

St. Mary's Parish

900 Central Ave., Coon Valley, WI 54623



Fr. Matthew Marshall

Parochial Administrator

December 9, 2018

First Sunday of Advent

Reading 682C

Fr. Matthew Marshall

Residence: St. Mary's Rectory

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Coon Valley, WI 54623

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St. Mary's, Coon Valley

Weekend Masses:

Saturday - 4:00 PM, Sunday - 9:15 AM

Weekday Mass:

Wednesday and Friday - 8:00 AM

Tuesday - 6:00 PM (beginning Dec. 4, 2018)

Area Parishes:

Annunciation of the BVM, Viroqua

Sat. - 5:15 PM, Sun. - 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

St. Joseph, St. Joseph Ridge

Sat. - 4:00 PM, Sun. - 8:30 AM

St. Peter, Middle Ridge

Sat. - 8:00 PM, Sun. - 10:00 AM

Holy Day Mass: Please check the bulletin for times.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Before Mass on Saturday; other times as announced.

New Parishioners: Welcome to our parish! Please introduce yourself to Fr. Matt and contact the parish office for registration and information.

Sacrament of Baptism: Please contact Fr. Matt to register for Baptism preparation. Preparation should be completed before the birth of your child, if possible.

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.

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.

St. Mary's Parish, Coon Valley, WI

Second Sunday of Advent

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2018

- 1) Baruch 5:1-9
- 2) Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11
- 3) Luke 3:1-6

FOCUS: As we await the coming of our Lord and Savior, joy and hope fill our hearts in anticipation of the Messiah.

Prepare the way of the Lord! Today marks the Second Sunday of Advent, and we are filled with hope, joy and anticipation. The Lord enters the world to save us. Our paths will be made straight. Our burdens will be eased. Our darkness will be lightened. Salvation is at hand.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading calls Israel to abandon mourning and misery and replace it with the glorious splendor of God. Paul's Letter to the Philippians is filled with hope and joy, embracing Christ's message and mission. Hope continues in the Gospel as John prepares the way of the Lord, baptizing in his name and proclaiming that salvation is near.

| Giving Last Week | | Week 48 |
|------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Adult Envelopes | \$988.00 | Needed Weekly |
| Offertory | \$92.00 | Received This Week |
| Total | \$1,080.00 | Running total Needed |
| 30 of 115 envelopes received | | Running total Received |

| Annual Appeal 2018-19 | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|----------------|
| As of 12/07/2018 | | |
| | Total Pledged | Total Payments |
| Pledged/Paid | \$8,735.00 | \$6,185.00 |
| Target Amount* | \$11,405.00 | \$11,405.00 |
| Over/Under | (\$2,670.00) | (\$5,220.00) |
| Number Contributing | 22 | |

| Next Week in Service | | |
|--|--|------------------------------------|
| If you are not able to be at the Mass scheduled below, please find a substitute. Thank you for your service to St. Mary's. | | |
| | Saturday, Dec 15, 4:00 PM | Sunday, Dec 16, 9:15 AM |
| Servers: | Madelyn VonFeldt, Rhianna and Jacqueline Steiger | Dustin Kenyon and Gavin Jeffers |
| Reader: | Nancy Peters | Keith Kenyon |
| Communion Minister: | Mary Gajewski | Sue Humfeld |
| Ushers: | Joe Roesler and Volunteer | Jim Fleming and Dave Humfeld |
| Money Counters: | Caroline Tiedeman and Pat Kammel | |

| Upcoming Events/Calendar | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Dec 9 | After Mass | Religious Education Class |
| Dec 12 | 6:30 PM | Ecumenical Prayer Service for the sick and suffering at Christmas hosted by Pastor Julie Wollman and Fr. Matt at the Coon Valley Lutheran Church |
| Dec 15 | After Mass | Movie Night and Celebration—all are welcome to join the fun! |
| Dec. 16 | After Mass | Religious Education Class |
| Dec 16 | After Mass | Decorate the church for Christmas—please plan to help |
| Dec 17 | 9:00 AM-6:00 PM | Confessions at the Cathedral, La Crosse (Fr. Matt will be there from 5-6 PM in the box closest to Main St) |
| Dec 19 | 7:00 PM | St. Mary's Penance Service with confessions (two priests available) |
| Dec 23 | | NO Religious Education Classes-Merry Christmas! |
| <i>Dec 24</i> | <i>4:00 PM</i> | <i>Christmas Vigil Mass</i> |
| <i>Dec. 24</i> | <i>7:00 PM</i> | <i>Christmas Night Mass</i> |
| <i>Dec 25</i> | <i>9:15 AM</i> | <i>Christmas Day Mass</i> |
| Dec 30 | After Mass | NO Religious Education Classes-Happy New Year! |
| Jan 1 | 6:00 PM | New Year's Day Mass— <i>Holy Day of Obligation</i> |
| Jan 6 | After Mass | Religious Education Class |

| Mass Intentions | | |
|-----------------|---------|---|
| Dec. 8 | 4:00 PM | †Deceases members of the Roskos and Roningen Families |
| Dec. 9 | 9:15 AM | †Joseph Berra, Sr. |
| Dec. 11 | 6:00 PM | †James Berra |
| Dec. 12 | 8:00 AM | †Anna Kerska |
| Dec. 14 | 8:00 AM | †Raymond Berra |
| Dec. 15 | 4:00 PM | †Edward Kerska |
| Dec. 16 | 9:15 AM | The People of God |

Announcements

Christmas Flower Envelopes Now Available

If you wish to donate toward the Christmas Flowers, please use the envelopes located at the church entrances/exits. Return the envelope by dropping in the collection basket. Thank you!

Fr. Matt to Become Pastor

Official Chancery Bulletin Release:

The Reverend **Matthew N. Marshall**, Parochial Administrator of St. Mary Parish in Coon Valley, Chaplain to the Hmong Community in the La Crosse area and Chaplain at Aquinas High School and Middle School in La Crosse, is appointed Pastor effective January 1, 2019.

Retirement Fund For Religious ~ Aging religious need your help. Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests ministered for years for little to no pay. Their sacrifices now leave their religious communities without adequate retirement savings. Your gift to today's second collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands of elderly religious. Please be generous.

The Longest Night: A Christmas Service of Hope, Strength and Community

Wednesday, December 12; 6:00 p.m., Coon Valley Lutheran Church, 1005 Central Avenue, Coon Valley. Join us for music, scripture, prayer and an opportunity to light a candle in acknowledgment of any grief, sorrow or sadness that might be present for you this year. Please reserve a candle at no cost by calling the Coon Valley Lutheran Church office at 452-3772 by December 10. All are truly welcome.

Movie Night on Saturday, December 15th

All families and students are invited to our 2nd Movie Night. There will again be pizza, but feel free to bring a snack to share. Join Fr. Matt for a super fun time!

2019 Contribution Envelopes Available for Pickup

Your boxed envelopes are in the back of church. Please take yours with you this weekend, it will save on the mailing expense. Thank you for your continued support of St. Mary's. If you do not find your box, or you wish to receive envelopes please call or email the parish office.

Extra Christmas Mass Offered This Year!

You have more opportunities to celebrate this year. Fr. Matt will offer a 4:00 PM and a 7:00 PM Mass on Christmas Eve, as well as 9:15 AM on Christmas morning. He looks forward to seeing you all at the time most convenient for you.

End of the Year Giving

All contributions need to be to the parish by Sunday, December 30th to be included in the 2018 statements. All contributions received after the 30th will be included in the 2019 statements. Thanks you for your cooperation.

Haven't Been to Confession in a While?

Interested, but worry you don't remember how to give a good confession? No problem. Join us on **December 19 at 7:00 PM for Penance Service** here at St. Mary's. Fr. Matt and Msgr. Kunz will be available to assist you no matter how long it has been. Confessions will follow the service. The Sacrament is a wonderful opportunity to set aside our sinful ways and to draw closer to our Lord.

Mass Intentions Available

We have the following dates available for the next couple of months:

Tuesday, Jan. 1—6:00 PM (**Holy Day**)

January—8, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 19 or 20, 22, 23, 25, 27, 29

February—1, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 15, 16 or 17, 19, 20, 23, 24, 26

Also, feel free to submit all your requests for 2019 to ensure you get that special date!

Religious Education

-Please note that there is still RE on Sunday morning after our RE movie night on Dec. 15th. Older students will help with Christmas decorating in and around church on Sunday. Movie night is not obligatory...its just super fun!

- Fr. Matt will hear Confessions for RE students class by class on Sunday Dec. 9th during class time. **5th - 10th graders encouraged to join the Reconciliation Service and confessions** on Wed. Dec 19th at 7 PM.

Christmas Mass Help Signup

We need people who are available to help with mass to please signup in the back of church-servers, lectors, communion ministers and ushers. Thank you.

Order Anything on Amazon? Use Amazon Smile and Help St. Mary's Parish

Amazon Smile is now up and running for our parish! *Amazon Smile* is the charitable arm of Amazon.com, and will now supporting St. Mary's Parish every time you make a purchase through Amazon. Log in to: [amazon.com/smile](https://www.amazon.com/smile) and click the word "supporting" under the search bar. You can search for St. Mary's by typing, "St. Mary Parish Coon Valley" in the search bar provided. .5% of all your Amazon purchases will then come back to St. Mary's as a gift from Amazon. Its not an enormous contribution, but every bit helps! If you have any troubles logging in, please contact Fr. Matt. He will drive over and set it up for you! Let's help make St. Mary's even stronger financially!

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

2019 Calendars Have Arrived

The St. Mary's liturgical is a gift to you complements of the PCCW. Feel free to take one home with you today.

Did you have losses or damages because of the flood? Even if you have replaced or repaired damages, you may still be entitled to benefits. **REGISTRATION FOR DISASTER ASSISTANCE FROM FEMA AND SBA CLOSES DEC. 17TH!** See Bulletin insert for more details.

Aquinas Robotics Christmas Cookie Sale ~ No time to bake? Get 3 dozen assorted Christmas Cookies for \$20 and support the Robotics team. Limited supply! Email: Keagan.Lovejoy@aquinasschools.org or use our online order form at <https://www.7rrc.org/aquinas>. Cookies are available for pickup on December 20th.

Food Pantry Donations/Christmas Tree Lighting

Again this year, the CV Lions will be hosting their Christmas Tree Lighting/Food Pantry Fundraiser project. Last year Saint Mary's parishioners and the Saint Mary's Men's Club contributed a total of \$775.00!!! (\$725 from parishioners), and our goal is to raise \$1.00 more this year... We will do the same as last year and use the food pantry collection basket in the back of church. All money that is in there, starting the weekend of October 27-28 until the weekend of December 22-23, will be designated as a contribution from Saint Mary's Parish to this Coon Valley Lions fundraiser. Please be generous and help us reach our goal and help the Coon Valley Lions reach their goal.

Annual Report to the Bishop Now Available

Copies of the 2017-2018 Annual Report may be found in the back of church.

Free Advent Prayer Books

The Word Among Us Advent prayer books are in the pews. Please take as many as you will find helpful!

Mon., Dec. 10 ~ Healing Through Grief Group will meet on Monday, December 10, from 5:30 – 6:30 PM, in the Dale Conference Room at the Mayo Hospital Building (800 West Avenue South). Sessions include an educational topic and a time to share with others also experiencing grief. Free Confidential, one-on-one support is also available from a Franciscan Healthcare chaplain with specialized training in grief. Registration is not required, attend any or all sessions. For more information please call 608.785.0940 ext. 22218.

Adopt a Family this Christmas

Would you be willing to adopt a Door of Hope family this Christmas by providing a few gifts, gift cards and/or food to make their holiday a little more special? Some families in our community are experiencing a tough holiday season. If you are willing to help, please contact, Rachel Niemeyer at (608)637-8688

December 9th, 9:30 am - 3:00 pm Please join us for our annual **Advent Day of Prayer**. This is a day of reflection and prayer. We will journey with Mary to Bethlehem. Using imaginative prayer, we will enter into "deep listening" to all she "pondered within her

heart." The cost for this day is \$45. Please call St. Anthony's at 715-443-2236 or visit us online at our Facebook page or at www.sarcenter.com to register for this day of prayer. If you would like to stay at St. Anthony's on the night before or after this event, please call to inquire for cost and availability..

Dec. 15/16 ~ Christkindlmarkt (Christmas Market) at the Shrine from 9:30 AM—3:30 PM. Authentic German Christmas Cookies, Variety of Strudels, Pies, Sweet Treats, Hot Apple Cider, Specialty Coffee and Hot Chocolate. Beautiful handcrafted items by local artist craftsman and shops.

December 14 Signup for March for Life Chicago ~

The March for Life Chicago is one day only, Jan. 13. Sign up by December 14 at www.prolifewi.org and scroll down to the Chicago link. Buses will be leaving from locations around our diocese.

March for Life Pilgrimage to Washington DC registration is open

Consider joining other pilgrims from the Diocese of La Crosse traveling to Washington DC on January 16 returning on January 20, 2019. The annual Pilgrimage for Life is open to all people ages 13 and up. Either join the group from your parish or contact the diocesan Office for Youth & Young Adult at 608-791-2652 or visit our website at diolc.org/m4l-reg

GIVEN Marriage Retreat ~ GIVEN is a one-day retreat that fosters a deeper understanding of Marriage. It includes inspiring talks, energizing music and meaningful conversation. Retreats will be held in Marshfield (Jan.12, 2019), Chippewa Falls (Jan. 26, 2019) and La Crosse (Feb. 23, 2019). Dating, engaged and married couples are encouraged to attend. To get more information and/or register visit diolc.org/marriage/marriage-enrichment/ (see the flyer posted in back of church).

Job Opening – President of McDonell Area Catholic Schools

~ Do you know someone interested in the president position for McDonell Area Catholic Schools? He or she should review the job posting - http://www.mcdonellareacatholicschools.org/editoruploads/files/18_president.pdf or contact Jenna Mattice, Human Resource director for MACS, at 715-723-0538.

U.S. Bishops Raise Social Concerns

The U.S. Bishops invite you to make your voice heard in Washington on a number of issues, including:

- Protection of Catholic adoption and foster care agencies
- Global relief of poverty and hunger
- Protection of the right to seek asylum

For information and action alerts, see diolc.org/social-concerns.

Families – Your Feast Day is Almost Here!

Dec. 30th is the feast of the Holy Family. It is the day when families celebrate their ability to imitate the Holy Family (Joseph, Mary and Jesus) who showed us how to create a home where tenderness, forgiveness, respect and faithfulness exist. What will your family do on the 30th to celebrate your feast day? For ideas go to: www.catholicicing.com.

Televised Masses for Shut-ins:

WXOW CH 19 La Crosse – Sunday: 9:30 AM
EWTN (cable/sat.) – Sunday: 7 AM & 11 AM Daily: 7 AM & 6 PM

Catholic Broadcasting:

EWTN Catholic Cable Television
Vernon Telephone Cable – Chan. 143
MediaCom Chan 15 – Coon Valley
Chan 74 – La Crosse also available via satellite

Youth Religion Education Program:

Classes meet after the Sunday Mass from September to May. Coordinator: Paul Thompson. Email: thom.paulrobert@gmail.com

Natural Family Planning:

Information on natural family planning can be obtained by calling 715-235-6226 or visiting the web site at [<nfp@diolc.org>](mailto:nfp@diolc.org)

Catholic Charities:

Catholic Charities offers many services in our diocese. Programs offered include: emergency services, adoption services, mental health counseling, financial counseling, HIV/AIDS ministries, immigration services, in-home support for children with disabilities, and domestic abuse services. For more information please call 1-888-212-HELP or visit [<www.cclse.org>](http://www.cclse.org).