

ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: Aug 24, 2023 ~ Rectory: 563-252-1247 ~ Fr.'s Cell: 563-258-3958 ~ www.maryicjoseph.org

LIVE THE LITURGY: Unveiling Our Understanding

~ source: *young-catholics.com*

In the Gospel Reading for the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, Jesus asks his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" Their responses show various perceptions of Jesus. But then He directs the question to them directly, "But who do you say that I am?"

Who do I think Jesus is? A divine vending machine? I put in Mass time and prayers and get out heavenly rewards. An accountant? I need to make sure that on my life balance sheet my good deeds add up to more than my bad ones. A sponge? I tell him everything that is bothering me in life and let him absorb it. No response required. The list can go on and on.

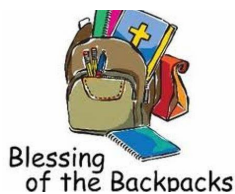
Understanding Jesus is complex. Often, we might see Him as a sort of divine transactional figure, an all-forgiving ledger, or a silent listener. Yet, truly knowing Jesus is not solely in our control; it's a revelation. Just as Peter's understanding unfolded, our comprehension of Jesus comes over time, through experiences and prayer. Just when we feel we've grasped it, a new encounter can transform our understanding.

Considering this reveals the evolving nature of our relationship with Jesus. It reminds us that while our perceptions of Him may change, the core of His love and purpose remains constant, waiting to be revealed to us as we journey through life.

Backpack Blessing Mass This Sunday!

*** Join Us ****

Students, teachers and all school staff are invited to bring their backpacks (or bags or lunch boxes) to Mass *this Sunday* for a special prayer and blessing as they start their academic year. Refreshments will be served in the parish center after Mass.



Blessing of the Backpacks

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.

Faith Formation is seeking 4 catechists (religion teachers) for the 5th grade and 6th grade classes; ideally two adults for each class. No experience required – just a heart to share your faith! You will receive a catechist/teacher guide and student workbooks to guide you. For more information, please contact Erin Schmelzer, 563-880-7471 or eschmelzer@smic.pvt.k12.ia.us

Mass Schedule: Aug 28 – Sept 3, 2023

Mon., Aug 28: [No Mass Scheduled]

Tues., Aug 29: 8:30 A.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Amy Hoeger & Angie Berns

Wed., Aug 30: 8:30 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg
People of the Parish

Thur., Aug 31: 10:00 A.M. – Guttenberg Care Center
Leon Berns & Pete Davis

Fri., Sept 1: [No Mass Scheduled]

Sat., Sept. 2 – 2:00 P.M. – St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Wedding Ceremony

Sam Stroschein & Megan Pierce



(Due to Covid continued arisings we will have General Absolutions of Sins this weekend at all 3-linked parishes)

Sat., Sept 2: Vigil of Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:00 P.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Henry Mueller
5:30 P.M.—St. Mary, Guttenberg
Owen Kann & Lydia Kann

Sun., Sept 3: Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:30 A.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista
10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass, *Live Streamed*
Bud & Clara Frommelt

GOSPEL REFLECTION: The Foundation Within

source: *mycatholic.life*

Today's Gospel scene takes place about twenty miles north of the Sea of Galilee outside of Herod's jurisdiction and away from the Pharisees' watchful eyes. This is a private conversation between Jesus and His disciples that took place where they could speak freely. For that reason, this conversation is particularly personal in nature in that the disciples felt free to express their personal convictions without fear of retribution.

As the conversation unfolds, Jesus asks two consecutive questions. First, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" Second, "But who do you say that I am?" By asking these two questions, Jesus first invites the disciples to identify the different opinions floating around about Him and then gives the disciples an opportunity to speak their own conviction. Peter responds on behalf of them all when he solemnly professes, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

If Jesus were to ask you these two questions, what would you answer? First, what is the general opinion about Jesus that most people have today? When asked, most Christians would give the correct answer. Jesus is God. He is the Savior. He is the Son of the Father. But sometimes those answers are more theoretical than they are personal. Often it is easy to believe things about Jesus rather than believing in Jesus. So if you were to answer the second question, what would you say? Ideally, you would answer that Jesus is your Savior, your God, your Shepherd, your Lord. Faith in Jesus must not only be theoretical, it must be deeply personal, flowing from the depths of your heart.

Deep personal faith in Jesus can only come from one source. It comes from the Father speaking to your heart in a real and personal way. After Peter professed His faith in Jesus, Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father." Peter's personal faith in Jesus was not just something he heard from others, it was not just a popularly accepted opinion, it was something that the Father in Heaven personally revealed to him. This is the gift of faith.

Peter's personal profession of faith became the rock foundation on which Jesus built His Church. "And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it." This reveals Jesus' plan to establish Peter as the head of the Church and to give to him the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven for the whole Church. Similarly, our personal profession of faith will become the unshakable foundation within our souls upon which God's Church becomes alive in each one of us. When our faith is based upon a personal revelation from the Father in Heaven, spoken within the secrecy of our souls, then nothing can extinguish this faith. The gates of the netherworld cannot prevail against it.

Reflect, today, upon this holy conversation between Jesus and His disciples. As you do, know that Jesus wants to have the same conversation with you. As Jesus took the disciples away to this quiet and safe place, He wants to take you away through prayer to the privacy of your own soul. There, within you, He seeks to elicit a response of personal faith. He wants you to identify Who He is to you. He wants you to profess your faith to Him. This faith is your personal solid foundation, and upon that foundation our Lord will build up His Church in you and through you.

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. For questions about this confidential listening ministry, please contact Becky Shaffer, beckyts388@gmail.com or 319-393-1234.

A Stewardship Moment

In today's reading, St. Paul reminds the Romans---and us--- that all things come from God: "For from Him and through Him and for Him all things are." Good stewards understand that *all* is gift and share generously the gifts of time, talent, and treasure with which they've been blessed.

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

Upcoming Parish Events

(BH is Brinkmann Hall; PC is Parish Center)

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

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

Sept 9/10: KC Annual Tootsie Roll Drive

Sept 17: Coffee and Donuts after Mass in BH

Sept 19: Sacred Seed Sowers Book Club, 9:30am, PC

Sept 20: Faith Formation Starts, 6pm

Please email items for the bulletin by 7:30am
Wednesday morning to OfficeOfStMary@gmail.com