



# St. Mary Parish

900 Central Ave, Coon Valley, WI 54623

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

November 23, 2025 | Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe | Reading 477A

## 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

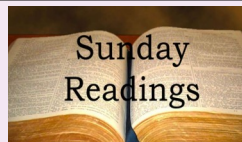
### Fr. Joe also serving:

**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



**November 30, 2025**

- 1) Isaiah 2:1-5
- 2) Romans 13:11-14
- 3) Matthew 24:37-44

## Intentions / Schedule

### SATURDAY, November 29

*First Sunday of Advent*

- 4:00pm Mass - † Alfred and Mildred Roesler  
Altar Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers  
Lector: Jeana LeJeune

### SUNDAY, November 30

*First Sunday of Advent*

- 8:00am Mass - † Mary Rose Roningen  
Altar Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers  
Lector: Ryan Goodwin

Money Counters: Loree Nickelotti, Rodney and Kathy Berg

### TUESDAY, December 2

*Advent Weekday*

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

### THURSDAY, December 4

*St. John Damascene*

- 8:00am Mass - † Albert and Julie Sedevie

### SATURDAY, December 6

*Second Sunday of Advent*

- 4:00pm Mass - † Edward and Anna Kerska  
Altar Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers  
Lector: Nancy Peters

### SUNDAY, December 7

*Second Sunday of Advent*

- 8:00am Mass - † Ike and Marlys &  
Gertrude and Ronald Johnson  
Altar Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers  
Lector: Marlene Humfeld

Money Counters: Mike Kammel and Mark Boland



## Needed this Month

\$10,000.00	at \$2000 per week
\$7,485.25	Received as of week 4
<b>(\$2,514.75)</b>	Difference for the Month



## 2026 St. Mary Calendars

Pick yours up today—it contains all the important liturgical dates.

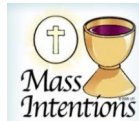
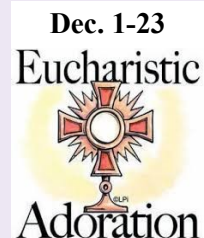
## Annual Appeal 2025-2026

As of 11/13/2025	Total Pledged	Total Payments
Pledged/Paid	\$6,105.00	\$3,438.32
Target Amount	<u>\$14,565.00</u>	<u>\$14,565.00</u>
<b>Under Target</b>	<b>(\$8,460.00)</b>	<b>(\$11,126.68)</b>
Percent Pledged: 41.92%, Percent Received: 23.61%		
Number Contributing: 9		
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

- **Nov 30** ~ First Sunday of Advent, begin Cycle Year A
- **Dec 3-17** ~ Amy on PTO, for administrative needs please contact Fr. Joe
- **Dec 6/7** ~ Special collection for Retirement Fund for the Religious
- **Dec 6** ~ **Annual Craft Show** at the Coon Valley Village Hall from 8:00 AM to 2 PM
- **Dec 7** ~ Rel. Ed (FoF) after 10:30 AM Mass in Viroqua ~ Encounter Class (middle school) 9-10:15 in Viroqua ~ Vigil Mass for the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Viroqua at 7:00 PM
- **Dec 8** ~ The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Holy Day 5:15 PM Mass, replacing the Tuesday, Dec. 9th Mass
- **Dec 9** ~ NO Weekday Mass at 5:15 PM
- **Dec 18** ~ Coffee and Fellowship after the 8 AM Mass
- **Dec 21** ~ Rel Ed (FoF) Activity after 8 AM Mass ~ Parish Social hosted by St. Theresa
- **Dec 24** ~ Christmas Eve - 4:00 PM Mass
- **Dec 25** ~ Christmas Midnight Mass - 12:00 AM ~ Christmas Day in Viroqua at 10:30 AM

- Monday: 7:00-7:30 AM in Viroqua
- Tuesday: 4:30-5:00 PM in Coon Valley (continuing after Advent)
- Wednesday: 5:45-6:30 PM in Viroqua (continuing after Advent)
- Thursday: 7:30-8:00 AM in Coon Valley
- Friday: 8:30-9:30 AM in Viroqua
- Saturday: 9:00-10:00 AM, changing locations – in Viroqua on December 6 & 20, in Coon Valley on December 13



**Mass intentions for 2026 are now being accepted. Reserve your special date early to ensure availability.** Below are open dates for the next few months.

**Open Sat. and Sun. dates:** Dec is full. Jan 3 or 4, 10, 11, 17 or 18, & 31. Feb 1, 8, and 28. Mar 7 or 8, 14, 21, 28 & 29.  
**Open Weekdays:** Dec is full. Jan 6, 13, 20, 27 & 29. Feb 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, & 26. Mar 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 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](mailto:stmaryscv@mwt.net) or voice message 608-452-3841.

## Giving Last Week

			<b>11/23/2025</b>
Adult Env (35)	\$1,595.00	Needed Weekly	\$2,000.00
Offertory	383.00	Received This Week	\$1,978.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,978.00</b>	Total needed	\$94,000.00
		YTD Received	\$91,025.82
Xmas Flowers	<u>\$145.00</u>	Difference	(2,974.18)

## From the Pastor

Hello friends, and happy Advent!

First, a point of business. There is snow outside. I may not like it, you may not like it, but the simple fact is it's our fault we haven't moved to New Mexico by now. As it does with everything, snow naturally affects our schedules around here. I will try my derndest to make sure weekend Masses happen as scheduled, even if it means taking a snowmobile down the hill, so generally count on those staying in place. As far as weekday Masses go, in Coon Valley we tend to follow the school systems (check Viroqua and Coon Valley) – if there's a snow day or snow delay it means no Mass that day. As for Viroqua, snow days usually don't change the weekday Mass schedule, since I live a short little walk away.



Second, a Mass note. ***On Monday December 8 we're celebrating the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.***

This is a holy day of obligation, meaning it's a day when we're required to go to Mass at some point. There's a strangeness with this feast falling on a Monday – while you can have a vigil Mass (like the Saturday evening Mass is a vigil for Sunday), you can't double up with a Sunday evening Mass for both Sunday and the Solemnity. Short version – plan on attending one of our extra Masses for Immaculate Conception in addition to your customary Sunday Mass – 7:00 on Sunday the seventh in Viroqua, 12:10 on Monday in Viroqua, and **5:15 on Monday in Coon Valley.**

And a final note that's on my mind with Thanksgiving last week (or tomorrow, depending on whether you're writing or reading this article), the word "thanksgiving" itself. I am perpetually at war with the busyness of late November into December – my ambition will forever look forward to (and seldom fully arrive at) quieting down through Advent in preparation for Christmas. I think there's something powerful about the intentional and reserved stepping into these last few weeks of Mary's pregnancy – it's a time of waiting and watchfulness, of taking stock and preparing for the Messiah to come into the world. Maybe there's an analog to my own Advent busyness in Mary and Joseph's own experience – as much as they may have desired and sculpted a "quiet" late pregnancy, that hundred mile journey to Bethlehem still had to happen. Anyhow, quiet or not it's maybe appropriate that we lean into this season with Thanksgiving as a start. The word "eucharist" itself comes from the Greek "Eucharistein" – thanksgiving. Of the many words that we use for this important sacrament – "Holy Communion," "Eucharist," "Blessed Sacrament" – "Eucharist" effectively gets at the reality that whatever we have to give we have first been given ourselves. May God bless you as we lean into this season and prepare your heart to receive Him in a few weeks! Fr. Joe

## Parish Announcements

### Join us for Family Adoration and Fellowship!

All are welcome – especially little ones. Soft music will be played and activities will be provided. Come any time, for any length of time.



- **Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> from 9-10am at St. Mary in Coon Valley**
  - Fellowship will follow in the Hall downstairs – *bring a snack to share.*
- **Saturday December 20<sup>th</sup> from 9-10am at ABVM in Viroqua**
  - Fellowship will follow in the Hall downstairs – *bring a snack to share.*
  - We will also be providing materials for the kids to make ornaments during Fellowship so we can decorate the trees of Marian Hall.

ST MARY'S  
**CRAFT**  
*Show*  
Coon Valley Village Hall

**BIG DAY next**  
**Saturday, Dec. 6th**

**Invite you family and**  
**friend and join us!**  
**8 AM—2 PM**

### Volunteers on the big day!

Guild chairpersons may be contacting members to request help with the craft show.

### Calling All BAKERS!

Let your talents shine and create \$15 of baked goods for our bake sale or donate \$15 cash. Customers are usually looking for Christmas cookies or specialty items at this bake sale. It's always helpful if items are marked with the asking price. Please drop off on Friday night, December 5 from 6-8pm or Saturday morning (suggested prices will be posted at drop off).

### BBQ Needed

We need 5 ladies to donate 3lbs each of BBQ and 4 ladies to donate 2 large pans of bars each, uncut, for the lunch counter at the craft fair. A signup sheet is located in the back of the church. If you bring either of these items you don't need to bring baked goods for the bake sale table.

### Advertising

Extra flyers are in the back of church, please help advertise by posting at your place of employment or on a community bulletin board. Thank you!

### Quilt Raffle

The quilt tickets which were not picked up were mailed out last week. All ladies of the parish are asked to sell 12 tickets. **The money & tickets can be dropped in the collection box by November 30 or brought to the craft fair by noon on December 6.**

### 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.



## Parish Announcements continued

### 2026 Contribution Envelopes and Calendars

Envelopes will be available next weekend (Dec 6/7). Please pick up to save on the deliver expense.

### Religious Education—Family of Faith Advent Bulletin Board

Our Family of Faith group has been busy preparing for the Advent season in a beautiful and meaningful way. The children created a new Advent bulletin board, which features a wreath decorated with leaves representing acts of kindness. Each leaf (filled in by the students) reflects their thoughts of kindness, as they “prepare Him room” through hope, peace, joy, and love. We invite everyone to stop by and take a look at their wonderful display. It’s a heartwarming reminder of how even small acts of kindness can bring Christ’s light into our parish and our daily lives.



### Volunteer(s) Needed for Snow Removal

We are looking for a volunteer or volunteers to help with snow removal at St. Mary Parish this winter. If you are able to help keep our walkways and entrances clear and safe during snowfalls, please talk to Fr. Joe or contact the parish office. Your service would be greatly appreciated!

### Retirement Fund for Religious

#### A Lifetime of Service Deserves Care in Return

Please donate to the Retirement Fund for Religious next week. Your gift will provide essential care for more than 20,500 senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests who have dedicated their lives to serving others. Let us show our gratitude to these selfless individuals by giving generously.

## Diocesan/Community Announcements

### A Night with St. Nicolas at MMOC - Dec 5

This family event will be held on the eve of the feast of St. Nicholas, Friday, Dec. 5 from 6-7 PM at Mary Mother of the Church, 2006 Weston St., La Crosse in the parish hall. The evening will include singing, crafts, games and treats along with a visit from St. Nicolas himself. All children ages 3-7 are welcome to attend with their families. Older siblings are welcome to attend, too. This is no cost for this event, but please scan the QR code to register.



### St. Nicholas at the Shrine - Dec 7

Saint Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, will visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Sunday, December 7. Come for 1:00 pm Holy Mass and stay to meet Saint Nicholas!"

### Cookie Walks and Craft Sales - Dec 13 (two Parishes)

**Mary, Mother of the Church** located in the parish hall at 2006 Weston St., La Crosse, from 7:30 AM - 1 PM. Homemade cookies, candies, breads, pies, Scandinavian sweets, handcrafted items, Scrip gift cards and raffles are available for sale. Serving breakfast and lunch. Door Prizes every half hour.

**Holy Trinity Parish** December 13, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. At 1333SO 13th St. Christmas cookies, candies & breads. Cookies will be \$8.00 per pound. We will have craft tables with local vendors.

## Diocesan/Local Announcements continued

### Quarterly Healing Service at Sacred Heart Cashton

Monday, December 15, All are welcome.

- 4:30 PM Adoration with praise and worship, rosary, Divine Mercy and confessions
- 5:30 PM Mass
- 6:00 Corporate prayer with healing
- 7:00 Individual healing ministry

Come for part or all of the night

### Something for Seniors

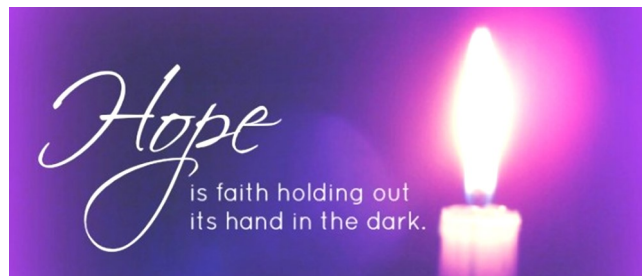
United Country-Oakwood Realty, LLC is sponsoring the 4<sup>th</sup> annual **Something For Seniors** gift drive throughout the month of November which is National Long Term Care Awareness Month. **Something For Seniors** is like **Toys For Tots**, but Christmas gifts are collected and given to our seniors living in local healthcare and assisted living facilities. A full list of ideas is found on the collection boxes located at: The Market Place (Cenex) in Gays Mills, Hansen's IGA in Westby, Valley Market in Coon Valley, & in Viroqua: Nelson Agri-Center, The Viroqua Food Coop, Dollar Tree, St Mary's Catholic Church, Vernon County Aging & Disability Resource Center. We ask that only "New" items be donated. Gifts can also be purchased through Amazon. For more information and gift ideas, please visit: [SomethingForSeniors.Org](http://SomethingForSeniors.Org) or join the Something For Seniors FaceBook Group. Thank you!

### ALL DAY CONFESSIONS at the Cathedral - Dec 22

There will be all day confessions at the Cathedral on Monday, December 22nd from 9 am - 6 pm. There will be four to five priests available to hear confessions at any given time.

## Activity Corner

For the young and the young at heart, during Advent look for copies of the Kids Bulletin in the back of the church.



**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.



ST MARY'S

# CRAFT Show

**DECEMBER 6, 2025 | 8 AM - 2PM**

COON VALLEY VILLAGE HALL  
108 ROOSEVELT ST, COON VALLEY, WI

**A Seasonal Tradition for 24 Years**  
**Crafts and Baked Goods of all kinds**  
**Concession counter opens at 8 AM**  
**Free Admission**

More info contact Nancy Peters at 608-790-6034 and/ or e-mail  
Peters@mwt.net or St. Mary's at 608-452-3841 or  
visit [stmarycv.org](http://stmarycv.org) and click on "Craft Show" Tab

Tables available for crafters \$30 before Nov. 1st, \$35 after Nov. 1st  
(tables provided)

## Advent Resources— 2025

As we enter this holy season of preparation, here are several **free Catholic Advent resources** to help you slow down, pray, and make space for Christ in daily life. We invite all parishioners and families to take advantage of these wonderful tools.

### 1. Best Advent Ever — “Slowing Down to the Speed of Joy”

**Dynamic Catholic:** Free daily video reflections delivered to your email throughout Advent, encouraging a peaceful and joyful season. An optional companion book is available through the Dynamic Catholic Parish Book Program.

**Sign up:** [dynamiccatholic.com/advent](https://dynamiccatholic.com/advent)

**Free companion booklet:** “The Little Way of Advent” (PDF downloadable on the same site)

### 2. Waiting Well: Advent with Fr. Mike Schmitz

**Ascension Press:** Daily short videos from Fr. Mike begin **November 30, 2025**. This series helps us “wait well” rather than anxiously rushing through the season. Optional companion prayer journal available.

**Sign up:** [ascensionpress.com](https://ascensionpress.com)

### 3. Pray25: Be Still — Hallow’s Advent Prayer Challenge

**Hallow App:** A free Advent prayer series focusing on stillness, peace, and preparation of the heart, featuring meditations inspired by *The Reed of God* (Caryll Houselander). Includes special tracks for kids and families.

**Learn more:** [hallow.com/pray25](https://hallow.com/pray25)

### 4. Daily Advent Reflections with Chris Stefanick

**Real Life Catholic:** Short, uplifting daily reflections delivered right to your inbox. Great for busy parishioners who appreciate a quick spiritual boost each day.

**Sign up:** [reallifecatholic.com](https://reallifecatholic.com)

### 5. FDLIC Advent & Christmas Liturgical Preparation Aid

**Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions:** A free PDF with Advent prayers, reflections, Scripture helps, liturgical notes, and seasonal guidance. Excellent for anyone wanting a deeper understanding of the Advent liturgy.

**Download:** [fdlc.org](https://fdlc.org) (Public Resources)

### 6. Saint Mary’s Press Advent Family Resources

**Saint Mary’s Press:** Interactive Advent calendars, family activities, Scripture reading plans, and printable materials — perfect for households with children.

**Resources available at:** [smp.org](https://smp.org) (Advent section)

### 7. CatholicMom.com Advent Journal

A free printable journal titled “**Welcoming the Light**” featuring Scripture, saint quotes, and daily reflection prompts. Great for families or individuals.

**Free download:** [catholicmom.com](https://catholicmom.com) (search “Advent journal”)

### 8. Magis Center Advent Reflections

Daily meditations and short reflections rooted in Scripture and the Catholic intellectual tradition. Perfect for those seeking deeper prayer or quiet time each day.

**Access:** [magiscenter.com/advent](https://magiscenter.com/advent)

### 9. Catholic Culture

CatholicCulture.org has a variety of resources aimed at helping families, parishes, and individuals observe Advent with spiritual depth, including: background, seasonal reflections, family activities (Jesse Tree and more), liturgical prayers, etc.

**Find resources:** <https://www.catholicculture.org/> (Liturgical Year and Advent Season Overview)

### 10. USCCB Advent Resources Hub

Includes Scripture readings, blessings, prayers, and ideas for living the liturgical season in the home.

**Visit:** [usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/advent](https://usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/advent)



**May this Advent be a time of peace, prayer, and joyful expectation.**

Please explore any of these resources, and feel free to share them with family or friends!





# Advent

## "Getting Ready"

Advent is the time that we set aside for preparing our hearts before the annual celebrations of Christ's birth on Christmas. The Incarnation – God becoming man – is the turning point of history. Our Heavenly Father loves us so deeply that He promised to send us a Savior after the Original Sin of Adam and Eve. And He kept His promise! The Son of God was born in Bethlehem in order to give His life for us on the cross so that our sins can be forgiven, so that we "may have life, and have it to the full." (John 10:10) Living life to the full means having a relationship with Jesus in prayer, growing in the light of truth that Christ revealed to us, and being united with Him in the Sacraments. This is no small matter, and of course, we want to take this time during Advent to prepare – "get ready" – to receive Christ anew this Christmas.

The priest's vestments during Advent are purple, the color of penance and sacrifice. They are a constant reminder of our need to get ready – to be cleansed and purified. How does one go about preparing? Advent is a season for stepping back from our busy

lives, taking time in stillness and solitude, to reflect more deeply on the mystery of God's Incarnation – Jesus taking on human flesh to be among us. This can also include something like not having dessert occasionally, or turning off the TV for one night or setting aside an electronic device for an hour. Or this can include helping someone in need or visiting a person who is lonely. We offer small sacrifices so that during this season of grace we might have an open, welcoming heart with room to receive Jesus.

We will be surprised how these long-held Catholic traditions of preparing allow us to see and understand truths that may be hidden from our "human eyes." In the silence of prayer, the Lord will give us new insights, that we may see with "spiritual eyes" and understand better the wonder of the mystery of Jesus who is our Savior. As we remember His coming as the Christ Child in Bethlehem, and know He is with us in each present moment – He who is "Emmanuel, God with us" – we also look forward to His Second Coming in glory. Intentionally remembering – preparing, pondering, praying with our hearts – is essential

because unfortunately without this we are bound to forget. Be encouraged to ask for the grace of this "remembering" and you will have a truly blessed Christmas this year!

By Ann Lankford

Please cut out the following Scripture and place it on the refrigerator where you will be reminded often that you are preparing for the coming of the Christ Child.

**"Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and His name shall be called Emmanuel, which means God with us" (Matthew 1:23).**



DIocese of LA CROSSE