



# St. Mary Parish

900 Central Ave, Coon Valley, WI 54623

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



December 21, 2025 | Fourth Sunday of Advent | Reading 486A

## CONNECT WITH US

### PASTOR

**Rectory:** 400 Congress Ave.  
Viroqua, WI 54665

**Cell Phone:** 608-606-9787

**Email:** [jrichards@diolclergy.org](mailto: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](mailto:ashay@diolclergy.org)

### Parish Phone

608-452-3841

### Mailing Address

904 Central Ave  
Coon Valley, WI 54623

### Email

[stmaryscv@mwt.net](mailto:stmaryscv@mwt.net)

### Website

[www.stmaryscv.org](http://www.stmaryscv.org)

### Social Media

[www.facebook.com/StMarysCoonValley](http://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 Stafslien 608-452-3841  
[stmaryscv@mwt.net](mailto:stmaryscv@mwt.net)

#### Coordinator of Religious Education

Bridget Goodwin  
[bladams50@gmail.com](mailto: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**

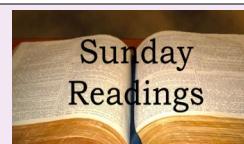
Mass Times:

Weekend: Saturday 6:30pm

Sunday 10:30am

Weekday: Wed - 5:15 pm

Fri - 8:00am



December 21, 2025  
 1) Isaiah 7:10-14  
 2) Romans 1:1-7  
 3) Matthew 1:18-24

### Intentions / Schedule

#### SATURDAY, December 20

Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

#### SUNDAY, December 21

Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 8:00am Mass ~ † Helen Stafslien  
 Altar Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers  
 Lector: Volunteer

Money Counters: Mike Kammel and Mark Boland

#### TUESDAY, December 23

St. John of Kanty

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

#### WEDNESDAY, December 24

Christmas Eve

- 4:00p, Mass ~ † Bernard and Cecelia Humfeld  
 Altar Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers  
 Lector: Marlene Humfeld

#### THURSDAY, December 25

Midnight Christmas Day

- 12:00am Mass ~ All the Roskos and Roningen Families  
 (living and deceased)  
 Altar Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers  
 Lector: Melonie Halvorson

#### SATURDAY, December 27

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

- 4:00pm Mass ~ † Tyler Turben  
 Altar Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers  
 Lector: Nancy Peters

#### SUNDAY, December 28

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

- 8:00am Mass ~ † Ted Ollandick and Family  
 Altar Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers  
 Lector: Ryan Goodwin

Money Counters: Loree Nickelotti and Curt Horman

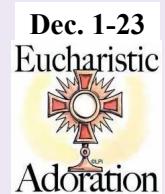


### Annual Appeal 2025-2026

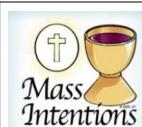
As of 12/19/2025	Total Pledged	Total Payments
Pledged/Paid	\$10,525.00	\$8,066.69
Target Amount	\$14,565.00	\$14,565.00
<b>Under Target</b>	(\$4,040.00)	(\$6,498.31)
Percent Pledged: 72.26%	Percent Received: 55.38%	
Number Contributing: 21		
To donate online, visit: <a href="https://diolc.org/stewardship/">https://diolc.org/stewardship/</a>		
and in the drop down box choose: 2025(445) St. Mary Parish, Coon Valley		

### Upcoming Events/Calendar

- **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
- **Dec 31** ~ Vigil Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God. Holy Day in Viroqua at 5: 15 PM
- **Jan 1** ~ Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God. *Holy Day of Obligation* here 8:00 AM  
 ~ in Viroqua 12: 10 PM
- **Jan 4** ~ Rel. Ed (FoF) after 10:30 AM Mass in Viroqua
- **Jan 12** ~ PCCW Meeting at 5:30 PM
- **Jan 13** ~ Finance Council Meeting 5:45 PM
- **Jan 18** ~ Rel Ed (FoF) Activity after 8 AM Mass



- 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)



**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		12/7/2025
Adult Env (29)	\$1,285.00	Needed Weekly
Offertory	175.25	Received This Week
Votives	30.00	Total needed
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,490.25</b>	YTD Received
Food Pantry	\$207.10	Difference
		(3,794.93)

Giving Last Week		12/14/2025
Adult Env (27)	\$1,170.00	Needed Weekly
Offertory	176.00	Received This Week
Imm Conc. Env	295.00	Total needed
IC Offertory	64.25	YTD Received
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,705.25</b>	Difference
Ret Fund Rel	\$645.00	Food Pantry
Xmas Flowers	\$245.00	\$30.00

## From the Pastor

Hello friends,

First, I have to apologize – right about 10:47 last Saturday I was at the Diocesan Center kicking myself and saying, “why didn’t I broadcast this?” The event in question was our summer seminarian **John Francis’ Rite of Candidacy** – a significant moment in a seminarian’s formation when he declares his intention, all things being equal, to continue in seminary formation to ordination and when the Diocese declares its blessing, all things being equal, for the seminarian to do just that. By analogy, it’s much like engagement – as a man and woman date and build interest and understanding and love for each other, there eventually comes the point when they say “I intend to marry you.” In a similar way, “candidacy” is a bit like moving from dating to engagement, except on the way to priesthood. Of course, engagements can end, and after a seminarian becomes a Candidate for ordination he or the Diocese can still back out, but there’s a different gravity that comes after such an intention (engagement or candidacy) is declared. I recall my own Rite of Candidacy back in 2016 or 17 – it was one of a few pivotal moments in my formation and approach toward priesthood (2020) that bore a significant weight and emotional charge. I don’t think I understood that Moment then as well as I do now, and it was a real blessing to be present at this moment for John. The part I was kicking myself about was not making all this known beforehand for you to come and participate too. Anyway, if you make contact with John wish him happy engagement.

Second, we’re coming up on Christmas in just a few days here. Thank you for walking so earnestly through the last three weeks of Advent – I think Christmas done well is just like a graduation party or an anniversary date night done well – the event will still happen with little planning, but with big planning and intention it draws out the bigness of the day that much more. So, thank you for leaning into the season. We’ve got a few schedule adjustments coming up for Christmas (and the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God the next week). **For Christmas, our schedule starts on Christmas Eve: 4:00 PM in Coon Valley, 6:30 PM in Viroqua. At Midnight we’re back in Coon Valley with carols starting at 11:30 PM. We’re back in Viroqua for a 10:30 AM Mass on Christmas Day, followed by a Christmas dinner for any of our folks from either parish who’d like to join** (email [christmasdinnerviroqua@gmail.com](mailto:christmasdinnerviroqua@gmail.com) to RSVP). Please note there will not be an 8:00 Mass in Viroqua on December 26. The next week we celebrate the Solemnity and Holy Day of Obligation of Mary, Mother of God on January 1. We’ll start with a Vigil Mass in Viroqua at 5:15 on December 31, then on January 1 an 8:00 AM Mass in Coon Valley and 12:10 Mass in Viroqua. Okay, that’s all for now.

God bless you, and happy Advent!

Fr. Joe

## Parish Announcements

### Christmas Choir & Carols Before Midnight Mass — All Are Welcome!

All are invited to join together in song before the Midnight Christmas Mass. We will begin singing beloved Christmas carols at approximately 11:30 PM. Come early, lift your voice, and help set a joyful and prayerful tone as we celebrate the birth of Christ.



### CRAFT SHOW Follow Up—THANK YOU!

A **HUGE** thank you to all the ladies who worked at the craft show and/or donated food for the craft show. We had so much good help this year which is truly appreciated. It takes many hands to make this community event a success so thanks to all!

**Winners of the quilt and door prizes were as follows:** Quilt - Tiffany Strasser; Afghan/Blanket - Connie Evenstad; Napkin Holder - Carol Kast; Nativity Set - Pauline Aspenson; Old World Santa - Kelly Helgeson; Old World Santa - Carol LeJeune; and Set of 2 Old World Santas - Andy Pedretti. Congratulations to the winners!

### Remembering Sharon Rose Tarpening

We commend to your prayers former parishioner **Sharon Rose (LeJeune) Tarpening**, who entered eternal life this past week. Sharon was born on June 14, 1958, and was baptized at St. Mary Parish on June 27, 1958. She received her First Communion here in 1966, was confirmed in 1971, and was united in marriage to **Steven Tarpening** at St. Mary on July 3, 1982. She was the daughter of **William and Rose LeJeune** and most recently resided in Peoria, Arizona. Her funeral will be held in Arizona, with burial at **St. Mary Cemetery** to be set at a later date. Please keep Sharon Rose and her family in your prayers.

### Christmas Flower Donations

We will accept donations through this weekend. A special envelope is included with your envelope bundles, there are also extras located at the church entrances. A list of donors will be posted by Christmas Eve and included in next weekends bulletin.



### 2026 Contribution Envelopes

Envelopes are now available in the back of the church in alphabetical order. Please pick yours up to save on the deliver expense. If you do not find your packet or you do not currently have envelopes, please email the parish office at: [stmaryscv@mwt.net](mailto:stmaryscv@mwt.net) or leave a voicemail at 608-452-3841.



## Diocesan/Community Announcements

### 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.

### Worldwide Marriage Encounter is coming to the Diocese of La Crosse | Feb. 13-15, 2026 | Sparrow's Nest, Sparta

Looking for a way to rekindle the love and romance in your marriage? Your marriage is your most important human relationship. This powerful experience of discovery helps you renew your commitment, deepen your intimacy and reignite the passion that brought you together. Space is limited apply for the weekend by visiting: <https://wwme.org/> to save your spot!

### Support through the Holiday Season

The *Franciscan Spirituality Center* in La Crosse offers a variety of events for the Holiday Season and spiritual enrichment. Visit their website for listing and to register at: <https://fsc.retreatportal.com/events/> or call 608-791-5295

### Hiring for Two Positions at the Diocese:

The openings for the Diocesan Graphic and Media Designer position and the Digital Evangelist position are located at the diocesan open position webpage <https://diolc.org/jobs/> and on Indeed.

### What did people say at the 40 listening sessions this fall?



Those comments are now available for viewing, along with a summary of the top trends. You can also check out a brief video from Fr. Derek Sakowski sharing a Christmas story illustrating what it means to "pivot from maintenance to mission." Weekly updates are available by clicking on QR Code on the right or on this link <https://diolc.org/rebuildmychurch/updates/>



### Close The Jubilee Year of Hope Mass - Dec 28

The Jubilee Year of Hope officially ends on January 6<sup>th</sup> when Pope Leo XIV closes the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. A Mass to close the Jubilee Year in the Diocese of La Crosse will be celebrated at the Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman by Msgr. Richard Gilles, 10 a.m. on December 28<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome.

**Two New "Connecting the Diocese" Episodes:** [Click here to listen](#) to the two most recent "Connecting the Diocese" episodes featuring Father Tom Lindner discussing the Jubilee Year of Hope and Father Sam Martin sharing Advent reflections. We publish "Connecting the Diocese" as a weekly podcast you can access by visiting the link: <https://connecting.diolc.org/> or scan the QR code.



### Latest Episode of "Martin's Minutes" on YouTube: Physical and Spiritual Growth: Lessons from Life and Faith and Advent Reflections

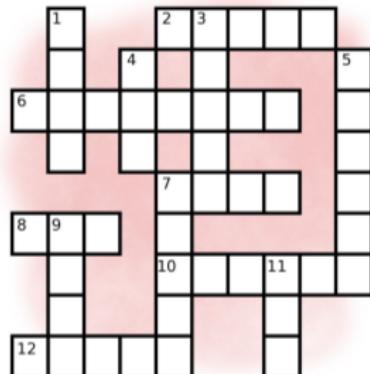
Father Martin's most recent "Martin's Minutes" reflections [at \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o85u6sUIBD8\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o85u6sUIBD8). These are inspiring thoughts of holiness and humor—made easily accessible so you can share the reflection on your social media, parish bulletins and with youth groups, OCIA teams, etc.

## Activity Corner

### Isaiah 7 Cross-Word

Find the words that fit into the spaces in today's first reading, and then fit them into the puzzle. A=Across and D=Down.

HOUSE  
VIRGIN  
HIGH  
SHEOL  
CHILD  
THE  
DAVID  
HEAVEN  
NAME  
DEEP  
IMMANUEL  
GOD  
MAN



8A LORD spoke to Ahaz, "Ask a sign of the LORD your 11D; let it be 7A as 2A or 9D as 5D." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." And he said, "Hear then, O 3D of 7D! Is it too little for you to weary 4D, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the 10A shall be with 12A, and bear a son, and shall 1D him 6A.



**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.