

ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: Jan 05, 2023 ~ Rectory: 563-252-1247 ~ Fr.'s Cell: 563-258-3958 ~ www.maryicjoseph.org

LIVE THE LITURGY Inspiration for the week: She Kept All of These Things in Her Heart

“What was my first word? Who was there when I was born? When did I start to walk? Which toys did I play with? What made me cry when I was a baby?”

My oldest has reached the age where she has started to ask questions like this. As she grows up, she is realizing that, in order to understand the world around her, she must first understand herself. This makes her insatiably curious about her own identity, her history — her “origin story,” as they say in the movies.

I’ve got most of it documented either in writing or in photos, but even if it’s a detail that wasn’t scribbled in a baby book or saved to my digital cloud, it’s a memory that I can quickly summon and make real for her as we snuggle and talk about who she was, who she is, and who she may become.

I’m the mom. I have kept all of these things in my heart.

The Blessed Mother knew more about God before opening a book than most of us could discover after a lifetime of study and prayer. There is no one whose knowledge of Christ was so intimate, so deep, so simultaneously ordinary and extraordinary, as the human woman who bore him, birthed him, nursed him, raised him and eventually gave him up.

In the way that I can tell my daughter everything there is to know about the part of her life she cannot recall, Mary can tell us everything we need to know about Christ. All we have to do is ask. ~Colleen Dorman ©LPi

KC Biscuits & Gravy Breakfast

Drive-thru and Dine In; St. Mary Church
Sunday, January 8, 8-11:30am
Free will donation.

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR: Please mark your calendar for a special rosary on Sat., Feb. 4, 2022 at St. Mary’s of Guttenberg with Aquinas Communications from 11:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon.

Mass Schedule: January 9 – January 15, 2023

Greetings from your Social Justice Committee!

We would like to take a moment to say thank you to all parishioners who donated to the Giving Tree project this year. In total there were 130 tags and only 10 tags were left on the tree & in the end we had **120 of those “Holy Moments” that helped people in need.** THANK YOU for your great generosity and God bless you in 2023!

Mon., Jan 9: [No Mass Scheduled], “Baptism of the Lord”
(End of Christmas Season)

Tues., Jan 10: [No Mass Scheduled]

Wed., Jan 11: 8:30 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg
Ann Olinger & Kathleen Bockenstedt

Thur., Jan 12: 8:30 A.M. – Guttenberg River Living Center
People of the Parish

Fri., Jan 13: [No Mass Scheduled]

Sat., Jan 14: Vigil of Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:00 P.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Leland Behrend & Margaret Schlueter
5:30 P.M.—St. Mary, Guttenberg
Albert & Regina Schlueter

On January 22, the “**I STILL BELIEVE**” movie will be presented after the 10:00 AM Sunday Mass, in Brinkmann Hall. The Parish Life Committee will provide FREE “SOUP & BARS” with the movie starting about 11:30. From the makers of “I CAN ONLY IMAGINE” comes the true-life story “I STILL BELIEVE” of Christian music mega star Jeremy Camp and his remarkable journey of love and loss that proves there is always hope in midst of tragedy and that faith tested is the only faith worth sharing.

Sun., Jan 15: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:30 A.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista
10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass, **Live Streamed**
Jim & Lou Kuempel

GOSPEL REFLECTION: A Manifestation to the World

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.” [Matthew 2:1-2](#)

The Magi were most likely from Persia, modern-day Iran. They were men who regularly engaged in a study of the stars. They were not Jewish but were most likely aware of the popular belief of the Jewish people that a king would be born who would save them.

These Magi were called by God to encounter the Savior of the World. Interestingly, God used something very familiar to them as an instrument of their calling: the stars. It was among their belief that when someone of great importance was born, this birth was accompanied by a new star. So when they saw this new, bright and brilliant star, they were filled with curiosity and hope. One of the most significant aspects of this story is that they responded. God called them through the use of a star, and they chose to follow this sign, embarking on a long and arduous journey.

God often uses those things most familiar to us that are part of our daily life to send forth His calling. Recall, for example, that many of the Apostles were fishermen, and Jesus used their occupation to call them, making them “fishers of men.” He especially used the miraculous catch of fish to clearly indicate to them that they had a new calling.

In our own lives, God is constantly calling us to seek Him out and worship Him. He will often use some of the most ordinary parts of our lives to send forth that calling. How is He calling you? In what way is He sending you a star to follow? Many times when God speaks, we ignore His voice. We must learn from these Magi and diligently respond when He calls. We must not hesitate and must seek to daily be attentive to the ways that God invites us to deeper trust, surrender and worship.

Reflect, today, upon God’s call in your life. Are you listening? Are you responding? Are you ready and willing to abandon all else in life so as to serve His holy will? Seek Him, wait on Him and respond. Doing so will be the best decision you ever make.

Lord, I love You and pray that I will be open to Your guiding hand in my life. May I always be attentive to the countless ways that You call to me each and every day. And may I always respond to You with all my heart. Jesus, I trust in You.
~ source: [mycatholic.life](#)

Archdiocese One Update: While the parish phase of the special appeal concluded in your parish this past year, we want to ensure that we continue updating you on its progress. As of late December, over \$13 million has been raised. Thank you to everyone who has made a sacrificial gift to support the special appeal beneficiaries, whether with a financial contribution or your prayers. If you would like to make a gift to support the special appeal, or make an additional gift, you can do so by visiting the ArchdioceseOne website here: www.archdioceseone.org/support

SCRIPTURE STUDY continues with Session # 7 in February in Brinkmann Hall. Feb 7, 8:30 AM and Feb 9, 6:30 PM

Teens Encounter Christ, or TEC, is a Catholic experience designed for high school juniors and seniors taking place January 14th- January 16th at Beckman High School. Cost is only \$5! Registration is due by December 30th. Contact Katey Simon at youthministry@smic.pvt.k12.ia.us for more info.

A Stewardship Moment

Our Baptism, like the Lord’s, is a consecration to service. The bishop’s pastoral on stewardship reminds us that “...there is a fundamental obligation arising from the Sacrament of Baptism that people place their gifts, their resources --- their selves --- at God’s service in and through the Church.”

Start the New Year off right . . . Register for the **2023 Archdiocesan Women’s Conference, Beauty in Christ: Fiat! Saying Yes to God!**

Saturday, January 28, 2023, 8:00 - 2:00
Brinkmann Hall, St. Mary Church

To register contact Katey Simon by Friday, January 20 by leaving a message at (563) 252-1577 or emailing at dbq096ym@dbqarch.org. Invite your mother, daughters, aunts, sisters and friends and be ready to say **YES!**

Pick up your copy of the free book, “Holy Moments, A Handbook for the Rest of Your Life” by Matthew Kelly and awaken the greatness God has placed within you! It is available at all entrances of the church.

Upcoming Parish Events

Jan 8: KC Breakfast, 8-11:30am
Jan 11: Faith Formation/Youth Ministry, 6 and 6:15pm
Jan 18: Faith Formation/Youth Ministry, 6 and 6:15pm
Jan 14-16: TEC at Beckman High School
Jan 22: Movie presented by Parish Life
Jan 28: Beauty in Christ Women’s Conference, 8-1:30