

ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: Jan 18, 2024 ~ Rectory: 563-252-1247 ~ Fr.'s Cell: 563-258-3958 ~ www.maryicjoseph.org

LIVE THE LITURGY: Embracing the Call to Conversion

source: www.youngcatholics.com

The readings for the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time open with a powerful narrative from the book of Jonah. Jonah, initially reluctant, finally obeys God's command to go to Nineveh. His message is stark and uncompromising: the city faces destruction unless its people repent. Remarkably, from the greatest to the least, the inhabitants of Nineveh heed Jonah's warning, demonstrating a profound collective conversion.

This passage challenges us to reflect on our own response to God's call for repentance. In our lives, moments of grace often come disguised as challenges or calls to change our ways. The Ninevites' response is a testament to the power of genuine repentance and a reminder that no person or community is beyond the reach of God's transforming love.

Jonah's experience also speaks to us about obedience and trust in God's plan. Often, we might feel reluctant or unqualified to undertake the tasks God sets before us. Jonah's journey reminds us that our willingness to listen and respond to God, even amidst fear and hesitation, can lead to incredible outcomes beyond our imagination.

KC Biscuits & Gravy Breakfast

Sunday, January 21, 8-11:30am

St. Mary Church
Drive-thru and Dine In
Free will donation.



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

Sun., Feb. 4, 2024 at St. Mary, Guttenberg during Mass

Joseph Dean Scherbring

son of Adam & Malorie (Klosterman) Scherbring

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

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 very inspiring.**

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.

Mass Schedule: Jan 22 – Jan 28, 2023

Mon., Jan 22: 11:00 A.M. – St. Joseph, Garnavillo

Funeral Mass for Joseph 'Joe' Wille

Tues., Jan 23: [No Mass Scheduled]

Wed., Jan 24: 8:30 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg

“St. Francis de Sales” - *Ronald & Agnes McDonnell*

Thur., Jan 25: 8:30 A.M. – Guttenberg River Living Center

“Conversion of St. Paul” – *People of the Parish*

Fri., Jan 26: [No Mass Scheduled]

Sat., Jan. 27: 11:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg

Funeral Mass for Trudy Rose Vogt

Sat., Jan 27: Vigil of Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 P.M. – St. Joseph, Garnavillo

Robert & Angie Berns

5:30 P.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg

Robert 'Bob' & Elaine Hoffmann

Sun., Jan 28: Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 A.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista

10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, **live streamed**

Janice Rohner & David Rohner

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

Fishing with Jesus

~ source: youngcatholics.com

In the Gospel, we see Jesus initiating His mission by calling fishermen to be His first disciples. Why fishermen? This choice is significant and symbolic. Fishermen, in their profession, embody qualities essential not only for their trade but also for the spiritual journey Jesus invites them to undertake.

Firstly, fishermen are accustomed to hard work. Their trade is physically demanding, requiring strength and endurance. This physical resilience parallels the spiritual resilience needed in the mission of evangelization. Just as fishermen labor tirelessly for their catch, so too must disciples labor in spreading the Gospel, often in the face of challenges and setbacks.

Moreover, fishermen possess a practical intelligence. They are adept at navigating the seas, reading weather patterns, and managing their business affairs. This combination of skills indicates a capacity for critical thinking and adaptability - qualities essential in understanding and responding to the varied contexts in which the Gospel message must be shared.

In choosing fishermen as His first disciples, Jesus was not just gathering helpers; He was selecting individuals who embodied the virtues necessary for the daunting task of spreading the Gospel. Their profession was a metaphor for the mission they were to undertake. As modern-day disciples, reflecting on these qualities can inspire us in our own journey of faith and evangelization. In our efforts to 'fish for people,' let us learn from the first disciples, embracing patience, adaptability, intelligence, and courage in our mission to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

The readings collectively draw us into a deeper reflection on our spiritual journey. They challenge us to embrace a life of continual conversion, to maintain an eternal perspective amidst our daily lives, and to respond wholeheartedly to the personal call of discipleship that Jesus extends to each of us.

As we ponder these scriptures, let us ask for the grace to be like the Ninevites in their repentance, like Paul in his heavenly perspective, and like the first disciples in their immediate and wholehearted response to Jesus' call. In doing so, we align ourselves more closely with God's will and purpose for our lives, participating more fully in the unfolding of His kingdom on earth.

A Stewardship Moment

There is a certain urgency in today's Gospel as Jesus calls His first disciples – Andrew and Simon, James and John. Each one follows Jesus *immediately*, unhesitatingly abandoning nets and boats and father and fellow-workers. To what is Jesus calling me - at *this* moment, in *these* circumstances? What will I need to abandon in order to follow Him?

Upcoming Parish Events . . .

(BH is Brinkmann Hall; PC is Parish Center)

- Jan 21: KC Breakfast, 8:00-11:30am
- Jan 24: Faith Formation Classes, 6pm
- Jan 27: ~~Beauty in Christ Women's Conf, 8:30-1:30, PC~~ (Postponed due to a funeral at St. Mary's)
- 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
KC Meeting, 7:30pm
Scripture Study, 7:30-10:30am, PC
- Feb 7: Faith Formation Classes, 6pm
- Feb 8: Scripture Study, 6:30-8:30pm, PC

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

2023 Contribution Statements

Your year-end contribution statements are available at the back of church. Please pick them up at your convenience. The church is open daily.

"Save Time and Donate Online!"

Online Giving is available with WeShare, an easy and convenient way to save time and support the church. Goto: <https://maryicjoseph.weshareonline.org/>



Does your Heart need a Revival?

Attend the 2024 Archdiocesan Women's Conference,
Beauty in Christ: Reviving Our Hearts
Saturday, January 27, 2024,
8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Postponed due to Funeral at St. Mary's

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