

**PAROCHIAL ADMINISTRATOR**

**Fr. Joseph Richards (Fr. Joe)**

Rectory: 400 Congress Ave, Viroqua, WI 54665

Cell Phone: 608-606-9787

Email: fatherjoerichards@gmail.com

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..... Stations of the Cross..... 5:15 pm

Mass.....5:45 pm

Thursday.....8:00am

**CONFESSIONS**

Saturday.....3:15pm to 3:45pm

Sunday.....7:15am to 7:45am

**PARISH OFFICE**

Amy Stafslien, Admin. Assist.....608-452-3841

Bulletin deadline: ..... Wednesday noon

E-mail: [stmaryscv@mwt.net](mailto:stmaryscv@mwt.net)

Open most Wednesdays and Thursdays

**COORDINATOR of RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Vacant

**PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL**

Nancy Peters (Secretary), John Mislivecek, Bryan

Berg and John Roesler (Buildings and Grounds)

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL**

Ryan Goodwin, Marlene Humfeld, Sue Humfeld,

Lori Pedretti and Steve Schulte. (1 appointed

vacancies)

**PCCW - Parish Council of Catholic Women**

Clarice Kammel (President), Nancy Peters

(Treasurer), Linda Berg (Secretary)

**ORGANISTS**

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

Sunday .....10:30 AM

Weekday: Wednesdays - 6:30 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](http://www.stmarycv.org/visit-us)

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Call or email Fr. Joe. You can also use our website under the Sacraments tab: <https://www.stmarycv.org/sacraments>

**Sacrament of Baptism:** Please submit a registration by mail, or e-mail to both [stmaryscv@mwt.net](mailto:stmaryscv@mwt.net) AND [fatherjoerichards@gmail.com](mailto:fatherjoerichards@gmail.com) 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.

# St. Mary's Parish

900 Central Ave., Coon Valley, WI 54623

Phone: 608-452-3841

Website: [stmarycv.org](http://stmarycv.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/StMarysCoonValley](http://www.facebook.com/StMarysCoonValley)



## 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT



Then the devil took Jesus up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, and he said to him, "All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me." - Mt 4:8-9


*Fr. Joe Richards*

*February 26, 2023*

*Readings: 502A*

# St. Mary's Parish, Coon Valley, WI

## First Sunday of Lent



### Sunday Readings

February 26, 2023

1) *Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7/22* 2) *Romans 5:12-19*  
3) *Matthew 4:1-11*


<u>Intentions</u>
Feb 25 ~ 4:00 PM - † Joan Urbanek
Feb 26 ~ 8:00 AM - † Woody Roningen
Feb 28 ~ 5:45 PM - † Bob and Leona Welsh
Mar 2 ~ 8:00 AM - † Jerome Schmidt
Mar 4 ~ 4:00 PM - † Edward and Anna Kerska
Mar 5 ~ 8:00 AM - The Fleming Family

### Mass Intentions

If there is a special weekend date you would like, please get your request(s) in early.

**Open Sat. and Sun. dates:** Apr 2, Jun 4, 10, 17, 24, & 25

**Weekdays open:** Mar 7 & 21. If you have questions feel free to email the parish office at [stmaryscv@mwt.net](mailto:stmaryscv@mwt.net) or leave a message at 608-452-3841.



<u>Next Week in Service — Mar 4/5</u>	
If you are not able to serve as scheduled below, please find a substitute. Thank you!	
Readers:	<b>Sat.</b> – Jeana LeJeune <b>Sun.</b> – Volunteer
Ushers:	<b>Sat.</b> – Volunteers <b>Sun.</b> – Volunteers
Money Counters:	Steve Grabowski and Bernie Roesler

### Parish Directory

St. Mary's Parish hasn't had a new directory since 2010, and our membership has changed considerably since then. As a result, a committee is being formed to discuss how to move forward. If you are interested in helping with this project leave a message with the parish office or contact Clarice Kammel at 608-792-2198. Any help will be greatly appreciated.

### DID YOU KNOW?

If you are 70 ½ 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.

### Upcoming Events/Calendar

- **February 26** ~ Parish Breakfast Social
- **February 28** ~ Stations of the Cross at 5:15 PM followed by Mass
- **March 7** ~ Stations of the Cross at 5:15 PM followed by Mass
- **March 14** ~ Stations of the Cross at 5:15 PM followed by Mass
- **March 16** ~ PCCW Meeting
- **March 21** ~ Stations of the Cross at 5:15 PM followed by Mass
- **March 28** ~ Stations of the Cross at 5:15 PM followed by Mass

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

### Fr. Joe's Office Hours:

- Tuesdays from 1:00-6:30 PM (Mass time)** and on **Thursdays 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.

### CONFESSIONS

**Saturday**  
3:15pm to 3:45pm

**Sunday**  
7:15am to 7:45am



### Donations:

- Here are some ways to support your parish:
- *Attend Mass and drop* your contribution envelope at either church, Coon Valley or Viroqua and the funds will be directed to St. Mary's
  - US Postal Service: mail directly to the parish office, your Contribution envelope is postal ready!
  - *Bill Pay* through online banking, add St. Mary's as contact (if possible, use your envelope number as the account number).
  - Use our *online service* at: [diolc.org/st-mary-coon-valley](http://diolc.org/st-mary-coon-valley) (a processing fee will be deducted from your contribution, which averages 3% for debit/credit cards and \$.75 for EFT/ACH. Your contribution will be recorded for the full amount).

<u>Giving Last Week</u>		<u>Week 08</u>	
Adult Env.(29)	\$8505.00	Needed Weekly	\$2,000.00
Offertory	\$168.00	Received This Week	\$1,018.00
		<u>Running total needed</u>	\$10,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$1,018.00</u></b>	YTD Received	?
Catholic Life	\$120.00	Difference	?

## From the Parochial Administrator



Hello friends,

I first encountered the Missionaries of Charity on a mission trip a few years ago. I had heard about Mother Teresa before – I grew up in the 90's, when she was even a big deal to the kind of non-Church people who weren't always huge fans of Church people – and I had even run into some of her Missionaries from time to time, but the first time that I really *encountered* a Missionary of Charity in any kind of personal way was on this trip down to Mexico City. We spent ten-ish days visiting and working in a women's shelter, then in the evenings we'd come back together to debrief, decompress, and pray (incidentally, an absolute must on any mission trip), all guided by one of the Missionaries of Charity Fathers (that is, the priests who serve the main branch of MoC sisters), Fr. Emmanuel.

During one of those debriefs, when we were processing through the rough conditions we'd seen these women in all day, how much work there was to do, and how inadequate we felt to the task, Fr. Emmanuel shared a story to illustrate what grounded Mother Teresa in her work – a daily hour of prayer (what we in the business refer to as a "Holy Hour") in front of the Blessed Sacrament. His story was about a sister who was having trouble setting aside a really quite considerable chunk of time every day to be quiet and, by appearance, inactive, when there was a lot of work that needed to be done with folks out on the streets. Mother Teresa heard her sister, paused, then told her, "we are now going to pray two hours every day." To this day, the Missionaries border their days with a serious time commitment's worth of prayer, and the work still gets done.

Over the last few weeks I have personally felt the same thing in my life that a peculiarly large number of people have simultaneously expressed to me about their lives – life is very full right now. Let's be very clear, most of us are nowhere near so extraordinary as the Missionaries of Charity in their complete surrender to God, but that doesn't mean their example can't help out mere mortals like you and me. Working day after day with the poorest of the poor carries a high personal cost for these little sisters just like working day after day in school, trying to keep toddlers alive and in one piece, or putting bread on the table carries a high personal cost for each one of us. The same grace, the same power of the Holy Spirit that sustains extraordinary folks like Mother Teresa to do extraordinary work can sustain ordinary folks like us for our ordinary work.

Now that we're setting out into our Lenten practices it's more important than ever to recognize that the power to be a disciple and the strength to follow Jesus in the very particular circumstances of my very particular life don't come from any great self-centering depth in our own hearts – they come from our willingness to let the Holy Spirit fill our weakness with his strength. Whether it be at our Tuesday and Wednesday Stations & Mass, our Wednesday Holy Hours & Confessions, or twenty extra minutes before the kids wake up, over the next six weeks make the time to take time with the Lord.

God bless you, Fr. Joe

## Parish Announcements



### Birthright Baby Bottle Campaign

All Baby Bottles are due now. Please bring them to church ASAP if you have not already. Thank you and know your pro-life support will be appreciated by moms, dads, and babies to be.

**Roasters for Sale** - The PCCW as purchased new roasters for the church kitchen. Now they would like to dispose of the old ones by allowing parishioners to purchase them for \$5 each. If you are interested in purchasing a roaster contact Clarice Kammel at 608-792-2198.

**Next PCCW Meeting** will be held on March 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:30PM. We will be making final plans for Fr. Joe's installation as our new pastor. Please attend if you are able.

## Diocesan/Local Announcements

### Euchre Tournament and Luncheon - Feb 26

St. Peter Parish in Middle Ridge will be holding their Annual Cabin Fever Fest on Feb 26th. Doors open at noon, cards start at 1 PM. 1st-4th place prizes awarded. Soup, snacks and beverages included in the price. Questions contact, 608-486-2180 or email: [stpetersrectory@centurytel.net](mailto:stpetersrectory@centurytel.net).

**Join St. Joseph Ridge Parish** for the Eucharist Lectio Series with Brant Pitre. Starting Feb. 28th at 6:15 in the school hall. Please call Stacy Burns at 608-769-8828 to express interest or to ask questions. This 10 session series explores Scripture, history and Church teaching to illuminate the wonder and the MIRACLE OF THE EUCHARIST.

### Eucharistic Revival Conference - March 3-4 (Free)

The Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe will host a Eucharistic Conference offered by the Norbertine Fathers on Friday, March 3, and Saturday, March 4, 2023. Days begin with 8:30 AM Mass. Attend one or both days, with a variety of presentations on each day. Registration is not required and there is no cost to attend. The Conference will include the Eucharistic Miracles Display. View entire schedule <https://www.guadalupe Shrine.org/post/eucharisticconference>

**La Crosse Diocesan Council of Catholic Women MORNING OF REFLECTION**– Two Lost Souls, one Good Shepherd: Finding Faith, Hope and Love in the Lord and One Another will be on March 4, 2023. Registration and light breakfast will start at 9 am. Guest speaker will be Elizabeth Kelly, an award winning Catholic Author of over ten books, Retreat Leader and Podcaster. Elizabeth's website is: [www.lizk.org](http://www.lizk.org). Concluding prayer at 12 noon. This program is free to all women in the area. Join us at the 8 am Mass (optional) prior to the start of the program!

### Caregiver Opportunities

The Villa St. Joseph is currently seeking part-time nurses (RN or LPN) for 1st, 2nd & 3rd shifts. We are looking for someone who shares our values of partnership and compassion and desires a culture that has a commitment to relationship-centered care. Interested applicants may apply online at <https://www.fspa.org/content/join/employment-opportunities>

**Retrouvaille:** Are you struggling in your marriage? When the old ways aren't working, the Retrouvaille Program helps couples restore their marriages and rebuild loving relationships.

Costs are affordable and no couple is turned away because of limited finances. If you are wondering if this program is right for you or a loved one, find more information and answers to Frequently Asked Questions at [HelpOurMarriage.org](http://HelpOurMarriage.org) or call toll-free: 1.877.922.HOPE (4673). The next program begins on March 3-5.

**Pancake Breakfast - Sunday March 5 8 AM - Noon**  
Coon Valley Lutheran Church. Adults \$8; age 6-12,\$4; 0-5, free.

**Chicken Que & Bake Sale - Sunday, Mar. 12 11 AM - gone.**  
Tippy Toe Inn, Chaseburg. \$12, eat in or drive thru, includes 1/2 chicken, baked potato, cole slaw & bread. Proceeds to the American Cancer Society.

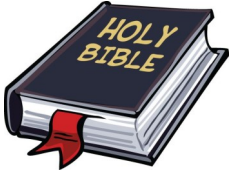
**Post-Abortion Healing Ministry in the Diocese of La Crosse**  
Do you know someone who is carrying the grief and sorrow of past abortions? Project Rachel Ministry offers a compassionate heart and confidential help. Call 608-860-6698 or email [projectrachel@diolc.org](mailto:projectrachel@diolc.org).


**Writing scholarship contest from FAITH Catholic - One \$1,500 first prize—Due March 17**  
Our *Catholic Life* publishing partner, FAITH Catholic, is announcing a writing contest for high school seniors from all of the dioceses they partner with. The winner will be given a \$1,500 check for writing on the theme: Tell us about the person in whom you most see the face of Christ. All students' essays must be given to the director of religious formation or pastor. Students may not submit essays directly. By having a parish representative submit the essay, the adult is verifying that the student is a Catholic who actively practices his or her faith. All entries should be sent to Thomas Reichenbacher at [treichenbacher@diolc.org](mailto:treichenbacher@diolc.org) on or before Friday, March 17. Full details at: [faithsyndicated.org/father-charles-irvin-writing-scholarship-2023](http://faithsyndicated.org/father-charles-irvin-writing-scholarship-2023)

**Lenten Luncheon— March 29th 11:30 am—1:00 pm**  
Bishop William Patrick Callahan and Catholic Charities cordially invite you to the 15th Annual La Crosse Lenten Luncheon! Gourmet soup, salad and bread will be served. \$30.00 per person or reserve a table of 8 for \$240.00.  
**Holy Cross Diocesan Center, 3710 East Avenue So.**  
**Make reservation by March 20th**  
Join us as we honor and celebrate our 2023 "In My Name" Award Recipient (Jerry Roesler) and our Bill Medland Faithful Servant Award Recipient(Tom Tiggelaar)!

*A Minute with Jesus*

~**A Minute with Jesus**~ We need God's help to believe The Eucharist is beyond our ability to grasp fully. The Eucharist is a mystery, which means we would not know this is His Body and Blood without the Lord specifically saying these words to us in Scripture. We can understand this mystery to an extent, but not fully because this mystery is of God, Who is infinite.  
Let's pray this right now and every day this week:  
**Jesus, please open my heart to believe that You are truly present in the Holy Eucharist.**  
This week, read how St. Paul speaks of this mystery of the Eucharist in 1Corinthians 11:23-26





**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

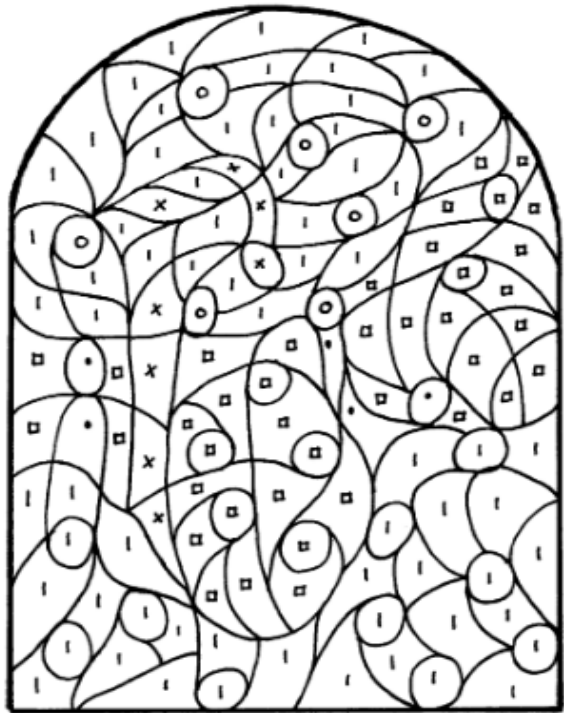
- Those suffering from the Coronavirus and those who are working tirelessly to help the ill recover.
- The military men and women who are supporting our freedom.
- Our political leaders, may their decisions be made for the good of all citizens.

- 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.
- Consecration of Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

To add a request call 608-452-3841 or email [stmaryscv@mwt.net](mailto:stmaryscv@mwt.net)

**Activity Corner**

**First Sunday of Lent**  
**February 26th, 2023**  
*Today's first reading tells us about sin.*  
*Use the code at the bottom to colour in the spaces and find out what the story was.*



■ blue      | green      ✕ brown  
○ red      • skin colour

“UNSCRIPTED,” is now available as a podcast! Are you looking for something new, different, fun, informative, and spiritual to listen to? Download all the episodes of “Unscripted” for free by using your Smartphone’s camera or online at: [anchor.fm/unscripteddiolc](http://anchor.fm/unscripteddiolc)



The First Week of Lent

# PROCLAIMING CHRIST

Meditations for the Season of Lent



*“To be attracted by power, by grandeur, by appearances, is tragically human. It is a great temptation that tries to insinuate itself everywhere.*

*But to give oneself to others, eliminating distances, dwelling in littleness and living the reality of one’s everyday life: this is exquisitely divine.”*

— POPE FRANCIS, JULY 28, 2016

## Temptations

Matthew 4:1-11

It’s no accident that the Gospel reading for the First Sunday of Lent tells the story of Jesus being tempted by the devil. Jesus was divine, but he was also human. The temptation to put personal comfort, power, and pride ahead of what God wants is a struggle every human being faces at some point in life.

Being tempted is not a sin, but temptations can lead to sin. So it is important to recognize when we are being tempted. Our response must be an immediate “No!” The longer we allow temptations to linger in our minds, the more difficult they are to reject.

As we become more experienced in resisting temptations, their intensity usually weakens. St. Paul tells us

### FOR REFLECTION

- › What is one temptation you have experienced?
- › How did you overcome that temptation?
- › What have you learned about God and yourself by overcoming temptation?

that God allows us to be tempted, but God also offers us the grace we need to overcome temptations. “God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your strength, but with the temptation will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it” (1 Cor 10:13).



### DID YOU KNOW?

- There are forty days in the season of Lent because Jesus fasted for forty days in the wilderness.
- The word “Lent” comes from an Anglo-Saxon word that means “lengthen,” a reference to the lengthening days as spring approaches.
- The first day of Lent is Ash Wednesday, one of the most popular days in the Church year.



Karen Callaway

# “Bless Me, Father ...”

A great way to deal with temptations — and the times when we were not successful in overcoming temptations — is in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Prepare for confession by examining your conscience, which simply means thinking back on your temptations and the sins you have committed. Most people start their confession by saying: “Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. It has been (the amount of time) since my last confession.”

If you can’t remember the words or you don’t recall how long it’s been, don’t worry. Just tell the priest it’s been a long time, and he will guide you through the process. What you will experience is the healing gift of God’s love, a clear conscience, and an overwhelming sense of gratitude!

## Family Focus



St. Francis de Sales says, “A temptation disclosed is a temptation half-vanquished.” Talk to your kids about temptations. Let each family member mention a problem area that he or she would like to pray about in a special way. Talking about temptations helps to overcome them.



## Catechism CONNECTION

“Fortitude is the moral virtue that ensures firmness in difficulties and constancy in the pursuit of the good. It strengthens the resolve to resist temptations and to overcome obstacles in the moral life.”

— *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1808

## Lenten Prayer

A traditional prayer to help us overcome temptations invokes the assistance of St. Michael the Archangel:

*St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do you, O prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who roam about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.*



## Why Do Catholics Fast?

In today’s Gospel, Jesus fasts for forty days in the wilderness. Fasting has always been an important part of Lent. We abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and every Friday during Lent. Many people also give up chocolate, potato chips, ice cream, or anything else that is really loved but isn’t all that great for us! When we resist the temptation to eat treats during Lent, we strengthen our will. But the real purpose of fasting is to create in ourselves a feeling of longing that helps us recognize our deep spiritual hunger for God. You might want to decide as a family what to give up for Lent. Maybe you could fast from television or video games. Maybe you could fast from gossip or saying unkind things. Maybe you could fast from complaining, or jealousy, or irritability. The possibilities are endless!

