

ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: Jan 04, 2023 ~ Rectory: 563-252-1247 ~ Fr.'s Cell: 563-258-3958 ~ www.maryicjoseph.org

LIVE THE LITURGY:

Discover Complete Joy

~Matthew Kelly, dynamiccatholic.com

Today's Gospel reading comes from the second chapter of Matthew, verses 1-12. We're looking for a word or phrase or idea. There's so many today: "Herod was troubled," "Herod lies to the wise men", "the wise men", "the star". And the phrase, "When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy." Wow. What gives you that kind of energy, excitement, enthusiasm, happiness, joy? What comes from that? Well, I think there's a clue here. What gave the wise men that excitement, that enthusiasm, that joy, that happiness? **It was clarity.** They saw the star. They followed the star. The star gave them direction. The star was leading them to the Christ.

And the thing about clarity is when we know who we are and what we're called to and how to do it, life is different. It's radically different. That's the power of vocation, right? That's the joy, the rejoicing of knowing who we are and what we're here for and what we're being called to do and how to go about it. And so today I encourage you in your prayer to ask God to give you more clarity. Give you more clarity because when we have clarity, like the wise men, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. When we have clarity, we have that kind of joy. The virtue of the day is wisdom.

It was the wise men seeking Jesus. I remember many years ago I was driving past the church and they had these signs up. They used to change the sign every week. And the sign right before Christmas said, "Wise men still seek Jesus today." The wise men were seeking Jesus. The question is, are we seeking Jesus? And that is an epic sign of wisdom. Let's take that wisdom into our lives and renew our efforts and energy to seek Jesus. Have a great day, and remember, don't just be yourself. Be the very best version of yourself, all that God created you to be!

BAPTISM INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD & OUR COMMUNITIES OF FAITH:



Saturday, January 6 at St. Mary, Guttenberg after Mass

Bowen James Knipper

son of Trevor & Stacia (White) Knipper

May you grow in age, knowledge & wisdom in the Lord!

Mass Schedule: Jan 8 – Jan 14, 2023

Mon., Jan 8: [No Mass Scheduled], Baptism of the Lord

Tues., Jan 9: [No Mass Scheduled]

Wed., Jan 10: 8:30 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg
Alice Green & Owen Kann

Thur., Jan 11: 8:30 A.M. – Guttenberg River Living Center
Amy (Steffen) Clay

Fri., Jan 12: [No Mass Scheduled]

Sat., Jan 13: Vigil of Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:00 P.M. – St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Francis Stroschein & David Rohner
5:30 P.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg
Betty & Alfred Klein
Albert & Regina Schlueter & Family

Sun., Jan 14:
8:30 A.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista
People of the Parish
10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, *live streamed*
deceased of Kolker/Kann Family

KC Biscuits & Gravy Breakfast

Drive-thru and Dine In;
St. Mary Church
Sunday, January 14
8-11:30am
Free will donation.

From the desk of the Pastor . . .

Thank you for your Christmas cards and gifts. May God bless you in your generous gifts to your pastor.

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

Roof Replacement Projects

The roofs on the church and the old school will be replaced in 2024. 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.

GOSPEL REFLECTION: “This little light of mine —I’m gonna let it shine” ~ source: George Butterfield , Creighton University

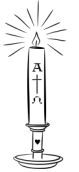
Today we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord. The One who said “Let there be light” appeared among us as the Light of the world. Isaiah could have been speaking about our world. Darkness covers the earth. Thick clouds cover the people. I know so many people who are gloomy. Some even appear to thrive on gloom and doom. They look at our world and see nothing but darkness. The world seems to have gone insane. We remember our childhood and wonder why everything can’t be like then when the world knew the difference between light and darkness. I constantly remind myself of the words of the author of Ecclesiastes who said, “Do not say: How is it that former times were better than these? For it is not out of wisdom that you ask about this” (Ecc. 7:10).

Although some periods of time are worse than others, darkness descended upon the world with the sin of our first parents. So, what are we to do? First, we receive baptism. In the Letter to the Hebrews, receiving baptism is to be enlightened. This is one of the more popular terms for baptism in the writings of the Apostolic Fathers. The Light came at Christmas, and we have received it. As Isaiah says, the world may dwell in darkness “but upon you the Lord shines, and over you appears his glory.” Second, by our simple lives as believers, others can walk by our light, by our shining radiance. Finally, when the fire of the Holy Spirit enlightens us, then we see the world differently, too. “Then you shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow.” We don’t curse the darkness; we light a candle, or better yet, we live in the light of Christ who is much greater than a candle.

The magi “saw his star at its rising ... And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was.” Brothers and sisters, you and I are that star. If we live in the light of Christ, there will be those who follow that light and discover the child. Of course, not all are interested in the light. Darkness can be quite comforting. Some will even be hostile to the light; Herod lives. Who could have imagined that the baby in the manger was the Light of the world? Let us let our light shine; it will lead people to the Light in that manger.

I leave you with the children’s song that we used to sing during Vacation Bible School.

This little light of mine – I’m gonna let it shine. This little light of mine – I’m gonna let it shine.
 This little light of mine – I’m gonna let it shine. Let it shine all the time, let it shine.



Let your light shine like the stars in the universe, dear friends. The Light of the world dwells in you. Let it shine. It will lead people to Jesus.

NOTICE: On January 28, 2024, the **FATIMA** movie will be presented, after the 10:00 Mass, about 11:30, in Brinkmann Hall after a **FREE** lite luncheon, by the PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE.

FATIMA MOVIE: In 1917, outside the parish of Fátima, Portugal, a 10-year-old girl and her two younger cousins witness multiple visitations of the Virgin Mary, who tells them that only prayer and suffering will bring an end to WWI. Fatima is an uplifting story about the power of faith. The movie's best feature is showing how young and innocent the children were, and despite that, they would not budge from their story, the truth. If you have never heard of the Miracle of the Sun or Our Lady of Fatima, this movie is a good introduction, but don't stop there, because this is NOT the full story. Lucia continued to receive instructions from Our Lady throughout her life. **This movie has been updated and released in October, 2020 and is a very inspiring and visual presentation.**

A Stewardship Moment
 The three wise men who came from the East to pay homage to the infant Jesus brought Him rich gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh as part of their worship. What gifts have I brought to this celebration to offer to the newborn Saviour?

Upcoming Parish Events . . .
 (BH is Brinkmann Hall; PC is Parish Center)
 Jan 10: Faith Formation Classes, 6pm
 Jan 14: KC Breakfast, 8:00-11:30am
 Jan 15: Parish Council/Finance Meeting, 6:30pm
 Jan 17: Sacred Seed Sowers Book Club, 1pm, PC
 Faith Formation Classes, 6pm
 Jan 24: Faith Formation Classes, 6pm
 Jan 27: Beauty in Christ Women’s Conf, 8:30-1:30, PC
 Jan 28: Fatima Movie after Mass and lite luncheon, BH
 Jan 31: Sacred Seed Sowers Book Club, 1pm, 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-Osburn, 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
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