

# ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: Jan 26, 2023 ~ Rectory: 563-252-1247 ~ Fr.'s Cell: 563-258-3958 ~ www.maryicjoseph.org

## LIVE THE LITURGY: The Art of Retreat

~ Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman, ©LPi

Social media has made it far too easy for me to share my opinion. These virtual spaces tend to strip our words of all empathy. Someone will post something that I think is nonsense, and I just have to tell them why — and quickly! Hurry! Before they delete it! Nine times out of ten, when the dust is settled, I find that I've said too much and listened too little.

As I've gotten older, the motto I try (not always successfully) to live by is this: You do not have to be on the attack all of the time, even if it's for what you think is the truth.

I can't help but notice that the first thing Jesus does when he hears of the arrest of John the Baptist is to retreat. He doesn't punch a hole in a wall or take to the streets in protest. He withdraws.

And what does he do after withdrawing? A lot of praying, I would imagine. A lot of thinking, a lot of reflecting. A lot of listening to the voice of his Father.

Sometimes we mistake stillness with vulnerability. But Christ shows us that to withdraw, to contemplate, can actually be a tremendous show of strength. Even the fiercest dogs wait for the command of their master before they act.

*For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with the wisdom of human eloquence.*  
— 1 Corinthians 1:17

### PRAYER

~ Rabbi Jack Riemer

We cannot merely pray to you, O God, to end war; for we know that You have made the world in a way that people must find their own path to peace within themselves and with their neighbors.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end starvation; for You have already given us the resources with which to feed the entire world, if we would only use them wisely.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to root out prejudice; for You have already given us eyes with which to see the good in all people, if we would only use them rightly.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end despair; for You have already given us the power to clear away slums and to give hope, if we would only use our power justly.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end disease; for You have already given us great minds with which to search out cures and healing, if we would only use them constructively.

Therefore, we pray to You instead, O God, for strength, determination and will power,  
To do instead of just pray,  
To become instead of merely to wish. Amen.



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

Sunday, February 12 at St. Mary, Guttenberg after Mass

**Jaydin Andrew Grinstead**

infant son of Jarid & Taylor (Fassbinder) Grinstead

May you grow in age, knowledge & wisdom in the Lord!

**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 30 – February 5, 2023

**Mon., Jan 30:** [No Mass Scheduled]

**Tues., Jan 31:** [No Mass Scheduled]

**Wed., Feb 1:** 8:30 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg  
*Ann Olinger & Kathleen Bockenstedt*

**Thur., Feb 2:** 10:00 A.M. – Guttenberg Care Center  
*People of the Parish*

**Fri., Feb 3:** [No Mass Scheduled]

**Sat., Feb 4:** Vigil of Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
4:00 P.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo  
*Jan Tschirgi*  
5:30 P.M.—St. Mary, Guttenberg  
*People of the Parish*

**Sun., Feb 5:** Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
8:30 A.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista  
10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass. *Live Streamed*  
*Richard Goerd*

## GOSPEL REFLECTION: The Journey to Perfection

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” [Matthew 5:1-3](#)

The Sermon on the Mount begins with today’s reading in Chapter Five of Matthew’s Gospel and continues through Chapter Seven. This beautiful sermon presents us with many familiar teachings of Jesus, such as the Beatitudes, the Lord’s Prayer and the Golden Rule. Jesus begins His sermon by going up a mountain and sitting down. The mountain is believed to be just north of the Sea of Galilee, just a few miles from Capernaum where Jesus often stayed during His public ministry. Today’s Gospel presents us with the glorious and very high calling of the Beatitudes. This teaching on the Beatitudes sets the stage for the many other lessons Jesus taught.

The Beatitudes are certainly a teaching about morality, but the lessons are not the same as many of the moral teachings that the people were familiar with. Up until that time, morality was primarily seen as a list of forbidden practices. “Thou shall not...” was the general tone. However, the Beatitudes take morality to a much higher level. In this new teaching, Jesus did not start with that which was forbidden or that which was a violation of God’s Law. Instead, He explained that reaching for these ideals brought forth the greatest fulfillment in life. Morality was not only a list of regulations one needed to avoid. At the heart, morality was now presented by our Lord as a glorious journey to perfection. The result of this journey was the attainment of the Kingdom of Heaven.

When you consider the moral life, how do you look at it? Do you see it more as a list of things you can’t do? Or do you see it as a journey up the mountain of true holiness and fulfillment? The Christian life certainly forbids us to engage in many forms of sin and violations of God’s Law. But unless we understand that the highest form of morality is given to fulfill us on the deepest level, then it will be easy to become discouraged by our calling.

Reflect, today, upon Jesus calling you to follow Him up the mountain of the Beatitudes. As you do, begin by considering this journey first from a physical point of view. It would have been much easier for His first hearers of this sermon to simply stay in Capernaum and recline at table, listening to Jesus speak. But the physical journey up the mountain gives insight into the high calling of the moral life. It requires effort and determination. From there, try to imagine yourself listening to Jesus preach. Remind yourself that the Christian life is one of perfection in every way. This is our calling. But the fruit of perfection is the fulfillment in which God wants us to share. The easy life of sin leaves us dry and interiorly dead, but the hard journey to perfection leads us to the deepest fulfillment we could ever attain. Commit yourself to the journey and do not hesitate on the way, and you, too, will be rewarded with the Kingdom of Heaven.

*Lord of perfection, You call me to journey with You up the high mountain of holiness. May I always see this journey as one that is glorious and fulfilling. I choose the life of perfection to which I am called and pray that I will always be open to the deepest moral truths You wish me to live. Jesus, I trust in You!*

~source: mycatholic.life

### Volunteers Needed!

We are currently looking for a member or members to take care of decorating the altar and the church to reflect the different liturgical seasons and special events.

-Flexible hours                      -Training will be provided  
-Contact Fr Bries at 252-1247 for more info.

Your 2022 Contribution Statements are available at the back of church. The church is open daily.

Missing the Bulletin Emails? Check your spam/junk folder. If you are not on the bulletin email list and would like to be, please email [OfficeOfStMary@gmail.com](mailto:OfficeOfStMary@gmail.com)

### A Stewardship Moment

Blessed are they who are what they are and do what they do *for the sake of the kingdom!* The Gospel today assures good stewards that their suffering and their service on behalf of the kingdom *will* be rewarded!

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 28: Beauty in Christ Women’s Conference, 8-1:30

Feb 1: Faith Formation/Youth Ministry, 6 and 6:15pm

Feb 7: Scripture Study, 8:30 am

CDA Mtg, Noon, St. Mary, Guttenberg

KC Mtg, 7:30 pm

Feb 8: Faith Formation/Youth Ministry, 6 and 6:15pm

Feb 9: Scripture Study, 6:30pm

Feb 12: KC Breakfast, Pancakes and Sausage, 8-11:30am

Feb 14: Scripture Study, 8:30 am

Feb 15: Faith Formation/Youth Ministry, 6 and 6:15pm

Feb 16: Scripture Study, 6:30pm

Mar 6: Finance Mtg 6:30pm & Parish Council, 7:00pm

June 4: Celebration of Fr. Bries’ 50th Jubilee of Priesthood Ordination