

ANNUNCIATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY PARISH

Hello friends,

As I've been getting myself back into gear over this past week, I've realized there are a few big things coming up that I haven't drawn to your minds yet – let me call a few of them up.

First, we've got another priest coming to join us in not too long. While Fr. Emmanuel and I are assigned specifically to these parishes (with his primary residence in Hillsboro and mine in Viroqua), and while Deacon Tony is assigned to Viroqua and Coon Valley, we happen to also have a coincidence of other clergy in the area – Fr. Bernie Rott, a retired Madison priest just South of Wonewoc and Fr. Clayton Elmhurst, one of our own priests living in the Wonewoc rectory. Such as was the case with last weekend's 10:00 Mass in Hillsboro, one of the great graces these guys bring to the picture is A) readily available helpouts when we need it, and B) some consistency in those helpouts. I think you all know I find relationship quite important, and I see a tremendous grace in having not just one or two but four priests in the area here, whether assigned or not.

Anyway, with a ballpark start date of September 13 we'll be welcoming another priest, Fr. Derek Sakowski, to the Coon Valley rectory. Similar to Fr. Clayton and Fr. Rott, Fr. Sakowski won't be assigned to the parishes but will be working up at the Diocese (and very frequently on the road around the Diocese). For a few years now, Fr. Sakowski has been assigned to the specific ministry of tending to priest health, and more recently he has been heading up our pastoral planning study. Many of you met him already when he came to lead last year's Listening Sessions in Viroqua and Hillsboro, and now as he needs to get closer to the Big House in La Crosse, it will be a gift to share our home with him and, as an accessory benefit, to have him with us for liturgies and events from time to time. Thank you to several of our Coon Valley folks who have been putting some time into preparing the rectory to have someone living in it for the first time in almost five years!

Second, we've got a fairly intensive healing program starting up in Viroqua in just a few weeks here that I'd like to invite you to consider – Healing the Whole Person. Healing the Whole Person flows out of the work of Dr. Bob Schuchts and Sister Miriam James at the John Paul II Healing Center, inviting the Holy Spirit into places of spiritual and emotional woundedness to welcome the grace and restoration of His love and resurrection. Several of our folks have made their way up to La Crosse over the last few years to attend and support these retreats, whether through an all-together weeklong retreat or (as this one will be) a one-night-for-eight-weeks retreat. This is a big schedule commitment, but I think when it's right it's well worth it. If you'd like to talk with someone who has gone through the retreat, let me know and I can connect you. Otherwise, keep your ears and eyes peeled for more information, and simply ask the Lord if this is something He's inviting you to in this moment.

God bless you,
Father Joe



GET THEE BEHIND ME SATAN (RÉTIRE-TOI SATAN)
JAMES TISSOT (1836–1902)

AUGUST 30, 2026
22ND SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

Readings: Gather Hymnal #1155

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.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 30, 2026

Joint ABVM/St. Mary Picnic

Please join us on **Sunday, September 13 at 4 PM** for a **joint parish picnic!** Coon Valley and Viroqua will meet in the middle at **Esofea Park shelter off County Road B**. Bring your best potluck dish to pass and your own favorite beverages.

The shelter does have many picnic tables for a sit-down meal. *There is only one outlet, please don't count on access for slow cookers.* Esofea is lovely with a covered shelter, playground, two charcoal grills, a fire pit, hiking trails, nice bathrooms, and a little pond for fishing. Please come for some good old-fashioned fun and community building!

Provided: main proteins (pulled pork, hotdogs), paper plates, napkins, utensils, and s'mores fixings.

You bring: potluck dish/side/dessert to share with appropriate serving utensil, your own favorite beverages, camp chairs for around the fire, perhaps bug spray.

Religious Formation parent meeting & registration:

Please join us **after Mass in Marian Hall on Sunday, September 13th** for our parent information meeting for the year's religious education programs. We have *new family programming* this year, along with information and scheduling for our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and middle/high school programs. If your child is going to be receiving a new sacrament this year, your attendance is especially encouraged. Please reach out to Pat Obernberger if you have any questions.

Healing the Whole Person

Do you want to be healed, to know yourself better, and understand why you do the things you do? This 8 week program from the John Paul II Healing Center is for anyone desiring wholeness, freedom, and an encounter with a loving Creator. *If you're looking for a deeper understanding of God's love and the healing of your own story,* you'll fit right in. During this time, you'll begin a journey to **spiritual, physical, and emotional wholeness**—entering the sometimes-hidden places of the heart, facing pains and woundedness, and experiencing a deep encounter with the authentic healing love of Jesus Christ.

Dr. Bob Schuchts and Sr. Miram James Heidland, through an exclusive video series, will lead you on a journey to encounter Jesus like never before and allow Him to transform your wounds into avenues of grace and blessing. Sessions are on **Tuesdays evenings in Marian Hall at ABVM in Viroqua from 6:30 to roughly 8 pm starting September 29 and continuing October 6, 13, 27, November 3, 10, 17, 24.** This is more than just watching videos – which are beautiful in and of themselves - it includes a book to follow along and journal in, discussion groups as you desire, time with the Blessed Sacrament, and designated Confession, Adoration and prayer team evenings for your spiritual needs.

Cost is \$25 per person, please sign up in the gathering space and pay at the parish office in Viroqua (cash, or checks made out to Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish) or mail to ABVM at 400 Congress Ave., Viroqua, WI 54665. *Jenny Leum, ABVM parishioner, will facilitate with help from a caring and experienced team.* Questions - call ABVM parish office at 608-637-7711 or email Jenny at jenny@leum.com.

Final Call: Lectors & Extraordinary Ministers:

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 questions.

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS		FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS	
Kris Brueggen	Cathy Poshepny	Matt Bomkamp	Paul O'Rourke
Phyllis Krause	Jenny Leum	Melanie Halvorson	Dale Pertzborn
David Hall	Dcn. Tony Shay	Rhonda Kiedinger	
Aaron Kane	Dennis Vinger	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.	
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 .			

AUGUST 30, 2026

PARISH CALENDAR

Wednesday, September 2:

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

Friday, September 4:

First Friday Adoration following 12:15 Mass

Saturday, September 5:

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



CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD:

We will be starting our Montessori-based Early Childhood programming, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS), **the week of October 19th**. In very short form, the CGS is a place for children to encounter Our Lord through prayer and working with intentionally created materials made for their particular spiritual needs. Our options for this year are as follows:

Level 1 (3-6 y/o):

Mondays 9:00am-11:00am or

Thursdays 3:00pm-5:00pm

Level 2 (6-9 y/o):

Wednesdays 3:00pm-5:00pm

If a child is in school, and won't be able to make it to one of the 3:00-5:00 sessions until closer to 3:30, that is absolutely fine. The Lord can do wonderful things in just 1.5 hours! If you have any questions, or would like your child(ren) to attend, please contact Carly Zadow in the parish office, or at 608-792-4872.

Thank you, and God bless you!

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, August 29, 6:30 PM - Father Joe
For the People of ABVM, St. Mary's, St. Aloysius, & St. Jerome Parishes

Sunday, August 30, 10:30 AM - Father Joe
+ Carl P. & Margaret S. Simon (Joe Simon)

Wednesday, September 2, 5:15 PM - Father Joe
+ Mary Cowell (Angie Leis)

Friday, September 4, 12:10 PM - Father Emmanuel
Women of the Parish (PCCW)

Saturday, September 5, 6:30 PM - Father Emmanuel
+ Larry Cina (Jerry & Paula Cina)

Sunday, September 6, 10:30 AM - Father Emmanuel
+ Guy Nicks (Family of Guy Nicks)

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Sat., Sept. 5, 6:30 PM

Dennis Vinger	EM
Pat Biebl	Lector
Fisher Family	Servers

Sun., Sept. 6, 10:30 AM

Raven Stevenson	EM
Stephen Lambert	Lector
Stevenson Family	Servers

For sub requests, contact
bethlakmann@icloud.com.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of August 17-23, 2026
Needed weekly: \$5,800.00

Offertory: \$3,109.60
June E-gifts: \$2,514.85

Feast of the Assumption 8/10-8/23
(for the Works of Charity Account):
\$475.00

THANK YOU!

PLEASE NOTE:

The deadline for sending bulletin requests will now be **Thursdays at 2pm**. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to Carly in the parish office.

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.

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.



AUGUST 30, 2026

FROM THE CONFESSIONS OF ST. AUGUSTINE:

O eternal truth, true love and beloved eternity. You are my God. To you do I sigh day and night. When I first came to know you, you drew me to yourself so that I might see that there were things for me to see, but that I myself was not yet ready to see them. Meanwhile you overcame the weakness of my vision, sending forth most strongly the beams of your light, and I trembled at once with love and dread. I learned that I was in a region unlike yours and far distant from you, and I thought I heard your voice from on high: "I am the food of grown men; grow then, and you will feed on me. Nor will you change me into yourself like bodily food, but you will be changed into me."

I sought a way to gain the strength which I needed to enjoy you. But I did not find it until I embraced *the mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who is above all, God blessed for ever*. He was calling me and saying: *I am the way of truth, I am the life*. He was offering the food which I lacked the strength to take, the food he had mingled with our flesh. For *the Word became flesh*, that your wisdom, by which you created all things, might provide milk for us children.

Late have I loved you, O Beauty ever ancient, ever new, late have I loved you! You were within me, but I was outside, and it was there that I searched for you. In my unloveliness I plunged into the lovely things which you created. You were with me, but I was not with you. Created things kept me from you; yet if they had not been in you they would not have been at all. You called, you shouted, and you broke through my deafness. You flashed, you shone, and you dispelled my blindness. You breathed your fragrance on me; I drew in breath and now I pant for you. I have tasted you, now I hunger and thirst for more. You touched me, and I burned for your peace.

WESTBY LOCKER & MEATS

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



Kickapoo Counseling

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

info@kickapoo-counseling.com

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"OH GOD, YOU ARE MY GOD..." - PSALM 63:1A