

# ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: Mar 17, 2022

563-252-1247

www.maryicjoseph.org

## LIVE THE LITURGY Inspiration for the week: Repentance and Real Change

Brothers and Sisters, we should be grateful and encouraged by the last words of Jesus in the Gospel selection. There is still time. There is still another chance. The gardener asked the landowner to give the fig tree one more year. He would give it special attention. If it still refused to respond – then it would, certainly, be destroyed.

Each Lent is a new opportunity for us to change. Each day is a new day to bring forward the best of our past. Each day is a chance to offer a better person to God in praise and gratitude. And we should never squander the grace that God gives us every day of our life!

I am reminded of a quote from Dag Hammarskjöld's Markings:

"Each day the first day – Each day a life. Each morning we must hold out the chalice of our being to receive, to carry, to give back. It must be held out empty – for the past must only be reflected in its polish, its shape, its capacity."

Let us pray that we can do this with our own lives and hearts. Amen.

~ Msgr. Russell G. Terra

**This Sunday**, Mar 20, the Parish Life Committee will be presenting the movie, "**The Girl Who Believes in Miracles**," in Brinkmann Hall, after the 10:00 AM Mass with a **FREE** light luncheon prior to the movie. Movie will start about 11:30.

**Movie Summary:** Unlike most people, young Sara Hopkins is willing to take God at His word. So, when she hears a preacher say faith can move mountains, she starts praying. What begins with a mysteriously healed bird leads to people suddenly cured of their misery and misfortune all over town. But the overwhelming crush of notoriety and press attention soon takes its toll on Sara. Will her family be able to save their miracle girl before it's too late?

### A Child's Prayer to St. Joseph:

St. Joseph, watch over me and care for me just as you cared for the child Jesus; and by your help, may I come to know your Son, and so grow in strength and wisdom and the favor of God. Amen.

"The only thing that can grow is the thing you give energy to." – **Ralph Waldo Emerson**



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

Saturday, March 26 at St. Mary, Guttenberg after Mass  
**Dominic Edward Greve**  
son of Jeremy & Amanda (Hansel) Greve

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Sunday, April 3 at St. Mary, Guttenberg after Mass  
**Alma Eloise Berns**  
daughter of Paul & Nicole (Goeddeke) Berns

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

## Mass Schedule: Mar 21 – Mar 27, 2022

**Mon., Mar 21:** [No Mass Schedule]

**Tues., Mar 22:** – [No Mass Schedule]

**Wed., Mar 23:** 8:30 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, 7th/8th Grade  
*Julius & Verna Steffen*

**Thur., Mar 24:** 8:30 A.M. – Guttenberg River Living Center  
*Harold Mueller & Fred Bush*

**Fri., Mar 25:** [No Mass Scheduled], Abstinence from meat  
"Feast of Annunciation of the Lord"

**Sat., Mar 26:** Vigil of Fourth Sunday of Lent  
3:40 P.M. — Way of the Cross, St. Joseph  
4:00 P.M. – St. Joseph, Garnavillo  
*Tommy & Annie Stroschein*  
5:10 P.M — Way of the Cross, St. Mary  
5:30 P.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg  
*People of the Parish*

**Sun., Mar 27:** Fourth Sunday of Lent  
8:10 A.M.—Way of the Cross, IC  
8:30 A.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista  
9:40 A.M.—Way of the Cross, St. Mary  
10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass, **Live Streamed**  
*Nick Westhoff & Sharon Belden*

**GOSPEL REFLECTION: Exhausting the “Soil” of Mercy**

“Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future. If not you can cut it down.” [Luke 13:8-9](#)

Every gardener knows that good fruit is, in part, dependent upon the presence of good soil. But other factors are also important in the production of good fruit. The plant must be free of disease, receive water and sun, be planted in a warm environment, be properly pruned, and have enough space to grow. When all factors are present, good fruit is guaranteed.

So it is with our lives. The soil in which we are to be planted is the mercy of God. And this soil is the richest soil attainable for the production of the virtues in our lives. God also produces the sun, the rain, and the warmth that is needed for our growth. But, analogously speaking, we must allow ourselves to be pruned. We must also allow the soil to be fertilized and cultivated in a variety of ways. Though Jesus is the Gardener of our lives, it’s also fair to say that we are the gardeners in the sense that we must cooperate with our Lord, relying upon the supernatural resources of the Creator to ensure the healthy growth of our spiritual lives so that the good fruit of virtue may be born in our lives.

This passage above is the conclusion to the Parable of the Fig Tree. Just prior to this passage, the owner of the vineyard, God the Father, ordered that the barren fig tree be cut down so that it will no longer exhaust the soil. But our merciful Lord, sent on mission from the Father to till the soil of our lives, seeks to offer one more chance and the Father obliges out of love. This life is that “year” by which our Lord works fervently to cultivate the soil around us. We must cooperate through daily prayer, fidelity to His commands, acts of loving sacrifice and surrender to His providence. In the end, if we allow our Lord to do all He desires, our lives will bear good fruit.

But on the flip side, make no mistake about the fact that, if our lives do not bear good fruit, we will be “cut down.” Bearing good fruit is not an option, it’s a must. It’s a clear indication of our spiritual health and it will become the measure of our eternal reward or eternal death. Do not be intimidated by such sharp language coming from our Lord. He spoke it in love so that we will know the serious duty we have to bear good fruit in our lives. Reflect, today, upon the outward signs of your inward spiritual health. Do you see the virtues sprouting forth from your life? Are you aware of the work God desires to do in your soul so as to cultivate it and fertilize it with grace and mercy? Say “Yes” to Him this day and allow that grace to produce an abundance of good fruit.

*My virtuous Lord, I invite You into my soul to cultivate it and fertilize it with Your grace. Please prune my sins and help me to sink my roots deeply into the nourishment of Your mercy. I am sorry for the ways that I have failed to bear fruit in my life. I now entrust myself to You so that Your care will remedy all my ills and weaknesses. Jesus, I trust in You.*

Source: [mycatholiclife.com](http://mycatholiclife.com)

KCs would like to thank you for supporting the breakfast this past weekend. 173 dinners were served grossing \$2413! The Ramp fund is currently at \$37,990.

SMIC Spring Rummage/Bake Sale will be Apr 29th/30th. Donations of clean usable items will be accepted beginning Apr 25th. No TVs! Volunteers also needed to setup that week.

SMIC School is seeking to fill the following positions for the 2022/2023 school year: **Principal, Elementary Teacher, Middle School Teacher & Art/Music.** Resume to [eschmelzer@smic.pvt.k12.ia.us](mailto:eschmelzer@smic.pvt.k12.ia.us)

**A Stewardship Moment**  
The parable in today’s Gospel clearly warns that we, like the fig tree, will be judged by our fruit. While God mercifully provides us with time and opportunity, let us give witness to our faith with deeds of kindness and generosity!

**Friends of St. Mary IC PPA (Parents, Parishioners, Alumni)**

Upcoming Events:

- Youth Mass, April 3 and KC Breakfast proceeds to SMIC school
- April 13, 8th grade Passion Play

Upcoming Fundraisers:

- Candy Bar Sales: March 24-April 14th, \$1 ea
- Spring Rummage/Bake Sale: April 29th 8am-6pm; April 30, 8am-12.
- Script Sales — ongoing

Mandy Ludovissy, 563-880-8860; Lisa Kies, 563-880-1946; Jane Parker, 563-880-5469

**Upcoming Parish Events . . . .** (BH = Brinkmann Hall)

- Mar 20: Parish Movie, “**The Girl Who Believes in Miracles**, BH after Mass
- Mar 23: Youth Ministry, 6:15-8:00pm, BH
- Mar 27: Festival Meeting after 10am Mass
- Mar 28: Finance and Administration Council Meeting, 6:30pm  
Pastoral Council Meeting, 7pm

- Apr 3: KC Breakfast, 8:00-11:30am, Proceeds to SMIC School  
Youth Mass, 10am
- Apr 5: CDA Mtg, Noon, Monona  
KC Mtg, 7:30pm, BH
- Apr 17: Easter Sunday
- Apr 24: First Communion

Please submit newsletter items by Tuesday night to: [churchlady@smic.pvt.k12.ia.us](mailto:churchlady@smic.pvt.k12.ia.us)