

ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: Dec 16, 2021

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www.maryicjoseph.org

LIVE THE LITURGY Inspiration for the week: We Are God's Instruments

St. Augustine tells us that a "Christian is a mind through which Christ thinks, a heart through which Christ loves, a voice through which Christ speaks and a hand through which Christ helps." As we look around and out at the world, we do not have to search too far before we come face to face with inequity and injustice. There is so much unfairness, prejudice, anger, hatred, violence, and want. The stories of human heartache, people being hurt, deprived of life's necessities, loneliness, and sickness are far too commonplace. For many of the world's ills, the vices of greed, lust, pride, gluttony, and jealousy are clearly among the more significant root causes. Why doesn't God just step in and fix this mess? After all, God created this world, and one would hope that he would step up and take some measure of responsibility for it! Once we sit with this thinking for a while, we can begin to realize just how flawed it really is. God did take responsibility and God did fix the problem! God sent us Jesus Christ as the divine solution to the world's ills. It is not God who has shirked responsibility, we have. We are the ones who continually fail to set our own personal needs, wants, and securities aside so that One more powerful than us can use us.

Mary had to set her needs aside in order for the Son of God to come into the world. Put simply, Mary listened and believed. Having opened herself to being an instrument of the Divine, God could use her as his mind, heart, voice, and hand. She became God's vessel so that God's greatness could reach the ends of the earth and peace could come upon the world. God's fix for the world's difficulties is you and me. We are the ones who confess that Jesus Christ came into the world as the Son of God, the Prince of Peace, and herald of justice. All we have to do is believe, as did Mary, that what has been spoken to us by the Lord will be fulfilled. Then, we can step aside and be the Christians we claim to be. What a difference it would make if every person who professed to be Christian truly understood that their one and only vocation is to be God's instrument. What a beautiful, equitable, and just world it would be. ©LPi

2022 Budget Envelopes are available at the back of church. Please let us know if we have missed you or if you no longer need a budget box due to online giving or you simply use your own envelope.

Reminder: The Internal Revenue Service requires all contributions to the parish must be **contributed/postmarked by December 31, 2021** to receive charitable credit for 2021. Please note the CARES act allows **taxpayers who don't itemize deductions** to take a charitable deduction of **up to \$300** in 2021.

A note from Carla Bolsinger . . .

I would like to thank the Parish Life Committee for the reception in my honor. Thanks to everyone who came or sent cards! I feel blest to have played the organ for 40 years and hope to continue.

~ Carla

Mass Schedule: Dec. 20 – Dec. 26, 2021

Mon., Dec 20: [No Mass Scheduled]

Tues., Dec 21: 8:30 A.M. St. Joseph, Garnavillo, Mass
Dec'd of Tschrigi Family

Wed., Dec 22: 8:30 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass
Julius & Verna Steffen

Thur., Dec 23: 8:30 A.M. - Guttenberg River Living Center
Harold Mueller & Owen Kann

Fri., Dec 24: CHRISTMAS EVE
4:00 P.M. St. Joseph, Garnavillo, Mass
Sharon Berns & Henry Mueller
6:00 P.M. Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista
People of the Parish

Sat., Dec 25: CHRISTMAS DAY
9:00 A.M. St. Mary, Guttenberg, **Live Stream**
Fritz/Rosemary/Joe/John Kann
Clifford & Janice Frommelt

Sat., Dec. 25: Vigil of Feast of the Holy Family
4:00 P.M. St. Joseph, Garnavillo
(No 5:30 P.M. at Guttenberg)

Sun., Dec 26: Feast of the Holy Family
8:30 A.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista
10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass,
Leonard Editha Hartmann

GOSPEL REFLECTION: The Witness of Mary and Joseph

“Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.” [Luke 1:45](#)

As we enter into the fourth week of Advent, we are given our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph to reflect upon. Though our Blessed Mother was perfect, and St. Joseph was a deeply virtuous man, they were both still fully human and would have walked through Mary’s pregnancy and Jesus’ birth with every human emotion and experience.

St. Joseph was faced with an extraordinary mystery as he discovered his wife was pregnant. He knew her to be a woman of exceptional virtue and holiness and had to reconcile that with her surprising pregnancy. Even after the angel appeared to him in a dream he would have had questions arise in his mind as he faced this situation.

Our Blessed Mother was also invited by God to face her pregnancy in faith. Her response was perfect, “Let it be done to me according to your word.” She could not explain nor understand what was happening but, nonetheless, she knew deep in her soul that God was in charge leading all to His glory.

Both Mary and Joseph are wonderful models of faith and obedience. They were obedient to the will of God despite the fact that the will of God drew them into an incredible and unfathomable mystery. They were first-hand witnesses to the salvation of the world and to the greatest act ever known. And they both embraced this mystery and accepted it in faith.

Reflect, today, upon your own invitations from God to embrace the mysteries of life. God’s ways are often more than we can comprehend and figure out. Mary and Joseph give us the witness of how we are to handle every mystery God invites us to participate in. Say “Yes” to the will of God just as this holy couple did.

Dearest Mother Mary and Saint Joseph, pray for me that I may have the faith you both lived. When questions arise in my heart, help me to respond generously to God as you did. May I trust in all that God has spoken in imitation of each one of you. Jesus, I trust in You.

source: mycatholiclife.com

Save the Date!

Saturday, January 29, for the Beauty in Christ Women's Conference. Gather at St. Mary's from 8am-1pm to experience this awesome virtual event together. Stay tuned for more information!

On this fourth Sunday of Advent as we prepare for the coming of Jesus, we remember the love that we have in Jesus. Light the last purple candle on your advent wreath, the candle of Love.

Christmas Flowers: If you would like to donate a poinsettia in memory of loved ones or in thanksgiving, please bring to the church by Dec 22. Monetary donations may also be given. Place your donation in an envelope marked “Christmas Flowers” and drop it in the collection basket.

A Stewardship Moment

The Gospel today tells of the Virgin Mary, pregnant herself, hurrying off to help her cousin Elizabeth. The model of good stewardship, she who had given herself to bear the Savior gave her time and love to others as well.

I said a Christmas Prayer for you
Because the season's near.
I didn't ask for riches
But for gifts so much more dear.

I asked for joyful gatherings
With your family all round,
And for carols to inspire you
With their old familiar sound.

I asked for quiet moments
In you heart on Christmas morn,
For a special time to celebrate
The Savior who was born.

I asked for friends to send their best
That you might know they care;
I asked for peace and love and hope,
And I know God heard my prayer.
~ Author Unknown ~

CHRISTMAS GIFT: If you did not receive the book by Matthew Kelly, “**LIFE IS MESSY**,” look for it in the entry way of church. This book is a loose collection of journal entries written by the author during very difficult times and the process of healing and becoming a stronger person. This book was promoted by the St. Mary’s Parish Life & Catholic Daughters America.

“Save Time & Donate Online!” Online giving is available with WeShare, an easy and convenient way to save time & support the church: <https://maryicjoseph.weshareonline.org/>

Upcoming Parish Events

Jan 4: KC Meeting, 7:30pm
Jan 5: SMIC Christmas Concert, 6pm
Jan 5: Youth Ministry, 6:15-8:00pm, Brinkmann Hall
Jan 9: KC Breakfast, 8-11:30am
Jan 12: Youth Ministry, 6:15-8:00pm, Brinkmann Hall
Jan 19: Youth Ministry, 6:15-8:00pm, Brinkmann Hall

Please submit newsletter items by Tuesday night to:
churchlady@smic.pvt.k12.ia.us