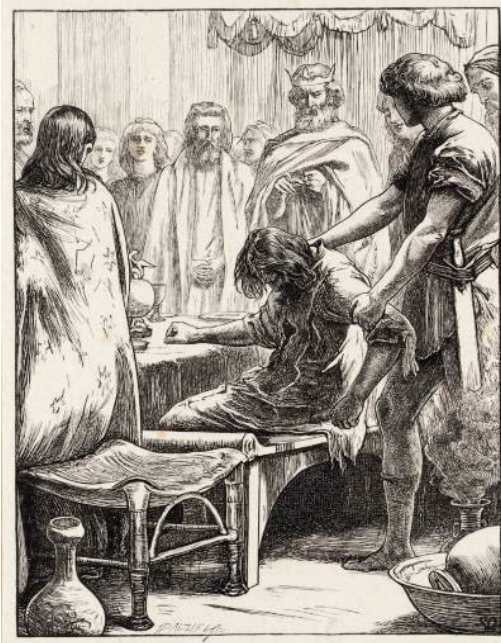


ANNUNCIATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY PARISH



THE MARRIAGE FEAST
JOHN EVERETT MILLAIS (1829-1896)

Hello friends,

I seem to have a penchant for saints named varieties of Theresa – Thérèse of Lisieux, Mother Teresa, Teresa of Ávila, there's a theme here. All three of these saints celebrate their feasts within a month and a half, starting with Mother Teresa back on September 5, Thérèse on October 1, and now Teresa of Ávila this coming Thursday. There's an even deeper connection in their names, with Thérèse receiving her name (Mary Françoise-Thérèse) first from her parents in honor of Teresa of Ávila and then keeping the name Thérèse upon entering religious life herself fifteen years later; Anjezë Bojaxhiu (Mother Teresa) choosing the religious name "Teresa" in honor of Thérèse when she joined the Sisters of Loreto (and keeping the name when she later started the Missionaries of Charity). In a tangible sense Teresa of Ávila

inspired these two Greats (among so many) with her wholehearted, single-minded receptivity to the Lord. Teresa (or Theresa) of Ávila was a Carmelite nun back in the sixteenth century – an important century in the Church. This was when the major movements of the Protestant Reformation were unfolding, European countries were starting to expand in earnest throughout the world carrying each their country's denominational affiliation, and the millennium-long "Middle Ages" was giving way to the Renaissance. Teresa was around in a time of massive change and paradigm shifting. When she first entered the Carmelites against her aristocratic family's wishes, she was remarkable in her charisma and zeal. The Carmelites themselves are known for their rigor and simplification (detachment) to make room for full, unimpeded attachment to Christ, but when Teresa joined up they had grown (to put it way too shortly) sloppy. She entered into a lifelong mission of reforming the Carmelites to bring them back to their roots, and suffered tremendously in this work. Much like her centuries-later protégé Thérèse with her *Story of a Soul*, St. Teresa gifted the world with her magnum opus *The Interior Castle* only as an act of obedience, and I would raise an argument that this work (along that of another protégé John of the Cross) set the tone for Catholic spirituality over the last five hundred years.

Anyway, I'd like to share a word from Teresa of Ávila that Mother Teresa loved to recall, for your reflection: "Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours, yours are the eyes through which to look out, Christ's compassion to the world. Yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good; yours are the hands with which He is to bless men now."

God bless you,
Father Joe

OCTOBER 11, 2026
28TH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

Readings: Gather Hymnal #1173

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

OCTOBER 11, 2026

Please extend condolences to the family of Melissa Weigel who passed away October 4, 2025. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Saturday, October 17th at 10:00 AM at the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish. The visitation will be held on Friday, October 16th, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Vosseteig-Larson Funeral Home in Viroqua. An additional visitation will be held Saturday at the church from 9:00 a.m. until the time of the Mass. Burial will follow in the Viola Cemetery, and a luncheon will be held at the church following the burial. May she rest in peace.

Mass for Infant Loss

On **Friday, November 13th**, we will be offering a memorial Mass for children lost from conception through infancy at **6:00pm here in Viroqua**. The Mass will be followed by an hour of Adoration with prayer teams and confessions available, with a soup dinner to conclude the evening down in Marian Hall. This will be a time set apart to remember and pray for the little lives lost to miscarriage, abortion, stillbirth, or any other cause of early child loss. It also will provide a space to properly grieve the loss of these little lives.

All are warmly welcome, whether you have personally lost a child, grandchild, niece/nephew, or friend, or you simply would like to support and pray for those who have experienced this kind of loss. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to either Father Joe, or Carly Zadow at 608-792-4872.

Fall Dinner - Help Still Needed!

Our annual Fall Dinner this year is on **Wednesday, October 21st** from **4-7pm** down in Marian Hall! There are still many opportunities to serve open for your consideration. Please check out the sign up sheets in the Gathering Space to see what's available. Please also consider inviting your friends outside the parish to join us for dinner!

La Crosse Does vs. Diocesan Padres - Granny Basketball Exhibition Game

Don't Miss the Fun - the Granny Basketball Exhibition Game is back, and it's sure to be a rocking good time! (Literally... there's a penalty rocking chair.) Doors open at **6:00pm** at **Aquinas High School** on **Monday, October 26th**. The Granny team is lacing up their orthopedic sneakers to take on the brave (and slightly confused) Diocesan Padres — who'll be playing under strict 1923 rules: no running, no jumping, and... yes, they're wearing oven mitts. Come watch your favorite priests (*including our neighboring priest, Father Reither, from down in Genoa!*) try to keep it holy on the court while trying very hard not to travel, jump, or foul out (and if they do, it's straight to the time-out rocking chair!). Entry is a free-will donation, and all donations at the door **support the children of Casa Hogar Juan Pablo II in Peru**. Last year, we raised \$4,000... let's beat that with grace, grit, and granny hook shots!

La Crosse's All Souls Day Stations of the Cross

At **12:00pm** on **Monday, November 2**, All Souls Day Stations of the Cross for the Holy Souls in Purgatory will be held in the **Catholic Cemetery on Losey Blvd, La Crosse**. Come and pray the Stations for all the Poor Souls in Purgatory.

Raffle Tickets for the Fall Dinner

Turkey dinner raffle tickets are available for pickup or purchase in the atrium. Here is how it works!

1. Pickup the tickets
2. Bring back the money and the stubs.
3. Wait with the patience of a good Catholic until October 21st for the drawing

In the meantime, check out the list of the great charities that benefit from your generosity!

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.

OCTOBER 11, 2026

PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday, October 11:

9:00-10:15am: **Altaration (Middle School Formation)**
- Pie Room

11:45am-1:00pm: **First Reconciliation Prep**
- Sitting Room

Monday, October 12:

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED - Fran on PTO

Tuesday, October 13:

6:30-8:30pm: **Healing the Whole Person** - Marian
Hall & Church

Wednesday, October 14:

10:00am-12:00pm: **St. Mary's Quilters** - Marian Hall
6:30pm: **Finance Council** - Parish Library

Thursday, October 15:

5:15pm: **Pastoral Council** - Sitting Room

Saturday, October 17:

9:00-10:00am: **Visitation for Melissa Weigel**
10:00am: **Funeral Mass for Melissa Weigel** - Burial
and Luncheon to follow
10:00am-12:00pm: **Girls Bible Study** - Confirmation
Room

Sunday, October 18:

9:00-10:15am:

Altaration (Middle School Formation) - Pie Room
Decision Point (9th Grade Formation) - Sitting Room
Confirmation - Confirmation Room in Basement

11:45am-1:00pm: **First Reconciliation Prep**
- Sitting Room

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, October 10, 6:30 PM - *Father Honoré Kombo*
+ **Anna Mae Krause** (Veronica Tressner)

Sunday, October 11, 10:30 AM - *Father Douglas Robertson*
+ **Barbara Vesbach** (Roger & Joyce Humfeld)

Wednesday, October 14, 5:15 PM - *Father Joe*
+ **Ralph JaDoul** (Joan Elsing)

Friday, October 16, NO MASS

Saturday, October 17, 6:30 PM - *Father Joe*
+ **Ambrose Timmerman** (Timmerman Family)

Sunday, October 18, 10:30 AM - *Father Joe*
+ **Carl P. & Margaret S. Simon** (Joe Simon)

FINANCIAL REPORT

Offeratory needed weekly:
\$5,800.00

Sept. 28-Oct. 4, 2026

Offeratory: \$4,340.13
July E-gifts: \$2,531.59

THANK YOU!

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Sat., Oct. 17, 6:30 PM

Gladys Jacobson	EM
Amy Matthes	Lector
Simon King	Server

Sun., Oct. 18, 10:30 AM

Dcn. Tony Shay	EM
Stephen Lambert	Lector
Miriam Berg & Alice Kane	Servers

For sub requests, contact
bethlakmann@icloud.com

“Have great confidence, for it is necessary not to hold back one’s desires, but to believe in God that if we try we shall little by little, even though it may not be soon, reach the state the saints did with His help. For if they had never determined to desire and seek this state little by little in practice they would never have mounted so high. His Majesty wants this determination, and He is a friend of courageous souls if they walk in humility and without trusting in self. I have not seen any cowardly soul or any of these who under the pretext of humility remain along the bottom of this path who do not take many years to advance as far as these courageous ones do in a few. I marvel at how important it is to be courageous in striving for great things along this path.”

The Life of St. Teresa of Avila (an autobiography)



ST. TERESA OF AVILA
MEMORIAL ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15TH

OCTOBER 11, 2026

52 Churches: A Yearlong Journey Encountering God, His Church, and our Common Faith By Peter DeHaan

This title was not written by a Catholic author, nor was it printed by a Catholic publisher...yet, here it is in our parish library! As I read it, I did find myself hoping for more, but the underlying message that I continued to "hear" as I read this book is this: Welcoming visitors is not optional and it is not the responsibility of any one person or group. It is everyone's responsibility to welcome those who join us in worship....everyone! There is more than one way to make others feel they are welcomed. I suspect the Catholic Church has a greater percentage of visitors than most any other denomination. Sunday Mass is not "optional" for the practicing Catholic! How often have you been travelling and searched for the nearest Catholic Church? After successfully navigating the unfamiliar community via your GPS, you then enter the unfamiliar building and unfamiliar congregation and work your way to the pew that is located in the most familiar area of the church. For our family, that is the right side, about 5 rows from the front! Did someone greet you, or extend a hand, try to start a conversation or simply smile at you?

The author and his wife attended a different church every Sunday for 52 consecutive weeks. Each church visit has a chapter that describes their experience at the 52 different churches and church services. The book is a collection of 52 different stories of imperfect humans gathering in the name of a perfect God! This title can be found on the Miscellaneous Interest shelf in our library collection.

Tom Leis, Parish Librarian

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

WESTBY LOCKER & MEATS

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



LAND AND LEGACY LAW, LLC

Estate Planning · Real Estate · Business Formation

Aaron S. Kane

Attorney at Law
124 W Court St., Viroqua, WI 54665
aaron@landandlegacylaw.com

(608) 804-7117

www.landandlegacylaw.com



R&J's HONEY FARM

S2676 Haugen Ln.
Westby, WI 54667
608-634-4059 (home)
608-606-0832 (cell)
rjhoneyfarm@hotmail.com



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

info@kickapoo-counseling.com



Roth Family
Cremation Center
and Funeral Services

Personalized Dental Care For The Entire Family!



Lecanne Klum, D.D.S.

NEW PATIENTS ALWAYS WELCOME



637-2655
1225 Favor Drive
Viroqua



Dan Kiedinger



Oakwood Realty LLC

608-606-5344
dan@oakwoodrealty.com

Let me help you sell your home, farm, or vacant land.

CURTIS LAW
www.lacrosslaw.com

Estate Planning, Probate, Trust, and Litigation
608-784-1605; Scott@lacrosslaw.com

Vosseteig
Funeral Home and Crematory
FUNERALS • CREMATIONS • RECEPTIONS

Effinger Equipment

SALES AND SERVICE
800 N. Main Street Viroqua, Wisconsin
608-637-7594
Complete Line of Outdoor Power Products
CLIPPER BCS KOHLER STIHL SNAPPER U-HAUL Rentals

David Hall
Auctioneer - Lic. # 4007-52
koch@mwt.net 608-632-4194

S3109 Prairie Edge Rd
Westby, WI 54667



KINDNESS
COUNTS LLC

I CAN DO ALL THINGS IN HIM WHO STRENGTHENS ME. STILL, IT WAS KIND OF YOU TO SHARE IN MY DISTRESS. MY GOD WILL FULLY SUPPLY WHATEVER YOU NEED, IN ACCORD WITH HIS GLORIOUS RICHES IN CHRIST JESUS. - PHILLIPIANS 4: 8