

St. Mary Parish

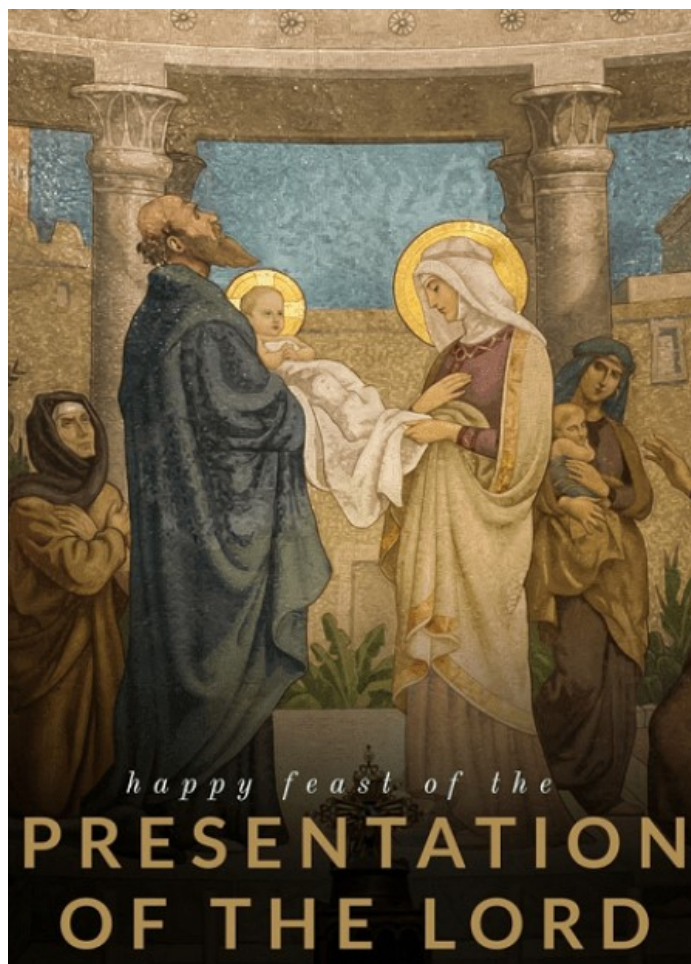
Fr. Joe Richards, Pastor
Dcn. Tony Shay

Church Address:
900 Central Ave., Coon Valley, WI 54623

Parish Phone: 608-452-3841

Website: www.stmarycv.org

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



February 2, 2025

Readings: 736C

PASTOR

Fr. Joseph Richards

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 and

Thurs. after Mass until noon and by appt

DEACON

Anthony Shay.....ashay@diolclergy.org

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

PARISH OFFICE

Amy Stafslie, 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

Mary Gajewski, John Mislivecek, Nancy Peters (Secretary),
and John Roessler (Buildings and Grounds)

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Mike Callan, 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: MaryBeth Smith, Linda Schulte, & Chris

Carskadon

Fr. Joe also serving:

Annunciation of the BVM Parish, Viroqua

Mass Times: Weekend:Saturday.....6:30 PM

Sunday10:30 AM

Weekday:Wed - 5:15 PM & Fri - 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: 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.

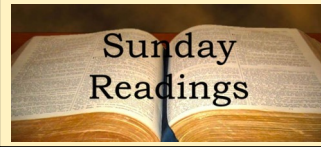
Sacrament of Anointing / Visitation of the Sick: Please contact the parish office or Fr. Joe when someone you know is in need of the Sacrament or a pastoral visit. Requests may also be made from our website under the Sacraments tab. www.stmarycv.org/sacraments

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.

St. Mary's Parish, Coon Valley, WI

The Presentation of the Lord



February 2, 2025
 1) Malachi 3:1-4
 2) Hebrews 2:14-18
 3) Luke 2:22-40

Upcoming Events/Calendar

- **Feb 1/2** ~ Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) Collection
- **Feb 2** ~ Rel. Ed. after the 10:30 AM Mass in Viroqua
- **Feb 16** ~ Rel Ed Activity after 8 AM Mass
 ~ Parish Social after Mass sponsored by the PCCW St. Cecilia Guild
- **Feb 20** ~ Coffee and Fellowship after 8 AM Mass
- **Feb 22/23** ~ Birthright Baby Bottle Campaign begins
- **Mar 2** ~ Religious Education after the 10:30 AM Mass in Viroqua
- **Mar 4** ~ Greif Share in Viroqua from 2-4 PM
- **Mar 5** ~ Ash Wednesday
- **Mar 11** ~ Greif Share in Viroqua from 2-4 PM
- **Mar 16** ~ Rel Ed Activity after 8 AM Mass
 ~ Parish Social after Mass sponsored by the PCCW St. Rose Guild

Intentions / Schedule

SATURDAY, February 01

The Presentation of the Lord
 -3:15-3:45 Confessions
 -4:00pm Mass - For those fighting cancer, esp. Pam S
 Altar Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers
 Lector: Jeana LeJeune

SUNDAY, February 02

The Presentation of the Lord
 -8:00am Mass - Roskos and Roningén Families *correction
 Altar Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers
 Lector: Marlene Humfeld

Money Counters: Steve Grabowski and Bernie Roesler

TUESDAY, February 04

Weekday
 - 4:30-5:00pm Adoration
 - 5:15pm Mass - For the Priest

THURSDAY, February 06

St. Paul Miki and Companions
 - 8:00am Mass - † Bob Welsh

SATURDAY, February 08

The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 -3:15-3:45 Confessions
 -4:00pm Mass - † James Coonan
 Altar Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers
 Lector: Nancy Peters

SUNDAY, February 09

The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 -8:00am Mass - † Eric "Rick" Logemann
 Altar Servers: Volunteers Ushers: Volunteers
 Lector: Ryan Goodwin

Money Counters: Loree Nickelotti, Rodney and Kathy Berg



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

Open Sat. and Sun. dates: Mar 30, Apr 5, 12, & 26. May 10, 17, & 25

Open Weekdays: Mar 11, 13, 25, & 27. Apr is open except the 8th.



Request a specific date by filling out an intention envelope or by emailing the office. As of July 1, 2024 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.

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.



Inspired by the Spirit Campaign

5 Year Goal : \$105,000.00
 As of January 30, 2025
 Pledges received (30): \$109,520.00
Payments received: \$53,976.50



Needed last Month	
\$8,000.00	at \$2000 per week
\$6,503.00	Received as of week 4
(\$1,497.00)	Difference for the Month

Annual Appeal 2024-2025		
As of 01/30/2025	Total Pledged	Total Payments
Pledged/Paid	\$12,905.00	\$9,304.99
Target Amount	<u>\$14,050.00</u>	<u>\$14,050.00</u>
Under Target	\$3,675.00	\$4,745.01
Percent Pledged: 91.85%, Percent Received: 66.23%		
Number Contributing: 25		
To donate online, visit: diolc.org/donate-online/ and in the drop down box choose: 2024(445) St. Mary Parish, Coon Valley		

Giving Last Week		1/26/2025	
Adult Env(29)	\$1,095.00	Needed Weekly	\$2,000.00
Offertory	248.00	Received This Week	\$1,343.00
Total	\$1,343.00	Running total needed	\$8,000.00
		YTD Received	\$6,503.00
		Difference	(1,497.00)



From the Pastor

Hello friends,

This weekend we're taking a quick step back from the ordinary run of Ordinary Time Sunday Masses to celebrate the Presentation of the Lord – if you're confused why we're not using the readings from the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (which I love), that's why! The Presentation is (by loose analogy) kind of like Baptism to us, in the sense that Jesus' family is bringing Him to the temple to entrust Him to the Lord and present Him to the Lord's People. Baptism similarly starts off at the entrance to the church, with the priest or deacon meeting the family and the wee little unbaptized baby (or child or adult) and drawing them into the gathered church. There's a presentation to the Lord and the people built into both moments. You may also be familiar with this moment as the fourth Joyful Mystery of the rosary, another early revelation (that is, "revealing") of Jesus, God-become-man, to the world who desperately needs Him.

Another deep-rooted tradition accompanies the Presentation – the feast of "Candlemas." It has been the case once upon a time that Christmas celebrations kept running for a few more weeks after the Baptism, marking this as the end of the Christmas season. If you remember back to Advent, one of the big seasonal themes is this recognition of and invitation to the Lord into the places of darkness in our lives, followed by this big luminary Christmas season. We do the hard work during Advent so that when Christmas comes along, we're that much more aware of the significance and groundbreaking change of Jesus Christ's light.

Anyway, back to Candlemas. Until I was reminded of this practice over the last week, I neglected to include this tradition into my announcements or pastoral calculations – I apologize for not giving you a greater heads up earlier than this. In the Candlemas tradition, families would bring in the candles they'd use to light up their house throughout the year to have them blessed at that last Mass of the luminous Christmas season. Some folks may be bringing candles in this weekend and we'll have a blessing at the end of Mass, but in the very likely event you are not bringing any candles in yourself, we'll also bless a few boxes of our weeklong candles for you to take home with you. Just like the Easter candle that we'll bless at the Easter Vigil and keep burning at important resurrection moments like baptisms and funerals remind us of the power of that resurrection moment, these candles can be a good reminder of the light of Christmas that extends far past one season of the year.

God bless you!

Fr. Joe



Parish Announcements

PCCW News

Know your Guild

Ladies who aren't sure of which guild they belong to can check the list posted in the back of the church.

Craft Show Update

The annual craft show is our biggest fundraiser and we cleared \$2,480 this year. We had 41 vendors. Thank you to all who donated food for the luncheon & baked goods for the bake sale. Thank you also for selling and buying quilt tickets. And thank you to all who worked at the event to make it possible. This money is used to support so many projects in our parish.

Important Dates

- ⇒ Feb 16 ~ Parish Social after Mass sponsored by the St. Cecilia Guild
- ⇒ Mar 10 ~ PCCW Meeting at 5:30 PM—all are welcome
- ⇒ Mar 16 ~ Parish Social after Mass sponsored by the St. Rose Guild
- ⇒ Apr 26 ~ Our Annual **Spring Luncheon**
- ⇒ Apr 27 ~ Parish Social after Mass sponsored by the St. Theresa Guild
- ⇒ May 18 ~ RE end-of-the year party and Parish Social

CCHD Special Collection Feb 1/2

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development was founded in 1969 by the bishops of the United States as a Catholic antipoverty initiative. For more than 50 years, CCHD has addressed the problem of poverty by attacking its root causes. CCHD funds projects that promote self-reliance as a means to end poverty. *Special envelopes are available in the back of the church for this collection.*

World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life (Feb 2):

In 1997, Pope Saint John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life. This celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on Feb. 2nd. This Feast is also known as Candlemas Day, the day on which candles are blessed symbolizing Christ who is the light of the world. So too, those in consecrated life are called to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to all peoples. Please pray for all those who have answered the call to consecrated life, aspiring towards joyful holiness in the service of the Church and world. Pray also for many more laborers to enter the vineyard so that Jesus Christ may be better known, experienced, and loved. *For more information: [NRVC](#)*

A Minute with Jesus

Jesus is truly present in the Holy Eucharist

When we look at the consecrated Host at Mass, our eyes see only bread, but the reality is we are looking at Jesus truly present. We may ask Jesus to grant us the grace to believe this truth, that though "hidden", He is truly present in Holy Communion. It is important to remember that what we are not able to see with our eyes, we grasp by choosing to believe – with faith's consent.

- Let's pray this right now and every day this week: Lord, I want to believe. Please help me to believe that what You say is true, especially helping the part of me that sometimes questions.
- This week, read about the father of a sick boy who asked Jesus to help him believe what seemed impossible in Mark 9:20-27.

Diocesan/Local Announcements

Jubilee 2025 - Pilgrims of Hope

This special Jubilee Year 2025 has been proclaimed by Pope Francis. A Jubilee Year has its roots in the Old Testament, with a focus on the opportunity to re-establish a more solid relationship with God and with one another. The theme for the year is "Hope does not disappoint." These inspired words in the Bible were written by St. Paul, who endured many sufferings and trials. However, Paul knew that Jesus was always faithful and trustworthy, and never left his side. For us too, we will never be disappointed if we place our hope in Christ. He is always at our side, offering us His grace to strengthen us as pilgrims on our journey to heaven. The jubilee officially began in Rome with the opening of the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica and will conclude locally on Holy Family Sunday, Dec. 28, 2025. There will be further information forthcoming regarding exciting plans around the Diocese for Jubilee 2025.

Catholic Schoolhouse

Catholic Schoolhouse, a local homeschool program, is currently seeking interested families for the 2025/2026 academic year. More than an academic co-op, Catholic Schoolhouse is a structured program meeting weekly for homeschoolers that includes chorus, two hours of classroom instruction, hands-on science, art projects, and opportunities for socializing after class. For additional information, please contact Jamie Thompson at lacrossecatholicschoolhouse@gmail.com .

Welcome a Lifelong Friend -

Open Your Home to a Foreign Exchange Student

If interested in hosting an exchange student or becoming an exchange student abroad, please call Debra at 1-800-888-9040, visit www.world-heritage.org or send an email to info@world-heritage.org to request more information or start the application process. Students are eager to learn about their American host family, so begin the process of welcoming your new son or daughter today. The memories and the relationship you create with your exchange student will stay with you forever.

Contact: Debra Garbon, World Heritage Program Director, at 1-800-888-9040 or send an email to info@world-heritage.org

Calix-A Catholic Substance Abuse Recovery Support Group

Calix is an association of Catholics wanting to live free of addiction to alcohol or drugs, and it is also for affected family members. It is not a substitute for AA or Al-Anon, which are strongly recommended, but it provides a Catholic perspective for these 12-step programs. "Calix" is Latin for "chalice," and it was founded in Minneapolis, MN in 1947 by a group of five men, all recovering alcoholics, who saw their Catholic faith as a sure path to serenity without alcohol. If you are interested in more information about a Calix group forming in the Diocese of La Crosse, email Christine at healthandharmonywi@gmail.com.

Heritage Bake Sale, Saturday, February 8

The Blessed Sacrament PCCW will be sponsoring a Heritage Bake Sale, from 9am-noon, in the Blessed Sacrament Parish Center. Among the featured items will be Polish pierogies, Norwegian lefse, Bohemian kolotchys, Upper Peninsula pasties, baklava, as well as a variety of other homemade baked goods.

Healing Service - Mar 3

You are invited to a Healing Service on Monday, March 3, 2025, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Cashton, WI. This special evening offers an opportunity to experience God's grace through prayer, worship and individual prayer ministry. All are welcome to attend.

Activity Corner

Feast of the Presentation of Jesus

February 2nd, 2025



Can you help the Holy Family find their way to the Temple so that Baby Jesus can be presented there?

Sacred Heart Catholic School Cashton, WI



4K - 8th Grade Education
In the Classical Catholic Tradition

For registration information or to arrange a visit call or email: 608-654-7733
principle@smash3p.org

Now Registering for 2025-2026 School Year!

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Never doubt
the power of
prayer.

- The 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, Gaza and Syria 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

Remembering the Four Chaplains



Each year, American Legion posts nationwide commemorate the selfless acts of the Four Chaplains on or near February 1, designated Four Chaplains Day by Congress in 1948. Below are the individual biographies of the Chaplains from Legion.org.

Our local **Coon Valley Legion Post 116** honors and remembers the Four Chaplains this weekend. They donated the beautiful floral arrangement in the front of the church, submitted the historical account of heroism exhibited by the Chaplains on the other side of this insert, and are hosting a **Pancake Breakfast at the Legion Hall this Sunday, February 2nd, serving 8:00 AM to Noon.**



For more information about Post 116, visit: <http://www.coonvalleywialpost116.org/> or Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/coonvalleyamericanlegionpost116/>



Lt. George L. Fox

As a medical corps assistant during World War I, Fox was highly decorated for bravery and awarded the Silver Star, Purple Heart and the French Croix de Guerre.

Fox studied at Moody Institute, Illinois Wesleyan and Boston University School of Theology. He and his wife, Isadore, had two children. While serving as a pastor in Gilman, Vt., he joined Walter G. Moore American Legion Post 41. He also served as the Legion's state chaplain and historian.

Fox went on active duty Aug. 8, 1942, the same day his son Wyatt enlisted in the Marine Corps. He was assigned to the Chaplains School at Harvard and reported to the 411th Coast Artillery Battalion at Camp Davis in Holly Ridge, N.C.



Lt. Alexander D. Goode

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1911, Goode became a rabbi like his father. He applied to become a Navy chaplain in early 1941, but was not accepted. After Pearl Harbor, he tried again, this time with the Army, and received an appointment on July 21, 1942. He went on active duty on Aug. 9, 1942, and was selected for the Chaplains School at Harvard. He was assigned to the 333rd Airbase Squadron in Goldsboro, N.C. In October 1942, he was transferred to Camp Myles Standish in Taunton, Mass. He and his wife, Theresa, had one daughter.



Lt. Clark V. Poling

Clark attended high school in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., where he was student body president and a football halfback. He was ordained in the Reformed Church in America and served as pastor of First Reformed Church in Schenectady, N.Y. He and his wife, Betty, had a son, Clark Jr. When America entered World War II, he decided to become a chaplain. Talking with his father, who served as a chaplain in World War I, he learned that chaplains in that war had the highest mortality rate of all military personnel. On June 10, 1942, Poling was appointed a chaplain with the 131st Quartermaster Truck Regiment and reported to Camp Shelby in Mississippi. Two months after *Dorchester's* sinking, Betty gave birth to their daughter.



Lt. John P. Washington

Born into a poor immigrant family, Washington took a newspaper route to help support his family. He loved music and sang in the church choir. In seventh grade, he sensed a call to the priesthood.

Washington attended Immaculate Conception Seminary in Darlington, N.J., where he was ordained a priest in 1935. Shortly after the Pearl Harbor attack, he received his appointment as an Army chaplain. In June 1942, he was assigned to the 76th Infantry Division at Fort Meade, Md. In November 1942, he reported to Camp Myles Standish in Taunton, Mass., where he was reunited with Fox, Goode and Poling – his classmates at Chaplains School at Harvard.

Four Chaplains Sunday

On February 1st 1943, the USS Dorchester crowded to capacity, carrying 902 servicemen, left Newfoundland heading toward an American base in Greenland. Three Coast Guard Cutters, the Tampa, the Escanaba, and the Comanche escorted her. Hans Danielson, the ship's Captain was concerned and cautious on this trip because he knew they were in dangerous waters as some German U-boat's were sighted earlier in the area.

At night the Captain ordered the troops to sleep in their cloths and keep their life jackets on. Many soldiers sleeping deep in the ship's belly disregarded the orders because of the engine's heat. Others ignored it because the life jackets were uncomfortable.

Early on the morning of Feb. 3, 1943 (12:55AM) the USS Dorchester was sailing through icy seas only 150 miles from Greenland, their destination. Most of the 900 troops on board were asleep when a torpedo from a German submarine slammed into the starboard side of the ship. The hit was decisive and deadly. Frantically pounding up the ladders, the troops milled around in confusion and darkness on the decks.

In the dark moments of panic, the coolest men aboard were four US Army Chaplains First Lieutenants Clark V Poling (Reformed Church of America), Alexander D Goode (Jewish), John P. Washington (Catholic), George L. Fox (Methodist). The four chaplains led the men to boxes of life jackets, passed them out to the soldiers with boat drill precision. When the boxes were empty and many life jackets were left behind in the bottom of the ship, the four Chaplains quietly slipped off their own precious life preservers, put them on four young GI 's and told them to jump overboard.

The Dorchester went down 20 minutes later in a rumble of steam. Some 60 men were lost at sea, but the heroic Chaplains had helped save over 200 men that night that were picked up by two of the other ships. The last anyone saw of the four Chaplains, they were standing on the slanting deck of the Dorchester, their arms linked in prayer, to one God they all served.