

# ST. MARY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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

Newsletter: April 9, 2020

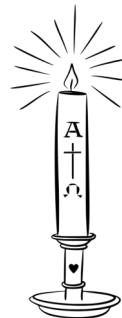
Matthew 28:5-6 5 ... Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. 6: He is not here, for

## He Has been Raised

The above statement “Do not be afraid” because “He Has Been Raised” is as true today as it was two thousand years ago. Please try to spend time this week focusing on the events of Holy Week rather than allowing the daily news to weigh you down. After all ...

-Jesus Christ our hope and salvation has risen!  
-Love has conquered death!  
-God will just as surely raise us out of our current difficulties!

-God has triumphed over evil!  
-We are filled with Joy!



Renewed by the resurrection we go forward to share the good news. Our duty is to bring the hope and joy of the risen Jesus to everyone we encounter. This doesn't have to be done face to face (don't forget Social Distancing), it can be accomplished with phone calls, letters, facebook posts, emails! Any way you communicate, make sure to offer everyone the hope and encouragement that they desperately need whether you use Jesus' name or not. After all, they will know we are Christians by our love.

I am so proud of you! Last weekend we gave away over 200 palm leaves that were not just for yourselves, but for friends and family as well. This parish has not sat quietly in the darkness during this time of need, but instead is helping to bring the light of Christ to our broader community.

Dear God, please continue to bless our parish family, giving them a heart for you. I pray this in Jesus' name.  
Fr. Marvin Bries

### Streaming Live Holy Week Mass Times on Gutenberg Channel 6 and Facebook

[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=1483438238482588&id=252540274905730](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1483438238482588&id=252540274905730)

Holy Thursday, April 9: 5:30pm  
Good Friday, April 10: 3:00pm  
Holy Saturday, April 11: 5:30pm  
Easter Sunday, April 12: 10:00am



St. Mary Youth Passion recorded last year will be aired on Gutenberg Channel 6, Good Friday, April 10 at 10 AM.

### The first Easter .... Relived

The very first Easter was not in a crowded worship space with singing and praising. On the very first Easter the disciples were locked in their houses. It was dangerous for them to come out. They were afraid. They wanted to believe the good news they heard from the women, that Jesus had risen. But it seemed too good to be true. They were living in a time of such despair and such fear. If they left their homes their lives and the lives of their loved ones might be at risk. Could a miracle really have happened? Could life really have won out over death? Could this time of terror and fear really be coming to an end?

Alone in their homes they dared to believe that hope was possible, that the long night was over and morning had broken, that God's love was the most powerful of all, even though it didn't seem quite real yet. Eventually, they were able to leave their homes, when the fear and danger had subsided, they went around celebrating and spreading the good news that Jesus was risen and love was the most powerful force on the earth.

This year, we might get to experience a taste of what that first Easter was like, still in our homes daring to believe that hope is on the horizon. Then, after a while, when it is safe for all people, when it is the most loving choice, we will come out, gathering together, singing and shouting the good news that God brings life even out of death, that love always has the final say!

This year we might get the closest taste we have had yet to what that first Easter was like.

*(Submitted by Erin Schmelzer)*

What is the Easter Bunny's favorite sport? *Basket-ball!!*

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

### Holy Thursday

On this Holy Thursday, focus on this truth: Jesus loves you so much that he is willing to wash your feet. He cares for you so deeply that he wants to tend to your every need, even to the point of feeding you with his Bread of Life and the cup of his own Blood. How loving and generous is our Savior!

*“Lord, thank you for offering me a whole new life with you! Teach me how to love and serve as fully as you have done.”*

### Good Friday

As you pray the Stations of the Cross today, remember that God’s mercy is truly limitless. Never believe that the pain and suffering that Jesus endured was not enough to save you. Never think that the blood that flowed from his side was for everyone else but not for you. Never let any sin stand between you and the Lord. For by his holy cross, he has redeemed the world—and that includes you!

### Holy Saturday

As this season of light begins anew, we pray that the risen Christ will shine in your heart brighter than ever before.

*“Father, illuminate your Church and illuminate me by your word.”*

### **A Special THANK YOU! – For your ongoing efforts & Donations**

Thank you so much for your continued support during these difficult times. Many people are hard hit due to our current economic conditions, and we want to say ...

**Thank You** ... for continuing to support our parish with your time, talents, and financial resources.

Please know that our parishioners made and distributed Grab and Go breakfasts for kids, spent hours handing out free Palm Leaves for palm Sunday, continued making and delivering food to shut-ins, Sang in the Choir loft so that our televised Mass would have music, coordinated and filmed our mass for being televised to the public, provided encouragement by posting messages and information to our web pages and Facebook, create this Newsletter of encouragement each week, and on, and on, and on, .... as well as the fact that 30% of our parishioners also found it in their hearts to dig deep and contribute financially via their weekly donation envelopes. Thank you all for all you do!

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

Thank you God for our generous parishioners. Please continue to bless them so that through their efforts they can bless others ... for your glory. We pray this in Jesus’ name.

### Easter Sunday

Christ is risen—*for you*. He has overcome sin—*for you*. He has opened heaven—*for you*. Take hold of these gifts by taking hold of Jesus. Then watch as your heart is filled with joy.

*“Lord, I don’t want to be satisfied with just hearing about you. On this day above all others, let me meet you.”*



## **Celebrate Easter’s 50 Days**

Easter is the most important feast of the Christian year—so important that the Church sets aside 50 days to rejoice in Christ’s victory over sin and death! **Not one, but 50!** That’s even more days than there are in lent! The Easter season begins with Easter Sunday, and ends with Pentecost.

How can a family sustain this “Easter spirit” of celebration all the way to Pentecost? Here are some ways to celebrate the fifty days. This week, pick an idea seems right for you. You’ll be rejoicing long after the last jelly bean is gone!

- ◆ When you greet family and friends, say, “Christ is Risen!” The reply greeting is “He is Risen indeed!”
- ◆ Use a special candle at meals to recall the light of Christ.
- ◆ Add an “alleluia” song—or three alleluias—to your grace before meals.
- ◆ Discuss what it means to be Christ’s “witnesses” (Luke 24:48)? Help each family member to see that their witness matters.
- ◆ Make cookies in the shapes of Easter symbols. Freeze some to serve throughout the season
- ◆ List the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) on separate slips of paper. Have each family member randomly select a fruit to cultivate.

### **Spiritual Communion Prayer**

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally,

Come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace you as if you were already there

And unite myself wholly to you.

Never permit me to be separated from you.

## **YOU ... have been Commissioned!**

Jesus said: Matthew 28:18-20 18 ... “All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, ... 20 ... And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”

This call applies to us today as much as it did to the disciples in Jesus’ time. Go forth!