

PAROCHIAL ADMINISTRATOR

Fr. Joseph Richards (Fr. Joe)

Rectory: 400 Congress Ave, Viroqua, WI 54665

Cell Phone: 608-606-9787

Email: fatherjoerichards@gmail.com

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..... 6:30pm

Thursday.....8:00am

CONFESSIONS

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

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

PARISH OFFICE

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

Bulletin deadline: Wednesday noon

E-mail: stmaryscv@mwt.net

Open most Wednesdays and Thursdays

COORDINATOR of RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Vacant

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

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

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Ryan Goodwin, Marlene Humfeld, Sue Humfeld,
and Steve Schulte. (2 appointed vacancies)

PCCW - Parish Council of Catholic Women

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

ORGANISTS

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 - 6:30 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: Call or email Fr. Joe. You can also use our website under the Sacraments tab: <https://www.stmaryscv.org/sacraments>

Sacrament of Baptism: Please submit a registration by mail, or e-mail to both stmaryscv@mwt.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.

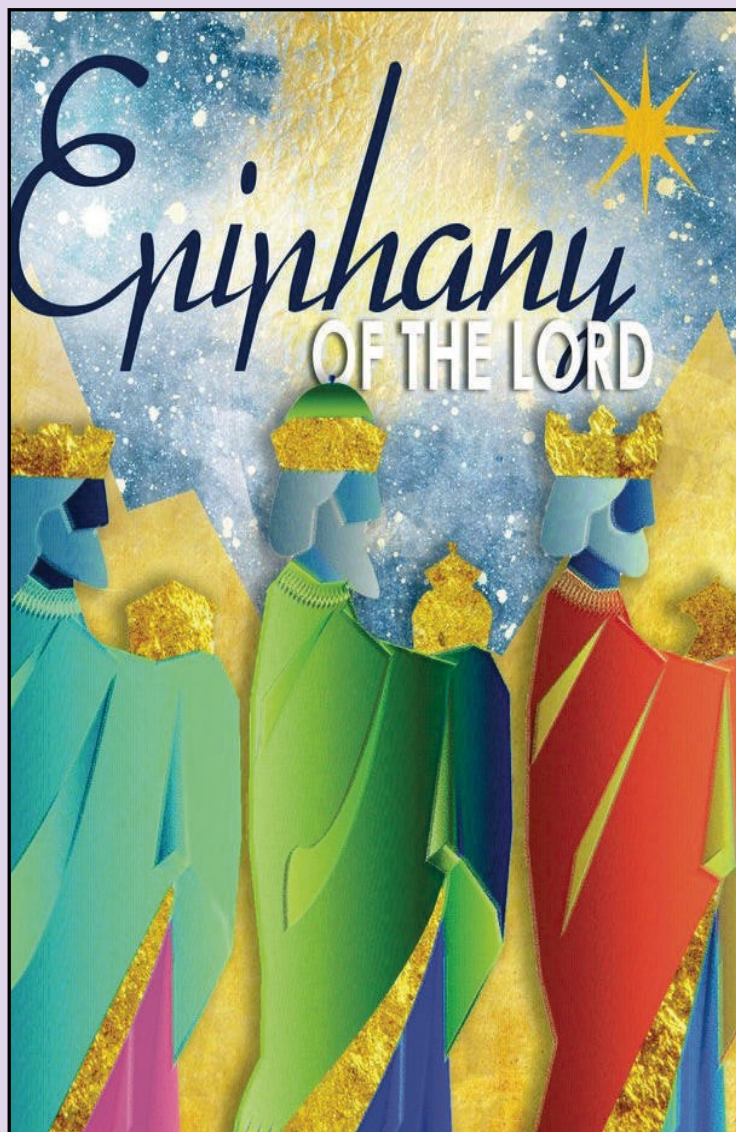
St. Mary's Parish

900 Central Ave., Coon Valley, WI 54623

Phone: 608-452-3841

Website: stmarycv.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/StMarysCoonValley



Fr. Joe Richards

January 8, 2023

Readings: 497A

St. Mary's Parish, Coon Valley, WI

The Epiphany of the Lord



Sunday Readings

January 8, 2023

- 1) Isaiah 60:1-6/20; 2) Ephesians 3:2-3A,5-6;
3) Matthew 2:1-12

Intentions

Jan 07 ~ 4:00 PM - † Deceased members of the Roskos and Roningen Families

Jan 08 ~ 8:00 AM - Our Parish Family

Jan 10 ~ 6:30 PM - † Eric "Rick" Logemann

Jan 12 ~ 8:00 AM - † Jim Kuehn

Jan 14 ~ 4:00 PM - † Edward and Anna Kerska

Jan 15 ~ 8:00 AM - Our Parish Family

Mass Intentions

If there is a special weekend date you would like, please get your request(s) in early.

Open Sat. and Sun. dates: Jan 22. Feb 19. Mar 19. Apr 1, 2, 22, & 30.

Weekdays open: Jan 24 & 31. Feb 2, 7, 9, & 23. Mar 2, 7, 14, 21, & 30. If you have questions feel free to email the parish office at stmaryscv@mwt.net or leave a message at 608-452-3841.



Upcoming Events/Calendar

- **January 8** ~ Religious Education Class after 8 AM Mass Confirmation in Viroqua after the 10:30 AM Mass
- **January 10** ~ Finance Council Meeting 5 PM
- **January 19** ~ Coffee and Fellowship after 8 AM Mass
- **January 21 to February 26** ~ Birthright Baby Bottle Campaign
- **February 5** ~ Religious Education Class after 8 AM Mass
- **February 8-24** ~ Amy on PTO, for administrative needs please contact Fr. Joe

Sunday Mass streaming Live on Facebook is back:

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

Fr. Joe's Office Hours:

Tuesdays from 1:00-6:30 PM (Mass time) and on **Thursdays 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.**

CONFESSIONS

Saturday
3:15pm to 3:45pm
Sunday
7:15am to 7:45am



Next Week in Service — Jan14/15

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

Readers:	Sat. – Jeana LeJeune Sun. – Volunteer
Ushers:	Sat. – Volunteers Sun. – Volunteers
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.

Donations: Here are some ways to support your parish:

- **Attend Mass and drop** your contribution envelope at either church, Coon Valley or Viroqua and the funds will be directed to St. Mary's
- **US Postal Service:** mail directly to the parish office, your Contribution envelope is postal ready!
- **Bill Pay** through online banking, add St. Mary's as contact (if possible, use your envelope number as the account number).
- Use our **online service** at: diolc.org/st-mary-coon-valley (a processing fee will be deducted from your contribution, which averages 3% for debit/credit cards and \$.75 for EFT/ACH. Your contribution will be recorded for the full amount).



Sign in using **AmazonSmile** and select St. Mary Parish as your preferred charity at smile.amazon.com/ch/39-1218730. Remember to shop for deals at **smile.amazon.com**, or with Amazon Smile ON in the Amazon app, and AmazonSmile will donate to us at no cost to you."



Giving Last Week		Week 01	1/1/2023
Adult Env.(18)	\$670.00	Needed Weekly	\$2,000.00
Offertory	\$133.00	Received This Week	\$2,008.00
Sol of Mary(11)	\$1,205.00	Running total needed	\$2,000.00
Total	\$2,008.00	YTD Received	\$2,008.00
		Difference	8.00

From the Parochial Administrator



Hello friends,

As you know I've been out of the office all week, so for my part I don't have terribly much business to report. However, for your own reading enjoyment I do have a few reflections from my experience at the FOCUS conference to share with you. Last week I mentioned that my intention heading down to St. Louis was to combine a personal retreat with a post-Christmas vacation in personally familiar territory – in a sense to return to my roots for a moment. That has certainly been the case. I am in no way physically rested from this experience – over the last five nights I've gotten less sleep than ever before in 2023 – but the chance to return to those spiritual roots and to be with these young men and women in such vulnerable and healing moments has been nothing short of blessed and rejuvenating.

I'm writing this week's article on Thursday afternoon from a hotel lobby in St. Louis. After a chilly night camping South of Peoria in my winter hammock setup (that's a whole different and strictly-irrelevant conversation I'm also very willing to have) I finished the drive down Monday morning to check in for the conference. There's something like 17,000 attendees here this year – around 10,000 students from FOCUS' American schools and 8 international extension campuses, 2,000 parishioners from parishes around the country, and by a friend's headcount at this morning's Mass some 515 priests and 18 bishops. The 1000 current missionaries and their families fill out the rest of that number. From my time as a missionary and seminarian I've been to enough of these conferences to lose precise count of how many I've been to, but one very new thing has been attending as a priest. You all have heard me talk enough about confession to know it's at the top of my gratitude list. Seeing all these students making room for a deeper encounter with the Lord over conference week has always been beautiful, but more than ever the roughly seventeen hours I've spent hearing confessions over the last five days have been filled with directly witnessing college students opening their hearts to the Lord's love and mercy in powerful ways. Honestly, it is one of the greatest privileges of being a priest to be with people in that moment of contrition and healing. A conference like this just elevates that experience.

Shortly after "you've already been a priest for *two-and-a-half years??*" my old acquaintances have asked one question with some regularity: "you're in a parish? Did you bring any parishioners along?" to which I typically respond with something like "no, I was thinking of bringing some folks down when I was at my last assignment, but we didn't have quite enough time to get a group together this time." Not to suggest things could have been any different (we really would have needed more time to organize a parish group), it's still a bit sad in my heart not to share this experience with you. Thank you for bearing with me while I stepped away for this time, and perhaps coming along for a future conference might be something worth praying about. We'll talk.

May God bless you and keep you, Fr. Joe

Parish Announcements



On behalf of the organists/pianists at St. Mary's, Coon Valley, we would like to thank you, St. Mary's parish, for the Christmas card and gift. It is very much appreciated.

Also a big thank you to those who sang in the choir during the Christmas season. It made Mass extra special to hear your melodious voices sing praise to Our Lord!

Another big thank you goes out to Jean Geier, our cantor who so willingly shares her beautiful voice and talents during the course of the year. Thank you, Jean.

Anyone is always welcome to help lead the singing in the choir. Have a Happy, Healthy, Holy Spirit-filled New Year.

Thank you, *Mary Beth, Linda and Chris*
Musicians at St. Mary's

2023 Envelopes and Calendars

The envelopes and calendars have arrived! Feel free to take a calendar home with you today and please pick up your envelope booklet from the back of church. If your name is missing or if you do not receive envelopes and would like some, please contact the parish office.

Inspired by the Spirit

This comprehensive, all-parish campaign effort began in parishes of the Diocese this past spring and is being conducted throughout this fall and through the first half of 2023. It will not only incorporate and support the ministries through the Diocesan Annual Appeal but will also provide an opportunity for every parish in the Diocese to raise funds for their own parish needs. More information about the campaign in the coming weeks.



Diocesan/Local Announcements

Chalice of Mercy—Ukraine Christmas Dinner - Jan. 14

Sat. Jan 14th Lilydale Dance Hall and Event Center in Chippewa Falls, from 5:30 PM to 9 PM. \$75 per person Please call Trudy Bement for reservations at 715-226-0376. See the flyer in the back of church for more information.

Culture of Life Summit - Jan. 21

We are excited to partner with the Diocese of Superior to hold a Culture of Life Summit. This will take the place of our Pilgrimage for Life. This will be a day of live music, speakers and a time where you can discuss the issues that pertain to respecting the dignity of life. The event will be held at Regis Catholic High School. To register please visit: <https://diolc.org/youth-opportunities/culture-of-life/>

ADRC Vernon County Mini Bus Trip - Jan. 26

Visit Beanie's Diner and Downtown Westby on January 26th. Cost is only \$7. call 608-637-5201 to reserve your spot.

GIVEN Retreat - Jan. 28

GIVEN is a short, powerful retreat for couples who are married, dating and engaged. It is an opportunity to share, learn and celebrate marriage with other couples through engaging talks, and adoration, prayer and reconciliation. Speakers will be Ted and Julie Imgrund and Michael and Jacqueline Van Hemmert.

Diocesan/Local Announcements continued

Cost: \$45 per couple For more information, contact Chris Rogers at crogers@diolc.org.

Crosswoods Camp is Hiring for Summer Staff Positions!

If you love being outdoors, are musically talented, can juggle, or make bird calls, we have the perfect job for you! Our small, dedicated staff leads weekly groups on adventures (such as rock climbing, kayaking, mountain biking) alongside skits, talks, and worship music to help lead youth to Christ. If this sounds like you, or a friend, please send inquiries or requests for an application to Camp Director, Shelby Saenger, at kaufers2386@gmail.com.

Ukraine Still Needs Us! Donate to Chalice of Mercy

Valentyna Pavsyukova continues to ship tons of humanitarian aid – especially donated medical supplies and equipment – to Ukraine through her Chalice of Mercy mission. She is able to ship at a discounted rate, but shipping costs are still very high. Visit chaliceofmercy.org/donation to give.

Hello INCREDIBLE Volunteers!

we are looking for folks to volunteer with Catholic Charities at the La Crosse Warming Center located at 413 3rd Street South in La Crosse, right downtown. Hours of operation this season are 6:30 pm until 8:30 am, 7 days a week. We would take help as often or as little as you have time for! Sign up is through our new and very awesome **Assistant Coordinator, Karla Hein**, who is the lead of scheduling volunteers at the La Crosse Warming Center. Karla can be reached via her email at khein@cclse.org or you can call or text her at 608-668-9005.

Come Follow Me!

When Peter encountered Jesus for the first time, he was busy doing his daily work, fishing. When they arrived back on shore, Jesus said to Peter, "Come, follow me..." and Peter did. In just the same way, the Lord continues to work in our world today, approaching us in our normal, daily lives and inviting us to consider following Him. Have you ever considered following the Lord as a priest, like Peter? Do you know of a young man who you think the Lord may be calling to be a priest? To begin the conversation or to inquire about what it means to be a priest, please contact me: Fr. Nate Kuhn, Director of Vocational Recruitment for the Diocese of La Crosse, 3710 East Ave. S. PO Box 4004, La Crosse, WI 54602; or by phone at: 608.791.2667. God bless you.

A Minute with Jesus Wise men came to worship Jesus



Wise men from far away saw an incredibly bright star moving across the sky. They followed the star to see where it would take them. It led them to the Infant Jesus. The wise men gave precious gifts to the Savior, gifts for a king:

gold, frankincense and myrrh. They knew that Jesus was a great king, even though He looked like a small Child. Jesus gives us the greatest Gift – the Gift of Himself in the Eucharist again and again in a life-giving encounter.

Let's pray this right now and every day this week: Jesus, the wise man brought You precious gifts. But, thank You for giving us the most precious Gift of Yourself in the Eucharist. This week, read how the wise men came to worship Jesus and bring Him gifts in Matthew 2:1-12

Kids Corner

THE EPIPHANY AND BAPTISM OF JESUS

This week we celebrate both the Epiphany of our Lord and His baptism in the Jordan river. Today (Sunday) is the Epiphany, which is the day that we remember the wise men from far away in the East coming to worship the newborn baby Jesus. God let them know that His Son was coming and gave them a special star in the sky to follow to find Him. When they found Jesus with His mother Mary they knelt down and gave Him their precious treasures of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Tomorrow (Monday) we celebrate the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan river. Jesus went to Saint John the Baptist, who was baptizing people and helping them repent from their sins. John knew that Jesus hadn't sinned but Jesus asked him to baptize Him anyway. This was the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. Until this time He had been living a life hidden from the rest of the world.



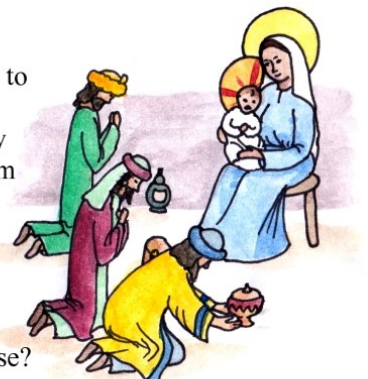
Like the wise men, we can give Jesus our best treasure: ourselves! If we decide to live our lives for Jesus then we will show the love of Jesus by our love for others.

Answers to True or False: 1. false 2. false 3. true 4. true 5. true 6. true 7. false

Epiphany: True or False?

*How well do you know the story of the wise men?
Which of these are true and which are false?*

1. Wise men came from the West to find the Baby Jesus. True or false?
2. The wise men went and asked King Caesar where the Messiah would be born. True or false?
3. The king told them to come back and tell him where the Baby was once they had found Him so that he could go and worship Him. True or false?
4. When the wise men found the Child and His mother they bowed down and gave Him gifts. True or false?
5. The gifts they gave were gold, frankincense and myrrh. True or false?
6. When they were going to go back and tell the king where the Baby was, they had a dream that told them not to. True or false?
7. The wise men went back to their land by the same road that they had come on. True or false?



The Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord

Epiphany means “manifestation.” The first Epiphany was the visit of the Magi to adore the Christ Child. The Magi, who were actually scholars and scientists, came to be associated with kings. Their gifts reveal this holy Child’s identity, *gold* for Christ’s Kingship, *incense* for His divinity, and *myrrh* for His sacrifice on the Cross.

The Feast of Epiphany is traditionally celebrated as the *twelfth night of Christmas*, on January 6th. In the United States, this feast has been moved to the Sunday, January 8, 2023. In many families, the king figurines are moved a bit closer to the nativity scene every day from Christmas Day until Epiphany. Moreover, it is traditional for parish priests to bless water, chalk, and incense on the eve of Epiphany, and use them for the blessing of homes the next day.

The blessing of homes (schools, places of employment, etc.) on Epiphany revives the beautiful custom of making our homes sacramentals. Sacramentals make us more mindful, receptive and cooperative with God’s grace. This blessing also reminds us that Christ is the One Who enlightens our hearts and homes with His love. He is the source of our hope, our comfort and our joy.

Marking doorways with blessed chalk is also a witness of faith. Use the chalk to mark above the main door and, if possible, over all exterior doors in the following fashion:

- Numerals to consecrate the New Year.
- Initials to remind us of the legendary names of the Magi—Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar—and also to represent the Latin motto: *Christus mansionem benedicat* (May Christ bless this house)
- Four crosses to represent the four seasons.
- Example for the year **2023**: **20 + C + M + B + 23**

Epiphany Blessing of the Home

If a priest is present, he leads; otherwise, the head of the family is the leader.

All present go from room to room, blessing each room with holy water and praying the following prayer:

Blessed be all the rooms of this home. May each of them be holy and filled with the spirit of *happiness* and *peace*, *love* and *affection*. May the spirit of *pardon* and *affection* reside with us and be always ready to heal our divisions. May the spirits of *joy* and *laughter*, *hope* and *faith*, *playfulness* and *prayer*, *compassion* and *love* be perpetual guests in our home. May God’s holy blessing rest upon us all, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

As the leader inscribes the initials of the three Magi above the exterior doorways using the blessed chalk, the following prayer is prayed:

Inscription for the year **2023**: **20 + C + M + B + 23**

Blessed be this doorway. May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us as we welcome them with *respect* and *kindness*. May all our comings and goings be under the seal of God’s loving care. May we *seek* and *serve*, in everyone we meet, Jesus, Who is Lord forever and ever. Amen.



2023 Epiphany Blessing of the Home

Blessing of Epiphany Chalk by a priest

V. Our help is in the Name of the Lord

R. Who made Heaven and earth.

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

Bless, + O Lord God, this creature chalk to render it helpful to men. Grant that they who use it in faith and with it inscribe upon the entrance of their homes the names of the saints, Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar, may through their merits and intercession enjoy health of body and protection of soul. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Chalk is sprinkled with holy water.

(Rev. Philip T. Weller, *Roman Ritual: The Blessings*, Milwaukee: Bruce Publishing Co., 1946, p. 39).



*Prepared by the Office for Catechesis & Evangelization
Diocese of La Crosse*