

# ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: Feb 16, 2023 ~ Rectory: 563-252-1247 ~ Fr.'s Cell: 563-258-3958 ~ www.maryicjoseph.org

## LIVE THE LITURGY: Feelings and Shiny Things

~ Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman, ©LPI

A friend of mine has a tradition on the first birthday of her children. Three items — a coin, a shot glass, and a rosary — are placed in front of the one-year-old, and whatever object he grasps supposedly bears insight into his future. A coin promises wealth, the rosary indicates holiness, and the shot glass...well, I'm sure you can guess.

Of course, the kid just grabs whatever looks coolest. They're not really choosing money or God or a party. Their choice is ruled by impulse.

These days, "I'm not feeling it," is a genuine excuse to avoid something. "I feel that," we say to indicate agreement. "I feel like..." is an acceptable way to offer our opinion. Feelings carry a lot of weight.

Before Christ, there was only the law, and the law dealt primarily with actions. *Do this. Do not do this.* All well and good. But with the fulfillment of the law, Christ wants us to look inwardly. He wants us to consider the influence of our feelings on our actions, and to understand how our chosen actions can, in turn, inspire certain feelings.

I'm a millennial, so, depending on your age, you may think that I feel either too much or too little. One thing I have learned, though, is that when I give my feelings free rein, my instincts immediately turn into actions. I become the toddler grasping at shiny objects with no thought for what they represent. Anger becomes unkindness. Jealousy becomes cruelty. Fear becomes selfishness.

Free will, I have come to understand, means freedom from the tyranny of feelings. If a feeling is strong enough, it can build a prison.

*"If your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away."* — Matthew 5:30

**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**

**Preschool, Kindergarten and 1st graders** join us for **Sunday School** in the SMIC Faith Formation building on Sundays from 9:45am -10:45am. March 5, 12, & 19.

### REGULATIONS FOR LENT

1.) **Fasting** means that we eat only one full meal on the fast day. Ash Wednesday & Good Friday are days when we are obliged to fast. Two other light meals are permitted, but eating between meals is not permitted. You are obliged to observe the fast days from the day after your eighteenth birthday until the day after your fifty-ninth birthday. Pregnant women and people who are sick are not obliged to fast.

2.) **Abstinence** means we do **not** eat **meat**. Ash Wednesday & all the Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence. The obligation to abstain begins the day after your fourteenth birthday.

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

### Mass Schedule: February 20 – February 26, 2023

**Mon., Feb 20:** [No Mass Scheduled]

**Tues., Feb 21: EVE OF ASH WEDNESDAY**

7:00 P.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista

**Wed., Feb 22: ASH WEDNESDAY**

**(Day of Fast & Abstinence)**

4:00 P.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo

*Elaine/Carol/LeeAllen/Alissa Troester*

6:30 P.M.—St. Mary, Guttenberg

**Simple Soup Supper to follow, all are welcome**

*Frank Spielbauer Family & Mary (Lee) Green*

**Thur., Feb 23:** 8:30 A.M. - Guttenberg River Living Center

*People of the Parish*

**Fri., Feb 24:** [No Mass Scheduled], **Day of Abstinence**

**Sat., Feb 25:** Vigil of First Sunday of Lent

3:40 P.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo, Way of the Cross

4:00 P.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo, Mass

*Bert Behrend & Tracy Werges*

5:10 P.M.—St. Mary, Guttenberg, Way of the Cross

5:30 P.M.—St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass

*Robert 'Bob' Hoffmann & Tony Schissel*

**Sun., Feb 26:** First Sunday of Lent

8:10 A.M. – IC, N. Buena Vista, Way of the Cross

8:30 A.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista

9:40 A.M.— St. Mary, Guttenberg, Way of the Cross

10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass. **Live Streamed**

*Deborah Sue Bries & Charlie Bries*

## GOSPEL REFLECTION: Loving Even Your Enemies

~source: mycatholic.life

Nowhere in the Old Testament does it say that we should hate our enemies. Note that Jesus did not say “It has been written...” Instead, He says, “You have heard that it was said...” So who said this? Some traditions among the scribes and Pharisees held this erroneous belief. Because some held that position, Jesus addressed it.

In this passage and in many others, Jesus calls us to a new depth of love that many thought impossible. In fact, even Jesus Himself acknowledged the height of His teaching when, at the conclusion of this passage, He says, “So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.” Too often in life we settle for everything other than perfection. And though we may never achieve that level of holiness in this life, it must be our constant goal. In regard to our “enemies,” perfect love for them must become our daily mission.

So who is your “enemy?” Though Jesus does not define this for us, we should consider it to be anyone with whom there is some form of tension or discord. Perhaps there is someone who hates or dislikes you and speaks ill of you or treats you poorly. Or perhaps there is someone whom you dislike and find yourself angry at or even judgmental toward. So begin by trying to identify anyone with whom you have a lack of perfect affection. In truth, there might be many more people on that list than on the list of those you “love.”

Once you identify those who fall into the category of enemy to one extent or another, consider whether you love them. One Church Father says that we love our enemy “when we are not sorrowful at his success, or rejoice in his fall.” This is a very helpful definition to consider. Ultimately, this is the definition of envy.

If someone whom you dislike succeeds in something praiseworthy, how do you react interiorly? If there is an immediate visceral reaction or if you find yourself trying to figure out why they should be congratulated, then you might struggle with this sin. Or consider what you think, say or feel if you hear that someone you dislike has some problem, gets into some trouble, or encounters some misfortune. The ideal response is empathy and a desire for their well-being. If this is not the response within you, then pay attention to that.

Jesus concludes His teaching by saying that His Father “makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust.” In other words, God bestows His perfect love and mercy upon everyone equally. The only difference is that some people choose to accept that mercy and others reject it. As for ourselves, just like our loving God, we must offer love and mercy to everyone equally and as completely as we can. And though some may reject that love, just as they reject the love of God, it must always be offered and never rescinded. This is love of neighbor and also love of our enemies.

Reflect, today, upon those with whom you struggle to love to perfection. Perhaps that list is long. Start with those you encounter most often or those to whom you have a strong negative reaction. As you call them to mind, pray for them, for their good and for God’s blessings upon them. Try to see some goodness in them. Try to thank God for them, and try to remove any disordered feelings or thoughts you might have about them. This is the first step in your mission to fulfill Jesus’ new command of love.

*My loving Lord, You love and bestow Your unlimited mercy upon all people, the good and bad alike. I pray that I may always be open to that love and receive it deeply into my own life. I pray also that Your love may shine through me into the lives of those who need it the most. Jesus, I trust in You.*

**Catholic Charities Offers Important Services to Stabilize Families:** Did you know that Catholic Charities offers a diverse array of ministries and services throughout the Archdiocese of Dubuque, including Mental Health Counseling, Affordable Housing, Immigration Legal Services, Jail & Prison Reentry Services, Case Management Services, Post-Adoption Search, and Crisis Pregnancy Counseling? We ask you to consider supporting these services with your gift to the Catholic Charities Annual Appeal. Learn more at [www.CatholicCharitiesDubuque.org](http://www.CatholicCharitiesDubuque.org).

**St. Joseph’s Lenten Fish Fry, March 3, 10 & 17; 5-8pm;**

\$15 adults; \$10 ages 5-12 and under 5 free

### A Stewardship Moment

In today’s first reading, the Israelites are urged to love their neighbors as themselves. In the Gospel, Jesus spells out how we are to do that --- to give generously to those who ask of us and not to turn our backs on those who seek to borrow.

**DAILY REFLECTIONS FOR LENT** booklets are available in the entry ways of church

### Upcoming Parish Events . . . .

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  
Mar 7: Scripture Study, 8:30 am  
St. Anne’s Mtg, Noon in Monona  
KC Mtg, 7:30pm  
Mar 8: Faith Formation/Youth Ministry, 6 and 6:15pm  
Mar 9: Scripture Study, 6:30pm  
Mar 11: Keystone Acapella Choir will sing at 5:30pm  
June 4: Celebration of Fr. Bries’ 50th Jubilee of Priesthood Ordination