



# St. Mary Parish

900 Central Ave, Coon Valley, WI 54623

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

February 01, 2025 | Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time | Reading 587A

## CONNECT WITH US

### PASTOR

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

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

**Email:** [jrichards@diolclergy.org](mailto: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](mailto:ashay@diolclergy.org)

### Parish Phone

608-452-3841

### Mailing Address

904 Central Ave  
Coon Valley, WI 54623

### Email

[stmaryscv@mwt.net](mailto:stmaryscv@mwt.net)

### Website

[www.stmaryscv.org](http://www.stmaryscv.org)

### Social Media

[www.facebook.com/StMarysCoonValley](http://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

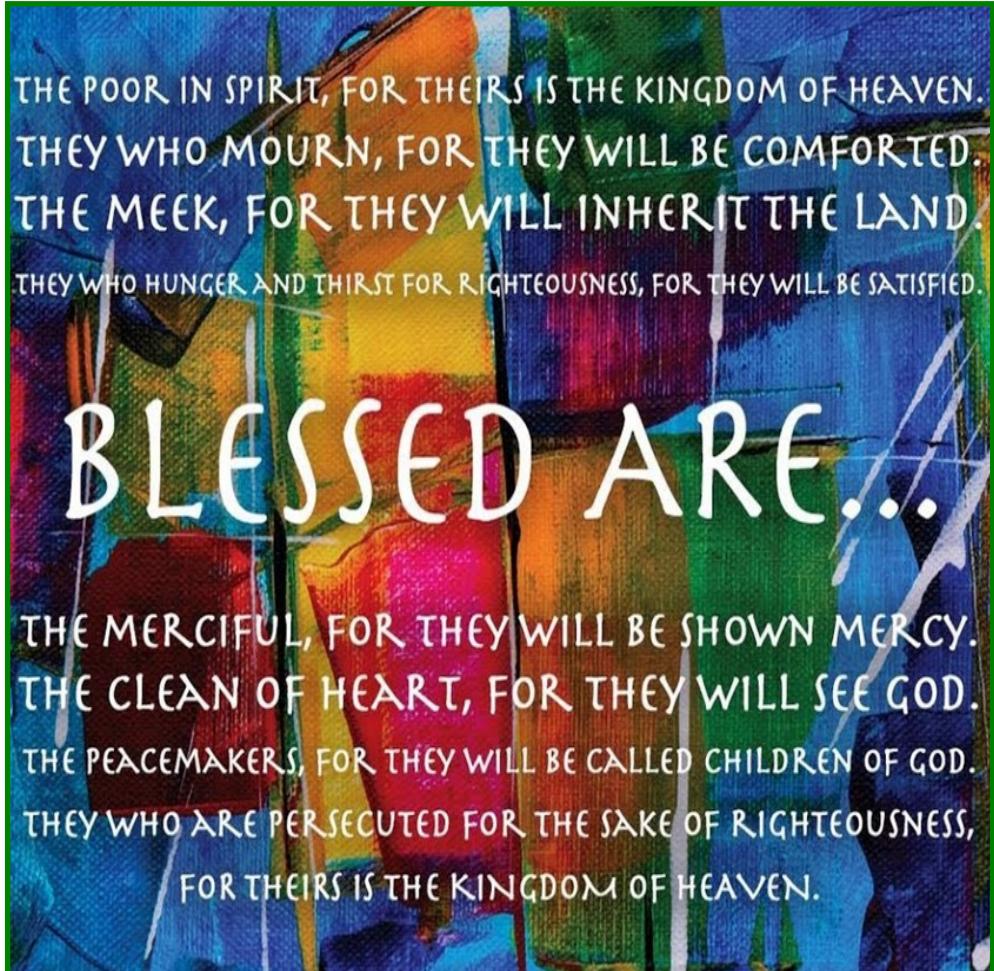
Thursday | 8:00am

#### Confession

Saturday | 3:30pm - 3:45pm

#### Devotions

Adoration Tuesday | 4:30pm



#### Administrative Assistant

Amy Stafslien 608-452-3841  
[stmaryscv@mwt.net](mailto:stmaryscv@mwt.net)

#### PCCW (Parish Council of Catholic Women)

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

#### Coordinator of Religious Education

Bridget Goodwin  
[bladams50@gmail.com](mailto:bladams50@gmail.com)

#### Musicians

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

#### Parish Finance Council

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

#### Fr. Joe also serving:

#### Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin

#### Mary Parish, Viroqua

Mass Times:

Weekend: Saturday 6:30pm

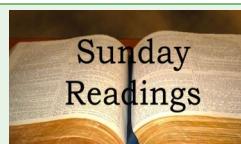
Sunday 10:30am

Weekday: Wed - 5:15 pm

Fri - 8:00am

#### Parish Pastoral Council

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



**February 01, 2025**  
 1) Zephaniah 2:3, 3:12-13  
 2) 1 Corinthians 1:26-31  
 3) Matthew 5:1-12

## Intentions / Schedule

### SATURDAY, January 31

*Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

- 4:00pm Mass - Our Parish Family  
 Altar Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers  
 Lector: Nancy Peters

### SUNDAY, February 1

*Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

- 8:00am Mass - † For the Souls of Purgatory  
 Altar Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers  
 Lector: Marlene Humfeld

Money Counters: Steve Grabowski and Bernie Roesler

### TUESDAY, February 3

*St. Blaise and St Ansgar*

- 4:30pm Adoration  
 - 5:15pm Mass - For the People

### THURSDAY, February 5

*St. Agatha*

- 8:00am Mass - † Edward and Anna Kerska

### SATURDAY, February 7

*Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

- 4:00pm Mass - † Bob Welsh  
 Altar Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers  
 Lector: Jeana LeJeune

### SUNDAY, February 8

*Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

- 8:00am Mass - † Douglas Petan  
 Altar Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers  
 Lector: Ryan Goodwin

Money Counters: Loree Nickelotti, Rodney and Kathy Berg



### Inspired by the Spirit Campaign

5 Year Goal : \$105,000.00

As of January 22, 2026

Pledges received (30): \$109,520.00

**Payments received: \$70,286.50**

THANK YOU!

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

### Annual Appeal 2025-2026

As of 1/22/2026	Total Pledged	Total Payments
Pledged/Paid	\$11,325.00	\$8,866.69
Target Amount	\$14,565.00	\$14,565.00
<b>Under Target</b>	<b>(\$3,240.00)</b>	<b>(\$5,698.31)</b>
Percent Pledged: 77.75%	Percent Received: 60.88%	
Number Contributing: 23		
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		

## Upcoming Events/Calendar

- **Jan 31/Feb 1** ~ Special collection for Catholic Campaign for Human Development
- **Feb 1** ~ Rel. Ed (FoF) after 10:30 AM Mass in Viroqua
- **Feb 8** ~ Encounter Class (middle school) 9-10:15 in Viroqua
- **Feb 14/15** ~ Birthright Baby Bottle Campaign begins
- **Feb 15** ~ Rel Ed (FoF) Activity after 8 AM Mass ~ Parish Social after Mass by the St. Theresea Guild
- **Feb 16** ~ PCCW Meeting at 5:30 PM
- **Feb 18** ~ Ash Wednesday
- **Feb 19** ~ Coffee and Fellowship after Mass
- **Feb 22** ~ Encounter Class (middle school) 9-10:15 in Viroqua
- **Feb 25** ~ Community Dinner at CV Lutheran Church all are welcome to attend, 5-7 PM We are cohosting!
- **Mar 1** ~ Rel. Ed (FoF) after 10:30 AM Mass in Viroqua
- **Mar 8** ~ Encounter Class (middle school) 9-10:15 in Viroqua



### February 18 ~ Ash Wednesday

7:00 AM Communion service in Viroqua

12:10 PM Mass in Viroqua

**5:15 PM Mass in Coon Valley**

### Old Palm Collection for Ash Wednesday

In preparation for Ash Wednesday, Feb 18th, we will again collect old palms. Please bring in your palms from last Palm Sunday or beyond and place them in the container located in the back of the church. Fr. Joe will use the to create the ash used on Ash Wednesday.

### Mass Intentions

Below are open dates for the next few months.

**Open Sat. and Sun. dates:** Mar 14 & 28, April 18, & 26, May 2 or 3, 9, 16, 17, 23 or 24, 30, & 31.

**Open Weekdays:** Feb 10, 12, 17, 18, 24, & 26. Mar 3, 5, 12, 24, & 31. April 2, 7, 9, 16, 23, & 28.

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 [stmaryscv@mwt.net](mailto:stmaryscv@mwt.net) or voice message 608-452-3841.



### Needed last Month

\$8,000.00 at \$2000 per week

\$5,883.00 Received as of week 4

**(\$2,117.00)** Difference for the Month

### Giving Last Week

**1/25/2026**

Adult Env (24)	\$1,970.00	Needed Weekly	\$2,000.00
Offertory	214.00	Received This Week	\$2,184.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,184.00</b>	Total needed	\$8,000.00
		YTD Received	\$5,883.00
		Difference	(2,117.00)

## From the Pastor

Hello friends,

First, Ash Wednesday Business: after meeting with both Pastoral Councils last week and processing our survey responses a bit, we have a schedule. At 7:00 AM we'll have a Communion service led by Dcn. Tony in Viroqua, at 12:10 we'll have Mass number one in Viroqua, and at 5:15 PM Mass number two in Coon Valley.

Second, this last week Bishop Battersby sent out the following note to the priests and deacons of the Diocese. Let me share his words with you first, then I'll give you some further invitation. From +BB to his clergy (and now through us to you):

*"Dear Brothers,*

*The recent events in Minneapolis remind me that we are not helpless regarding the chaos that seems to be so prevalent at this time. Prayer is able to move mountains so let's move a mountain together. I would ask that every parish participate in a sacrifice of prayer in the next two weeks. The following might be a way for your communities to participate: A mass for Justice and peace; a holy hour for civil calm; a group rosary in every parish; individual rosaries in families; a day of fasting are just some of the ways parishes can participate. Please make an intercession for this same purpose over the next two weeks. Please avoid the political angle, we have one thing to offer our people and that is Jesus who is the answer to every question that is human. Please keep Archbishop Hebda, his priests, deacons, religious and laymen and women in your prayers. For the unbeliever prayer is the last refuge of the incompetent, for the believer it is confidence in a loving Father's providence.*

*Peace, +BB"*

I think we have a good opportunity as a parish to follow the Bishop's invitation to present ourselves and our brothers and sisters to the Lord, and I suggest three ways to start. First, I invite you to an intentional day of fasting this coming Friday. Fasting is a powerful way of remembering that I am not in control, that I am not made for comfort, and that tying our own suffering to Christ's suffering opens the door to His resurrection wider. This coming Friday, I invite you to fast in some way for the intention of peace in our country and particularly in the Twin Cities area – that fasting can be giving up condiments, cream in your coffee, a meal or two or three, etc – be reasonable, but be bold. Second, I invite you to extra prayer in some capacity over the next week in your home, perhaps even following the Bishop's request for a family rosary. Finally, I invite you to join together as a parish for a rosary after each of next weekend's Masses – we'll take a moment after Mass for anyone who needs to depart to depart, then we'll proceed with the rosary shortly after. I have a particular fondness for the Marian title "Our Lady, Undoer of Knots" – perhaps this title may be a help right now too.

For now, thank you for sharing this moment in eternity with me and with each other. May God bless you and keep you through this week,

Fr. Joe

## Parish Announcements

### CV Legion Four Chaplain Sunday Breakfast- Feb 1st

Hosted by the Coon Valley American Legion. Sunday February 1st, serving from 8:00-12:00. Breakfast includes: pancakes, sausage links, biscuits & gravy, scrambled eggs, coffee, milk & juice. See today's insert to learn about the Four Chaplains.

### 2025 Contribution Statements

Contribution statements have all been distributed, by either pickup or mail. If you have questions or concerns, feel free to leave a message at the parish office. 608-452-3841 or email: [stmaryscv@mwt.net](mailto:stmaryscv@mwt.net). Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

### You are invited—Discussion of Fratelli Tutti

You are invited to join a six-session discussion of Pope Francis's encyclical *Fratelli tutti* ("All My Brothers") as a way to deepen your Lenten journey toward Holy Week. In a time when division is felt by many, this study offers an opportunity to reflect on unity and fraternity as a community of faith. **Sessions begin February 15 and will meet from 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** A light lunch will be provided. Books and study guides are available on the table in the back of church. Please take one of each per participant and sign the contact sheet provided. Meetings will be held at Annunciation, St. Mary in Viroqua (room to be announced). There is no cost to participate.



**Catholic Campaign for Human Development** annual collection equips people experiencing poverty to address the needs in their own communities and strengthens both local and national anti-poverty efforts. CCHD is working to break the cycle of poverty by helping low-income people participate in decisions that affect their lives, families, and communities.

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

Questions, contact [meals@coonvalleylutheranchurch.org](mailto:meals@coonvalleylutheranchurch.org). See the flyer posted in the back of the church.

**The February 25** Table Together meal will be cohosted by **St Mary Parish** at Coon Valley Lutheran Church. Food donations and workers will be needed. More information will be provided soon.

## Parish Announcements continued

### Archbishop Coakley Calls for Holy Hour as a Moment of Renewal for Our Hearts and Our Nation

WASHINGTON – “Your faith matters. Your prayers matter. Your acts of love and works of justice matter,” said Archbishop Paul S. Coakley, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. “The current climate of fear and polarization, which thrives when human dignity is disregarded, does not meet the standard set by Christ in the Gospel,” he continued, and as a step toward healing, invited bishops and priests across the United States to offer a Holy Hour for Peace.

Archbishop Coakley’s reflection and invitation follow:

Many people today feel powerless in the face of violence, injustice, and social unrest. To those who feel this way, I wish to say clearly: your faithfulness matters. Your prayers matter. Your acts of love and works of justice matter.

... Christ reminds us that even ‘a single cup of cold water’ given in his name will not go unrewarded (cf. Mt 10:42).

... We mourn this loss of life and deplore the indifference and injustice it represents. The current climate of fear and polarization, which thrives when human dignity is disregarded, does not meet the standard set by Christ in the Gospel.

... I invite my brother bishops and priests across the United States to offer a Holy Hour for Peace in the days ahead. Let us pray for reconciliation where there is division, for justice where there are violations of fundamental rights, and for consolation for all who feel overwhelmed by fear or loss. **I encourage Catholics everywhere to participate, whether in parishes, chapels, or before the Lord present in the quiet of their hearts for healing in our nation and communities.**

May this Holy Hour be a moment of renewal for our hearts and for our nation. ... let us ask the Lord to make us instruments of his peace and witnesses to the inherent dignity of every person...

For the Archbishop’s full reflection visit: <https://www.usccb.org/news/2026/archbishop-coakley-calls-holy-hour-moment-renewal-our-hearts-and-our-nation>

## Diocesan/Local Announcements

**World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life** will be celebrated in parishes on the weekend of Jan. 31-Feb. 1. Please pray for all those who have answered the call to consecrated life, aspiring towards joyful holiness in the service of the Church and world.

### Heritage Bake Sale - Feb 7

Stop by Blessed Sacrament Parish in La Crosse from 9 AM to 1 PM on Saturday, Feb 7 for some cultural goodies. Featuring Norwegian Lefse and Sandbakkels, Bohemian Kolaches, American Pie, Polis Pierogies, Upper Peninsula pastries and other delicious sweets.

### Worldwide Marriage Encounter is coming to the Diocese of La Crosse | Feb. 13-15, 2026 | Sparrow's Nest, Sparta

Looking for a way to rekindle the love and romance in your marriage? This powerful experience of discovery helps you renew your commitment, deepen your intimacy and reignite the passion that brought you together. Space is limited apply for the weekend by visiting: <https://wwme.org/> to save your spot!

### Chili and Basket Raffle - Feb 22

Come sample chili and gift basket raffle on Sunday February 22 from 11 to 2 at Coon Valley Legion to benefit Coon Valley Library sponsored by Friends of the Library. All welcome.

## Diocesan/Local Announcements continued

### Evangelization Summit—Mar 10

**Registration Open!** Our first Evangelization Summit will be this Lent during the day on Tuesday, March 10, at Mary Mother of the Church in La Crosse. This will be an opportunity for those excited about being on mission to gather together, support each other, learn and grow in forming disciples who make disciples. <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, **early bird registration ends February 15th**. Women from all over the diocese are welcome to attend .

## Activity Corner

G R E A T W M E R C Y I  
K I N G D O M L T H E Y  
I G B L E S S E D I P L  
N H E A V E N B E L E F  
D T I N H E R I T D R A  
P E A C E M A K E R S L  
O O H B E C A U S E E S  
O U G O D M O U R N C E  
R S A P M E R C I F U L  
I N S U L T H E A R T Y  
W E P C O M F O R T E D  
H S A T I S F I E D D Y  
O S P I R I T C L E A N

Find the words in CAPITALS from today's Gospel reading in the puzzle and use the leftover letters to fill in the blanks.

"Blessed are the POOR in SPIRIT, for theirs is the kingdom of HEAVEN. Blessed are they who MOURN, for they will be COMFORTED.

BLESSED are the meek, for they will INHERIT the land.

Blessed are THEY WHO hunger and thirst for RIGHTEOUSNESS, for

they will be SATISFIED.

Blessed are the MERCIFUL, for they will be shown MERCY.

Blessed are the CLEAN of HEART, for they will see GOD.

Blessed are the PEACEMAKERS, for they will be called CHILDREN of God.

Blessed are they who are PERSECUTED for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the KINGDOM of heaven.

Blessed are you when they INSULT you and persecute you and utter every KIND of evil against you FALSELY BECAUSE of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be GREAT in heaven."

If you be like Jesus you, -----

**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:** Submit a registration by mail, or e-mail to both [stmaryscv@mwt.net](mailto:stmaryscv@mwt.net) AND [jrichards@diolclergy.org](mailto:jrichards@diolclergy.org) You will be contacted by the parish office to finalize your requested date. The registration form at: [www.stmarycv.org/sacraments](http://www.stmarycv.org/sacraments)

**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 AMERICAN LEGION

Coon Valley Post No. 116, Inc.

P.O. BOX 314

COON VALLEY, WIS. 54623-0314

## 4 CHAPLAINS SUNDAY

A flower has been presented by The Coon Valley American Legion as a remembrance for the selfless act of 4 Army Chaplains who gave their lives for others during the sinking of the USS Dorchester in WWII.

The USS Dorchester was a civilian liner that had been converted for military service and was part of a convoy of 3 troop ships that left New York on January 23, 1943 enroute to Greenland, with 902 officers and enlisted men, merchant seamen, and civilian workers aboard. They were escorted by the Coast Guard cutters Tampa, Escanaba, and Comanche.

Among the passengers were 4 Army Chaplains: the Rev. George Fox, a Methodist minister; Alexander Goode, a Jewish rabbi; John Washington, a Catholic priest; and Clark Poling, a minister with the Dutch Reformed Church.

In the early morning of February 3<sup>rd</sup>, the German submarine U-223 who had been trailing the troopship, fired a torpedo at 0055 hours that hit the Dorchester broadside. During the chaos following the attack, the lifeboats were filled and men were jumping overboard into the 32-degree water. The Army chaplains were helping troops, trying to calm the panicked men into the lifeboats and handing out life jackets. It soon became apparent there were not enough life jackets for everyone. One by one, the chaplains gave their life jackets to others so they could hopefully survive, knowing quite well that not having a life jacket themselves meant certain death in the cold water.

As the last of the survivors left the ship, they witnessed the Dorchester sinking with the 4 Army Chaplains standing with linked arms on the deck. They were praying and singing hymns as the ship sunk beneath the surface, embodying their shared faith. And to their dedication of service to others.

Of the 902 aboard the Dorchester, only 230 survived. Many of the survivors stated they owed their lives to the efforts of the 4 Chaplains.

Each year The American Legion conducts remembrance observances on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in February proclaiming it as 4 Chaplains Sunday to honor the selfless commitment of the 4 Chaplains. The Coon Valley American Legion Post 116 presents flowers to the 6 local area churches in the memory of the 4 Chaplains.

John 15:13 "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends"

## Remembering the Four Chaplains

Each year, American Legion posts nationwide commemorate the selfless acts of the Four Chaplains on or near February 1, designated Four Chaplains Day by Congress in 1948. Below are the individual biographies of the Chaplains from Legion.org.

Our local Coon Valley Legion Post 116 honors and remembers the Four Chaplains this weekend, whose supreme sacrifice reflects Christ's teaching that "no one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." In remembrance of their heroic faith, the Legion has donated the beautiful floral arrangement at the front of the church and provided the historical account of the Chaplains' self-giving love found on the reverse side of this insert.

Legion Post 116 will also host a Pancake Breakfast this Sunday, February 1, at the Legion Hall, serving from 8:00 a.m. to noon.

For more information about Post 116, visit them on Facebook at:  
<https://www.facebook.com/coonvalleyamericanlegionpost116/>



### **Lt. George L. Fox**

As a medical corps assistant during World War I, Fox was highly decorated for bravery and awarded the Silver Star, Purple Heart and the French Croix de Guerre.

Fox studied at Moody Institute, Illinois Wesleyan and Boston University School of Theology. He and his wife, Isadore, had two children. While serving as a pastor in Gilman, Vt., he joined Walter G. Moore American Legion Post 41. He also served as the Legion's state chaplain and historian.

Fox went on active duty Aug. 8, 1942, the same day his son Wyatt enlisted in the Marine Corps. He was assigned to the Chaplains School at Harvard and reported to the 411th Coast Artillery Battalion at Camp Davis in Holly Ridge, N.C.



### **Lt. Alexander D. Goode**

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1911, Goode became a rabbi like his father. He applied to become a Navy chaplain in early 1941, but was not accepted. After Pearl Harbor, he tried again, this time with the Army, and received an appointment on July 21, 1942. He went on active duty on Aug. 9, 1942, and was selected for the Chaplains School at Harvard. He was assigned to the 333rd Airbase Squadron in Goldsboro, N.C. In October 1942, he was transferred to Camp Myles Standish in Taunton, Mass. He and his wife, Theresa, had one daughter.



### **Lt. Clark V. Poling**

Clark attended high school in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., where he was student body president and a football halfback. He was ordained in the Reformed Church in America and served as pastor of First Reformed Church in Schenectady, N.Y. He and his wife, Betty, had a son, Clark Jr. When America entered World War II, he decided to become a chaplain. Talking with his father, who served as a chaplain in World War I, he learned that chaplains in that war had the highest mortality rate of all military personnel. On June 10, 1942, Poling was appointed a chaplain with the 131st Quartermaster Truck Regiment and reported to Camp Shelby in Mississippi. Two months after *Dorchester*'s sinking, Betty gave birth to their daughter.



### **Lt. John P. Washington**

Born into a poor immigrant family, Washington took a newspaper route to help support his family. He loved music and sang in the church choir. In seventh grade, he sensed a call to the priesthood.

Washington attended Immaculate Conception Seminary in Darlington, N.J., where he was ordained a priest in 1935. Shortly after the Pearl Harbor attack, he received his appointment as an Army chaplain. In June 1942, he was assigned to the 76th Infantry Division at Fort Meade, Md. In November 1942, he reported to Camp Myles Standish in Taunton, Mass., where he was reunited with Fox, Goode and Poling – his classmates at Chaplains School at Harvard.