

ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: Mar 23, 2023 ~ Rectory: 563-252-1247 ~ Fr.'s Cell: 563-258-3958 ~ www.maryicjoseph.org

LIVE THE LITURGY: Not as Man Sees

source: Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman, ©LPi

I don't know Fr. Stu personally, but I've heard a fair number of his homilies. I think it is safe to assume that if he and I were to get into a discussion on any number of things, from church history to liturgical music to stand-up comedy, each of us would cringe at the opinions of the other.

But Fr. Stu happens to offer just about the only confession time within 20 miles of me that consistently works with my schedule. That means that, quite by accident, Fr. Stu is my regular confessor. For years now, he's sat patiently on the other side of the grille, listening to me pour out the details of my transgressions, from the pathetic to the embarrassing, and he absolves me of my sins.

In the Gospel, Christ links vision with humility and pride with blindness. We see again and again in Scripture how God delights in surprising us, in revealing himself through people, places, and experiences we not only didn't expect but perhaps had totally written off.

We are right to be proud of the truth, but we are wrong if the truth causes us to be proud of ourselves. A gift does not reflect on the recipient. It reflects on the giver.

After a great deal of thought, I've decided to be grateful that God contrived to give me a confessor whom I strongly disagree with on so many things. It's a powerful reminder of how much I must receive from other people, even those I may think are wrong. In that confessional, Fr. Stu is only a priest, and I am only a sinner.

From the desk of Your Pastor . . .

Following the closing of SMIC School, the Clayton Ridge School District administration asked to lease our newer school building for an alternative learning center for students they are sending out of the district to Elkader and Prairie du Chien. They also would like to use the building to help some senior students to graduate and provide jobs for them in our local community. A lot of time and effort has been put into developing this leasing arrangement.

In the middle of this, a group of people in the parish want to keep the newer school building in the parish setting.

Our insurance agent for the Archdiocese of Dubuque said that letting a building empty for long periods of time lends to deterioration of the building.

A survey has been put together asking the parishioners to provide input. The survey is attached to this bulletin, is available at the back of church and online by clicking here: [Survey](#)

On April 3rd the Parish Council will be voting on the lease of the newer school to Clayton Ridge. **Please complete the survey by April 1st.** If filing out a paper survey please place in the survey box at church.

Women's Faith Sharing Group

We are hoping to start a faith sharing women's group and are looking for anyone that may be interested in participating. Please join us **April 16th** after Mass for coffee and coffee cakes to learn more and we will decide the best day and time for future gatherings. We hope to see you there! Contact Jenn Glenis at 608-225-3018 or Jennifer.glenis@gmail.com for questions or more information.

Mass Schedule: March 27 – April 2, 2023

Mon., Mar 27: [No Mass Scheduled]

Tues., Mar 28: 8:30 A.M. – St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Rita Eulberg & Amy Hoeger

Wed., Mar 29: 8:30 A.M.—St. Mary, Guttenberg
Dec'd of Gilbert Evers Family

Thur., Mar 30: [No Mass Scheduled]

Fri., Mar 31: [No Mass Scheduled]

Sat., Apr 1: Vigil of Passion/Palm Sunday
4:00 P.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo, Mass
Suzanne Stoeffler
5:30 P.M.—St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass
People of the Parish

Sun., Apr 2: Passion/Palm Sunday
8:30 A.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista
10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass. *Live Streamed*
Lydia Kann [Month Mind]

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Life, Death, and Resurrection

source: young-catholics.com

The 5th Sunday of Lent invites us to reflect on the themes of life, death, and resurrection. The Gospel reading for this Sunday, from John 11:1-45, tells the story of the raising of Lazarus from the dead.

In this story, Jesus receives word that his friend Lazarus is ill. However, instead of rushing to his side, Jesus delays his journey for two days. By the time he arrives in Bethany, Lazarus has been dead for four days. When he sees Lazarus's sister Martha, Jesus tells her that he is the resurrection and the life, and that whoever believes in him will never die.

When Jesus arrives at Lazarus's tomb, he weeps and then commands Lazarus to come out of the tomb. Lazarus emerges, still wrapped in his burial cloths, and Jesus instructs the people around him to unbind him and let him go. This passage is a powerful reminder of the hope and promise of resurrection that is at the heart of the Christian faith. Jesus' raising of Lazarus prefigures his own resurrection, which we will celebrate in just a few weeks on Easter Sunday. It reminds us that, no matter how difficult or painful our lives may be, there is always hope for new life and transformation through the power of Christ.

At the same time, this passage also reminds us of the reality of death and the importance of mourning and grieving. When Jesus sees Lazarus's sister Mary weeping, he too is moved to tears. This is a reminder that it is okay to feel sadness and grief when we lose a loved one, and that these emotions are a natural part of the human experience.

As we reflect on this passage, we are invited to hold both of these truths in tension: the reality of death and the hope of resurrection. We are called to embrace the reality of our own mortality, but also to hold fast to the hope of new life and transformation through Christ. In doing so, we can find comfort and strength in the knowledge that, no matter what we may face in this life, we are never alone and that Christ is with us always.

Reflection Questions:

- Do you tend to respond with reason or emotion during times of crisis?
- In what ways do you encounter Jesus during difficult moments in your life?
- How has your faith been a source of strength during challenging times?
- Have you ever experienced a moment of despair or hopelessness, only to be surprised by a new opportunity or a fresh start?

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.



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

"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

When Jesus heard about the illness of His friend, Lazarus, He responded, "This illness is not to end in death, rather it is for God's glory, that through it the Son of God may be glorified." Every aspect of our lives --- our gifts as well as our sufferings --- can, if surrendered to Christ, lead to blessing for others and ourselves.

Holy Week Schedule

Holy Thursday, April 6

4:00pm – Garnavillo

5:30pm - Guttenberg

Good Friday, April 7

3:00pm, Guttenberg; (YM Live Passion & Communion)

6:00pm, N. Buena Vista; (Passion & Communion)

Holy Saturday, April 8

4:00pm – Garnavillo

Easter Sunday, April 9

8:30am, N. Buena Vista

10:00am, Guttenberg



Upcoming Parish Events

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

Apr 16: First Communion

Women's Faith Sharing Information/
Organizational Mtg after Mass

Apr 19: Faith Formation/Youth Ministry, 6 and 6:15pm

Apr 30: Coffee and Donuts after Mass

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