

ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: July 20, 2023 ~ Rectory: 563-252-1247 ~ Fr.'s Cell: 563-258-3958 ~ www.maryicjoseph.org

LIVE THE LITURGY: Soil Conditions

~ Colleen Jurkiewicz, @LPI

I am a hopeless gardener. I never met a plant I couldn't swiftly kill with good intentions and poor understanding of soil conditions.

Because really, it's all about the soil conditions — at least, that's what Google tells me when I helplessly search phrases like "Why aren't any of my seeds sprouting? Please, I tried so hard." I can never seem to match the right type of soil offering the right type of drainage and texture with the right plant. I can't understand why it's not enough to bury the seed in whatever ground is available, sprinkle some water and ask it, very nicely, to grow.

This is also a quality that makes me a poor evangelist to people who do not share my beliefs. How many times have I encountered a friend or loved one who left the faith, and I tried to coax them back by hurling Catechism passages in their direction, offering advice they never asked for and are ill-equipped to understand? I sow these seeds of witness and bang my fists in frustration that they rot where I plant them, never realizing that it's all about the soil.

Socks and Undies Drive



The Social Justice Committee is hosting a Socks and Underwear Drive to benefit school age kids in Pre-K through Jr. High. The GMHC

Family Resource Center has notified us of this basic back to school need. Please join us in helping to fulfill this need.

Donations of new, unopened packages of socks and underwear are being collected now through Aug. 13. All sizes from 4T thru Jr-High. Please place donations in the box at the back of church. The Resource Center will distribute them to needed families before school starts.

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 this weekend 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 this weekend.

St. Anne's Society will meet on Monday, July 31 at 6:30 pm in the Parish Center. Any or all women of our parish are welcome to attend. We will have a short business meeting, an informational video about Mary's Meals and light refreshments. Hope you can join us!

It is Christ, and Christ alone, who works within the heart. It is Christ who is the sower of the seed, not me. When I leave him out of the equation, when I fail to offer the Person and instead only offer the teaching, I can anticipate that any witness I have to offer will rot where it is planted just as sure as a tulip bulb in a bed of clay.

PARISH LIFE will be hosting coffee, juice and donuts on Sunday, **July 30** after Mass in Brinkmann Hall. Please come, visit and enjoy the time spent with our family of parishioners.



Fellowship

Mass Schedule: July 24 – July 30, 2023

Mon., Jul 24: [No Mass Scheduled]

Tues., Jul 25: 8:30 A.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo
"St. James – Apostle" *Faye Staumbach*

Wed., Jul 26: 8:30 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg
"Ss. Joachim & Anne" *Leonard & Editha Hartmann*

Thur., Jul 27: 8:30 A.M. – Guttenberg River Living Center
Janice Ulbrich & Amy (Steffen) Clay

Fri., Jul 28: [No Mass Scheduled]

Sat., Jul 29: Vigil of Seventeenth Sunday in Time
4:00 P.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Henry Mueller & Leon Berns
5:30 P.M.—St. Mary, Guttenberg
Lynne Finnegan & Tom Tujetsch

Sun., Jul 30: Seventeenth 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*
Don Evers

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Vigilance with the Truth

source: *mycatholic.life*

Jesus proposed another parable to the crowds, saying: “The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everyone was asleep his enemy came and sowed weeds all through the wheat, and then went off. When the crop grew and bore fruit, the weeds appeared as well.” [Matthew 13:24–26](#)

This parable would have made much sense to the people of Jesus’ time. It was common practice for an enemy to get revenge upon another by sowing a weed named “cockle” in with the wheat. As the cockle began to grow, it looked much like wheat until the grain was formed. And if it were mixed with the wheat and eaten, it would cause severe nausea. Due to this, it was also common practice for farmers with enemies to have servants stand watch over their fields after they were planted. Therefore, this parable reveals that the servants who were to keep watch failed in their duty.

In explaining this parable, Jesus says, “He who sows good seed is the Son of Man, the field is the world, the good seed the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels” ([Matthew 13:37–39](#)). One common tactic of the evil one is to subtly mix his lies with the truth. He knows that if he were to propose some grave and obvious lie that many would reject it outright. Therefore, he attempts to create division and confusion by slowly and slightly suggesting his errors in such a way that they are more easily believed. Therefore, “the children of the evil one” can be understood as those in this world who are under the influence of the devil, as well as the legions of demons who attempt to sow confusion in our lives and within the Church.

One helpful way to prayerfully ponder this parable is to see yourself as one of those servants who is entrusted with the task of guarding the field. Since the field is the world, we all have a duty to keep the lies of the evil one from flourishing. To do that, we certainly must confront the most serious errors we encounter. For example, the dignity of the unborn child must be protected and the diabolical practice of abortion must cease. Additionally, we must work to protect the Church, our communities, friends and families from not only the grave errors of our times but also those most subtle ones. For example, within the Church, conflicts and confusions often arise. These divisions are part of the subtle lies sown by the evil one.

We must also see our own souls as the fertile soil. Certainly God’s Word has been planted, but oftentimes we allow ourselves to believe subtle errors. This leads to internal conflict, sin and confusion. Thus, we must regularly guard our souls from these lies by relying upon the authentic teachings of our Church and the teachings of the saints.

Reflect, today, upon your sacred duty to be vigilant and constantly on the lookout for the seed of error sown within our world, the Church and your own soul. Vigilance is key. The evil one is always on the prowl. If we are to learn one of the central messages of this parable, then we must learn to guard and protect all that God has revealed and hold firmly to the Truth alone.

Calling all Book Lovers! I will be hosting a get together/meeting to gauge interest in starting a St. Mary’s Book Club, concentrating on non-fiction and fiction books of the spiritual genre. I would love to utilize the many books our Parish Life Committee so generously gift and make available to our parishioners. Along with those and wanting to share my personal favorites that have enriched my faith life, please plan to attend on Tuesday, August 1 at 9:00 am in the Parish Center. Come with your ideas and favorites too! Questions? call- Sue Bahls 563-252-3253.



From Gina the Choir Director . . . Choir practice is typically held on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm in the choir loft. These practices are open to anyone interested in singing. Questions? Call or text Gina at 563-213-9021

NOTICE: The Social Justice Group 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 are planning a few other projects. If interested please contact Gerald Bormann @ 563-419-6967

Faith Formation is currently seeking 4 catechists (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

Church Door Project & Old School Roof Project Updates:

The KCs would like to thank all who contributed to the door fund. Enough money has been received to fund this project. The doors will be installed this fall. The next project is the replacement of the **roof on the old school building**. Any funds left over from the doors will go toward the roof project. If you would like to contribute to the old school roof fund, make checks out to the Knights of Columbus.

Upcoming Parish Events . . .

(BH is Brinkmann Hall; PC is Parish Center)

Jul 22: Women’s Faith Sharing, 1pm, PC
Jul 24: Parish Center Committee Mtg, 4:45, PC
Friends of St. Mary; 6:30pm, PC
Jul 27: Parish Vitality Meeting, 6:30pm, PC
Jul 31: St. Anne’s, 6pm, PC
Aug 1: St. Mary’s Book Club, 9 am, PC
CD of A; noon, BH
KC Mtg; 7:30 pm

A Stewardship Moment

“Those who are just must be kind,” says today’s first reading. If our words and deeds are kind and selfless, we will be like the good seed in the Gospel parable and gathered as wheat in the Lord’s harvest.

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