

ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: Feb 29, 2024 ~ Rectory: 563-252-1247 ~ Fr.'s Cell: 563-258-3958 ~ www.maryicjoseph.org

LIVE THE LITURGY: "Cleanse your Temple"

source: *young-catholics.com*

In today's gospel, Jesus demonstrates the importance of having a pure heart through his actions in the temple. By driving out the merchants and money changers, Jesus was purifying the temple of all that was contrary to God's will. He was removing the distractions and impurities that had taken over the temple and restoring it to its intended purpose as a place of worship and prayer.

The cleansing of the temple by Jesus serves as a powerful metaphor for personal transformation. Reflect on what "merchants and money changers" exist within your own heart and mind—these could be sinful habits, selfish desires, or anything that keeps you from God. Consider how you can "cleanse your temple" this Lent. What steps can you take to eliminate these distractions or impurities? This might involve seeking reconciliation through Confession, engaging in spiritual reading, or dedicating time for silent meditation. How can such actions help purify your intentions and align your will more closely with God's?

"Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus."

~ 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

World Day of Prayer will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church on March 1 at 1pm. All are invited to attend.

KC Biscuits and Gravy Breakfast

Sunday, March 10, 8-11:30am

St. Mary Church
Drive-thru and Dine In
Free will donation.

Mass Schedule: Mar 4 – Mar 10, 2024

Mon., Mar 4: [No Mass Scheduled]

Tues., Mar 5: [No Mass Scheduled]

Wed., Mar 6: 8:30 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg
Elmer Bries

Thur., Mar 7: 10:00 A.M. - Guttenberg Care Center –
People of the Parish

Fri., Mar 8: 4:30 P.M. – St. Joseph, Garnavillo, *Day of Abstinence*
Gerald Hoeger & Glenn Berns

Sat., Mar 9: Vigil of Fourth Sunday of Lent
St. Joseph, Garnavillo:
3:40 P.M. – Way of the Cross
4:00 P.M. – Mass, *Amy Hoeger & Angie Berns*
St. Mary, Guttenberg:
5:10 P.M. – Way of the Cross
5:30 P.M. – Mass, *Robert 'Bob' & Jean Goedken*

Daylight Savings Time begins – spring forward one hour

Sun., Mar 10: Fourth Sunday of Lent
Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista:
8:00 A.M. – Way of the Cross
8:30 A.M. – Mass
St. Mary, Guttenberg:
9:40 A.M. Way of the Cross
10:00 A.M. – Mass, *live streamed*
Sherrie Westemeier & Dec'd of Class of 1956

MOVIE: On March 17, the **FAMILY CAMP** movie will be presented, after the 10:00 Mass, about 11:30, in Brinkmann Hall after a **FREE** lite luncheon, by the PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE. The film, **FAMILY CAMP**, demonstrates that we are all flawed. This is a family-friendly movie that is based on the Christian faith and teaches important lessons. Sometimes the most unexpected relationships we form are the ones that help us reflect on ourselves the most.

Roof Replacement Projects

The roofs on the church and the old school will be replaced in 2024. Donations are being accepted. Please make checks out to St. Mary Parish and indicate Roof Project in the memo.

"Save Time and Donate Online!"

Online Giving is available with WeShare, an easy and convenient way to save time and support the church. Goto: <https://maryicjoseph.weshareonline.org/>

GOSPEL REFLECTION: The Temple

source: www.young-catholics.org

The gospel for the 3rd Sunday of Lent takes place in the temple. We must understand that the temple in Jerusalem was considered the most holy place for the Jewish people, and it was a place where they would come to offer sacrifices and worship God. The Israelites believed God was really present in the temple. The sales going on there enabled people traveling from afar to purchase animals for sacrifice. This was a great convenience.

However, the presence of the merchants and money changers had turned the temple into a marketplace, which was not only disrespectful but also a distraction from the true purpose of the temple. Jesus, as the Son of God, recognized this and was filled with a righteous anger that compelled him to drive out the merchants and money changers.

In a similar way, we are called to reflect on this Gospel reading and ask ourselves how we may have turned our own lives into a marketplace, where we prioritize material possessions and worldly pursuits over our relationship with God. Like the merchants and money changers, we may have allowed distractions and temptations to take over our lives, causing us to lose sight of what is truly important.

Fundraisers and youth sports activities are not bad in themselves, but they should not interfere with our attendance at Mass. Our focus must be on the Eucharist. We must not allow what is going on at our parishes to distract us from their central purpose - the worship of God.

We must also recognize that the temple in Jerusalem was a foreshadowing of the true temple, which is the body of Christ. As Catholics, we believe that Jesus is present in the Eucharist, and that every time we participate in Mass, we are entering into the presence of God. Let us approach the Eucharist with reverence and awe, just as the Jewish people approached the temple in Jerusalem. Let us also strive to make our own bodies and hearts a worthy dwelling place for Christ, so that we may be a true reflection of his love and mercy to the world.

Fish Fries at St. Joseph Parish, Garnavillo

March 1 and March 8; 5-8 pm
Adults \$15; Kids 5-12 \$10; under 5 free
Raffle Drawing; Carryouts Available

A Stewardship Moment

The blind man was willing to let Jesus minister to him and willingly did all Jesus asked of him. The Pharisees were more resistant to His message, spending their time and energy to disprove the miracle. Which am I more like, the man born blind or the Pharisees?

Your Gift Changes Lives Through Catholic Charities:

Our generous supporters directly impacted the 79,281 people we helped at Catholic Charities over the past 5 years alone! Did you know that a gift of \$50 helps put a client on the path to stable employment? Or that a gift of \$150 helps someone take their first step to improve their mental health? Or that a gift of \$300 prevents eviction and keeps a family in their home? Join our community of salt & light today at <https://catholiccharitiesdubuque.org/donate>.

Upcoming Parish Events . . .

- (BH is Brinkmann Hall; PC is Parish Center)
- Feb. 29 Scripture Study, **6:00 – 8:30 PM**, PC
 - Mar 5: Scripture Study, 7:30 – 10:30 AM, PC
Catholic Daughters, Noon, BH
KC Mtg, 7:30pm
 - Mar 6: Sacred Seed Sowers Book Club, 1pm, PC
Faith Formation Classes, 6pm
 - Mar 7: Scripture Study, 6:30 – 8:30pm, PC
 - Mar 10: KC Breakfast, 8-11:30am, BH
 - Mar 12: Scripture Study, 7:30 – 10:30am, PC
 - Mar 13: Faith Formation Classes, 6pm
 - Mar 14: Scripture Study, 6:30 – 8:30pm, PC
 - Mar 17: Movie presentation...**Family Camp**, BH
 - Mar 20: Sacred Seed Sowers Book Club, 1pm, PC
Faith Formation Classes, 6pm
2nd grade 1st Reconciliation
 - Mar 24: Commissioning of new & current Eucharistic Ministers and Readers at Mass

Fast from

- Fast from judging others; fill yourself with the Christ who lives in them.
- Fast from discontent; fill yourself with gratitude.
- Fast from anger; fill yourself with patience.
- Fast from pessimism; fill yourself with optimism.
- Fast from worries; fill yourself with trust in God.
- Fast from complaining; fill yourself with appreciating your surroundings

Please email items for the bulletin by 7:30am Wednesday morning to OfficeOfStMary@gmail.com

Save the Date St. Mary's Alumni Banquet

Saturday, June 8, Brinkmann Hall. Doors open at 4:00. Mass at 5:30. Dinner following. Plan to celebrate our exceptional St. Mary's heritage with classmates, family and friends

Priest: Rev. Marvin J. Bries, 563-252-1247
Deacon: James Pfaffly, 563-880-9696
Faith Formation: Erin Schmelzer, 563-880-7471
Parish Life: Lois Bries, 563-252-3026
Stewardship/Liturgy: Sue Bahls, 563-252-3253
Social Justice: Gerald Bormann, 563-419-6967
Choir: Gina Dahlstrom-Osburn, 563-213-9021

Finance:
Jim Schlueter
563-252-1490
Steve Bahls
Marv Althoff
Jeff Burr
Al Schlueter
Tom Augustyn

Parish Council:
Don Scherbring
563-252-1556
Gerald Bormann
Lois Bries
Sue Bahls
Adam Scherbring

Parish Center: Lora Kolker, 563-880-9111
Parish Center Reservations: 563-252-1577
Knights: Adam Scherbring, 563-880-3808
St. Anne: Maggie Schlueter, 563-252-1490
Cath Daughters: Lois Bries: 563-252-3026
Prayer Line: Betty Evers, 563-252-1666
Friends of St Mary: Jane Parker, 563-880-5469

Stephen Ministry: Becky Shaffer, 319-393-1234