

ANNUNCIATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY PARISH

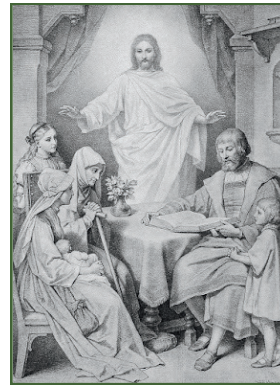
Hello friends,

Allow me to go through some reflective ramblings this weekend. At this last Wednesday's daily Mass we had one of my favorite Saint Paul readings, from the first letter to the Corinthians, Chapter Three. The Church in Corinth was already one of the first really successful church-plants (modern terminology), and since there is nothing new under the sun, the established community there was experiencing established community problems. Some of the initial excitement and fervor of a new community and encounter with the Lord had perhaps died back a bit, and now the people were facing a series of challenges. Eventually Saint Paul calls out particular sins needing particular attention, but to begin he calls out the rivalries and jealousies arising within the community – there's a Disciple (follower) of Paul camp and a Disciple of Apollos camp, and they've been going at each other. One of Paul's main messages here comes down to a simple "just stop. I did the work Jesus set out for me. Apollos did the work Jesus set out for him. We were just doing the work Jesus set out for each of us." Anyway, let's hear from the man himself:

"Brothers and sisters," he says, "I could not talk to you as spiritual people, but as fleshly people, as infants in Christ. I fed you milk, not solid food, because you were unable to take it. Indeed, you are still not able, even now, for you are still of the flesh. While there is jealousy and rivalry among you, are you not of the flesh, and walking according to the manner of man? Whenever someone says, 'I belong to Paul,' and another, 'I belong to Apollos,' are you not merely men? What is Apollos, after all, and what is Paul? Ministers through whom you became believers, just as the Lord assigned each one. I planted, Apollos watered, but God caused the growth. Therefore, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who causes the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive wages in proportion to his labor. For we are God's co-workers, you are God's field, God's building."

One of the things they don't teach us in seminary is how to serve the particular communities we are going out to – indeed when we're in seminary not even the Church knows which churches each seminarian will serve over the next thirty-seven years. Mundelein certainly didn't know I'd be in Hillsboro and Coon Valley in 2026, so they couldn't be expected to say to me then, "Joe, these are the needs and concerns you'll be facing in eight years." Just so, Paul and Apollos didn't know three months before Paul's letter what needs they'd be facing in three months from the Church in Corinth, but when the need arose Paul arose with the Holy Spirit to address it. This is the same thing the Lord asks of you and me, whether we're regulars at Wonewoc or Viroqua or coming in from the other side of the state – A) to be disciples of Jesus Christ, B) to remember that the person across from us is called to be a disciple of Jesus Christ, and C) to respond to the Holy Spirit in this present moment as He invites us each to respond in this present moment.

God bless you,
Father Joe



WHERE TWO OR THREE ARE
GATHERED IN MY NAME
HEINRICH HOFMANN (1893)

SEPTEMBER 6, 2026
23RD SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

Readings: Gather Hymnal #1158

Eucharist

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

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

Tuesdays 5:15 PM Coon Valley

Wednesdays 5:15 PM Viroqua

Thursdays 8:00 AM Coon Valley

Fridays 12:10 PM Viroqua

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 in Viroqua
Benediction at 1:30 PM;

Tuesdays: 4:30 PM in Coon Valley
Wednesdays: after Mass in Viroqua
Benediction at 6:30 PM

Saturdays: 9:30 AM in Viroqua

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, 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 6, 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.

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 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.diocleparish.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 6, 2026

PARISH CALENDAR

Monday, September 7:

Parish Office Closed for Labor Day

Wednesday, September 9:

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

Saturday, September 12:

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

9:30am-11:30am: **Well Read Mom:** Sitting Room

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

MASS INTENTIONS

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)

Wednesday, September 9, 5:15 PM - *Father Joe*
+ Father Larry Mayer (Veronica Tresner)

Friday, September 11, 12:10 PM - *Father Emmanuel*
+ Debra Skildum (Angie Leis)

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)

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) or

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. Thank you, and may God bless you!

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Sat., Sept. 12, 6:30 PM

Dcn. Tony Shay EM
Amy Matthes Lector
Fisher Family Servers

Sun., Sept. 13, 10:30 AM

Kyle Prorok EM
Melanie Halvorson Lector
Kimmel Family Servers

For sub requests, contact
bethlakmann@icloud.com.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of August 24-30, 2026
Offeratory needed weekly: \$5,800.00

Offertory: \$3,419.25
June E-gifts: \$2,514.85

Feast of the Assumption
(for the Works of Charity Account):
\$25.00

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 Kimmel at (608) 444-6844 or rjkimmel@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.



SEPTEMBER 6, 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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meatsusa@mwt.net
608-634-4515



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



Kickapoo Counseling

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"OWE NOTHING TO ANYONE, EXCEPT TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER;
FOR THE ONE WHO LOVES ANOTHER HAS FULFILLED THE LAW." - ROMANS 13:8