

ST. MARY PARISH

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

Feb 19, 2026 ~ Rectory: 563-252-1247 ~ Fr.'s Cell: 563-880-6017 ~ www.maryicjoseph.org

LIVE THE LITURGY:

~ St. Mary's Liturgy Committee

In this week's readings, temptation is the theme. Like Adam and Eve, Jesus was tempted, but He did not sin. Our sinfulness is acquitted through one man, Jesus Christ, in whom we are justified.

Our first parents in the Garden of Eden were assured of God's love for them, but they were tempted to think that wasn't enough. We, too, are sometimes tempted to think that God's love is not enough to sustain our lives.

When love is not enough, we look to other things to worship. We may look to the acquisition of money and material things to sustain our lives. But then we need more money and more things to gratify us. Acquisitions become compulsion. We are no longer stewards in the garden, but addicts.

When love is not enough, we may turn to achievement or power to satisfy us. Achievements are then no longer about mastering ourselves or finding worthy goals. Achievements, position and power become all about control. We drag others down to elevate ourselves. We seek titles to feel superior.

When love is not enough, we may seek the attention of others to validate ourselves. Instead of seeking to be known, understood or accepted, we seek attention to gain others' approval. Attention, reputation and honor become exercises in fleeting self-importance.

Acquisition, achievement, control, approval, honor – none of these things have the power to save us. On the cross Jesus was stripped of all of it. He even felt abandoned. And yet he worshipped. He found his worth in the love of God. He began a new story in a new garden, the garden of the empty tomb, and became the source of salvation for us all.

(reflection taken mostly from Daily Reflections for Lent)

Adoration: Wed, Feb 25, 9am—7pm

As we enter this season of Lent, you're invited to step away from the noise of daily life and spend time in the quiet presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Eucharistic Adoration offers a space to rest, to listen, and to let Christ speak to your heart. Whether you can stay for five minutes or an hour, your time with Him matters. Come as you are. Bring your prayers, your worries, your gratitude, or simply your silence. Jesus is waiting.

Easter Egg Coloring Kit Collection

The Social Concern's group is collecting easter egg coloring kits for families/ children in our community. After purchasing a kit, place it in the basket at the back of the church. Return kits by March 22nd. The Resource Center will distribute items to local families in need.

Lenten Fish Fry—St. Joseph, Garnavillo

Feb 27, Mar 6 and Mar 13; 5-7:30pm;
\$17 adult; \$10 children 5-12; under 5 free
Proceeds to benefit cemetery associations
of St. Joseph, Ganavillo, St. Michael,
Garber & Sacred Heart, Littleport

Christian Experience Weekend(CEW):

Feb 27 – Mar 1 at The Bean Farm in
Scotch Grove. Registration is \$55-includes
all meals, snacks, lodging. Contact Lynn
Engelken at 319-551-2139 or
visit www.thebeanfarmofscotchgrove.org

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



Sunday, March 1, St. Joseph, Garnavillo, 2:00pm

Oaklee Jo Wille

Daughter of Tavian(TJ) & Chloe Wille

May you grow in the love & wisdom of Jesus Christ!

Mass Schedule: Feb 23 – Mar 1, 2026

Mon., Feb 23: No Mass Scheduled

Tues., Feb 24: No Mass Scheduled

Wed., Feb 25: 8:30 A.M. Mass – St. Mary, Guttenberg
Catherine Moser

Thur., Feb 26: 8:30 A.M. Mass—Guttenberg Living Center
Karen Kennicker

Fri., Feb 27: 8:30 A.M. Mass – St. Mary, Guttenberg
Judy Blattel

9:00—9:45 A.M. Confessions

Sat., Feb 28: Vigil of the 2nd Sunday of Lent
4:00 P.M. Mass—St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Lois & Harold Mueller and Gerald Hoeger
5:10 P.M. Stations of the Cross, St. Mary, Guttenberg
5:30 P.M. Mass—St. Mary, Guttenberg
Virginette Frommelt

Sun., Mar 1: 2nd Sunday of Lent

8:30 A.M. Mass – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista
People of the Parish

10:00 A.M. – Mass – St. Mary, Guttenberg, *live streamed*
People of the Parish

Homily: Feb 22, 2026: First Sunday in Lent: We must prepare ourselves.

~ Fr. Paul

My dear people of God, Lent recalls the forty days Jesus spent in the desert during which time he was tempted by the devil. But through prayer, fasting and fidelity to the word of God, he overcame the tempter.

There is a parable, one time the lion was the king of the animals. He had one most beautiful daughter. All the animals wanted this beautiful girl as their wife. Everyday there were visitors to the lion’s palace begging his daughter in marriage. They brought all sorts of nice meats to the lion hoping to win his favor. In order to avoid any harm to his daughter, the lion called all the animals together and said that he was willing to give his daughter in marriage to any animal who was willing to resist two temptations. These were: Not to speak at a party in the lion’s palace and secondly, not to look at the lion’s beautiful daughter.

The lion held a series of parties to which he invited each animal separately. The first to come to the party was the elephant. As the party progressed no food was served. The elephant was very hungry so he asked for some food, so he failed the test. All other animals which came failed either the first or second test. Only one animal remained and he was the tortoise. On the morning of the test, he ate a big meal. Then he went out and sat in the very hot sun keeping his eyes open the whole time. When the time came, he entered the king’s palace. His eyes were very tired from being in the sun all day. During the party he spoke to nobody, so he passed the first test. Then the lion’s chief singer started to sing, “How beautiful is the lion’s daughter. Here she comes, all dressed in gold.” All eyes turned toward the door through which she was to come, but the tortoise turned around and looked the other way. His eyes were so tired he wanted to sleep. Because he did not speak and because he did not look at the lion’s daughter he passed both tests and won the beautiful daughter in marriage.

My dear people of God, 1st Peter 5:8 states: “be sober, be vigilant because the devil is going around the world like a roaring lion trying to tempt people away from God.” In the first reading, Adam and Eve succumb to temptation and cause a rift between themselves and God. Jesus, by his obedience to God won back for us the gifts lost through the disobedience of Adam. Jesus has conquered the power of the devil, but like Jesus it is necessary for us to fast, pray and have faithfulness and fidelity to the word of God, if we are to resist the devil.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Lent is a season for repentance and renewed commitment to fasting and praying. The tortoise prepared for the test and passed. If we prepare by prayer, fasting and fidelity to the word of God, we will also pass the test. I wish you a fruitful Lenten season. Amen.

Journey in Faith: As we continue our Lenten journey, we are reminded that renewal begins with prayer, listening, and trust in God’s plan. Archbishop Zinkula & the JIF Core Team have now completed the first version of the final pastorate plan—a plan deeply shaped by the feedback and prayerful input of parishioners across the Archdiocese. The new plan reflects the Spirit’s movement through your voices and discernment. Many of the initial models have changed because of your feedback. We are now in the discernment process, when Archbishop Zinkula is prayerfully discerning which parishes can work together to become more vibrant and sustainable communities. Please continue to pray for wisdom and unity in this time of discernment, and visit dbqjourneyinfaith.org for updates.



Prayer List: Please join us in praying for: Terry Eglseder, Maria George, Pam Wille, Fr. Bries, Lenny Young, Maria (Frommelt) Somsel, Carol Ryan, Victoria Maas, special intention of Sandy Meyer, Fr. Paul Bormann. Contact Betty Evers at 563-252-1666 for additions/changes.

A Stewardship Moment: What temptations lure us from the path of discipleship? Possessions? Pride? Power? Oh Lord, create for us a clean heart and renew a steadfast spirit within us!

Upcoming Parish Events . . .

- (BH is Brinkmann Hall; PC is Parish Center)
- Feb 19: Scripture Study, 6:30pm, PC
- Feb 23: Finance Committee Meeting, Noon, PC
Parish Council Meeting, 6:30pm, PC
- Feb 24: Scripture Study, 8:30am, PC
- Feb 25: Eucharistic Adoration, 9am—7pm
(No Faith Formation Classes)
- Feb 27: Stations of the Cross, 4:45pm, St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Fish Fry, St. Joseph Parish Center, 5-7:30pm
- Mar 3: CDA Mtg, Noon, BH
KC Mtg, 7:30pm, Clubroom
- Mar 4: Sacred Seed Sowers Book Club, 1pm, PC
Faith Formation Classes, 6pm
- Mar 6: Fish Fry, St. Joseph Parish Center, 5-7:30pm
- Mar 8: KC Breakfast, 8-11:30am, BH
- Mar 11: Faith Formation Classes, 6pm
- Mar 13: Fish Fry, St. Joseph Parish Center, 5-7:30pm

Priest: Fr. Paul Kwaku Ameyaw, 563-880-6017
 Deacon: James Pfaffly, 563-880-9696
 Faith Formation: Erin Schmelzer, 563-880-7471
 Youth Ministry: Katey Simon, 563-219-4129
 Parish Life: Lois Bries, 563-252-3026
 Liturgy: Wendy Shea, 563-252-1264
 Social Concerns: Gerald Bormann, 563-419-6967
 Choir: Anna Moser, 563-880-1176
 Secretary: Lisa Kies, 563-880-1946; OfficeOfStMary@gmail.com

Finance:
 Jim Schlueter
 563-252-1490
 Marv Althoff
 Jeff Burr
 Tom Augustyn
 Sharon Keehner
 Austin Greve

Parish Council:
 Beth Sadewasser, Chair
 563-880-2743
 Jessie Young,
 Gerald Bormann,
 Lois Bries
 Adam Scherbring
 Larry Wille

Parish Center Reservations: 563-252-1247
 Knights: Dale Wille, 309-232-9476
 St. Anne: Maggie Schlueter, 563-252-1490
 Cath Daughters: Janet Happel: 319-530-9121
 Prayer Line: Betty Evers, 563-252-1666
 Friends of St Mary: Jane Parker, 563-880-5469
 St. Mary Alumni: Pat Kolker, 563-880-9815
 Phoebe Johnson: 563 880-4767
 Stephen Ministry: Becky Shaffer: 319.393.1234