

ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: Mar 30, 2023 ~ Rectory: 563-252-1247 ~ Fr.'s Cell: 563-258-3958 ~ www.maryicjoseph.org

LIVE THE LITURGY:

source: rcblectionary.com

There is much to reflect on in this week's reading. One interesting note, however, is the different responses Judas and Peter had when they came face to face with their rejection of Christ. After his three denials, Peter "wept bitterly." These tears of regret led the way to reconciliation when Peter first encountered the risen Christ. Judas, on the other hand, knew what he did was wrong, but he couldn't face the hopelessness his actions brought. To relieve the pain of what he had done, Judas took his own life. Some days it is difficult (even beyond measure). The lesson we learn today is that reconciliation and healing bring us long-term joy instead of living in the harsh bitterness of despair.

Prayer: www.vatican.va

Lord Jesus Christ, you let yourself be nailed to the Cross, accepting the terrible cruelty of this suffering, the destruction of your body and your dignity. You allowed yourself to be nailed fast; you did not try to escape or to lessen your suffering. May we never flee from what we are called to do. Help us to remain faithful to you. Help us to unmask the false freedom which would distance us from you. Help us to accept your "binding" freedom, and, "bound" fast to you, to discover true freedom.



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. 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**.

Attached to this week's bulletin is an invitation to Fr. Bries' Jubilee of Priesthood Ordination which will take place on June 4th with a special Mass, lunch and activities for the entire family. We would love for you to join in the celebration. Please RSVP by May 14th.

Parish Council/Finance Committee Joint Meeting to be held Monday, April 3 at 6:30 pm in Brinkmann Hall.

"Save Time and Donate Online!" Online Giving is available with WeShare, an easy and convenient way to save time and support the church. Goto: <https://maryicjoseph.weshareonline.org/>



Mass Schedule: April 3 – April 9, 2023

Mon., Apr 3: [No Mass Scheduled]

Tues., Apr 4: 8:30 A.M. – St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Vince & Inez Hoeger/Amy Hoeger

Wed., Apr 5: 8:30 A.M.—St. Mary, Guttenberg
Don Evers

SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM SCHEDULE:

Thur., Apr 6: Holy Thursday
4:00pm – St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Dec'd of Koopman/Kainz Families
5:30pm - St. Mary, Guttenberg
Joseph & Clara Nieland/Marvin Nieland

Fri., Apr 7: Good Friday, Day of Fast & Abstinence
3:00 P.M., St. Mary, Guttenberg;
Youth Ministry Live Passion & Communion

Sat., Apr 8: Vigil of Easter Sunday
4:00 P.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Marvin Vaske

Sun., Apr 9: Easter Sunday
8:30 A.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista

10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass. *Live Streamed*
People of the Parish

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Suffering and Abandoned

source: young-catholics.com

As we enter into Holy Week, the readings for Palm Sunday invite us to reflect on the depth of Jesus' sacrifice and the meaning of his triumphal entry into Jerusalem. We see Jesus as a humble and peaceful king, riding on a donkey instead of a horse, surrounded by crowds of people who wave palm branches and shout his praises. This image reminds us of Jesus' identity as a powerful and beloved leader who comes to save us from sin and death.

At the same time, we are also reminded of the cost of Jesus' sacrifice. The Gospel reading from Matthew 26:14 – 27:66 describes the events leading up to Jesus' crucifixion, including his betrayal by Judas Iscariot, his arrest and trial before the high priest, his denial by Peter, and his sentencing by Pilate. We see Jesus' selflessness and obedience, even in the face of intense suffering and humiliation.

The theme of feeling abandoned is also present in the readings. Jesus' cry of "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" in Matthew 27:46 reminds us of the depth of Jesus' suffering and his identification with all those who have ever felt abandoned or alone. Yet even in his darkest hour, Jesus expressed trust in God's ultimate protection and proclaimed God's glory to others.

Where Am I?

The readings also provide us with the opportunity to place ourselves in the events of Holy Week and consider how we would have responded had we been there. Perhaps we would have been among the crowd on the street singing Hosanna, or maybe we would have been complaining about these demonstrators who were disrupting our preparations for the Passover.

We might have been sitting next to Peter, denying we even know the Lord, fearful and afraid. Or we might have been among the crowd calling for the crucifixion of Jesus. There are other people to identify with: Simon of Cyrene who was forced to serve, the women at the foot of the cross who steadfastly stayed close to Jesus, Joseph of Arimathea who provides what he can, the women who keep vigil at the tomb.

Chances are we can see ourselves in many of these people. This is an opportunity to think about how we respond to Jesus in our own lives.

Am I Willing to Follow?

As we further reflect on these readings for Palm Sunday Year A, we are invited to consider our own response to Jesus' sacrifice. Are we willing to follow his example of love, humility, and selflessness? Are we willing to trust in God's ultimate protection, even in the face of suffering and despair? These are difficult questions, but they are essential for our growth and our relationship with God.

As we journey through Holy Week, let us take time to reflect on the depth of Jesus' sacrifice and the meaning of his triumphal entry into Jerusalem. May we be inspired by his selflessness and obedience, and may we be strengthened in our commitment to follow him, even in the midst of adversity.

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.

"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

"Blessed is the one comes in the name of the Lord!" shout the crowds in today's Gospel. May we be always ready to share our blessings when we are sent in His name!

Upcoming Parish Events

- Apr 4: CDA Mtg, Noon, Brinkmann Hall
7:30pm KC Mtg
- Apr 5: Faith Formation/Youth Ministry, 6pm/6:15pm
- 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
- May 3: Last Faith Formation & May
Crowning 6:30pm Mass/Family Dinner
- June 4: Celebration of Fr. Bries' 50th Jubilee of
Priesthood Ordination