

ANNUNCIATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY PARISH

Hello friends,

Over the last few weeks we've certainly been experiencing the change of seasons – between leaves dropping, temperatures swinging up and down, what looks like some freezing for this weekend, things are changing. My family moved out to Wisconsin from Northern California back in 2000, and one of the differences I enjoy out here is this crystal clear change from summer to autumn to winter to spring – it lets us know the earth is alive and one day is not the same as the last or the next. For my part, I spent a rainy Thursday afternoon on a hike to take it all in (and test some rain gear) and gather some acorns for my now annual attempt to grow a few oaks from seed (any year now).

Another seasonal change has been affecting my own schedule – funerals and baptisms. It's an anomaly that for the first several months since starting in Hillsboro and Wonewoc, Fr. Emmanuel and I haven't had any funerals in the East or West. This has been changing too, as of a few weeks ago – this part of our parish life cycle has been picking up in turn. Part of this does anecdotally seem to be the typical case – funeral homes and churches alike seem to agree that end-of-life care and funerals come in waves, more heavily through the fall and winter, tapering in the spring and summer. Just so, we've got a seasonal increase in births and baptisms – at the same time that we accompany people through loss, we also walk with people through the welcome of new life. In short, seasons of change come and go, and the Lord is with us in it all.

This sense of seasonality is one of my favorite parts of the Church's life as well. For another month or so Fr. Emmanuel and I are decked out in the green of Ordinary Time, that reflection of vegetative, slow and steady growth, then we change into the violet of Advent in all its watchful expectancy. Advent gives way to Christmas, Christmas back to Ordinary Time, then we're back into the movement of Lent to Easter – the very God who gives us the seasons of the year is the same to stir within us through the life of the Church here on Earth, and He certainly knows how to bring all the parts of our lives into integrity with each other. In all this, His simple invitation is for us to abide with Him in the present moment – when things are pleasant, fruitful, smooth, when things are unpleasant, difficult, beset by hurt or grief, He is in each moment. That simple "Come Holy Spirit" is a powerful way for us to invite Him in, or more properly to place ourselves where He already is.

God bless you,
Father Joe



THE TRIBUTE MONEY
JAMES TISSOT (1836–1902)

OCTOBER 18, 2026
29TH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

Readings: Gather Hymnal #1176

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 18, 2026

FALL DINNER

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. ***We are in great need of heavy lifters!*** Invite your friends to join us for this amazing evening!

Mass for Infant Loss

On **Friday, November 13th**, we will be offering a memorial Mass for children lost anytime 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.

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.

Surviving the Holidays

Grief can seem overwhelming, especially during the holiday season. What was once a joyous time is now dimmed by emotional pain caused by the loss of a loved one, (no matter how long they have been gone)! At Surviving the Holidays, we will discuss things like; How to prepare for hard hitting emotions, what to do about holiday traditions, and handling holiday social events and uncomfortable or awkward interactions. Please join us for this special 2-hour event which provides encouragement, support, and valuable tools to navigate grief throughout the holiday season.

Date: Monday, November 9th, 2026

Time: 5:00 to 7:00 pm

Place: Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

To register, contact the parish office at 608-637-7711 or office@abvmviroqua.diocparish.org, or register online at griefshare.org/holidays. Please feel free to invite others! Walk-ins will be welcomed.

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 18, 2026

PARISH CALENDAR

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** - Sitting Room

Monday, October 19:

9:00-11:00am: **CGS Level 1** - CGS Atrium

Wednesday, October 21:

12:10pm: **Mass** (No Adoration or Confessions)

3:00-5:00pm: **CGS Level 2** - CGS Atrium

4:00-7:00pm: **Fall Dinner** - Marian Hall

Thursday, October 22:

3:00-5:00pm: **CGS Level 1** - CGS Atrium

Saturday, October 24:

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

Sunday, October 25:

9:00-10:15am: **Altaration** - Pie Room

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

GOD IS CALLING

November is **Vocation Awareness Month**, and we are excited to launch the **Traveling Vocation Crucifix Program** starting **November 8th!**

This program is an opportunity for families, couples, or individuals to host a blessed crucifix in their homes for one week to pray specifically for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

How it works:

1. **Pick up:** Receive the crucifix and materials at the end of Sunday Mass in the Gathering Space.
2. **At Home:** Gather daily as a family or individual to pray for vocations (a prayer guide is included with the crucifix)
3. **Return:** Bring the crucifix back to the Gathering Space the following Sunday before Mass to it can be passed on to the next home.

A sign up sheet will be available in the Gathering Space. While you are there, be sure to take a look at our *Vocation Awareness display, which will be featured throughout November!*

MASS INTENTIONS

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)

Wednesday, October 21, 12:10 PM - *Father Joe*

Father Joseph Richards

Friday, October 23, NO MASS

Saturday, October 24, 6:30 PM - *Father Derek Sakowski*

+ **Ralph JaDoul** (Joan Elsing)

Sunday, October 25, 10:30 AM - *Father Derek Sakowski*

+ **Johnnie Johnson** (Parker & Julie Moore)

FINANCIAL REPORT

Offeratory needed weekly:
\$5,800.00

Oct. 5-11, 2026

Offertory: \$2,797.00
July E-gifts: \$2,531.59

THANK YOU!

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Sat., Oct. 24, 6:30 PM

Dcn. Tony Shay	EM
Dan Kiedinger	Lector
Fisher Family	Server

Sun., Oct. 25, 10:30 AM

Dcn. Tony Shay	EM
Megan Prorok	Lector
Logan Curti	Server

For sub requests, contact
bethlakmann@icloud.com



POPE SAINT JOHN PAUL II
MEMORIAL: OCTOBER 22ND

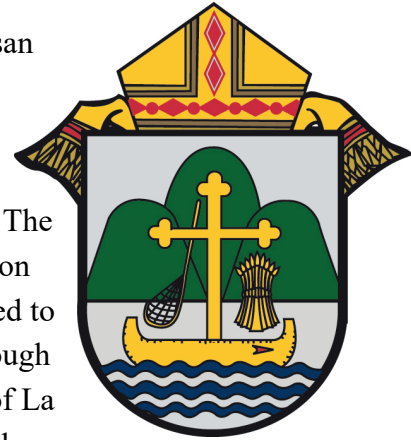
“Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ: openness to the Lord – a willingness to let the Lord transform our lives – should produce a renewed spiritual and missionary vitality among American Catholics. Jesus Christ is the answer to the question posed by every human life, and the love of Christ compels us to share that great good news with everyone. We believe that the Death and Resurrection of Christ reveal the true meaning of human existence; therefore nothing that is genuinely human fails to find an echo in our hearts. Christ died for all, so we must be at the service of all. “The Spirit God has given us is no cowardly spirit... Therefore, never be ashamed of your testimony to our Lord” (2Tm. 1: 7-8). Thus wrote Saint Paul to Timothy, almost two thousand years ago; thus speaks the Church to American Catholics today. Christian witness takes different forms at different moments in the life of a nation. Sometimes, witnessing to Christ will mean drawing out of a culture the full meaning of its noblest intentions, a fullness that is revealed in Christ. At other times, witnessing to Christ means challenging that culture, especially when the truth about the human person is under assault.”

-John Paul II's homily on Oct. 8, 1995 at Camden Yards, Baltimore

OCTOBER 18, 2026

DIOCESE OF LA CROSSE GUIDELINES FOR REPORTING INSTANCES OF CHILD ABUSE:

The Diocese of La Crosse, through its policies and procedures, seeks to provide a prompt, appropriate and compassionate response to reporters of sexual abuse of a child by any diocesan agent (bishop, priest, deacon, employee, religious, vendor or volunteer). Anyone wishing to make a report of an allegation of sexual abuse should send that report to Mrs. Teresa Brown, Complaint Intake Agent, at the Diocese of La Crosse, P.O. Box 4004, La Crosse, WI 54602-4004. Alternatively, you can contact Mrs. Brown at 608.791.0179 or intakeagent@diolc.org. The reporting form is available through the Diocese of La Crosse Office of Safe Environment or on the diocesan website at: diolc.org/safe-environment/reporting. Individuals are also encouraged to take their reports directly to civil authorities. Copies of the diocesan policy are available through your local parish and on the diocesan website. If you have any questions about the Diocese of La Crosse and the implementation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, please contact Teresa Brown, Diocese of La Crosse, at 608.791.2679 or tbrown@diolc.org.



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Lecanne Klum, D.D.S.

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"FOR OUR GOSPEL DID NOT COME TO YOU IN WORD ALONE, BUT ALSO IN POWER AND IN THE HOLY SPIRIT AND WITH MUCH CONVICTION."

- 1 THESSALONIANS 1: 5B