

ST. MARY PARISH

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

April 23, 2026 ~ Rectory: 563-252-1247 ~ Fr.'s Cell: 563-880-6017 ~ www.maryicjoseph.org

LIVE THE LITURGY: ~ *Liturgy Group*
 On this Good Shepherd Sunday celebration Jesus employs the image of a gatekeeper and shepherd that is faithful, caring and committed to his flock. There is a bond between the shepherd and sheep that is grounded in mutuality and trust. The sheep are not without responsibility in this relationship. Christian faith is a response to a call from Jesus, the Good Shepherd. He invites us by name to follow him. He is the gate to the Father. As we continue to follow Jesus, we learn and grow in our ability to listen to God's voice. As our relationship grows, we can discern that which draws us closer to God, versus all that draws us away from God. We need to recognize the shepherd's voice and respond, following the Shepherd with trust. We also need to recognize the voices strangers and run away. Discipleship is a continual process of recognizing and responding to the Good Shepherd's voice. What are the false voices that can distort or confuse us?

Journey In Faith: Pastors are in the process of working on the Interim Mass schedule with input from parish councils, staff & deacons. The Interim Mass schedule will be announced at weekend Masses on May 30/31.

How will parish staff and ministries be affected?
 (Added 4/11/26) Parish staff & ministries will increasingly work at the pastorate level, allowing for greater collaboration/consistency across parishes. Some roles will serve multiple parishes within a pastorate, particularly in areas such as evangelization, operations, formation. This structure is intended to strengthen ministry by reducing duplication, improving coordination, allowing staff to focus more fully on mission-centered work.

KC Pancake & Sausage Breakfast
Sunday, May 3; 8-11:30am,
 St. Mary Church, Brinkmann Hall
 Drive-thru & Dine In; Free will offering;
 Honoring Senior Class Grads & Confirmandi

Rectory Roof Replacement: Contractors are at work replacing the rectory roof at estimated cost of \$82,000; donations can be placed in the collection basket.

Mass Counts: Fri 4/17: 18; Sat 4/18: 81
 Sun 4/19: 168; Wed 4/22: 32

2026 Confirmation Class

Please keep these young people in your prayers as they prepare for Confirmation on **Wednesday, Apr 29, 6:30pm.**

Brinlee Arenson	Peyton Lacy	Sawyer Urmanski
Lauren Beck	Clayton Lueck	Ella Vonderhaar
Malachi Bly	Kierra Lueck	Jayda Werger
Josephine Bockenstedt	Levi Lueck	Anna Westhoff
Grant Cherne	Sienna McGuine	Katherine Wilker
William Deutmeyer	Alexis Mescher	Hazel Zebuhr
Riley Errthum	Abrym Millard	
Kyle Gebhardt	Ethan Mueller	
Cade Hansel	Lucas Sadewasser	
Reid Hansel	Camdyn Seeley	
Katelyn Kies	Keegan Sperfslage	



Lord, You send out Your Spirit to touch the hearts of all people, so that they may believe in You and in Jesus whom You sent. Look kindly on these candidates for Confirmation as they listen to Your voice. Open their hearts to Your Spirit and bring to fulfilment the good work that You have begun in them. As we prepare these youth for Confirmation, make each of us an instrument of Your love. Teach us to appreciate what is holy in others, and to be patient with what we do not understand. Deepen our faith in the Gospel and help us to pass it on by our example. We pray that You will continue to guide us and sustain us. Amen.

Mass Schedule: Apr 27 – May 3, 2026

Mon., Apr 27: No Mass Scheduled

Tues., Apr 28: No Mass in Garnavillo; Fr. Paul is at Mason City

Wed., Apr 29: 8:30 A.M. Mass – St. Mary, Guttenberg
Glenn Berns & Angelina Berns
6:30 P.M. Confirmation Mass with Archbishop Zinkula

Thur., Apr 30: 10:00 A.M. Mass—Guttenberg Care Center
Virginette Frommelt

Fri., May 1: 8:30 A.M. Mass – St. Mary, Guttenberg
Gerald Hoeger & Louis/Amy Matt
 9:00-9:45 Confessions

Sat., May 2 : Vigil of 5th Sunday of Easter
 4:00 P.M. Mass—St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Matt Family & Joe Wille
 5:30 P.M. Mass—St. Mary, Guttenberg
Dec'd of Clarence & Alma Saeugling Family

Sun., May 3: 5th Sunday of Easter
 8:30 A.M. Mass – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista
People of the Parish
 10:00 A.M. – Mass – St. Mary, Guttenberg, *live streamed*
High School Graduate Recognition Mass

Homily: 4th Sunday of Easter, Good Shepherd Sunday

~ Fr. Paul

My dear people of God, today is called Good Shepherd Sunday. In the gospel of today, the Lord speaks of Himself as a shepherd. We have seen the wonderfully romantic pictures of a shepherd's life, it is a very difficult and demanding life. Jesus says that the sheep follow the Shepherd because they recognize his voice.

My dear brother and sisters in Christ today there are many voices calling out to us with all kinds of convincing messages. The voice of commercialization, the voice of the radio, television, magazines, press and the newspapers. They are calling you to be happy if you live your life this way or that way. There is another voice by people with certain belief. They say messages like God is dead, religion is the drug of the poor people. Eat, drink, be merry for tomorrow you are gone and that is it. There is also the third voice, the voice of our parents, brothers, sisters and friends. These voices put pressure on us. They attract us and draw us to them.

My dear people of God, today try to discern which voices come to you and see what they are or what they do for you. Some of these voices are not of Jesus. They call and lead us astray. In the second reading, Peter asserted, you have gone astray like sheep. But now you have come back to the Shepherd and guardian of your souls. The Lord is our shepherd if you listen to his voice and follow him, mercy and goodness shall follow you all the days of your life.

Beloved in Christ, today has been designated as world day of prayer for vocations: the vocation to the permanent diaconate, the priesthood, consecrated life and lay apostolate. We need to identify young people whom we believe, have a vocation and ask them to consider whether the Lord is calling them to Sacramental leadership in the church to guide God's people in the person, in the name of Christ. The church needs the priesthood. We are all responsible for identifying and nurturing good, strong vocations to lead the church and to be voices of the Good Shepherd today and tomorrow. We all need to do what we can to amplify the voice of the Good Shepherd for the world to hear.

My dear people of God, let us make Psalm 23 a prayer for all vocations: "The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want. In green pastures he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, he refreshes my soul. He guides me on right paths for his name sake. Even though I walk through the valley of darkness, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff comfort me. You set a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Only goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life. I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

My dear people of God, we as Christ's faithful, are called to the universal missionary mandate to spread the Good News and bring others to Christ by faithful witness. Let us pray for more genuine and dedicated laborers to come and work in the Lord's vineyard. May God bless you!

Amen

Calling All Women of St. Mary's Parish! This week in your budget box you will find an envelop supporting **St. Anne's**, which funds parish needs like Brinkmann Hall upkeep, kitchen supplies, coffee and lemonade for gatherings, clergy gifts, altar supplies, & emergency assistance for those in need. One of our most rewarding ministries is providing funeral dinners. If you'd like to be put on the list to help, please contact **Rita Wolter**, 563-599-1751. We'll be scheduling a meeting soon & appreciate your continued support, including your **\$5 donation** to St. Anne's.~ Sue Bahls

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Amen


A Stewardship Moment: Jesus says, "I came that they may have life, and have it to the full." Good stewards are grateful for the gift of life and joyfully share their abundance with others.

Upcoming Parish Events . . .

- (BH is Brinkmann Hall; PC is Parish Center)
- Apr 24: Registrations due for Community VBS
- Apr 27: Finance Committee Mtg, Noon, PC
- Apr 29: (No adoration due to Confirmation) Confirmation, 6:30pm, St. Mary
- May 3: KC Breakfast, 8-11:30am; **Graduate Recognition Mass, 10am** Patriotic Rosary, 5:30pm
- May 4: Parish Council Meeting, 6:30pm, PC
- May 5: CDA Mtg, Noon, BH KC Meeting, 7:30pm
- May 6: Sacred Seed Sowers Book Club, 1pm, PC Directory Photos, 5-7pm, PC
- May 7: Directory Photos, 5-7pm, PC
- May 16: Directory Photos, 9-11am, PC

April's KC Knight of the Month is Fr. Paul!

Community Vacation Bible School at St. John's June 8—12th; **Registration due April 24;** forms at back of church; volunteers needed, call 563-252-2355

 **Prayer List:** Please join us in praying for: Terry Eglseider, Maria George Family, Pam Wille, Lenny Young, Maria (Frommelt) Somsel, Fr. Paul Bormann, Andy Schroeder, Kenny Scherbring, LeRoy Bries, Mick Pierce, Katie Steffen, Howard Hubbell, Terrie Willems, Adam Schlee. Contact Betty Evers at 563-252-1666.

Priest: Fr. Paul Kwaku Ameyaw, 563-880-6017
Deacon: James Pfaffly, 563-880-9696
Faith Formation: Erin Schmelzer, 563-880-7471
Youth Ministry: Katey Simon, 563-219-4129
Parish Life: Lois Bries, 563-252-3026
Liturgy: Wendy Shea, 563-252-1264
Social Concerns Gerald Bormann, 563-419-6967
Choir: Anna Moser, 563-880-1176
Secretary: Lisa Kies, 563-880-1946; OfficeOfStMary@gmail.com

Finance:
Jim Schlueter 563-252-1490
Marv Althoff
Tom Augustyn
Sharon Keehner
Austin Greve

Parish Council:
Beth Sadewasser, Chair 563-880-2743
Jessie Young,
Gerald Bormann,
Lois Bries
Adam Scherbring
Larry Wille

Parish Center Reservations: 563-252-1247
Knights: Dale Wille, 309-232-9476
St. Anne: Maggie Schlueter, 563-252-1490
Cath Daughters: Janet Happel: 319-530-9121
Prayer Line: Betty Evers, 563-252-1666
Friends of St Mary: Jane Parker, 563-880-5469
St. Mary Alumni: Pat Kolker, 563-880-9815
Phoebe Johnson: 563 880-4767
Stephen Ministry: Becky Shaffer: 319.393.1234