

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



New furniture in the sanctuary

Friends,

I've officially made my way out to Hillsboro and Wonewoc for the first time (as Pastor) this week after Tuesday's Mass for an overnight and a full day taking it all in. I am just so struck with gratitude for Pat and Fran for accompanying me through this – where I am immediately overwhelmed by a big spread of papers, Fran picks up that paper right there, looks it through, pops it in a file or a shredder, and moves onto the next paper. Where I get overwhelmed by a fourth person in three minutes bringing their second “we’ve got to get this done,” Pat pulls out her notebook, gets the details, and witnesses the Person bringing the

problem. All of this is giving me a fresh perspective on just how blessed I am by the support I have – not just in these two, but with our staff right here doing the exact same thing, with our volunteers and parishioners truly taking *ownership* and *initiative* – as Pastors come and go (**not** a forecasting), you remain here at home. When I returned after what felt like more than 24 hours for Viroqua's 5:15 Mass on Wednesday, I felt the homecoming with gratitude and peace. I am so very grateful to you for your presence, for your love, and for your openness with me to the Holy Spirit!

Now I do want to address one big reality in all this – my availability. Back when I was a missionary, I had as a spiritual director a priest who himself had a particularly rugged schedule and set of responsibilities, a beautiful man with a fuller schedule than I could (or should) manage – his was his ministry and mine is mine. Anyway, one day as I noticed his busyness, I remarked to him, “Father, if you don't have time today we can bump this back.” I don't remember what we spoke about in direction, whether it was profound or inconsequential, but I do remember his clear, firm, kind response, “I know my calendar, why don't you let me worry about that.” That always struck me – A) his own put-togetherness, and B) his clear “you are important, and I am making this time for you because I value you and this moment.” I think that correction left a Mark on my own perspective. One of my top-three concerns in all this is for you, my first flock. As I go about the healing and reconciliation of these new communities, I am keenly aware of the limitation it puts on my availability to you. I had a few occasions this week (feel no shame if you were one such, I don't blame you for a moment) of “I know you're incredibly busy (that word moves something unpleasant in me), but I have a need for (fill in the blank).” I invite you, as my own spiritual father did, to let me worry about my calendar and please to let me still father you even while juggling extra balls. I invite you, with me, to hear John Paul II's pontifical theme, “Be not afraid.” With God's grace we open ourselves to His presence through and with each other.

God bless you,
Father Joe

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

Father Emmanuel Famiyeh, *Associate Pastor*; **Deacon Tony Shay**;

Fran Campbell, *Parish Bookkeeper*, office@abvmviroqua.diolcparish.org; ; **Diana Hernandez-Torres**, *Sacristan*;

Carlene Zadow, *Parish Secretary*, office@abvmviroqua.diolcparish.org; **CGS Director**, cgs@abvmviroqua.diolcparish.org;

Pat Obernberger, *Parish Activities Coordinator*, cre@abvmviroqua.diolcparish.org; **Tom Leis**, *Librarian*, saintmaryparishlibrary@gmail.com;

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

July 5, 2026
14th Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Readings: Gather Hymnal #1131

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;
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 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

Kitchen (608) 637-7878

July 5, 2026

Fire Night: Please join us for an evening of Adoration, praise, and prayer on **Friday, July 10, 6:30-8:30pm** at Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Viroqua! There will be confessions, worship music, and prayer teams available throughout the evening as well. Afterwards, join us for a potluck in Marian Hall and a bonfire outside. Bring a dish to pass, camp chairs, and spend time both with our Lord and with one another! All are welcome!

PCCW news: The PCCW will be meeting **Thursday, July 16th at 5:15 pm** in the pie room (the room behind the parish kitchen). Among the things we'll be discussing will be fellowship, the circles and some initial Fall Dinner planning. *All women in the parish are welcome!* A rosary will be led upstairs in the church at **4:30 prior to the meeting** for anyone who would like to participate.

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 (cndlund@icloud.com), Megan Prorok (prorokmegan@gmail.com) or Carly Zadow (zadow2021@gmail.com).

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

On **Thursday, July 16th at 12:10 PM** in the church, to celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, we will be offering a service in the church for those interested to officially enroll in the Brown Scapular. There will be a time of adoration and prayer while each person makes the enrollment. There will be an informational session on **Sunday, July 12 at 9:00 AM**, prior to Mass, in the sitting room next to Father Joe's office for those who are interested in official enrollment. If the Brown Scapular is something you have worn for a while, but you have not been officially enrolled, please consider joining the informational session to learn more about the history and promises associated with this beautiful devotional!



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.

July 5, 2026

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of June 22-28, 2026

Offertory: \$3,052.00

Total: \$3,052.00

Needed: \$5,800.00

May E-gifts: \$2,494.85

THANK YOU!

2025-2026

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Goal: \$36,920.00

Received to date: \$42,091.00

Donors: 85

MASS INTENTIONS

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

(Dave & Sue Fanta)

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

(Joan Elsing)

Wednesday, 8 July, 5:15 PM +Anna Mae Krause

(Angie Leis)

Friday, 10 July, 12:10 PM +Mary Cowell

(Angie Leis)

Saturday, 11 July, 6:30 PM +Ryan Glosemeyer

(Douglas Glosemeyer)

Sunday, 12 July, 10:30 AM +Guy Nicks

(Family of Guy Nicks)

CHURCH CALENDAR

Saturday-Sunday, 4-5 July, Mission Co-op

Monday, 6 July, 6:00 AM Women's Rosary for the needs and

intentions of our priests and all four parishes

Monday, 6 July, 3:00-4:30 PM Girls Bible Study in Sitting Room

Wednesday, 8 July 10:00 AM-12:30 PM Quilters in Marian Hall

Wednesday, 8 July, 6:40 PM Return Book Study in Marian Hall

Thursday, 9 July, 6:30 PM Crux Bible Study in Marian Hall

Friday, 10 July, 6:30 PM Fire Night—Confession, Adoration, &

Prayer Teams followed by potluck and campfire

Saturday, 11 July, 9:30-10:30 AM Confession & Adoration

(Intention: for an increase in religious vocations)

Sunday, 12 July, 9:00 AM Scapular Info Session in Sitting Room

Saturday-Sunday, 11-12 July, Fellowship following each Mass to

welcome Father Emmanuel

Ministry Schedule

Sat., July 11, 6:30 PM

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister

Will Fisher Altar Server

NOT FILLED Altar Server

Pat Biebl Lector

Sun., July 12, 10:30 AM

Raven Stevenson Eucharistic Minister

Basil Stevenson Altar Server

Pearl Stevenson Altar Server

Megan Prorok Lector

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


FREE Kitchen Range
(electric)
Broiler doesn't work - contact
parish office if interested.

The parish office is looking to expand our roster of **Collection Counters** this summer. We have a member who are looking to retire from his role 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 to 1 hour to count the weekend's collections. **If you are interested in learning more, please contact the parish office!**

A Prayer for our Priests

Last weekend, Father Joe asked for our prayers, most especially for his docility and resilience headed into the "Eastward Expansion" of his pastorate to Hillsboro and Wonewoc. As parishioners, we have a particular opportunity to love our pastors very well through prayer. He mentioned perhaps praying a Rosary for his needs, which is an excellent way of offering prayer for him. We would also like to offer a prayer for both of our priests as they head into finding what works for both their personal needs and schedules alongside the parishioners needs in their new assignments. Please consider joining us in this prayer daily for the next however-long-you-feel-so-called-to-continue. There are also prayer cards available in the gathering space next to the bulletins. God bless you all and each!


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.



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

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 at **Mary, Mother of the Church 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

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/>

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Rosanne & Rod Aspenson
402 N. Main St., Westby, WI 54665
meatsusa@mwt.net
608-634-4515



R&J's HONEY FARM
52676 Haugen Ln.
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