

# St. Mary Parish

900 Central Ave, Coon Valley, WI 54623

**Fr. Joe Richards, Pastor | Dcn. Tony Shay**

February 22, 2025 | First Sunday of Lent | Reading 502A

## CONNECT WITH US

### PASTOR

**Rectory:** 400 Congress Ave.  
Viroqua, WI 54665

**Cell Phone:** 608-606-9787

**Email:** jrichards@diolclergy.org

### Office Hours in the Sacristy

Tuesday 1:00pm until Mass

Thursdays after Mass until noon or by appointment

### DEACON

**Email:** ashay@diolclergy.org

### Parish Phone

608-452-3841

### Mailing Address

904 Central Ave  
Coon Valley, WI 54623

### Email

stmaryscv@mwt.net

### Website

www.stmaryscv.org

### Social Media

www.facebook.com/StMarysCoonValley

### Bulletins

*Bulletin Deadline: Monday, 6 days prior*

### Parish Office Hours

Varies - most Wednesdays, Thursday morning and most Fridays

## MASS SCHEDULE

### Weekend Masses

Saturday | 4:00pm

Sunday | 8:00am\*

*\*Livestreamed on our Facebook page*

### Weekday Masses

Tuesday | 5:15pm

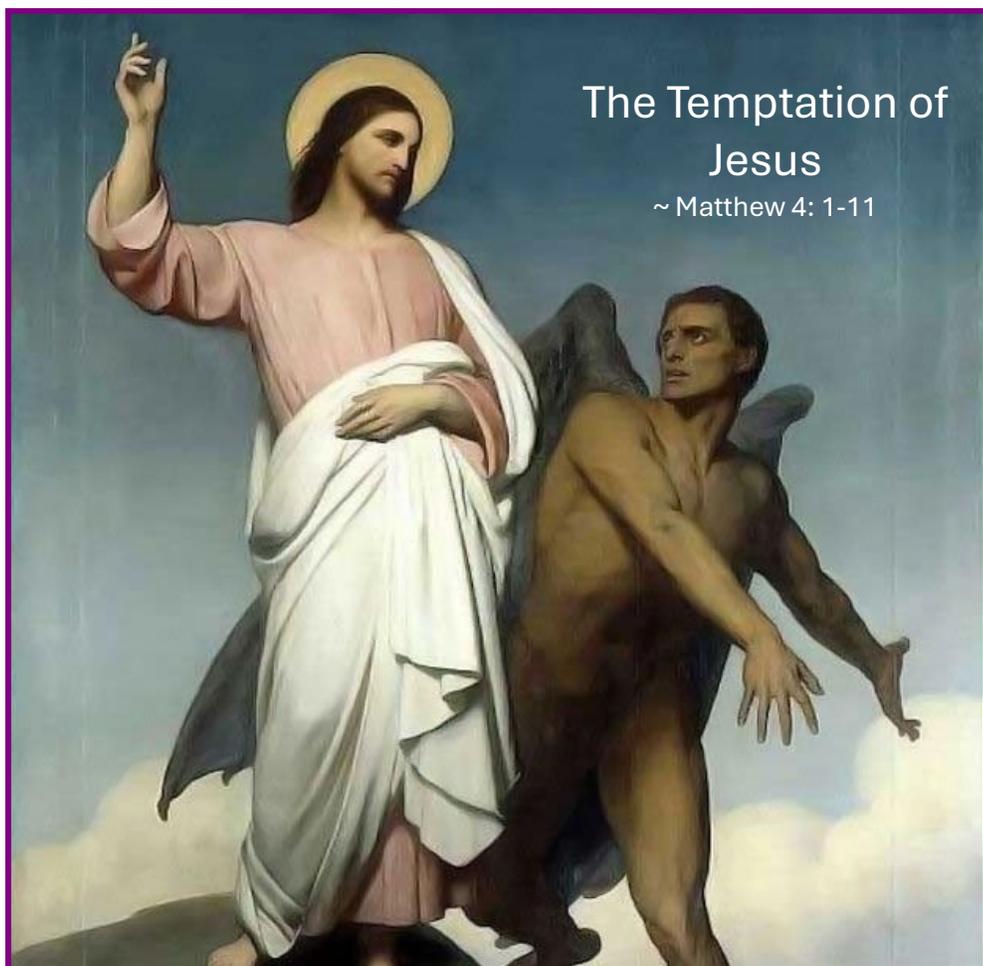
Thursday | 8:00am

### Confession

Saturday | 3:30pm - 3:45pm

### Devotions

**Adoration** Tuesday | 4:30pm



## The Temptation of Jesus

~ Matthew 4: 1-11

### Administrative Assistant

Amy Stafslie 608-452-3841  
stmaryscv@mwt.net

### Coordinator of Religious Education

Bridget Goodwin  
bladams50@gmail.com

### Parish Finance Council

Mary Gajewski, John Mislivecek,  
Nancy Peters (Secretary), and John  
Roesler (Buildings and Grounds)

### Parish Pastoral Council

Ryan Goodwin, Marlene Humfeld, Sue  
Humfeld, Robert Kerska, Lori Pedretti  
and Steve Schulte

### PCCW (Parish Council of Catholic Women)

Clarice Kammel (President), Nancy  
Peters (Treasurer), Linda Berg (Secretary)

### Musicians

Mary Beth Smith 608-632-9548  
Linda Schulte 608-397-3643  
Chris Carskadon 608-790-4495

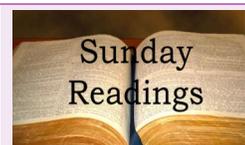
### Fr. Joe also serving:

### Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Viroqua

Mass Times:

Weekend: Saturday 6:30pm  
Sunday 10:30am

Weekday: Wed - 5:15 pm  
Fri - 8:00am



**February 22, 2026**  
 1) Genesis 2:7-9 3:1-7  
 2) Romans 5:1-3-4, 5-6, 12-13  
 3) Matthew 4:1-11

**Intentions / Schedule**

**SATURDAY, February 21**

First Sunday of Lent

- 4:00pm Mass - For the People  
 Altar Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers  
 Lector: Robert Kerska

**SUNDAY, February 22**

First Sunday of Lent

-8:00am Mass - Bob and Leona Welsh  
 Altar Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers  
 Lector: Marlene Humfeld

Money Counters: Loree Nickelotti and Curt Horman

**TUESDAY, February 24**

Lenten Weekday

- 4:30pm Adoration  
 - 5:15pm Stations of the Cross followed by Mass  
 - Mass - † Ursula Werner

**THURSDAY, February 26**

Lent Weekday

- 8:00am Mass - The most forgotten souls

**SATURDAY, February 28**

Second Sunday of Lent

- 4:00pm Mass - † Edwin and Anna Sedevie  
 Altar Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers  
 Lector: Jeana Lejeune

**SUNDAY, March 01**

Second Sunday of Lent

-8:00am Mass - George Fleming and Families  
 (living and deceased)  
 Altar Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers  
 Lector: Volunteer

Money Counters: Steve Grabowski and Bernie Roesler

**Upcoming Events/Calendar**

- **Feb 22** ~ Encounter Class (middle school) 9-10:15 in Viroqua  
 ~ Discussion of Fratelli Tutti 11:45AM-1PM in Viroqua
- **Feb 24** ~ Adoration at 4:30 PM, *Stations of the Cross* at 5:15 PM followed by Mass
- **Feb 25** ~ Community Dinner at CV Lutheran Church all are welcome to attend, 5-6:30 PM We are cohosting!
- **Feb 26** ~ Discussion of Fratelli Tutti 6:30-8 PM in Viroqua
- **Mar 1** ~ Rel. Ed (FoF) after 10:30 AM Mass in Viroqua  
 ~ Discussion of Fratelli Tutti 11:45AM-1PM in Viroqua  
 ~ 1st Communion class 11:45AM-12:45PM in Viroqua
- **Mar 3** ~ Adoration at 4:30 PM, *Stations of the Cross* at 5:15 PM followed by Mass
- **Mar 5** ~ Discussion of Fratelli Tutti 6:30-8 PM in Viroqua
- **Mar 8** ~ Daylight Savings begins at 2:00 AM  
 ~ Encounter Class (middle school) 9-10:15 in Viroqua  
 ~ 1st Communion class 11:45AM-12:45PM in Viroqua  
 ~ Discussion of Fratelli Tutti 11:45AM-1PM in Viroqua
- **Mar 10** ~ Adoration at 4:30 PM, *Stations of the Cross* at 5:15 PM followed by Mass
- **Mar 12** ~ Coffee and Fellowship after 8 AM Mass  
 ~ Discussion of Fratelli Tutti 6:30-8 PM in Viroqua
- **Mar 13** ~ **John Ritter** visitation at Seland Funeral Home 4-7 PM, with prayer service at 7 PM.
- **Mar 15** ~ Parish Social after Mass by the St. Rose Guild  
 ~ 1st Communion class 11:45AM-12:45PM in Viroqua
- **Mar 15-20** ~ Fr. Joe on PTO - No weekday Masses

**Mass Intentions**

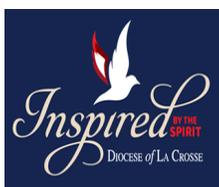
Below are open dates for the next few months.

**Open Sat. and Sun. dates:** Apr 18, & 26. May 2 or 3, 16, 17, 24, 30 & 31. Jun 20 or 21, & 29.

**Open Weekdays:** Apr 2, 9, 16, 23, & 28. May 5, 7, 12, 19, 26 and 28. Jun 2, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25, & 30.



Request a specific date by filling out an intention envelope or by emailing the office. Suggested stipend amount is \$20 per Mass. If you have questions feel free to email the office at [stmarysev@mwt.net](mailto:stmarysev@mwt.net) or voice message 608-452-3841.



**Inspired by the Spirit Campaign**

5 Year Goal : \$105,000.00  
 As of February 13, 2026  
 Pledges received (30): \$109,520.00  
**Payments received: \$70,778.50**  
 THANK YOU!

A breakdown of how the Inspired by the Spirit Campaign funds have been allocated is posted in back of the church.



**Needed this Month**

\$8,000.00	at \$2000 per week
\$5,785.15	Received as of week 3
<b>(\$2,214.85)</b>	Difference for the Month

Giving Last Week		2/15/2026	
Adult Env (29)	1040.00	Needed Weekly	\$2,000.00
Offertory	182.25	Received This Week	\$1,512.25
Ash Wed(1)	50.00	Total needed	\$14,000.00
Cath Life Mag(6)	145.00	YTD Received	\$11,668.15
Votives	95.00	Difference	(2,331.85)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,512.25</b>		
		Food Pantry	\$80.00

**Annual Appeal 2025-2026**

As of 2/6/2026	Total Pledged	Total Payments
Pledged/Paid	<b>\$17,525.00</b>	\$12,186.69
Target Amount	<u>\$14,565.00</u>	<u>\$14,565.00</u>
<b>Over/Under Target</b>	<b>\$2,960.00</b>	(\$2,378.31)
Percent Pledged: 120.32% , Percent Received: 83.67%		
Number Contributing: 25		
To donate online, visit: <a href="https://diolc.org/stewardship/">https://diolc.org/stewardship/</a> and in the drop down box choose: 2025(445) St. Mary Parish, Coon Valley		

## From the Pastor

Hello friends,

I imagine I'll mention it at Mass this weekend, but I have a redaction to make. Following a spiritual trend through those few weeks of Ordinary Time before this last Wednesday, I announced my intention to pray together the St. Francis prayer after Masses through Lent (admittedly, this prayer was likely not written by Francis, who in fact wrote very little – even more dubious and I think less Franciscan is the frequently attributed “preach always, sometimes use words”). The Prayer of Saint Francis is a beautiful prayer worth spending serious time with, but I redact my intention to pray it together through Lent – my present intention is still to engage it together, likely during the even-longer-than-Lent Easter season.

This all came from an email from Bishop Battersby that I opened when I got back to my office after the 10:30 Mass last Sunday, asking his priests and deacons to ask his people (that is, y'all) to daily pray the Litany of Humility throughout Lent. Bishop Battersby's opening drive is for us all (as parishes and individuals) to “pivot from maintenance to mission” – he has recognized substantial work and limitations that need addressing throughout the Diocese, but rather than laying out The Plan (which I would name a limiting, scarcity-driven movement) he's quite beautifully leading us into an invitation to the Holy Spirit. The question isn't so much “what do I see is needed” as it is “what do You desire, Lord?” Programs and plans come and go, but providence has staying power. In his words, “our success in our missionary pivot does not rest on a plan or a program, our success rests in submitting to the Holy Spirit and allowing His plan to unfold.”

Right, so the Litany of Humility. There's not enough room to put the prayer in this article, but a Google search will pull it right up. This is a hard prayer, and I think it's hard specifically because it so thoroughly challenges the current self-centered, self-aggrandizing zeitgeist. One characteristic element that I see come up for folks as they pray this prayer is a sidelining shame – perhaps the Holy Spirit prompts me to notice how much I do desire to be preferred by others or how much I do love being consulted or how afraid I am of being suspected, then (afraid of losing a foothold) the evil spirit twists “room-for-growth” and inflates it like a balloon into “this is all you are, all you'll ever be.” If you notice yourself being challenged by this or that line in this prayer, let me invite you to explore that movement – to notice it, to name it with the Lord, perhaps to make it a topic of discussion with a competent and trusted brother or sister (I volunteer myself, but there's only one of me to go around), and perhaps to grasp firmly to that “Come, Holy Spirit,” especially adding in “be with me here.” It's all about freedom, folks.

God bless you, Fr. Joe

## Parish Announcements

### **A Table Together - Free Community Dinner - Feb 25**

St. Mary Parish will be co-hosting the February meal at Coon Valley Lutheran Church. **Thank you to everyone who has signed up to work at this event.**

We still need a few items donated for this event. **Items still needed are prepared chili, corn bread, and chopped jalapenos.** Please sign-up in the back of the church if you are willing to donate any of these items. All donations are greatly appreciated. **Items may be dropped off after mass in our church basement February 21/22 or at Coon Valley Lutheran on Tuesday, February 22 9AM-3PM or Wednesday, February 25 9AM-2:30PM.**

**The dinner will be served 5:00-6:30PM this month** due to Lenten services at the church at 7:00PM. Please consider attending this meal as neighbors connect, friendships grow, and Christ's love is shared in meaningful, tangible ways. **Gather. Share. Be fed.**

### **Digital Sign Donations**

The Parish Council of Catholic Women (PCCW) has generously contributed \$400 from the Bryan Berg Memorial Fund, along with an additional \$2,000, to help offset the cost of our new digital sign. We are deeply grateful for their continued dedication and generosity in supporting the mission and ministries of our parish.

### **The Birthright Baby Bottle Campaign has begun!**

Birthright provides love and support to women facing pregnancy, reminding them they are not alone. Please fill a bottle with loose change or cash and return it by Sunday, March 15, 2025. Envelopes are available; checks may be made payable to Birthright. Thank you for your life-affirming support of mothers, fathers, and babies. 

### **Greif Share - Support Group Begins Mar 10**

Grief is a journey. No matter how long it has been since losing a loved one, grief can greatly affect your life. Grief Share is a 13-week support program, that is hosted jointly with Viroqua and Coon Valley Parishes. **For more information about the program and to learn how to register, pick up a flyer from the back of church.** If there is someone you know who may benefit from Grief Share, please invite him or her to attend. **All are welcome!**

**When:** Tuesdays 5:00 - 7:00 pm

March 10th through June 2nd, 2026

**Where:** Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, 400 Congress Ave. Viroqua, WI 54665

### **CRS Rice Bowl - Lent: A Time of Preparation**

CRS Rice Bowl brings Catholics across the United States together each Lent to respond to global hunger and poverty through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Rice bowls to collect and donate loose change are in the back of the church. Then visit [crsricebowl.org/week-1](https://crsricebowl.org/week-1) to read this week's Story of Hope.

### **Mite Boxes—Missionary Childhood Association**

Students/Adults are asked to help children less fortunate this Lent by filling the MCA mite box. These funds go directly in support of impoverished children around the world.

## Diocesan/Local Announcements

### Two Lenten Regulations:

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18. Lenten regulations are as follows:

1. Catholics who have celebrated their 14th birthday are to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays in Lent and Good Friday.
2. In addition to abstaining from meat, Catholics who have celebrated their 18th birthday, until they celebrate their 59th birthday, are to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Those who are bound to this regulation may eat only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to one's needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted.

### Kevin Matthews Broken Mary Presentation - Feb 22 & 23

Kevin Matthews, a once famous Chicago radio host, had a tragic health event that led him to encounter a broken statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Hearing a voice say, "Will you deny Me? Will you deny My mother?", Kevin embraced the statue and returned to his Catholic faith. This Broken Mary statue has become famous and Kevin now travels around the country with it, telling his story and bringing healing to our broken world. Come with your own brokenness and hear Kevin's story of God's healing. **FREE!** All are welcome!

⇒ **Sunday, Feb. 22 1:30 pm** St. Mary's University in the Page Theatre / 700 Terrace Heights, Winona, MN

⇒ **Monday, Feb. 23 6:00 pm** Aquinas High School Auditorium / 315 11th Street S, La Crosse, WI

### Pancake Breakfast - Mar 1

At the Coon Valley Lutheran Church on March 1, 2026 serving from 8 AM to noon. Adults \$8, Children 6-12 \$4, and 5 and under free. All are welcome to attend!

**Women's Lenten Retreat:** Everyday Holiness: Finding Refreshment in Christ Saturday, March 7, 8 am to 2pm at the Cathedral of St. Joseph. This event is free. However, **you do need to RSVP by March 5.** Posters are on the bulletin board in the back of church. Sponsored by DCCW and CDA groups.

### Retro Dinner - Mar 8

CV Lutheran Church is sponsoring a "Retro Dinner" from 11AM-1PM on Sun. Mar 8. Adults are \$10, Kids 6-12 are \$5, 5 and under free. All are welcome. If you bring a retro dish to pass, you will receive a \$5 off of one admission. See the flyer in the back of the church for more information.

**Evangelization Summit—Mar 10, Registration Today!** Our first Evangelization Summit will be this Lent during the day on Tuesday, March 10, at Mary Mother of the Church in La Crosse. <https://diolc.org/rebuildmychurch/updates/>

**Embracing the Call to Holiness** – The Eau Claire Deanery and the La Crosse Diocesan Council of Catholic Women jointly sponsor the "Call to Holiness" A Woman's Retreat day being hosted by St. James the Greater Catholic Church in Eau Claire on **March 14, 2026.** Registration forms are located on the tables in the back of church, Women from all over the diocese are welcome to attend .

### 18th Annual La Crosse Lenten Luncheon – Mar 18

Bishop Gerard Battersby and Catholic Charities cordially invite you to the 18th Annual La Crosse Lenten Luncheon on Wednesday, March 18, 2026! Gourmet soup, salad and bread will be served. We are excited to announce that we will be honoring our In My Name Award recipient, Jason Larsen and

## Diocesan/Local Announcements

our Bill Medland Faithful Servant Award recipients, Chuck and Mary Kulas. Cost is \$30.00 per person or reserve a table of 4 for \$120.00. Please RSVP online at <https://cclse.org/la-crosse-lenten-luncheon/> by Friday, March 13 as seating is limited.

### Men of the Cross: Forged for Mission | March 21, 2026 | Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

Men of the Diocese of La Crosse! This is your invitation to step away from the noise of daily life and be renewed in faith, brotherhood, and purpose. Join other Catholic men for a powerful day of encouragement and formation as we grow stronger as disciples, husbands, fathers, and leaders forged for mission. For info and too register: <https://menofthecross.org/>

**Featured Speaker:** Bart Schuchts. **Mass Celebrant:** Fr. Sam Martin. **Cost:** \$45 (includes breakfast & lunch). **High School Men:** Attend FREE with a parent/guardian

### ALL DAY CONFESSIONS at the Cathedral - Mar 30

There will be all day confessions at the Cathedral on Monday, March 30th from 9 am - 6 pm. There will be four to five priests available to hear confessions at any given time.

### UDIOCESE 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:tbrown@diolc.org).

**New Parishioners:** Welcome to our parish! Please introduce yourself to Fr. Joe and contact the parish office for registration and information. [www.stmarycv.org/visit-us](http://www.stmarycv.org/visit-us)

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Saturday from 3:15pm to 3:45pm

**Sacrament of Baptism:** Please use the registration form at: [www.stmarycv.org/sacraments](http://www.stmarycv.org/sacraments). Then mail or email it to [stmarycv@mwt.net](mailto:stmarycv@mwt.net) and [jrichards@diolclergy.org](mailto:jrichards@diolclergy.org) You will be contacted by the parish office to finalize your requested date.

**Sacrament of Anointing / Visitation of the Sick:** Please contact the parish office or Fr. Joe when someone you know is in need of the Sacrament or a pastoral visit. Requests may also be made from our website under the Sacraments tab. [www.stmarycv.org/sacraments](http://www.stmarycv.org/sacraments)

**Mass Intentions:** Please use the Mass Intention envelopes available in the church.

**Book of Prayer Requests:** Located in the back of church. Feel free to add your own prayer requests. The requests will be included in the parish prayers.



**The #1 grief recovery program in the world.**

Grief is a journey. No matter how long it has been since losing a loved one, grief can greatly affect your life, (spiritually, emotionally, physically, socially, mentally and financially).

Grief Share is a 13-week support program, that is being hosted jointly by the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Mary's Parishes. Through videos and discussions, participants will receive insight from grief experts to help navigate their grief, and meet others who share similar thoughts, feelings and experiences. Group members can share as much or little as they are comfortable with. Topics to be discussed include anger, regret, loneliness, sadness, friendships, questions for God, feeling overwhelmed, selfcare and more.

Please join us for Grief Share, where you can find comfort, strength, and hope! If there is someone you know who may benefit from Grief Share, please invite him or her to attend. All are welcome!

When: Tuesdays 5:00 - 7:00 pm  
March 10th through June 2nd, 2026

Where: Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church  
400 Congress Ave.  
Viroqua, WI 54665

Facilitators: Janet Olmstead, AAGC Certified Grief Counselor  
(608) 790-4543  
Deacon Anthony Shay, Ed. D, LPC, CRC

Registration Fee: \$20.00  
Financial assistance available as needed

To Register, contact the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Viroqua office at 608-637-7711, email them at: [stmaryparish@mwt.net](mailto:stmaryparish@mwt.net), or go to the website at [www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org)