

ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: Jan 12, 2023 ~ Rectory: 563-252-1247 ~ Fr.'s Cell: 563-258-3958 ~ www.maryicjoseph.org

LIVE THE LITURGY: Faith and Fear

When I was little, you could tell I believed in the destructive power of the monsters who lived beneath my bed because I would never let my ankles anywhere near the bottom of the mattress. (It's common knowledge that bare ankles are premium monster bait — ask any child you know).

You can often tell what a person believes by what they fear.

But here's the thing: belief isn't always enough. It's obvious that Herod believed in Christ's power because of how terrified he was by it and by the room he made in his life for the possible impact of the Messiah. In fact, if belief was the only measure of orthodoxy, you could stand most modern Christians next to Herod and he would tower above them.

Remember, there's something just as bad as disobeying God: discounting Him. I know I am guilty of that in a thousand small ways each day. In the person I ignore or the opinion I sneer at. In the unkind words I let roll from my tongue. In the prayers of thanksgiving that I don't say because I am "too busy."

I believe in God, but I do not fear Him — mostly because my very modern understanding of the concept of "fear" would lump God in with those monsters beneath my bed.

But what if we understood fear in a more traditional sense — awe, reverence, and wonder? "All kings shall pay him homage, all nations shall serve him." — Psalm 72:11

When Herod heard the news of the coming of the Messiah, it compelled him to do something. Not the right thing, mind you, but something. It moved him into action.

So, then, it should move us all.

We saw his star at its rising, and have come to do him homage. — Matthew 2:2

~ Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman, ©LPi

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.

Save the date: Sunday, June 4, after Mass Celebration of Fr. Bries' Anniversary.

"Save Time and Donate Online!"

Online Giving is available with WeShare, an easy and convenient way to save time and support the church. Goto:

<https://maryicjoseph.weshareonline.org/>



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 16 – January 22, 2023

Mon., Jan 16: [No Mass Scheduled]

Tues., Jan 17: [No Mass Scheduled], "St. Anthony"

Wed., Jan 18: 8:30 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg
Cyril & Ann Leliefeld

Thur., Jan 19: 10:00 A.M. – Guttenberg Care Center
Leon Berns & Pete Davis

Fri., Jan 20: [No Mass Scheduled]

Sat., Jan 21: Vigil of Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:00 P.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Phil Moser & Jane [Matt] Siebrecht
5:30 P.M.—St. Mary, Guttenberg
Claude & Claire Frommelt

Sun., Jan 22: Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:30 A.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista
10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass
Don & Pat Scheffert

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Behold, the Lamb of God!

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." [John 1:29](#)

Saint John the Baptist speaks these words about Jesus at the moment that he sees Jesus coming to him in the distance. John knew, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, that Jesus was the "Lamb of God." He knew, by this interior revelation, that Jesus would become the Sacrificial Lamb Who would lay down His life for the salvation of the world. Perhaps John did not know the details of how this would happen, but he didn't need to. He was content knowing this sacred mission of the Messiah, and he was content knowing that Jesus was that Messiah.

Today, as we ponder John's words, we are able to see them more clearly. Jesus is the One Who gave His life on the Cross for the remission of sins. He is the One Whom we now receive sacramentally in Holy Communion as the "Lamb of God." It is His flesh and His blood, poured out for us, that we now consume with the deepest reverence and love.

At Mass, these are the final words spoken by the priest after the consecration and prior to Holy Communion. Every time we participate in the Holy Mass, we relive this moment in which John saw our Lord coming to Him.

As we begin this season of Ordinary Time, we are invited to come to know this Lamb of God more fully through His many teachings, miracles and actions done during His public ministry. In the Liturgy of the Word at every Mass, we are called to unpack these words of John, coming to understand the mystery of the life of Christ more fully. And through our participation in the reception of Holy Communion, we come to know Him Who is the Lamb of God in the most personal and intimate of ways, when we enter into holy union (Holy Communion) with Him.

Reflect, today, upon these very familiar words of Saint John the Baptist. As you do, begin by prayerfully pondering the knowledge that John might have had about Christ the first time he saw Him. Why did John say these words? How fully did he understand their meaning? Did he know that his words would be echoed throughout time? As you prayerfully ponder the interior knowledge that John might have had at that time, try also to reflect upon all that we now know about these holy words. Reflect especially upon the suffering and death of the Lamb of God and the way in which He has transmitted His Saving Sacrifice to us in Holy Communion. What a gift! What a mystery! What a joy! Behold the Lamb of God within your heart, mind and soul, and prayerfully seek to know Him more fully this day.

Glorious Lamb of God, You have come and taken away the sins of the world through the sacrifice of Your sacred life on the Cross. Please help me to understand Who You are and all that You have done for me, especially every time I come to behold You and receive You in Holy Communion. Jesus, I trust in You.
~ source: [mycatholic.life](#)

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

Franciscan Common Venture - 2023 Service Opportunities

Give a gift of service this year! Share your time and talents with others -- for a day, a week (or longer). Your heart will never be the same! Join others in community, service and prayer. If interested, contact Sr. Michelle Balek, OSF: balekm@osfdbq.org or 563- 583-9786. Visit our website for a listing of opportunities and downloadable application materials: www.osfdbq.org/commonventure Sponsored by the Sisters of St. Francis of Dubuque, IA.

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!**

Pope Francis Prayer Intention for January:

"Let us pray that those who suffer discrimination and suffer religious persecution may find in the societies in which they live the rights and dignity that comes from being brothers and sisters."

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 14-16: TEC at Beckman High School
Jan 18: Faith Formation/Youth Ministry, 6 and 6:15pm
Jan 22: Movie presented by Parish Life
Jan 28: Beauty in Christ Women's Conference, 8-1:30
Feb 7: CDA Mtg, Noon, St. Mary, Guttenberg
KC Mtg, 7:30 pm
Feb 12: KC Breakfast, Pancakes and Sausage, 8-11:30am

A Stewardship Moment

Today's responsorial psalm is the theme song of the good steward. "Here am I, Lord, I come to do your will." May I, too, stand ready to offer myself and my gifts in the service of God.