
 \* Adoration with praise and worship  
 \* music. **Friday, July 10, 6:30-8:30 at**  
 \* **Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin**  
 \* **Mary in Viroqua.** Confession and  
 \* prayer teams available. Bonfire  
 \* outside and potluck afterwards in  
 \* Marian Hall, bring a dish to pass and  
 \* spend time with the team and fellow  
 \* worshippers. All are welcome to  
 \* spend time with our Lord!  
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 \* **FREE Kitchen Range**  
 \* **(electric)**  
 \* *Broiler doesn't work* - contact  
 \* parish office if interested.  
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## CHURCH CALENDAR

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

**Wednesday, 1 July 10:00 AM-12:30 PM St. Mary's Quilters in Marian Hall**

**Wednesday, 1 July, 6:40 PM *Return* book study in Marian Hall**

**Thursday, 2 July, 6:30 PM Crux Bible Study in Marian Hall**

**Friday, 3 July, 12:10 PM First Friday Adoration following Mass**

**Saturday, 4 July, 9:30-10:30 AM Adoration & Confession**

**Saturday-Sunday, 4-5 July, Mission Coop**

**Monday, 6 July, 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**

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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 8:30 am 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!**

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**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.



**THRESHOLD**  
RETREAT  
— HIGH SCHOOL VOCATIONS CAMP —

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

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DIOCESE of LA CROSSE  
Office for Vocations

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 - 8:00pm 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](mailto:alpha@mmoclacrosse.org).

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/>

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

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Attorney Kevin M. Connelly (church member)  
608-634-3956 201 S. Main Street, Westby, Wisconsin  
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52676 Haugen Ln.  
Westby, WI 54667  
608-634-4059 (home)  
608-606-0832 (cell)  
[rjhoneyfarm@hotmail.com](mailto:rjhoneyfarm@hotmail.com)



**Kickapoo Counseling**  
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