

ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: Apr 20, 2023 ~ Rectory: 563-252-1247 ~ Fr.'s Cell: 563-258-3958 ~ www.maryicjoseph.org

LIVE THE LITURGY: Walking Away

Despondent and discouraged, two of Jesus' apostles walked from Jerusalem to Emmaus. They talked on their way about the events that had occurred in the past several days. A stranger joined them, actually Jesus, but they didn't recognize him at first. Jesus asked the apostles what they had been discussing, and they responded with a summary of the events surrounding Jesus' death. The disciples still did not understand the resurrection, but Jesus questioned their resistance to believe what the prophets had foretold. Despite their hopelessness the apostles invited Jesus to stay with them. He accepted. It was that evening, when Jesus broke bread with them, that the disciples finally recognized the stranger to be Jesus. The next morning, the disciples returned to Jerusalem.

To travel from Jerusalem to Emmaus, the disciples had to go west. But after their encounter with Jesus, they returned to Jerusalem, an eastward Journey. We often equate endings with sunsets and new beginnings with sunrises. It is helpful to recall that on the next morning, the apostles walked toward the rising sun. How many sunsets find us falling into bed collapsed from exhaustion? Isn't it true that after a good night's rest we meet the sunrise with new energy and hope?

This Gospel gives us the courage to start again, each new day, with fresh enthusiasm and energy for ourselves, our families, and our God.

source: rclblectionary.com

KC Pancakes & Sausage Breakfast

Drive-thru and Dine In; St. Mary Church

Sunday, April 23, 8-11:30am

Free will donation. Proceeds will go to



Faith Formation

Life Saver Weekend

Catholic Daughters will have a second collection this weekend, April 22 & 23 for victims of abuse.

PARISH LIFE will be hosting coffee, juice, milk and donuts on Sunday, **April 30** after Mass. Come and socialize with our faith community.

Reminder to submit your RSVP to Father Bries' Jubilee Celebration. Please place bottom of invite in baskets in back of church by May 14th or submit your RSVP electronically by clicking [here](#).

Church Exterior Door Replacement:

The Knights of Columbus are coordinating the door replacement project and they are accepting donations for this project. To make a donation, please place an envelope in the collection basket marked KC Door Fund with your check made out to the **Knights of Columbus**.

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



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

Raelynn Rose Walke

daughter of Brett & Alicia (Krones) Walke

Sunday, April 30 at St. Mary, Guttenberg after Mass

Justus LaVerne Hoeger

son of Miranda Hoeger

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

Mass Schedule: April 24 – April 30, 2023

Mon., Apr 24: [No Mass Scheduled]

Tues., Apr 25: 8:30 A.M. – St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Jane (Matt) Siebrecht & Kathleen Nieland

Wed., Apr 26: 8:30 A.M.—St. Mary, Guttenberg
Carol Schlueter

Thur., Apr 27: 8:30 A.M. – Guttenberg River Living Center
Amy (Steffen) Clay

Fri., Apr 28: [No Mass Scheduled]

Sat., Apr 29: Vigil of Fourth Sunday of Easter
4:00 P.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Charlie, Edna & Elaine Rausch
5:30 P.M.—St. Mary, Guttenberg
Donna Balk & Julie Schlueter

Sun., Apr 30: Fourth Sunday of Easter
8:30 A.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista
10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass. *Live Streamed*
People of the Parish

GOSPEL REFLECTION: The Gift of Understanding

source: *mycatholic.life*

With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?" [Luke 24:31-32](#)

This passage above produced a unique blessing. Jesus opened the minds of the Apostles to the Scriptures in a new way. These were ordinary men who were given an extraordinary gift of understanding. It didn't come to them as a result of long study and hard work. Rather, it came to them as a result of their openness to Christ's powerful action in their lives. Jesus unlocked the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven to them. As a result, they suddenly understood truths that could never be learned on their own. So it is with us. The mysteries of God are vast and wide. They are deep and transforming. But so often we fail to understand. We often even fail to want to understand.

Think about those things in your life now, or in your past, that have left you confused. You need a special gift of the Holy Spirit to make sense of them. And you need this gift to make sense of the many good things of God found in the Scriptures also. This is the Gift of Understanding. It's a spiritual gift that unlocks the many mysteries of life for us. Without the Gift of Understanding, we are left on our own to try to make sense of life. This is especially true when we are faced with hardship and suffering. How is it, for example, that an all-powerful and all-loving God can allow the good and the innocent to suffer? How is it that God can seem absent at times from human tragedy?

The truth is that He is not absent. He is centrally involved in all things. What we need to receive is an understanding of the profound and mysterious ways of God. We need to understand the Scriptures, human suffering, human relationships, and divine action in our lives. But this will never happen unless we allow Jesus to open our minds. Allowing Jesus to open our minds takes faith and surrender. It means we believe first and understand later. It means we trust Him even though we do not see. St. Augustine once said, "Faith is to believe what you do not see. The reward of faith is to see what you believe." Are you willing to believe without seeing? Are you willing to believe in the goodness and love of God even though life, or a particular situation in life, does not make sense?

Reflect, today, upon the Gift of Understanding. Believing in God means we believe in a person. We believe in Him even though we find ourselves confused about particular circumstances. But this gift of believing, the gift of faith, opens the door to a depth of understanding that we could never arrive at on our own.

God of all Truth, give me the Gift of Understanding. Help me to know You and to understand Your actions in my life. Help me to especially turn to You in the most troubling moments of life. Jesus, I trust in You.

Gospel Reflection Questions:

Can you think of a time in your life when you didn't recognize Jesus? How patient are you when you are praying? Who in your life is feeling hopelessness and despair? How can you help?

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.

Save the date: **Friday, May 12 at 6:30pm** for the Mother, Daughter, Friend banquet hosted by the United Methodist Church. A meal will be served and the program will feature a speaker from Phelps Farm. Please bring a wrapped small adult gift.

"It will be a time of fun, fellowship and finding joy."

A Stewardship Moment

The disciples on the road to Emmaus walked and talked with Jesus all day long, but it was not until they offered Him hospitality and He blessed and broke the bread that they recognized Him. Simple acts of loving kindness *still* reveal the presence of God in our midst.

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 22/23: Lifesaver Weekend; Proceeds to domestic abuse charities.
Apr 23: KC Breakfast, 8:00-11:30am
Women's Faith Sharing 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
May 12: Mother/Daughter/Friend Banquet, 6:30pm,
United Methodist Church
June 4: Celebration of Fr. Bries' 50th Jubilee of
Priesthood Ordination