

PASTOR

Fr. Joseph Richards (Fr. Joe)
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
Thurs. after Mass until noon and by appt

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 Stafshien, 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

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 - 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 fatherjoerichards@gmail.com 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.

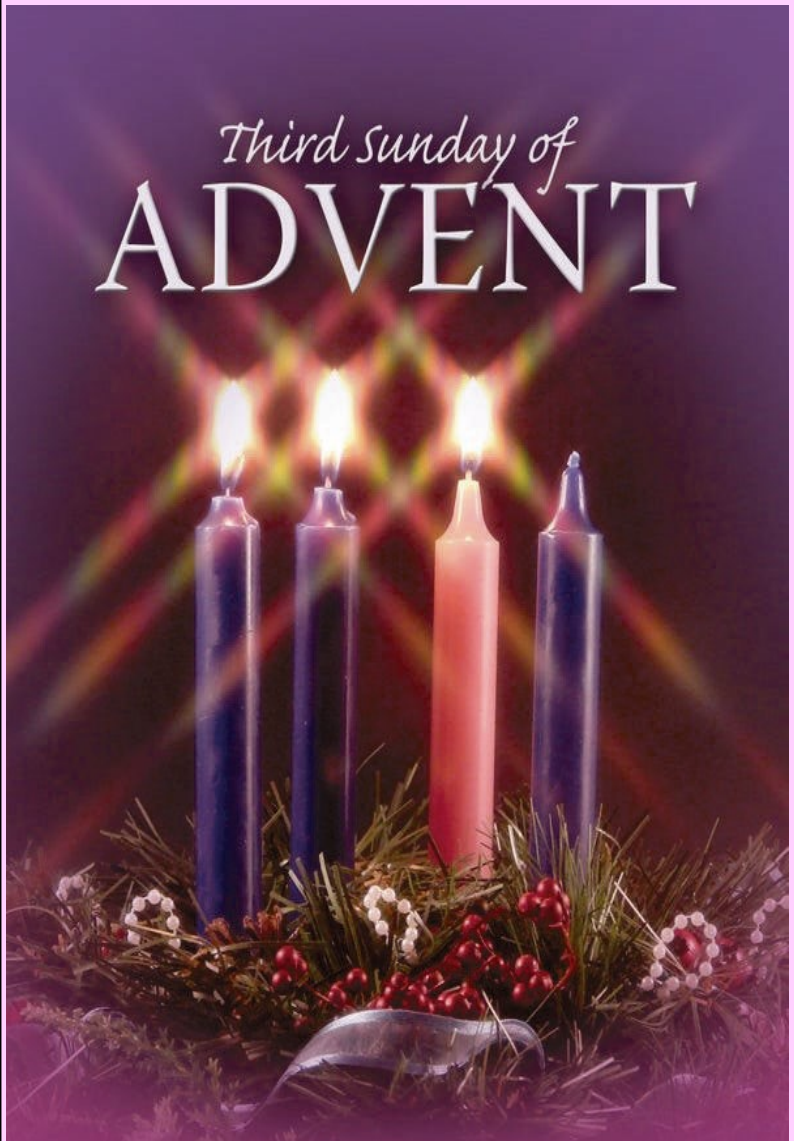
St. Mary's Parish

900 Central Ave., Coon Valley, WI 54623

Phone: 608-452-3841

Website: stmarycv.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/StMarysCoonValley



Fr. Joe Richards, Pastor

December 17, 2023

Readings: 483B

St. Mary's Parish, Coon Valley, WI

Third Sunday of Advent

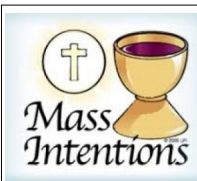


Sunday Readings
December 17, 2023

1) *Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11*; 2) *I Thessalonians. 5:16-24*;
3) *John 1:6-8, 19-28*

Intentions

Dec 16 ~ 4:00 PM - † Edward and Anna Kerska
Dec 17 ~ 8:00 AM - † Helen Staflien
Dec 19 ~ 5:15 PM - † David Holte
Dec 21 ~ 8:00 AM - † Joan Clements
Dec 23 ~ 4:00 PM - Our Parish Family
Dec 24 ~ 8:00 AM - Special Intention
Dec 24 ~ 4:00 PM - † Bernard and Cecilia Humfeld
Dec 25 ~ 12:00AM - † Deceased members of the Roskos and Roningen Families




Open Sat. and Sun. dates: Mar. 31, Apr. 13; Jun 1 or 2, 8, 9, 22, 23, 29, 30
Open Weekdays: Jan. 23; Feb. 1, 13, 15, 29; Mar. 5, 12, 14, 21; Apr. 4, 11, 16, 30; May 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 23, 28, 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.


Next Week in Service — Dec 23 / 24

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

Readers:	Sat. – Robert Kerska Sun. – Marlene Humfeld
Ushers:	Sat. – Volunteers Sun. – Volunteers
Money Counters:	Mike Kammel and Mark Boland



CONFESSIONS
Tuesday: after 5:15 pm Mass
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 12/15/23	Total Pledged	Total Payments
Pledged/Paid	\$5,515.00	\$5,365.00
Target Amount	\$14,515.00	\$14,515.00
Under Target	(\$9,000.00)	(\$9,150.00)
Percent Pledged: 38%, Percent Received: 36.96%		
Number Contributing:		16

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.

Upcoming Events/Calendar

- **Dec 17** ~ In Viroqua a Christmas Musical “Three Wee Kings” will be performed at 3 pm. All are welcome!
- **Dec 21** ~ Coffee and Fellowship after the 8 AM Mass
- **Dec 24/25** ~ **update** **Christmas Eve 4:00 PM and 12:00 AM (midnight)**
- **Dec 25** ~ Christmas Mass in Viroqua 10:30 AM 
- **Dec 26 & 27** ~ Fr. Joe on PTO - **no daily Mass**
- **Jan 01** ~ **Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God** (Holy Day)- 8 AM in Coon Valley and 10:30 AM in Viroqua
- **Jan 07** ~ RE in Viroqua after the 10:30 AM Mass for both Coon Valley and Viroqua students.
- **Jan 09** ~ Finance Council Meeting 6 PM
- **Jan 16** ~ Pastoral Council Meeting 4 PM
- **Jan 21** ~ RE monthly activity after the 8 AM Mass in Coon Valley
- **Jan 22** ~ PCCW Meeting 5:30 PM

Fr. Joe's Office Hours:

Tues. from 1:00-5:15 PM (Mass time) and **Thurs. 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.



Inspired by the Spirit Campaign

5 Year Goal : \$105,000.00
As of November 29, 2023
Pledges received (30): \$107,720.00
Payments received: \$34,067.50

WE HAVE EXCEEDED THE GOAL!
THANK YOU!



Needed this Month	
\$10,000.00	at \$2000 per week
\$4,135.10	Received as of week 2
(\$5,864.90)	Short for the Month

Giving Last Week

		12/10/23	
Adult Env(31)	\$2,083.00	Needed Weekly	\$2,000.00
Offertory	\$526.10	Received This Week	\$2,845.10
Imm. Con. (7)	177.00	Running total needed	\$100,000.00
Votives	59.00	YTD Received	\$89,921.97
Total	\$2,845.10	Difference	(10,078.03)
Flowers(8)	\$220.00		
Food Pantry	\$71.00	Retirement Fund (7)	\$350.00

From the Pastor

Hello friends,

Last weekend I mentioned at a few Masses and failed to mention at a few Masses a Diocesan announcement about my own position. From the Diocesan Chancery Bulletin (a weekly publication of business going on across the Diocese) of December 5:

*The Most Reverend William Patrick Callahan, D.D., Bishop of La Crosse, makes the following announcement: In accord with the norm of canon 553, §2, the following priests are named vicars forane (deans) for a three-year term, effective December 5, 2023: (among others) The Very Rev. **Joseph M. Richards** for the Richland Center Deanery.*

What does this mean? Great question. The Church worldwide is geographically broken down into dioceses (in Wisconsin Green Bay, Superior, La Crosse, Milwaukee, and Madison), then into deaneries (in Wisconsin, usually by county), then into parishes. There are four Pastors in the Richland Center Deanery, serving seven parishes – Fr. Nathan Thainase in Cazenovia, Keyesville, and Lone Rock (possibly the largest area in the Diocese, God bless him), Fr. Don Bauer in Hillsboro and Wonewoc, Msgr. Scheckel in Richland Center, and myself in Viroqua (Coon Valley is in the La Crosse deanery). Does this mean I am in charge of all the parishes in Richland Center? Thank goodness, no. The Dean position serves those pastors and parishes in their leadership, representing the Deanery at some Diocesan meetings and functions, facilitating cooperation among parishes (we'll hear about this with next fall's Rural Life Day in Richland Center), and assisting parish leadership and congregations if/when crises come up. A few other notes: I can now sign checks and documents "Very Reverend Joe Richards," instead of "Reverend Joe Richards." To save on ink I'll likely continue with "Fr. Joe Richards," however I am insisting that my peers now call me "Very Father Joe." This is also a three-year term, renewable one time (similar to my Pastor term of six years, renewable once). It's an honor to serve in this roll, and I am glad to have self-sufficient Pastors as neighbors.

The first Deanery function we'll see coming out of this position is a pre-marriage retreat in Viroqua on January 13. Among others, we'll have four Viroqua couples and one Coon Valley couple in attendance to get ready for next year's weddings in our parish. Pray for these couples and for their establishment in the Holy Spirit as Saints in the Church!

God bless you, and happy rest-of-Advent! ~ Fr. Joe

Parish Announcements

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.

Christmas Choir—All Welcome!

All singers are invited to join the choir for Christmas. Please arrive 30 minutes early to prepare to start singing a few songs before Mass. Hark The Herald, St. Mary's Angels Sing!!

Thank you Everyone.

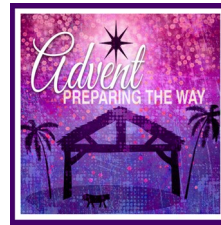


2024 Contribution Envelopes and Calendars

Both are now available in the back of church. Envelopes are in alphabetical order for ease of pickup. Thank you for your continued support. If you cannot find your envelopes or you do not currently have envelopes assigned to you please contact the parish office by leaving a message at 608-452-3841 or email: stmaryscv@mwt.net

Retirement Fund for Religious Collection—Thank You!

Our women and men religious offer gratitude. A sister shares, "I thank the Lord for all who give. I don't think we would make it without them." Thank you for giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious last week. Your donation makes a difference in the lives of elderly women and men religious. To learn more about how your gift helps, visit retiredreligious.org.



Reflections for Advent Booklet and Materials

Advent Gospel Reflections by Word on Fire booklets and other Advent materials are available in the back of church. Feel free to take home whatever speaks to you.

Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas

The Fourth Sunday of Advent this year falls on Dec. 24. Morning Masses will celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent, while Masses on Sunday evening will observe the Vigil for Christmas. Catholics are to attend Mass twice for these two occasions—once for the 4th Sunday of Advent (either on the evening of Saturday, Dec. 23 at 4:00 PM or during the 8 AM Mass on Dec. 24), and once for Christmas (either on the evening of Dec. 24 at 4:00 PM or during the midnight Mass on Dec. 25).

Christmas Mass Times

- * December 24-Vigil Mass in Coon Valley at 4:00 PM
- * December 24-Vigil Mass in Viroqua at 6:30 PM
- * December 25-Midnight Mass in Coon Valley at 12:00 AM
- * December 25-Mass in Viroqua at 10:30 AM



Diocesan/Local Announcements

Pilgrimage for Life - Jan. 17-21

We are excited to offer the Pilgrimage for Life. We will travel by coach bus to Washington, DC, to participate in the annual March for Life. This opportunity is for anyone ages 13 and up. The estimated cost is \$400 per person. All information and the registration link can be found at <https://diolc.org/yva/youth-opportunities/pilgrimage-for-life/>

Advent 2023: Resources for Meditation:

- ⇒ Bishop Barron's daily Gospel reflections - www.wordonfire.org/reflections/advent
- ⇒ Fr. Joseph Mary Wolfe, MFVA - Weekly Advent Reflection Videos (2 min.): What can we give Jesus for Christmas? www.ewtn.com/catholicism/seasons-and-feast-days/advent-14416
- ⇒ Hallow's Advent Pray25 with C.S. Lewis - <https://hallow.com/blog/pray25/>
- ⇒ Matthew Kelly: Best Advent Ever - www.dynamiccatholic.com/advent.htm
- ⇒ EWTN daily Advent Reflections - www.ewtn.com/catholicism/reflections/advent
- ⇒ Seven Scripture Readings for Advent on a downloadable prayer card available under the title "Praying with Scripture" - diolc.org/deeper.
- ⇒ Scripture Readings from Mass each day during Advent - bible.usccb.org.

Bishop Callahan Advent Remarks

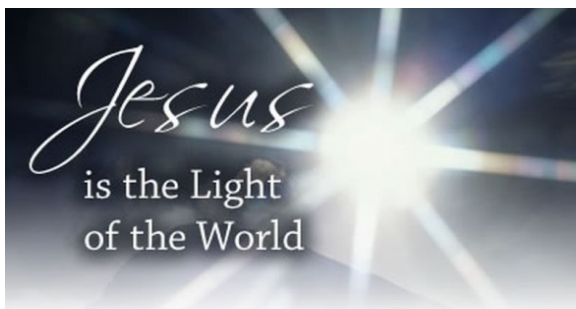
"As the year draws to a close and the hopes for 2024 dawn, I am grateful to have the opportunity to pass along my own Advent greetings to you..." Please share Bishop Callahan's Advent remarks by visiting <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e0cKXO0q9t8> or by using your smartphone's camera to scan the QR code to the right



"The Answer" Eucharistic Rally ~ June 7

The La Crosse Center, La Crosse, WI

We are very excited to announce "the Answer" Eucharistic Rally that will be held on June 7, 2024 at the La Crosse Center in La Crosse, WI. This event kicks off the 6 days that the Marian Route of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage will be in the Diocese of La Crosse. "the Answer" Eucharistic Rally will begin with a Eucharistic Procession Across the Cameron Street Bridge in La Crosse and will end at the La Crosse Center where the rest of the rally will take place. The day will include Mass, Adoration, Confession, powerful speakers such as Chris Stefanick, Immaculee Ilibagize, and Josh Rosa, music from Luke Spehar, and plenty of vendors. The cost for this event is only \$15 per person. This rally is for youth, young adults, adults, families, etc. Tickets will go on sale December 15, 2023. You can find more information about the event and the other days the Marian Route will be in our diocese by visiting: <https://diolc.org/the-answer/>.



Activity Corner

The Messenger of Peace Word-find

V Y E A R P O O R B
I C S P I R I T R O
N A A N N O U N C E
D P K G F C E S L N
I T G O A L H E I T
C I L D V A E N B I
A V A N O I N T E D
T E D A U M R T R I
I S L O R D E D T N
O R E L E A S E Y G
N P R I S O N E R S

See if you can find the words in CAPITALS from today's first reading in the puzzle. Use the left-over letters to fill in the blanks in the reading.

The SPIRIT of the Lord God is upon me, because the LORD has ANOINTED me; he has SENT me to bring GLAD TIDINGS to the POOR, to heal the _____, to PROCLAIM LIBERTY to CAPTIVES



and RELEASE to the PRISONERS, to ANNOUNCE a YEAR of FAVOUR from the Lord and a day of VINDICATION by our GOD.



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@mwt.net