

ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: Feb 24, 2022

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www.maryicjoseph.org

LIVE THE LITURGY Inspiration for the week: True Intentions of our Hearts: What we say and how we say it reveals the true intentions of our hearts. The content and manner of our speech is a window into the recesses of our souls. Our consciences, attitudes, sentiments, weaknesses, and motives are displayed. As much as we think we can hide the truth of our lives from others, we cannot. Who we really are is not only expressed on our lips but is written on our faces. Jesus says precisely this, "For every tree is known by its own fruit." What does the fruit of our lives say about us?

Because we like to play the game of hide and seek with ourselves, in pretending that we are hiding we deflect attention others may give to us by becoming more critical of others. After all, the more time one can spend analyzing others' behavior the less time one has to look at his or herself. Often, the behaviors we abhor most in others are the very ones we are guilty of ourselves. We just don't know it yet. The more we put ourselves in the role of a judge, the more satisfaction and control we seem to achieve. Yet, what about ourselves? In focusing our attention on the beams in others' eyes, the aridity and barrenness of our lives goes unchecked. St. Ambrose reminds us that "no one heals himself by wounding another." Bringing our brothers and sisters down by being overly critical, serves no positive purpose.

But the one who knows how easy it is to fall into sin and weakness and how quickly errors in judgment can be made, knows the depth of true compassion, mercy, and kindness. Having recognized our own poor choices, misguided opinions, negative emotions, and ability to do horrendous things, we can be more sympathetic and understanding of where others may be. We are designed to be mentors and guides to one another. In walking the journey together, we can help each other become the best we can be. Humility is the order of the day and the primary virtue that prevents us from being hypocrites. ©LPi

REGULATIONS FOR LENT

1.) **Fasting** means that we eat only one full meal on the fast day. Ash Wednesday & Good Friday are days when we are obliged to fast. Two other light meals are permitted, but eating between meals is not permitted. You are obliged to observe the fast days from the day after your eighteenth birthday until the day after your fifty-ninth birthday. Pregnant women and people who are sick are not obliged to fast.

2.) **Abstinence** means we do **not** eat **meat**. Ash Wednesday & all the Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence. The obligation to abstain begins the day after your fourteenth birthday.

World Day of Prayer,
Friday, March 4, 1pm, St. Mary Church

Mass Schedule: Feb 28 – Mar 6, 2022

Mon., Feb 28: [No Mass Schedule]

Tues., Mar 1: – [No Mass Schedule]

Wed., Mar 2: ASH WEDNESDAY

Day of Fasting and Abstaining from meat

8:30 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, 3th Gr. Mass

James C. Bries & Edward 'Pete' Davis (Month Mind)

4:00 P.M. — St. Joseph, Garnavillo, Mass

Barb Mohning & Sharon Berns

6:30 P.M.-Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista

6:30 P.M.-St. Mary, Guttenberg-Para-liturgical service with ashes and communion followed by a soup supper.

Thur., Mar 3: 10:00 A.M. – Guttenberg Care Center

Mass with ashes & General Absolution of sins

Edward 'Pete' Davis & Leon Berns

Fri., Mar 4: [No Mass Scheduled], Abstinence from meat

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

1:00 P.M., St. Mary, Guttenberg

Sponsored by Catholic Daughters of Americas

FIRST WEEKEND OF LENT: GENERAL ABSOLUTION OF SINS AT ALL 3-LINKED PARISHES

Sat., Mar 5: Vigil of First Sunday of Lent

3:40 P.M. — Way of the Cross, St. Joseph

4:00 P.M. – St. Joseph, Garnavillo

Loren & Barb Mohning

5:10 P.M. — Way of the Cross, St. Mary

5:30 P.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg

Annie Ries & Ann Olinger

Sun., Mar 6: First Sunday of Lent

8:10 A.M.—Way of the Cross, IC

8:30 A.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista

People of the Parish

9:40 A.M.—Way of the Cross, St. Mary

10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass, **Live Streamed**

Kris Stocks & Edward Lowell

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Bearing Good Fruit

“A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit.” [Luke 6:43](#)

Conversely, it should be said that a good tree does bear good fruit. This must be our goal. By saying that “A good tree does not bear rotten fruit,” Jesus is teaching us the supernatural effect of living a holy life. When we live a life grounded in Christ, the effect will be that good fruit is born from our lives. This is an important spiritual principle to understand.

Hopefully, we all want to live good lives. We all want to make a difference in our world and in the lives of others for the good. But the fundamental question to ask is how do we do this? The answer is that it’s not so much a matter of choosing the good actions we do; rather, on a more basic and fundamental level, we must choose to live a life grounded in Christ, thus becoming a “good tree.”

If you want to bear good fruit and make a holy and positive difference in the world, then you need to do one primary thing. Work at becoming holy. To use the image that Jesus gives, see yourself as a tree that is planted in the ground. See your roots stretching far and wide. See yourself being nourished and basked in the Sun. And see yourself growing and flourishing.

This is the life of grace and the effect is that good fruit automatically comes forth. The life of grace is accomplished by focusing upon your own health and spiritual well-being. You become this “good tree” by doing the basics well. First, pray, pray well and pray hard. Let your life be centered in prayer. Second, learn your faith. Listen to the Gospels, learn all that God has revealed through the Church, read the teachings of the saints, and learn from other holy people. Third, live a good sacramental life. Go to Mass, celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, understand the grace of your Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage, Ordination, etc. Know that the Sacraments nourish you in powerful ways and embrace that nourishment with your whole heart.

Reflect, today, upon the important mission you have been given to go forth and to bear an abundance of good fruit in our world. This mission can be accomplished only as a result of a life of holiness. This holiness is only accomplished when your roots are firmly grounded in the life of grace. Embrace this life of grace through the many means that God has set before you, and know that the commitment you make to holiness will bring health not only to your own soul, but also to the souls of those whom God will touch through you.

Lord, I love You and I give my life to You. I pray that I may be planted in the fertile soil of Your abundant love and mercy. Help me to be nourished by the life of grace You have lavished upon me and, as I grow in holiness, bring forth an abundance of good fruit in my life. Jesus, I trust in You. source: mycatholiclife.com

ATTENTION —The Archdiocese of Dubuque survey in regards to the future of many smaller parishes is due Mar 1. Goto www.dbqarch.org/survey or pick one up at church.

Area Fish Frys:

March 11: St. Patrick’s, Colesburg; 4:30-7:30pm; Dine in or Carry Out
 March 11: West Union Knights of Columbus, Holy Name Parish, 4:30-8pm; Dine in or Carry out
 April 1: St. Mary, McGregor; 4:30-7pm; Drive Thru only

St. Mary's choir will be singing for Ash Wednesday service. Please be at the church by 6:30pm. There will also be a short practice afterwards.

Do you want to show your thanks for your many blessings? Giving to Clayton County Womenade is your opportunity to do it!! Any donation is accepted. This money goes entirely to the support of struggling families referred by agencies in Clayton County. Clayton County Womenade **will not hold a gathering in March!!** Donations may be made at or mailed to Peoples State Bank, 15 Goethe St., PO Box 430, Guttenberg, IA 52052

*The **DAILY REFLECTIONS FOR LENT**, “**Not By Bread Alone 2022**” are available in the entry ways of the church.

Upcoming Parish Events

Feb 27: KC New Member Exemplification, 9am, St. Mary Church
 Festival Meeting after 10:00am Mass
 Mar 1: Scripture Study, 8:30am, Brinkmann Hall
 CDA Mtg, Noon in Brinkmann Hall
 KC Mtg, 7:30pm
 Mar 2: Lent Begins/Ash Wednesday
 Youth Ministry, 6:15-8:00pm, Brinkmann Hall
 Mar 3: Scripture Study, 6:30pm, Brinkmann Hall
 Mar 4: World Day of Prayer, 1pm, St. Mary Church
 Mar 5/6: Food Shelf Weekend
 Mar 13: KC Breakfast, 8-11:30am; proceeds to Ramp Fund

*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.

A Stewardship Moment

All of today’s reading remind us that our works reflect what is in our hearts. Do my words and actions reveal a heart that is grateful for—and generous in sharing---the abundance God has poured into my life?

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