

ST. MARY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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

Newsletter: Dec 23, 2020

563-252-1247

www.maryicjoseph.org

This is what we have been waiting and preparing for.

He is here! Merry Christmas!

I can't get over how powerful this Advent Season has been. Now ... finally ... after all this time of waiting and preparing "... the light shines in the darkness ..." (John 1:5)

Let's always remember that Christmas (Christ's Coming) is not about a onetime event. It's about our transformation resulting from our waiting, our preparing, and His coming. Per the Gospel reading on Christmas Day, it's about:

John 1:14 "And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, ..." and John 1:12 "... to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, ...".

Now ... He has come ... for us. Let's go live ... for Him!

Dear Lord: Thank you for sending Your Son to us. Thank you for touching our hearts. Thank you for being our light in the darkness. Thank you for being our guiding light not just in the year ahead, but throughout the rest of our life. I pray this in Jesus' name.

Fr. Marvin Bries

SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING – during Mass on Jan. 1st at Guttenberg. Before and after Masses at Garry & Buenie and after Masses at Guttenberg on both Sat., & Sun. - Jan. 2nd & 3rd.

Father Gaul would like to thank you for thinking of him and he wishes each of you a Merry Christmas and blessings for the New Year!

The 2021 Mass Missals are in the back of church. Since we are unable to have them in the pews, we invite you to take a missal home with you to use. Feel free to bring it with you to Mass and take it home with you at the end of Mass.

“The magic of Christmas is not in the presents, but in His presence.”



At Christmas and always, what a blessing you are to our parish!

Weekly Offering/Budget envelopes may be picked up at the back of church. If you have had a change of address in the past year, please notify the parish office so we may update our records, 252-1247.

Public Mass Schedule: Dec 28 – Jan 3, 2020 **Please use sanitizer, practice social distancing & wear a mask**

Mon., Dec 28: [No Mass Scheduled]

Tues., Dec 29: 8:30 A.M. - St. Joseph, Garnavillo, 'Full Moon'
Dec'd of Lawrence Felder Family

Wed., Dec 30: 8:30 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg
Irene [Kann] Waterman & Alvina [Kann] Ingwersen

Thur., Dec 31: [No Mass Scheduled]

Fri., Jan 1: FEAST OF THE SOLEMNITY OF BVM
9:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg
People of the Parish

Sat., Jan 2: VIGIL OF FEAST OF EPIPHANY
4:00 P.M. – St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Bob & Noreen Rowland
5:30 P.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg
People of the Parish

Sun., Jan 3: FEAST OF EPIPHANY
8:30 A.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista
10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg
Rita 'Mae' [Kann] McGuire

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR:

To all 3-linked parishes, **THANK YOU** for all the Christmas cards and gifts to your pastor. May God bless you in your kindness to His priest!!!

GENEALOGY: All old records of parishioners from our 3-linked parishes plus St. Michael of Garber, Sacred Heart of Littleport, St. Michael of Clayton and St. Michael of Ceres are now in the files at the rectory.

Mass Readings for December 27, 2020:

First Reading, [Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3](#): The word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying: “Fear not, Abram! I am your shield; I will make your reward very great.” But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what good will your gifts be, if I keep on being childless and have as my heir the steward of my house, Eliezer?” Abram continued, “See, you have given me no offspring, and so one of my servants will be my heir.” Then the word of the LORD came to him: “No, that one shall not be your heir; your own issue shall be your heir.” The Lord took Abram outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can. Just so,” he added, “shall your descendants be.” Abram put his faith in the LORD, who credited it to him as an act of righteousness. The LORD took note of Sarah as he had said he would; he did for her as he had promised. Sarah became pregnant and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time that God had stated. Abraham gave the name Isaac to this son of his whom Sarah bore him.

Responsorial Psalm, [Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9](#): R. **The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.**

Give thanks to the LORD, invoke his name; make known among the nations his deeds. Sing to him, sing his praise, proclaim all his wondrous deeds. **R.** Glory in his holy name; rejoice, O hearts that seek the LORD! Look to the LORD in his strength; constantly seek his face. **R.** You descendants of Abraham, his servants, sons of Jacob, his chosen ones! He, the LORD, is our God; throughout the earth his judgments prevail. **R.** He remembers forever his covenant which he made binding for a thousand generations which he entered into with Abraham and by his oath to Isaac. **R.**

Second Reading, Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19: Brothers and sisters: By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; he went out, not knowing where he was to go. By faith he received power to generate, even though he was past the normal age --and Sarah herself was sterile-- for he thought that the one who had made the promise was trustworthy. So it was that there came forth from one man, himself as good as dead, descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sands on the seashore. By faith Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was ready to offer his only son, of whom it was said, “Through Isaac descendants shall bear your name.” He reasoned that God was able to raise even from the dead, and he received Isaac back as a symbol.

Alleluia, alleluia. In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, he has spoken to us through the Son. **Alleluia, alleluia.** [Heb 1:1-2](#)

Gospel, [Lk 2:22-40](#): When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, They took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, *Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord,* and to offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord. Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, He took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: “Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.” The child’s father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted —and you yourself a sword will pierce— so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.” There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Reminder: The Internal Revenue Service requires all contributions to the parish must be contributed/postmarked by December 31, 2020 to receive charitable credit for 2020.

The CARES act changes charitable deductions for 2020: Previously, charitable contributions could only be deducted if taxpayers itemized their deductions. However, **taxpayers who don't itemize deductions** may take a charitable deduction of **up to \$300** for cash contributions made in 2020 to qualifying organizations.

Upcoming Events . . .

Dec 25: 9AM Christmas Mass on Channel 6 & FB
Dec 27: 10AM Mass aired on Channel 6 & FB

Jan 2/3: Food Shelf Weekend
Jan 2/3: Sacrament of Anointing
Jan 3: 10AM Mass aired on Channel 6 & FB

Jan 10: 10AM Mass aired on Channel 6 & FB
Jan 17: KC Pancake/Sausage Breakfast drive-thru