

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish

Friends,

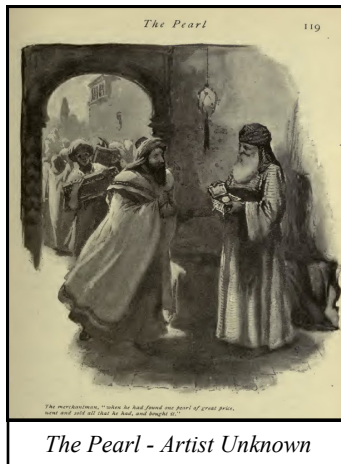
It's time for my quarterly warning about scammers – another wave of special requests has gone out from an email bearing my name, and from the sounds of it this guy knows what he's doing. FYI, the way this usually goes is that a scammer gathers a bunch of information from bulletins and websites, generates a list of people affiliated with the parish (again, bulletins and websites), then creates a new email address with the name "Fr. Joe Richards." It needs the extra step of opening up the email address itself to find out that it's not from one of my own email addresses but one like "pastor0025@gmail.com" or even something more similar to mine like "jrichards@stmarychurch1.com" (which doesn't exist).

In the first place, I am sorry that this happened. In the second place, if you've ever been taken in by something like this please know that I at least look upon you with no shame. Rather, what you're encountering is, bluntly and scandalously in a culture with Christian virtue at least baked into our DNA, the reality of unredeemed humanity. We're seeing here what it looks like for one person (/agency) to use another – to take advantage of someone's good nature for the sake of a profit.

Another dynamic in this that I think we're witnessing is the use of AI – the specificity and scope of information gathered here makes me think we're witnessing the remarkable ability artificial intelligence lends to gather and process information. An important note: like a shovel or a chisel or a car, AI is a tool. It is not good or evil in itself, but it is employable for remarkable good or remarkable ill. Calling back to a few months ago, Pope Leo's first Encyclical Letter (what a Pope writes when he wants to share an official word with his people) *Magnifica Humanitas* addresses the use of AI in particular. Again, 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. Once again, this could be an interesting read for you.

All of this is maybe just to say two things: first, it is as important (not "more" or "less") now as ever to choose to love each other and approach each person we encounter as a person made in God's image. When we encounter explicit evil, we are not conquered by it, but the Lord does invite us to bring His holiness. Second, and very specifically, if I ever have such a need as financial support etc. I will come to you directly with it. If you're ever twitchy about something I (or someone masquerading as I) ask you for, you have my full blessing to do some sleuthing, including a text or call.

Finally, may God bless you and keep you always,
Father Joe



The Pearl - Artist Unknown

July 26, 2026
17th Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Readings: Gather Hymnal #1140

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://diolc.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

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.diolcparish.org; **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Director,** cgs@abvmviroqua.diolcparish.org;

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

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

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

July 26, 2026

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.

Levi's Sendoff Picnic: Please join us on **Thursday, July 30th at 5:30pm** for a sendoff picnic for our visiting seminarian, Levi. There will be yard games and good community; all parishioners from Viroqua and Coon Valley are welcome! Pulled pork & sloppy joes will be provided along with water, lemonade & iced tea. Please bring a salad or dessert to share. Your **RSVP** to Julie Moore at **307-359-2322** is much appreciated. **Where:** Parker & Julie Moore's home – S5140 Thorson Lane, Viroqua.

Corn Boil: The Door of Hope Pregnancy and Family Care Center in Viroqua is hosting their 33rd **annual Corn Boil fundraiser** at the **Vernon County Fairgrounds Expo Center** on **July 30th** from **12-2pm**. Please consider attending! They are also looking for help with **corn shucking** from **9-noon** that same day. There is a sign up sheet in the gathering space if you are interested in helping with that.

Cashton Healing Service: Come and experience God's supernatural love! **Sunday, August 2, 2026**. 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.

A Prayer for our Priests

Lord Jesus, I entrust the care of my priests to You. Please give Father Joe and Father Emmanuel whatever virtues and strength that they need today in order to serve those entrusted to their care as You would. You are our Good Shepherd; please draw both of these men, Your beloved priests, closer and closer to Your own heart. Take their burdens upon Your own shoulders, and give them Your yoke, which is easy and light. Please bring them to find rest for themselves in You today, and give them Your peace. Amen.

FREE Electric Kitchen Range: *Broiler doesn't work* - contact parish office if interested.

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.

Finance Council Members

Matt Bomkamp
Melanie Halvorson
Rhonda Kiedinger

Paul O'Rourke
Dale Pertzborn

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.

July 26, 2026

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of July 13-19, 2026
Offertory needed weekly: \$5,800.00

Offertory: \$6,116.02
June E-gifts: \$2,514.85

Mission Co-op: \$1,045.00

THANK YOU!

Ministry Schedule

Sat., August 1, 6:30 PM

Dcn. Tony Shay	Eucharistic Minister
Amy Matthes	Lector
Will Fisher	Altar Server
NOT FILLED	Altar Server

Sun., August 2, 10:30 AM

Kyle Prorok	Eucharistic Minister
Melanie Halvorson	Lector
Ameila Kimmet	Altar Server
Jacob Kimmet	Altar Server

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, July 25, 6:30 PM - Father Joe

+ **Ambrose Timmerman** (Timmerman Family)

Sunday, July 26, 10:30 AM - Father Joe

+ **Patrick & Kevin Hall** (Larry Rehman)

Wednesday, July 29, 5:15 PM - Father Joe

Father Joseph M. Richards

Friday, July 31, 12:10 PM - Father Emmanuel

+ **Anna Mae Krause** (David & Debra Abt)

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)

PARISH CALENDAR

Monday, July 27, 3pm-4:30pm Girls Bible Study in Sitting Room

Tuesday, July 28, Shared Pastoral Council meeting after 5:15pm

Mass in Coon Valley

Wednesday, July 29, 10am-12pm St. Mary's Quilters in Marian Hall

6:40pm Return Book Study in Marian Hall

Thursday, July 30, 6:30pm Sendoff Picnic for Levi at Moore

Residence

Friday, July 31, Levi's Last Day with Viroqua/Coon Valley

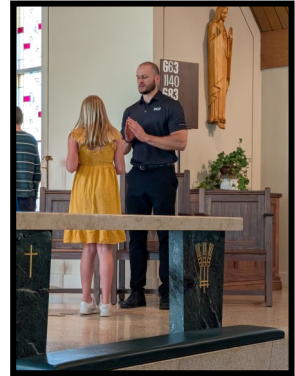
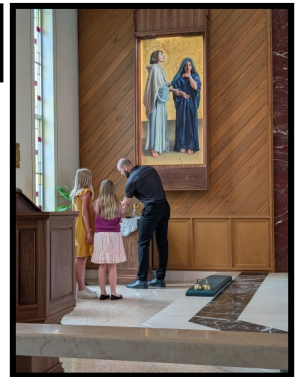
Saturday, August 1, 9:30am-10:30am Adoration & Confessions

An excerpt from *The Imitation of Christ* by Thomas à Kempis

"If you prepare within your heart a fitting dwelling place, Christ will come to you and console you. *His glory and beauty are within you*, and he delights in dwelling there. The Lord frequently visits the heart of man. There he shares with man pleasant conversations; welcome consolation, abundant peace and a wonderful intimacy. So come, faithful soul. Prepare your heart for your spouse to dwell within you. For he says: *If anyone loves me, he will keep my word and we shall come to him and make our dwelling within him.* Make room for Christ. When you possess Christ you are a rich man, for he is sufficient for you. He himself, shall provide for you and faithfully administer all your cares. You will not have to place your hope in men. Put all your trust in God; let him be both your fear and your love. He will respond on your behalf and will do whatever is in your best interest. You have here *no lasting city*. For wherever you find yourself, you will always be a pilgrim from another city. Until you are united intimately with Christ, you will never find your true rest. Let your thoughts be with the Most High and direct your prayers continually to Christ. If you do not know how to contemplate the glory of heaven, take comfort in the passion of Christ, and dwell willingly in his sacred wounds. Endure with Christ, suffer for him, if you wish to reign with him. Once you have entered completely into the depths of Jesus, and have a taste of his powerful love, then you will not care about your own convenience or inconvenience."

July 26, 2026

Altar Server Training last Sunday after Mass



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



**R&J's
HONEY
FARM**

52676 Haugen Ln.
Westby, WI 54667
608-634-4059 (home)
608-606-0832 (cell)
rjhoneyfarm@hotmail.com



Kickapoo Counseling
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Westby, WI 54667
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"... All things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." Romans 8:26