

# ST. MARY PARISH

518 South 2nd Street; PO Box 847; Guttenberg, Iowa 52052

Newsletter: Feb 09, 2023 ~ Rectory: 563-252-1247 ~ Fr.'s Cell: 563-258-3958 ~ [www.maryicjoseph.org](http://www.maryicjoseph.org)

## LIVE THE LITURGY: IF

~ Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman, ©LPi

It's a surprising little word — if. For such a short word, it holds an abundance of excuses.

Personally, I could buy a new car if I had a dollar for every time I used the word “if” to explain away my own flaws. “If I wasn’t so tired. If we had more money. If the kids weren’t always on my last nerve. If I had more talent. If life wasn’t so hard.”

If, if, if.

I don’t always feel like being the salt of the earth. Can’t someone else season the dish? Sometimes it’s more than I want to give, more than I want to do, more than I want to be. Sharing my bread, sheltering the oppressed, clothing the naked, and accompanying my neighbor — doing these things in the literal or figurative sense can be completely exhausting. Mediocrity is so easy. It’s so comfortable.

But *if*. It looms again, that short but powerful word.

“If” can be deep with excuses, but it can also be wide with possibility. If I bring it all to God. If I stop relying on my own abilities. If I prayed more than I talked. If I make my heart firm. If my faith does not rest on human wisdom.

If not me, who? If not now, when?

“*You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden.*” — Matthew 5:14

### KC Pancake & Sausage Breakfast

Drive-thru and Dine In; St. Mary Church

**Sunday, February 12, 8-11:30am**

Free will donation. Proceeds will go to the  
Special Projects Fund



### BAPTISM INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD & OUR COMMUNITIES OF FAITH:

Sunday, February 12 at St. Mary, Guttenberg after Mass

**Jaydin Andrew Grinstead**

infant son of Jarid & Taylor (Fassbinder) Grinstead

May you grow in age, knowledge & wisdom in the Lord!

### Volunteers Needed . . .

St. Mary Parish is looking for volunteers for:

- Decorating the altar and church
- Repairing/painting the nativity set animals, wise men, etc.

Please call the parish office for more info, 252-1247.

The Choir is still looking for a part time pianist to help with practices and special events. If you have an interest please contact Gina at (563)213-9021 or [farmgirlgdo@gmail.com](mailto:farmgirlgdo@gmail.com)

**PARISH LIFE** will be hosting coffee, juice, milk and donuts on Sunday, **February 19, 2023** after Mass. Come and socialize with our faith community.



**Fellowship**

### Mass Schedule: February 13 – February 19, 2023

**Mon., Feb 13:** [No Mass Scheduled]

**Tues., Feb 14:** [No Mass Scheduled]

**Wed., Feb 15:** 8:30 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg  
*Bernice Haas & Tony Schissel*

**Thur., Feb 16:** 10:00 A.M. - Guttenberg Care Center  
*People of the Parish*

**Fri., Feb 17:** [No Mass Scheduled]

**Sat., Feb 18:** Vigil of Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time  
4:00 P.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo  
*Cindy Mueller & Phil Moser*  
5:30 P.M.—St. Mary, Guttenberg  
*Don & Janice Rohner*

**Sun., Feb 19:** Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time  
8:30 A.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista  
10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass. *Live Streamed*  
*Marvin Nieland & Bob Gerken*

Joint St. Mary Finance & Parish Council Meeting: Monday, March 6, 6:30pm in Brinkmann Hall

## GOSPEL REFLECTION: The Heart in Your Hands

~source: Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman, LPI

*Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.*” Matthew 5:17

In my work as a freelance writer, I often find myself producing content on the subject of Catholic schools. For more than ten years, I’ve written hundreds of articles about Catholic schools, coming at the issue from every angle. I’ve written about current Catholic school families, and the sacrifices they make to ensure their children receive a Catholic education. I’ve written about alumni and their feelings about the education they received in a Catholic educational setting. I’ve written about the importance of Catholic identity in a Catholic school, and the lengths to which teachers and staff members will go to ensure their classrooms aren’t offering merely a private education, but a Catholic one.

All this writing — hundreds of thousands of words, if you added it all up, I’m sure — and it all says basically the same thing. *It’s about the whole person.*

In a Catholic school, you’re not just going to learn math and science and language arts and all other sorts of things that are good for your intellect, you’re going to learn about the Incarnation, about God’s plan for you, about salvation history and the Great Commission. You’re going to learn about the stuff that’s good for your soul.

*It’s about the whole person.*

That’s the catchphrase when it comes to Catholic education, but it reflects the Catholic worldview as a whole, and it’s a worldview that has its origins in today’s Gospel passage, when Christ breaks the bad news that he hasn’t come to do away with any rules, but to add one ginormous, supreme, uber-important clause to every existing part of God’s law. It’s a clause, I think, that can best be expressed in the words of [St. Camillus de Lellis](#), “Put your heart in your hands.”

It matters if you have anger in your heart, Christ tells us. It matters if you have lust in your heart. It matters.

*It’s about the whole person.*

Whatever you do, you have your heart in your hands. It doesn’t matter if you’re offering a sacrifice exactly as the Book of Leviticus dictates it should be offered. Your heart is now in your hands, and if the heart is not pure, neither is the sacrifice. It’s the whole-person approach to the law.

It’s significant, too, that, when Christ tells us to “be reconciled with your brother” before making an offering to God, he doesn’t forget to tell us to make the offering in the end: “and then come and offer your gift.” As he said, he’s not here to abolish the law. He doesn’t care *only* about what is in our hearts, he cares what our hands are doing, too. The law is still in effect, it matters what you do. But it also matters why you do it. The law now includes the heart.

*It’s about the whole person.*

**Catholic Charities Helps the Most Vulnerable:** Did you know that individual contributions make up nearly 50% of Catholic Charities’ annual operating budget – every gift is important and every gift helps! As the social service arm of the Catholic Church, Catholic Charities’ work to the most vulnerable among us is critical. Make your contribution to the Catholic Charities Annual Appeal today by mailing your gift to Catholic Charities, 1229 Mt. Loretta Ave, Dubuque 52003 or by visiting [www.CatholicCharitiesDubuque.org/donate](http://www.CatholicCharitiesDubuque.org/donate).

### DAILY REFLECTIONS

**FOR LENT** booklets will be available in the entry ways of church starting the weekend of February 11 & 12.

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*A Lifetime of JOY*

Sign up for Best Lent Ever at [dynamiccatholic.com](http://dynamiccatholic.com)

### Upcoming Parish Events . . .

Feb 12: KC Breakfast, Pancakes and Sausage, 8-11:30am  
Feb 14: Scripture Study, 8:30 am  
Feb 15: Faith Formation/Youth Ministry, 6 and 6:15pm  
Feb 16: Scripture Study, 6:30pm  
Feb 21: Scripture Study, 8:30 am  
Feb 22: Ash Wednesday, Faith Formation/Youth Ministry  
Feb 23: Scripture Study, 6:30pm  
Feb 28: Scripture Study, 8:30 am  
Mar 2: Scripture Study, 6:30pm  
Mar 6: Finance & Parish Council, 6:30pm, Brinkmann

Missing the Bulletin Emails? Check your spam/junk folder. If you are not on the bulletin email list and would like to be; email [OfficeOfStMary@gmail.com](mailto:OfficeOfStMary@gmail.com)

Mar 8: Faith Formation/Youth Ministry, 6 and 6:15pm  
Mar 11: Keystone Acapella Choir will sing at 5:30pm

### A Stewardship Moment

Stewardship involves more than just the gift we bring to the altar. Today’s readings say clearly that it is fidelity to God’s law that makes our offering acceptable.

June 4: Celebration of Fr. Bries’ 50th Jubilee of Priesthood Ordination