

ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: Dec 30, 2021

563-252-1247

www.maryicjoseph.org

LIVE THE LITURGY Inspiration for the week:

There is something sacred about the sun when it dances upon a field of newly iced snow. Lights and colors bounce around in myriad ways flashing prisms of beauty as if in tune with the rhythm of a melodic dance. The Word became flesh and now dwells among us. Humanity can now dance. We sparkle with the beauty and radiance of God and can now walk through life with confidence knowing that we have been divinely kissed. It is a sacred moment, a holy marriage between God and His sons and daughters. All is bright and all is well. Today we celebrate who we are in

Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace. These beautifully strong titles from the prophet Isaiah evoke descriptions that brought promise to a people hoping to belong to a nation headed by a wise and loving leader. Fast forward to today: we believe what the shepherds heard from the angel: a Savior has been born for us. The Christmas story isn't just a story, though. Jesus was born for **me**, part of God's plan which specifically includes **me**. God loves **me**. He has a plan for **me** that involves Jesus dying for my sin. A plan for eternal life for **me**. I am here to become the person God created me to be. Jesus calls me to be his hands and feet and heart in this world. I can do this because He is my Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace. I will look for opportunities to share His message of love and hope and eternal life with everyone I meet and to grow closer to Him. Glory to God in the highest.

Christ and rest safely in God's care. God's presence, revealed in the humble birth of His Son, dances in our hearts, calling us to beauty, truth, purpose, and love. Today we know, without doubt, that we are not the product of the rambling offerings of a universe that created itself. We are loved, treasured, and blessed. We have a Savior who can show us the way. Accept him. ©LPi



BAPTISM INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD & OUR COMMUNITIES OF FAITH:

Sunday, Jan 2 at St. Mary, Guttenberg after Mass

Brayden Richard Hefel – born in Clinton, IA on 12/17/2013

Brysen William Hefel – born in Clinton, IA on 5/14/2015

Aiden Lee Hefel – born in Dubuque, IA on 8/24/2016

Adopted by Richard & Christa [Mescher] Hefel

May you grow in age, knowledge & wisdom in the Lord!

KC Pancake and Sausage Breakfast

Drive-thru and Limited indoor seating available; St. Mary Church



Sunday, Jan 9th

8:00am—11:30am

Pancakes, Sausage, Scrambled Eggs, Hashbrowns and Cinnamon Rolls
Free will donation. Proceeds to the Handicap Ramp Fund

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS DONATIONS

In loving memory of

Gib & Marian Barnhart, Bob Hartmann, Don Rohner, Don Evers, Fran Troester, Sherrie Casey & Zachary Casey, Cyril & Ann Lelifeld, Byron & Faye Olinger, Dorothy & Francis Johnson, Mildred & Leo Burr, Regina & Albert Schlueter, William Saunders, the Neuhring Family & Carolyn Oberbroeckling

Donations from: Randy & Sharon Keehner, Fran Hartmann, Janice Rohner, Betty Evers, Al Troester, Rick & Phoebe Johnson, Jim & Maggie Schlueter, Joan Saunders, Ron & Marlene McLane, Leo Oberbroeckling, Don & Margery Herkes, Tom & Helene Kuempel, & Murray's Outdoor Store

Mass Schedule: Jan. 3 – Jan. 9, 2021

Mon., Jan 3: [No Mass Scheduled]

Tues., Jan 4: 8:30 A.M. – St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Vincent & Inez Hoeger/Amy Hoeger

Wed., Jan 5: [No Mass Scheduled],
SMIC School Christmas Concert 6:00 P.M.

Thur., Jan 6: 10:00 A.M. – Guttenberg Care Center
Jackie Spielbauer & Family/Owen Kann

Fri., Jan 7: [No Mass Scheduled]

Sat., Jan 8: Vigil of Feast of Baptism of the Lord
4:00 P.M. – St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Marion Moses (1st Anniv.)
5:30 P.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg
People of the Parish

Sun., Jan 9: Feast of the Baptism of the Lord
8:30 A.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista
10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass,
Lynne Finnegan & Fred Bush

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Revelation of the Magi

When I walked into the hospital room that evening, there was Zoe, all wrapped up in a bundle of sleeping beauty, having been born only a few hours prior. She was laying on the hospital bed, lights subdued, soft music playing in the background, with her parents cooing above. I was invited to meet my goddaughter, her mom lifting the sleeping baby, and gently placing her in my arms for the first time. I sat down on a nearby chair, and all I could do was stare in silence, and whisper in prayer my commitment to be the best godfather I could possibly be for her. Zoe's godmother — a budding photographer — took many photos of that first meeting, one that I recall with great joy.

Maybe the best way I can understand the story of the Visit of the Magi is to recall the day Zoe was born. Maybe this is one of many providential reasons why I was asked to be Zoe's godfather, but also to have been invited to come so quickly to the hospital that cold night in November 2011. Maybe all the Scriptural commentaries I've read can help an intellectual understanding of the event, but no academic effort could have prepared me for what my heart felt as I walked into the hospital room. I understood the reason why there was a pervasive silence in that room, it wasn't that Zoe was asleep. Rather, it was a reverential awe — an homage — of the mystery that I was walking into: the miracle of birth.

While I had not gold, frankincense, or myrrh, and while my introduction was not a one-time affair, I have learned how to "open up my treasure" — my availability and company — for that little one by way of pushing her on the swing, gifts for her birthday, walks through the neighborhood, surprise visits and 'dates with godpoppa,' and phone conversations. Many memories have been made and many have yet to be made.

This feast of the Epiphany — taken from a Greek word meaning 'to reveal' or 'to manifest' — is best understood, I think, when it is understood as a dialogue or relationship. Clearly, the Feast has the perspective of the Christ Child being revealed to the Magi who had been seeking him. But also, it has the perspective of the Magi "revealing their gifts" to the Christ Child. As Jesus' life is about seeking what was lost, he would eventually find, as the Magi sought the answer to mystery of astrological anomalies, they would find its reason in a baby. But the more they sought, the more they'd find, and the more Jesus sought, the more he'd find too. This season, I'm grateful that he sought me out and found me ... time and time again.

Br. John-Marmion Villa

On January 16, the **Parish Life Committee** will be presenting the movie, **A QUESTION OF FAITH**, in Brinkmann Hall, after the 10:00 AM Mass with a **FREE** light luncheon prior to the movie. Movie will start at approximately 11:30.

A brief description of the movie:

Three families find themselves at a crossroads, questioning their faith and the God that guides their lives. As each family member deals with their issues, their worlds start to intertwine. This leads to a chain of events, which unknowingly brings the three families closer and closer together. Will the families give in to the loss, pain, and uncertainty that has shattered their lives, or will they find the tie that binds them all together through hope, trust, redemption, and goodwill?

A Stewardship Moment

The three kings in today's Gospel traveled a great distance at considerable cost to offer their richest gifts to the Infant Jesus. How far will I go and what will I offer to do homage to this newborn King and Savior?

Ten New Year's Resolutions for Catholic Parents

This year, with God's help, we resolve:

- To make spending time with God a priority, and to encourage our children to spend time with Him in prayer, in our home, and at Mass
- To teach our children about God, His ways, his promises, and His love for us
- To treat our children with respect and love, and to always have their best interests at heart
- To forgive one another, and to ask forgiveness from our children when we have wronged them
- To allow ourselves the grace and humility to be imperfect, and to avoid punishing ourselves over imperfections
- To rejoice in being the parents God made us to be, and to resist the temptation to compare ourselves to other parents
- To play more, and pray more, with our children
- To show our children that they are loved by making time for them, especially when life gets busy
- To work on strengthening our covenantal marriage relationship in order to strengthen our family
- To love our children as God loves them, and to make sure they know it every day.

Upcoming Parish Events

- Jan 4: KC Meeting, 7:30pm
- Jan 5: SMIC Christmas Concert, 6pm; (No Youth Ministry)
- Jan 9: KC Breakfast, 8-11:30am
- Jan 12: Youth Ministry, 6:15-8:00pm, Brinkmann Hall
- Jan 16: Movie: "A Question of Faith" will be shown after 10am Mass; a light lunch will be served
- Jan 19: Youth Ministry, 6:15-8:00pm, Brinkmann Hall
- Jan 29: Beauty in Christ Women's Conference; 8am—1pm

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