

ST. MARY PARISH

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

Feb 26, 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 Jesus is inviting the disciples (and us) to bring their faith- to bring Him- not merely into everyday routines, but into experiences of rejection, suffering, pain and abandonment. That's where we'll understand the depth of the healing and love Christ wants to give us. In the scriptures, mountains symbolize closeness to God. However, we don't need to climb a mountain to experience God's presence. Parents see it in their newborn's face and spouses feel it in their quiet moments together. These everyday epiphanies reveal the sacredness of the ordinary. Sometimes all we can do is be silent in the presence of holiness. In that silence, we are invited to listen. Thank God for the mountaintop experiences, the retreats, prayer meetings, accomplishments, friendships, and romance. God gives us these gifts to help us glimpse His glory. But it's the harsher realities that test us, purify us and deepen our understanding. That's where we come to know how close God is. We come to understand the gift of the ordinary. This Lent be aware of how God is inviting you to listen to Christ in the most ordinary of things. Give thanks to God for what you discover and ask for grace for how to apply it in everyday life.

Important Info on Mass Counts . . .

Beginning this weekend and continuing through July 12, weekly Mass counts will be taken in all parishes at the request of the Archdiocese. These counts will be used later this spring to help determine the interim Mass schedule. **Your Mass attendance--or lack of attendance-- will impact how many Masses we have at St. Mary's.**

Parish Directory

In celebration of our parish's 175th anniversary, we will be creating a new pictorial church directory. Organizers have the church's history prior to 1981 well documented but need the recent history, from 1981-present. If you can help provide this info, contact Jessie Young 563.880.8026 or jwesthoff19@gmail.com

All parish/ministry groups are asked to either submit a current group photo or have members available after Mass on **March 22**, when group photos will be taken. 

More info will be coming about parishioner photos.

2026 Men's Conference! You're invited to the 30th Annual Archdiocese of DBQ Catholic Men's Conference on **March 28** at **St. Pius X Catholic Church in Cedar Rapids**. Register at www.ArchMensConference.org.

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

Easter Egg Coloring Kit Collection: Social Concern's 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. Thanks so much for your generosity!



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

Sunday, March 8, St. Mary, Guttenberg, 11:00am

Ava Jo Grinstead

Daughter of Taylor and Jarid Grinstead

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



Mass Schedule: Mar 2 – Mar 8, 2026

Mon., Mar 2: No Mass Scheduled

Tues., Mar 3: No Mass Scheduled

Wed., Mar 4: 8:30 A.M. Mass – St. Mary, Guttenberg
Albert & Regina Schlueter

Thur., Mar 5: 10:00 A.M. Mass—Guttenberg Care Center
Virginette Frommelt

Fri., Mar 6: 8:30 A.M. Mass – St. Mary, Guttenberg
Judy Blattel
9:00—9:45 A.M. Confessions

Sat., Mar 7: Vigil of the 3rd Sunday of Lent
4:00 P.M. Mass—St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Louie & Amy Matt and Glenn Berns
5:10 P.M. Stations of the Cross, St. Mary, Guttenberg
5:30 P.M. Mass—St. Mary, Guttenberg
Albert(Chips) & Marie Bieber

Sun., Mar 8: 3rd 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: Mar 1, 2026: Second Sunday in Lent: The Transfiguration of Jesus

~ Fr. Paul

My dear people of God, in the Bible, the mountain represents that place where the Holy One resides. People would go to the mountains to meet God. Going there was their response in faith that God is always present to them. The Gospel tells us how Jesus was transformed on the mountain. Peter, James & John saw Jesus in His future glory. They are the same three apostles whom Jesus took with him to the garden the night before He died. There they saw Jesus in His agony. As Jesus prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became white as light. The Apostles realized that the Jesus they had known was the same Jesus but now completely different, attractive, more shining.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, this event of the transfiguration helps us to understand what faith should mean in the life of a Christian. Jesus was at the crossroads of his mission, his passion & death being only weeks away. To go to the cross or not to go, that was the question. So he prayed for strength for himself & for his Apostles. His Father reassured him of his love & backing in his task of saving humankind. "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." These words were meant for the Apostles & for us all, as they were meant for Jesus himself. His conversation with Moses and Elijah about his passion, death and resurrection helped Jesus to focus once again on his Father's plans to save humanity. Reassured of his Father's love, Jesus resolutely went ahead to face his passion and death. The transfiguration was therefore meant to assure Jesus of the Father's love and to strengthen the Apostles faith in Jesus, especially during his arrest, passion and death.

My dear people of God, what God told the Apostles, He still tells us today. We must listen to our priests, deacons and spiritual leaders preaching God's word. We must learn to discern the voice of Christ in what our priests or pastors are telling us. Abraham knew how to listen to that inner voice and that is why he is called "Our father in faith." He knew that God wanted him to leave his native country and prosper in a new land that God himself would give him, and he is now a blessing for all of us. God does speak to us in the silence of our hearts.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Lent is a period of transfiguration, a period for each of us to take a new form, a new shape that is more beautiful in the Lord. How can we do so? We can do so if like Peter, we also say, "It is wonderful for us to be here." Here means not the physical place but being close to Jesus. Let us make a special effort during Lent to live close to Jesus. May the good Lord richly bless you. Amen.

Rice Bowls are available at the back of church.

Support the Local Ministry of Catholic Charities: Did you know that your donation to Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Dubuque stays in the 30 counties of the Archdiocese of Dubuque and serves the most poor and vulnerable in our local communities? Since its founding in 1931, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Dubuque has continuously evolved to respond to the ever-changing needs of people in our communities. Through these changes, Catholic Charities remains a leader in providing direct social services to families right here in Northeast Iowa. Join our community of hope today at <https://catholiccharitiesdubuque.org/donate>.

Day of Prayer/Action: Sat. March 28th. 9:30-3:00. Young adults and people discerning their vocation are welcome to join the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration at St. Rose Convent in La Crosse, WI for a day to experience Franciscan prayer and service to those on the margins. Meals and snacks provided. Email vocations@fspa.org or call 608-782-5610 ext 550 to register & learn more. Register by March 20th.

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



A Stewardship Moment: "Bear your share of the hardship for the Gospel," St. Paul tells Timothy in today's second reading. What sacrifice is asked of me for the sake of the Gospel? How willing am I to bear my share?

Upcoming Parish Events . . .

- (BH is Brinkmann Hall; PC is Parish Center)
- Feb 27: Stations of the Cross, 4:45pm, St. Joseph, Garnaville
Fish Fry, St. Joseph Parish Center, 5-7:30pm
- Mar 1: Patriotic Rosary, 5:30pm
- Mar 3: Scripture Study, 8:30am, PC
CDA Mtg, Noon, BH
KC Mtg, 7:30pm, Clubroom
- Mar 4: Sacred Seed Sowers Book Club, 1pm, PC
Faith Formation Classes, 6pm
- Mar 5: Scripture Study, 6:30pm, PC
- Mar 6: Fish Fry, St. Joseph Parish Center, 5-7:30pm
- Mar 8: KC Biscuits & Gravy Breakfast, 8-11:30am, BH
- Mar 11: Faith Formation Classes, 6pm
- Mar 13: Fish Fry, St. Joseph Parish Center, 5-7:30pm
- Mar 18: Sacred Seed Sowers Book Club, 1pm, PC
Faith Formation Classes, 6pm
- Mar 21: First Communion Practice
- Mar 22: Coffee & Donuts after Mass; Group Photos

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