

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Miracle of the Bread and Fish - Giovanni Lanfranco

Friends, I have a bit of scheduling business to bring to mind – as our folks in Viroqua and Coon Valley know, the Boundary Waters are a bit of a haven for me, usually making for an eventful week or two in the woods each summer. As our folks in the entire Midwest know, there's been a haze of smoke coming from that general direction (and further North, thank you Canada)

that means this summer's trip is off. Rather, I'm bumping back my original travel plans from an August 2 departure up to Minnesota to an August 9 trip out to Colorado and California for some time with friends and family. With my Deacon Dad and Deacon Tony overlapping some of my vacation with their own, this will affect our weekday schedule abnormally for time away – we'll have a Communion service (Dcn. Dad) on Tuesday, August 4 in Coon Valley, Mass (Fr. Emmanuel) on Friday at 12:10 in Viroqua, then the next weekday service will be the 5:15 Mass on August 19. Weekend Masses will be unaffected with Msgr. Scheckel stepping in to cover Coon Valley/Viroqua and Fr. Emmanuel on for Wonewoc/Hillsboro.

Now I want to take a moment to thank all of you who came out to join us last weekend for the summer picnic. With our fourth year running, we've officially reached the point of "our annual summer picnic" – this all sprang out of some Pastoral Council, PCCW, and Men's Club discussions four years ago, when some of our community folks came to me with "hey Fr. Joe, we've got an idea and a plan." In my experience, this tends to be how significant things rise up – the seeds of a good idea get planted in someone or in someones' minds and plans come together. I am simply grateful for this moment and so many like it, where our brothers and sisters take the initiative and make the moves to serve our community. More than that, it is encouraging to me when y'all come to share in these moments, to join myself and each other in community and friendship. These are the things that add salt and pepper to our life together, and once more I want to thank all of you who made this happen and all of you who came to share that space with each other. Extra heartwarming and encouraging for me is the interaction between the people of my two Westward parishes – I maintain that this is a relationship well worth our investment and receptivity. For future reference, whether it be a big event for the whole community or a small book study for a special interest group, whether it be a "let's make this an annual affair" or simply a five-week this Fall only program, my general rule of thumb when something fits our Main Thing (an ongoing encounter with the Lord in the community of His Church) and has a good plan in place, is that there's a fighting chance it'll get my seal of approval.

Finally, now that we are one month into The Eastward Expansion, I want to offer one final word of gratitude. I have been remarkably encouraged by your good grace, your warm welcome of Fr. Emmanuel, and the many, many folks who have stepped in with a "how can I help" or "can I help with this?" As I forge on in my own priesthood and pastorship, I am grateful to share this moment in eternity with you.

God bless you,
Father Joe

Father Joseph M. Richards, Pastor (608) 606-9787;

Father Emmanuel S. Famiyeh, Associate Pastor (608) 604-1413; Deacon Tony Shay;

Carlene Zadow, Parish Secretary, office@abvmviroqua.diocparish.org; Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Director, cgs@abvmviroqua.diocparish.org;

Fran Campbell, Bookkeeper, office@abvmviroqua.diocparish.org; Pat Obernberger, Parish Activities Coordinator, cre@abvmviroqua.diocparish.org;

Beth Laurdan, Music Director, musicdirector@abvmviroqua.diocparish.org; Cole Hewitt, Maintenance, maintenance@abvmviroqua.diocparish.org;

Diana Hernandez-Torres, Sacristan; Megan Prorok, Church Decorator, prorokmegan@gmail.com; Tom Leis, Librarian, saintmaryparishlibrary@gmail.com

August 2, 2026
18th Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Readings: Gather Hymnal #1143

Eucharist

Saturdays - 6:30 PM

Sundays - 10:30 AM

Wednesday - 5:15 PM

Fridays - 12:10 PM

Livestreaming Mass

www.facebook.com/StMarysCoonValley

Diocesan Televised Mass

Channel 19: Sunday, 9:30 AM,

Livestream: 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 Fridays: after Mass

Benediction at 1:30 PM;

Tuesdays: 4:30 PM in CV

Wednesdays: after Mass

Benediction at 6:30 PM

Saturdays: 9:30 AM

Online Giving:

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

Parish Office:

400 Congress Avenue,
Viroqua, WI 54665

HOURS:

MTWF: 9 AM-3 PM

Thursday: 11 AM-3 PM

Website: www.stmaryviroqua.org

Office: 608-637-7711

Fax (608) 299-3721

August 2, 2026

Final Call for Lectoring & Extraordinary Ministry: *There is still time to volunteer* to serve our parish as a regularly scheduled lector or extraordinary minister during weekend Masses. If you feel so called, please sign up on the sheets in the gathering space no later than **Sunday, August 30th**. There will be more information on scheduling and training in September.

Saturday Adoration & Reconciliation: Please join us here on Saturday mornings for **Adoration and Reconciliation** from **9:30 to 10:30am**. This is an excellent opportunity to begin the weekend by setting aside a moment to spend time with our Lord, especially during the busyness of summer. Families with young children are warmly welcome to attend! Please contact the Parish Office with any questions.

Cashton Healing Service: Come and experience God's supernatural love! **This Sunday, August 2!** Mass at **10:00 AM**, followed by Adoration. **12:15 PM** Corporate Prayer for Healing, followed by Individual Prayer with Healing Teams at **12:30 PM**. All are welcome. **Where:** Sacred Heart Church, 1205 Front Street, Cashton, WI. Contact the Parish Office for more information.

Well-Read Mom: Calling all women who like to read! Our **Well Read Mom** group is looking forward to exploring this year's theme of the Year of the Woman with some fantastic books, including *A Room with a View* by E.M. Forester and *Joan of Arc* by Mark Twain. We are open to **women of all stages of life** who are interested in reading high quality literature and growing in friendship. We will meet monthly throughout the school year to discuss great books and have fun. Check out wellreadmom.com or contact Rebecca Kimmet at (608) 444-6844 or rjkimmet@gmail.com for more information.

Gestures of the Mass: Epiclesis

A few weeks back before closing Mass, Father Emmanuel had a beautiful reflection on a special moment of the liturgy called the ***"Epiclesis,"*** and explained how it presents itself in each of the Church's sacraments. This moment is called a "gesture," which is simply a way we can communicate using our bodies rather than words. A couple examples of day-to-day gestures we use would be a hand wave to say "hello," or holding your index finger to your lips to say "quiet."

The Mass includes *many* gestures that the priest, deacon, and laity participate and pray with, depending on the proper role of the person and the moment in the liturgy. The Epiclesis is an important gesture that the priest does on behalf of the people prior to the consecration of the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Our Lord. This moment is where the priest lifts his hands and eyes upward, and slowly brings them down, eventually hovering his hands for a moment over the paten (*plate with the host*) and chalice (*cup with the wine*), and then makes the sign of the cross over these gifts. This moment is accompanied by a verbal prayer, of which there are a few options in the missal (*the big red book with all of the prayers of the Mass in it*), but one you may recall is from Eucharistic Prayer II: "Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray, by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dewfall, so that they may become for us the Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ".

It's worth taking a moment, perhaps during or after Mass today or in the week ahead, to sit and ponder this gesture paired with those words, most particularly the upward-to-downward movement of the eyes and hands of the priest. What is he meaning with those words? What is he asking God for with that movement of his hands and eyes? There is also an invitation in there to explore the other verbal prayer options for this moment of the Eucharistic Prayer. You can likely find those online with a simple google search of "Catholic epiclesis prayers."

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 and expenses, to discuss any issues with our facilities, and to draft an annual budget.

August 2, 2026

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of July 20-26, 2026
Offertory needed weekly: \$5,800.00

Offertory: \$6,709.25
June E-gifts: \$2,514.85

THANK YOU!

Ministry Schedule

Sat., August 8, 6:30 PM

Pat Biebl	Eucharistic Minister
Dan Kiedinger	Lector
Will Fisher	Altar Server
NOT FILLED	Altar Server

Sun., August 9, 10:30 AM

Al Mislivecek	Eucharistic Minister
Matt Tubbin	Lector
Logan Curti	Altar Server
Basil Stevenson	Altar Server

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, August 1, 6:30 PM - Father Emmanuel

+ **Mary Cowell** (Angie Leis)

Sunday, August 2, 10:30 AM - Father Emmanuel

+ **Guy Nicks** (Family of Guy Nicks)

Wednesday, August 5, 5:15 PM - Father Joe

Women of the Parish (PCCW)

Friday, August 7, 12:10 PM - Father Emmanuel

+ **Larry Cina** (Glenn & Charlotte Monroe)

Saturday, August 8, 6:30 PM - Father Joe

+ **Germaine Schaeffer** (Robert Reich)

Sunday, August 9, 10:30 AM - Father Joe

Bishop Gerard Battersby

PARISH CALENDAR

Monday, August 3, 3pm-4:30pm: Girls Bible Study in Sitting Room

Wednesday, August 5, 10am-12pm: St. Mary's Quilters in Marian Hall

Saturday, August 8, 9:30am-10:30am: Adoration & Confessions
(Holy Hour intention: Religious Vocations)

Sunday, August 9 (after Mass) - Tuesday, August 18:
Father Joe out of state on vacation

THANK YOU!

Because of the generosity of donors coming to our church, up to 60 Wisconsin patients will have lifesaving blood products at their time of critical care! Our next blood drive will be on **Monday, November 16**, so save the date & let's give HOPE a beating pulse at ABVM!

An excerpt from a sermon on the transfiguration of the Lord by Anastasius of Sinai, bishop

“Jesus goes before us to show us the way, both up the mountain and into heaven, and—I speak boldly—it is for us now to follow him with all speed, yearning for the heavenly vision that will give us a share in his radiance, renew our spiritual nature and transform us into his own likeness, making us for ever sharers in his Godhead and raising us to heights as yet undreamed of.

Let us run with confidence and joy to enter into the cloud like Moses and Elijah, or like James and John. Let us be caught up like Peter to behold the divine vision and to be transfigured by that glorious transfiguration. Let us retire from the world, stand aloof from the earth, rise above the body, detach ourselves from creatures and turn to the creator, to whom Peter in ecstasy exclaimed: Lord, it is good for us to be here.

It is indeed good to be here, as you have said, Peter. It is good to be with Jesus and to remain here for ever. What greater happiness or higher honor could we have than to be with God, to be made like him and to live in his light?”

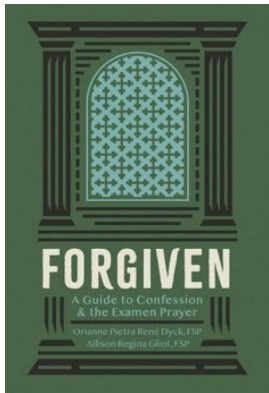
LIBRARY CORNER

Forgiven by Allison Regina Gliot, FSP

Remember that nun who wrote the Christian vampire novel? Turns out she has written a lot of books (fiction and nonfiction) blogs, articles etc. My wife Cindy read this pocket sized title first. As a convert, the sacrament of confession did not come as easily to her as some of the others. For me as a cradle Catholic, the sacrament of confession does not come as easily as some of the others! When I started to read this title, I immediately thought "It is like she is writing this for me!" Having said that, it may not surprise some of you that the intended audience is the young adult/teen age group. It is a guide to confession for teens (or 60+ year olds.) It is a thorough guide to confession in easy-to-understand language. It also gets rave reviews from CatholicMom.com In the first few pages she talks about being so nervous in the confessional that she use to write down the Act of Contrition so that she would not forget it in her nervousness...I STILL do that!

Tom Leis, Parish Librarian

saintmaryparishlibrary@gmail.com



Sr. Allison Gliot, FSP

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meatsusa@mw.net
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Dan Kiedinger



Let me help you sell your home, farm, or vacant land.



"When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, and he cured their sick." Matthew 14:14