

St. Mary's Parish

900 Central Ave., Coon Valley, WI 54623



Fr. Matt Marshall

Pastor

Third Sunday of Advent - December 15, 2019

Reading 483A

Fr. Matthew Marshall

Residence: St. Mary's Rectory

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Coon Valley, WI 54623

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St. Mary's, Coon Valley

Weekend Masses:

Saturday - 4:00 PM, Sunday - 9:15 AM

Weekday Mass:

Tues. - 6:00 PM; Wed. and Fri. - 8:00 AM

(if Westby school is closed due to weather, Mass is cancelled)

Local Parishes—Mass Times

Annunciation of the BVM, Viroqua

Sat. - 5:15 PM, Sun. - 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

St. Joseph, St. Joseph Ridge

Sat. - 4:00 PM, Sun. - 8:30 AM

St. Peter, Middle Ridge

Sat. - 8:00 PM, Sun. - 10:00 AM

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

Third Sunday of Advent

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2019

- 1) Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10
- 2) James 5:7-10
- 3) Matthew 11:2-11

FOCUS: Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah.

Advent is a season of hopeful anticipation, a time of preparation – for celebrating the birth of our Savior, and of readying ourselves for his eventual return. In God's goodness he gave us his own Son, who willingly took on our humanity to save us. Jesus forgives sins, heals the suffering and teaches the truth – he is the long-awaited Messiah.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Isaiah speaks of a day when the glory and splendor of God will be apparent to all. God will come to save. James encourages the community to be patient as they await Christ's return. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the disciples of John the Baptist to go and tell John of miracles that have occurred. He then tells the crowd of John the Baptist's greatness.



Giving Last Week		Week 49	12/8/2019
Adult Envelopes	\$1856.00	Needed Weekly	\$1,900.00
Offertory	\$197.00	Received This Week	\$2,368.00
Immac Concep	\$295.00	YTD Needed	\$76,100.00
Christmas	\$20.00	YTD Received	\$78,096.35
Total	\$2368.00	Difference	1,996.35
Retirement Fund	\$275.00		

Mass Intentions

We have the following dates available for the next few months: Jan. 3, 17, 21, 22, 24, 28, & 31. Feb. 4, 8, 14, 18, 19, 22, 25, 28, & 29.

Please use the Mass Intention Envelopes located in the back and by the side door to request a Mass. Thank you.

Dec. 14 - 4:00 PM ~ †Edward Kerska
Dec. 15 - 9:15 AM ~ †Ken and Irene Roesler
Dec. 17- 6:00 PM ~ Our Parish Family
Dec. 18 - 8:00 AM ~ †Helen Stafslin
Dec. 20 - 8:00 AM ~ †Ronald Hammes
Dec. 21 - 4:00 PM ~ †Ben and Sandy Roskos
Dec. 22 - 9:15 AM ~ †Kylie Von Ruden

Next Week in Service

If you are not able to be at the Mass scheduled below, please find a substitute. Thank you

	Sat., Dec. 21 4:00 PM	Sun., Dec. 22 9:15 AM
Servers:	VOLUNTEERS	Wyatt and Aliyah McCauley
Reader (s):	Robert Kerska	Tracy Brown
Communion Minister (s):	Jeana LeJeune	John Roesler
Ushers:	Volunteers	Dan VonFeldt and Volunteer
Money Counters:	Randy Baranczyk and Leo Nickelotti	

Annual Appeal 2019-20

As of 12/03/2019	Total Pledged	Total Payments
Pledged/Paid	\$7,650.00	\$7,000.00
Target Amount	<u>\$11,755.00</u>	<u>\$11,755.00</u>
Amt Over Target	<u>(\$4,105.00)</u>	<u>(\$4,755.00)</u>
Percent Pledged: 65.08%, Percent Received: 59.55%		
Number Contributing	25	
Thank you to everyone who has donated thus far. We are on our way! There are extra cards and envelopes near the church doors, or you may also donate online at: https://diolc.org/donate-online , under Designation, choose: 2019 (445) St. Mary Parish. Keep in mind that any money donated above our goal is returned to our parish untaxed by the Diocese!		

Upcoming Events/Calendar		
Dec. 15	After Mass	Religious Education Classes
Dec. 18	6:45 PM	Vespers/Evening Prayer
Dec. 19-21		Retreat at St. Leo's, see parish announcements for details.
Dec. 21	4:00 PM	Welcome Fr. Kennedy
Dec. 22		NO Religious Education Classes—Merry Christmas!
Dec. 24	4:00 PM	Christmas Eve Mass
Dec. 24	9:15 AM	Christmas Day Mass
Dec. 29		NO Religious Education Classes—Happy New Year!
Dec. 31	6:00 PM *updated	New Year's Eve Mass—Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God— Holy Day of Obligation.
Jan. 1	8:00 AM	NO MASS— Happy New Year!
Jan. 5	After Mass	Religious Education Classes
Jan. 12		NO Religious Education Classes
Jan. 12* Updated	After Mass	Coffee and Donut Fellowship—all are welcome to join us downstairs, including new or visiting parishioners
Jan. 21	7:00 PM	PCCW Meeting

Parish Announcements

Christmas Mass Liturgical Ministry Sign Up

It looks like we are still in need of help for Christmas Day. If you are able to help out, please signup in the back of church.

Christmas Flower Donations

If you wish to donate toward the Christmas Flowers, please use the envelopes located at the church entrances/exits. Return the envelope by dropping in the collection basket. Thank you!

Dec. 18 ~ Prayer Opportunity

This Advent our parish will have an extra opportunity of prayer offered through The Liturgy of the Hours; the prayer of the Church meant to welcome God into the various hours of the day. **We will offer Vespers, or Evening Prayer, Wednesday at 6:45 PM on Dec. 18th.** Please consider coming to experience this form of prayer from our Church's tradition. The prayers last about 20 min. Prayer books are provided, but you can look at the prayers online at: <http://www.liturgies.net/Liturgies/Catholic/loh/advent/week3wednesdayep.htm>.

Spending Christmas Alone?

No one should have to spend Christmas alone. Fr. Matt warmly invites any parishioner to join him and his mom for Christmas Dinner at 1 PM on Christmas Day. **Please call or e-mail Fr. Matt this week to RSVP.** All are welcome to join, but a head count beforehand is very helpful!

Advent Retreat

Fr. Matt will be offering an Advent retreat at St. Leo's in West Salem Dec 19 - 21. Thurs and Fri at 6:30 PM with Confessions to follow on Friday. Saturday Dec 21st Fr. Kennedy will swap parishes with Fr. Matt who will take the 4 PM Mass at West Salem with concluding retreat presentation to follow.

A Bulletin Just for Kids

Each week we now have a children's version of the bulletin. It contains activities about the weekend reading. They are fun! Feel free to have a look at one on your way out today. It is for the young and the young at heart!

Free Advent Prayer Books

The Word Among Us Advent prayer books are in the pews. Please take as many as you will find helpful!

Calendars and Contribution Envelopes for 2020

Please pick up your 2020 Contributions envelopes from the back of church, if you do not have a box and would like one, please call the Rectory at 608-452-3841. Also available are the 2020 Liturgical Calendars, sponsored by the PCCW.

Retirement Fund for Religious Collection Last Weekend

Religious give thanks. "Thank you" hardly seems adequate to convey what it means to us," says a Catholic sister of the financial assistance her community received from the Retirement Fund for Religious. Prayer-filled thanks for your donation to last week's second collection.

CV Lions Tree Lighting Food Pantry Fundraiser

Last year St. Mary's parishioners and the Men's Club contributed a total of \$701.00!!! Our goal is to raise \$1.00 more this year. To contribute use the food pantry collection basket in the back of church. The collection runs the weekend of Nov. 2-3 until the weekend of Dec. 21-22. Please be generous and help us and the Lions' reach our goals. **(The Food Pantry is able to purchase \$18 worth of food for every \$1 that is donated!!!)**

Donut Sunday—January 12th to Welcome our New Parish Members from the past year. Please join us downstairs for some fresh donuts and beverages, and get to know your fellow parishioners. All are welcome, including guests!

Order Anything on Amazon? Use Amazon Smile!

Amazon Smile is the charitable arm of Amazon.com, please choose St. Mary's Parish every time you make a purchase through Amazon Smile. Log in to: [amazon.com/smile](https://www.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**

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Reconciliation Opportunities

Please take advantage of the additional confession opportunities in our area. On December 17th at St. Joseph Ridge Parish during adoration from 5:30-6:30 PM and on December 18th at St. Peter Parish from 7:30-8:30 PM. Confession on December 23rd from 9 AM - 6 PM at St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral, La Crosse. Fr. Matt will be hearing Confessions from 4 - 6 PM at the Cathedral on the 23rd, so will Bishop Callahan!

WI Right To Life Signature Ad

We invite you to join other pro-life members of our community in making a public statement of our belief in the sanctity of human life. This annual signature ad commemorating all the precious lives lost to abortion will be in the La Crosse Tribune on Sunday, January 19th. If you would like to be included in the ad, please add your name to the clipboard in back of church. The ad costs close to \$4000 so, if you are able, please donate \$3 per name or \$5 per family. **Last date to signup for the ad will be January 8th.**

Diocesan/Local Announcements

Bishop Callahan's Christmas Video Message

Bishop Callahan's recorded Christmas video message is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Gxxifp6s4Y&feature=youtu.be>

Door of Hope Volunteer Options

We are looking for volunteers during business hours on Tuesday and Friday 10 AM to 2 PM for the following positions:

Office Receptionist (would like 2 more), general cleaning and organizing person, and 2 people with basic carpenter skills and tools to help install shelving in laundry room. We are located at 304 N. Washington Ave., Viroqua. Please call 608-637-8688, if no answer, please leave a message or call Aaron Berg at 608-606-5651. Thank you.

Wondering if a tv show or movie is family friendly?

[Plugged In](#) reviews movies, videos, music, TV and games from a Christian perspective. "We're shining a light on the world of popular entertainment". Their website can be accessed in both English and Spanish. It rates today's entertainment and helps families make better entertainment choices. [Plugged In](#) is affiliated with Focus on the Family. pluggedin.com

March for Life!

Chicago, Jan. 11, 2020

Pro-Life Wisconsin is sponsoring buses from Wausau, Plover, Onalaska and Tomah.

See www.diolc.org/respect-life for more information

Washington, D.C., Jan. 22-26, 2020

Major diocesan pilgrimage for youth and adults. Visit www.diolc.org/yva/march-4-life-2020/ for information and online registration.



The Tradition of the "Nativity Scene"

Families are encouraged to set up the Christmas crib at home together so that children learn the facts of the mystery of God's love that was revealed in the poverty and simplicity of the Bethlehem Grotto. The Nativity Scene can help us understand the true meaning of Christmas because it expresses the humility and merciful goodness of Jesus Christ, who *though He was rich He made Himself poor* for us (2 Corinthians 8:9). Christmas brings joy, peace and hope to those who, like the shepherds in Bethlehem, accept the angel's words: "Be not afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." (Luke 2: 10-12) This is still the true meaning of Christmas. We need a Savior; the Son of God came to us as a tiny infant in the poorest of circumstances. Jesus is the Savior because in Him and through Him is the grace necessary for us to overcome all of the dysfunction, sinfulness, shame and guilt which separates us from God and from one another. In Him is the grace to overcome all obstacles to friendship with God. In Bethlehem "a Savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord."



DID YOU KNOW?

- If you are 70 ½ or older, you can do a **qualified charitable distribution (QCD)** of up to \$100,000 a year from your **IRA directly to a charity**. The distribution won't show up in your adjusted gross income and CAN count toward your required minimum distribution (RMD). The QCD allows you to be more strategic with your RMD. Consult your tax advisor before making any decisions. If a QCD is for you, please consider St. Mary's Parish as your charity of choice.
- The parish accepts checks from **Bill Pay**. If you use online banking you may make your contribution using bill pay. Set up St. Mary's Parish as a bill and mail directly to the parish office (if possible, use your envelope number as the account number).

Televised Masses for Shut-ins:

WXOW CH 19
La Crosse – Sunday:
9:30 AM
EWTN (cable/sat.) –
Sunday: 7 AM & 11
AM Daily: 7 AM &
6 PM

Catholic Broadcasting:

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

Natural Family Planning:

Information on
natural family
planning can be
obtained by calling
715-235-6226 or
visiting the web site
at <nfp@diolc.org>

Catholic Charities:

Catholic Charities
offers many services
in our diocese. For
more information
please call 1-888-212
-HELP or visit
<www.cclse.org>