

Fr. Matt's Residence:

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Open office: Thursdays and by appointment. Off on Mondays.

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St. Mary's, Coon Valley

Weekend Masses

- 4:00 PM Saturday (max 30 people)

- 8:00 AM Sunday (max 30 people)

Weekday Mass:

Tues. - 6:30 PM and Thurs.- 8:00 AM

Annunciation of the BVM, Viroqua

Weekend Masses

- 6:30 PM Saturday

- 10:30 AM Sunday

Weekday Mass:

Wed. - 6:30 PM and Fri. - 8:00 AM

New Parishioners: Welcome to our parish!

Please introduce yourself to Fr. Matt and contact the parish office for registration and information. <https://www.stmarycv.org/visit-us>

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Before Mass on Sat. or by appointment, call Fr. Matt or on our website under the Sacraments tab. <https://www.stmarycv.org/sacraments>

Sacrament of Baptism: Please submit a registration by mail, or e-mail to both stmaryscv@mwt.net AND fr mattmarshall@gmail.com. You will be contacted by the parish office to finalize your requested date. The registration form at: <https://www.stmarycv.org/sacraments>.

Sacrament of Anointing / Visitation of the Sick: Please contact the parish office or Fr. Matt when someone you know is in need of a sacrament or a pastoral visit. Requests may also be made from our website under the Sacraments tab. <https://www.stmarycv.org/sacraments>

Mass Intentions: Please use the Mass Intention envelopes available in the church.

Book of Prayer Requests: Please call or email Fr. Matt to have an intention added during COVID time. General Book of Prayer requests will be included in the intercessions.

St. Mary's Parish

900 Central Ave., Coon Valley, WI 54623

Phone: 608-452-3841

Website: stmarycv.org

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



"Noah Giving Thanks" by Joseph Anton Koch



Fr. Matthew Marshall

Pastor

February 14, 2021

Readings: 503B

St. Mary's Parish, Coon Valley, WI

First Sunday of Lent

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2021

- 1) Genesis 9:8-15
- 2) 1 Peter 3:18-22
- 3) Mark 1:12-15

FOCUS: If we go into the desert with Jesus this Lent, his grace will move us forward in our life of faith.

Lent isn't an end unto itself; we go into the desert with Jesus in order to advance in holiness and in our spiritual life. All the blessings and trials in our lives are not closed events. They're precursors to more: greater trust in God, deeper union with him, and a greater sense of our mission to proclaim the kingdom of God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, God establishes a covenant with Noah and his sons, promising never to flood the earth again. In the second reading, Peter writes to his community about those *in the days of Noah* who were saved through water. *This prefigured baptism*, which is what saves them now. In the Gospel, Jesus is tempted by Satan in the desert. He then goes to Galilee to begin his public ministry.

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Intentions

- | |
|--|
| Feb 20 ~ 4:00 PM - †Stella Hohlfeld |
| Feb 21 ~ 8:00 AM - Living and deceased members of the Scholze and Stetzer Families |
| Feb 23 ~ 6:30 PM - †Marian Roesler |
| Feb 25 ~ 8:00 AM - †Edward Kerska |
| Feb 27 ~ 4:00 PM - †Sylvester Dowiasch |
| Feb 28 ~ 8:00 AM - †Jeannette C. Duda |

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.

Next Week in Service — Feb 28th

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

| | |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| Money Counters: | Randy Baranczyk and Leo Nickelotti |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|

Upcoming Events/Calendar

- February 24 ~ Stations of the Cross at 6:30 PM
- March 3 ~ Stations of the Cross at 6:30 PM
- March 10 ~ Stations of the Cross at 6:30 PM
- March 13 ~ Confirmation Retreat 11 AM–1 PM
- March 17 ~ Stations of the Cross at 6:30 PM
- March 24 ~ Stations of the Cross at 6:30 PM

Our Sunday Mass Streaming Live on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/StMarysCoonValley>

Church will be open for private prayer Tuesday through Friday from 9AM until 7 PM and Sunday until 7 PM (please practice good social distancing)



**Lenten Devotion of the
STATIONS of the CROSS
On February 24th and each
Wednesday of Lent, starting at
6:30pm.**

Annual Appeal 2020-21

| As of 02/18/2021 | Total Pledged | Total Payments |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| Pledged/Paid | \$14,965.00 | \$14,226.42 |
| Target Amount | <u>\$12,925.00</u> | <u>\$12,925.00</u> |
| Over Target | \$2,040.00 | \$1,301.42 |
| Percent Pledged: 115.78%, Percent Received: 110.07% | | |
| Number Contributing: | 36 | |

WE HAVE REACHED OUR GOAL! Thank you! All funds donated from this point forward will be returned to the parish untaxed by the Diocese. **If you have not contributed, now is the time!** Extra cards and envelopes are located at the church doors, or you may give online at: <https://diolc.org/donate-online>, under Designation, choose: 2020 (445) St. Mary Parish.

Order Anything on Amazon? Use Amazon Smile!

You can help increase AmazonSmile donations to St. Mary Parish by shopping at smile.amazon.com/ch/39-1218730 or with AmazonSmile ON in the Amazon Shopping app.



| | | Week 07 | 2/14/2021 |
|----------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| | | | |
| Adult Env.(20) | \$2,245.00 | Needed Weekly | \$1,900.00 |
| Offertory | \$35.00 | Received This Week | \$2,445.00 |
| Ash Wed | \$50.00 | YTD Needed | \$13,300.00 |
| Memorials | \$125.00 | YTD Received | \$10,759.67 |
| Total | \$2,445.00 | Difference | (2,540.33) |

From Fr. Matt:

- As I preached about on Ash Wednesday, please be gentle to yourselves this year during Lent. It has been a hard year! Interesting to note that the word for quarantine comes from the Italian word for Lent...We've had a long hard Lent already, a year's worth! This is a penitential season, but recognize your limits and remember that penitence is about a change of heart. And that can be accomplished in more than just one way!

- On Ash Wednesday this year the U.S. Bishops decided to change the wording of the Roman Missal to better translate from the original Latin text. Prayers will now conclude without using the word "one" to describe God. This is an attempt to better translate "...Deus, per omnia saecula saeculorum." I will try to adjust as quickly as possible. I've already forgot several times! Just keeping you in the loop. Thanks!



by Joe Heller, hellertoon.com

Parish Announcements



Our Deepest Sympathy to the Family of:

Albert Hohlfeld

who passed away on
February 13, 2021

"If I rise on the wings of the dawn, If I settle on the far side of the sea, Even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast." Psalm 139:9-10

CRS Rice Bowls: WE ARE CALLED

Join our faith community—and more than 12,000 Catholic communities across the United States—in a life-changing Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl. Pick up your family's CRS Rice Bowl from the back of church this weekend. During the 40 days of Lent, we will reflect on how hunger and malnutrition affect our human family, and on the need to take action to end this global injustice. Visit crsricebowl.org to learn more.



Student Mite Boxes: The student boxes support the Missionary Childhood Association (MCA). Its purpose is to encourage all children to be aware of the needs of children living in mission diocese through the world and support them both spiritually and sacrificially. Today it is in 110 countries and helps make Jesus known to children all over the world. Under its banner "children helping children", monies raised through schools are directed towards self-help programs involving the building of schools, the provision of health and nutrition programs and medications, school fees, and teaching and learning resources. **Youth are encouraged to support other children around the world by donating during Lent. Boxes are available in the back of church.**



Lenten regulations are as follows:

1. Catholics who have celebrated their 14th birthday are to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays in Lent, and Good Friday.
2. In addition to abstaining from meat, Catholics who have celebrated their 18th birthday, until they celebrate their 59th birthday, are to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Those who are bound to this regulation may eat only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to one's needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted.

Free Lenten Materials

There are several different booklets and flyers for Lent in the back of church for adults and children. Feel free to take whatever speaks to you.

Donations: We cannot survive without your generosity! Here are some ways to contribute:

- US Postal Service: mail directly to the parish office, your 2021 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 and credit cards and \$.75 for EFT, ACH your contribution will be recorded for the full amount).
- *Drop off* your contribution envelope at either church, Coon Valley or Viroqua and the funds will be directed to St. Mary's

Diocesan/Local Announcements

La Crosse Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Presents:

A Lenten Journey Through the Holy Land

Saturday, March 6, 2021, 9:00 am to 12 noon. Our host, Lorraine Riedl, will take us on a virtual walk through the life of Jesus in the Holy Land using photos from a recent pilgrimage.

THREE WAYS TO JOIN THE MEETING

- 1) Go to the link at LDCCW.org and click to join

(Continued on page 4)

Diocesan/Local Announcements

2) Manually join on Zoom at: Meeting ID: 826 9510 0524 - Passcode: 449588

3) Dial in on phone only at +1 312 626 6799 using the above Meeting ID and Passcode.

Free Daily Lenten Reflections

- Sign up for Bishop Barron daily Lenten reflections lentreflections.com/
- Sign up for “Best Lent Ever” with Matthew Kelly at dynamiccatholic.com/bestlentever
- Choose a Prayer Card for Lent in order to “Go Deeper” in your relationship with Jesus and your understanding of the prayer. Visit diolc.org/deeper for adult resources and diolc.org/prayer for children and young people resources.

Great Resources for Lent

Make Lent 2021 special and life-changing! Go to any or all of these websites and enjoy listening, watching or reading the daily reflections anywhere and anytime! Please go to these links to register.

- <https://relevantradio.com/father-rockys-40-lenten-lessons-mass/#form>
- <https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/>
- <https://formed.org/>

These are great ways to educate yourself on Catholic Faith! Be inspired to live the faith and love it!

Week of Feb. 21st Readings

Monday 22 February

The Chair of St Peter, 1 Peter 5:1-4, Here we have simple and clear advice on Christian leadership which, for all its antiquity, is never out of date: *watch over the flock of God, not simply as a duty but gladly, because God wants it*. This applies not only to those in leadership, but to us all.

Matthew 16:13-19, This Gospel passage reflects the role of Peter in the church at Antioch — the exemplary *faith* of the apostle is our foundation stone and principle of unity. The heart of it all is Peter’s *faith in Christ*.

Tuesday 23 February

St Polycarp, bishop and martyr, Isaiah 55:10-11, The readings of Lent do indeed challenge, but they also encourage. Today we hear of God’s effective word, carrying out what it says. One way to listen might be to ask: has this been true for me in my life? Have I found the word of God to be effective in my hearing and living? The link with the Gospel is most likely through the imagery of bread.

Matthew 6:7-15, We often tend to separate worship and life, thinking that when we’ve done our prayer, we’re done. A fundamental error! The prophets of old often pointed this out and Jesus does so again in the context of the Lord’s Prayer. Simply put, prayer from the heart, leads to forgiveness from the heart. There can be no separation.

Wednesday 24 February

Jonah 3:1-10, The ironic book of Jonah is serious about conversion as we see from the reaction not only of the humans, but even the beasts, herds and flocks! For our Lent purposes, the preaching of Jonah is taken at face value, inviting us today to a conversion of heart.

Luke 11:29-32, There is more to the Gospel than a reference back to Jonah. Are we such a generation, unmoved and complacent? However, the reference to Jonah is a kind of *a fortiori* argument: if people listen to Jonah, how much more should we listen to Jesus, Son of God!

Week of Feb. 21st Readings (cont.)

Thursday 25 February

Esther 4:17 (today Jewish communities read the same reading and celebrate the holiday of Purim) The topic in today’s readings is really prayer of intercession. In our first reading, we see a woman in earnest prayer, not just for herself but for her people. Esther reminds God to be true to himself!

Matthew 7:7-12, This kind of passage—so plain and direct—can be problematic for us today on several levels. Firstly, we all have experience of interceding and apparently *not being heard*. We do not always get what we want. Secondly, we don’t really think God must be informed or, worse, persuaded. Again, Augustine helps: we pray not to change God but to change ourselves, so that we choose what God wants for us.

Friday 26 February

Ezekiel 18:21-28, *We can* all change and repentance is a possibility always on the table. This is God’s desire for us — and our slightly threatening reading is finally positive.

Matthew 5:20-26, Following the best Jewish tradition, Jesus teaches that sin comes from the heart, from within. It is our attitudes which count, in every sense. The risk of any formal worship is to think that when we’ve done that, we’re done. No way, as Jesus illustrates in the appended parable.

Saturday 25 February

Deuteronomy 26:16-19, Against the background of the covenant, Moses outlines our side of the bargain. Notice that we are to keep his commands with our heart—the offer is two-sided and conditional. The Gospel takes that a step deeper.

Matthew 5:43-48, Jesus demands of us a deeper and more costly love, taking us well beyond the conventional and even the natural. The argument is a good one: if people of no special religion manage to be at least decent, how much more is expected to all who have put their trust in God?

KIDS CORNER



What was the story mentioned in today's first reading that talks about God washing away the sins of the world and making a covenant with His people?

Connect the dots to find out what the story was about!

Meditations for the First Week of Lent

WE THIRST FOR YOU, O LORD



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Before Jesus began his ministry, the Spirit “drove him out into the desert.” After forty days he emerged to announce that the kingdom of God was at hand and to encourage the people to “repent, and believe in the gospel.” As we begin the season of Lent, we, too, enter into our own desert.

Repent and Believe

Mark 1:12–15

Today’s Gospel contains two important aspects to the beginning of Jesus’ ministry. We are told that he went out into the desert for forty days, where he was tempted by Satan and ministered to by angels. Next Mark says that,

after the death of John the Baptist, Jesus announced that the “time of fulfilment” was at hand and began his preaching and teaching.

What lesson lies here for us? While Lent is a time of service to others, it must also be a time of preparation and renewal of self. We cannot give what we do not have. Just as Jesus had to spend time in the desert, so we, too, need to take time this season to allow God to show us where we need to change and give us the courage and conviction to act on those changes. This give and take is part of the flow of life and one of the great lessons of Lent.

FOR REFLECTION

- › What will I do this Lent as an outward sign of my repentance?
- › How might I deepen my relationship with God this holy season?
- › How do I overcome temptation?

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Lenten Prayer

Unto to you, I cry, my God!

“You are dust, and to dust you shall return.” — Genesis 3:19

*Lord, help us see today
and all of its stresses
in the light of your eternal love.*



Catechism CONNECTION

“By the solemn forty days of Lent the Church unites herself each year to the mystery of Jesus in the desert.” — *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 540



OUR FAITH

Forty Days in the Desert

Why did Jesus spend forty days in the desert before beginning his ministry? The number forty has a special meaning in Scripture and is symbolic of preparation before a major life change. Moses spent forty days fasting and praying on Mount Zion when he received the Ten Commandments (Ex 34:28). An Israelite patrol spent forty days spying on the land of Canaan before reporting back to Moses and Aaron (Nm 13:25). And the entire Israelite people spent forty years wandering in the desert before gaining access to the promised land (Nm 14:34). Jesus likewise spent forty days before leaving his old life as the son of the carpenter to bring new life to the entire world.

Fasting and Abstinence

- Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of both abstinence and fasting.
- Fridays during Lent are days of abstinence (abstaining from meat).
- Ash Wednesday is forty-six days before Easter, but Lent is considered forty days long, because Sundays are not counted as days of Lent.



FAMILY ACTIVITY

Family Calvary Stones

The days of Lent have traditionally been used as a spiritual pilgrimage, during which we symbolically travel with Jesus to his death on the cross. To help emphasize the idea of Lent as a journey, collect forty small stones, one for each day of the season. (These are sometimes available at craft stores.) Each night at dinner, pray for one person and write his or her name with a marker on one of the pebbles. Collect the stones in a small bowl, and during Holy Week use them to make a “mound” of prayer that holds up a crucifix.

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SIGNS OF THE SEASON

Lent

The word “Lent” has a specific religious connotation today, but originally it was used to mean “spring.”

The Color Purple

The deep purple color that fills the Church during Lent symbolizes Christ’s suffering and death but, because purple is also the color of royalty, it foreshadows Christ’s kingship and resurrection.



Designs

Ash Wednesday

On this first day of Lent, we receive ashes in the form of a cross on our forehead and are reminded to “turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel.” In receiving ashes, we embrace Jesus’ journey: the cross of suffering and the promise of resurrection. We are marked as believers, as sinners, and as people in need of Christ’s forgiveness and salvation.



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