



St. Mary Parish

900 Central Ave, Coon Valley, WI 54623

Fr. Joe Richards, Pastor | Dcn. Tony Shay

January 4, 2025 | The Epiphany of the Lord | Reading 497A

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

FOLLOWING THE LIGHT

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY



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

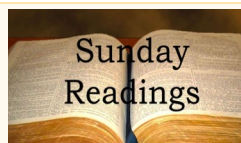
Fr. Joe also serving:

**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



January 4, 2025
 1) Isaiah 60:1-6
 2) Ephesians 3:2-3a
 3) Matthew 2:1-12

Intentions / Schedule

SATURDAY, January 3

The Epiphany of the Lord

~ 4:00pm Mass - † James Coonan

Altar Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

Lector: Robert Kerska

SUNDAY, January 4

The Epiphany of the Lord

~ 8:00am Mass - † Leyton and Helen Stafslie

Altar Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

Lector: Marlene Humfeld

Money Counters: Steve Grabowski and Bernie Roesler

TUESDAY, January 6

St. Andre Bessette

~ 4:30pm Adoration

~ 5:15pm Mass - for the People

THURSDAY, January 8

Weekday

~ 8:00am Mass - Fr. Daniel Williams

SATURDAY, January 10

The Baptism of the Lord

~ 4:00pm Mass - † Edward and Anna Kerska

Altar Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

Lector: Jeana Lejeune

SUNDAY, January 11

The Baptism of the Lord

~ 8:00am Mass - † Eric "Rick" Logemann

Altar Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers

Lector: Ryan Goodwin

Money Counters: Loree Nickelotti, Rodney and Kathy Berg



DID YOU KNOW?

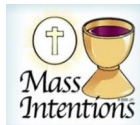
If you are 70 ½ or older, you can do a **qualified charitable distribution (QCD)** of up to \$100,000 a year from your **IRA directly to a charity**. The distribution won't show up in your adjusted gross income and CAN count toward your required minimum distribution (RMD). The QCD allows you to be more 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.

Annual Appeal 2025-2026

As of 1/2/2026	Total Pledged	Total Payments
Pledged/Paid	\$10,525.00	\$8,066.69
Target Amount	<u>\$14,565.00</u>	<u>\$14,565.00</u>
Under Target	(\$4,040.00)	(\$6,498.31)
Percent Pledged: 72.26% , Percent Received: 55.38%		
Number Contributing: 21		
To donate online, visit: https://diolc.org/stewardship/ and in the drop down box choose: 2025(445) St. Mary Parish, Coon Valley		

Upcoming Events/Calendar

- **Jan 4** ~ Rel. Ed (FoF) after 10:30 AM Mass in Viroqua
- **Jan 10/11** ~ Welcome Msgr. Roger Scheckel
- **Jan 12** ~ PCCW Meeting at 5:30 PM
- **Jan 13** ~ Finance Council Meeting 5:45 PM
- **Jan 18** ~ Rel Ed (FoF) Activity after 8 AM Mass
- **Jan 25** ~ Encounter Class (middle school) 9-10:15 in Viroqua
- **Feb 1** ~ Rel. Ed (FoF) after 10:30 AM Mass in Viroqua
- **Feb 8** ~ Encounter Class (middle school) 9-10:15 in Viroqua
- **Feb 15** ~ Rel Ed (FoF) Activity after 8 AM Mass
- **Feb 18** ~ Ash Wednesday
- **Feb 22** ~ Encounter Class (middle school) 9-10:15 in Viroqua



Below are open dates for the next few months.

Open Sat. and Sun. dates: Jan 17 or 18, & 31. Feb 1 & 8. Mar 8, 14, 28 & 29. Apr 11

Open Weekdays: Jan 13, 27 & 29. Feb 3, 10, 12, 17, 18, 19, 24, & 26. Mar 3, 5, 10, 12, 17,

24, 26 & 31.

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 or voice message 608-452-3841.



Inspired by the Spirit Campaign

5 Year Goal : \$105,000.00
 As of December 26, 2025
 Pledges received (30): \$109,520.00
 Payments received: \$69,861.50
THANK YOU!

Giving Last Week			12/28/2025
Adult Env (30)	\$1,070.00	Needed Weekly	\$2,000.00
Offertory	1,211.00	Received This Week	\$2,351.00
Xmas Env (2)	70.00	Total needed	\$104,000.00
Total	\$2,351.00	YTD Received	\$103,105.57
		Difference	(894.43)

From the Pastor

Hello friends,

I want to thank all of you who participated in any way in our liturgies over the last few weeks here. From our regular daily and weekend Masses to Christmas to the Feast of the Holy Family, the liturgy has always seemed to me the heart and most important part of what we do and who we are. This certainly doesn't mean the rest of our lives and ministries and parish cultures are unimportant – just that everything we do is given life first and foremost by our encounter with Jesus Christ in His Word and His Body.

Now let me share an important disclaimer before diving into a rabbit hole: this is not a commentary on how great or horrible any parish anywhere is – it's just an observation that maybe says something about our sister parishes and the state of the Church today. As I gathered with my fraternity for a few days after last weekend's Masses and as we hashed out our experience with Christmas in our respective parishes, one big thing struck me: our Christmas Mass attendance was not all that much higher than our regular weekend attendance (perhaps a ten to fifteen percent rise but not a particularly massive increase). This has not always been the norm, in fact I might anecdotally say it is a bit novel. More common perhaps is a sharp and noticeable increase in attendance at Christmas and Easter, giving rise to an unhappily pejorative criticism of "Chreasters" – members of the faithful attending only for these two moments but not during the rest of the year. This narrative didn't line up with my experience this year.

So why do I bring all this up? Again, firstly to highlight my gratitude for your participation at our highest moments, but also your regular participation in our regular life. Secondly, to note that I don't know if this phenomenon is actually limited to our parishes. As we go about our Big Picture work with the Rebuild My Church initiative one of our studies involves trends in Mass attendance since 2005. From 2005 to 2019 we saw a decline of roughly 45% in the numbers of people across the Diocese attending Mass on the weekend. COVID obviously marked an outlying Moment in this trend, but since then we've been witnessing positive growth (slow, but steady) across the board. I personally think we're seeing the results of A) the Holy Spirit's movement and B) the Lord's People responding in hopeful desire to His initiative. Anyhow, again I just want to thank you for responding to the Lord – for inviting His light into your life and your families, for engaging Christmas with open hearts and minds, and for living our shared discipleship alongside each other and myself.

God bless you, and Merry Christmas,

Fr. Joe

Parish Announcements

The Blessing of the Home

How to Chalk Your Doors for Epiphany Sunday

The Church has a custom of blessing homes on the Feast of the Epiphany and the week following. Family and friends gather to ask God's blessing on their homes and those who live in or visit the home. It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our home, our comings and goings, our conversations, our work and play, and our joys and sorrows.

A traditional way of doing this is to use chalk blessed during the Epiphany liturgy and write above the home's entryway: 20 + C + M + B + 26. The letters C, M, and B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three Magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*: "May Christ bless this house." The "+" signs represent the cross, and 2026 is the year.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR BLESSING THE HOME

Using the blessed chalk, mark the lintel of your front door (or front porch step) as follows:

20 + C + M + B + 26

while saying:

The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand twenty-five years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.

Then offer the following prayer:

Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of Your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of Your love; and grant that we may manifest Your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of You; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.

At times, God has commanded His people to mark their doors. The Israelites marked their doors with the lamb's blood on the night of the Passover. A similar command was given with the Shema Yisrael:

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart...and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates" (Deuteronomy 6: 4-6, 9).

"Chalking the door" is a way to celebrate and literally mark the occasion of the Epiphany and God's blessing of our lives and home. With time the chalk will fade. As it does, we let the meaning of the symbols written sink into the depths of our heart and be manifest in our words and actions.



A heart-felt thank you is extended to Father Joe and the parishioners at St. Mary's, Coon Valley, for the Christmas wishes and gift. We also thank all of you for singing so beautifully during the Christmas season. It is truly an honor to serve this parish with our musical talents, given to us from our heavenly Father. We wish you all a very Happy, Healthy New Year.

With grateful hearts, Mary Beth and Linda

Parish Announcements continued

2026 Contribution Envelopes

If you haven't already done so, please pick up your envelopes from the back of the church, this will save time and money to distribute them to your homes. If you cannot find your envelopes or you do not currently have envelopes assigned to you please contact the parish office by leaving a message at 608-452-3841 or email: stmaryscv@mwt.net

2026 Calendars

There are still a few calendars left at the back of the church. Feel free to take one home with you today.

Christmas Flower Donations

Thank you for supporting St. Mary Parish. If you have donated toward the flowers and your name is not listed in the back of the church or if there is an error in the listing, please contact the parish office. Updates will be posted in the back of the church.

Dear St. Mary Parish,

Thank you so much for your recent donation to Bethel Butikk food pantry. We are truly appreciative of your support in our mission to help others in our community.

Have a blessed holiday season,

Bethel Butikk Volunteers and Staff

Diocesan/Community Announcements

Jubilee Year of Hope

The New Year 2026: Jesus is Our Hope (1 Tim. 1:1) Moving forward in this New Year, we are called to be beacons of hope in the world, as called for in Romans 15:13: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." Let us continue to ask the Lord to increase our faith and hope in Him so that as beacons, we will help others to encounter Jesus through acts of love and mercy.

Valentyna Pavsyukova invites you to the January 10th Ukrainian Christmas Dinner

Join Valentyna Pavsyukova, who founded Chalice of Mercy in Chippewa Falls in 2007, for a special evening on Jan. 10, 2026 from 5:30-9 PM at the Lilydale Event Center in Chippewa Falls. Valentyna will share the extraordinary mission of her organization, which has delivered more than \$180 million in emergency and medical supplies to Ukraine during a time of profound suffering. All proceeds from the evening will support Chalice of Mercy's ongoing relief efforts in Ukraine. Visit the [website](https://chaliceofmercy.org/dinner-events/) for more information and to register: <https://chaliceofmercy.org/dinner-events/>. Informational flyer is located at the back of the church.

Grief Circle

This six-part, in-person supportive gathering starts Wednesday, January 21 (10 a.m.-noon). All who are grieving and in need of compassionate listening and a path toward healing are encouraged to join us. www.FSCenter.org | 608-791-5295

Sign up for the 2026 La Crosse SEEK Conference

SEEK is a national conference for an encounter with God, personal transformation, and growth in community! This year we are bringing it locally to La Crosse at the UW-La Crosse Student Union! There will be 23 different talks from Catholic speakers like Bart Schuchts, founder of the Church on Fire

Diocesan/Local Announcements continued

Ministry and associated with the John Paul II Healing Center, Bishop Battersby, and others including some from our own diocese. There is a specific track of talks for parishioners like you! SEEK is for everyone to attend: college students, families, and adults (under 18 years old must be accompanied by an adult). At SEEK we will come together as a church to worship in Mass and adoration. SEEK is a 4-day conference adapted to fit most work and school schedules! It is January 29 - February 1: Thursday and Friday evenings, Saturday all day, and Sunday morning. The price is \$50 for the entire event. There will be an optional free child care on Saturday, January 31. Please register on the Roncalli Newman or Blessed Sacrament websites or by using the QR Code.



Activity Corner

Can you find all the words in the list in the puzzle below?
Use the leftover letters to fill in the blanks at the end.

ANGELS	GLORY	PRaise
ANIMALS	GOD	SAVIOUR
BABY	HOLY	SHEEP
BARN	JESUS	SHEPHERDS
BETHLEHEM	JOSEPH	SING
BORN	MANGER	SKY
COLD	MARY	STABLE
FIELDS	MOTHER	WONDER
FOUND	NIGHT	WORSHIP

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

On the eighth day of Christmas we honour in a special way

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

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 AND jrichards@diolclergy.org You will be contacted by the parish office to finalize your requested date. The registration form at: 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

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.

Flower Donations in Memory/Honor Of:

Tyler Turban

Gary Anderson

By Sharon and Sara Anderson

Cole J. Berra

By Dennis and Kay Berra

Jim and Betty Callan

Bob and Leona Welsh

By Mike and Karen Callan

Arlan and Virginia Dwyer

Rhonda Buckmaster

Randy Jones and Bob Janiero

By Keith Dwyer

Fleming and Ollendick Families

Jan Brandau

By Jim and Barb Fleming

John and Maria Rabotski

Art and Evelyn Gajewski

By Don and Mary Gajewski

Larry and Myrtle Geier

Chuck and Theresa Brueggen

Mary Brueggen

By Curt and Jean Geier

Joseph and Stella Grabowski

Norbert and Arlene Seichter

By Steve and Michelle Grabowski

Adam Hemmersbach

Arnold and Del Marie Hemmersbach

Ione Hauser and PJ Hauser

Doug Rude

By Stan and Lori Hemmersbach

Joan Urbanek

Daniel Urbanek

Karen Williams

Reinald (Reiny) and Darlene Kammel

By Mike and Clarice Kammel

Edward and Anna Kerska

By Robert E. Kerska

Allen and Mercedes Christen

William and Rose Marie LeJeune

By Francis and Carol LeJeune

Bernard and Cecelia Humfeld

Larry Humfeld

Corrine Mislivecek

By John and Julie Mislivecek Family

Albert, Stella, Gary and Scott Hohlfeld

By Roger and Nancy Peters

Ralph Pedretti

By Andrew Pedretti

Jayne Peterson-Frydenlund

Connie Peterson

By Jeff and Lisa Peterson

William and Rose Marie LeJeune

Frank and Dennis LeJeune

Sharon Tarpening

By Sandra Ritter, Joan, Jean, & Peggy LeJeune

Donald and Rita Weber

Alfred and Mildred Roesler

By John and Carol Roesler

Cheryl Roesler

By Joe Roesler

Deceased members of the Roskos and

Roningen Families

By Rosey Roningen

Cameron Sokolik

Veryl and Virginia Coffin

Arnold and Phyllis Schute

By Doug and Pam Schute

Ed and Betty Gorman

By Steve and Linda Schulte

Helen and Leyton Stafslie

Lucas Seelow and Nevaeh Niemyjski

By Amy Stafslie Family

Dan Tiedeman

Don and Pat Kammel

By Caroline Tiedeman

Kylie Von Ruden

By Bruce, Shirley, Chase & Kenzie Von Ruden

Gavin Williams

Ken and Hazel Williams

By Rick and Sue Williams

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List as of 12/26/25.