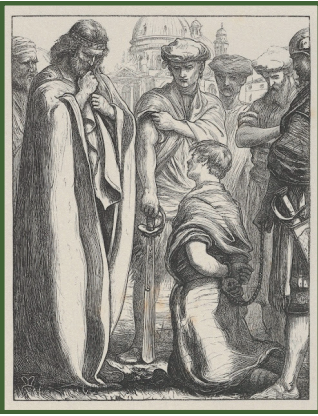


ANNUNCIATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY PARISH



THE UNMERCIFUL SERVANT
JOHN EVERETT MILLAIS (1829–1896)

Hello friends,

First, some business. I've mentioned over the last few weeks that we've got an exciting change coming this Sunday, with the beginning of Fr. Derek Sakowski's residence in Coon Valley! A month or two ago, Fr. Derek floated past me the idea of living here as his work shifts more to the institutional side of things at the Diocese. Without any judgment toward the priests living at the Center, I understand Fr. Sakowski's desire to live in a local parish – when my turn at the Diocese comes I imagine I'll have a similar desire. Anyway, I am simply excited that we're going to have another priest in our community here. Fr. Sakowski is not assigned to our parishes (that is, he's not given ministerial responsibility), but it's going to be a gift to me and to our

people in Viroqua and Coon Valley to have him present and to have that rectory well used. Please welcome him well, as I know you will, and also his Good Boy Stuart (a collie/Lassie), whom I have dog-sat and enjoy immensely.

Now a quick word on an encouraging, challenging passage from St. Paul this last Friday. We've been spending a lot of time in our daily Masses the last few weeks with his first letter to the Corinthians, and in last Friday's reading from Chapter 9 Paul is opening up his compelling, almost compulsive need to preach the Gospel: "If I preach the Gospel, this is no reason for me to boast, for an obligation has been imposed on me, and woe to me if I do not preach it!" This is certainly built into Paul, this inexorable, unstoppable quality – he's the kind of guy who wouldn't know what to do with a half-measure if it hit him in the face. Even before his conversion, what is Paul (Saul) doing? With his whole self, with his whole energy and wit and fervor he's going out on mission to hunt down those Christian upstarts and stand up for the Jewish community. Of course, he has this powerful encounter with Jesus that redirects his energy – Jesus doesn't change Paul's personality or motivation or zeal, He redirects it to the good.

Anyway, "woe to me if I do not preach it!" We need more of this awareness of the significance of Christ's mission, His commissioning of the Church to "go make disciples of all nations." Christianity has never been a matter of passive reception, of showing up, clocking in, clocking out. The Gospel, the Good News of new life in Jesus Christ, is something the Lord desires for each and every one of His people, an all-encompassing awareness, reception, and carrying of His immense love. In the Gospels, Jesus never intended for his disciples simply to receive – He drew them in and coached them up in order to send them out. Indeed even before He returns to the Father at the end of those four Stories He had already begun commissioning them, first to go to the lost sheep of the House of Israel (think there of our own fallen away/disinterested brothers and sisters), then finally to the whole world (think there of the work of overt evangelization). The Lord gives us a challenging mission to receive His grace and life and to carry it out with us. Praise God for the way He draws us into this work right alongside Him – we don't even need the zeal of Paul or the deep study of Peter (who spent three years of his life walking and living with the Master Himself), we simply need to listen for the Lord's "go here, to this person."

God bless you,
Father Joe

SEPTEMBER 13, 2026
23RD SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

Readings: Gather Hymnal #1161

Holy Mass

Saturdays 4:00pm Coon Valley
6:30pm Viroqua

Sundays 8:00am Coon Valley
10:30am Viroqua

Tuesdays 5:15pm Coon Valley

Wednesdays 5:15pm Viroqua

Thursdays 8:00am Coon Valley

Fridays 12:10pm Viroqua

Livestreaming Mass

www.facebook.com/StMarysCoonValley

Diocesan Televised Mass

Channel 19: Sunday, 9:30 AM, Livestream:
Diocesan Facebook page.

Confession

Saturdays 9:30-10:30am Viroqua
3:15-3:45pm Coon Valley
5:45-6:15pm Viroqua

Sundays 9:45-10:15am Viroqua

Wednesdays 5:45-6:30pm Viroqua

Baptism & Marriage

Contact our parish office for
information and scheduling.

Eucharistic Adoration

Saturdays 9:30-10:30am Viroqua

Tuesdays 4:30-5:00pm Coon Valley

Wednesdays 5:45-6:30pm Viroqua

First Fridays 12:45-1:30pm Viroqua

Rosary

30 minutes before all Masses

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.

Online Giving

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

Parish Office

400 Congress Avenue,
Viroqua, WI 54665

Website: www.stmaryviroqua.org

Office: 608-637-7711

Fax: (608) 299-372

HOURS:

MTWF: 9 AM-3 PM

Thursday: 11 AM-3 PM

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, musicedirector@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

SEPTEMBER 13, 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. Contact the Parish Office with any questions.

Movie Night in Coon Valley!

Join us for an **Outdoor Movie Night** at **St. Mary's Church!** Come enjoy pizza at **6:00 PM**, followed by the movie David at **6:30 PM** on **Friday, September 25th**. Bring your family, a lawn chair or blanket, and enjoy a fun evening together under the stars. *All are welcome!*

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 8pm** 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.

Please register on the sign-up sheet in the gathering space, by calling/emailing Viroqua's parish office, or email Jenny at jenny@leum.com. **Cost is \$25 per person**. Please 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.

Rural Life Day Sept. 23, 2026 - Creamery Creek in Bangor

Join us for the **45th Annual Rural Life Day Celebration** at **Creamery Creek**, hosted by the John and Donna Hansen family and the Justin and Louisa Peterson family. Rural Life Day is a beautiful event that brings together several hundred members of the faithful to honor rural life in our communities. Our celebration begins with **Mass at 10:00 AM**, celebrated by Bishop Gerard Battersby, together with many priests and deacons of the diocese. This is followed by special awards and the blessing of crops, animals, and machinery of the farm. We conclude our celebration with a delicious lunch and a freewill offering to benefit Project Milk. Creamery Creek is located at W1250 County Road U, Bangor, WI 54614.

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.

SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday, September 13:

During 10:30am Mass: **Brynlee Vesbach baptism**

After 10:30am Mass: **Parent Religious Education**

Info & Registration meeting - Marian Hall

4:00pm: **Shared Parish Picnic** - Esofea Park Shelter

Wednesday, September 16:

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

Saturday, September 19:

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



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, September 12, 6:30 PM - *Father Joe*
Women of the Parish (PCCW)

Sunday, September 13, 10:30 AM - *Father Joe*
+ **Jesse Moore** (Parker & Julie Moore)

Wednesday, September 16, 5:15 PM - *Father Joe*
Father Joseph Richards & Father Emmanuel Famiyeh

Friday, September 18, 12:10 PM - *Father Emmanuel*
+ **Larry Cina** (Jerry & Paula Cina)

Saturday, September 19, 6:30 PM - *Father Emmanuel*
Bishop Gerard Battersby

Sunday, September 20, 10:30 AM - *Father Emmanuel*
+ **Carl P. & Margaret Simon** (Joseph Simon)

FALL DINNER: SAVE THE DATE & OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE OUR PARISH

Fall Dinner is fast approaching! The date is set for Wednesday, October 21st. Please prayerfully consider how you and your family could use your gifts to contribute to this community-building, faith-sharing, and friendship-forming event. We are in need of many generous hearts who are willing to serve our parish in both large and small ways for this event.

Be on the lookout for sign-up sheets in the weeks ahead! Contact the office or Julie Moore with any questions!

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 available sessions for the year:

Level 1 (3-6 y/o):

Mondays 9:00am-11:00am (Viroqua)
3:30pm-5:00pm (Genoa)

Thursdays 3:00pm-5:00pm (Viroqua)

Level 2 (6-9 y/o):

Wednesdays 3:00pm-5:00pm (Viroqua)

If a child is in school and won't be able to make it to a 3:00-5:00 session until closer to 3:30, that is just fine. The Lord can do wonderful things in 1.5 hours! If you have questions or would like your child(ren) to attend, contact Carly in the office, at cgs@abvmviroqua.diocparish.org, or at 608-792-4872. God bless you!

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Sat., Sept. 19, 6:30 PM

Gladys Jacobson	EM
Mark Brueggen	Lector
Fisher Family	Servers

Sun., Sept. 20, 10:30 AM

Dcn. Tony Shay	EM
Al Mislivecek	Lector
Scoville Family	Servers

For sub requests, contact
bethlakmann@icloud.com.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of Aug. 31-Sept. 6, 2026
Offeratory needed weekly: \$5,800.00

Offeratory: \$4,909.00
June E-gifts: \$2,514.85

THANK YOU!

RELIGIOUS FORMATION PARENT INFO/REGISTRATION MEETING:

Please join us **after Mass** in **Marian Hall** this **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 with any questions.

SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

ADVANCE CARE PLANNING WORKSHOPS

If you could not speak for yourself, who would you want to make medical decisions for you? What would you want this person to know about your healthcare goals and values? Life is so unpredictable. We never know when an illness or injury will occur. That is why it is extremely important to plan and write your wishes down. An Advance Directive is a legal document that allows you to designate a person to make your healthcare decisions, only if you cannot make them yourself! It allows you to include specific medical treatment options and instructions for your end-of-life care. In collaboration, St. Mary's and The Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary churches will host two free Advance Care Planning Workshops. These workshops will also address Catholic beliefs and assist you in updating or creating your own Advance Care Plan.

Date: Thursday, October 1st, 2026

Time: 3:00-5:00 pm

Location: St. Mary's Catholic Church
900 Central Avenue, Coon Valley, Wisconsin

-OR-

Date: Thursday, October 8th, 2026

Time: 5:00-7:00 pm

Location: Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
400 Congress Avenue, Viroqua, Wisconsin

Pre-registration is encouraged by calling 608-637-7711. You may also register by email to: stmaryparish@mwt.net. Please include your name(s), telephone number and which session you will be attending. Please feel free to invite others. Walk-ins will be welcomed.

LOOKING FOR A CATHOLIC MENTAL HEALTH THERAPIST? FIND ONE AT WICCT.ORG

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



Kickapoo Counseling

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

info@kickapoo-counseling.com

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CROWNS YOU WITH KINDNESS AND COMPASSION." - PSALM 103:4