

# ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: Aug 31, 2023 ~ Rectory: 563-252-1247 ~ Fr.'s Cell: 563-258-3958 ~ [www.maryicjoseph.org](http://www.maryicjoseph.org)

## LIVE THE LITURGY: Embracing Suffering: A Gritty Path to Transformed Hope ~ source: young-catholics.com

In the gospel for this Sunday, Jesus lays it out plainly to his disciples: suffering is on the horizon. It's a tough pill to swallow. Suffering can grip us, making everything else fade to gray. No one signs up for suffering willingly. Peter, one of Jesus' closest friends, recoiled at the idea of Jesus enduring the cross. Who would wish that on someone they care about?

But Jesus has a different angle on it. He's all about marching forward, unflinching, doing God's will. It's a game-changer. He believes suffering can be transformed, even death doesn't have the final say. That's quite the perspective shift. And it's not just about us going through it. When we're in the suffering trenches, we've got to cling to the promise Jesus offers.

Plus, there's something about being there for others who are hurting. Even if you can't fix it all, being a companion in their pain matters. Jesus showed us that suffering isn't the endgame, God's mercy can trump it all. So, in a nutshell, suffering isn't a detour off the path, but a gritty part of it. And it's not about avoiding it, but holding onto hope when it's tough.

Remember, Peter tried to dodge it, but Jesus didn't flinch. He faced the worst head-on, all for a bigger plan. So, next time suffering knocks at your door, don't shut it out. And if you see someone else in the trenches, be that shoulder to lean on. Because just like Jesus, we're not alone in this.

*General Absolutions of Sins will be given at all Masses this weekend in our 3-linked parishes.*

**The bi-annual Clarity Clinic Appeal will take place on the weekend of Sept. 9 & 10 at all 3-linked parishes. There will be a special guest speaker.**

### Buenie Family Picnic This 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**

### Mass Schedule: Sept 4 – Sept 10, 2023

**Mon., Sept 4:** [No Mass Scheduled], "Labor Day"

**Tues., Sept 5:** 8:30 A.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo  
*Angie Berns & Amy Hoeger*

**Wed., Sept 6:** 8:30 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg  
*Sherrie Westemeier*

**Thur., Sept 7:** 8:30 A.M. – Guttenberg River Living Center  
Janice Ulbrich & Amy (Steffen) Clay

**Fri., Sept 8:** [No Mass Scheduled], "Nativity of BVM"

**Sat., Sept 9:** Vigil of Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time  
4:00 P.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo  
*Gerald Hoeger (Month Mind)*  
5:30 P.M.—St. Mary, Guttenberg  
Tony & Lucy Schissel (C.D. of A.)

**Sun., Sept 10:** Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time  
8:30 A.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista  
*People of the Parish*  
10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass, *Live Streamed*  
*Betty Lou Klein (Month Mind)*

### 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.

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



**SCRIPTURE STUDY:** It is time to start preparing for the continuing study of Matthew by Jeff Cavins. Session 13 will be presented starting on September 26, 7:30 – 10:30 AM in the Parish Center and the same session on September 28, 6:30 – 8:30 PM, also, in the Parish Center.

## GOSPEL REFLECTION: Seek God's Will

source: Nancy Shirley, Creighton University

Our readings today offer some difficult challenges not only to the disciples but to us all. We are asked to offer ourselves as "living sacrifice" and "deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." Sometimes I think that disciples had such an advantage over us. They were able to walk and talk with Jesus; they were able to see the miracles firsthand – the sea stilled, the scraps feeding the mobs with leftovers, the blind being able to see and the cripple walking. Yet so many times, they don't see to "get it." However, as I reviewed today's readings especially the gospel, I started to think that some of what they were hearing may have been well beyond their comprehension. Perhaps even more difficult for them than us, who see a more complete picture (yet so many times we [me!!] still don't get it!). So, I tried to imagine what it would be like walking beside Jesus and hearing these predictions of the future without the framework that we now have.

Imagine being the disciples on this walk, perhaps the dialogue with each other (with some of our expressions): *That was amazing, wasn't it? How did He manage to feed all those people? Yeah, and that guy now walking! He's the real deal for sure. I agree, we are really going to be free this time. He surely will lead us to freedom!*

*Hey, did you just hear what He said – He said that we are going back to Jerusalem and He will suffer and die! No, that can't be – how is that going to help us? What does He mean He will be raised? Don't worry, I noticed that Peter is taking Him aside and will get this straightened out. Peter is His favorite so He will certainly listen to him. This just doesn't make sense.*

*Uh oh, did you hear what He said to Peter? He called him an obstacle! This is not good. He said he was thinking as a human being. How else can he think of us? I'm confused, of course, we think as human beings.*

I guess I need to understand that it wasn't any easier being a disciple and understanding all of this (until the Resurrection and the descending of the Holy Spirit) than it is for us at times. While our lives are, indeed, very different from the disciples and the world around us offers different challenges, the bottom line remains the same. We still need to resist conforming to what is around us, what the secular world calls *success* and rather, seek the will of God. We often debate what are the great questions in life, perhaps this gospel offers the definitive question: [What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?](#)

### 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.

**Silent Auction:** Unsure of what to donate to this year's Silent Auction? We would love to put together Gift Baskets/Boxes with your donation. We have the baskets/boxes, fillers, wrap and ribbons and will assemble. Will also make sure you get credit for your donation. Suggestions are: gift certificates, coffees, teas, mugs, non perishable food items and candies, toys, books, puzzle books, DVDs, bath and beauty items, smaller seasonal decorations, etc. The list is endless, you may have better ideas than these. All donations appreciated! Also, donations of new or hand crafted items will be accepted starting Sept 5. Call Sue Bahls, 252-3253 for more info.

**Cash Raffle/Donations:** Each \$100 will buy a ticket for a chance to win four cash prizes of \$500 each. Drawing: October 22, after the 10:00am Mass. Tickets can be purchased now or donations made (*please make checks to St. Mary Fall Festival and indicate Tickets or Donation*) and drop in the collection basket.

### A Stewardship Moment

In today's second reading, St. Paul exhorts the Romans to *total* stewardship. Brothers and sisters, he urges, "...offer your bodies as living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God."

**Parish Vitality Update:** The Parish Vitality Committee met Tuesday night and worked on the first parish goal of adding 12 additional sacramental ministers. There will be a Sacramental Ministry Flyer that will be distributed to all parishioners on the weekend of Oct 7/8. This flyer will provide information on the sacramental ministries of eucharistic minister, reader, usher, altar servers, gift bearers, rosary leaders and music ministry. Please prayerfully consider how you could help enrich our Mass experience with your time and talents.

### Upcoming Parish Events . . . .

(BH is Brinkmann Hall; PC is Parish Center)

Sept 9: Women's Faith Sharing, 1pm, PC  
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  
Sept 23: Women's Faith Sharing, 1pm, PC  
Sept 25: Parish Vitality Committee Mtg, 6:30pm, PC  
Sept 26: Scripture Study, 7:30-10:30am, PC  
Sept 28: Scripture Study, 6:30-8:30pm, PC

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