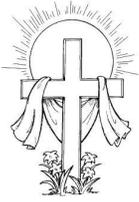


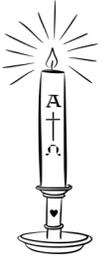
ST. MARY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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

Newsletter: April 16, 2020



Alleluia! He is risen! Welcome to Easter! Now what?
(As a Catholic our Eastertide season is 50 days long!)



It's time to be an Easter People. **It's time to live in Christian joy.**

In Pope St. John Paul II's 1986 address in Adelaide, Australia, he said:

“Faith is our source of joy. We believe in a God who created us so that we might enjoy human happiness in some measure on earth, and in its fullness in heaven. We are meant to have our human joys: the joy of living, the joy of love and friendship, the joy of work well done. We who are Christians have a further cause for joy: like Jesus, we know that we are loved by God our Father. This love transforms our lives and fills us with joy. It makes us see that Jesus did not come to lay burdens upon us. He came to teach us what it means to be fully happy and fully human. Therefore, we discover joy when we discover truth – the truth about God our Father, the truth about Jesus our Savior, the truth about the Holy Spirit who lives in our hearts.

We are an Easter People and Alleluia is our song! We are not looking for a shallow joy but rather a joy that comes from faith, that grows through unselfish love, that respects the fundamental duty of love of neighbor, without which it would be unbecoming to speak of Joy. We realize that joy is demanding; it demands unselfishness; it demands a readiness to say with Mary: Be it done unto me according to thy word.”

As an Easter people, we live in the light and joy of the Resurrection. Especially in today's day and time, we need to keep encouraging, keep loving, keep praying! God bless you all.

Fr. Marvin Bries

Holy Week televised services a Huge Success!

Thank you to everyone associated with St. Mary's Church Easter Week Services! With well over 1,000 views on the internet (which doesn't include Channel 6 viewings), St. Mary's Holy Week services were a success by anyone's standards. Thank you can't be said enough to Fr. Bries, Deacon Pfaffly, Fr. Gaul, all other presiders, Choir Members, Austin Greve, Erin Schmelzer, and others for their commitment to making these services available not only to St. Mary Church parishioners, but the Guttenberg Community at large. Our entire community was blessed this Easter through the unselfish efforts of all of you.

Thank you!

Rice Bowls — Please place in Pastor's mailbox outside the rectory.

Find us on Facebook:
St. Mary/St. Joseph/Immaculate Conception

Streaming Live Sunday Mass
Guttenberg Channel 6 and Facebook

This Sunday's Mass will be aired at 9AM.
Please note the time change for this week!

Facebook users: Goto videos on St. Mary's Facebook Page

Offertory and Donations – WOW!

Amazing! Even with the tough economic climate and the Corona virus concerns, more than 70% of you dropped off or mailed in your Weekly Envelopes last week. Thank you, thank you, thank you for your continued support!

Weekly donations can be mailed to:
St Mary's Church PO Box 847 Guttenberg, IA 52052.

Thank you God for our generous parishioners. Please bless these tithes, bless our parishioners for giving them to you, and multiply them so that as a result of their generosity our parishioner's cups overflow, drawing even more people to you. We pray this in Jesus' name.



Some practical ways to be an Easter people



Pray, pray, pray. Stay connected to Jesus! How do you grow a personal relationship with somebody? You spend more and more and more time with them. The same is true for your personal relationship with Jesus. Commit to your daily prayer time and watch how your relationship blossoms.

Stay in the sacraments. Lent is one time to be sure to get to Confession, but don't wait until next Lent to go again.

Practice joyful generosity. Be generous not just with your resources, but with your prayers, your smile, your words of support and kindness, your affection.

Celebrate! Eastertide is 50 days long – and the first 8 days are all Solemnities (the biggest feast's of the year). Lent was long, right? It's time to party down to celebrate the best thing that ever happened!

Forgive, in love. Our response to the outpouring of Divine love in the death and resurrection of Jesus should be an overflow of love for God and neighbor. An Easter people, rooted in love and joy, should always be striving to turn away from hate, prejudice, division and pettiness. Instead, we are called to turn toward one another in love, and forgive those who have wronged us.

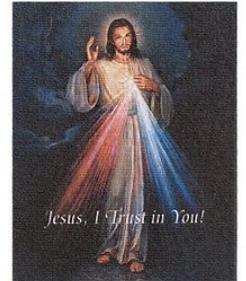
Share the "Good News". You don't have to get out on the street corner with a sign. We all have our own personalities, gifts, and spheres of influence:

- * Live out the Gospel every day, with your family, neighbors, and co-workers.
- * Parent like a Christian. Talk with your kids about God, and encourage them to grow in a personal relationship with Jesus.
- * Share your faith with others either overtly or in the background of your everyday interactions.

Be Joyful! For they'll know we are Christians by our love.

Divine Mercy Sunday: This Sunday, April 19 —Celebrating God's Merciful Love

In the Jubilee Year 2000, Pope John Paul II proclaimed that from that year forward the Second Sunday of Easter would be celebrated as Divine Mercy Sunday. This was proclaimed at the Canonization Mass of St. Faustina Kawalska, who worked throughout her life to make all aware of the merciful love of God. St. Faustina (1905–1938) was born and raised in Poland. Following a vocation to religious life, she was accepted by the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. As a member of the Congregation, she worked as a cook, gardener, and porter. In her spiritual life, her contemplation on the Mercy of God led her to develop a childlike trust in God and deep love for her neighbor.



In her years in the convent, St. Faustina heard a call from God to make God's mercy known to the world so that the world may more fully receive God's healing grace. On February 22, 1931, Jesus appeared to St. Faustina with rays radiating from His heart. He asked her to paint an image according to what she saw, with the signature: "Jesus, I trust in You." This image, containing rich symbolism, has helped inspire millions of people to embrace God's mercy. St. Faustina promoted the Chaplet of Divine Mercy which consists of the recitation of prayers to the Eternal Father with the use of the rosary for the sake of Christ's sorrowful passion.

The Divine Mercy Chaplet is prayed as follows:

1. Begin with the Sign of the Cross, one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and the Apostles' Creed.
2. On the Our Father beads, recite the following: *"Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of your dearly beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world."*
3. On the ten Hail Mary beads, say the following:
"For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world."
4. Repeat step two and three for all five decades.
5. Conclude by reciting three times:
"Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world."

SMIC Raffle Winners

Apr 3: \$100, Colten Kolker Apr 10: \$100, Floyd Westhoff

Thank you to all who have submitted your email address to reduce mailing costs. If you are receiving a paper mailing and would like to receive it via email, please send email to: churchlady@smic.pvt.k12.ia.us