

# ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: Aug 10, 2023 ~ Rectory: 563-252-1247 ~ Fr.'s Cell: 563-258-3958 ~ www.maryicjoseph.org

## LIVE THE LITURGY: A Loaves-and-Fishes Prayer

-by Kristin Armstrong, LivingFaith.com

*They all ate and were satisfied, and they picked up the fragments leftover—twelve wicker baskets full.  
Matthew 14:20*

When I have a daunting day or week ahead, I can look at my to-do list and get discouraged. If I compare my energy or endurance to the path ahead and forget to calculate God's power into the equation, I come up short every time.

I have found a better way. I ask God in a simple prayer to "loaves-and-fishes-me." It may not be a grammatically correct prayer, but the childlike plea never goes unanswered. This prayer asks the following of God: Multiply me, amplify my energy and my efforts, expand my wisdom and capacity to serve and make me a conduit of your love. When my offering is combined with God's abundance and limitless capacity, there is more than enough to go around. Best of all, I am not spent or drained. I can take the fragments of my leftovers and have sufficient energy for self-care, for gratitude, for creativity and for fun. I am able to *do* without sacrificing my ability to *be*.

### Socks and Undies Drive

The Social Justice Committee is hosting a Socks and Underwear Drive to benefit school age kids in Pre-K through Jr. High. The GMHC Family Resource Center has notified us of this basic back to school need. Please join us in helping to fulfill this need.



Donations of new, unopened packages of socks and underwear are being collected now through Aug. 13. All sizes from 4T thru Jr-High. Please place donations in the box at the back of church. The Resource Center will distribute them to needed families before school starts.

### Fall Silent Auction and Raffle

We will be having a fall silent auction and raffle like we have had the past couple of years. This year's raffle drawing and close of the silent auction will take place on October 22. Bidding for the silent auction opens on October 8. Donations of new or hand crafted items will be accepted starting September 5.

### Buenie Family Picnic, Sunday, Sept. 3rd

Immaculate Conception Church, N. Buena Vista  
Chicken and Ham Dinner, serving 11-3  
Silent Auction, Quilts, Country Store

**Food Shelf Weekend:** The 2nd collection this weekend will be for the food pantry at the Family Resource Center in Guttenberg.



**PARISH LIFE** will be hosting coffee, juice and donuts next Sunday, August 20 after Mass in Brinkmann Hall. Please come, visit and enjoy fellowship with our family of parishioners.



Fellowship

### Mass Schedule: Aug 14 – Aug 20, 2023

**Mon., Aug 14:** Vigil of Feast of Assumption BVM  
5:30 P.M.—St. Mary, Guttenberg

**Tues., Aug 15:** Feast of the Assumption of BVM  
8:30 A.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo  
*Special Intention for Dale Duwe & Al Hoeger*

**Wed., Aug 16:** 8:30 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg  
*Carolyn Oberbroeckling & Kay Schmitt*

**Thur., Aug 17:** 10:00 A.M. – Guttenberg Care Center  
*Leon Berns & Pete Davis*

**Fri., Aug 18:** [No Mass Scheduled]

**Sat., Aug 19:** Vigil of Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
4:00 P.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo  
*People of the Parish*  
5:30 P.M.—St. Mary, Guttenberg  
*Cyril Elsinger (C.D. Of A.)*

**Sun., Aug 20:** Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
8:30 A.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista  
10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass, *Live Streamed*  
Floyd Westhoff (Month's Mind)

**GOSPEL REFLECTION: Strengthening Faith Amid Storms**

source: young-catholics.com

In the gospel for this Sunday, Jesus uses a stormy situation to strengthen the faith of his disciples. Despite being away, Jesus comes to their rescue, but they struggle to recognize him at first. When Jesus says, "Take courage. It is I," he emphasizes his divine presence, but the disciples still seek proof. Peter, with wavering faith, asks to walk on water towards Jesus but starts to sink due to fear. Jesus reminds them to trust and asks why they doubted.

Finally, as the storm calms, the disciples recognize Jesus as the Son of God. This gospel encourages us to have unwavering faith in the face of life's challenges, knowing that Jesus is always with us.

We are invited to examine our own faith journey. Like the disciples, we may face storms and challenges that test our faith, but Jesus reminds us to take courage, trust in Him, and step out in faith. Even when we falter, we can call out to Him, knowing that He is ever-present and ready to save us. Ultimately, by recognizing Jesus as the Son of God, we can find solace and strength, knowing that He walks with us through the storms of life, guiding us safely to the shores of His love and grace.

**Faith Formation Info:** Faith Formation will be on Wednesday nights starting September 20th and will be held in the Parish Center building. [Please register here.](#)

2nd-8th grade 6:00-7:15pm - starting in church  
9th-12th grade 6:00-7:45pm - starting in the church basement

23-24 Faith Formation Teachers

- 2nd grade (1st Comm.) - Julie Rastetter (helpers needed)
- 3rd grade- Nancy Schroeder and Gina Parker
- 4th grade - Stephanie Mueller and Beth Mescher
- 5th grade - teacher and helper needed
- 6th grade - teacher and helper needed
- 7th-8th (Confirmation) - Gail Broxson & Erin Schmelzer
- 9th-12th grade - Katey Simon and Deacon Pfaffly

**Backpack Blessing Mass Sunday, August 27!**

August is here! For many families that means school is just around the corner! Shopping for school supplies, books, and fall clothes becomes a part of everyone's schedule.

Here at St Mary's on Sunday, August 27th at 10am, we want to celebrate and bless the beginning of another school year. Each student will receive a blessings tag to attach to their backpack. Students, preschool through adult, bring your backpacks or lunch boxes to Mass where we will lift up children and students of all ages, dedicating them to God's glory as we begin a new school year and Faith Formation year.

Teachers, aides, principals, administrators, secretaries, cooks, librarians, janitors, and bus drivers...come to church to be blessed, affirmed in your vocation, and encouraged as you serve children and families in your daily work!

We will have refreshments in the Parish Center after Mass

**Parish Vitality Goals**

The Archdiocese has asked each parish to submit 3 vitality goals by Aug 31 that they will be working on in the 2023/2024 year. A cross section of members from the parish was tasked with generating 3 vitality goals. The group has completed the task and Father Bries has approved them. The goals can be found [here](#) on the parish website. Please take a look and see what we will be focusing on in the upcoming months.

**Upcoming Parish Events . . . .**

(BH is Brinkmann Hall; PC is Parish Center)

Dubourg Assembly 1573 **4th Degree Annual Steak Fry**, Tuesday, August 22, 5-7pm at St. John the Baptist Church in Peosta. Open to all 3rd and 4th degree members, wives and friends and prospective KC Members. Cost: \$20 with proceeds going to promote vocations and support Knights Charities. Call Don Scherbring, 563-252-1556 to make a reservation by August 15th.

- Aug 12: Women's Faith Sharing, PC
- Aug 18/19: Parish Life sponsoring the Bender's Cookout
- Aug 20: Coffee and Donuts after Mass in BH
- Aug 25/26: KCs sponsoring the Bender's Cookout
- Aug 26: Women's Faith Sharing, PC

Aug 27: Blessing of Backpacks

**A Stewardship Moment**

Elijah recognized the voice of God not in the strong and heavy wind, not in the earthquake, and not in the fire, but in a tiny whispering sound. May we find enough quiet in our clamorous world to hear His voice and discern what He is calling us to be.

Sep 5: CDA Mtg Noon in Monona  
KC Mtg, 7:30pm

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