

ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: Feb 10, 2022

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LIVE THE LITURGY Inspiration for the week: A Catholic Approach to Valentine's Day

In modern times, Valentine's day has been heavily commercialized. The day is filled with many expectations. Most of them involve imaginative expressions of love or escapes from everyday activities.

The name Valentine (or Valentinus) was a common surname in the Roman empire. It comes from the Latin root "valens" which means "strong", "healthy", or "worthwhile". I would like to propose that this definition can serve as the foundation of a "Catholic" approach to Valentine's day. Rather than a day of escapism, Christians should approach Valentine's day differently.

I offer that the Christian approach is to spend all our strength pursuing worthwhile actions in support of our loved ones. If this is done well, we will no doubt be blessed with healthy and vibrant relationships. Therefore, I encourage all lovers to fill the day with selfless acts for it is from selfless acts that true love is made. \

It is true that selfless acts are often less recognized (and initially less appreciated) than love poems or grand gestures, but selfless acts are more enduring.

So I encourage you this Valentine's day, commit yourself to showing your loved ones how much they mean to you not by grand gestures, but by small selfless acts that you can continue to do day after day. ~ Sara & Justin Kraft

Catholic Charities Helps the Most Vulnerable - Did you know that individual contributions make up nearly 50% of Catholic Charities' annual operating budget-every gift is important and every gift helps! Make your contribution to the Catholic Charities Annual Appeal today by mailing your gift to Catholic Charities, 1229 Mt. Loretta Ave, Dubuque 52003 or by visiting www.CatholicCharitiesDubuque.org/donate.

KC Pancake and Sausage Breakfast
Drive-thru and Limited indoor seating available; St. Mary Church

Sunday, Feb 13th, 8:00am—11:30am
Pancakes, Sausage, Scrambled Eggs, Hashbrowns and Cinnamon Rolls
Free will donation. Proceeds to the Handicap Ramp Fund



The **DAILY REFLECTIONS FOR LENT**, "**Not By Bread Alone 2022**" will be available in the entry ways at church starting Feb 12th, promoted by St. Mary's Parish Life Committee. Ash Wednesday is Mar 2. Lenten season starts.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God."

ATTENTION —The Archdiocese of Dubuque is doing a survey in regards to the future of many smaller parishes. If you did not get a survey in the mail, they are available at the rectory in Guttenberg or on line at www.dbqarch.org/survey. Make sure you list all that your parish does for the poor and for the people who are part of parish programs that help you grow in your Catholic Faith. Surveys are due by March 1, 2022. Pray and do your survey as individuals and as families!!!

Mass Schedule: Feb 14 – Feb 20, 2022

Mon., Feb 14: [No Mass Schedule], "Ss. Cyril & Methodius"

Tues., Feb 15: – [No weekday Masses at Garnavillo during the Winter season]

Wed., Feb 16: 8:30 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, 5th/6th Gr.
(Full Moon) *Charlie & Mary Bries*

Thur., Feb 17: 10:00 A.M. – Guttenberg Care Center
People of the Parish

Fri., Feb 18: [No Mass Scheduled]

Sat., Feb 19: Vigil of Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:00 P.M. – St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Vincent & Inez Hoeger//Amy Hoeger
5:30 P.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg
Janice Rohner [Month Mind]

Sun., Feb 20: Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:30 A.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista
Shirley Ann Brimeyer [Month Mind]
10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass, **Live Streamed**
Jim & Lou Kuempel

GOSPEL REFLECTION: It Takes a Lot of Faith! “Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude and insult you, and denounce your name as evil on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice and leap for joy on that day! Behold, your reward will be great in heaven.” [Luke 6:22-23](#)

It takes a lot of faith to “rejoice and leap for joy” after experiencing hatred and persecution from another. Even when one is persecuted on account of his/her faith in Christ, it takes a lot of faith and a lot of love to sincerely rejoice.

But with that said, this level of faith and love is possible! If it were not, our Lord would not have given this teaching. It is a teaching to live the highest ideal. It’s a calling to live in Beatitude.

Though it would be worth it to spend time on each and every one of the Beatitudes and to try to apply them to our lives, it’s also helpful to look at the more general fact that Jesus does not call us to mediocrity; rather, He calls us to the heights of perfection. It is within those heights that our souls find the greatest reward.

Reflect, today, upon this Beatitude. Perhaps you have never experienced persecution and hatred as a result of following Jesus. But even if you haven’t, try to put yourself into this situation and try to honestly discover how you would react. Would you be able to allow persecution to “roll off your back” so to speak? Would you be able to accept injustice in your life without allowing it to disturb your interior peace? Or would you turn bitter and angry as a result of the hurt you would feel?

Try to put your eyes upon the ideals of the Christian life. If you aim for anything less, you run the risk of actually attaining that lower goal. But if you put your eyes upon the high calling of the Beatitudes, then you will find that our Lord will continually draw you closer to His heart, cleansing you, strengthening you, filling you with more faith, hope and love, and bringing you to an increasingly blessed level of holiness. It’s worth it to aim for the ideal!

Lord of perfection, please make me holy. Help me to keep my eyes upon You and upon the virtues and Beatitudes that You call me to live. May I never settle for a mediocre life. Instead, may I strive only for a life of perfection and holiness making You the center of all I long for. Jesus, I trust in You.

source: mycatholiclife.com

Youth Ministry News: Archbishop Jackels will be coming to our YM night Wednesday, Feb 23 at 6:45pm!!! YM Families- you are invited and encouraged to attend! Middle school kids and their parents are also invited. Please RSVP to Erin and call Katey (563-219-4129) if you have any questions.

On Feb 20th, the **Parish Life Committee** will be presenting the movie, **An Interview with God**, 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.

Movie Summary: After covering the war in Afghanistan, journalist Paul Asher returns home to find his life falling apart. With his marriage near collapse, he's in the grips of a personal crisis he's struggling to understand. But the young reporter's life takes a strange turn when he is offered the opportunity of a lifetime — an interview with a mysterious man claiming to be God. *An Interview with God* is a thought-provoking film that connects conflicts of faith to the miracles that can occur when we are confronted with a living hope.

A Stewardship Moment

The words of the Psalmist echo the theme of all of today’s readings. “Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.” -As good stewards, firmly grounded in that Hope, may we bear fruit in due season - assisting the poor, feeding the hungry, and consoling the sorrowful whenever we have the chance.

SMIC School is seeking to fill the following positions for the 2022/2023 school year

**Principal
Teachers:
Elementary
Middle School
Art/Music**

Send resume to eschmelzer@smic.pvt.k12.ia.us

Please share this info and if you know of someone, encourage them to apply!

On **Sunday Feb 27** the KCs will hold a new member exemplification ceremony.

Membership in the Knights of Columbus is open to men 18 years of age or older who are practical (that is, practicing) Catholics in union with the Holy See. If you would like more information about membership, please call Robert Kies at 563-542-3274. Those wishing to join and any 1st degree members wishing to become 3rd degree members should be at St Mary Church at 9 am. The ceremony will begin at 9:20. All are welcome to attend.

Ramp replacement fund sits at **\$34,886**.

Upcoming breakfast dates:

February 13: Proceeds to ramp fund
March 13: Proceeds to ramp fund
April 3: Proceeds go to SMIC School

Upcoming Parish Events

Feb 13: KC Breakfast, 8-11:30 am
Feb 15: Scripture Study, 8:30am, Brinkmann Hall
Feb 16: Youth Ministry, 6:15-8:00pm, Brinkmann Hall
Feb 17: Scripture Study, 6:30pm, Brinkmann Hall
Feb 20: Parish Movie: “An Interview with God” after 10:00am Mass
Feb 27: Festival Meeting after 10:00am Mass
Mar 1: CDA Mtg, Noon in Brinkmann Hall
KC Mtg, 7:30pm
Mar 2: Ash Wednesday, Lent Begins
Mar 4: World Day of Prayer, 1pm, St. Mary Church

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