

ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: Dec. 14, 2023 ~ Rectory: 563-252-1247 ~ Fr.'s Cell: 563-258-3958 ~ www.maryicjoseph.org

LIVE THE LITURGY: Joyful Anticipation

~ source: young-catholics.com

The second reading for the 3rd Sunday in Advent taken from 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, resonates with a profound message of hope and anticipation. As we celebrate Gaudete Sunday, a day of rejoicing in the Advent season, this passage invites us to immerse ourselves in a spirit of continuous joy, prayer, and gratitude. "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in all circumstances give thanks," Paul writes, encapsulating the essence of Christian life, especially poignant in the time of Advent.

This call to perpetual joy is not an invitation to ignore the realities of pain or suffering but to maintain a hopeful stance in the face of life's challenges. The anticipation of Christ's coming reminds us that joy is rooted not in our current circumstances but in the promise of God's faithful presence and ultimate salvation.

In this season of preparation, Paul's exhortation to hold fast to what is good and abstain from every form of evil serves as a guiding principle. This period of waiting is not passive but an active journey of spiritual refinement and alignment with God's will. As we await the celebration of Christ's birth, we are called to embrace a holistic sanctification, "spirit, soul, and body," as Paul articulates. This process involves a conscious and continuous effort to nurture our relationship with God through prayer, embrace joy in our daily lives, and express gratitude in all circumstances.

As we heed this call, we prepare ourselves not just for the commemoration of Christ's historical birth but for his ongoing presence in our lives, transforming us from within and making us ready for his eventual return.



A holiday gift . . . To: **You**
From: St. Mary Parish Life
"THE ROCKING CHAIR PROPHET"
book, by Matthew Kelly, has arrived and is now available at the entry ways of the church. It is great book to read; containing many every day, common sense events.

Christmas Flowers: If you would like to donate a poinsettia in memory of loved ones or in thanksgiving, please bring to the church by Dec 21 or place a monetary donation in the collection basket. Please include the name(s) of those who you would like to remember or honor.

Roof Replacement Projects

The roofs on the church and the old school will be replaced in 2024 at an estimated cost of \$250,000. Donations are being accepted. Please make checks out to St. Mary Parish and indicate Roof Project in the memo line.

A sample of the steel shakes that will be put on the church and old school building can be found at the back of church.

Mass Schedule: Dec 18 – Dec 25, 2023

Mon., Dec 18: [No Mass Scheduled]

Tues., Dec 19: [No Mass Scheduled]

Wed., Dec 20: 8:30 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg
Mary Jane Steger & Verna Greenwood

Thur., Dec 21: 10:00 A.M. - Guttenberg Care Center
People of the Parish

Fri., Dec 22: [No Mass Scheduled]

Sat., Dec 23: Vigil of Fourth Sunday of Advent
[No Mass this Saturday]

Sun., Dec 24: Fourth Sunday of Advent
10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass
(this Mass will **not** be live streamed)
People of the Parish

Sun., Dec 24: Christmas Eve
4:00 P.M. – St. Joseph, Garnavillo, children's Mass
Marion Moses
5:30 P.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, children's Mass
Janice & Clifford Frommelt



Mon., Dec 25: Christmas Day
8:30 A.M. – N. Buena Vista – children's Mass
10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, *live streamed*
Dec'd of Kann/Kolker Families

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Pray the O Antiphons

source: *young-catholics.com*

The O Antiphons hold a significant place in the final week of Advent. These ancient prayers have their origins in the 8th century and are traditionally sung or recited during the Vespers service in the Liturgy of the Hours. Each antiphon addresses Christ with a different title, reflecting various aspects of His identity and mission. These titles include "O Wisdom," "O Leader of Israel," "O Root of Jesse," "O Key of David," "O Radiant Dawn," "O King of All," and "O Emmanuel." Each title reveals a unique characteristic of Christ and invites us to contemplate His role in our lives.

The O Antiphons serve as a powerful way to prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Christ. They invite us to reflect on the profound wisdom and leadership of Christ, the fulfillment of the promises made to Israel, and His role as the key to salvation. They also remind us of the hope and light that Christ brings into the world, as well as His ultimate reign as King.

By praying the O Antiphons, we can deepen our understanding of Christ and open ourselves to His transformative presence in our lives. So let us embark on this journey of prayer and reflection, as we prepare to welcome the birth of our Savior.

Dec 17: O Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!

Dec 18: O Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!

Dec 19: O Root of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all his people: come to save us without delay!

Dec 20: O Key of David, opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom: come and free the prisoners of darkness!

Dec 21: O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death!

Dec 22: O King of all nations and keystone of the Church: come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

Dec 23: O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law: come to save us, Lord our God!

Prayer for the Third Advent candle, the pink candle, Candle of Joy

O Lord, as we light the third candle of Advent, we are reminded of the joy that you bring into our lives. We anticipate the joy of Christmas, the joy of your birth, and the joy of your love for us. Fill us with joy, O Lord, and let it overflow in our hearts, in our words, and in our actions. May we be a source of joy to others, and may we spread your joy throughout the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Giving Tree Donations should be turned in by this Sunday, Dec 17. Thank you for your generosity to those in need!

2024 Budget Envelopes are available at the back of church. Please let the office know if you no longer need a budget box due to online giving or you simply use your own envelope.

Reminder: The Internal Revenue Service requires all contributions to the parish must be **contributed/postmarked** by **December 31, 2023** to receive charitable credit for 2023.

A Stewardship Moment

All of the people in today's readings – the prophet Isaiah, the Virgin Mary, St. Paul, St. John the Baptist – seemed to understand clearly and rejoice in what God was calling them to be and to do. Do I?

Upcoming Parish Events . . .

(BH is Brinkmann Hall; PC is Parish Center)

Dec 20: Sacred Seed Sowers Book Club, 1pm, PC

Jan 10: Faith Formation Classes, 6pm

Jan 14: KC Breakfast, 8:00-11:30am

Jan 27: Beauty in Christ Women's Conf, 8:30-1:30, PC

Feb 6: CDA, Noon in Monona

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

Priest: Rev. Marvin J. Bries, 563-252-1247
Deacon: James Pfaffly, 563-880-9696
Faith Formation: Erin Schmelzer, 563-880-7471
Parish Life: Lois Bries, 563-252-3026
Stewardship/Liturgy: Sue Bahls, 563-252-3253
Social Justice: Gerald Bormann, 563-419-6967
Choir: Gina Dahlstrom-Osborn, 563-213-9021

Finance:
Jim Schlueter
563-252-1490
Steve Bahls
Marv Althoff
Jeff Burr
Al Schlueter
Tom Augustyn

Parish Council:
Don Scherbring
563-252-1556
Gerald Bormann
Lois Bries
Sue Bahls
Adam Scherbring

Parish Center: Lora Kolker, 563-880-9111
Parish Center Reservations: 563-252-1577
Knights: Adam Scherbring, 563-880-3808
St. Anne: Maggie Schlueter, 563-252-1490
Cath Daughters: Lois Bries: 563-252-3026
Prayer Line: Betty Evers, 563-252-1666
Friends of St Mary: Jane Parker, 563-880-5469