

PASTOR

Fr. Joseph Richards (Fr. Joe)

Rectory: 400 Congress Ave, Viroqua, WI 54665

Cell Phone: 608-606-9787

Email: jrichards@diolclergy.org

Office Hours in Coon Valley Sacristy:

Tues. 1:00 PM until Mass time

Thurs. after Mass until noon and by appt

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday.....4:00pm

Sunday.....8:00am

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday.....5:15 pm

Thursday.....8:00am

CONFESSIONS

Saturday.....3:15pm to 3:45pm

Sunday.....7:15am to 7:45am

PARISH OFFICE

Amy Stafshien, Admin. Assist.....608-452-3841

Bulletin deadline: Wednesday noon

E-mail: stmaryscv@mw.net

Open most Wednesdays and Thursdays

COORDINATOR of RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Bridget Goodwin.....bladams50@gmail.com

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

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

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Mike Callan, Ryan Goodwin, Marlene Humfeld, Sue Humfeld, Lori Pedretti and Steve Schulte.

PCCW - Parish Council of Catholic Women

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

MUSICIANS

Mary Beth Smith, Linda Schulte, and Chris Carskadon.

Fr. Joe also serving:

Annunciation of the BVM Parish, Viroqua

Mass Times: Weekend.....Saturday.....6:30 PM

Sunday10:30 AM

Weekday: Wednesdays - 5:15 PM & Fridays - 8:00 AM

New Parishioners: Welcome to our parish! Please introduce yourself to Fr. Joe and contact the parish office for registration and information. www.stmaryscv.org/visit-us

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday from 3:15pm to 3:45pm and Sunday from 7:15am to 7:45am

Sacrament of Baptism: Please submit a registration by mail, or e-mail to both stmaryscv@mw.net AND fatherjoerichards@gmail.com You will be contacted by the parish office to finalize your requested date. The registration form at: www.stmaryscv.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.stmaryscv.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.

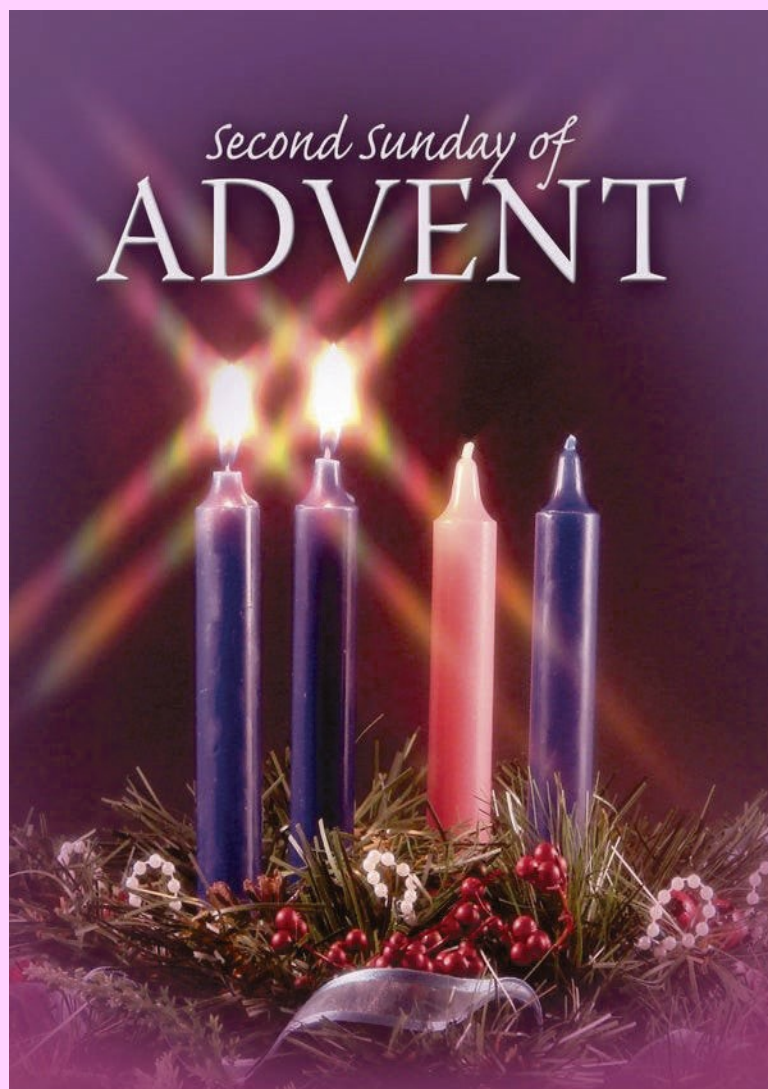
St. Mary's Parish

900 Central Ave., Coon Valley, WI 54623

Phone: 608-452-3841

Website: stmarycv.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/StMarysCoonValley



Fr. Joe Richards, Pastor

December 10, 2023

Readings: 480B

St. Mary's Parish, Coon Valley, WI

Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday Readings

December 10, 2023

- 1) Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; 2) 2 Peter 3:8-14
3) Mark 1:1-8

Intentions

Dec 09 ~ 4:00 PM - † Joan Urbanek
Dec 10 ~ 8:00 AM - † Verdel, Sara, and David Holte
Dec 12 ~ 5:15 PM - † David Holte
Dec 14 ~ 8:00 AM - † Stanley and Francis Kerska
Dec 16 ~ 4:00 PM - † Edward and Anna Kerska
Dec 17 ~ 8:00 AM - † Helen Stafslie

MASS Intentions

Open Sat. and Sun. dates: Jan. 14, 28; Mar. 9, 16 or 17, 23, 24, 31. Apr. 13, 28

Open Weekdays: Jan. 11, 23; Feb. 1, 13, 15, 20, 29; Mar. 5, 12, 14, 21, 26. Apr. 2, 4, 11, 16, 23, 30.

Request a specific date by filling out an intention envelope or by emailing the office. If you have questions feel free to email the parish office at stmaryscv@mwt.net or leave a message at 608-452-3841.

Next Week in Service — Dec 16 / 17

If you are not able to serve as scheduled below, please find a substitute. Thank you!

Readers:	Sat. – Nancy Peters	Sun. – Volunteer
Ushers:	Sat. – Volunteers	Sun. – Volunteers
Money Counters:	Loree Nickelotti and Rodney and Kathy Berg	



CONFESSIONS

Tuesday: after 5:15 pm Mass
Saturday: 3:15pm to 3:45pm
Sunday: 7:15am to 7:45am

Upcoming Events/Calendar

- Dec 9/10 ~ Retirement Fund For Religious Weekend
- Dec 16 ~ Confessions in Viroqua from Noon to 2 PM
- Dec 17 ~ RE monthly activity after the 8 AM Mass in Coon Valley
- Dec 21 ~ Coffee and Fellowship after the 8 AM Mass
- Dec 24/25 ~ *update* Christmas Eve 4:00 PM and 12:00 AM (midnight)
- Dec 25 ~ Christmas Mass in Viroqua 10:30 AM
- Dec 26 & 27 ~ Fr. Joe on PTO - no daily Mass
- Jan 01 ~ Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day)- 8 AM in Coon Valley and 10:30 AM in Viroqua
- Jan 07 ~ RE in Viroqua after the 10:30 AM Mass for both Coon Valley and Viroqua students.
- Jan 21 ~ RE monthly activity after the 8 AM Mass in Coon Valley
- Jan 22 ~ PCCW Meeting 5:30 PM
- Feb 04 ~ RE in Viroqua after the 10:30 AM Mass for both Coon Valley and Viroqua students.



Fr. Joe's Office Hours:

Tues. from 1:00-5:15 PM (Mass time) and

Thurs. from Mass until noon.

Wednesdays and Fridays in Viroqua, and Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons will be flex options. **Note that some of this time will also include home and nursing facility visits, so, please call or text beforehand (608-606-9787) or look for the Terrain under the maple tree out back in the parking lot.**



Inspired by the Spirit Campaign

5 Year Goal : \$105,000.00
As of November 29, 2023

Pledges received (30): \$107,720.00

Payments received: \$34,067.50

**WE HAVE EXCEEDED THE GOAL!
THANK YOU!**



Needed this Month

\$10,000.00	at \$2000 per week
\$1,290.00	Received as of week 1
(\$8,710.00)	Short for the Month

Sunday Mass streaming Live on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/StMarysCoonValley>

Annual Appeal 2023-24

As of 12/05/23	Total Pledged	Total Payments
Pledged/Paid	\$3,185.00	\$3,035.00
Target Amount	\$14,515.00	\$14,515.00
Under Target	(\$11,330.00)	(\$11,480.00)
Percent Pledged: 21.94%, Percent Received: 20.91%		
Number Contributing:	12	

To donate online visit: <https://diolc.org/stewardship/> then choose either "single gift, reoccurring gift, or pledge" and in the parish dropdown, choose; 2023 (445) St. Mary Parish, Coon Valley.

Giving Last Week

			12/3/2023
Adult Env(26)	\$1,165.00	Needed Weekly	\$2,000.00
Offertory	\$125.00	Received This Week	\$1,290.00
Total	\$1,290.00	Running total needed	\$98,000.00
		YTD Received	\$87,076.87
Christmas		Difference	(10,923.13)
Flowers	\$225.00		

From the Pastor

Hello friends!

Confession is one of my all time favorite things. I hope that's not a surprise. Honestly, one of the biggest reasons I became a priest was to hear confessions – not because I love hearing the juicy details of what's ugly or falling apart in people's lives, but because it has been such an important and healing thing in my own life. Through my college years in Winona and my time as a missionary up in Duluth I was blessed with priests who made a point of making themselves readily available to hear my own confession, whether it was a Big Moment to let go of something or a standard housekeeping reconciliation. As I came to the end of those three missionary years and was seriously considering going to seminary to listen to a call to priesthood, the main draw was to do for other people the same work I had received – hearing confessions, celebrating Mass, walking with people through both light and dark moments. Even today, it's a common occurrence when I get together with my brother priests for an official or unofficial event for us to pull each other aside with a "you have time to hear my confession?" Turns out priests need confession as much/more than anyone else. All that's to say, confession. Big fan.

So let's talk about opportunities. A standard week around our parishes has two scheduled confession times – during Wednesday's post-Mass adoration time in Viroqua (about 5:45-6:30) and 45 to 15 minutes before each weekend Mass (**that is, Saturday, 3:15-3:45 PM in Coon Valley** and 5:45-6:15 in Viroqua, as well as, **Sunday, 7:15-7:45 AM in Coon Valley** and 9:45-10:15 in Viroqua).

We're adding in two more times for this season.

- ⇒ First, I'll be available in the church confessional (front right, across from the sacristy/prep room) **after Tuesday's 5:15 PM Mass in Coon Valley. If you're thinking of coming to one of those Tuesday times, I'd recommend coming closer to 5:45 PM** – if nobody's around by six I'll head back up the hill.
- ⇒ The second extra confession opportunity is **on December 16 in Viroqua from 12:00-2:00 PM.** For that one I'll have Fr. Sam McCarty (and possibly Fr. Dan Sedlacek) in tow to help out and to lend an extra layer of anonymity, if that's up your alley. Either way, both because the Church asks us to and also because it's a really good way to invite Christ's light into our darkness, allow me to encourage you to take advantage of the sacrament of confession this Advent.

God bless you, and happy Advent! ~Fr. Joe



Parish Announcements

Congratulation Fr. Joe!

The Most Reverend William Patrick Callahan, D.D., Bishop of La Crosse, makes the following announcement:

In accord with the norm of canon 553, §2, the following priest is named vicar forane (dean) for a three-year term, effective December 5, 2023: The Very Rev. **Joseph M. Richards** for the Richland Center Deanery.

Quilt Raffle and Craft Show Follow-up

Quilt Raffle Winners:

- * 1st - Amish made quilt - Jan Ihle
- * 2nd - Homemade afghan - Ann Tollefson
- * 3rd - Homemade lap blanket - Angela Stratton
- * 4th - Homemade napkin holder - Sandy Ritter
- * 5th - Decorative birdhouse - Joan LeJeune
- * 6th - Ponchette - Amy Hanson

Special thank you to the Craft Show Coordinator—Nancy Peters for all her hard work and thank you to all those who donated food & baked goods, as well as all the workers. Your collective efforts are what make this fundraiser our most successful every year.

Christmas Flower Donations



We are now accepting donations for Christmas Flowers. A special envelope is included with your envelope bundles, there are also extras located at the church entrances.

Christmas Choir—All Welcome!

All singers are invited to join the choir for Christmas. Please arrive 30 minutes early to prepare to start singing a few songs before Mass. Hark The Herald, St. Mary's Angels Sing!!

Thank you Everyone.

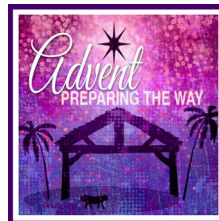


2024 Contribution Envelopes and Calendars

Both are now available in the back of church. Envelopes are in alphabetical order for ease of pickup. Thank you for your continued support. 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

Retirement Fund for Religious Collection Dec 9/10

Support a lifetime of service. Women and men religious have spent their lives serving others in prayer, ministry, education and care for those in need—usually for little or no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. As they age, they require essential care and medications. Please support them by giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your donation makes a difference for nearly 25,000 senior men and women religious. Please give generously.



Reflections for Advent Booklet and Materials

Advent Gospel Reflections by Word on Fire booklets and other Advent materials are available in the back of church. Feel free to take home whatever speaks to you.

Diocesan/Local Announcements

Reading from the Bible during Advent

There are seven Scripture Readings pertinent to the season of Advent on a downloadable prayer card available here under the title "Praying with Scripture: diolc.org/deeper. Or if you would like to read the Scripture Readings from Mass each day during Advent as a beautiful way to prepare for Christmas, visit bible.usccb.org.

Solemnity of Our Lady of Guadalupe—December 12th

Nearly 500 years ago, Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to Saint Juan Diego in Mexico. The Solemnity of Our Lady of Guadalupe is December 12th. All are invited to celebrate at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, in La Crosse, WI. The day includes a Bilingual Mass offered by Cardinal Burke. Learn more at <https://www.guadalupe Shrine.org/events/solemnity-of-our-lady-of-guadalupe>

Pilgrimage for Life - Jan 17-21, 2024-Numbers needed ASAP

We are excited to offer the Pilgrimage for Life. We will be traveling by coach bus to Washington, DC to participate in the annual March for Life. This opportunity is for anyone ages 13 and up. The estimated cost is estimated to be \$400 per person. All information and registration link can be found at <https://diolc.org/yva/youth-opportunities/pilgrimage-for-life/>

Advent 2023: Resources for Meditation:

- ⇒ Bishop Barron's daily Gospel reflections - www.wordonfire.org/reflections/advent
- ⇒ Fr. Joseph Mary Wolfe, MFVA - Weekly Advent Reflection Videos (2 min.): What can we give Jesus for Christmas? www.ewtn.com/catholicism/seasons-and-feast-days/advent-14416
- ⇒ Hallow's Advent Pray25 with C.S. Lewis - <https://hallow.com/blog/pray25/>
- ⇒ Matthew Kelly: Best Advent Ever - www.dynamiccatholic.com/advent.htm
- ⇒ EWTN daily Advent Reflections - www.ewtn.com/catholicism/reflections/advent
- ⇒ Seven Scripture Readings for Advent on a downloadable prayer card available under the title "Praying with Scripture - diolc.org/deeper.
- ⇒ Scripture Readings from Mass each day during Advent - bible.usccb.org.

Bishop Callahan Advent Remarks

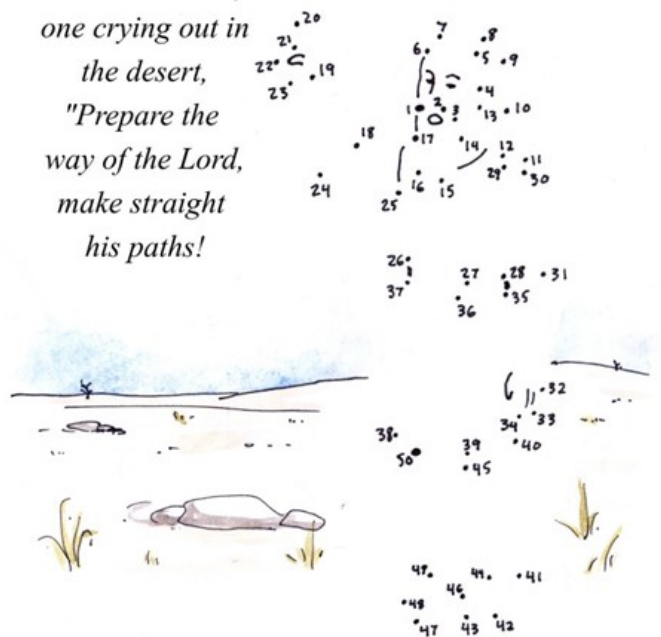
"As the year draws to a close and the hopes for 2024 dawn, I am grateful to have the opportunity to pass along my own Advent greetings to you..." Please share Bishop Callahan's Advent remarks by visiting <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e0cKXO0q9t8> or by using your smartphone's camera to scan the QR code to the right



Activity Corner

Second Sunday of Advent December 10th, 2023

*I am the voice of
one crying out in
the desert,
"Prepare the
way of the Lord,
make straight
his paths!"*



*What did God send before Jesus to prepare the
people for His coming?
Connect the dots to find out!*



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS



- Those sick and suffering in any way, may they find healing and strength in our Lord.
- For military men and women who are supporting our freedom.
- Our political leaders, may their decisions be made for the good of all.
- For the people of Ukraine, Israel and Gaza whose lives have been affected by acts of war.
- For those fighting cancer, especially members of our parish.
- For children suffering with life threatening conditions and illnesses.
- The intentions listed in our parish Book of Prayer.

To add a request call 608-452-3841 or email stmaryscv@mwt.net



**Please give to those who
have given a lifetime.**

Retirement Fund for Religious

Elderly religious need your help. Like those pictured, nearly 25,000 senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests have dedicated their lives to serving others through praying for us, ministering to us, educating the young, caring for those who are sick and more—most for little or no pay, leaving a profound shortage in retirement savings. Your donation will make a real difference by providing essential care, medicine and other necessities. Please give generously.

Please give at your local parish.

To donate, please use envelopes provided in the back of church or the one included with your envelope packets. Make checks out to “St. Mary Parish” and all contributions will be forwarded the retirement fund. Thank you.

retiredreligious.org

Visit retiredreligious.org/2023photos to meet the religious pictured.
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