

ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: Dec 29, 2022 ~ Rectory: 563-252-1247 ~ Fr.'s Cell: 563-258-3958 ~ www.maryicjoseph.org

LIVE THE LITURGY Inspiration for the week: Happy New Year!

Let the freshness of a new year be your impetus to make new strides in your walk with God. There is no time like the present! Here are a few ideas:

1. Make more time for spiritual reading. If you struggle with finding the time to read, make a list of books that you'd like to complete in 2023 and pray that God will show you how you can find the time to read them. Maybe this will mean cutting out TV time or slimming back on unnecessary social activities.
2. Make good stewardship a lifestyle. Prayerfully evaluate how you will spend your time, your talents, and your income in 2023 to see what lifestyle changes you can make that will positively impact your spiritual life. Make it big. God cannot be outdone in generosity!
3. Share your Catholic faith with others. Modern Catholics aren't usually great about sharing their faith with others, but this is something that can change with practice. You don't have to be obnoxious or overbearing about your faith—just focus on doing simple things, such as being joyful in your walk with Christ and inviting people to come to Mass with you.
4. Pick a new saint buddy. Why not take on the tradition of choosing a different Catholic saint as a special patron each year? There are so many of them with unique graces to bestow. This is a great way to guard against the typical two-week lifespan of New Year's resolutions. With a new saint by your side praying for you, it will be a lot harder for your goals to slip away.

KC Biscuits & Gravy Breakfast

Drive-thru and Dine In; St. Mary Church
Sunday, January 8
8:00am—11:30am
Free will donation.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

In loving memory of

Gib & Marian Barnhart; Bob Hartmann;
Don & Janice Rohner & Jerry Troester;
Don Evers; Johnson, Zoller Families &
Sheller, Liefeld & Olinger Families;
Burr Family and Schlueter Family;
Neuhring Family; John Froehle, Robert
Faust and Jesse Danalewich; Jim & Lou
Kuempel; Richard Goerd & Dan & Rose
Liefeld Family; Leo Klostermann; Selma
& Gillies and Daniel Peck; & Father
Piskura

Donations from: Randy & Sharon Keehner,
Fran Hartmann, Betty Evers, Rick &
Phoebe Johnson, Jim & Maggie Schlueter,
Ron & Marlene McLane, Darlene Froehle,
Dan & Deena Kuempel, Vernon Heck &
Lois Goerd

Thank You ~ Thank You ~ Thank You

THANK YOU to all our sacristans and decorators for the Christmas season in our 3-linked parishes. Special thanks to **Sue Leonhart** who will be retiring after 13 years of service to St. Mary of Guttenberg. With the grace of God, we need volunteers to continue to decorate our church for Lent/Easter and Advent/Christmas.

Mass Schedule: January 2 – January 8, 2023

Mon., Jan 2: [No Mass Scheduled]

Tues., Jan 3: [No Mass Scheduled], “Ss. Basil & Gregory”

Wed., Jan 4: 8:30 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg
“St. Elizabeth Ann Seton” – *Grace [Murray] Ruden*

Thur., Jan 5: 10:00 A.M. – Guttenberg Care Center
Leon Berns & Pete Davis

Fri., Jan 6: [No Mass Scheduled], “St. John Neumann”

Sat., Jan 7: Vigil of Epiphany of the Lord
4:00 P.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo,
Joe & Anita Schmelzer
5:30 P.M.—St. Mary, Guttenberg
Robert ‘Bob’ Hoffmann & Carolyn Oberbroeckling

Sun., Jan 8: Epiphany of the Lord
8:30 A.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista
People of Parish
10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass, **Live Streamed**
Donna Balk & Julie Schlueter (1st Anniv)

GOSPEL REFLECTION: [Mary, the Holy Mother of God](#)

“Today is gonna be a Mommy-and-me day,” my preschool-aged son told me recently. He was perched on the kitchen countertop, his favorite spot in the mornings, where he likes to sit while watching me unload the dishwasher. “Oh, is it?” I said, my hands full of damp plates. This was news to me. “What does that mean? What are we going to do?” “We’re gonna read books and put stickers on walls and you’re gonna watch me play,” he told me. “And then at the end of the day you’re gonna make dinner and I’m gonna sit here and watch you, and we’re gonna smile at each other.”

I am not the best version of myself in the mornings, I am grumpy and anxious, and any suggestion of a deviation from the day’s planned activities usually makes me bare my teeth like a threatened Rottweiler. But my son’s little itinerary pierced me through the heart. I stopped what I was doing and looked at him. We smiled at each other.

I wrote down what he said because I didn’t want to forget it, ever. It wasn’t just that he wanted to spend the day with me. That was sweet. But what really got me in the feels was how he described it. Us watching each other, smiling at each other, turning our faces to each other in love. It was astonishing in its simplicity.

There are a lot of different kinds of prayer, a lot of different ways to be with God, to adore him, to sit in his presence. But I think the way that I like best is exactly what my son described for his Mommy-and-me day, the way that [famous peasant of Ars described to St. John Vianney](#) two centuries ago. I like when God and I sit and look at each other.

If you are blessed, as I have been, to have a warm relationship with your parents, you know the power of their gaze. You know what it is to lock eyes with them during one of life’s profound moments — a moment of sadness, a moment of triumph, a moment of joy, a moment of confusion. You know that words are not necessary; sometimes they even get in the way. What you need is in the gaze.

When I reflect on the various ways I have experienced God “letting His face shine upon” me, I keep coming back to His mother. How often, for me, has God chosen Mary to communicate His kindness, His love, His protection, and His faithfulness. How often has He desired her to be the Theotokos, the “God-bearer,” in my life. How often is her intercession and encouragement the means by which He turns His gaze upon me.

I think of a small Christ child sitting cross-legged on the ground two thousand years ago, watching his mother go about some domestic work as the sun rises over Nazareth. She looks up and sees the God of Heaven and Earth smiling at her. She smiles back. Without words, they communicate. This happened for her every day.

I think of Mary at the foot of the cross, gazing up at the face she knows better than her own. The forehead is streaked with blood and the mouth is contorted in agony, and all who look upon him are stricken with despair. But not Mary. Mary sees the face of a feeble infant staring up at her from a manger. Mary sees the face of salvation. Mary sees hope. They lock eyes. Without words, they communicate.

Whatever this year brings you, be it good fortune or great trials or a mix of both, may you remember that through it all, you are under the gaze of the one who has loved you since the beginning of creation. —Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman, LPI

Upcoming Parish Events

- Jan 3: KC Mtg, 7:30 pm
- Jan 4: Faith Formation/Youth Ministry, 6 and 6:15pm
- Jan 8: KC Breakfast, 8-11:30am
- Jan 11: Faith Formation/Youth Ministry, 6 and 6:15pm
- Jan 14-16: TEC at Beckman High School
- Jan 22: Movie presented by Parish Life
- Jan 28: Beauty in Christ Women’s Conference, 8-1:30

Teens Encounter Christ, or TEC, is a Catholic experience designed for high school juniors and seniors taking place January 14th- January 16th at Beckman High School. Cost is only \$5! Registration is due by December 30th. Contact Katey Simon at youthministry@smic.pvt.k12.ia.us for more info.

Update on the 2023 Budget Envelopes: the printing company has contacted us indicating their printer broke and they are having a hard time getting parts. It may be end of January or February before parts are received. Until the budget boxes are available, please place your contribution in a regular envelope with your name on it. Alternatively, you may wish to consider online giving <https://maryicjoseph.weshareonline.org/>

A Stewardship Moment

Joseph’s obedience to God was not a one-time thing. His attention to the angel’s warning kept Jesus from being murdered by Herod and led to the fulfillment of the prophecy that the Messiah would be a Nazorean. Fidelity to God’s will assures the best use of my talents, too!

Please email OfficeOfStMary@gmail.com if you no longer need a budget box due to online giving or you simply use your own envelope.