

ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: Mar 7, 2024 ~ Rectory: 563-252-1247 ~ Fr.'s Cell: 563-258-3958 ~ www.maryicjoseph.org

LIVE THE LITURGY:

Laetare Sunday

source: young-catholics.com/catholicculture.org

On this 4th Sunday of Lent, embracing gratitude as a form of prayer can profoundly deepen one's spiritual journey. By taking time to specifically list things for which we are grateful, we actively recognize and celebrate God's unwavering presence and blessings in our lives. This practice of gratitude not only fosters a deeper connection with the divine but also shifts our perspective, illuminating the myriad ways God's grace manifests daily. Creating a gratitude list on this day serves as a meaningful reflection during Lent, reminding us of the abundant love and mercy God extends to us, especially in times of preparation and renewal.

This Sunday is known as **Laetare Sunday**; it is a Sunday of joy! Lent is half over, and Easter is enticingly near. This Sunday is our foretaste of Easter joy. Knowing the ebb and flow of intensity even in our best efforts, God deals with us tenderly in rhythms of consolation and desertion. So today, thoughts of freedom and joy come in the middle of Lent. But the joy does more than cushion our failing energies and needle our lagging spirits. It is a positive, meaningful joy, born of our fruitful life in Christ and of our sweet freedom as His purchased children. The Eucharistic banquet of heavenly Bread, foreshadowed by the multiplied loaves and fishes and become now the Bread of Life for the whole Christian world, adds to our Laetare joy the quiet gladness of every festive meal.

KC Biscuits and Gravy Breakfast

Sunday, March 10, 8-11:30am

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

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/>

Mass Schedule: Mar 11 – Mar 17, 2024

Mon., Mar 11: [No Mass Scheduled]

Tues., Mar 12: 8:30 A.M. - St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Janaan Bauer & Mary Jane Steger

Wed., Mar 13: 8:30 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg
Willis Wagner & Roger Bries

Thur., Mar 14: 8:30 A.M. - Guttenberg River Living Center
Fred Bush & Lucille Schissel (C.D. of A.)

Fri., Mar 15: [No Mass Scheduled], *Day of Abstinence*

Sat., Mar 16: Vigil of Fifth Sunday of Lent
St. Joseph, Garnavillo:
3:40 P.M. – Way of the Cross
4:00 P.M. – Mass, *Glenn Berns & L'Dean Berns*
St. Mary, Guttenberg:
5:10 P.M.– Way of the Cross
5:30 P.M. – Mass, *Albert 'Chips' & Marie Bieber*

Sun., Mar 17: Fifth Sunday of Lent
Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista:
8:00 A.M. – Way of the Cross
8:30 A.M. – Mass *People of the Parish*
St. Mary, Guttenberg:
9:40 A.M. Way of the Cross
10:00 A.M. – Mass, *live streamed*
Living & Dec'd of Henry Taake Family

The readings for the 4th Sunday of Lent are a reminder of God's love for humanity and the gift of salvation that He offers to all who believe in His Son, Jesus Christ. Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness to bring physical healing to the people of Israel, Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection brings spiritual healing and eternal life to all who believe in Him.

As Catholics, we are called to reflect on the depth of God's love for us and the sacrifice that Jesus made on the cross to redeem us from our sins. We are invited to believe in Him and to trust in His grace and mercy, knowing that salvation is a free gift that we cannot earn through our own works.

At the same time, the readings also remind us of the importance of living out our faith through good works and a life of service to others. We are called to be witnesses to the love of Christ in the world, reflecting His light and sharing His message of hope with all those we encounter.

In this Lenten season, let us take time to reflect on the profound love that God has for us and the sacrifice that Jesus made for our salvation. May we renew our commitment to live out our faith through works of love and service, sharing the good news of the gospel with all those around us.

2024-2026 Institute of the Transfiguration Spiritual Director Training

The next offering of the *Institute of the Transfiguration* spiritual director training program will begin this September. This two-year formation program is most especially for priests, deacons and their wives, faith formation leaders, pastoral associates, alumni of the Lay Formation and IMPACT programs, and active Catholic parishioners who feel called to the ministry of spiritual direction. Monthly sessions will be held on Saturdays at St. Stephen the Witness Student Center in Cedar Falls. To learn more, visit: www.dbqarch.org/spiritual-director-training. To apply, please complete the application found [here](#) by April 15. For questions, please contact [Matt Selby](mailto:m.selby@dbqarch.org). (m.selby@dbqarch.org)

A Stewardship Moment

All that we have and all that we are comes from the Lord. "We are truly his handiwork," says St. Paul in the second reading, "created in Christ Jesus to lead a life of good deeds which God prepared for us in advance."

Upcoming Parish Events . . .

(BH is Brinkmann Hall; PC is Parish Center)

- 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 23: 2nd grade bread baking, 9am—noon, BH
- Mar 24: Commissioning of new & current Eucharistic Ministers and Readers at Mass
Palm Sunday
- Mar 31 Easter Sunday
- Apr 7: First Communion Mass
- May 1: Confirmation

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

Virtual Session on How to Help Parishioners Enhance their Prayer Lives: Pope Francis has declared 2024 as the Year of Prayer in preparation for the Jubilee Year in 2025. The Catechism defines prayer as "a vital and personal relationship with the living and true God" (CCC, 2558). Faith Formation Leaders are invited to a virtual session on **Tuesday, March 12 from 10:30-11:30 AM** to explore ways to help parishioners (whether children, youth, or adults) enhance their prayer lives. To RSVP to receive the Zoom link, please [email Matt Selby](mailto:m.selby@dbqarch.org). (m.selby@dbqarch.org)

Commissioning & recommissioning of new and current **Lectors and Extraordinary Eucharistic ministers** on Sunday March 24, 2024 during the 10:00 am Mass. There will be a reserved section in the front pews to sit together as a group. Following Mass there will be refreshments served in Brinkman Hall honoring this group.

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