



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

Office Hours in the Sacristy

Tuesday 1:00pm until Mass

Thursdays after Mass until noon or by appointment

DEACON

Email: ashay@diolclergy.org

Parish Phone

608-452-3841

Mailing Address

904 Central Ave
Coon Valley, WI 54623

Email

stmaryscv@mwt.net

Website

www.stmaryscv.org

Social Media

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

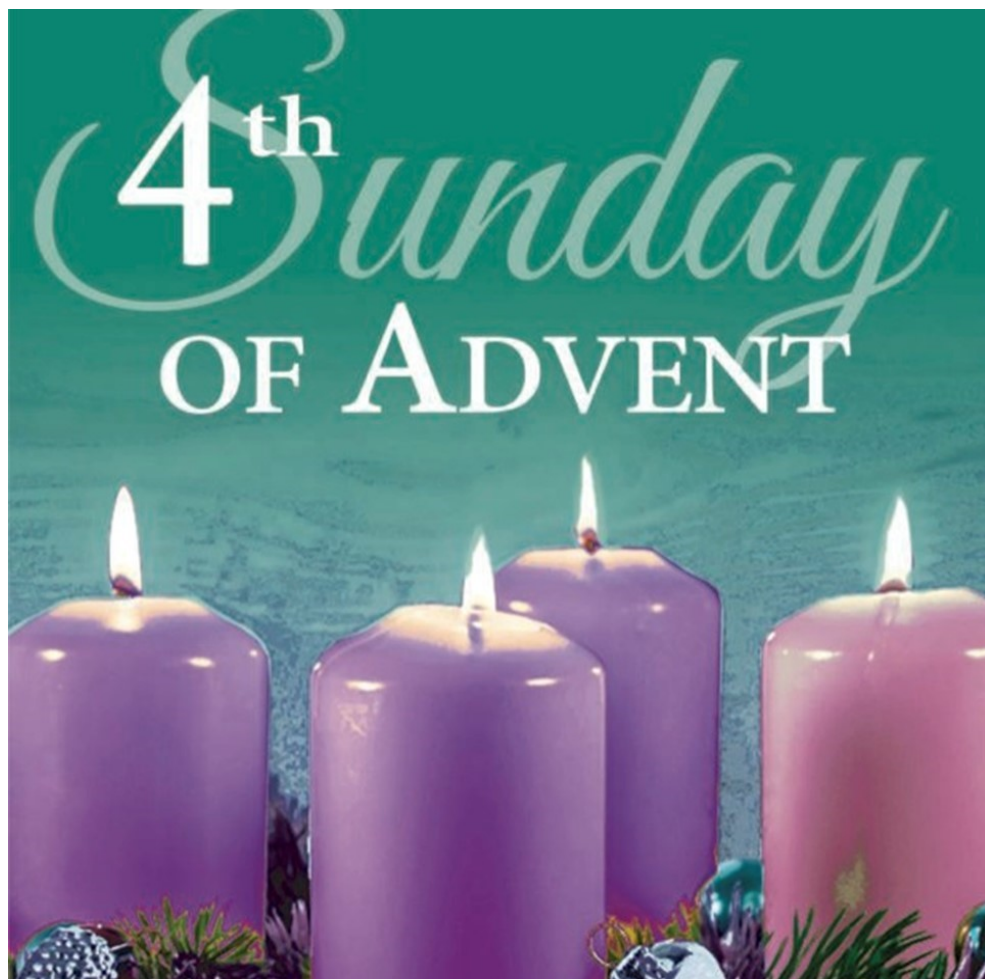
Thursday | 8:00am

Confession

Saturday | 3:30pm - 3:45pm

Devotions

Adoration Tuesday | 4:30pm



Administrative Assistant

Amy Stafslie 608-452-3841
stmaryscv@mwt.net

Coordinator of Religious Education

Bridget Goodwin
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

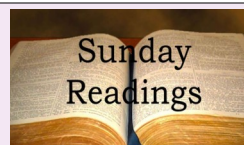
Fr. Joe also serving:

**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 Stafslie
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 Ollendick and Family
Altar Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers
Lector: Ryan Goodwin

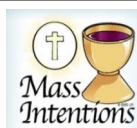
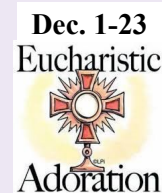
Money Counters: Loree Nickelotti and Curt Horman



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 or voice message 608-452-3841.

Giving Last Week		12/7/2025	
Adult Env (29)	\$1,285.00	Needed Weekly	\$2,000.00
Offertory	175.25	Received This Week	\$1,490.25
Votives	30.00	Total needed	\$98,000.00
Total	\$1,490.25	YTD Received	\$94,205.07
Food Pantry	\$207.10	Difference	(3,794.93)

Giving Last Week		12/14/2025	
Adult Env (27)	\$1,170.00	Needed Weekly	\$2,000.00
Offertory	176.00	Received This Week	\$1,705.25
Imm Conc. Env	295.00	Total needed	\$100,000.00
IC Offertory	64.25	YTD Received	\$95,910.32
Total	\$1,705.25	Difference	(4,089.68)
Ret Fund Rel	\$645.00	Food Pantry	\$30.00
Xmas Flowers	\$245.00		

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
Under Target	(\$4,040.00)	(\$6,498.31)
Percent Pledged: 72.26% , Percent Received: 55.38%		
Number Contributing: 21		
To donate online, visit: https://diolc.org/stewardship/ and in the drop down box choose: 2025(445) St. Mary Parish, Coon Valley		

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 she 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 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 Tarpensing



We commend to your prayers former parishioner **Sharon Rose (LeJeune) Tarpensing**, 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 Tarpensing** 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 or leave a voicemail at 608-452-3841.

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF
ADVENT**

Love



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 6th 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 28th. 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

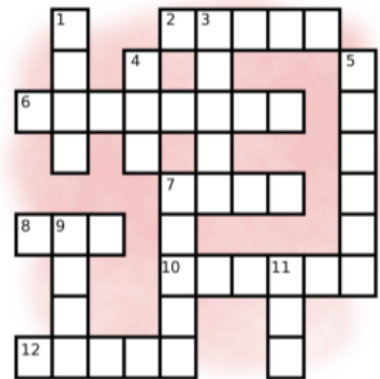
Father Martin's most recent "Martin's Minutes" reflections at (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o85u6sUIBD8>). These are inspiring thoughts of holiness and humor—made easily accessible so you can share the reflection on your social media, parish bulletins and with youth groups, OCIA teams, etc.

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

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 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.