

St. Mary's Parish

900 Central Ave., Coon Valley, WI 54623



Fr. Matt Marshall

Pastor

The Fifth Sunday of Lent - March 29, 2020

Fr. Matthew Marshall

Residence: St. Mary's Rectory

904 Central Ave

Coon Valley, WI 54623

Rectory Phone: 608-452-3841

Cell Phone: 608-738-6806

E-mail: fmattmarshall@gmail.com

Amy Staflien, Admin. Assistant

Office: 608-452-3841

Website: stmarycv.org

E-mail: stmaryscv@mwt.net

St. Mary's, Coon Valley

Weekend Masses:

Cancelled until further notice

Weekday Mass:

Cancelled until further notice

Local Parishes—Mass Times

Annunciation of the BVM, Viroqua

Cancelled until further notice

St. Joseph, St. Joseph Ridge

Cancelled until further notice

St. Peter, Middle Ridge

Cancelled until further notice

Holy Day Mass: Please check the bulletin for times.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Before Mass on Saturday; other times as announced or by appointment, request appointment by calling Fr. Matt or via our website under the Sacraments tab.

New Parishioners: Welcome to our parish! Please introduce yourself to Fr. Matt and contact the parish office for registration and information.

Sacrament of Baptism: Please submit a Baptism registration by mail, or e-mail to both stmaryscv@mwt.net AND fmattmarshall@gmail.com. You will be contacted by the parish office to finalize your requested date. The registration form can be found here: <https://www.stmarycv.org/sacraments>.

Sacrament of Anointing / Visitation of the Sick: Please contact the parish office when someone you know is in need of either the sacrament or a pastoral visit, or call Fr. Matt. Requests may also be made from our website under the Sacraments tab.

Mass Intentions: Please use the Mass Intention envelopes available in the back of church and at the side door.

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 Mass intercessions.

St. Mary's Parish, Coon Valley, WI

The Fifth Sunday of Lent

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2020

- 1) [Ezekiel 37:12-14](#)
- 2) [Romans 8:8-11](#)
- 3) [John 11:1-45](#)
or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

(click on the reading above to go to the bible passage on USCCB)

FOCUS: Those who believe in Jesus and walk in his ways will never die.

Our worldly desires bind us up in burial cloths fashioned from our sins that block the will of God from our sight. By putting aside selfish ways and trusting in God's love and mercy, we allow Christ to call us forth from death so that we might lead a resurrected life in the Spirit.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, God promises life and liberty to the Israelites. In the second reading, Saint Paul reminds the Romans that they must strive to overcome their sinful natures so as to live in union with Christ. In the Gospel, Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead and makes the bold proclamation that those who believe in him will never die.

Giving Last Week		Week 12	3/22/2020
Adult Envelopes	\$1005.00	Needed Weekly	\$1,900.00
Offertory	\$50.00	Received This Week	\$1,110.00
Good Friday	35.00	YTD Needed	\$22,800.00
Easter	20.00	YTD Received	\$21,853.00
Total	\$1,110.00	Difference	(947.00)
16 Env. Received			

Intentions

Intentions will be prayed for privately by Father Matt on the day scheduled, please add these intentions to your own, in your prayers from home.

Mar. 28 ~ Our Parish Family

Mar. 29 ~ †Don Kammel

Mar. 31 ~ Our Parish Family

Apr. 01 ~ Our Parish Family

Apr. 03 ~ Our Parish Family

Mar. 28 ~ Our Parish Family

Mar. 29 ~ †Deceased members of the Fleming and Ollendick Families

Upcoming Events/Calendar

All Scheduled Events/ Religious Education /Mass are Cancelled until further notice

- **Fr. Matt's BIRTHDAY-MAR. 30th at 10:31 PM**
- **Church will be open for private prayer during from 9AM until 7 PM.** (please practice good social distancing and Maximum of 10 persons)
- If you are currently homebound or under quarantine and need assistance, please call Fr. Matt at 608-738-6806 or 452-3841. We have people ready and willing to help.

Amazon Smile is the charitable arm of Amazon.com. If you order on Amazon, use Amazon Smile the same as you would as regular Amazon, and choose St. Mary's Parish as your charitable organization.



Log in to: amazon.com/smile and click the word "supporting" under the search bar. You can search for St. Mary's by typing, "St. Mary Parish Coon Valley" or simply click the link on our parish website: stmarycv.org

Thank you for continuing to support our parish, during these unprecedented times. Your contributions received by dropping off at the parish, by mail, by bill pay and now online at: www.diolc.org/st-mary-coon-valley are sincerely appreciated. Do not mail cash, checks only please.

Annual Appeal 2019-2020

As of 03/27/2020	Total Pledged	Total Payments
Pledged/Paid	\$15,447.50	\$14,887.50
Target Amount	<u>\$11,755.00</u>	<u>\$11,755.00</u>
Under Target	\$3,692.50	\$3,132.50
Percent Pledged: 131.41%, Percent Received: 126.65%		
Number Contributing:	40	

WE HAVE REACHED OUR TARGET!!! ALL DONATIONS FROM THIS POINT FORWARD WILL BE RETURNED TO THE PARISH!

Thank you all who have donated! Extra cards and envelopes are located at the church doors, or you may give online at: <https://diolc.org/donate-online>, under Designation, choose: 2019 (445) St. Mary Parish. Keep in mind that any money donated beyond the goal is returned to the parish untaxed by the Diocese.

Update from Fr. Matt

With the promulgation of Emergency Order #12 by Governor Evers the situation changes yet once more for our area. Please take the time to read this important message:

https://www.wpr.org/sites/default/files/health_order_12_safer_at_home.pdf

Some things haven't changed from what I last wrote about, e.g. prayer intentions may still be left via phone, e-mail, or our parish website. I will also still be honoring Mass intentions in my private prayer. A few things do change though (please understand that with a heart condition, I am a high-risk individual):

- Confession with individual absolution will no longer be available.
- Eucharist will not be available for at home at this time.
- Pastoral visits in person / at home are no longer available.

The church will be open again, but I ask that you please observe the social distancing guidelines laid down by both civil and church authorities. Please do not exceed 10 persons in church at one time, and make sure there is at least 6 feet between yourself and any other person. Disinfectant wipes are available in the church please wipe down the pew area when you arrive and upon departure. Church will be open Tues - Sun, 9 AM – 7 PM.

Blessed palms will be available for pick-up at church beginning Sunday April 5th. I will leave those out until Holy Thursday. Though we cannot gather for the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil) I will announce the private time of the services so that you may pray along with me. If you have suggestions, please let me know. I welcome feedback! **I especially would like to know if anyone would find some kind of digital or online ministry personally helpful.**

Feel free to call, write, or e-mail me if conversation would be helpful for you. You remain daily in my prayers. I look forward so much to celebrating again with you all face to face.

Peace, Fr. Matt

Parish Announcements

Your Continued Support is much appreciated!

If you are able, please continue to support the parish financially. Our parish will continue to have financial obligations such as utilities, repairs, maintenance, supplies, payroll, education and obligations to the Diocese of La Crosse for Catholic Schools.

We are accepting **donations through the mail** and if you use online banking, please consider adding St. Mary's Parish to your **Bill Pay** by setting up St. Mary's Parish as payment and it will be mailed directly to the parish office (if possible, use your envelope number as the account number). Online services now available: diolc.org/st-mary-coon-valley.

Online giving to St. Mary's Now Available

<https://diolc.org/st-mary-coon-valley/>

Easter Flower Donations

All funds received thus far will be applied to future flower

Televised Masses:

WXOW CH 19 La Crosse – Sunday: 9:30 AM
EWTN (cable/sat.) – Sunday: 7 AM & 11 AM Daily: 7 AM & 6 PM or **online at stmarycv.org** or at <https://diolc.org/sacredworship/televised-mass/>.

Catholic Broadcasting:

EWTN Catholic Cable Television Vernon Telephone Cable – Chan. 143
MediaCom Chan 15 – Coon Valley
Chan 74 – La Crosse also available via satellite

and decoration purchases.

Spring Luncheon

On hold until further notice

Bulletins—lets stay connected!

- The parish bulletin will continue to be available on our Website—www.stmarycv.org
- We are mailing the bulletin to those over the age of 80 (if their age is recorded in our database)
- Copies of the bulletin will also be available in the church for pickup during private prayer times.
- **If you know of someone who does not have internet and could benefit from having the bulletin mailed to their home, please contact the parish office with the person(s) name(s).**

Diocesan/Local Announcements

Free online access to the following is now being offered:

- A Lenten Retreat with Cardinal Sean O'Malley of Boston
<http://catholictv.org/announcement/cardinal-sean-virtual-lenten-retreat>
- Daily Mass with the Pope!
<http://catholictv.org/shows/pope-francis-daily-mass>
- A variety of other daily and Sunday Masses:
<http://catholictv.org/masses>
- <https://giveusthisday.org/Digital#>
- <https://us.magnificat.net/free>
- <http://www.livingwithchrist.us/e-ressource/>
- <https://wau.org/meditations/>

TV Masses Offered by MMOC

The Eucharist will be recorded at Mary Mother of the Church, LaCrosse, WI – in private

Tuesday-Friday Masses will be posted at 7:30 AM on the corresponding day.

Sunday Masses will be posted at 4 PM on Saturdays.

These Masses will be on their website at www.mmoclacrosse.org and on their app via smartphone or tablet, which can be downloaded at our mobile website: mmoc.mobi. Also, Sunday Masses will be broadcast on KQEG-TV on Saturdays at 4 PM and Sundays at 10 AM.

Over-the-air antennae: Channel 23.1

Charter: Channel 5

CenturyLink: Channel 4

AcenTek (La Crescent): Channel 12

Midwest Tel Net (Stoddard/Chaseburg area)

At Home Sunday Prayers

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

(Jn 11)

Now a man was ill, Lazarus from Bethany,
the village of Mary and her sister Martha.
Mary was the one who had anointed the Lord with per-
fumed oil
and dried his feet with her hair;
it was her brother Lazarus who was ill.

So the sisters sent word to him saying,
“Master, the one you love is ill.”
When Jesus heard this he said,
“This illness is not to end in death,
but is for the glory of God,
that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”
Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.
So when he heard that he was ill,
he remained for two days in the place where he was.
Then after this he said to his disciples,
“Let us go back to Judea.”
The disciples said to him,
“Rabbi, the Jews were just trying to stone you,
and you want to go back there?”
Jesus answered,
“Are there not twelve hours in a day?
If one walks during the day, he does not stumble,
because he sees the light of this world.
But if one walks at night, he stumbles,
because the light is not in him.”
He said this, and then told them,
“Our friend Lazarus is asleep,
but I am going to awaken him.”
So the disciples said to him,
“Master, if he is asleep, he will be saved.”
But Jesus was talking about his death,
while they thought that he meant ordinary sleep.
So then Jesus said to them clearly,
“Lazarus has died.
And I am glad for you that I was not there,
that you may believe.
Let us go to him.”
So Thomas, called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples,
“Let us also go to die with him.”
When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus
had already been in the tomb for four days.
Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles
away.
And many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary
to comfort them about their brother.
When Martha heard that Jesus was coming,
she went to meet him;
but Mary sat at home.
Martha said to Jesus,
“Lord, if you had been here,
my brother would not have died.
But even now I know that whatever you ask of God,
God will give you.”
Jesus said to her,

“Your brother will rise.”
Martha said to him,
“I know he will rise,
in the resurrection on the last day.”
Jesus told her,
“I am the resurrection and the life;
whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live,
and everyone who lives and believes in me will never
die.
Do you believe this?”
She said to him, “Yes, Lord.
I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of
God,
the one who is coming into the world.”
When she had said this,
she went and called her sister Mary secretly, saying,
“The teacher is here and is asking for you.”
As soon as she heard this,
she rose quickly and went to him.
For Jesus had not yet come into the village,
but was still where Martha had met him.
So when the Jews who were with her in the house com-
forting her
saw Mary get up quickly and go out,
they followed her,
presuming that she was going to the tomb to weep there.
When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him,
she fell at his feet and said to him,
“Lord, if you had been here,
my brother would not have died.”
When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had
come with her weeping,
he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said,
“Where have you laid him?”
They said to him, “Sir, come and see.”
And Jesus wept.
So the Jews said, “See how he loved him.”
But some of them said,
“Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man
have done something so that this man would not have
died?”
So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb.
It was a cave, and a stone lay across it.
Jesus said, “Take away the stone.”
Martha, the dead man’s sister, said to him,
“Lord, by now there will be a stench;
he has been dead for four days.”
Jesus said to her,
“Did I not tell you that if you believe
you will see the glory of God?”
So they took away the stone.
And Jesus raised his eyes and said,
“Father, I thank you for hearing me.
I know that you always hear me;
but because of the crowd here I have said this,
that they may believe that you sent me.”
And when he had said this,
He cried out in a loud voice,
“Lazarus, come out!”

At Home Sunday Prayers Continued

The dead man came out,
tied hand and foot with burial bands,
and his face was wrapped in a cloth.
So Jesus said to them,
"Untie him and let him go."
Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary
and seen what he had done began to believe in him.

The Gospel of the Lord

Reflection

In light of these past few weeks I find myself especially drawn to the person of Lazarus. Something about his being bound, in the dark, and alone. It paints a picture of what this time of COVID-19 feels like. At least to me. But I don't think I'm so alone in those feelings. We are all of us restricted now. And although my eyes are working fine, it is really hard to see what is going on around me. So much information. So many sources. What do I need to know? How will I know if I missed something important? This is a very isolating time. But then this Gospel. Truly, indeed, Good News. And in a few ways (at least!).

For one thing, it lets me know that this is just a part of life. While this time around I am experiencing these feelings with billions of people all at once, I'm no stranger to what now boils away in my heart. Actually, it really helps me, even in quarantine, to know that other people are having these same struggles. The anger and sadness in the Gospel today (both shown in Jesus!) let me off the hook for being human. It's really kind of missed in most English translations, but when it talks about Jesus being "perturbed" or "deeply troubled" it really means: Jesus was really angry! Angry enough that he made noises! In the Gospel today Jesus is TICKED! And then sad. Both are natural, normal. Those emotions flared in the Son of God, and they flare up in us. Yes, this Gospel is very consoling to me now. It reminds me that I am, in fact, not so alone. And I am human, and God is OK with that. And this Gospel story reminds me that this all passes. Everything does, but God's love. God promises to be with us even in the darkest moments of life. Even in what may seem like total isolation. God is there. Nothing makes that shine brighter than Jesus' suffering and death. God is always with us. Is that why Jesus wept? Did he feel alone? Helpless? I think so. Jesus could do nothing but cry in the face of so many things in life. And sometimes that's true for us too. So be gentle with yourselves, St. Mary's. Let's be gentle with ourselves. This time is not comfortable. It sets off our fears and anxieties and feels like it will never end. But it will. Someday soon Governor Evers will echo the Gospel's words and say, "untie them, let them go" and we will wander dazed, back into the light. Governor Evers will say that soon enough. Our troubles all do end soon enough, and someday after what has sometimes felt like eternity God will say it again. God, with us this whole while in life, will say "Get up! Look!" and rising we will step into the light.

Here is a prayer exercise that I hope will be helpful throughout the week. Give it a try! May it be a blessing to you and your family!

When someone prays with the Scriptures it's called *lectio divina*. We can understand it as inviting God to be part of our conversation with a text. Like a divine book club! A way to do lectio popularized by St. Ignatius of Loyola is called "imaginative prayer". I'd like to offer that to you this week as something to try. Sometime during the week or even a few times if you want, re-read this Sunday's Gospel. Read it 1 or 2 or 3 times right in a row. Then let your thoughts wander. Think of the place, think of the characters. What are they feeling? What are they thinking? Are you in the scene? Someone else you know? There are no right or wrong ways to do this. The Scriptures provide something like playdoh, but then what you make, make with God, well that is up to you. It speaks to you. And speaks about you. Here are some questions I offer to maybe jump-start those creative juices! I do something like this every Monday and Tuesday as I begin writing a homily:

- *Why did Jesus wait to go see Lazarus? Why did he let him die? How did Jesus feel traveling those 85 miles to visit his friends? Were Mary and Martha upset with him? Did Jesus feel ashamed? What's it been like when someone I know dies suddenly?*

- *Why is Jesus angry? What isn't he saying to the crowd? Why? What do I not tell others? Why? Why do I sometimes hold back my anger? When does it burst out?*

- *Why is Jesus sad? How is he crying? Is it one of those quiet cries, or big shaking sobs? Does anyone comfort him? What am I sad about now? What are my children sad about now? What about my parents, friends, even strangers? How much sadness do I not see?*

- *What about Lazarus? What was it like there in the tomb? What was it like for him to die? Was he scared? Was it peaceful? What do I want when I die? What do I think Heaven is like? How did Lazarus feel to be back in the world? What about when I've gone through a big change? What if no one else gets what I've been through?*

To close you might consider this beautiful prayer/poem wrote by St. Teresa of Avila. I include her native Spanish first:

Nada te turbe
nada te espante
Todo se pasa
Dios nose muda.
La paciencia todo alcanza.
Quien a Dios tiene
nada le falta
Solo Dios basta.

Let nothing disturb you,
frighten you,
All things are passing.
God never changes.
Patience obtains all things.
Whoever has God lacks
nothing.
God is enough.

Daily Readings

Monday 30 March

Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62

This dramatic reading follows on extremely well from yesterday's Gospel about the woman caught in adultery. Many dimensions could help us, but perhaps the courage and intelligence of Daniel could be underlined.

John 8:12-20

The theme of judgement unites the two readings—by which standards do we judge? In the discussion with the Pharisees, the Fourth Gospel offers us a deep and still challenging understanding of Jesus. Who was he? Who is he?

Tuesday 31 March

Numbers 21:4-9

We know from our human experience that when something is harming us, we need to face it. Something of that ordinary experience lies beyond this extraordinary story. The image of the serpent lifted up is found on the lips of Jesus in the Fourth Gospel, speaking of his own death and resurrection.

John 8:21-30

The image of "lifting up"—so central to John's Gospel—is taken from the story of the bronze serpent. The evangelist reminds us of our need the healing that God provides in Jesus.

Wednesday 1 April

Daniel 3:14-20, 24-25, 28

In this dramatic illustration, faithfulness to the one true God is a deadly risk— and yet God shows himself to be faithful to all who are faithful to him.

John 8:31-42

In early Christian reflection, Abraham was in everyone's mind—notably in Paul's but also as we see in John's gospel. The big question being answered is, who is Jesus?

Thursday 2 April

Genesis 17:3-7

The reading today picks out an emblematic story about Abraham, as a preparation for the Gospel, where Abraham is mentioned again. He was the original man of faith, our father in faith, as Hebrews puts it, who put his trust in God and in a way God puts his trust in Abraham.

John 8:51-59

In the Fourth Gospel, there are seven I AM sentences, always qualified by some image or affirmation such as the good shepherd. The I AM in today's reading is without qualification, an absolute claim to identity with God. While clearly "theological, it may have a grounding in history: Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?" Jesus said, "I am." (Mark 14:61–62)

Friday 3 April

Jeremiah 20:10-13

Right up to today, good people are made to suffer when they tell the truth and say it like it is. This was true also in the past: Jeremiah suffered greatly for his convictions and prophecies, in the same way as Jesus would, much later.

John 10:31-42

As often in John's gospel, we are over- hearing later disputes about the identity of Jesus and the arguments for and against. Only in the light of the resurrection did the early Christian really grasp who Jesus was and who the risen Jesus is today.

Saturday 4 April

St Isidore, bishop and doctor Ezekiel 37:21-28

This short reading was written a time of national disaster and disgrace. As we listen, we might keep in mind what picture of God comes out of this picture? Can it help me or us today?

John 11:45-56

Today, our reading takes us to the consequences of the story of Lazarus. John's Gospel is looking back after many year's of prayer and reflection. The evangelist see that the cause of Jesus' death was really who he was — the Messiah and the Son of God. This Gospel has many examples of irony. Caiaphas speaks the a deep truth, even if he doesn't know what he is really saying: it is better for one man to die for the people.

God Raises People from the Dead!



In today's Old Testament reading God promised His people that He would raise them from their graves. In the Gospel story Jesus raised His friend Lazarus from the dead. At the end of time God will raise everyone from the dead.

God does not like death. We all have to die because we are sinful, but God wants to raise us from the dead, like Lazarus.

Did you know that there is something worse than dying? Sinning is worse than dying, because when you commit a mortal sin you kill God's life in your soul. When you die you know that your body will rise again, but if you are not sorry for any serious sins then your soul will go to Hell because it doesn't have God's life in it. In Lent

we should try to get rid of all the sin in our souls by going to Confession so that our souls will have God's life in them and be ready to celebrate Jesus' resurrection at Easter!

LAZARUS!



Answer to Ezekiel Puzzle: I will
OPEN YOUR GRAVES and HAVE
YOU RISE FROM THEM.

www.thekidsbulletin.com

The Kids' Bulletin

Fifth Sunday of Lent
March 29th, 2020



In today's Gospel reading, Jesus finds out that his friend Lazarus has died.

Can you find your way through the maze to the tomb where Jesus will raise him from the dead?

Saint Peter de Regalado

March 30

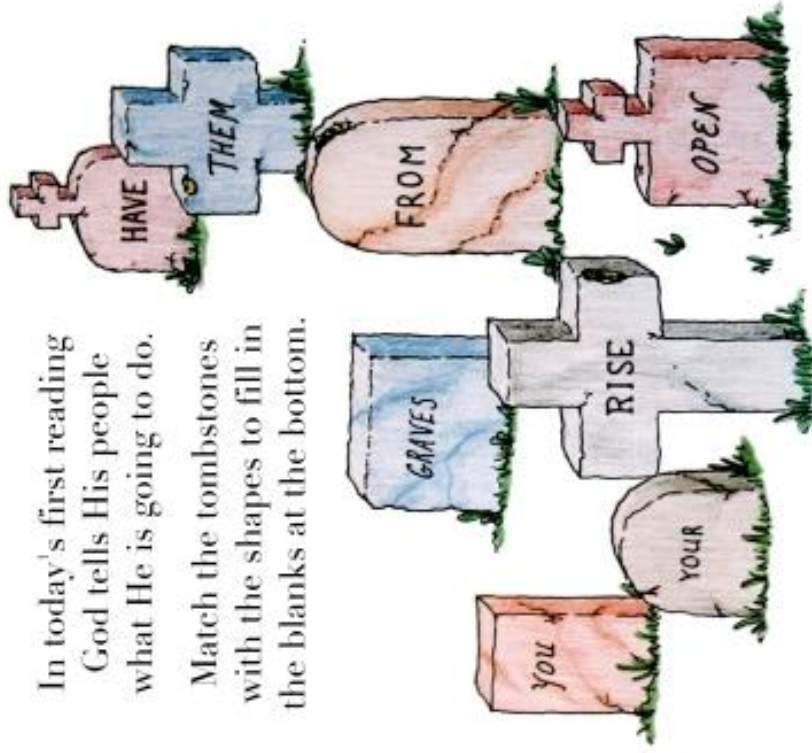


GOD DOES NOT CALL EVERYONE TO A LIFE LIKE SAINT PETER REGALADO, BUT HE DOES WANT EVERYONE TO DO SOME PENANCE. IN LENT ESPECIALLY, WE SHOULD TRY TO GIVE UP SOME FOOD WE LIKE AND PRAY A LITTLE BIT MORE. GOD USES OUR SACRIFICES TO DO GOOD IN THE WORLD.

thekidsbulletin@gmail.com

An Ezekiel Puzzle

In today's first reading God tells His people what He is going to do. Match the tombstones with the shapes at the bottom. the blanks at the bottom.



I will _____

and _____

