

ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: July 13, 2023 ~ Rectory: 563-252-1247 ~ Fr.'s Cell: 563-258-3958 ~ www.maryicjoseph.org

LIVE THE LITURGY: Unveiling Hidden Potential

source: *young-catholics.com*

The parables of the wheat and weeds, the mustard seed, and the yeast, found in Matthew 13:24-43, the gospel for this Sunday, offer insights into the power of God's Kingdom in our lives. These parables challenge us to reflect on our hearts, choices, and the potential hidden within seemingly small aspects of our existence. They invite us to acknowledge our imperfections, nurture the good within us, and strive for spiritual growth. By embracing self-reflection, trust in God's work, and the influence we have on others, we create space for God's grace to transform us and bring forth abundant fruits of love, mercy, and compassion.

The parable of the mustard seed, reveals the extraordinary potential in seemingly small aspects of our lives. Small acts of faith and love can have a significant impact when nurtured. It challenges our perception of value, reminding us that God's kingdom works humbly.

Simple acts of kindness, compassion, and faithfulness can ripple through lives, contributing to the growth of God's kingdom. Embracing small opportunities for love and service, we trust that God brings greatness through our humble efforts, cultivating a receptive heart for His transformative grace.

Faith Formation is currently seeking 4 catechists (a.k.a. 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

Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) is a group of Catholics dedicated to bringing the faith to college campuses throughout the states. **One of our parishioners, Jaderial Staebler**, is joining FOCUS as a missionary.

Jaderial will be serving as a missionary at UW-Platteville this year. She will speak at the end of Masses July 22 and 23 and invites you to support her missionary work with FOCUS. For more information, you can see her personal page <https://focus.org/missionaries/jaderial-staebler/> or talk to her in person next weekend.

NOTICE: The Social Justice Committee is looking to add another person or two to our ranks. We currently do such projects as The Giving Tree at Christmas, deliver booklets to the county jail, and take food and money to the Resource Center. We also have a few other projects in mind that we are considering doing. If interested please contact Gerald Bormann @ 563-419-6967

General absolution will be offered during the penitential rite at Masses this weekend.

Mass Schedule: July 17 – July 23, 2023

Mon., Jul 17: [No Mass Scheduled]
(Burial of Dr. James Auer at 1 P.M. in St. Joseph Cemetery)

Tues., Jul 18: 8:30 A.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Rita Eulberg & Jane (Matt) Siebrecht

Wed., Jul 19: 8:30 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg
Ann Olinger & Kathleen Bockenstedt

Thur., Jul 20: 10:30 A.M. – Guttenberg Care Center
Leon Berns & Pete Davis

Fri., Jul 21: [No Mass Scheduled]

Sat., Jul 22: Vigil of Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:00 P.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Phil Moser & Angie Berns
5:30 P.M.—St. Mary, Guttenberg
Bernice Haas & Robert 'Bob' Hoffmann

Sun., Jul 23: Sixteenth 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*
Paul & Hattie Meier

“To anyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. This is why I speak to them in parables, because *they look but do not see and hear but do not listen or understand.*” [Matthew 13:12-13](#)

How is it that someone can look without seeing or hear without listening or understanding? This is only possible when one’s eyes and ears are working properly, but the mind is distracted, not attentive to what is seen or heard. For example, say you were listening to a book being read and suddenly you realized that even though you heard what was read, your mind was elsewhere and you had no idea what was spoken. This is a common experience for everyone from time to time.

This portion of the Gospel quoted above comes immediately after Jesus spoke the Parable of the Sower to the crowds from a boat. In that parable, seed fell on the path, on rocky ground, among thorns and in rich soil. Only the seed on the rich soil grew and produced good fruit. Therefore, Jesus’ teaching quoted above, as well as His parable spoken before it, teach that there were many who heard the Word of God and witnessed Jesus’ miracles but failed to allow His teachings and miracles to produce faith in their hearts.

This Gospel passage is especially important for those who have been Catholics for many years but have become stagnant in their faith. When someone goes to Mass every week, listens to the Gospel and shares in the Eucharist but fails to continually grow in holiness and understanding of the Mysteries of Heaven, then they will slowly lose even the little faith they have. They will become lukewarm Catholics who go through the motions but fail to produce the good fruit that comes from authentic faith.

When you look back at your life as a practicing Catholic, what do you see from year to year? Was there a time when you were strong in faith but have slowly closed your ears to the Gospel and have drifted away from a deep and prayerful interior engagement with our Lord? Or when you look back do you see that the Lord has continuously given you more and more, leading you to a life of true spiritual riches? Has the Gospel entered not only your ears, but also your mind and your understanding? Do you both see and perceive the action of God in your life and in the world around you? Are you actively engaged with the life of grace and find that you grow closer to God every day? Or, sadly, have you lost interest and zeal and now find yourself slowly drifting away from the fruitful practice of your faith?

Reflect, today, upon these important questions and strive to answer them honestly. If you do not see yourself growing in faith every year and becoming truly rich in the grace of God, then know that something needs to change. Stagnation and lukewarmness in the faith are not good. They lead to the slow loss of everything. As you reflect upon your own faith journey, recommit yourself to a zealous embrace of the Gospel so that your soul will be truly rich soil that continually produces an abundance of good fruit.

Lord, You desire that all people hear Your Word and see Your action in their lives. Please continue to pour forth Your grace into my life so that I will continually grow rich in Your mercy. I pray that my eyes and ears will be open to You more fully every day. Jesus, I trust in You.

A Prayer as We Await a New Archbishop

O God, you send your Son, Our Lord Jesus, as priest, prophet, and king. We thank you for your abundant blessings bestowed upon our Archdiocese, and thank you for the ministry of Archbishop Jackels. In your grace, send us a bishop like Jesus: a priest of deep and true prayer, a teacher with a loving heart and firm resolve, and a shepherd of joy and peace, who desires above all to do Your will. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen

A Stewardship Moment

May our stewardship of time, talent and treasure show us to be among those who have heard the message of Christ and taken it in, yielding a hundred --- or sixty ---- or thirty-fold!

Upcoming Parish Events

- Jul 15: Parish Life will be at the Farmer’s Market, 8-Noon selling baked goods and vegetables
- Jul 17: Finance Committee/Parish Council Mtg; 6:30pm
- Jul 22: Women’s Faith Sharing, 1pm @ Sodes
- Aug 18/19: Parish Life sponsoring the Bender’s Cookout

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