

ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: Apr 06, 2023 ~ Rectory: 563-252-1247 ~ Fr.'s Cell: 563-258-3958 ~ www.maryicjoseph.org

LIVE THE LITURGY: Risen with Him

source: Rev. Richard Gabuzda

On this Easter day we want to receive the news of Jesus Risen not as an announcement of an event from long ago and far away. We want to receive this Good News now: “This, today, is the day the Lord has made!”

St. Paul comes to our help in the passage given for Easter Sunday from the Letter to the Colossians. In those few brief lines, St. Paul uses the word “with” three times, each use building upon the previous one and leading to an increasing depth of meaning and feeling. “You were raised with Christ.” No isolated event from long ago and far away—the resurrection of Jesus in our own flesh and given to us in the grace of baptism assures us that resurrection is ours as well. Mysteriously, we already share in the resurrection. What might that mean?

“Your life is hidden with Christ in God.” Not a vague event in the past or simply the promise of life in a distant future—the resurrection of Jesus means that our life is in and with his life now, invisible to all except to those with the eyes of faith. Nothing can steal that from us. It is a “buried treasure” of sorts—life with him, Jesus sharing life with us, day in and day out. He is risen and is with us! Where will this lead? “You too will appear with him in glory.” Our future life, the life of resurrection, is no mere survival or continuation of life as it is, just “more of the same.” No, we are promised glory—as St. Paul says in the Letter to the Romans, “I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us.” The First Letter of John describes this glory: “We shall be like him for we shall see him as he is.” And, even more dramatically, the First Letter of Peter declares: we shall share in “the divine nature.”

With encouragement from St. Paul, we want to ask for this Easter grace: Jesus, give me the grace, stir my heart, to know and feel more profoundly that you are with me and I with you today, tomorrow and eternally!



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

Saturday, April 15, at St. Mary, Guttenberg after Mass

Eden Luella Rausch

daughter of Phil & Brittany (Lucas) Rausch

Sunday, April 23, at St. Mary, Guttenberg after Mass

Raelynn Rose Walke

daughter of Brett & Alicia (Krones) Walke

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

Alleluia
He is
Risen
Resurrection, knowing
he is always by our side!

A joint Finance/Administration & Parish Pastoral Council meeting was held on April 3rd to address the regular agenda as well as the future of the vacant school and convent buildings. With the final tallied Parish Survey results and comments from guests, it was decided by council consensus vote to table the Clayton Ridge School rental proposal of the newer school building until the 2024-2025 school year. During this time the parishioners of St. Mary's will be given the chance to implement and utilize this building as a viable Parish Center. Thank you to all who took part in the survey and or voiced their cares and concerns.

Mass Schedule: April 10 – April 16, 2023

Mon., Apr 10: [No Mass Scheduled]

Tues., Apr 11: 8:30 A.M. – St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Jane (Matt) Siebrecht & Kathleen Nieland

Wed., Apr 12: 8:30 A.M.—St. Mary, Guttenberg
Tom Kuempel [Month Mind]

Thur., Apr 13: 8:30 A.M. – Guttenberg River Living Center
People of the Parish

Fri., Apr 14: [No Mass Scheduled]

Sat., Apr 15: Vigil of Second Sunday of Easter
4:00 P.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Bert Behrend & Tracy Werges
5:30 P.M.—St. Mary, Guttenberg
Robert 'Bob' Hoffmann & Tony Schissel

Sun., Apr 16: Second Sunday of Easter, **First Communion**
8:30 A.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista
10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass. *Live Streamed*
Lynne Finnegan & Steve Steger

GOSPEL REFLECTION: God Is Always at Work

source: young-catholics.com

Easter is the most important feast in the Catholic liturgical calendar, as it celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Through his death and Resurrection, Jesus has triumphed over sin and death, and offers us the hope of new life and salvation.

The readings for Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday remind us of God's goodness, power, and saving work throughout history. From the Creation Story to the Exodus from Egypt, God has been at work, leading his people to freedom and new life. In the Epistle reading, St. Paul exhorts us to die to sin and live for God, emphasizing the importance of baptism and faith in Jesus. And in the Gospel reading, we hear the amazing news of Jesus' Resurrection, which brings hope and new life to all who believe.

This message of hope is especially important in our world today, where there is so much suffering, pain, and despair. We are all touched by the effects of sin and death, whether in our own lives or in the lives of those around us. But the Resurrection of Jesus offers us a way out of this darkness. It reminds us that death is not the final word, and that God never abandons us, even in our darkest moments.

As we celebrate Easter, we are called to let go of sin and selfishness, and to embrace the new life and hope that Jesus offers. We are called to let Easter change our hearts and transform our lives, so that we may become more fully the people that God created us to be. We are called to be bearers of hope and agents of new life, bringing the light of Christ to a world that is so often shrouded in darkness.

Luke's writings in the Bible remind us that God sent his Son to free us from sin and death and to live without fear. This message is just as important today as it was in the time of the early Christians. Sometimes, religion can become focused on ceremony and lose its true meaning. The Resurrection of Jesus is a powerful reminder of the transformative power of our faith.

The message of the empty tomb was initially confusing to the disciples. They couldn't understand where the body had gone and what had happened. However, when they were reminded of Jesus' words, the message began to make sense to them. Similarly, the experiences of our lives can sometimes be confusing and difficult to interpret without faith. We need to remember that, through the Resurrection, God has the power to transform our lives.

The early disciples were so energized by the shock of the Resurrection that nothing, not even death or persecution, could stop them from spreading the Good News. We too, as Christians, must be willing to hear the message of transformation and then spread it to others. We should not keep the Good News to ourselves, but share it with others so that they too can experience the joy and hope that comes from knowing Jesus.

So let us rejoice and be glad this Easter, as we celebrate the triumph of Jesus over sin and death. Let us give thanks to God for the gift of new life, and let us renew our commitment to follow Jesus, the risen Lord, wherever he may lead us. May the hope and joy of Easter fill our hearts and our lives, now and always.

Women's Faith Sharing Group

We are hoping to start a faith sharing women's group & are looking for anyone that may be interested in participating. Please join us **April 23th** after Mass for coffee/coffee cakes to learn more and we will decide the best day and time for future gatherings. We hope to see you there! Contact Jenn (Pfaffly) Glenis at 608-225-3018 or Jennifer.glenis@gmail.com or Jim Pfaffly at 563-880-9696 for questions or more information.

"SPIRITUAL DVDS" There are spiritual DVD's available for your viewing at home. These are 'free' for you to use but do request them to be returned so that others may use them. They are located in the area by the CD's and books in the entry way of church. *This is brought to you by the PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE.*

A Stewardship Moment

Very early in the morning after the Sabbath, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body with precious oils. The reward of this good and conscientious steward was to be among the first to know that Jesus had been raised from the dead! Alleluia!

COMMUNITY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2023:

"Shine Jesus' Light"; June 12-16, 2023. Sponsored by the Living Water, United Methodist, St. Mary's Catholic, St. Paul Lutheran & St. John's Lutheran Churches. For all area children – Age 4 (by Sept. 15th 2022) through 6th Grade. Grandparents and others with children visiting during the week of VBS are invited to attend. **QUESTIONS OR TO VOLUNTEER, CALL ST. JOHN'S OFFICE @ 252-2355.**

Upcoming Parish Events

Apr 12: Faith Formation/Youth Ministry, 6 and 6:15pm
Apr 16: First Communion
Apr 19: Faith Formation/Youth Ministry, 6 and 6:15pm
Apr 22/23: Lifesaver Weekend; Proceeds to domestic abuse charities.
Apr 23: Women's Faith Sharing Information/
Organizational Mtg after Mass
Apr 30: Coffee and Donuts after Mass
May 2: CDA Meeting, Noon in Monona
KC Meeting, 7:30pm
May 3: Last Faith Formation Class & May
Crowning; 6:30pm Mass/Family Dinner
June 4: Celebration of Fr. Bries' 50th Jubilee of
Priesthood Ordination