

ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: Apr 27, 2023 ~ Rectory: 563-252-1247 ~ Fr.'s Cell: 563-258-3958 ~ www.maryicjoseph.org

LIVE THE LITURGY: **Theives**

Using the image of shepherd and sheep, Jesus made an analogy for us to listen to the voice of God. Sometimes we are distracted by other voices that Jesus called "thieves." These thieves rob us of our desire to follow Jesus. True sheep, however, know the voice of the shepherd. The shepherd provides safety and life for the sheep.

Imagine your child wandering off in a crowd of strangers - perhaps at an amusement park or a shopping mall. After an anxious period of separation, your child hears your voice above all the others calling out his or her name. The relief and joy your child would feel is the same emotion Jesus promises us when we follow his voice. The thieves that separate us from our children are not necessarily people. Sometimes we allow thieves of busyness, work priorities or even social engagements to steal control of our lives. This Gospel reminds us it is better to listen to the trusted voice of the Good Shepherd.

source: <http://rc1blectionary.com>

The most important point of this Sunday's Gospel is that eternal life is the Good Shepherd's gift. We are also invited to listen to the Shepherd's voice. Accepting the gift means that we listen to the direction of our Shepherd.

PARISH LIFE will be hosting coffee, juice, milk and donuts on Sunday, **April 30** after Mass. Come and socialize with our faith community.



Fellowship

Reminder to submit your RSVP to Father Bries' Jubilee Celebration. Please place bottom of invite in baskets in back of church by May 14th or submit your RSVP electronically by clicking [here](#).

Church Exterior Door Replacement:

The Knights of Columbus are coordinating the door replacement project. A preliminary bid of \$48,000 has been received. Other options are still being investigated. The KCs would like to thank everyone who has donated to the door fund. \$31,000 has been received to date. 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**.

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



Sunday, April 30 at St. Mary, Guttenberg after Mass

Justus LaVerne Hoeger

son of Miranda Hoeger

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

Mass Schedule: May 1 – May 7, 2023

Mon., May 1: [No Mass Scheduled]

Tues., May 2: 8:30 A.M. – St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Angeline Berns & Amy Hoeger

Wed., May 3: 6:30 P.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg
May Crowning with Mass
(Closing of Faith Formation Sessions with 2nd through 12th grades followed by potluck supper)
Mass for Nicholas Westhoff

Thur., May 4: 10:00 A.M. – Guttenberg Care Center
Leon Berns & Pete Davis

Fri., May 5: [No Mass Scheduled]

Sat., May 6: Vigil of Fifth Sunday of Easter
Sacrament of Anointing before and after Masses
4:00 P.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Jack & Norma Eulberg
5:30 P.M.—St. Mary, Guttenberg
Sherrie Westemeier & Fran Troester

Sun., May 7: Fifth Sunday of Easter
Sacrament of Anointing before and after Masses
8:30 A.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista
People of the Parish
10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass. *Live Streamed*
Steve & Kevin Meder

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Jesus the Good Shepherd

The readings for the this Sunday invites us to reflect on the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd who cares for his flock. This image reminds us that Jesus is intimately involved in our lives, and that he knows us and loves us individually. It also reminds us that we are called to follow him, and to trust in his guidance and protection.



As we reflect on this image of the Good Shepherd, we are invited to consider the quality of our own relationship with Jesus. Do we recognize his voice and follow him? Do we trust in his care and protection, even in the face of difficulty or uncertainty? Are we willing to let him guide us on the path he has set for us?

The Good Shepherd offers us protection from those who would lead us astray. He guides us to the gates of heaven. But we must hear his voice and follow. This involves repentance and a commitment to do what he asks. And we will probably encounter some suffering along the way.

We are invited to reflect on the promise of eternal life, which is a key aspect of this Sunday's readings. As believers, we have the hope of sharing in the resurrection of Christ, and of being united with him forever. This hope gives us strength and courage to face the challenges of life, knowing that we are not alone and that our ultimate destination is with Christ in heaven.

At the same time, we are reminded that we are not alone in our journey. We are part of a larger community of believers, the Church, which is led and guided by Christ himself. As members of this community, we are called to support and care for one another, just as the Good Shepherd cares for his sheep.

We are strengthened for this task through baptism and by the Holy Spirit. Our Christian community also supports us. And we can find comfort in our Good Shepherd who suffered for us.

source: www.young-catholics.com

Gospel Reflection Questions: How well do I recognize the voice of Jesus as the Good Shepherd? Do I take the time to listen for his guidance in my life? In what ways do I rely on the protection and guidance of the Good Shepherd? How can I deepen my trust in him? What does it mean to me to be part of a community of believers, led and guided by Christ himself? How can I support and care for my fellow believers in the Church?

“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.*

COMMUNITY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2023: “Shine Jesus’ Light”; June 12-16, 2023. Sponsored by the Living Water, United Methodist, St. Mary’s Catholic, St. Paul Lutheran & St. John’s Lutheran Churches. For all area children – Age 4 (by Sept. 15th 2022) through 6th Grade. Grandparents and others with children visiting during the week of VBS are invited to attend. **QUESTIONS OR TO VOLUNTEER, CALL ST. JOHN’S OFFICE @ 252-2355.**

“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/>



Save the date: **Friday, May 12 at 6:30pm** for the Mother, Daughter, Friend banquet hosted by the United Methodist Church. A meal will be served and the program will feature a speaker from Phelps Farm. Please bring a wrapped small adult gift.

“It will be a time of fun, fellowship and finding joy.”

Upcoming Parish Events . . .

Apr 30: Coffee and Donuts after Mass

May 2: CDA Meeting, Noon in Monona
KC Meeting, 7:30pm

May 3: Last Faith Formation Class & May
Crowning; 6:30pm Mass/Family Dinner

May 12: Mother/Daughter/Friend Banquet, 6:30pm,
United Methodist Church

May 14: RSVPs due for Jubilee

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

A Stewardship Moment

Jesus says, “I came that they may have life, and have it to the full.” Good stewards are grateful for the gift of life and joyfully share their abundance with others.