

# ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: Apr 29, 2021

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## LIVE THE LITURGY Inspiration for the week:

Anyone familiar with gardening knows that proper and timely pruning is essential. The health of the plant depends upon it. An unpruned tree can quickly produce suckers that zap many of the essential nutrients from its body. Pruning requires patience and vision. Studies reveal that plants often respond defensively to being pruned, displaying reactions that are similar to hurt or discomfort. Pruning is not easy but necessary. A hard lesson for us to learn is that we also need to be pruned. We become far healthier when we allow God to stretch, refine, and form us into the best version of ourselves. The fruit that then comes from our vines will be more abundant, nutritious, and robust. Left to our own devices we can easily find ourselves running amuck and spiraling out of control. Without a proper vision and trust in the Master Pruner, we will never find the contentment we desperately desire. Nor will the work of the Gospel stand a chance of succeeding.

### St. Joseph Church Rummage Sale:

Thurs (4/29) & Friday(4/30), 8-5pm;  
Sat(5/1). 8-noon. **Bake Sale:** 8am– Noon  
on Thurs/Fri with proceeds to NCYC trip.

Jeremiah & Kayleen (Keehner) Griep's son's name is Walter *Dean* Griep. This was incorrect in last week's bulletin. We apologize for this error.

The Sacrament of Anointing will be offered on the weekend of May 1 and 2. Before and after Masses at St. Joseph and Immaculate Conception and after Masses at St. Mary.

Lord God, may I comprehend the sacredness of friendship. I thank thee for my friends, and for all the beautiful influences which they bring to my life. May I never hold friendship without the sincerity to return it. Correct my faults, and cause me to learn the secret of cheerful endurance, that I may be steadfast. Amen.

### Scam/Phishing Alert

The archdiocese has received reports that parishioners are receiving fraudulent text messages and emails from someone posing as Fr. Bries. The messages are similar to the following. "[Recipient's Name] I need a favor from you, text me as soon as you get this message. God Bless you. [Pastor's Name]"

If the recipient replies, the scammer will ask the recipient to purchase gift cards.

**Please know that Fr. Bries is not going to make such requests.** If you are in doubt about a message that claims to be from Fr. Bries, please contact the parish office. Thank you.

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



Sunday, May 9 at St. Mary, Guttenberg after Mass

#### **Zettah Arlene Bries**

daughter of Brian & Kelsey (White) Bries

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

#### **Archer Rhodes Parker**

son of Justin & Ashley (Maitland) Parker

Permission to baptize from pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary of Minnetonka, MN.

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

### Public Mass Schedule: May 3 – May 9, 2021 Please use sanitizer, practice social distancing & wear a mask

**Mon., May 3:** [No Mass Scheduled]

**Tues., May 4:** 8:30 A.M. —St. Joseph, Garnavillo, Mass  
*Mary Jane Steger//Amy Hoeger*

**Wed., May 5:** 8:30 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Kindergarten  
May Crowning  
*Dec'd of Nuehring Family*

**Thur., May 6:** [No Mass Scheduled]

**Fri., May 7:** [No Mass Scheduled]

**Sat., May 8:** VIGIL OF SIXTH SUNDAY IN EASTER  
4:00 P.M. – St. Joseph, Garnavillo, Mass  
*Marion Moses*  
5:30 P.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass  
*Albert 'Chips' & Marie Bieber*

**Sun., May 9:** SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, Mother's Day  
8:30 A.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista  
10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass, *Live Streamed*  
*Kris Stocks*

**Mass Readings for May 2, 2021:**

**Reading I, Acts 9:26-31** : When Saul arrived in Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. Then Barnabas took charge of him and brought him to the apostles, and he reported to them how he had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus. He moved about freely with them in Jerusalem, and spoke out boldly in the name of the Lord. He also spoke and debated with the Hellenists, but they tried to kill him. And when the brothers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him on his way to Tarsus.

The church throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria was at peace. It was being built up and walked in the fear of the Lord, and with the consolation of the Holy Spirit it grew in numbers.

**Responsorial Psalm, 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32** : **R. I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.**

I will fulfill my vows before those who fear the LORD. The lowly shall eat their fill; they who seek the LORD shall praise him: "May your hearts live forever!" **R.**

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of the nations shall bow down before him. **R.**

To him alone shall bow down all who sleep in the earth; before him shall bend all who go down into the dust. **R.**

And to him my soul shall live; my descendants shall serve him. Let the coming generation be told of the LORD that they may proclaim to a people yet to be born the justice he has shown. **R.**

**Reading II, 1 Jn 3:18-24** : Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.

Now this is how we shall know that we belong to the truth and reassure our hearts before him in whatever our hearts condemn, for God is greater than our hearts and knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence in God and receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And his commandment is this: we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us. Those who keep his commandments remain in him, and he in them, and the way we know that he remains in us is from the Spirit he gave us.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.** Remain in me as I remain in you, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me will bear much fruit.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.** [Jn 15:4a, 5b](#)

**Gospel, Jn 15:1-8** : Jesus said to his disciples: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw

them into a fire and they will be burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

**Branching Out Isn't Always What It's Cracked Up to Be**

"That's a really beautiful tree branch. Man, would you look at the bark on that thing? The others are real duds, but that low-hanging branch has really got it all together." I've never heard anyone say this. Maybe I just need to hang out with more arborists, but I can't recall ever hearing someone admire the particular beauty of a single branch. When someone comments on a tree, it's usually the whole tree — perhaps a visual element of it, like the color of the leaves or its height. But people don't usually zero in on one branch. Maybe that's because usually, if one branch is looking a little weak, chances are every other branch is, too. The Bible tells us that when we bear fruit as good everyday stewards, it is for the Father's glory. We are the branch on His magnificent tree. What we have is from Him, and what we do likewise points back to Him. We also tend to reflect how well the other branches around us are incorporating the nutrients coming their way. That's all fine and good in theory. In practice, it can be an arduous exercise in humility. When I do something virtuous or charitable or kind, there is a part of me that wants to stand out for it. I think that's true for all of us. We've given of ourselves in some way or overcome some human temptation to accomplish a little bit of good in this world, and even though we know God sees us, we'd really love for everyone else to see it, too. It's a struggle, for sure. But we need to remember that our fruit belongs to the whole tree. — Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

SMIC would like to **thank** all who helped make the spring rummage and bake sale a huge success! Including those who setup, baked, sorted, organized, ran, shopped and/or cleaned up!

**Belgian Waffle Breakfast with all the fixings!**

Sunday, May 16, 2021 at 8:30 AM

St Mary's Church Guttenberg Free Will Donation!

Knights of Columbus along with Youth Ministry students will host a Belgian Waffle breakfast with proceeds benefiting Youth Ministry.

Limited seating with curbside pickup and carry out options.



**Upcoming Events . . . .**

May 4: KC Meeting, 7:30pm Brinkmann Hall

May 5: Youth Ministry, 6:30-8pm, Brinkmann Hall

May 16: Belgian Waffle Breakfast to support Youth Ministry