

St. Mary Parish

900 Central Ave, Coon Valley, WI 54623

Fr. Joe Richards, Pastor | Dcn. Tony Shay

September 7, 2025 | Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time | Reading 646C

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



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

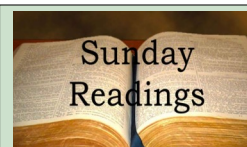
Fr. Joe also serving:

**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



September 7, 2025
 1) Wisdom 9:13-18
 2) Philemon 9, 10, 12-17
 3) Luke 14:25-33

Intentions / Schedule

SATURDAY, September 06

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 4:00pm Mass - Ronald and Marlene Humfeld
 (50th Wedding Anniversary)

Altar Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers
 Lector: Robert Kerska

SUNDAY, September 07

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 8:00am Mass - † Anna Kerska

Altar Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers
 Lector: Ryan Goodwin

Money Counters: Loree Nickelotti and Curt Horman

TUESDAY, September 09

St. Peter Claver

- 4:30pm Adoration

- 5:15pm Mass - † Sandra and Albert Finn

THURSDAY, September 11

Weekday

- 8:00am Mass - For the People

SATURDAY, September 13

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

- 4:00pm Mass - † Gavin Williams

Altar Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers
 Lector: Robert Kerska

SUNDAY, September 14

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

- 8:00am Mass - † Kylie Von Ruden

Altar Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers
 Lector: Marlene Humfeld

Money Counters: Steve Grabowski and Bernie Roesler

Upcoming Events/Calendar

- **Sep 7** ~ Rebuild My Church listening session in Viroqua at noon
- **Sep 8** ~ PCCW Meeting at 5:30 PM
- **Sep 14** ~ Religious Education Registration in Viroqua after the 10:30 AM Mass
- **Sep 15** ~ Men's Club Meeting 6:00 PM
- **Sep 16** ~ Finance Council Meeting 5:45 PM
- **Sep 18** ~ Coffee and Fellowship following 8 AM Mass
- **Sep 21** ~ Religious Education Registration (second opportunity) after 8 AM Mass here in Coon Valley
- **Oct 12** ~ Our Annual Pancake Breakfast 7:30 AM until food is gone or noon (whichever comes first)

So if you regard me as a partner, welcome him as you would me. Philemon 17



Open Sat. and Sun. dates: Sep 28. Oct 5, 12, & 19. Nov 16 & 23. Dec 7, 13, 14, 27, & 28.

Open Weekdays: Oct 2, 9, 21, 23 & 28. Nov 25. Dec. 2, 11 & 23.

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 September 5, 2025
 Pledges received (30): \$109,520.00
Payments received: \$63,866.50
THANK YOU!



Needed last Month

\$10,000.00	at \$2000 per week
\$8,680.75	Received as of week 5
(\$1,319.25)	Difference for the Month

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.

Giving Last Week		8/31/2025	
Adult Env (32)	\$1,402.00	Needed Weekly	\$2,000.00
Offertory	505.00	Received This Week	\$1,907.00
Total	\$1,907.00	Running total needed	\$70,000.00
		YTD Received	\$66,256.06
		Difference	(3,743.94)

From the Pastor

Hello friends,

You've heard me mention it enough to know we've got our local listening session shortly after the 10:30 Mass this Sunday. Again, these are happening all over the Diocese, some in big parishes, some in small parishes, some in schools, etc. to make it as accessible as possible for folks who want (and/or need) to come. Without having experienced one yet, I imagine there will be some relevant forecasting, some difficult coming-to-terms with where we are, some grieving and puzzling, and some invitation to curiosity.

Just speaking for priests, several of my brothers know I'm a member of Fr. Derek's exploratory team, which inevitably leads to them digging for answers about "what's going to happen to my parish?" "what places are closing/merging?" etc. These tangible questions are all important, relevant, and understandable, and my brother priests are inevitably disappointed and suspicious that I might be holding out when I answer (honestly) "I have no idea." It makes a transition season so much more difficult in-the-moment to slow things down, to try and consult effectively, to try and communicate honestly and sufficiently. The "I just want to know what's going to happen" makes perfect sense, and with big-picture stuff like this as well as focused-picture stuff like people's stories and struggles and graces and encounters, that desire to arrive is a really hard thing to table.

Accounting for all that desire for resolution, I am encouraged by the approach Bishop Battersby is taking with this whole season. I want to know what the business plan is, he wants to know where the Holy Spirit is leading. Before officially introducing Rebuild My Church a year ago, Bishop and his people first cast the vision of a movement across the diocese from maintenance to mission. We have inherited a rich culture and infrastructure from the last century and a half of Catholicism in the upper Midwest, from our mothers and fathers and grandparents and great grandparents who first brought it over (predominantly) from a rich (and sometimes underdog) Catholic culture in Europe. Many of us have grown up in established and secure churches and come to associate Catholicism and "Church" with this or that church building and community, and there is a real grace to that security and reliability as a footing from which to launch and expand. It can also be limiting to rest on what is known and familiar. Our mothers and fathers didn't have that opportunity to maintain what they had received – there could be nothing to maintain if they didn't first build. So here we are in a moment of transition, mirroring those missionary questions of our ancestors 50 or 100 or 150 or 1000 years ago – "what now Lord? Where are you leading me, my community, my family today? How are you inviting me to be your disciple, your missionary, your son/daughter?" There's nothing new under the sun, only new presentations of the Lord's one living Gospel.

God bless you! Fr. Joe

Parish Announcements



Town Hall Meeting – Your Presence Needed!

This fall, Bishop Battersby is inviting all of us to begin a serious process of renewal and conversion, personally and institutionally, throughout the Diocese of La Crosse. You are invited to attend a 90-minute session at a location near you. A team will travel to facilitate 40 of these, inviting all of us to share in the first steps of what will be an extended process of strategic and pastoral planning. **Our closest option will be in Viroqua at noon on Sun, Sept 7,** or in Keyesville at 6:30pm on Wed, Sept 10. Look for the Rebuild My Church brochures in today's bulletin for more information, along with the website where you can sign up: www.dioc.org/rebuildmychurch



Our Annual Pancake Breakfast - October 13 Save the Date and Donate



As in past years, we are requesting at least a \$20 donation per family in lieu of a raffle. Envelopes are in the back of the church in alphabetical order for each registered family. Thank you in advance for your support.

Religious Education Registration - Sep 14 or 21

It's almost time to register for our upcoming Religious Education year. We are excited to offer several formation opportunities and sacramental preparation for the upcoming year. Religious education is a vital part of our children's faith journey, and we encourage all families to participate. **All parents and students from Kindergarten through 10th grade should attend.** We have made it easy to register with two convenient dates:

- **Sunday, September 14th:** After the 10:30 AM Mass in Viroqua
- **Sunday, September 21st:** After the 8:00 AM Mass in Coon Valley

The List of Programs offered this year include:

- ♦ Catechesis of the Good Shepherd(CGS) Atrium I Ages 3-6
- ♦ Catechesis of the Good Shepherd(CGS) Atrium II Ages 6-9
- ♦ Blessed First Reconciliation Gr 2-5
- ♦ Blessed First Communion Gr 2-5
- ♦ Family of Faith (FoF) K-Gr 9
- ♦ Encounter: Bible Timeline Gr 6-8
- ♦ Decision Point Gr 9
- ♦ Confirmation Preparation Gr 10-12
- ♦ Bible Study for Sunday Gospel Preparation Gr 11+
- ♦ Little Rock Bible Study (6 & 3 session options) Gr 11+
- ♦ Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) Adult
- ♦ Contemplative Reading Group Adult

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Pat Obernberger at stmaryformation@mw1.net

Camp Gray Retreats: Link to register - <https://campgray.com/weekend-retreats/> \$35/attendee with Check In: Friday @ 7:00 PM and Check Out: Sunday @ 2:00 PM



Parish Announcements continued

MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT OCTOBER 10-12, 2025 with Registration Deadline: October 3, 2025 **HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT** NOVEMBER 14-16, 2025 with Registration Deadline: November 7, 2025

MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT MARCH 13-15, 2026 with Registration Deadline: March 6, 2026

HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT APRIL 24-26, 2026 with Registration Deadline: April 17, 2026

Location: E10213 Shady Lane Road in Reedsburg, WI 53959 Interested families please contact Pat Obernberger, stmaryformation@mwt.net, for more information or to inform her if you register.

LDCCW Sharesop - Sep 20

It's time to register for the La Crosse Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Sharesop to be held on Saturday, September 20, 2025. It will be held at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. This is a free event, but we need everyone to register with the President Elect, Kay Kesler, at kay@pmcmgmt.com, so they know how many people to expect for lunch. Please register by September 13. Send your name and tell them you're from the Richland Center Deanery.

Diocesan/Local Announcements

We're Hiring! Graphic and Digital Media Designer:

The Diocese of La Crosse is seeking a talented Graphic and Digital Media Designer to help share the beauty of our Catholic faith through design, photography and visual storytelling. This role is vital in supporting the Church's mission by creating engaging content that inspires and informs. [Apply here](#) or visit: <https://diolc.org/jobs/>. Please spread the word—and consider who in your circle might be called to use their creative gifts in service to the Church. Chances are, the right candidate is someone you know and recommend. For questions or recommendations, please contact Erik at earcher@diolc.org.

St. Joseph Parish PCCW Chicken Q - Sat., Sep. 13th

Please mark your calendars to pick up chicken dinners on Saturday, September 13th at the St. Joseph Church parking lot (St. Joseph Ridge). Dinners will include chicken (prepared by Pogy's catering), potato salad, beans, and roll for \$12.00. Serving will start at 11:00 and will serve until gone. Hope you can see there!

Moving Through Grief Together

Emplify Health by Gundersen Drop-In Grief Support Group First and third Saturdays of every month Time: 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm Location: Ross Conference Room, Emplify Health by Gundersen Hospital-La Crosse Campus, 1900 South Ave., La Crosse, WI. The sessions are free of charge and advance registration is not required. The group is open to the public (visitor guidelines must be followed). Directions to the Ross Conference Room are available at the hospital main entrance information desk. Upcoming 2025 dates: September 6 & 20; October 5 & 19; November 2 & 16; December 6 & 20

Walking with Women Praying with Scripture - Sep 18

First gathering Thursday, September 18 at 6 PM St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral (St. Joseph Hall). Come and share your faith and journey toward a deeper love of Christ through Lectio Divina! Contact: walkling9praying8@gmail.com. Text/Call: 608-518-7655. Meeting dates: Sep 18, Oct 9 (potluck), Oct 30,

Diocesan/Local Announcements continued

Nov 20, Dec 11, Jan 8, Jan 29, Feb 19, Mar 12, Apr 9, and Apr 30 (potluck).

Franciscan Spirituality Center Celebrates 40 Years - Sep 22

On Monday, September 22, 2025, the Franciscan Spirituality Center will celebrate this major milestone — 40 years of service, reflection, and **spiritual growth — with a special event open to the public. This anniversary commemorates the original proclamation that established the center as a place of healing, learning and connection in the heart of the community.**

Please join us at 4:30 p.m., with a formal welcome at 5 p.m. The evening will feature a special blessing by Bishop Emeritus William Patrick Callahan, OFM Conv., honoring the FSC's mission of being dedicated to anyone seeking God, meaning and wholeness. We kindly ask you to RSVP by calling 608-791-5295 or use their website: <https://www.fscenter.org/>

Rural Life Day - Sept. 22, 2025 - Warrens, WI

Join us for the 44th Annual Rural Life Day at the Van Wychen Family Farm in Warrens on Monday, Sept. 22! Mass with Bishop Battersby at 10:00 AM will be followed by awards, the blessing of farm animals, crops, and machinery, and a delightful lunch. The Van Wychen Farm is located at 3365 Auger Road, Warrens, WI 54666. This is a day to celebrate rural life and to rejoice in the way its values contribute to the Church at large.

Mass of Hope and Healing - Sep 23

Bishop Gerard Battersby will celebrate a Mass of Hope and Healing on Tuesday, September 23, 2025 at 6:30 pm at the Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman. This Mass will be offered for anyone grieving the loss of children through miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, abortion, stillbirth, accident or infant death. A book of remembrance will be available before and after Mass for those who would like to inscribe the name(s) of their child (ren). Votive candles will be given to families before Mass in remembrance of each child. Candles will be lit and carried forward by family members, just before the entrance procession, and placed before the image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. After Mass, refreshments will be served along with a display of resources and books in the Gathering Space

Organ Recitals—St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral

Sept 28—Gabriel Rivera Bird

Oct 26—Daniel Schwandt

Nov 16—Chad Winterfeldt

Sunday Afternoons at 3:30 PM, freewill offering

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.

From Maintenance to Mission

After months of listening and prayer, Bishop Battersby believes Jesus is calling us to pivot from maintenance to mission.

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, is inviting us to listen to His voice, to make whatever changes He asks, and to follow Him into more abundant life.

St. Teresa of Ávila said, "Christ has no body now on earth but yours; yours are the only hands with which he can do his work, yours are the only feet with which he can go around the world, yours are the only eyes through which his compassion can shine forth.

This fall we will journey together as we begin to walk the path of discipleship.

Together we will:

- See some sobering statistics
- Listen for the voice of Jesus in ourselves and in each other
- Pivot from self-preservation to becoming parishes fully alive on mission



Join the Journey

Pastoral planning must be a relational process, an intrinsically evangelizing process, not a structural process. A team will travel to 40 locations to join with you to begin an extended process of renewal. Our shared commitment to mission will help us discover how best to structure our parishes in the years ahead.

**Come to Listen.
Come to Speak.
Come to be on Mission.**

REBUILD MY CHURCH

DIOCESE of LA CROSSE

We are beginning a serious process of renewal and conversion, personally and institutionally, throughout the Diocese of La Crosse. We trust Jesus, the Good Shepherd, to guide us into more abundant life.

You are invited to attend a 90-minute town hall meeting at a location near you!

Sessions Info

- Sessions: 90 minutes long, at a location near you
- Learn more / sign up: diolc.org/rebuildmychurch
- Call: Contact your parish office

*September 7, Noon in Viroqua
*September 10, 6:30 PM in Keyesville
*October 2, 6:00 PM in Hillsboro

Scan to
Learn More



Why Now?



800 years ago, St. Francis of Assisi heard Jesus say:

“Francis, go and rebuild my Church, which, as you see, is falling into ruin.”

It's important to be honest and humble about signs of decline. Priest numbers have tapered off. People numbers have plummeted (long before COVID). Status quo is clearly not an option.

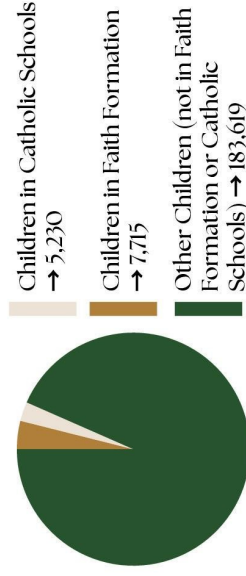
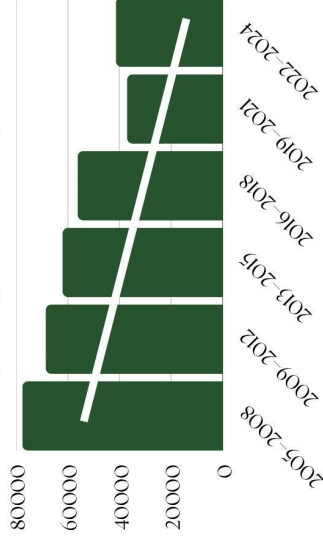
Jesus brings Hope. We will seek to listen to His voice together.

The Voice of Jesus needs to be heard... and the Voice of Jesus is in YOU.

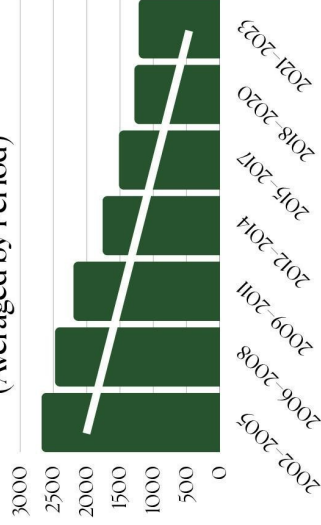
Falling into Ruin?

The numbers reflect real losses in our parish families. Will we face those losses? Jesus promises to comfort those who are willing to mourn. He restores Hope to those who are willing to die and rise with Him.

Sunday Mass Attendance
(Averaged by Period)



Baptisms
(Averaged by Period)



7 Pillars

Our conversations will consider what it looks like for parishes to be fully alive on mission:

- 1 Thriving Sunday Masses**
Dignified worship that inspires both old and new members
- 2 Stable and Healthy Leadership**
Strong relationships with collaborative leaders bearing fruit over time
- 3 A Culture of Discipleship**
Prayerful and committed followers of Jesus
- 4 A Culture of Accompaniment**
New members readily welcomed and walked with
- 5 Missionary Outreach**
Reaching out beyond ourselves to serve and invite
- 6 Faith Formation**
Helping all ages grow in knowledge and love of Christ
- 7 Stewardship**
Recognizing each person's uniqueness so that all can share gifts generously