

# ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: Aug 17, 2023 ~ Rectory: 563-252-1247 ~ Fr.'s Cell: 563-258-3958 ~ www.maryicjoseph.org

## LIVE THE LITURGY: **Be Bold**

~ Diane Jorgensen, Creighton Univ

In recent weeks, we have heard of Jesus' many miracles - healing men, women and children of various maladies. So today's gospel is quite startling, presenting a side of Jesus we have not seen. Jesus withdraws to the region of Tyre and Sidon - perhaps due to fatigue and weariness from the press of the crowds. And even there he is known; a woman calls out to him, using his title, "Lord, Son of David." But "Jesus did not say a word in answer to her". I imagine that may have raised a few eye brows among the disciples. Clearly this is a woman of faith, why would Jesus not speak to her? Is he that tired? Is this a demon he cannot exorcise from her daughter? When his disciples plead with him to send her away, since she keeps calling, Jesus says "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Those within hearing distance must have been puzzled, hearing this for the first time. Is he not moved by the same compassion he had for others? But the woman persists, kneels before Jesus, and continues to plead on behalf of her daughter. Now comes the real shocker; Jesus tells her, "It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs." Silence descends upon the crowd. This is a crude analogy and offensive in any time or place. And yet the woman persists - "Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters." It is then that Jesus acknowledges her faith, and her daughter is healed.

This story is unusual; it begs the question, why did Matthew include this event, when it presents Jesus in such a harsh and cruel light? Why did Jesus not want to heal this woman's daughter - due to fatigue? Or because she was not of the house of Israel? In any case, his exhaustion doesn't explain his uncharacteristic rudeness. Perhaps Matthew wanted to portray not only Jesus' divinity and his power to heal, but also his humanity - Jesus experienced the same fatigue and its effects as all humans do; he experienced the same impatience and desire to get away from the demands of others; he occasionally was harsh with others; and, at some point, came to learn through the pleas of others that his ministry and mission were for all peoples, for all time. He had to grow in knowledge and wisdom of this truth.

Had this been me beseeching Jesus, I doubt that I would have persisted after being ignored by him. I certainly would have been long gone after the first rebuke. What or who could I possibly love so much that I would be willing to be ignored, then refused, and then insulted in front of this crowd? Her boldness inspires me to ask: What or whom do I care about so passionately that I will not give up my pleas to God, despite feeling like I am being ignored or that God has no interest in my prayer.

What have we stopped speaking to God about? What desires, seemingly ignored or refused, have we stopped praying? Maybe the question is not, as we hear so often, "Why doesn't God answer my prayers?" But rather, what happens to us when we stop seeking, pleading and praying? Perhaps our hearts shrink little by little, our capacity for mystery and compassion diminished.

Let us be as bold as the Canaanite woman to believe it and to act on it - seeking God's mercy, love and healing.

**PARISH LIFE** will be hosting coffee, juice and donuts this Sunday, August 20 after Mass in Brinkmann Hall. Enjoy fellowship with our family of parishioners.



### 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 Oct. 22. Bidding for the silent auction opens on Oct. 8. Donations of new or hand crafted items will be accepted starting Sept 5.

### From the desk of the Pastor . . .

St. Mary Cemetery Association needs one more trustee/sexton. Contact the pastor at 252-1247 if interested in this ministry of burying the dead.

## Mass Schedule: Aug 21 - Aug 27, 2023

**Mon., Aug 21:** [No Mass Scheduled], "St. Pius X"

**Tues., Aug 22:** 8:30 A.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo  
"Queenship of BVM" - *Jack & Norma Eulberg*

**Wed., Aug 23:** 8:30 A.M. - St. Mary, Guttenberg  
*Lester & Marie Gorton*

**Thur., Aug 24:** 8:30 A.M. - Guttenberg River Living Center  
Janice Ulbrich & Amy [Steffen] Clay

**Fri., Aug 25:** [No Mass Scheduled]

**Sat., Aug 26:** Vigil of Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time  
4:00 P.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo  
*Bert Behrend & Tracy Werges*  
5:30 P.M.—St. Mary, Guttenberg  
*People of the Parish*

**Sun., Aug 27:** Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
8:30 A.M. - Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista  
10:00 A.M. - St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass, *Live Streamed*  
Faith Formation Sunday *Donald & JoAnn Wille*

**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 the 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

**St. Mary Parish Center Info:**

To reserve a meeting room please contact Erin Schmelzer by email at [eschmelzer@smic.pvt.k12.ia.us](mailto:eschmelzer@smic.pvt.k12.ia.us) or call 563-252-1755, leave a message and your call will be returned.

The Parish Center Committee has generated a **Wish List** of items to Enhance the Parish Center. Financial donations are being accepted for and not limited to:

- ◆ Round Tables and Chairs for the Blessed Mother Mary Meeting Room
- ◆ Handicap Stall in the bathrooms
- ◆ Locks on the Bathroom Stall doors
- ◆ Talented Woodworker to donate time to build a cabinet to store the kitchen items supplied to users
- ◆ Someone to donate time to do some handy man jobs

Place donations in the Collection Basket in an envelope marked Parish Center. Checks made out to St. Mary's and in the memo of your check please write "Parish Center"  
Or Contact Lori Kolker 563-880-9111 or Julie Rastetter 563-880-4111.

**The Parish Center Committee invites anyone to join us to create the best Parish Center for everyone!**

**Stephen Ministry**

Stephen Ministry training is being planned and will meet in Garnavillo this fall. Stephen Ministers complete 50 hours of training to become caring listeners for people experiencing life change. They visit their care receivers each week and also attend monthly peer education.

If you are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, please email Joyce at [schoulte@hotmail.com](mailto:schoulte@hotmail.com). For questions about this confidential listening ministry, please contact Becky Shaffer, [beckyts388@gmail.com](mailto:beckyts388@gmail.com) or 319-393-1234.

**A Stewardship Moment**

In today's second reading, St. Paul tells the Romans, "God's gifts and his call are irrevocable." To what is God calling me today? What gifts are mine to share?

**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.

The **Social Justice Committee** thanks the generous donations of socks and underwear from you to the Family Resource Center for our children heading back to school. Our parish continues to greatly and generously support our local families in need and is very much appreciated. **Thank you!**

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

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

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

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!

Refreshments served in the Parish Center after Mass

**Upcoming Parish Events . . . .**

(BH is Brinkmann Hall; PC is Parish Center)

- 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
- Aug 28: Friends of St. Mary's Mtg; 6:30pm, PC  
(all are welcome to attend)
- Aug 29: Parish Vitality Group Meeting, 6:30pm, PC
- Sep 5: CDA Mtg Noon in Monona  
KC Mtg, 7:30pm
- Sep 9/10: KC Annual Tootsie Roll Drive
- Sep 17: Coffee and Donuts after Mass in BH

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