

St. Mary's Parísh

900 Central Ave., Coon Valley, WI 54623

Fr. Matt Marshall
Pastor

Ascension of the Lord May 24, 2020

(The Mystic Christ by Fr. John Giuliani)

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St. Mary's, Coon Valley

Weekend Masses (beginning May 30/31, 2020:

- 4:00 PM Saturday (limited to 30 people)- 8:00 AM Sunday (limited to 30 people)
- 10:30 AM Sunday (limited to 30 people)

Weekday Mass:

Cancelled until further notice

Local Parishes—Mass Times Annunciation of the BVM, Viroqua

Cancelled until further notice

St. Joseph, St. Joseph Ridge

Cancelled until further notice

St. Peter, Middle Ridge

Cancelled until further notice

Holy Day Mass: Please check the bulletin for times.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Before Mass on Saturday; other times as announced or by appointment, request appointment by calling Fr. Matt or via our website under the Sacraments tab. https://www.stmarycv.org/sacraments

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 Baptism: Please submit a Baptism registration by mail, or e-mail to both stmaryscv@mwt.net AND frmattmarshall@gmail.com. You will be contacted by the parish office to finalize your requested date. The registration form can be found here: https://www.stmarycv.org/sacraments.

Sacrament of Anointing / Visitation of the Sick: Please contact the parish office when someone you know is in need of either the sacrament or a pastoral visit, or call Fr. Matt. 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 back of church and at the side door.

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 Mass intercessions.

Pastoral Letter for the Weekend of May 24, 2020

Rom 14: 13 - 19

"Then let us no longer judge one another, but rather resolve never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother or sister. I know and am convinced in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; still, it is unclean for someone who thinks it unclean. If your brother is being hurt by what you eat, your conduct is no longer in accord with love. Do not because of your food destroy him for whom Christ died. So do not let your good be reviled. For the kingdom of God is not a matter of food and drink, but of righteousness, peace, and joy in the holy Spirit; whoever serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by others. Let us then pursue what leads to peace and to building up one another."

St. Paul was speaking to budding group of Christians a long time ago...but a lesson stands for us still. In Paul's time some Christians were upset to see their fellow believers be part of civic events that included prayers and sacrifices to other gods. To Paul and some other Christians this was no issue. To Paul, those gods did not exist and those who worshipped them were only following their conscience. There was also a lot of opportunity for sharing the Gospel in those places! Still, Paul in his Letter to the Romans encourages those who attended the festivals to be gentle with their brothers and sisters with a more tender conscience. The events could be avoided or only partially attended, and so better keep peace and unity within the early Church.

The other gods did not exist, but one's neighbors did. Paul encouraged all believers in Rome to be welcoming to one another. Patient with one another. Perhaps going to the festival wasn't such a big deal. Perhaps not going wasn't such a big deal. The big deal Paul said was loving one another.

This is an important lesson for us during COVID time. I know we have some parishioners who have been frustrated by this time away from church. They have told me they aren't sure COVID is as dangerous for us here. I ask them: but what about those who don't feel safe? Still others feel very grateful that we have been closed. I ask them: have you thought about those who are suffering away from church? When we re-open shortly there will still be many restrictions in an effort to maintain public health and to love our neighbors.

Please consider staying away from church a while longer if you are over 65, in a high-risk group, or are experiencing flu or cold like symptoms. We can't open as if everything is back to normal, and yet some people will really, truly need to come back to church. So, let's be patient with each other. Letting some people go one week, even if we cannot. Let's not judge those who refrain from coming or those who don't feel they can stay away longer. The main thing is love. And we will need a lot of that as we move forward. Even with church opened again things will be different for some time. Extra volunteers needed, extra cleaning, extra rules and restrictions. Remember our older brother, St. Paul: "Let us then pursue what leads to peace and to building up one another."

Easter peace to all!

FR & Math

Fr. Matt

St. Mary's Parish Guidelines for Celebrations of Sunday Eucharist

- No one is obligated to attend Mass at this time, the Bishop has dispensed that obligation until further notice. In fact, for some it might be a kindness to stay home. Please avoid attending Mass is you are 65 years or older, have underlying health conditions or are experiencing cold or flu like symptoms.
- If for the sake of your own spiritual health you find the need to attend Sunday Eucharist, you will only be permitted to attend if you have pre-registered with Fr. Matteither by email or phone (frmattmarshall@gmail.com or 608-738-6806).
- No more than 30 people will be allowed in the church to keep proper social distancing. We can ONLY welcome registered parishioners at this time.
- Sunday Masses will be offered at 4 PM (Saturday), 8 AM, and 10:30 AM (Sunday).
- Every Mass needs to have <u>one volunteer to read</u>, <u>one volunteer to distribute communion</u>, <u>two ushers</u>, and <u>two cleaners</u>.
- No one is permitted to sing except for the cantor.
- No Bulletins can be left out. Ushers will distribute them. Please take yours home.
- Hand sanitizer is to be used by all persons entering the church.
- A mask must be worn at our church, please bring you own, but we will have some available at the church if needed.
- Please keep you mask on to receive Communion, which can only be received on the hand. Please lift your mask only after stepping away from the distributor while not facing other persons.
- No daily Masses at this time.
- A social distance of 6 feet must be maintained. Pews are marked accordingly.
- No socializing after Mass. An usher will dismiss front rows first, household by household. Please follow their direction and maintain social distancing.
- If anyone is uncomfortable attending a Mass, you may contact Fr. Matt for a supply of hosts for home.
- Surfaces in church and bathrooms need to be sanitized after every Mass.
- All doors will be propped open for entrance and exit every Mass.
- We will take appropriate measures to minimized transmission of COVID 19, however, remember there is still a risk of contracting it by attending Mass.

For a more comprehensive information visit: https://diolc.org/covid-19-tech-resources/

St. Mary's Parish, Coon Valley, WI Ascension of the Lord

SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2020

- 1) Acts 1:1-11
- 2) Ephesians 1:17-23
- 3) Matthew 28:16-20

<u>FOCUS</u>: Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations.

While looking intently at the sky during the ascension of Christ, the Apostles were still unsure of what was ahead for them. Jesus declares the Apostles' mission and assures them that the Holy Spirit will guide and lead them as his witnesses to the ends of the earth. As his disciples, we share in this mission, emboldened by the knowledge that he is always with us and confident that he will come again.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Jesus tells his Apostles that they will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon them, and then he ascends into heaven. In his Letter to the Ephesians, Saint Paul affirms the hope enjoyed by all who believe in the promise and power of Christ. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus commissions the Apostles to make disciples of all nations, and assures them that he will be with them, *always, until the end of the age*.

Intentions

Intentions will be prayed for privately by Father Matt on the day scheduled, please add these intentions to your own, in your prayers from home.

May 23 ∼ Our Parish Family

May 24 ∼ Our Parish Family

May 26 ∼ †Don Kammel

May 27 ~ Our Parish Family

May 29 ∼ †Alex and Rose Roskos

May 30 ~ 4:00 PM - †Anna Kerska

May 31 ~ 8:00 AM - Our Parish Family

May 31 ~ 10:30 AM - †Leyton and Helen Stafslien

Giving Last	Week	Week 20	5/17/2020
Adult Env.	\$685.00	Needed Weekly	\$1,900.00
Offertory	\$75.00	Received This Week	\$860.00
Memorial Day	<u>\$100.00</u>	Run. Tot. Needed	\$38,000.00
Total	<u>\$860.00</u>	YTD Received	\$37,537.64
13 Weekend Env	Received	Difference	(462.36)

Upcoming Events/Calendar

 Sunday, May 24 at 10:30 AM— Join Fr. Matt online at https://meet.jit.si/AtHomeSundayPrayers.

New Mass Time Schedule

starting May 30/31, 2020

- -Saturday, May 30 @ 4:00 PM (limited to 30 people) -Sunday, May 31 @ 8:00 AM (limited to 30 people) -Sunday, May 31 @ 10:30 AM (limited to 30 people)
- -Sunday, May 31 @ 10:30 AM (limited to 30 people)
- Church will be open for private prayer <u>Tuesday</u> through Friday from 9AM until 7 PM. (please practice good social distancing and Maximum of 10 persons)

Amazon Smile is the charitable arm of Amazon.com. If you order on Amazon, use Amazon Smile the same as you would as regular Amazon, and choose St. Mary's Parish as your charitable organization.



Log in to: amazon.com/smile and click the word "supporting" under the search bar. You can search for St. Mary's by typing, "St. Mary Parish Coon Valley" or simply click the link on our parish website: stmarycv.org

Televised Masses:

WXOW CH 19 La Crosse – Sunday: 9:30 AM EWTN (cable/sat.) – Sunday: 7 AM & 11 AM Daily: 7 AM & 6 PM

FOX 25-48 Winona Diocese—7:00 AM

Catholic Broadcasting:

<u>EWTN</u> Catholic Cable Television Vernon Telephone Cable – Chan. 143

MediaCom Chan 15 – Coon Valley

Chan 74 – La Crosse also available via satellite

Online:

La Crosse Diocese: https://diolc.org/sacredworship/televised-mass/ or live https://diolc.org/live Daily at 8 AM, Sunday at 9:30 AM

Annual Appeal 2019-2020				
As of 05/15/2020	Total Pledged	Total Payments		
Pledged/Paid	\$15,547.50	\$15,007.50		
Target Amount	<u>\$11,755.00</u>	<u>\$11,755.00</u>		
Over Target	\$3,792.50	\$3,252.50		
Percent Pledged: 132.26%, Percent Received: 127.67%				
Number Contributing:	41			

From Fr. Matt

- IMPORTANT NOTICE Contact Fr. Matt this week to let him know 1) whether you intend to come back to Mass at this time and 2) if you have a Mass time preference. This will help our parish plan out Mass attendance for the immediate future.
- Fr. Matt is in need of equipment and a person skilled with that equipment for recording a Mass once a week. Please let him know if you can be of help!
- Newman Connection High school graduates can sign up for The Newman Connection to learn more about Catholic life on campuses around the United States. The Newman Connection offers information and resources for building campus ministry and a spiritual life in those first years away from home. to: signup.newmanconnection.com
- Pray for our Muslim brothers and sisters who celebrate the Ascension of Muhammad at the same time as we remember the Ascension of Jesus. It is a rare time when the two feasts coincide. What a blessing! We pray that their holy month of Ramadan comes to a beautiful end this Saturday. Peace on us all!
- Thank you to the following persons who so generously made reusable masks for free distribution here at our parish: Karen Tekippe, Beverly Gruening, Doris Zunkev, Phyllis Lunden, and Carol Gruening. If you want to send a thank you: Save a Life Group, 2033 Grand Ave., Apt. 167, Schofield, WI 54476.

Parish Announcements

Your Continued Support is much appreciated!

If you are able, please continue to support the church as you are able. Our parish will continue to have financial Diocesan/Local Announcements obligations such as utilities, repairs, maintenance, supplies, payroll, education and obligations to the Diocese of La Cleaning Position Available Crosse for Catholic Schools.

We are accepting **donations through the mail** and if you and it will be mailed directly to the parish office (if possible, use your envelope number as the account number). Online training. Send letter or resume with references to: services now available: diolc.org/st-mary-coon-valley.

Online Giving to St. Mary's

https://diolc.org/st-mary-coon-valley/

(a 3% fee will be assessed by the provider of the giving portal, your contribution will be recorded for the full amount)



High School Senior Recognition

Unfortunately, our seniors are not able to receive the traditional recognition for their achievements this year, both through their school and our parish. We would like to give them a "shout out" as the end of the school year approaches and hope

that when things get back to "normal" we may have a formal recognition during Mass. Please congratulate and pray for our graduates and all our you people:

Joseph Armbruster Anna Ofte Conor Vatland

Izaak McCauley Mari Stafslien-Dumale Lucas Wieczorek

CONGRATULATIONS 2020 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES!

BELONG TO SOMETHING **GREAT IN COLLEGE.**

Connect to Campus Ministry signup.newmanconnection.com

Bulletins—lets stay connected!

- The parish bulletin will continue to be available on our Website—www.stmarycv.org
- We are mailing the bulletin to those over the age of 80 (if their age is recorded in our database)
- Copies of the bulletin will also be available in the church for pickup during private prayer times.
- If you know of someone who does not have internet and could benefit from having the bulletin mailed to their home, please contact the parish office with the person(s) name(s).

St. Joseph Ridge Parish is seeking to immediately employ a part-time cleaning person. Cleaner will be responsible for the use online banking, please consider adding St. Mary's Parish Rectory, Church and School, totaling approximately 8 hours to your Bill Pay by setting up St. Mary's Parish as payment every two weeks. Must be able to pass a background check, be willing to be fingerprinted and complete Safe Environment

> St. Joseph Ridge Parish, W2601 State Rd 33, La Crosse, WI 54601 or email sirp2601@gmail.com.

> WANTED: Looking for a personal care worker in the La Crosse area to care for an elderly gentleman. assisting with dressing in the morning and evening, dispensing

> > (Continued on page 4)

Diocesan/Local Announcements Continued

medication, making meals, driving to appointments, light housework. The position is for weekend coverage. If interested, please send a resume to Fr. Matt.

LifeTeen Catholic Youth Ministry Convention Scholarship – Date Extended For the past several years, through a generous grant, people from our diocese who work with young people have been able to attend this convention for free. There are a few more scholarships available. The convention has been postponed to September 16-19, 2020. If you have not attended this convention, or know of someone who has not attended this convention, please email Andrew Brueggen, LifeTeen Area Coordinator at youthdir@stpatsonalaska.com

Cathedral Live Stream Mass Schedule The Cathedral Live Stream Schedule is available at diolc.org/live

Live Daily Mass (Monday-Saturday) from the Cathedral Mass in English – 8:00am Mass in Spanish – 8:30am Live Sunday Mass from the Cathedral Mass in English – 9:30 a.m. Mass in Spanish – 10:30 a.m.

May is the month of the Blessed Virgin Mary

A beautiful way to honor our Blessed Mother during the month of May is to pray a decade of the Rosary each day as a family. This takes less than 10 minutes and consists of praying one Our Father, ten Hail Mary's and one Glory Be while pondering an event of Jesus' and Mary's life that has a connection to your own life. For a simple, downloadable Prayer Card, go to diolc.org/prayer for families; or go to diolc.org/deeper for individual adults or empty nesters.

Novena for Pentecost

A Novena consists of praying a prayer during a period of nine days for a specific intention. The Pentecost Novena, in honor of the Holy Spirit, is the oldest of all novenas since it was first prayed at the direction of Our Lord Himself when He sent His Apostles back to Jerusalem to await the coming of the Holy Spirit on the first Pentecost. This Novena is addressed to the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity as a powerful plea for your personal intentions. Take this opportunity to come to know the Holy Spirit in a much deeper way and allow Him to guide, strengthen and console you. Pentecost Novena Dates: The Pentecost Novena will be prayed from Friday, May 22 to Saturday, May 30. Sunday, May 31, is the Feast of Pentecost. The simple Novena Prayer Card and short reading for each of the nine days can be downloaded here: diolc.org/deeper.

A Virtual 50th Jubilee Anniversary Celebration—The in-person 50th wedding anniversary Masses have been canceled. But a special Mass with Bishop Callahan will be held this year via live-stream at 1:00 pm on Sunday,

July 12 from the Cathedral. You will be able to view the live stream or recording by visiting https://diolc.org/marriage/ on and after July 12.

HEALING: Bringing the Gift of God's Mercy to the World

Join the Conference by Dr. Mary Healy held at Mary Mother of the Church on June 13, 2020. Sessions 8:30 AM to 3:15 PM with a Healing Service at 6:30 PM. No Registration, No Charge, Just Come, Jesus is Calling. Meals will not be provided. However, coffee, water and snacks will be available throughout the day. You are encouraged to bring you own lunch and perhaps enough to share. There will be a list of nearby restaurants available at the info table. Schedule: 8:30 AM Gathering. 9:00 AM Praise & Worship. 9:30 AM Jesus: Healer of Souls & Bodies. 10:30 AM Stretch Break. 10:40 AM Walking in the Supernatural. 11:45 AM—1:15 PM Lunch Break. 1:15 PM Praise & Worship. 1:45 PM How to Pray for Healing. 2:45 PM Practicum. 3:15 PM Wrap-up/Announcements (Break before Healing Service). 4:00 PM Parish Mass available. 6:30 PM Healing Service

Queen of the Americas Guild Annual Conference

July 31-August 1, 2020 at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Join us for this two day conference/retreat examining Our Lady of Guadalupe's relationship to Human Life and Its Cradle in the Family Formed by Marriage. Enhance your faith and learn more about the miracle of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and the history of our Faith. Visit: queenoftheamericasguild.org, call 630-584-1822 or email staff@queeenoftheamericasguild.org. Flyers are also in the back of church.

Adventure Camp: Here are the dates for Adventure Camp this summer! We hope that you will bring a group and join us. This is for youth in grades 6-12. To register and get more details, please visit: http://diolc.org/yya/youth-opportunities/adventure-camp/ Week 1: June 21-26, 2020; Week 2: June 28-July 3, 2020; Week 3: July 19-24, 2020.

DID YOU KNOW?

If you are 70 $\frac{1}{2}$ 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.

Weekday Readings

Monday 25 May

St Bede the Venerable, priest, doctor

Acts 19:1-8

Followers of John the Baptist who did not believe in Jesus as Messiah continued to exist for a long time. *John 16:29-33*

Although Jesus speaks plainly through- out this Gospel (unlike in Mark), nevertheless the slow journey of the disciples is registered. The overall tone is one of encouragement.

Tuesday 26 May

St Philip Neri, priest Acts 20:17-27

Today's reading is a very touching scene: the final farewell of Paul to the faithful of Ephesus. It offers a kind of apologia for the Pauline mission.

John 17:1-11

Today we hear the start of the final prayer from the Farewell Discourse. It is, of course, a prayer; but it is also a kind of summing of the teaching so far and a looking forward to the time after the resurrection. You may notice the typical "definition" of eternal life: And eternal life is this: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

Wednesday 27 May

St Augustine of Canterbury, bishop

Acts 20:28-38

Paul's last speech to the elders in Ephesus is full of still valid and good advice and the very last moment is very moving.

John 17:11-19

"Glorify" may sound strange to us, as if Jesus were looking for some kind of vain recognition. In this Gospel, however, to glorify point to the cross; specifically, it means that the heart of God, God's inner identity, is disclosed in Jesus' death and resurrection.

Thursday 28 May

Acts 22:30, 23:6-11

"Divide and conquer" is an old rule and Paul uses it cannily in today's vignette. Paradoxically, Paul is "rescued" by the very officials who hold him prisoner.

John 17:20-26

This heartfelt prayer will touch us all. Although conflict *is* normal, at every level, it cannot be normative. Therefore, we strive for forgiveness, reconciliation and true fellowing or oneness. May this great prayer be ours today!

Friday 29 May

St Paul VI, bishop of Rome

Acts 25:13-21

A key event in the life of Paul is recount- ed. He was under arrest in Caesarea. As a Roman citizen, he makes appeal to the emperor.

John 21:15-19

Because our reading of John is coming to a close as the Easter Season ends, the lectionary takes us forward to chapter 21. In the background, there is an oblique reminder of his betrayal (charcoal). But in the foreground stands the high call to love and the fundamental call to follow.

Saturday 30 May

Acts 28:16-20,30-31

The closing of the Acts is a marvelous scene. Paul is in Rome and still preaching. It is notable that the very last sentence of the Acts reads as follows (in Greek): proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching the truth about the Lord Jesus Christ with complete freedom and *unhindered*. A great ending — and a great beginning, because it is up to us the readers to continue the task.

John 21:20-25

Our Gospel is also a closing scene. It was important for the community, dealing with the death of their beloved leader. At the same time, it provide the writer with a second chance to close the whole book, with mixed feelings of exasperation and wonder!

The Kids' Bulletin

Feast of the Ascension May 21st or May 24th, 2020

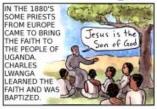
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What does today's Psalm say about the Ascension?
Use every other letter from the box of letters above to fill in the blanks below.

*G*_______

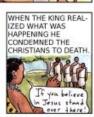
Saint Charles Lwanga And Companions June 3















IMPRISONED FOR SEVEN DAYS, ON JUNE 3RD, 1886 THE CHRISTIAN PAGES WERE BURNED TO DEATH FOR REFUSING TO GIVE UP THEIR FAITH.

SAINT CHARLES AND HIS FELLOW PAGES DID NOT LET THE FEAR OF DEATH STOP THEM FROM FOLLOWING GOD AND DOING WHAT WAS RIGHT. IF EVER YOU ARE TEMPTED TO SIN OR TO MAKE AN EASY CHOICE THAT IS WRONG, PRAY TO SAINT CHARLES AND HIS FRIENDS FOR STRENGTH TO MAKE THE RIGHT DECISION.

thekidsbulletin@gmail.com

True or False about... The Ascension

How well do you know the story of the Ascension? See if you know which of these are true and which are false:

- Jesus appeared to His disciples for forty days after He rose from the dead. True or false?
- 2. When Jesus was with His disciples after He rose from the dead, they could only see Him but they couldn't touch Him. True or false?
- 3. Jesus didn't tell His friends that He was going to leave them. True or false?
- 4. Jesus promised that He would send the Holy Spirit. True or false?
- 5. The disciples had gathered together and asked Jesus if He was going to restore the earthly kingdom. True or false?
- 6. Nobody saw Jesus rise into the sky and disappear into a cloud. True or false?

7. Two men appeared to the disciples and said, "Men of Galilee, why are you looking at the sky?" True or false?

Jesus Ascended into Heaven



The Ascension is one of the great feasts of the Church. Jesus went up, Body and Soul, into Heaven to be with His Father where He is waiting for all of us. Can you imagine what it was like for the apostles to see their leader and best friend going up to Heaven? It would be pretty amazing, don't you think?



At the same time, doesn't it seem a bit sad that Jesus left? Well, He knew it was time for His disciples to start working on their own. It was kind of like having someone there to help you learn to ride a

bike and then they let you go so you can learn to bike on your own.

But Jesus didn't go away and leave us without any help. Nine days after He went into Heaven

WOW! DID YOU He sent the Holy Spirit, who would help and guide His followers.

YES ... WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO NOW?

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