

# ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: Mar 16, 2023 ~ Rectory: 563-252-1247 ~ Fr.'s Cell: 563-258-3958 ~ [www.maryicjoseph.org](http://www.maryicjoseph.org)

## LIVE THE LITURGY: And Now I See

source: <http://rclectionary.com/>

Using saliva and earth, Jesus made a paste to heal the blind man. The healing became a true conversion for the man, but created some problems for Jesus with the Jewish leaders. Because this healing took place on the Sabbath, the Pharisees accused Jesus of breaking Jewish law. The Pharisees tried to get confirmation of this action from the blind man's parents and from the blind man himself. In the end, the authorities were unable to charge Jesus with any wrongdoing and had to recognize that Jesus was gaining many disciples.

As Jesus helped the blind man understand, it is not enough to see only with our eyes. We need also to see with our hearts and allow our every action to reflect this sight. Jesus healed the man of his blindness, but in the end the man recognized Jesus as the Messiah and worshiped him.

Make an effort today (or sometime this week) to really see God in your life. This may take some time and deliberation, but take a walk and look for signs of God in the beauty of nature. Talk with others about ways God has helped you see with your heart, and suggest ways you can share the sight of your heart with others.

**Adults:** What are you doing in your life right now to move toward light rather than darkness?

**Children:** How can you let the light of your faith in Jesus shine for others to see?

**FROM DESK OF THE PASTOR:** General Absolution of Sins at all three linked parishes on March 18 & 19.

### Church Exterior Door Replacement

**Project:** The door frames of the church's exterior doors are rusting out and are in need of replacement along with the doors. The Knights of Columbus will be coordinating this project. They are in the process of obtaining bids to determine the cost and the proceeds of their monthly breakfasts will go to the Door Replacement fund. They are accepting donations for this project. To make a donation, please place an envelope in the collection basket marked KC Door Fund with your check made out to the **Knights of Columbus**.

On March 19, the "THE BELLS OF ST. MARY'S" movie will be presented after the 10:00 AM Mass, in Brinkmann Hall. The Parish Life Committee will provide a FREE lite lunch with the movie starting about 11:30. Bing Crosby recreates his Oscar-winning role as parish priest Father O'Malley. Father O'Malley is sent to revive a financially ailing parochial school and finds himself at odds with Sister Benedict on how to educate the children. Beyond their delightful battle of wits lies a bigger problem, the skinflint businessman next door wants St. Mary's condemned, so he can build a parking lot for his employees. It is a very active, lively entertaining movie even if it is 'black & white.'

### Mass Schedule: March 20 – March 26, 2023

**Mon., Mar 20:** [No Mass Scheduled]

**Tues., Mar 21:** 8:30 A.M. – St. Joseph, Garnavillo  
*Angi Berns & Amy Hoeger*

**Wed., Mar 22:** 8:30 A.M.—St. Mary, Guttenberg  
*Ann Olinger & Kathleen Bockenstedt*

**Thur., Mar 23:** 8:30 A.M. - Guttenberg River Living Center  
*Amy (Steffen) Clay*

**Fri., Mar 24:** [No Mass Scheduled]

**Sat., Mar 25:** Vigil of Fifth Sunday of Lent  
3:40 P.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo, Way of the Cross  
4:00 P.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo, Mass  
*Living & Dec'd of Frank J. Berns Family*  
5:10 P.M.—St. Mary, Guttenberg, Way of the Cross  
5:30 P.M.—St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass  
*Bob/James/Jean/Serenus Junk*

**Sun., Mar 26:** Fifth Sunday of Lent  
8:10 A.M. – IC, N. Buena Vista, Way of the Cross  
8:30 A.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista  
*Stella (Brimeyer) Hefel (Month Mind)*  
9:40 A.M.— St. Mary, Guttenberg, Way of the Cross  
10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass. *Live Streamed*  
*People of the Parish*

## GOSPEL REFLECTION: A Journey of Preparation

— Bro. Silas Henderson, SDS, LPI

For those involved parish faith formation, the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent are, in many ways, among the most important celebrations of the entire year. These are the Sundays of the Scrutinies, ancient and meaningful rituals that are an essential part of the OCIA (the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, also known as the RCIA).

As the Elect look forward to being received into the Church at the Easter Vigil through Baptism, Confirmation, and receiving the Eucharist, these Sundays provide the rest of us with a perspective on what the Season of Lent is really all about: preparing to renew our baptismal vows at Easter. Unfortunately, many of us don't always understand that preparation for baptism and the renewal of our baptismal commitments as being the ultimate goal of our Lenten penance and good works. The liturgies for these Sundays, however, are all oriented to helping us reflect on the gift and grace of baptism. The prayers, the readings at Mass (especially the Gospels), and the rites of the Scrutinies all teach (or, at least, remind us) that conversion is an ongoing process. These days aren't only about the Elect and the Candidates for Full Communion, these are the celebrations of the entire Church. ...

As we reflect on this story of the "man born blind", we are invited to consider Jesus' words at the end of the passage. Responding to the Pharisees who ask, "Surely we are not also blind, are we?" Jesus replies, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you are saying, 'We see,' so your sin remains."

When we believe we have all the answers or know all that we need to know, we can, like the Pharisees, lose the ability to see how God is at work in our lives and in the world around us. The blind man, however, didn't have these pretensions — he was open to what Jesus was asking of him. After reading that he allowed Jesus to put mud on his eyes and washed in the pool of Siloam (a reference to baptism), we realize that it wasn't just his eyes that have been opened, his heart has been opened as well. This is why he is able to declare, "I do believe, Lord." As [Saint Augustine of Hippo](#) reflected, "See how [the blind man] becomes the herald of grace. See how he preaches the gospel. See how, once he is endowed with sight, he becomes a witness. That blind man testified, and the ungodly were troubled in their hearts because they did not have in their own hearts what they saw in him" (from *Tractates on the Gospel of John*).

The rose colors of this *Laetare* Sunday remind us that we are now more than halfway through the Season of Lent. As we continue our Lenten journey, we would do well to pause and reflect on how our Lenten penances and good works are helping us have a right perspective and to prepare to renew our baptismal promises at Easter.

**Easter Flowers:** If you would like to donate an Easter lily in honor, memory or celebration of your loved one(s), please bring to the church by noon on Friday, April 7. Monetary donations may also be given. Place your donation and info in an envelope marked "Easter Flowers" and put it in the collection basket.



### **A prayer attributed to St. Patrick:**

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,  
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ when I  
lie down, Christ when I sit down, Christ when I arise, Christ in  
the heart of every man who thinks of me, Christ in the mouth  
of everyone who speaks of me, Christ in every eye that sees  
me, Christ in every ear that hears me.



**"SPIRITUAL DVDS"** There are spiritual DVD's available for your viewing at home. These are 'free' for you to use but do request them to be returned so that others may use them. They are located in the area by the CD's and books in the entry way of church. *This is brought to you by the PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE.*

### **A Stewardship Moment**

The blind man was willing to let Jesus minister to him and willingly did all Jesus asked of him. The Pharisees were more resistant to His message, spending their time and energy to disprove the miracle. Which am I more like, the man born blind or the Pharisees?

## **Immaculate Conception Parish Spring Breakfast**

**Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023**

**Serving 8AM to 12 Noon.**

Scrambled eggs, sausage, ham, hash browns, toast, cinnamon rolls, milk, juice, & coffee.

Adults- \$12, kids- \$6.

Vendors: 9 to 12.

Easter Raffle drawing at noon

## **Upcoming Parish Events . . . .**

Mar 19: The Bells of St. Mary's Movie after 10am Mass  
Sunday School for PK, K, 1st; 9:45-10:45 am

Mar 22: Faith Formation/Youth Ministry, 6 and 6:15pm

Mar 25 2nd grade Bread Making /First Communion  
practice 9am-Noon

Apr 2 Youth Mass, 10am – Palm Sunday

Apr 4: CDA Mtg, Noon, Brinkmann Hall  
7:30pm KC Mtg

Apr 5: Faith Formation/Youth Ministry – Passion Play

Apr 7: Good Friday Service – Live Passion 3:00pm

Apr 12: Faith Formation/Youth Ministry, 6 and 6:15pm

April 16 First Communion

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