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.
St. Mary’s Parish, Coon Valley, WI
4th Sunday of Easter

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2020
1) Acts 2:14a, 36-41
2) 1 Peter 2:20b-25
3) John 10:1-10

FOCUS: The Shepherd is calling us. Let us heed his voice.

Turmoil enters our lives and even enters our Church, but we are called to persevere and keep our eyes focused on the risen Christ. Through repentance and living for righteousness, we are united with him who is the heart and core of our faith. The Shepherd is calling us. Let us heed his voice.

LITURGY OF THE WORD
In the first reading, Peter tells the community that their Savior was indeed the one whom they crucified. They are cut to the heart, they repent, and are baptized – adding about three thousand persons to the community. In the second reading, Peter calls the community to patient suffering when they know what they are doing is right. In the Gospel, Jesus speaks about the shepherd and the sheep who know the sound of his voice.

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

May 02 ~ Don and Roxanne Weber Family
May 03 ~ †Helen Stafslien
May 05 ~ Our Parish Family
May 06 ~ Our Parish Family
May 08 ~ Our Parish Family
May 09 ~ †Don Kammel
May 03 ~ †Kylie Von Ruden

Giving Last Week

| Adult Env.          | $710.00 |
| Offertory           | $298.34 |
| Easter              | $20.00  |
| Mem. Day            | $5.00   |
| **Total**           | **$1,033.34** |

Week 17

- Needed Weekly: $1,900.00
- Received This Week: $1,033.34
- Run. Tot. Needed: $32,300.00
- YTD Received: $31,455.14
- **Difference**: (844.86)

Annual Appeal 2019-2020

<table>
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<th>Total Pledged</th>
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Percent Pledged: 132.26%, Percent Received: 127.67%
Number Contributing: 41

Televised Masses:
- WXOW CH 19 La Crosse – Sunday: 9:30 AM
- EWTN (cable/sat.) – Sunday: 7 AM & 11 AM Daily: 7 AM & 6 PM
- FOX 25-48 Winona Diocese—7:00 AM

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

Online:

Amazon Smile is the charitable arm of Amazon.com.
If you order on Amazon, use Amazon Smile the same as you would as regular Amazon, and choose St. Mary's Parish as your charitable organization.

Log in to: 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” or simply click the link on our parish website: stmarycv.org

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Upcoming Events/Calendar

- **Sunday 10:30 AM** — Join Fr. Matt online at https://meet.jit.si/AtHomeSundayPrayers.
- All Scheduled Events/ Religious Education / Mass are Cancelled until further notice.
- Church will be open for private prayer daily from 9 AM until 7 PM. (please practice good social distancing and Maximum of 10 persons)
- If you are currently homebound or under quarantine and need assistance, please call Fr. Matt at 608-738-6806 or 452-3841. We have people ready and willing to help.

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From Fr. Matt

- This week you should receive a survey in the mail. Please fill it out! I need help discerning changes to our Mass schedule that will probably need to begin as soon as church re-opens. More than likely there will be a 50-person limit, with a rule of 6 ft. social distancing, including Sunday Eucharist. I really appreciate your feedback as we prepare for that moment. I have thought about adding a Mass for a while...now we can try it out! Hopefully, this will make it easier for people to find a time to celebrate God's love with one another each week.

- 1st Communion and Confirmation will not take place until at least July. Bishop Callahan wants to wait for those celebrations until we have been able to celebrate Chrism Mass as a Diocese. His plan is for the end of June, but only time will tell. I will be in contact with our families expecting those Sacraments, in order to organize what I hope can be a joint celebration of those Sacraments. I will preside at both.

- Please keep in your prayers our Muslim brothers and sisters who are celebrating Ramadan from April 23 - May 23 this year. It is their biggest celebration of the year, similar to our celebration of Lent and Easter. It is a mixture of fasting and feasting centered around the Word of God, prayer, reflection, and time spent in community. With COVID restrictions in place it will be a very different celebration this year. Let's pray for them as, like us, as they adjust their expectations in such a holy time.

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 Turbeau

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.

Online Giving to St. Mary's
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).

Diocesan/Local Announcements

HEALING: Bringing the Gift of God’s Mercy to the World
Join the Conference by Dr. Mary Healy held at Mary Mother of the Church on June 13, 2020. Sessions 8:30 AM to 3:15 PM with a Healing Service at 6:30 PM. No Registration, No Charge, Just Come, Jesus is Calling. Meals will not be provided. However, coffee, water and snacks will be available throughout the day. You are encouraged to bring you own lunch and perhaps enough to share. There will be a list of nearby restaurants available at the info table. Schedule: 8:30 AM Gathering. 9:00 AM Praise & Worship. 9:30 AM Jesus: Healer of Souls & Bodies. 10:30 AM Stretch Break. 10:40 AM Walking in the Supernatural. 11:45 AM—1:15 PM Lunch Break. 1:15 PM Praise & Worship. 1:45 PM How to Pray for Healing. 2:45 PM Practicum. 3:15 PM Wrap-up/Announcements (Break before Healing Service). 4:00 PM Parish Mass available. 6:30 PM Healing Service

Queen of the Americas Guild Annual Conference
July 31-August 1, 2020 at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Join us for this two day conference/retreat examining Our Lady of Guadalupe’s relationship to Human Life and Its Cradle in the Family Formed by Marriage. Enhance your faith and learn more about the miracle of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and the history of our Faith. Visit: queenoftheamericasguild.org, call 630-584-1822 or email staff@queenoftheamericasguild.org. Flyers are also in the back of church.
Gathering

It is the Lord Jesus who calls us together, the Good Shepherd who welcomes us and gives us a place to rest. God’s heart is always open before us. Can we now too, open our hearts? We invite God to come in... behold he stands at the door and knocks:

PAUSE

Lord Jesus, your arms are wide open before the world... Lord, have mercy.
Christ Jesus, you open the way and no one can close it... Christ, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you are peace... Lord, have mercy.

And may the peace of God beyond all understanding fill our minds and hearts in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let us pray:
May the courage of Jesus our Shepherd strengthen us to follow where he has gone before. Lord, may we pass over from death to life, from our sufferings into new joy. You are God-with-us forever and ever. Amen.

Readings

Act 2: 14, 36 - 41

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and proclaimed:
“Let the whole house of Israel know for certain that God has made both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”
Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and they asked Peter and the other apostles, “What are we to do, my brothers?”
Peter said to them,
“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is made to you and to your children and to all those far off, whomever the Lord our God will call.”

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I lack.
In green pastures he makes me lie down; to still waters he leads me; he restores my soul.
He guides me along right paths for the sake of his name.
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff comfort me.
You set a table before me in front of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Indeed, goodness and mercy will pursue me all the days of my life; I will dwell in the house of the LORD for endless days.

1 Peter 2: 20 - 25

Beloved:
If you are patient when you suffer for doing what is good, this is a grace before God.
For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his footsteps.
He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.
When he was insulted, he returned no insult; when he suffered, he did not threaten; instead, he handed himself over to the one who judges justly.
He himself bore our sins in his body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.
For you had gone astray like sheep, but you have now returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.
Jesus said:
“Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever does not enter a sheepfold through the gate but climbs over elsewhere is a thief and a robber. But whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as the shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has driven out all his own, he walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice. But they will not follow a stranger; they will run away from him, because they do not recognize the voice of strangers.” Although Jesus used this figure of speech, the Pharisees did not realize what he was trying to tell them.

So Jesus said again, “Amen, amen, I say to you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.”

Reflection

Have you ever been to the rectory here at St. Mary’s? Between the kitchen and dining room is one of those fancy swinging doors. According to the Google they are called double-hinged spring action doors, or “butler doors.” Now I have never liked them much. They’ve just betrayed me too many times! Pinched fingers, stubbed toes, backhands (and yes, a door can backhand you!). They are just, to me, dang complicated. Now I know I’m not the sharpest crayon in the box, but I think there really is something to why those doors bug me. And maybe I’m over complicating this, but it’s because they’re so unpredictable. I mean, maybe I’m not talking about doors anymore…are they coming or going? In or out? Is it my “turn” or another’s? Maybe I’m not talking about doors anymore. Maybe I am talking about people... like Jesus said, “I am the door.” That’s what I’ve been hearing this week. Jesus saying, “I am the door.” Then it more turned into, “People are doors.” I kept thinking, “shut-up, Voice-That-I-Hear When-I-Read-the-Bible” and the Voice was all like, “No…you shut up…”

All this week I’m thinking about doors. Kept thinking about that swinging door. I think I don’t like that door for the same reasons that I sometimes struggle to be around other people. There’s too much possibility. Too much unpredictability. Sometimes I don’t handle the situation right and I get hurt. Pinched fingers, stubbed heart. I know that, for me, I sometimes really struggle to be with others because of the betrayals I have experienced in life. I’m sometimes spooked to enter into that other person’s life because I’m not sure what’s “in” there. I’m sometimes spooked to let others “in” because I’m afraid they’re going to mess up my stuff. The stuff in me.

Jesus reminds us of the better part. “I am the gate, I am the door,” he said. “We know that historically, then and now, shepherds in Jesus’ area would themselves sit or lay in the doorway of the makeshift fences they built. There’s a picture in the bulletin this week illustrating it. It would be an image everyone was familiar with around Jesus. Jesus said he was like that. He let people come and go to and from himself freely, and he wouldn’t do them no harm. Jesus wouldn’t hurt others, hadn’t hurt others…and he wouldn’t let others do harm either.

How did Jesus pull that off? That amazing feat? Such kindness, such love. I mean, God knows, there’s a reason why the Gospels say 20,000 people came to hear his Sermon on the Mount. I think Jesus was such a good door, because he knew that’s precisely what we people are. Jesus let others be themselves, have their own inner space. And he tried to be no one else but himself. When people met Jesus he met them as they were, on their terms. And he greeted them with an open heart, a trusting heart. Jesus knew the
rhythm of a “butler door.” He knew when to push, and when to wait. He knew how to step back and let some else set the pace.

For me, this is so timely a reading for COVID-time. In a moment when we are all having to navigate space with people in new ways, we would do so well to remember this gentle art of Jesus. We’ll make zero headway trying to burst down someone’s “door.” And they’ll meet the same resistance if they’re too pushy with us. Instead can we gently let others be themselves? Can we invite others to let us be us? It all goes easier if we begin with kindness to “them.” Whoever “them” is. Maybe people listened to Jesus (i.e. were willing to listen) because he began with kindness to them. Just maybe then they would follow him into his space.

Let’s be gentle with each other. Let’s take each other at their word. Or to go back to my “butler door,” my treacherous swinging door; might I offer this example. When I prop it open now, I’ve learned a trick. If I let it swing away from me first, I can grab hold and then bring it back my way. It’s away first, then my way. No pinched fingers. No stubbed toes, no stubbed hearts.

**Petitions**

**Leader:** Everyday God asks us if He can be a part of our life. Now we give clearance for that grace as we make known our prayers:

For the Church, all disciples of Jesus: like our Master may we break no bruised reed, quench no smoldering wick…we pray to the Lord:

For our Muslim brothers and sisters celebrating Ramadan, the holiest month of their year. Even in COVID-time may this season renew and strengthen their hearts…we pray to the Lord:

For healing in all of our lives. Lord, help us to forgive even those who have intended to harm us. Let nothing we have suffered fill our hearts with bitterness or hatred…we pray to the Lord:

May the suffering in our world now teach us all new depth of compassion. May our experience of the coronavirus teach us how to be grateful and accepting of others…we pray to the Lord:

For all the prayers and special intentions of our parish family, especially for Don and Roxanne Weber …[PAUSE]…let our love for each other give strength to one and all…we pray to the Lord:

May the doors to unending life open wide before Helen Stafslien and all the departed…we pray to the Lord:

**Leader:** Our prayers unite with Jesus as we pray…

**Our Father…**

**Sending**

*May Easter joy renew us this Sunday, O Lord, and the life you have planted within us grow and grow daily, through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Reflect now on this blessing and poem from the Muslim poet Rumi:

This being human is a guest house.
Every morning a new arrival.
A joy, a depression, a meanness,
some momentary awareness comes
as an unexpected visitor.
Welcome and entertain them all!
Even if they are a crowd of sorrows,
who violently sweep your house
empty of its furniture,
still, treat each guest honorably.
He may be clearing you out
for some new delight.
The dark thought, the shame, the malice.
meet them at the door laughing and invite them in.
Be grateful for whatever comes.
because each has been sent
as a guide from beyond.

Or as St. Benedict used to say: *Venit hospes, venit Christus*, that means, “When a guest has come, so has the Christ.”

God’s peace to all, *In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord. Thanks be to God!
Monday 4 May
Acts 11:1-18
Should followers of Jesus follow all the Jewish Law, including circumcision, Sabbath and food regulations? It was an important question for the first generation. The answer, given three times in a vision, shaped the future of Christianity.
John 10:1-10
We encounter another of the seven I AM sentences of this Gospel, perhaps one of the less remembered ones: I am the gate. We need to think of point of access or encounter, as in "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)

Tuesday 5 May
Acts 11:19-26
This is a summary statement, letting us know about the expansion of The Way after the decision not to impose Jewish regulations on Gentiles.
John 10:22-30
The feast of Dedication (Hanukkah) is mentioned: this feast celebrated the rededication of the Temple in the previous century. At the time of writing that restored Temple was also in ruins, causing consternation for both Jews and Christians. The Christian response was to name Jesus as our shepherd, who would lead us both to God and to eternal life.

Wednesday 6 May
Acts 12:24-13:5
The missionary journeys were an important development in early Christianity. Today, we hear of the first missionary journey of Paul and Barnabas, sponsored by the church in Antioch in Syria (modern Antakya).
John 12:44-50
Our reading today brings to a close the Galilee ministry of Jesus in the Fourth Gospel. It has, therefore, the feeling of a summary or gathering in of topics, which is evident in this compressed reading, every line of which could be a source of meditation.

Thursday 7 May
Acts 13:13-25
The continuing story of Paul takes us rather breathlessly to Antioch in Pisidia (Turkey today). We hear the first part of a sermon, outlining the story of salvation until the ministry of John the Baptist. You may notice the emphasis on David—great symbol of God’s faithfulness through time, fulfilled in Jesus. Tomorrow we get to hear the second part of the sermon, when Paul challenges the hearers directly.
John 13:16-20
Our reading from John takes place at the Last Supper and follows the washing of the feet. As it draws out some of the meaning of the foot washing it also looks ahead to Jesus betrayal.

Friday 8 May
Acts 13:26-33
For this scene, we have moved to Antioch in Pisidia (14 cities bore the name Antioch in antiquity!). In a typical speech, Paul started yesterday reviewing the history of salvation; today Paul gives an account of the death and resurrection of Jesus, in the light of the Holy Scriptures.
John 14:7-14
Today we hear a reading familiar from funerals; perhaps we can reflect on it today without the tragic context of death. It is really about Jesus own departure / death first of all. The last line offers us another of the great I AM sentences from this Gospel.

Saturday 9 May
Acts 13:44-52
The switch to the Gentiles is signaled yet again in this brief story. Most likely, the Gentiles were the so-called God-fearers, that is, people already attracted to Judaism because of its pure doctrine of God, high moral code and its antiquity.
John 14:7-14
Our reading from John is very rich again today. It does contain a startling line: whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works. What could that possible mean? Somehow it means that after the great event of Jesus’ death and resurrection, our task is to offer salvation, the salvation not yet achieved or somehow not available before Good Friday and Easter Sunday.
The Kids' Bulletin
Fourth Sunday of Easter
May 3rd, 2020

8+4= 6-2= 5+4=
6+4= 9-2= 1+4=
3+3= 7-3= 2+8= 6-1=
4=A 5=E 6=G 7=H 8=I 9=M 10=T

What did Jesus say about the sheepfold?
Figure out the math questions
and then fill in the blanks
with the letters the numbers represent.

The Good Shepherd

The readings in today's Mass talk about Jesus the Good Shepherd.
In Jesus' time, and still in some parts of the world today, there would be flocks of sheep grazing in the pastures. The shepherds were the men who looked after the flocks and made sure none of the sheep got lost or hurt or attacked by wild animals.

The Church is the flock of Jesus, and He is the Good Shepherd. He guides the people in the Church so that their souls will not be hungry- He gives us grace, just like a shepherd makes sure his sheep have lots of grass to eat!

Like the shepherd protects the sheep from danger, Our Lord also protects us from harm. In the "Our Father" we ask God to deliver us from evil. When our souls are hurt by sin, the Good Shepherd heals us with forgiveness in Confession.

www.thekidsbulletin.com