Fr. Matthew Marshall
Residence: St. Mary’s Rectory
904 Central Ave
Coon Valley, WI 54623
Rectory Phone: 608-452-3841
Cell Phone: 608-738-6806
E-mail: frmattmarshall@gmail.com

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

St. Mary’s, Coon Valley
Weekend Masses:
   Cancelled until further notice
Weekday Mass:
   Cancelled until further notice

Local Parishes—Mass Times
Annunciation of the BVM, Viroqua
   Cancelled until further notice
St. Joseph, St. Joseph Ridge
   Cancelled until further notice
St. Peter, Middle Ridge
   Cancelled until further notice
Holy Day Mass: Please check the bulletin for times.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Before Mass on Saturday; other times as announced or by appointment, request appointment by calling Fr. Matt or via our website under the Sacraments tab. https://www.stmarycv.org/sacraments

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 Baptism: Please submit a Baptism registration by mail, or e-mail to both stmarycv@mwt.net AND frmattmarshall@gmail.com. You will be contacted by the parish office to finalize your requested date. The registration form can be found here: https://www.stmarycv.org/sacraments.

Sacrament of Anointing / Visitation of the Sick: Please contact the parish office when someone you know is in need of either the sacrament or a pastoral visit, or call Fr. Matt. 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 back of church and at the side door.

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 Mass intercessions.
SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2020

1) Acts 2:14, 22-33
2) 1 Peter 1:17-21

FOCUS: Let us rejoice in the good news of salvation: Jesus is God’s promise fulfilled.

The joy of the Easter season is still with us as we rejoice in the risen Christ. He is truly present to us in the celebration of the Mass. He is the promise fulfilled, and we are nourished with his Word, and his body and blood. Just like those on the road to Emmaus, we know him in the breaking of the bread.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Peter proclaims to the Jews and all in Jerusalem that Jesus, commended to [them] by God, was also killed by them. But that God raised him up. Peter writes that all have been ransomed by the precious blood of Christ. In the Gospel, two disciples traveled from Jerusalem to Emmaus, discussing all that had happened. Jesus joined them, but they did not recognize him until they sat for a meal and he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them.

**Intentsions**

Intentsions will be prayed for privately by Father Matt on the day scheduled, please add these intentions to your own, in your prayers from home.

Apr. 25 ~ †Dennis LeJeune
Apr. 26 ~ †Rhonda Buckmaster
Apr. 28 ~ For the safety of our military in the USA and around the world and their families
Apr. 29 ~ Our Parish Family
May 01 ~ Our Parish Family
May 02 ~ Don and Roxanne Weber Family
May 03 ~ †Helen Staatslien

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Catholic Broadcasting:

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**Online:**


**Giving Last Week**

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https://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)

Bulletins—lets stay connected!
- The parish bulletin will continue to be 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)
- 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).

Parish Announcements

Please Pray for Our First Communicants
First Communion for our 2nd Grade Class was scheduled for this Sunday. Please pray for your young one’s as they eagerly await their time to come to the table of the Lord.

Nathan Ackerman
Tyla Hess
Alaina Pedretti
Dylan Wiedemann

Prayers and thanks also to their catechist, Dan VonFeldt for all his support and propagation of the faith. First Communion will take place after the lifting of the Stay at Home Order.

Confirmation Update
Confirmation for our 10th graders will be rescheduled for a later date. The Bishop has delegated the Dean of the La Crosse Diocese to determine how Confirmation will take place in our Deanery. We are still awaiting how this will unfold. In the meantime, please keep your young adults in your thoughts and prayers.

Brock Hoskins
Dustin Kenyon
Grant McCauley
Tanner Turbean

Your Continued Support is much appreciated!
If you are able, please continue to support the parish financially. Our parish will continue to have financial obligations such as utilities, repairs, maintenance, supplies, payroll, education and obligations to the Diocese of La Crosse for Catholic Schools.

We are accepting donations through the mail and if you use online banking, please consider adding St. Mary’s Parish to your Bill Pay by setting up St. Mary’s Parish as payment and it will be mailed directly to the parish office (if possible, use your envelope number as the account number). Online services now available: diolc.org/st-mary-coon-valley.

From Fr. Matt
- In the mail this week you will receive a survey, we request that you fill out and returned to St. Mary's via mail or the offertory box in church. When churches reopen, at some point in the future, there will most likely be a 50 person limit to services for some time. I will be adding a 3rd Mass to our weekend schedule. A variety of options will be listed on the survey you receive. Please do respond, your feedback will be very helpful!

-Beginning this Sunday, I will be offering a virtual time of prayer on Sundays. The prayer service I have been offering in writing through our Bulletin will now also be lead by me via Jitsi on Sundays at 10:30 AM. Jitsi is very simple to use. You go to this website from any device that can use the internet: https://meet.jit.si/AtHomeSundayPrayers. You will have to allow the website to use your camera and speakers. You DO NOT have to download or update anything to run this program. E.g. If Google Calendars asks to sync with the program just say no. Please let me know if you find this helpful!

- My homilies will now also be available each week after Sunday services on our parish website. Go to the Homilies page and you can listen by week, similar to the layout of our Bulletin page.

Diocesan/Local Announcements

A Year Devoted to St. Joseph: May 1, 2020 - May 1, 2021
Bishop Callahan invites all to celebrate and pray with him to St. Joseph the Workman, May 1 via livestreamed Mass, diolc.org/live, beginning at 12:00 noon, from the Cathedral. This Mass will begin a special year of thanksgiving, petition, and honor to St. Joseph. In the year ahead, the diocese will offer prayers for his blessings upon our families (Patron Saint of Husbands, Fathers, and Families), our beloved dead (Patron Saint of a Happy Death), and the special needs of our Diocese (Patron Saint of the Universal Church).

As we make our way through the year, several events, prayers and novenas will be available for publication in parish bulletins. It is, of course, painfully obvious for all of us to know that our plans often turn to dust in the midst of possible tragedies and sicknesses that come our way. So, please open this singular year with Bishop Callahan at noon on May 1, and follow the Diocesan website diolc.org for further information and possible events.

Here is the diocesan Facebook link to this event. https://facebook.com/events/231728821384317/

Marriage Enrichment: Be Light: A Marriage Renewal Date Night Series – 5 nights (April 26-30). Each date night will be available after 7pm CST. witnesseslovec.org/belight/

LifeTeen Catholic Youth Ministry Convention Scholarship:
Over the last several years, through a generous grant, people from our diocese who work with young people have been able to attend this convention for free. There are a few more scholarships available for the convention that will be held June 7-10, 2020. If you have not attended this convention, or know of someone who has not attended this convention, please email Andrew Brueggen, our LifeTeen Area Coordinator at youthdir@stpatsonalaska.com.
At Home Sunday Prayers

Gathering

On the journey through life we gather up any number of heartaches. Now to ready ourselves to really see and hear what God offers we lay down some of those pains. We share with God what hurts us, and we pray for the healing presence of God to give us new strength and open our eyes to wonder:

Lord Jesus, you meet us on our way... Lord have mercy:
You always see us... Christ have mercy:
You always hear us out... Lord have mercy:

God, our companion through all of life, may your compassion and mercy renew our strength on this day made holy by your love which lasts forever and ever.

Amen.

Readings

Lord Jesus, be with us on our way. Open our minds to your word now, and help us to see and hear with the wisdom that comes from God. May the Word of God be in our minds, and on our lips, and deep within our hearts:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

That very day, the first day of the week, two of Jesus’ disciples were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him. He asked them, “What are you discussing as you walk along?” They stopped, looking downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?” And he replied to them, “What sort of things?” They said to him, “The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him. But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place. Some women from our group, however, have astounded us: they were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; they came back and reported that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who announced that he was alive. Then some of those with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women had described, but him they did not see.” And he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?”

Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the Scriptures. As they approached the village to which they were going, he gave the impression that he was going on farther. But they urged him, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them. And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?” So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them who were saying, “The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!” Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of bread.

The Word of the Lord

Reflection

Sometimes we walk right by important stuff, don’t we? We might be preoccupied. We might not want to deal with it. Maybe we’re just not making the proper mental connections yet. And so, sometimes we walk right by important stuff. Important people. Important moments. That is the story of Emmaus today. Sadness, anger, disappointment, fear...all these things have could of been swirling around in those two disciples hearts. Then Jesus arrives. How could they have seen him? They had watched him die! Their dreams of what he could do for Israel were entirely dashed. But that’s the issue, isn’t it? They weren’t seeing what they wanted to see...so they didn’t see at all. But what if they looked for something else? That’s what Jesus showed them. He reinterpreted the Scriptures and his own life. Offered a different perspective. He looked at the pain and suffering of the last 3 days, and said there was something positive happening there.

Haven’t we had an experience like this before? We’reragging on ourselves because of mistakes, real or imagined, and then someone reminds us of the bigger picture. They help convince us that we’re good. That we’re going to be OK. Maybe the experience was something a little more like in a romantic comedy, huh? Some person is just simply not understanding how much we care, they can’t see it. But then they do! And a whole new level of friendship or love begins.

Maybe sometimes the Emmaus experience has happened at home with the kids. Maybe they just aren’t getting the bigger, adult picture, but then all of a sudden like a true miracle...they grow up a bit. Or (moms and dads take
note) us adults grow up a bit. Your son or daughter says or does something that helps you find new joy or strength. They saw what you could not.

As I hear this beautiful Gospel story this week, I think of an Emmaus story from my life. (You know, the other Gospel according to Matthew!) I remember back to when I worked at my first parish, St. Mary’s in Tomah. That was my first time working full-time in a parish. And boy, was I overwhelmed! Overwhelmed by the complexity of it all, overwhelmed by how weak I felt, how little I seemed to know. I felt so alone. And no surprise, I really sank into a deep depression. I’ve struggled with that stuff for years. I still regularly see a counselor. It just helps!

Well, there I was, super sad. It was a school day at St. Mary’s and they have a big school. As I walked from the church office back to the rectory I walked past that school. I kind of took a moment to look in the flower garden on the corner of the property, but not seeing God, not feeling God, I moved on. I was walking with my head hanging down when all of a sudden (scaring the heck out of me!), something grabbed me! Grabs my hand!

It was a little girl. I will never forget her face. She was the picture of innocent joy. She just beamed at me and said just one simple phrase: walk with me. I didn’t even know how to respond. She was so firmly opposed to how dumpy the world looked to me at the time. I couldn’t even speak, and she didn’t wait. Squeezing my hand and yanking me along, that little second grader was somehow toting along behind her 230 lbs of sad adult! I couldn’t help, but be lifted. It started within me. When she smiled. When said walk with me. I was smiling after a little bit, her yanking me along skipping. I mean, she was skipping not me!  But pretty soon, I was walking right beside her beaming too. I don’t know, it was maybe only the length of our church’s yard here in Coon Valley…but somehow that distance, that time, seemed to last for hours. It was so refreshing. As we approached the playground, she just upped and left. Off to run and play with her friends.

But lesson learned for me. Now I could see. God and many, many others invited me to walk with them. And they with me. I wasn’t alone. Never would be. How that has helped me since, especially in low moments. There was so much I couldn’t see as that little journey came to an end. So much I realized I had missed by the time that journey reached its end. God help us this week, in whatever our circumstance might be, to recognize there is more than meets the eye. God is present, always present, and so are others, more than you or I remember. This week even when we think nothing good is going on, can we still nonetheless hear it…can we listen and hear something, someone says: walk with me.

Let’s just pause a while now and let ourselves rest in the Word of God, the source of life…

Petitions

As St. Paul used to say, “Nothing can separate us from the love of God.” We pray now for ourselves and this whole world, always in need of that reminder:

For the Church…may disciples of Jesus today have hearts open to new ways of understanding life and faith: we pray to the Lord…

For our whole world hurting so much now because of the coronavirus. Like Jesus, may we discover new life in the midst of suffering: we pray to the Lord…

For everyone walking with uncertainty and fear. Lord, help us to choose better company, help us to connect with people and things that give us strength: we pray to the Lord…

We remember our whole community here at St. Mary’s and the whole Coon Valley area…may faith and love keep us connected with each and you: we pray to the Lord…

For those going through a time of change in life: young people, the sick, the widowed, graduates, those with new work and without work, those who have moved, those mourning, and families with new children. Help us all to remember, we are never alone: we pray to the Lord…

Finally, we pray, Lord, that we would find you in our coming week. May we be delightfully surprised to find you at home and at work, when we are alone and in others, wherever we may be: we pray to the Lord…

Lord, you promised to not leave us orphans. You promised to be with us always. Help us sense the strange and wonderful ways in which you now always accompany us. When you rose from the dead your life became as boundless as God’s. Show us the way to life that lasts forever and ever. Amen.

Gathering all of our hearts, our whole selves, all together as one, we pray like the Lord Jesus taught us:

Our Father…

Sending

Let us pray:

Ever-present God, you reveal yourself in more ways than we can count. May the Resurrection of Jesus teach us to expect you at all times, to look for you even where we least believe you to be. May our journey through life
At Home Sunday Prayers Continued

soften our hearts and prepare us more and more daily to embrace the mystery of your love in every time and place, in every event and person. When we welcome each moment of our lives, truly Lord we welcome you in our midst. You walk at our side forever and ever. Amen.

Let us go in peace!

The Prayer of St. Patrick

Christ be with me, Christ within me. Christ behind me, Christ before me. Christ beside me, Christ to win me. Christ to comfort and restore me. Christ beneath me, Christ above me. Christ in quiet, Christ in danger. Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

Amen.

Daily Readings Continued

John 6:30-35
Appetites, such are hunger and thirst, are often used metaphorically to speak of hungers of the heart. Today, Jesus satisfies our hunger because he is our bread of life.

Wednesday 29 April
St Catherine of Siena, virgin and doctor
1 John 1:5-2:2
The first letter of John manages to be both inspirational and realistic. We need to keep an eye on both, stay on the path of conversion of heart.
Matthew 11:25-30
This passage contains a great truth: the Gospel is for all and not for some elite group. We can all come to Jesus when we are burdened.

Thursday 30 April
St Pius V, bishop of Rome
Acts 7:51
The story we are about to hear has a double resonance. It resembles the story of Jairus’ daughter in Luke 8, which in turn resembles the story of Elijah and the widow’s son in 1 Kings 17. Luke’s message is clear: great prophetic and life-giving actions continue among the followers of The Way.

Daily Readings

Monday 27 April
Acts 6:8-15
Stephen, whose feast we celebrate on 26 December, was one of the seven chosen to relieve the pressure on the apostles (Acts 6:5). Today we begin his story, a story of extraordinary witness leading to martyrdom. The Greek for a “witness” is martus, from which our word martyrdom.

John 6:22-29
The focus throughout John 6 is really on the person of Jesus. This is very evident in today’s Gospel: ‘This is working for God: you must believe in the one he has sent.’

Tuesday 28 May
St Peter Chanel, priest and martyr
Acts 7:51-8:1
As we listen to the story of Stephen’s death, we might notice echoes of the story of Jesus’ crucifixion peculiar to Luke’s Gospel. This is intentional because Luke sees Jesus’ death as that of a prophet-martyr.

St Athanasius, bishop and doctor
Acts 9:31-42
The story of Saul/Paul begins today, a story which will occupy the rest of the Acts. The conversion of Paul was a key event for early Christianity, placing at the service of The Way a remarkable person of faith, intelligence and energy.

Friday 1 May
St Joseph the Worker
Acts 9:1-20
The story of Saul/Paul begins today, a story which will occupy the rest of the Acts. The conversion of Paul was a key event for early Christianity, placing at the service of The Way a remarkable person of faith, intelligence and energy.

Saturday 2 May
St Athanasius, bishop and doctor
Acts 9:31-42
The story we are about to hear has a double resonance. It resembles the story of Jairus’ daughter in Luke 8, which in turn resembles the story of Elijah and the widow’s son in 1 Kings 17. Luke’s message is clear: great prophetic and life-giving actions continue among the followers of The Way.

John 6:60-69
The departure of some mostly likely refers to a split in the community when some walked away (no unknown today, alas). The close of John 6 is a version of the scene in Capernaum—who do you say I am? The wording is very different, but Peter is the spokesman and this affirmation of faith is one of the strongest in this Gospel.
In times of trouble, our hearts long for peace and turn to God. One way to re-center ourselves on our relationship with the Lord is to retreat, or withdraw, from the world. We can do so even at home, and this period of social distancing can be an opportunity to grow closer to God. Taking the time to retreat means that you are focusing inward and calling the Lord to come into your heart. The experience should help you feel more at peace and more aware that God is truly with you.

One retreat you can do easily is a Gratitude Walk. If you are near a forest or beach, that is a lovely setting. But if you live in an urban or suburban area, walking around your neighborhood is just as good. The point is to go outside by yourself, unaccompanied, without checking news, social media or email. This Gratitude Walk is solely for you and God.

As you leave your home, invite God to come walk with you. Say, “Lord, I know you are near and ready to be with me. Come, walk beside me, and I will follow you.” Then, begin your walk. You have no destination and no specific route. Simply walk wherever your feet take you. It can be for 20 minutes or an hour, depending on the responsibilities you may have at home. If you see someone you know during this retreat, kindly wave and smile at them from afar, but try not to engage in conversation. This is your time with God.

Because this is a Gratitude Walk, focus your thoughts on being thankful. Remain mindful to what’s around you: observe the people, animals, sights, sounds and smells. Whatever you encounter, praise God for his creation and for this moment with him. Whether it be a bird chirping, a daffodil newly bloomed or the breeze upon your face, thank God for his care and mercy upon even the most fragile of creation.

A modified version of the Gratitude Walk is Gratitude Watch. Sit from the comfort of your home near a window and carefully examine everything you see. Focus on minute details and say a word of thanks for each one. You can say, “Thank you, Lord, for [insert observation here]. Truly, you are wonderful!” This retreat should put you in a positive mindset and help you realize that even when life is stressful, there is always something to be grateful for – most of all, God’s love for us. †
The Kids' Bulletin
Third Sunday of Easter
April 26th, 2020

A B D E F G H I K N O R T
"The disciples on the road to Emmaus didn't recognize Jesus at first. How did they recognize Him eventually? Use the code to find out!"

Picture Puzzle:
The Road to Emmaus
How well do you know the story of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus? Figure out the order of the pictures and put the appropriate numbers in the corners.

Reading the Scriptures
In today's Gospel reading two disciples were walking together and thinking sadly about how Jesus had just been tortured and killed. Then Jesus started walking with them - but they didn't recognize Him. He explained to them what the Scriptures had said about Him suffering and dying. He helped them to understand what God's plan had been.

Every time we go to Mass we hear about Jesus in the Gospel reading. But we don't need to wait until Mass to learn about Jesus. You can read the Bible every day. God wants us to know Him better so we can love Him more. And the more we love Him the happier we will be.

Do you have a children's Bible? Maybe your Mom or Dad can read to you from the big Bible a little every morning or night. Reading saint stories also helps us to know God through His friends. Try to read or listen to some of the Bible or the life of a saint every day!

The Kids' Bulletin
Saint Catherine of Siena
April 29

Catherine was the second youngest of a very large family in Serbia, Italy. At a very young age she had consecrated her life to God.

She received many visions of Jesus and the saints. I saw you in my mind.

She was not pleased with this constant vision. Catherine began to advise people so that there would be peace in Italy.

The Pope at that time was not living in Rome. So Catherine convinced him to move back.

Catherine also had great physical suffering. Often she lived on almost no food other than holy communion. She received the wounds of Christ and asked God to let her carry the sins of the world. We can learn from her to pray for the holy father and defend him.

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