

ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: Mar 24, 2022

563-252-1247

www.maryicjoseph.org

LIVE THE LITURGY Inspiration for the week: **Stoking the Lenten Fire**

I think we all can acknowledge that there's a certain fatigue that comes over us all as we near the end of the Lenten season. This Sunday is Laetare Sunday, and I find that as soon as those pink vestments start coming out of storage, our collective motivation begins to wane.

I get that. Maybe you're fatigued — I am, too. Maybe you're doing well in your resolutions and devotions but you're in danger of coasting. Or maybe, like many of us this year or in past years, you don't feel that you have even really begun your Lenten journey.

Either way, chances are that the fire that was in your belly on Ash Wednesday is burning a bit low. All fires eventually do, once they consume whatever fuels them. So here we would do well to remember what fuels our Lenten fire.

Sometimes we make resolutions that have the appearance of being spiritual, but also have an earthly motive. We give up chocolate hoping to lose weight. We stop gossiping so our friends may like us more. There is nothing wrong with these sacrifices — just with their motivations.

As Moses removes his sandals to approach the burning bush, he sees that the fire burns brightly, strongly — but does not consume. It is propelled by something inexhaustible, something which is not of this world.

Is your Lenten fire fueled by God? Are you daily surrendering yourself to the same voice that boomed from the bush in Genesis — the voice that commanded the Israelites to do what seemed like the impossible? — *Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS*

The SMIC school board is pleased to announce that **Mrs. Angela Jones** will be the new principal of SMIC School. Mrs. Jones will assume her new role on July 1st after the retirement of Joanne Hedemann. Mrs. Jones has taught at several Dubuque area schools and served as the principal of St. Mary School, East Dubuque, IL. The school board would like to thank you for your prayers during this process.

KC Pancake and Sausage Breakfast

 Drive-thru and Limited indoor seating available; St. Mary Church
Sunday, Apr 3, 8:00am—11:30am
Pancakes, Sausage, Scrambled Eggs, Hashbrowns and Cinnamon Rolls
Free will donation.
Proceeds to SMIC School



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

Sunday, April 3 at Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista – after Mass
Evelyn Mae Meyer
daughter of Alex & Molly (Errthum) Meyer

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 28 – Apr 3, 2022

Mon., Mar 28: [No Mass Schedule]

Tues., Mar 29: [No Mass Schedule]

Wed., Mar 30: 8:30 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, 7/8th Grade
Dec'd of Nuehring Family & Charlie Bries

Thur., Mar 31: 8:30 A.M. – Guttenberg River Living Center
Harold Mueller & Owen Kann

Fri., Apr 1: [No Mass Scheduled], Abstinence from meat

Sat., Apr 2: Vigil of Fifth Sunday of Lent
3:40 P.M. — Way of the Cross, St. Joseph
4:00 P.M. – St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Vincent & Inez Hoeger
 **5:00 P.M.** — Way of the Cross, St. Mary
5:30 P.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg
People of the Parish

Sun., Apr 3: Fifth Sunday of Lent, **Youth Mass**
8:10 A.M.—Way of the Cross, IC
8:30 A.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista
 **9:30 A.M.**—Way of the Cross, St. Mary
10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass, **Live Streamed**
Merl Meyer & Claire M. Frommelt

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Coming to Your Senses

Coming to his senses he thought, “How many of my father’s hired workers have more than enough food to eat, but here am I, dying from hunger. I shall get up and go to my father and I shall say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers.’” [Luke 15:17-19](#)

Why do we cling to our sins? This passage comes from the story of the Prodigal Son. We should know that story well. The son decided to leave his father and take his future inheritance, spending it on a life of sin. When the money he had ran out, he was in desperate need. So what did he do? He came to his senses!

This line alone is worth our meditation. First, it reveals what happens to a person who falls into a life of sin. In this case, the son eventually reaped the fruit of his sin. He found that his sin left him destitute and alone. He didn’t know where to turn. And though our sins may not be to the extent of this son, we will all experience the empty effects of the sins we commit, just as this son did.

The profound insight we can gain from this son is that he did come around. Specifically, by “coming to his senses” he recognized two important things. First, he realized that he is worth more than a life of destitution. No one should have to live an impoverished and empty life. Therefore, by seeing his own dignity he came to realize that he was made for more. Secondly, he knew he could turn to his father. What a blessing it was for him to know this. The reason he knew he could turn to his father was that his father clearly loved him with unconditional love. The mercy in the heart of the father was so strong that the son was aware of it and this awareness gave him confidence to turn to him.

Reflect, today, upon this twofold action. The son sees his misery and also sees his father as the person to whom he can confidently turn. We must strive to do the same in our own lives. The Father in Heaven will never reject us. No matter what we have done or how far we have turned away, the Father’s love is perfect, relentless, unconditional and always inviting. He is ready and willing to dismiss every wrong we have done if we only turn to Him in confidence. Come to your senses in regard to your sins! Let go of them, repent and trust in the mercy of God.

Lord of perfect love, my sins do leave me dry and empty inside. I see the misery and pain that result from the sinful choices I have made. Help me, dear Lord, to come to my senses and to turn from every sin I commit. Help me to see that Your mercy is far greater than anything I have done. I thank You for Your perfect love and turn to You in my need. Jesus, I trust in You.

source: mycatholiclife.com

SMIC Spring Rummage/Bake Sale will be Apr 29th/30th. Donations of clean usable items will be accepted beginning Apr 25th or call Lisa Kies(563-880-1946) to make arrangements. No TVs! Volunteers also needed to setup that week.

Let’s all use the St. Mary/IC School Scrip Program

Did you know St. Mary/IC School has a Scrip fundraising program that provides money for tuition assistance and school expenses that **ANYONE** can use--parents, grandparents, parishioners or non-parishioners. Simply stop by Peoples State Bank and purchase gift cards for Benders, Casey’s, Fareway or Kwik Star. Help a family/help the school — **It’s a win/win!**

A Stewardship Moment

The stewardship message in the parable of the Prodigal Son is that it is never too late to become a good steward. Blessed is the elder brother who had been a good steward all along, but blessed, too, is the prodigal who had to lose all he had in order to understand the value of what he’d been given.

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
- April 20, PPA Meeting, 5:30pm Middle School

Upcoming Fundraisers:

- Candy Bar Sales: March 24-April 14th, \$1 ea; see any SMIC student or stop by the school office daily between 8 and 8:30am.
- Spring Rummage/Bake Sale: April 29th 8am-6pm; April 30, 8am-12.
- Scrip Sales — ongoing

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

Upcoming Parish Events (BH = Brinkmann Hall)

Mar 27: Festival Meeting after 10am Mass

Mar 28: Finance and Administration Council Meeting, 6:30pm
Pastoral Council Meeting, 7pm

Mar 30: Youth Ministry, 6:15-8:00pm, BH

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 9: **Belgian Waffle Supper, St. Joe, Garnavillo; 5-7pm, Freewill offering**

Apr 10: **Palm Sunday Breakfast, Immaculate Conception, NBV; 8-Noon**

Apr 17: Easter Sunday

Apr 20: PPA Meeting, 5:30pm, Middle School

Apr 24: First Communion

Please submit newsletter items by Tuesday night to: churchlady@smic.pvt.k12.ia.us