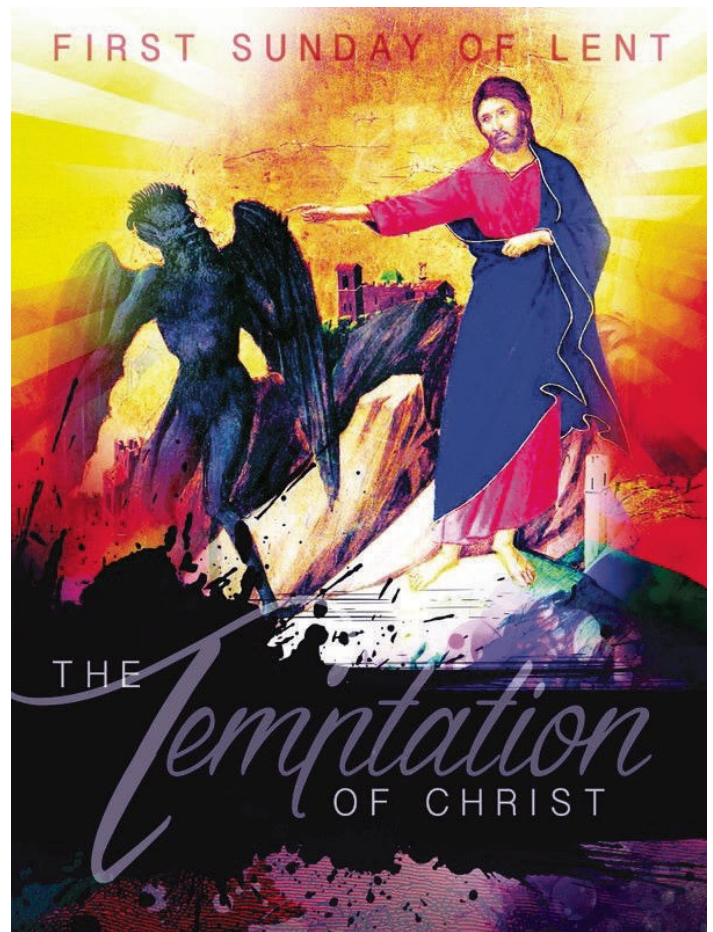


St. Mary Parish

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

Church Address:
900 Central Ave., Coon Valley, WI 54623
Parish Phone: 608-452-3841
Website: www.stmarycv.org
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/
StMarysCoonValley](http://www.facebook.com/StMarysCoonValley)

*February 18, 2024
Readings: 503B*



PASTOR

Fr. Joseph Richards

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 and

Thurs. after Mass until noon and by appt

DEACON

Anthony Shay.....ashay@diolclergy.org

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

Bulletin deadline: Wednesday noon

E-mail:stmaryscv@mwt.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: MaryBeth Smith, Linda Schulte, & 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.stmarycv.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@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.

St. Mary's Parish, Coon Valley, WI

First Sunday of Lent

Sunday Readings

February 18, 2024

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

Intentions / Schedule

SATURDAY, February 17
First Sunday of Lent
-4: 00pm Mass - † Edward and Anna Kerska
Altar Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers
Lector: Nancy Peters

SUNDAY, February 18
First Sunday of Lent
-8:00am Mass - Roskos and Roningen Families
Altar Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers
Lector: Marlene Humfeld

Money Counters: Mike Kammel and Mark Boland

TUESDAY, February 20
-5:15pm - Stations of the Cross Server: Aliana P.
-approx. 5:45pm - Mass - † Mary (Elsen) Sedevie

THURSDAY, February 22
-8:00am - † Edward Kerska

SATURDAY, February 24
Second Sunday of Lent
-4: 00pm Mass - † Bob and Leona Welsh
Altar Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers
Lector: Bob Kerska

SUNDAY, February 25
Second Sunday of Lent
-8:00am Mass † Stella Grabowski
Altar Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers
Lector: Ryan Goodwin

Money Counters: Loree Nickelotti and Curt Horman

Upcoming Events/Calendar

- **Feb 18** ~ Coffee and refreshments after Mass sponsored by the PCCW - St. Catherine Guild
- **Feb 25** ~ ****date change**** RE monthly activity after the 8 AM Mass in Coon Valley—Stations of the Cross
- **Feb 20** ~ **5:15 PM Stations of the Cross** - 5:45 PM Mass
- **Feb 27** ~ **5:15 PM Stations of the Cross** - 5:45 PM Mass
- **Mar 03** ~ RE in Viroqua after the 10:30 AM Mass for both Coon Valley and Viroqua students.
- **Mar 05** ~ **5:15 PM Stations of the Cross** -5:45 PM Mass
- **Mar 06** - cleaning of the church basement 1:00PM
- **Mar 09** ~ ***date change*** RE monthly activity 2-2:45PM at the Norseland Nursing Home
- **Mar 11** ~ PCCW Meeting 5:30PM
- **Mar 12** ~ **5:15 PM Stations of the Cross** - 5:45 PM Mass
- **Mar 17** ~ Coffee and refreshments after Mass sponsored by the PCCW - St. Cecilia Guild
- **Mar 19** ~ **5:15 PM Stations of the Cross** - 5:45 PM Mass
- **Mar 26** ~ **5:15 PM Stations of the Cross** - 5:45 PM Mass
- **Mar 28** ~ No 8 AM Mass

Open Sat. and Sun. dates: Jun 9, 23 & 30; Jul 13, 20, & 27; Aug 3 or 4, 10, 11, 24, 31.

Open Weekdays: Mar. 12, 14, & 21; Apr. 4, 11, & 23; May 2, 7, 14, & 23. Jun.6, 11, 13, 18, 20, & 25. Jul 2, 4, 9, 11, 25, & 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.

Inspired by the Spirit Campaign

5 Year Goal : \$105,000.00
As of February 16, 2024
Pledges received (30): \$109,020.00
Payments received: \$36,779.50

THANK YOU!

CONFESSIONS

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

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

Annual Appeal 2023-24		
As of 02/16/2024	Total Pledged	Total Payments
Pledged/Paid	\$9,640.38	\$8,340.38
Target Amount	<u>\$14,515.00</u>	<u>\$14,515.00</u>
Under Target	(\$4,874.62)	(\$6,174.62)
Percent Pledged: 66.42%, Percent Received: 57.46%		
Number Contributing: 23		

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.

Needed last Month	
\$8,000.00	at \$2000 per week
\$3,338.00	Received as of week 2
(\$4,662.00)	Difference for the Month

Giving Last Week		2/11/2024	
Adult Env(28)	\$1765.00	Needed Weekly	\$2,000.00
Offertory	\$324.00	Received This Week	\$2,089.00
Total	\$2,089.00	Running total needed	\$12,000.00
		YTD Received	\$11,477.50
		Difference	(522.50)

From the Pastor

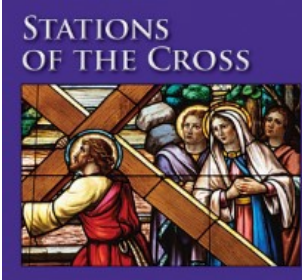
Hello friends,

Deacon Tony and I are currently feuding about the proper consistency of ashes. He maintains (reasonably) that Ash Wednesday ashes ought to be recognizably dusty (dare I say, ashy). I see his rationale, but my time as a camp counselor taught me that the most effective war paint comes from a highly viscous mixture of ground-up charcoal and stagnant rainwater. That is why you may still be struggling to wash off the ashes from your forehead three days later, because I won that argument.

That whole ashen cross image is one of my favorite day-specific Church symbols. As my buddy St. Paul says, "do not conform yourselves to the present age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you can discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God." There's something different about being a disciple of Jesus Christ – a willingness to take a pause and ask deep questions, the confidence to let myself be led, the vulnerability to let myself be seen as a marked man (or as the case may be for yourself, a marked woman) – someone changed by Christ's cross and resurrection. In case there's anyone who didn't already know you're Catholic, if you walked into the Food Coop with that cross on your forehead they certainly know now, and bringing Christ's cross and resurrection into the world is a powerful testimony to people that really need hope.

May God bless you throughout this whole Lent. It's a hard season, it's a long season, and the super-important tension between the cross, death, and resurrection makes it a deep-waters season. Pray it well, live the cross, and welcome the resurrection when it comes!

~ Fr. Joe



Lenten Regulations:

The season of Lent began on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14. 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.

Parish Announcements

Lenten Magnificat Companion

There are only a couple of booklets remaining, feel free to take one home with you today if you have not already done so, when they are gone, they are gone.

Lenten Rice Bowls for Catholic Relief Services and **Student Mite Boxes** for Missionary Childhood Association are now available in the back of the church.

Birthright Baby Bottle Campaign Ends Feb 25

Birthright offer love, friendship, and support to women who are pregnant or think they may be pregnant. Birthright's focus is on loving the mother, reminding her that there is hope and ensuring she is not alone. **Fill the bottle with loose change or cash and return to the parish next weekend - February 24/25.**



Our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of:



Mary A. Sedevie

who passed away on
February 3, 2024

*"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."
Matthew 5:4*

7 Week Small Group Series - Started Feb 15

Over the course of Lent we are presenting a seven-part Small Group series centered on the Eucharistic Revival, "Jesus and the Eucharist." Both parishes are welcome to attend our Thursday evening sessions from 6:00-8:00 PM in Marian Hall, Viroqua. Please contact Pat Obernberger at 262-822-1850 with questions or to RSVP.

Diocesan/Local Announcements

Lenten reflections with John McHugh - Feb 27 to Mar 19

THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF JESUS ON THE CROSS

Feb. 27; Mar. 5, 12, 19; Tuesday, 5:30-6:30 p.m.; Presenter: John McHugh; Investment: \$10 per session. **Register by Feb. 19th.** For hundreds of years, it has been a tradition in Christian churches to reflect on Jesus' final words from the cross on Good Friday and during the season of Lent. Join biblical scholar John McHugh as he explores those words of Jesus and how they were mirrored in Jesus' public ministry, and what they mean for us today. Although the program is meant to be experienced over all four weeks, participants may attend individual sessions.

Register at: <https://fsc.retreatportal.com/calendar/event?programcode=24SDY07966>

Women's Lenten Retreat - Mar 2

Are you struggling to carve time for spiritual enrichment? Join the Women's annual Morning of Reflection on Saturday, March 2nd at the Cathedral of St. Joseph, La Crosse. The FREE event starts with 8 am Mass followed by Rosary & Adoration. Hospitality in the Undercroft (lower level) and presentations will follow. In this time of Eucharistic Revival, the theme is *FAITH & THE REAL PRESENCE: Recognizing Jesus in the Breaking of the Bread*. This event is sponsored by the La Crosse Diocesan Council of Women and Catholic Daughters of America. All are welcome!

Parish Announcements continued

Cabin Feverfest - Mar 3

St. Peter's Parish in Middle Ridge will be hosting their annual Euchre tournament & Luncheon on Sunday March 3rd. The doors open for lunch at noon and the card games start at 1:00 PM. The cost is \$15 per person which includes entry in the tournament, a variety of soups, snacks & beverages. Prizes will be awarded. Please call 608-452-4680 with any questions.

CV Lutheran Church

PANCAKE BREAKFAST – Mar 3 serving 8 AM – noon,

Adults \$8, children 6-12 \$4, 5 and under free. All are welcome!

FISH FRY - Mar 13, pre-sale tickets only. We will be serving batter-fried cod, baked potato, and cole slaw for \$12.00. The ticket sales are pre-sale only, so we know how much cod to order and are available now from Mike Lusk. They also will be available for sale at the Pancake Breakfast at CV Lutheran Church on March 3.

Lenten Day of Reflection – Mar 9

March 9, 2024: The Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, in La Crosse, WI will be hosting a Lenten Day of Recollection. The day includes talks on **The Four Last Things: Death, Judgement, Hell, and Heaven**. No admission cost! Learn more about the day's schedule at GuadalupeShrine.org/events!

16th Annual La Crosse Lenten Luncheon – Mar 20

Bishop William Patrick Callahan and Catholic Charities cordially invite you to the 16th Annual La Crosse Lenten Luncheon on Wednesday, March 20, 2024! Gourmet soup, salad and bread will be served. We will be honoring our In My Name Award recipient, Sr. Catherine Kaiser, FSPA and our Bill Medland Faithful Servant Award recipients Dan and Mary Mundt Reckase! Cost is \$30.00 per person or reserve a table of 4 for \$120.00. Please **RSVP** online at <https://cclse.org/la-crosse-lenten-luncheon/> by March 15 as seating is limited.

Celebrate Life Convention - Abby Johnson Event – Apr 13

The La Crosse Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (LCDCCW) is hosting their biennial convention on April 13, 2024, at the Radisson Hotel in La Crosse. We are encouraging everyone to purchase a ticket for the event, attend the full day or just the luncheon to hear the guest speaker Abby Johnson.

Abby Johnson is the author of Unplanned, which was made into a movie of the same name. Ms. Johnson was a Planned Parenthood Director for many years. After witnessing an abortion on ultrasound Abby changed her position on abortion. Her testimony is powerful, join us in hearing her important message. For registration and more information visit www.ldccw.org

Fish Frynder is Live!

For a complete list of all diocesan parish Lenten meals, organized by day, visit the Fish Frynder at diolc.org/fishfrynder or by using your smartphone's camera to scan the QR code to the right above.



Please Donate to Project Milk!

Your help is needed, as we prepare to purchase whole powdered milk for the children of Casa Hogar and other surrounding orphanages in Peru. We are \$32,000 short of funding to purchase a full shipping container, which is 800 bags of milk (we currently have enough for 500 bags). Please consider donating by visiting frjoesguild.org/donate/. Select "Project Milk" from the designation menu. If you prefer to donate by mail, scroll down that webpage for instructions, and write "Project Milk" on the memo line of your check. The Children of Casa Hogar and the members of the Rural Life Committee thank you!

Activity Corner

First Sunday of Lent February 18th, 2024



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!

Answer: Noah's Ark

MARK 1:15



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@mw.net

The First Week of Lent

REPENT

Meditations for the
Season of Lent

AND BELIEVE

Jesus in the Desert

Mark 1:12-15

Before Jesus began his ministry, the Spirit drove him out into the desert. After 40 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 as part of our renewal of heart.



AdobeStock, Above: DesignPics

Today's Gospel contains two key events of the beginning of Jesus's ministry. First, he went out into the desert for 40 days, where he was tempted by Satan and ministered to by angels. Next, after the death of John the Baptist, Jesus announced that the “time of fulfilment” was at hand, and he 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 to allow God to show us where we need to change and give us the conviction to act on those changes.

POINTS TO PONDER

- What will I do this Lent as an outward sign of my repentance?
- What would I like to accomplish spiritually over the next six weeks?
- What is one thing I will do daily during this Lenten season?

“As Lent is the time for greater love, listen to Jesus’ thirst. ... ‘Repent and believe,’ Jesus tells us. What are we to repent? Our indifference, our hardness of heart. What are we to believe? Jesus thirsts even now, in your heart and in the poor — he knows your weakness. He wants only your love, wants only the chance to love you.”

— Attributed to St. Teresa of Calcutta



CATHOLIC INSIGHTS

40 days in the desert

Why did Jesus spend 40 days in the desert before beginning his ministry? The number 40 has a special meaning in Scripture and is symbolic of preparation before a major life change. Moses spent 40 days fasting and praying on Mount Zion when he received the Ten Commandments (Ex 34:28). An Israelite patrol spent 40 days spying on the land of Canaan before reporting back to Moses and Aaron (Nm

13:25). And the entire Israelite people spent 40 years wandering in the desert before gaining access to the Promised Land (Nm 14:34). Jesus likewise spent 40 days before leaving his old life as the son of the carpenter to bring new life to the entire world.

SIGNS OF THE SEASON By Any Other Name

The word “Lent” has a specific religious connotation today, but originally it was used to mean “spring.” It derived from the Germanic root word for “long,” because in spring the days begin to get longer. In Latin-based languages, the word for the season derives from the term *quadragesima*, meaning “fortieth,” indicating the fortieth day before Easter. In other parts of the world, the name means “a time of fasting.”

FamilyActivity

Family Calvary Stones

The days of Lent have traditionally been used as a spiritual pilgrimage, in which we symbolically travel with Jesus to his death on the cross. To help emphasize the idea of Lent as a journey, collect 40 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.



CatechismCONNECTION

“The seasons and days of penance in the course of the liturgical year (Lent, and each Friday in memory of the death of the Lord) are intense moments of the Church’s penitential practice. These times are particularly appropriate for spiritual exercises, penitential liturgies, pilgrimages as signs of penance, voluntary self-denial such as fasting and almsgiving, and fraternal sharing (charitable and missionary works).”

—Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1438

Images: Shutterstock, Shutterstock



LENT PRAYER Unto to you, I cry, my God!

“Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

— Mark 1:15

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