

# ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: May 2, 2024 ~ Rectory: 563-252-1247 ~ Fr.'s Cell: 563-258-3958 ~ [www.maryicjoseph.org](http://www.maryicjoseph.org)

## LIVE THE LITURGY:

## God is Love

source: *young-catholics.com*

The second reading, from the first letter of John, tells us straightforwardly: "God is love." This profound truth is at the heart of Christian life. It means that loving others is not just a command from God, but a reflection of God Himself. When we love one another, we are participating in God's own life.

John goes on to explain that God showed this love most clearly by sending His Son, Jesus, to save us from our sins. This act of sending His only Son as a sacrifice is the ultimate example of love. Every act of love we show to others is a reflection of God's love for us and an encounter with Him.

As followers of Christ, we are called to live out the love of God in a real and tangible way, showing love to everyone we meet without partiality. This is what it means to be a disciple of Christ. When we love genuinely, we make the truth that "God is love" visible and active in the world. Let us strive to embody this love in all that we do, bringing the light of Christ to every corner of our lives and beyond.

**STEPHEN MINISTRY is ALIVE and WELL...**and has been for 30 years in the Guttenberg area!

Locally, St. John, St. Mary and United Methodist all have past and current ministers with over 50 hours of training, who have given care to Receivers in our area. We've all been faced with a crisis or life challenges when we would have benefited from the support of a caring Christian friend. SM can provide emotional and spiritual care and a listening ear during these difficulties.

SM is a confidential ministry: the identity of those receiving care and what takes place in each caring relationship remains private. Confidentiality is the cornerstone of this ministry.

Come celebrate 30 years with area Stephen Ministers in Brinkman Hall following 10:00 Mass on May 5<sup>th</sup> for light refreshments and fellowship. **A huge thank you** to all Stephen Ministers for your care and dedication to this ministry, churches, and community.

### "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/>

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



Sunday., May 5, 2024 at St. Mary, Guttenberg, after Mass

### Griffen Robert Ries

10 yr old son of Andrew & Kaylee (White) Ries

Saturday, May 18, 2024 at St. Joseph, Garnavillo, during Mass

### Ellen James Werges

### Luke Glenn Werges

### June Patricia Werges

Triplets of Timothy & Jamie (Patrick) Werges family

May you grow in the love & wisdom of Jesus Christ!

## Mass Schedule: May 6 – May 12, 2024

**Mon., May 6:** [No Mass Scheduled]

**Tues., May 7:** 8:30 A.M. – St. Joseph, Garnavillo  
*Glenn Berns & L'Dean Berns*

**Wed., May 8:** 8:30 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg  
*Donna Balk & Julie Schlueter*

**Thur., May 9:** 8:30 A.M. – Guttenberg River Living Center –  
*People of the Parish*

**Fri., May 10:** [No Mass Scheduled]

**Sat., May 11:** Vigil of Feast of the Ascension  
4:00 P.M. Mass—St. Joseph, Garnavillo  
*Joe Wille (CDA) & David Rohner*  
5:30 P.M. Mass—St. Mary, Guttenberg  
*Albert & Regina Schlueter/Trudy Vogt*

**Sun., May 12:** Feast of the Ascension  
8:30 A.M. Mass – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista  
*Linda Ludovissy (Month's Mind)*  
10:00 A.M. – Mass – St. Mary, Guttenberg, *live streamed*  
Baccalaureate Mass  
*People of the Parish*

**GOSPEL REFLECTION: Living in Love**

source: young-catholics.com

In the Gospel of John, Jesus explains what it means to remain in His love: we must keep His commandments, just as He has kept His Father’s commandments. Jesus associates love with joy, saying that His desire is for His disciples’ joy to be complete. By commanding us to love one another, He is inviting us to live a life of true joy.

Jesus also redefines the relationship between Him and His disciples. They are no longer just servants; they are His friends, for He has shared everything with them. By choosing us, just as He chose His first disciples, Jesus has given us a mission to bear fruit in the world—fruit that will last. This means living out love in our actions every day.

Jesus assures us that whatever we ask the Father in His name will be granted, emphasizing the power of living in accordance with His command to love. We experience God's presence through the love we give and receive in our everyday interactions. Through His words and example, Jesus has equipped us to bring this divine love into the world. He has also given us the Holy Spirit to empower us to fulfill this noble task.

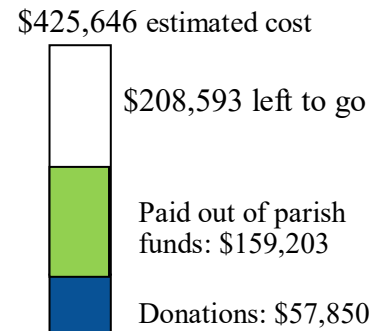
**Bringing the Gospel Into Your Family**

In today’s Gospel, Jesus asks us to love others the way he has loved and continues to love us. It is easy to love those who love us in return. But what about those we find to be difficult to love? Invite family members to quietly think about those persons in their lives. Then, without naming names, brainstorm ways to show Jesus’ love to those who are difficult to love. Encourage each family member to put at least one idea into action in the coming week.

**Roof Replacement Projects**

**We are halfway there!!!** Thank you to all our donors for your continued generosity in supporting St. Mary Parish! Donations may be placed in the collection basket or made online at [www.maryicjoseph.org](http://www.maryicjoseph.org)

The roofers plan to be here the first or 2nd week of May and will be here for about a month. The remaining balance (\$212,823) will be due upon completion of the job.



**St. Mary Immaculate Conception School Celebration**

Anyone who has ever attended St. Mary’s school is invited!

Saturday, June 8, 2024, Brinkmann Hall  
 Mass @ 5:30pm; Social Hour begins at 6:15pm  
 Dinner at 7pm. Tickets are \$20; payable at the door



Reservations Due by **Friday, May 31, 2024** to  
 Austin Greve, 563-880-3899, [agreve@alpinecom.net](mailto:agreve@alpinecom.net) ;  
 Pat Kolker, 563-880-9815 or Phoebe Johnson, 563-880-4767

**NEW “FREE” BOOKS FOR YOUR SPIRITUALITY!**

The Parish Life Committee has purchased several new books to help you grow your faith. They are located on the tables in the entry way along with the free CDs and DVDs. Take a look, you might find something of interest!



The live streamed Masses are once again available on Cable Channel 6! Thank you Austin Greve for making this possible!

**A Stewardship Moment**

Jesus’ commandment is that His disciples love one another, even to the point of laying down their lives, if necessary. What gifts of myself – my skills and talents, my time and resources – will best demonstrate my love for God’s people?

**Upcoming Parish Events . . .**

(BH is Brinkmann Hall; PC is Parish Center)

- May 5: Stephen Ministry Commissioning during Mass
- May 7: CDA Mtg @ Noon, BH  
KC Mtg, 7:30pm
- May 12: **Baccalaureate Mass 10am**
- May 15: Sacred Seed Sowers Book Club, 1pm, PC
- Jun 4: KC Meeting, 7:30pm
- Jun 5: Sacred Seed Sowers Book Club, 1pm, PC
- Jun 8 : St. Mary Alumni Banquet, BH
- Jun 10: Sacred Seed Sowers Book Club, 1pm, PC
- Jun 10-14: Vacation Bible School @ St. John’s

Please email items for the bulletin by 7:30am Wednesday morning to [OfficeOfStMary@gmail.com](mailto:OfficeOfStMary@gmail.com)

Priest: Rev. Marvin J. Bries, 563-252-1247  
 Deacon: James Pfaffly, 563-880-9696  
 Faith Formation: Erin Schmelzer, 563-880-7471  
 Parish Life: Lois Bries, 563-252-3026  
 Stewardship/Liturgy: Sue Bahls, 563-252-3253  
 Social Justice: Gerald Bormann, 563-419-6967  
 Choir: Gina Dahlstrom-Osburn, 563-213-9021

**Finance:**  
 Jim Schlueter  
 563-252-1490  
 Steve Bahls  
 Marv Althoff  
 Jeff Burr  
 Al Schlueter  
 Tom Augustyn

**Parish Council:**  
 Don Scherbring  
 563-252-1556  
 Gerald Bormann  
 Lois Bries  
 Sue Bahls  
 Adam Scherbring

Parish Center: Lora Kolker, 563-880-9111  
 Parish Center Reservations: 563-252-1577  
 Knights: Adam Scherbring, 563-880-3808  
 St. Anne: Maggie Schlueter, 563-252-1490  
 Cath Daughters: Lois Bries: 563-252-3026  
 Prayer Line: Betty Evers, 563-252-1666  
 Friends of St Mary: Jane Parker, 563-880-5469  
 St. Mary Alumni: Pat Kolker, 563-880-9815  
 Phoebe Johnson: 563 880-4767

Stephen Ministry: Becky Shaffer, 319-393-1234