Fr. Matt's Residence:
904 Central Ave
Coon Valley, WI 54623
Cell Phone: 608-738-6806
E-mail: frmattmarshall@gmail.com
Open office: Thursdays and by appointment. Off on Mondays.

Amy Stafslien, Admin. Assistant
Office: 608-452-3841
E-mail: stmaryscv@mwt.net

St. Mary's, Coon Valley
Weekend Masses
- 4:00 PM Saturday (max 30 people)
- 8:00 AM Sunday (max 30 people)

Weekday Mass:
Tues. - 6:00 PM and Thurs.- 8:00 AM

Area Parishes—Mass Times
Annunciation of the BVM, Viroqua
Sun. 10:30 AM and 5:15 PM
St. Peter, Middle Ridge
Sat. 8:00 PM and Sun. 10:30 AM

New Parishioners: Welcome to our parish! Please introduce yourself to Fr. Matt and contact the parish office for registration and information. https://www.stmarycv.org/visit-us

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Before Mass on Sat. or by appointment, call Fr. Matt or on 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 **AND** frmattmarshall@gmail.com. You will be contacted by the parish office to finalize your requested date. The registration form at: https://www.stmarycv.org/sacraments.

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

Mass Intentions: Please use the Mass Intention envelopes available in the church.

Book of Prayer Requests: Please call or email Fr. Matt to have and intention added during COVID time. General Book of Prayer requests will be included in the intercessions.

St. Mary's Parish

900 Central Ave., Coon Valley, WI 54623
Phone: 608-452-3841
Website: stmarycv.org
Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/StMarysCoonValley

"The Annunciation" by Henry Ossawa Tanner

Fr. Matthew Marshall

Pastor

December 20, 2020

Readings: 487B

St. Mary's Parish, Coon Valley, WI
Fourth Sunday of Advent

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2020
1) 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
2) Romans 16:25-27
3) Luke 1:26-38

FOCUS: The Lord dwells among us.

David worries that the ark of God dwells in a tent; Mary doesn't hesitate to allow the ark of God to dwell within her. God is not bound by human constraints, and yet he asks us to participate with him, and cooperate with his grace, that the ark of the covenant – and the arc of salvation history – may be made available to all.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Lord reminds David that he, the Lord, chose David. He tells David that a kingdom will be established in David's name and endure forever. Saint Paul gives glory *to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ*. In the Gospel, the angel Gabriel tells Mary that she will conceive and bear a son, and – hearing that the Holy Spirit and *the power of the Most High* will be with her – she responds, *may it be done to me according to your word*.

Intentions

Dec 19 ~ 4:00 PM - †Helen Stafslien
Dec 20 ~ 8:00 AM - †Stella Hohlfeld
Dec 22 ~ 6:00 PM - †Fr. Lyle Schulte
Dec 24 ~ 4:00 PM - †Kylie Von Ruden
Dec 25 ~ 8:00 AM - †Deceased members of the Roskos and Roningen Families
Dec 26 ~ 4:00 PM - †Edward and Anna Kerska
Dec 27 ~ 8:00 AM - †Tom, Jim, and Dick Ruff

Annual Appeal 2020-21

As of 12/17/20	Total Pledged	Total Payments
Pledged/Paid	$6,695.00	$5,712.14
Target Amount	$12,925.00	$12,925.00
Over Target	($6,230.00)	($7,212.86)
Percent Pledged: 51.8%, Percent Received: 44.19%		
Number Contributing:	21	

Next Week in Service — Dec 27th

If you are not able to be at the Mass scheduled below, please find a substitute. Thank you

Money Counters:	Loree Nickelotti or Volunteer and Curt Horman

Upcoming Events/Calendar

- **December 20** ~ The Longest Night Prayer Service with Immanuel Lutheran 7PM Virtual on FB live http://www.immanuel-lc.org/
- **December 24** ~ ***Christmas Eve Mass*** 4:00 PM-**signup for attendance**
- **December 25** ~ ***Christmas Day Mass*** 8:00 AM-**signup for attendance**
- **December 31** ~ Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God Mass at 4:00 PM, **no morning Mass** this day

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- Our Sunday Mass Streaming Live on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/StMarysCoonValley
- **Church will be open for private prayer Tuesday through Friday from 9AM until 7 PM and Sunday Noon to 7 PM** (please practice good social distancing)

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

THANK YOU for using AmazonSmile
Last quarter we received $33.80 (Total of $215.86 this year!)

Order Anything on Amazon? Use Amazon Smile!
You can help increase AmazonSmile donations to St. Mary Parish by shopping at **smile.amazon.com/ch/39-1218730** or **with AmazonSmile ON** in the Amazon Shopping app.

Giving Last Week

		Week 49	12/13/2020
Adult Env.(23)	$2,367.50	Needed Weekly	$1,900.00
Offertory	$30.00	Received This Week	$2,567.50
Immac. Concep.	$190.00	YTD Needed	$95,000.00
Total	**$2567.50**	YTD Received	$87,266.07
Retire. Fund. Rel.	$70.00	Difference	(7,733.93)

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.

Parish Announcements

The Longest Night Prayer Service
Fr. Matt will be joining Pastor Michele Engh and Immanuel Lutheran in Viroqua for Prayer on the Longest Night this Sunday Dec 20th at 7 PM. You can join virtually by going to Immanuel's Facebook page (**https://www.facebook.com/youth.immanuel/?ref=page_internal**) or St. Mary's (**https://www.facebook.com/StMarysCoonValley**). The prayers are offered for all those for whom the holiday season is particularly difficult this year. Having some **candles, paper and pen, and olive oil** handy would be helpful for joining in the prayers. We will offer a prayer of anointing in the service. Special blessed oil is available for pick-up at Immanuel anytime on Sunday in their entryway.

Christmas Mass Liturgical Ministry Sign Up
If you are an Usher, Reader, Communion Minister or Altar Server and are able to help with Christmas Mass, please sign up in the back of church. Thank you.

Christmas Mass Attendance
If you are planning to attend Mass for Christmas, please signup in the back of church, call the Rectory, or email the parish office at stmaryscv@mwt.net. For safety reasons we need to keep the main church to the 25% capacity. Thank you for understanding. **Overflow options will be available for Christmas Mass.** We will stream each Mass live on Facebook with a monitor in the church basement for additional seating or you may watch it live from our church parking lot and *receive communion from Fr. Matt.* **Wi-Fi has been installed for use.** Please let us know if you are amenable to the overflow option when calling the Rectory at 608-452-3841 or emailing.

Thanks for giving.
"We are conscious of the great generosity of the many benefactors who support the Retirement Fund for Religious this year," says a Catholic sister. "Support from the fund has been of tremendous blessing to our retired sisters." Thank you for donating to last week's collection.

Staying Connected
- The parish bulletin is available on our Website—www.stmarycv.org
- We are mailing the bulletin to those over the age of 80 (if their age is recorded in our database) or upon request
- Copies of the bulletin will also be available in the church for pickup during private prayer times.
- **If you know of someone who does not have internet and could benefit from having the bulletin mailed to their home, please contact the parish office with the person(s) name(s).**

If there is a special weekend date you would like, please get your request(s) in early. **Sunday Masses** are booked through May 23, 2021. **Saturdays** are booked through July 24th. **Weekdays,** Feb 2nd is open, then next date is March 16th, after that, there are more weekdays available. If you have questions feel free to email the parish office at stmaryscv@mwt.net or call on a Tues. or Wed.

2021 Contribution Envelopes
The newly designed envelopes are now available for pickup in the church. These envelopes are designed for ease of tracking your contributions and for mailing directly to the parish. Please pick up your booklet after Mass or stop by the church during any of the open prayer times. Thank you for your continued support of St. Mary's.

Financial Support Options
- US Postal Service: mail directly to the parish office.
- 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 (a 3% fee will be assessed by the provider of the giving portal, your contribution will be recorded for the full amount).
- Drop you contribution envelope off at either church, Coon Valley or Viroqua and the funds will be directed to St. Mary's

Diocesan/Local Announcements

Advent Virtual Mission
Prepare for the Birth of the Christ Child through the eyes of St. Joseph. There will be four presentations, one each week of Advent visit diolc.org/advent

Marriage Preparation Retreats - The La Crosse Deanery, which consists of 14 area parishes, will be offering Married Love: Two Becoming One, a marriage preparation retreat for engaged couples, on February 6, April 24, and July 10, 2021. These retreats will take place at Mary Mother of the Church Parish in La Crosse. Couples must register at least one month prior to the retreat. To register for a retreat, please email Mari at mnerickson95@gmail.com or leave a voice message at 608-518-7655.

In Search of Young Adults!
SPIRITUS is seeking Catholic young adults, 21-29 years of age, to join the SPIRITUS missionary team this August. SPIRITUS ignites the faith in thousands of young Catholics! Missionaries live in community and travel to parishes and schools throughout Wisconsin; they receive training, formation, spiritual direction, lodging, food, a monthly allowance, health insurance and a $2,000 stipend upon completion of the 9-month program. It is a unique opportunity to serve our Lord and help young Catholics grow in faith. Visit www.spiritusministries.org/beamissionary, contact Rachel at recruiter@spiritusministries.org, or (920) 722-8918 x113 for more information.

(Continued on page 4)

Diocesan/Local Announcements (cont.)

Spiritual Practices for Living With Depression: A Retreat with Monica A. Coleman (via Zoom)
January 9, Saturday, 9 a.m.-noon, Investment: $30 to register call 608-791-5295. This virtual retreat will discuss how living with depression challenges common notions of faith, spirituality and religious teachings. During our time together, we will redefine faith in the context of depression. We will discover beliefs and spiritual practices that support and empower individuals who experience depression. If cost is a barrier to attending, please call our office manager Laurie Swan at 608-791-5279 to request a confidential scholarship. This event is sponsored by The Mental Health Coalition of the Greater La Crosse Area.

A VIRTUAL WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS (VIA ZOOM)
JANUARY 6 • Wednesday, 6-8 p.m. **Presenter:** Deb Hansen. **Investment:** Supplies are included in the price and can either be picked up at our FSC location or mailed to your address if out of town. • **Curbside pickup:** $25 OR **Supplies shipped:** $30. **Registration deadline:** December 23. Women's Christmas is rooted in a delightful Irish tradition. On the Feast of Epiphany, the celebration of the coming of the Wise Men to the Infant Jesus, Irish women left the care of their households to the men for a few hours so they could enjoy each other's company away from their domestic responsibilities, especially after the busyness of Christmas preparations. At the FSC, we bring together the tradition of Women's Christmas and the Feast of the Epiphany for this special program, offered this year through Zoom videoconferencing and with a theme of *Tending Our Hearths and Gladdening Our Hearts*. You are invited to leave behind your responsibilities to enjoy the companionship of other women gathered virtually at our home hearths for a time of ritual and reflection for light, healing and gladness.

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES WITH GRIT AND GRACE (VIA ZOOM)
JANUARY 16 • Saturday, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. **Presenters:** Kao Kalia Yang, Lisa McCormick, Carolyn Bostrack and Sarah Johnson **Investment:** $50. Our second annual celebration of inspirational, resilient and spiritual women features keynote speaker Kao Kalia Yang, an award-winning Hmong-American writer, teacher and public speaker based in Minneapolis. Kalia will reflect on her spiritual journey into writing and explore what it means to reclaim something that is no more, in an entirely new language and in a new land, as well as how her journey has helped situate herself in the pains and sorrows of others. This virtual retreat day also will include talks by three local women whose powerful stories offer lessons for all of us. Lisa McCormick of Tomah will share her story of hope and anti-trafficking advocacy in response to her teenage son's tragic death. Carolyn Bostrack of the La Crosse area will offer inspiration for moving from fear into focus to transform your life. Sarah Johnson of Winona will explore the benefits of mindfulness on quality of life, both professionally and personally. **Note:** This event was rescheduled because of COVID-19. Previous registrations will be honored. If this new date doesn't work for you, please call 608-791-5295 to request a refund or to gift your registration to a friend.

Week of Dec. 20th Readings

Monday 21 December
Song of Songs 2:8-14, This beautiful reading, very suitable for the winter solstice, exhibits a loving, almost playful atmosphere, which is picked up in the Gospel.
Luke 1:39-45, The theme of leaping continues in an unexpected, joyful way. Luke makes sure that the silent and unborn John nevertheless recognizes who Jesus is.
Tuesday 22 December
1 Samuel 1:24-28, Hannah, with her prayer as the responsorial psalm, was certainly in the mind of Luke when composing chapters 1-2.
Luke 1:46-56, Mary's song echoes that of Hannah fairly closely. The political emphasis is something of a surprise.
Wednesday 23 December
Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24, Here we have the passage which triggered al the expectation about the return of Elijah. Again, this was very much in the mind of Luke in composing his infancy Gospel.
Luke 1:57-66, Matching the promise of Elijah, we have the birth of John the Baptist — the Elijah-figure who proclaimed, "the one who is coming."

KIDS CORNER

Write the number of the person beside what they did in the Christmas Story.

1. Saint Joseph	__Announced the joyful news of the Saviour's birth
2. Our Lady	__Commanded that everyone register in their hometown
3. The Shepherds	__Did not have room for the man and his wife
4. The Angels	__Took his wife to Bethlehem
5. The Innkeeper	__Pondered all these things in her heart
6. Baby Jesus	__Went to find the newborn Saviour
7. The Emperor	__Came to save the people from their sins

Answer: 4, 7, 5, 1, 2, 3, 6

Flower Donations in Memory/Honor Of:

As of 12/17/2020

Anonymous Donation

Gloria Bradley
Agnes Larson
By Keith and Jody Boraas

Jim and Betty Callan
Bob and Leona Welsh
By Mike and Karen Callan

Arlan and Virginia Dwyer
Rhonda Buckmaster
Robert Janiero
By Keith Dwyer

Fleming and Ollendick Families
By Jim and Barb Fleming

Maria Rabotski
Art and Evelyn Gajewski
By Don and Mary Gajewski

Larry and Myrtle Geier
Chuck Brueggen
Mary Brueggen
By Curt and Jean Geier

Jim Mack
Jack and Mary Robinson
Marj Strait
Orland and Judy Steinmetz
Mary Sue Ludwig
By Niki Haugh

From Jodie Holdorf

Rosie LeJeune
By Andrew and Jeana LeJeune

Tony Weiss
Paul Hauser
By Jim and Katie Moser

Bernard, Cecilia, and Larry Humfeld
By John and Julie Mislivecek Family

Edward and Anna Kerska
By Robert E. Kerska

William & Rose Marie LeJeune
Frank and Dennis LeJeune
By Sandra Ritter Family

Roskos and Roningen Families
By Woody and Rosey Roningen

Peter and Leona Elsen
Joseph and Albina Sedevie
Eugene Proksch
By Ray and Mary Sedevie

Helen and Leyton Stafslien
Lucas Seelow
By Amy Stafslien Family

Flower donations will be accepted through Christmas Day. List will be updated and posted in the back of church. Thank you for supporting St. Mary Parish.

The Legend of the Poinsettia

"They presented him with gifts of gold,
frankincense and myrrh." Matthew 2:11

The legend tells of a poor girl who wanted a gift to bring,
Which she could lay in front of the church, in honor of our King.
She picked a small bouquet of weeds. 'Twas all she had to give.
She prayed that it was good enough. She prayed the flowers would live.
And as she placed them in the church for everyone to see,
The blossoms turned to brightest red, as lovely as could be.
Dear Jesus, I've a gift to bring to lay before your throne.
It is my small and humble heart. Please use it as your own.
I pray that you will bless my gift so that it grows to be
A place wherein your love can bloom for all the world to see.

(from Creative Communications for the Parish)