

# ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: June 29, 2023 ~ Rectory: 563-252-1247 ~ Fr.'s Cell: 563-258-3958 ~ [www.maryicjoseph.org](http://www.maryicjoseph.org)

## LIVE THE LITURGY: The Necklace

source: Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman • ©LPI

I have a necklace that originally belonged to my great-grandmother. I don't really know much about the man who gave it to her, most of those details have been lost to time. But I know that he wanted to marry her, and that she refused, and it had something to do with religion — ultimately, he did not share her faith. And while I've certainly seen many interfaith couples have loving and successful marriages, in this particular case, my great-grandmother discerned that this would not be one of those marriages.

Like I said, I don't have many details about this man, but I know that she felt she couldn't marry him because it might jeopardize the souls of her children, and therefore the souls of their children, and their children after them — me. She turned him down because of me.

My great-grandmother never sold that necklace, not even when the Great Depression further reduced her financial circumstances. She kept it, and she gave it to her daughter, who gave it to her daughter, who gave it to me. The necklace is always given with a warning: there is something worse than being poor, worse than being scared, worse even than being desperate. Worse than all of these things is separation from God.

When I wear this necklace, I think about my grandmother and this man she possibly loved a hundred years ago. I think of the many decisions we make every day — large and small, good and bad — that reverberate down through the generations in ways we cannot, at the time, imagine. I think of the God who knows every hair on my head.

*“And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna.” — Matthew 10:28*

### 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

Mass Servers: We are in need of Mass servers and would like to add then to the monthly Ministry schedule. If you are interested and in the 5th grade or older (including adults) please click this link, [Mass Server](#) or contact Erin Schmelzer at 563-880-7471

**Wanted:** Contractor to re-roof the convent. If you know of someone please call Jane Parker @ 563-880-5469

**From Gina the Choir Director . . .**  
Choir practice is typically held on Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm in the choir loft. These practices are open to any potentially new singers. Questions? Call or text Gina at 563-213-9021

## Mass Schedule: July 3 – July 9, 2023

**Mon., Jul 3:** 2:00 P.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista  
**Wedding Mass**

**Skyler Moser & Samantha Hefel**



**Tues., Jul 4:** 8:30 A.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo  
*Vincent & Inez Hoeger/Amy Hoeger*

**Wed., Jul 5:** 8:30 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg  
*Barb Pape (C.D. of A.) & Charlie Bries*

**Thur., Jul 6:** 10:00 A.M. – Guttenberg Care Center  
*Leon Berns & Pete Davis*

**Fri., Jul 7:** [No Mass Scheduled]

**Sat., Jul 8:** Vigil of Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
4:00 P.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo  
*Elaine/Carol/Lee Allen/Alissa Troester*  
5:30 P.M.—St. Mary, Guttenberg  
*Mary Tujetsch & Fran Troester*

**Sun., Jul 9:** Fourteenth 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 & Janice Rohner*

## GOSPEL REFLECTION: Selfless Living

source: mycatholic.life

*“Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” [Matthew 10:37-39](#)*

Clearly, this saying is a play on words that is meant to make you pause and think. It’s almost like a holy and sacred riddle, spoken by Jesus to get your attention and to communicate a very deep and foundational truth about how you are to live. Essentially, this saying teaches that those who live in a selfish, self-centered way do not accomplish their goal. The goal of those who are selfish is to elevate themselves with the thinking that this is what is best for them. But Jesus clearly points out that when you live selfishly, seeking to put yourself above others, you lose what is most important in life. You lose your very soul. On the contrary, if you live selflessly, putting others before you, it is in this act that you actually find your true purpose in life and fulfill yourself on the deepest level.

Think, for example, of Jesus. He is God, the Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity, existing for eternity in perfect union with the Father and the Holy Spirit. His soul radiates pure love. And for that reason, He chose to become human, suffer greatly and be killed. Was that fulfilling to our Lord? Most certainly. Why? Because His sacrifice went to the heart of Who He is. He is Love itself. And love is always self-giving. It is always fulfilling. It always seeks the good of the other. Love fulfills the lover when it is pure, holy, selfless and total. Jesus’ sacrificial death on the Cross not only redeemed us, but it also manifested the Son of God’s own perfect fulfillment and satisfaction in His human nature because His death was an act of pure love.

Sin confuses us. Selfishness especially clouds our thinking. As a result, it becomes difficult to clearly see that the way to fulfillment in life is by the complete and unwavering sacrifice of our lives given to others, in imitation of and in union with Jesus’ perfect sacrifice. The moment that sin leads us to think first about ourselves, we begin to become blind to who we are and what makes us truly fulfilled.

Reflect, today, upon the divine mission you have been given to lose yourself for the sake of Christ, which is for the sake of true love. By loving God and others in this pure way, selflessly, you become who you are and who you were created to be. You find yourself only by choosing to lose yourself in this world. Ponder this deep mystery and believe it. Once you do believe it, commit to live sacrificially, casting aside every doubt, so that you will never hesitate to love everyone sacrificially. For in that radical act of selfless love, you will discover and become who you were created to be.

*My sacrificial Lord, You are not only the perfect model of human love, Your sacrificial love is the source of human fulfillment itself. Please give me the grace I need to love all people in a perfect and selfless way and, in that act, also discover and become who I was made to be. Jesus, I trust in You.*

### Fourth of July Prayer by Fr. Ed Hays

We lift up our hearts, O God, on this day of celebration in gratitude for the gift of being Americans. We rejoice with all those who share in the great dream of freedom and dignity for all.

With flags and feasting, with family and friends we salute those who have sacrificed that we might have the opportunity to bring to fulfillment our many God-given gifts.

As we deny all prejudice a place in our hearts, may we also clearly declare our intention to work for the time when all people, regardless of race, religion, or sex, will be granted equal dignity and worth.

### A Stewardship Moment

Both the first reading and the Gospel today speak of hospitality and welcome. Our ministers of hospitality are a most visible example of using one’s time and talents to welcome the people of God. But the Gospel assures us that all who give even just “a cup of cold water” to one of His lowliest ones will be rewarded.

Want to get on the list to receive the bulletin weekly by email? Need to update your mailing address; email or phone number? These items can easily be done by visiting the parish website ([www.maryicjoseph.org](http://www.maryicjoseph.org)) and click on the [Update My Contact Information](#) button on the main page or click the link above.

### Upcoming Parish Events . . . .

Jul 8: Women’s Faith Sharing, 1pm @ Sodes

Jul 11: CDA meeting at Noon in Monona

Jul 15: Parish Life will be at the Farmer’s Market, 8-Noon

Jul 17: Finance Committee/Parish Council Mtg; 6:30pm

Jul 22: Women’s Faith Sharing, 1pm @ Sodes

Aug 18/19: Parish Life sponsoring the Benders Cookout

Please email items for the bulletin by 7:30am Wednesday morning to [OfficeOfStMary@gmail.com](mailto:OfficeOfStMary@gmail.com)