

ANNUNCIATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY PARISH



CHRIST'S CHARGE TO PETER - RAPHAEL (1483-1520)

afterward that the Arcata airport is ranked first in the nation for delays) and a gimme extra day with family, I rolled back into the homefront on Thursday. Thank you for your prayers and for your patience with a few weeks' abnormality!

This time also gave me the tremendous gift of a deep breath after our first month and a half with both parish clusters together. All of this is an exploration of how to address the current needs of our Church with our currently available resources, and I have been so very grateful to all of you, all of our staff, and our many volunteers for rising to the challenge. As I've noticed in myself and as I became more aware of in the free head-and-heart-space of the last few weeks, this has certainly been difficult for Fr. Emmanuel and me to juggle too – it's important to note that "difficult," while difficult, is not the same thing as "bad" or "wrong." There's something of a hard exercise/workout in our life together. A hard workout is no bad thing, in fact it can be quite strengthening and fruitful. We're certainly seeing tremendous fruit in Coon Valley and in Hillsboro and in Viroqua and in Wonewoc, manifest in each one of our people's zeal for our communities and readiness to step into service and prayer together.

Another great gift over the last few weeks came in a quick visit to FOCUS' headquarters in Denver to reconnect with a few priests and missionaries (and to encounter a number of new missionaries who joined staff long, long after my own departure for seminary). My work as a FOCUS missionary gave me the space and context to discern my own call to the priesthood, and it perhaps pulls back the curtain on much of my own pastoral direction. This visit returned me to some of my own missionary roots and reminded me of what it is we're working for. There's a beautiful 100-page book co-authored by the University of Mary's President Monsignor Shea, *From Christendom to Apostolic Age*, that speaks to the current state of the Church. A Christendom mindset functions within the stability of established communities and institutions to provide an illuminated beacon within the world. The concern with such a mindset is that the safety it provides can hide actual insecurity and put up blinders to Jesus' own missionary mandate to go out into the world and make disciples of all nations. A movement into apostolic activity addresses that mandate, inviting Jesus' people to carry the Word and Sacrament received within the Church out into the world, inviting people into a lived relationship with the Lord – there's an elegant going-out and drawing-in in such movement. Anyhow, it may be an interesting read if you're looking for some material.

God bless you,
Father Joe

Hello friends,

I am back from my adventures out West! I spent the first week with some dear friends out in Colorado (the O'Loughlins and the Gibbons, if you want to say a prayer for them), then I made my way out to Northern California (Redwood country/one of my happy places) for time with some of my dad's siblings, the first visit with them for a decade or so. After a delayed return flight (I only found out

AUGUST 23, 2026
21ST SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

Readings: Gather Hymnal #1152

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 & Marriage:

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) 299-372

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

AUGUST 23, 2026

Well Read Mom:

There's still time to join Well Read Mom! We will be meeting on the **2nd Saturday morning of each month** from September through June to explore the theme Year of the Woman with fabulous books. Membership is open to women from all stages of life who are interested in reading great literature and growing in friendship. Our first meeting will be **September 12 from 9:30-11:30am**. Check out wellreadmom.com or contact Rebecca Kimmet at (608) 444-6844 or rjkimmet@gmail.com for more information.

Back-to-School and Birthday Bash

To celebrate the start of the new school year (and Father Matthew Bowe's birthday), please join the Tri-Parish of Cashton & Norwalk for a Bash **after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at Sacred Heart in Cashton on Sunday, August 30th**. This is an open-to-all event--the more the merrier! A potluck lunch will be served until noon, and kickball and bingo will occur in the School backyard beginning at noon. This is open to **all families of all parishes** and will be a great opportunity for community building, *especially now that both Viroqua and Coon Valley parishes are represented by families at Sacred Heart Catholic School!* Let us come together for fellowship, food, and fun.

Paper Drive for St. Charles & Sacred Heart Schools:

The Viroqua & Coon Valley PCCWs are hosting a **Paper Drive** benefitting St. Charles Catholic School in Genoa and Sacred Heart Catholic School in Cashton. The drive will run throughout the month of August. You will find a labeled box in the entryway of each church for you to place your donations in. The schools are looking for **kleenex, paper towel, toilet paper, and printer paper**. If you feel called to contribute financially, please place your monetary donations in the collection basket in an envelope labeled "School Paper Drive." The monies will be split 50-50 to each school. Thank you for your prayerful, generous giving! Please contact the Parish Office with any questions.

Gathered in Grace Mom Group:

Gathered in Grace is a local mom group that will focus on spiritual growth through discussion, prayer and plenty of coffee. We will be meeting weekly on **Tuesdays from 9:30 to 11AM** starting on **September 15th at Sacred Heart in Cashton**. The meetings will be rotating between local parishes and will be here on the fourth Tuesdays of the month beginning in September. *Children are welcome*. While there will be no childcare, we will provide toys and snacks to keep children entertained during our get-togethers. There is no commitment so feel free to attend the weeks and locations you are able. Use the QR code to join the GroupMe group for more information or feel free to call/text Sarah Gronemus at 608-386-9546 or Alex Kararo at 612-578-6706.



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 office@abvmviroqua.diocparish.org.

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 23, 2026

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of August 10-16, 2026
Offertory needed weekly: \$5,800.00

Offertory: \$2,494.00
June E-gifts: \$2,514.85

THANK YOU!

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Sat., August 29, 6:30 PM

Dennis Vinger	Eucharistic Minister
Amy Matthes	Lector
Will Fisher	Altar Server
NOT FILLED	Altar Server

Sun., August 30, 10:30 AM

Sheryl Robinson	Eucharistic Minister
Stephen Lambert	Lector
Mariah Sullivan	Altar Server
NOT FILLED	Altar Server

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

PLEASE NOTE:

Beginning this week, the deadline for
sending bulletin requests will be
Thursdays at 2pm. If you have
questions, please contact Carly in the
parish office.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, August 22, 6:30 PM - *Father Emmanuel*

Women of the Parish (PCCW)

Sunday, August 23, 10:30 AM - *Father Emmanuel*

+ Barbara Vesbach (Richard Davig)

Wednesday, August 26, 5:15 PM - *Father Joe*

+ Debra Skildun (Angie Leis)

Friday, August 28, 12:10 PM - *Father Emmanuel*

+ Larry Cina (Ann Graham)

Saturday, August 29, 6:30 PM - *Father Joe*

**For the People of ABVM, St. Mary, St. Aloysius,
& St. Jerome Parishes**

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

+ Carl P. & Margaret S. Simon (Richard Davig)

PARISH CALENDAR

Monday, August 24:

3:00-4:30pm: **Girls Bible Study in Sitting Room**

Wednesday, August 26:

10:00am-12:00pm: **St. Mary's Quilters in Marian Hall**

Thursday, August 27:

5:30pm: **Pastoral Council Meeting in Sitting Room**

Saturday, August 29:

9:30am-10:30am: **Adoration and Confessions**

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. Please contact the Parish Office with any questions.

AN EXCERPT FROM THE MORAL REFLECTIONS ON JOB BY SAINT GREGORY THE GREAT:

“What an immensely loving heart! He thinks nothing of what he himself suffers and is concerned only that the disciples may be led astray interiorly. He scorns his own bodily wounds and brings healing to the inner wounds of others. It is characteristic of holy men that their own painful trials do not make them lose their concern for the well-being of others. They are grieved by the adversity they must endure, yet they look out for others and teach them needed lessons; they are like gifted physicians who are themselves stricken and lie ill. They suffer wounds themselves but bring others the medicine that restores health.”

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CALIX: A CATHOLIC SUBSTANCE ABUSE RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP:

Calix is an association of Catholics wanting to live free of addiction to alcohol or drugs, and it is also for affected family members. It is not a substitute for AA or Al-Anon, but provides a Catholic perspective to complement these 12-step programs. "Calix," Latin for "chalice," was founded in Minneapolis in 1947 by a group of five men, all recovering alcoholics, who saw their Catholic faith as a sure path to serenity without alcohol. If you are interested in learning about the Calix group that meets every other Tuesday by Zoom in the Diocese of La Crosse, email Christine at healthandharmonywi@gmail.com. To learn more about Calix, visit their website or scan the QR code on the right.



GIVEN: UNVEILING THE MYSTERIES OF MARRIAGE ONE DAY RETREAT | SATURDAY OCT 17, 2026 FROM 8AM-2:30PM | ST. JOSEPH PARISH, STEVENS POINT:

"God destined us to experience communion with our spouse as an expression of our communion with him. This is what we vowed when we married and what it means to be devoted." (Schuchts 171). All ages and stages of married, engaged, and dating couples are encouraged to attend. More information and registration information at tinyurl.com/5n99zzhk.

WESTBY LOCKER & MEATS

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



Kickapoo Counseling

110 N. Main Street
Westby, WI 54667
608-634-2365

info@kickapoo-counseling.com

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HE SAID TO THEM, "BUT WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?" - MATTHEW 16:15