

ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: Feb 17, 2022

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www.maryicjoseph.org

LIVE THE LITURGY Inspiration for the week: The Courage to Forgive

In today's gospel, Jesus compels us to fight evil through the power of good. "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you."

... It is difficult to forgive. It is hard to love those who want to harm us. It takes courage to forgive. Only a strong person has the power to forgive, to turn the other cheek, and to choose love over hate. ...

Many of us carry bitterness in our hearts toward someone who has hurt us. We may even dream of the day when we can get revenge on them. It is natural for us to want those who have hurt us to feel for themselves the pain they have inflicted on us. But revenge never gives us satisfaction. It only strengthens the hate and resentment within us. Our inability to forgive only gives those who hurt us more power over us. When we choose to forgive, we set ourselves free from the power of those who have hurt us. For that reason, forgiveness is really the ultimate revenge.

It is up to us, the baptized followers of Jesus, to change the world through the power of forgiveness and love. Jesus himself gives us his example of merciful love that turns an act of unspeakable violence — the cross — into the moment of the world's salvation. That is what we celebrate today — a merciful God who saves us through love. That is the commitment we made at our baptism — to follow Jesus' example until the whole world knows the merciful love of God. To make that happen, we are even willing to love our enemies.

~Douglas Sousa

Heavenly Father,

You are kind and merciful. Make us kind and merciful.

You pardon our iniquities, Give us the courage to forgive those who hurt us.

You heal all our ills. May we strive to heal others.

You redeem us from destruction. May we work to redeem this world which faces the destructive forces of violence.

May we be compassionate as You, Lord, are compassionate, so that the world may see another way to resolve conflict and division —

The way of love, the way of the cross.

Amen

This Sunday, 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 11:30am.

St. Mary's choir will have a rehearsal Wed. Mar. 2 at 7:15pm(after Ash Wednesday service). Masks will be available, please expect to wear them. We will go over hymns and some Easter music.

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 entryways of the church 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 21 – Feb 27, 2022

Mon., Feb 21: [No Mass Schedule]

Tues., Feb 22: – [No weekday Masses at Garnavillo during the Winter season]

Wed., Feb 23: 8:30 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, 4th Gr.
"St. Polycarp", *Dec'd of Nuehring Family & Tony Schissel*

Thur., Feb 24: 8:30 A.M. – Guttenberg River Living
Harold Mueller & Owen Kann

Fri., Feb 25: [No Mass Scheduled]

Sat., Feb 26: Vigil of Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:00 P.M. – St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Tommy & Annie Stroschein
5:30 P.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg
Arnold & Regina Bries

Sun., Feb 27: Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:30 A.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista
10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass, **Live Streamed**
Deborah Sue Bries

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Creativity in Sharing the Gospel: Unable to get near Jesus because of the crowd, they opened up the roof above him. After they had broken through, they let down the mat on which the paralytic was lying. [Mark 2:4](#) Now that was certainly creative! There are a few things we can take from this passage that are abundantly clear.

First, the man who was paralyzed, lying on the mat, was clearly loved. He had a group of people, probably family and others, who loved him enough to go to great lengths to have him enter into the presence of Jesus. Again, this is love. **Second**, those who loved this man knew that he needed Jesus. They knew, by a gift of faith, that bringing this man into the presence of Jesus was what he needed. So that’s what they did. **Third**, the way they did it was quite creative. They opened up the roof and lowered him down. Though this must have caused quite a scene, and though the owner of the house most likely did not approve, their zeal and love led them to this creative effort.

This reveals to us the love, passion and creativity that we need in sharing the Gospel. The goal in sharing the Gospel must be to bring others into the presence of Jesus. In order to do this well, we need the same qualities found in this story. We need an unwavering love for those in need, those who are lost, those who need the healing hand of Jesus. Without that unwavering love, we will certainly not make the necessary effort.

When we love another with a Christian love, our love will inspire us to point them to Jesus. It’s as simple as that.

Finally, our unwavering desire to bring others to Jesus will also lead us to be creative in how we accomplish this task. It’s not always easy to evangelize. There is not always a clear cut way on how we do this. So, how do you best bring your spouse, your child, your neighbor or friend to encounter the love of Christ? Be open to many possibilities and let the Lord inspire you. He always has a perfect way, if you only let Him show you.

Reflect, today, upon this scene of the man being let down on a mat before Jesus. Know that this is an example for you in your call to spread the Gospel. Let God speak to you through it and let Him use you to bring others to Himself.

Most creative Lord, I give myself to You for the purpose of spreading Your Gospel. Please use me to bring others to You so that they may encounter Your healing touch. May I be filled with love for those who are hurting and in need, and may that love inspire me to go to any length to be an instrument of Your divine mercy. Jesus, I trust in You.

source: mycatholiclife.com

Ash Wednesday Schedule: March 2

Day of Fasting and Abstaining from meat
8:30 A.M. – Guttenberg, Mass, 3rd Grade
4:00 P.M. – Garnavillo, Mass
6:30 P.M. – N. Buena Vista, Mass
6:30 P.M. - Guttenberg-Youth Ministry
will do a para-liturgical service with ashes and communion followed by a soup supper.

*The **DAILY REFLECTIONS FOR LENT**, “**Not By Bread Alone 2022**” are available in the entry ways of the church.
*The “**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**” will start at 5:10 PM, March 5, and 9:40 AM, March 6, and continue throughout the Lenten season in place of the Rosary. For your participation, the booklets will be available at the entry ways of church unless you have a booklet from last year.

A Stewardship Moment
Today’s Gospel has encouraging words for good stewards---“**Give and it shall be given to you. For the measure you measure with will be measured back to you.**” What encouragement to give generously of the resources entrusted in our care!

SMIC School is seeking to fill the following positions for the 2022/2023 school year:
Principal; Elementary Teacher, Middle School Teacher & Art/Music.
Resume to eschmelzer@smic.pvt.k12.ia.us

SMIC would like to **thank** all those who supported the Valentine cookie fundraiser. Over 900 cookies were sold, netting just over \$4000!

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.

Upcoming breakfast dates:
March 13: Proceeds to ramp fund
April 3: Proceeds go to SMIC School

Upcoming Parish Events

- Feb 20: Parish Movie: “An Interview with God” after 10:00am Mass
- Feb 22: Scripture Study, 8:30am, Brinkmann Hall
- Feb 23: Youth Ministry, 6:15-8:00pm, Brinkmann Hall
Archbishop Jackels will be here!
- Feb 24: Scripture Study, 6:30pm, Brinkmann Hall
- 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