

# ST. MARY PARISH

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

January 30, 2025 ~ Rectory: 563-252-1247 ~ Fr.'s Cell: 563-880-6017 ~ www.maryicjoseph.org

## LIVE THE LITURGY:

~ St. Mary's Liturgy Committee

This week's feast commemorates the occasion that Mary and Joseph bring Jesus to be presented to the temple in Jerusalem in accordance with Jewish law. The Church takes a break from the normal cycle of readings to return briefly to Jesus' infancy. When Mary and Joseph presented their newborn son to the Lord they hadn't expected a man named Simeon to prophesy that Jesus would be "a light for revelation." Simeon knew exactly whom he held in his arms. This child was the Savior. It was as obvious to him as the arrival of the Lord in glory.

Whatever your concerns, like Mary and Joseph, don't let them prevent you from doing what God is calling you to do right now, today. That work might look pretty routine from your point of view, but it's nevertheless important in God's eyes. Today, on this Feast of the Presentation, take some time to surrender any worries you might have about the future to the Lord. Ask for the grace to focus on the responsibilities right in front of you and trust that God will be with you, no matter what the future holds.

Christians today are called to the same expectation and response. Christ arrives in countless ways every day. A life spent in faith filled expectation can give our hearts a sensitivity that reveals God's presence in all its glory.

### 2024 Contribution Statements

Please check the table at the back of church for your year-end contribution statement. There are several that need to be picked up yet. Please pick up at your earliest convenience. The church is open daily.

#### Food Shelf Weekend:

There will be a 2nd collection this weekend for the food pantry at the Family Resource Center.



Next weekend, February 8/9 there will be a 2nd collection for the California Wild Fire relief. Catholic Charities will distribute the funds collected. Checks should be made out to Catholic Charities; donations can be made online at catholiccharitiesusa.org

#### Gift Bearers

The privilege of carrying the "Gifts" to the altar during the Mass is accomplished by the Gift Bearers. It is a simple, special, and meaningful part of the Mass. These gift bearers represent the entire parish as we return to God a small part of the many blessings that He has given to us. **What a wonderful way to express thanks and joy to God by bearing these gifts!**

Any occasion can be a time to serve as a gift bearer: a birthday, an anniversary, or just a "happy day." Or maybe you would like to bring up the gifts on a memorial of a loved one. At least two people are needed for each Mass and families are welcome to bring up the gifts together. Serving as a gift bearer requires no special skill. Let an usher at your Mass know that you / your family are willing to take up the gifts that day.

#### KC Pancakes & Sausage Breakfast

Sunday, February 9; 8-11:30am

St. Mary Church, Brinkmann Hall  
Drive-thru and Dine In; Free will offering.



### Mass Schedule: Feb 3 – Feb 9, 2025

**Mon. Feb 3:** [No Mass Scheduled]

**Tues., Feb 4:** [No Mass Scheduled]

**Wed., Feb 5:** 8:30 A.M. Mass – St. Mary, Guttenberg  
*Tom Kuempel*

**Thur., Feb 6:** 10:00 A. M.—Guttenberg Care Center  
*Dennis Rohner*

**Fri., Feb 7:** 8:30 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg  
*Don & Janice Rohner*  
9:00-9:45 A.M. — Confessions

**Sat., Feb 8:** Vigil of 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
4:00 P.M. Mass—St. Joseph, Garnavillo  
  
5:30 P.M. Mass—St. Mary, Guttenberg  
*Dec'd of Kann/Kolker Family*

**Sun., Feb 9:** Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
8:30 A.M. Mass – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista  
*People of the Parish*  
10:00 A.M. – Mass – St. Mary, Guttenberg, *live streamed*  
*Henry & Anna Nieland Family*

**Homily: The Presentation of Jesus**

~Fr. Paul Ameyaw

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, today’s feast is another example of the overall religious attitude of the Jews: the beginning of everything should be dedicated to God.

In many of our churches this event is symbolically re-enacted when the faithful gather outside or inside the church and then in procession enter the church holding blessed candles, symbolizing Christ, the light of revelation.

Today we heard that the Holy Family goes up to Jerusalem to fulfill the prescriptions of the law of Moses.

Our Lord, who though was rich, yet for our sake became poor so that by his poverty we might become rich. (2 Cor. 8-9), chose to have a poor man’s offering made on his behalf, a pair of turtledoves or two pigeons. Simeon calls him the light of revelation for the Gentiles and the glory of God’s people, Israel.

My dear people of God, it was in Jerusalem after the descent of the Holy Spirit the Good News of salvation spread throughout the world, enlightening the Gentiles. My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, we need an experience of faith like Simeon. A faith that will keep us firm in the storms of life. At times we are overwhelmed by the evil surrounding us, we experience misfortunes, failures and problems. Sometimes we wonder whether there is a God at all and whether he loves or cares for us. We may even think that our faith and our religion is an illusion, because the more significant promises of God don’t come through. We see that our life is in trouble and God remains silent.

My dearly beloved, in such moments we need a Simeon experience--a moment of grace that unmistakably shows us the presence and the love of our God.

Simeon also addressed to Mary that she will have a share in her son’s suffering. Her’s will be an unspeakable pain which pierces her soul. Jesus suffered on the cross for our sins, and it is those sins which forge the sword of Mary’s pain. As Christians, we have a duty to atone not only to God but also to his mother, who is our mother too.

In conclusion, the prophetess, Anna, talked about the child to all who looked forward to deliverance of Israel. My dear beloved, do we share our revelation with others facing hardships and wanting to be set free? Sharing our experiences strengthens others and keeps the spark of grace alive in ourselves.

May the good Lord richly bless you! Amen.

**“DAILY REFLECTIONS FOR LENT”** booklets will be available in the entry ways of church starting the weekend of February 1 & 2.

**Bringing the Gospel Into Your Family:**

Recall Simeon and Anna, two elderly people of faith who are introduced in today’s Gospel passage. Help your children recall the elderly members of your family and their ancestors who kept the faith throughout the ages. Show your children pictures of these faithful women and men, and share what you know about them. If you have kept a family tree in your Bible, review it with your children. As an alternative, create together a family tree that allows space for drawings, photographs, short stories, and the names of your ancestors in faith. Place this family tree in a place where all family members can see it and add to it.

*~http://www.rclblectionary.com*

**SAVE THE DATE . . . . .**

The celebration of all high school, grade school and anyone who attended St. Mary’s, their friends and family and supporters of St. Mary’s are invited to the June 7, 2025 Mass of Thanksgiving, social hour and dinner at St Mary’s Brinkmann Hall. More information to follow!

**A Stewardship Moment**

When Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple, they offered a sacrificial gift “in accord with the dictate in the law of the Lord.” An offering of a specific size or kind is not “dictated” when we bring our gifts to the altar at Mass. Is my gift reflective of the many blessings I’ve received?

**Upcoming Parish Events . . .**

(BH is Brinkmann Hall; PC is Parish Center)

- Feb 2: Patriotic Rosary, 5:30pm
- Feb 4: Scripture Study, 8:30-10:30 am, PC  
CDA Mtg, Noon, St. Mary’s  
KC Meeting, 7:30pm
- Feb 5: Sacred Seed Sowers Book Club, 1pm, PC  
Faith Formation Classes, 6pm
- Feb 6: Scripture Study, 6:30-8:30 pm, PC
- Feb 9: KC Breakfast, 8-11:30am, BH
- Feb 11: Scripture Study, 8:30-10:30 am, PC
- Feb 12: Faith Formation Classes, 6pm
- Feb 13: Scripture Study, 6:30-8:30 pm, PC
- Feb 16: Coffee and Donuts after Mass, BH

Please submit items for the bulletin by Tuesday evening to [OfficeOfStMary@gmail.com](mailto:OfficeOfStMary@gmail.com)

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  
Stewardship/Liturgy: Sue Bahls, 563-252-3253  
Social Justice: Gerald Bormann, 563-419-6967  
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Finance:  
Jim Schlueter  
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Beth Sadewasser, Chair  
563-880-2743  
Jessie Young, Gerald  
Bormann, Lois Bries  
Adam Scherbring  
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Parish Center: Lora Kolker, 563-880-9111  
Parish Center Reservations: 563-252-1577  
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  
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