

ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: Nov. 9, 2023 ~ Rectory: 563-252-1247 ~ Fr.'s Cell: 563-258-3958 ~ www.maryicjoseph.org

LIVE THE LITURGY: The Ten Virgins

~ source: *young-catholics.com*

In the parable of the ten virgins from Matthew 25:1-13, Jesus stresses the importance of being prepared and vigilant. The key takeaway is readiness: five of the virgins are wise and bring extra oil, while the other five are unprepared and get left out. While it might seem unkind that the prepared virgins don't share their oil, the focus is not on that detail. The story serves as a metaphor for being spiritually prepared.

This parable for the 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A encourages us to always be ready for unexpected events in life and, by extension, for our own spiritual journey. We can't rely on others to be prepared for us. Each of us is responsible for our own readiness—whether that's in our faith, our relationships, or our personal endeavors. Just as the wise virgins brought extra oil to ensure they wouldn't miss the bridegroom, we too should take steps to be fully prepared in our own lives.

In a practical sense, this could mean regular prayer, ethical actions, and ongoing self-improvement. These "reserves of oil" enable us to face whatever comes our way with a readiness that aligns with our spiritual and ethical foundations. Being prepared allows us to participate fully when opportunities—expected or not—come into our lives.

KC Pancake & Sausage Breakfast



Drive-thru and Dine In;
St. Mary Church

Sunday, November 12

8-11:30am

Free will donation. **Free for Veterans.**

At the 10am Mass this Sunday, November 12, the Youth will be honoring our Veterans. All Veterans are invited to attend Mass and receive a special blessing. Uniforms may be worn.

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

Many thanks to the Parish Life group for providing the soup luncheon and hosting the showing of the movie Wonder this past Sunday. Your service to our parish is appreciated!!

PARISH LIFE will be hosting coffee, juice and donuts **next Sunday, Nov. 19** after Mass in Brinkmann Hall. Enjoy fellowship with our family of parishioners.



Fellowship

Mass Schedule: Nov 13 – Nov 19, 2023

Mon., Nov 13: [No Mass Scheduled]

Tues., Nov 14: 8:30 A.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo

Vince & Inez Hoeger/Amy Hoeger

Wed., Nov 15: 6:15 P.M.—St. Mary, Guttenberg

Faith Formation Giving Thanks Mass & Potluck
People of the Parish

Thur., Nov 16: 10:00 A.M. – Guttenberg Care Center

Leon Berns & Pete Davis

Fri., Nov 17: [No Mass Scheduled]

Sat., Nov 18: Vigil of Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 P.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo

Leon Berns & Tracy Werges

5:30 P.M.—St. Mary, Guttenberg

Fred & Lucy Bush

Sun., Nov 19: Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass, **Live Streamed**

Dec'd of Hildebrand/Gaul Families

Roofing Replacement Projects

The contractor was onsite this past week and is in the process of firming up their estimate. A fundraising campaign has started and donations are being accepted. Please make checks out to St. Mary Parish and indicate Roof Project in the memo line.

MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITY

There will be an informational meeting November, 26th, after the 10 AM Mass for parents and youth on a Catholic Heart Workcamp mission trip next summer. The meeting will be held in the Parish Center. The mission trip is open to both graduating seniors this year and students entering 8th-12th grades next school year. Contact Katey Simon at youthministry@smic.pvt.k12.ia.us with any questions.

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Stay Awake

source: Ann Hoover, Creighton University

It feels to me like the obvious question from today's Gospel reading is "What does Jesus mean by being awake and what does wisdom have to do with it? I think it is clear that it is not literally "stay awake." Some might say simply that we need to mind our "p's and q's" and celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation regularly in order that our souls are ready for heaven when we die. I wonder though, if there isn't a deeper invitation. Perhaps an invitation to awaken to ourselves, not just our sins and woundedness, but our gifts and calls. Bring those into the light as well. To be awake, in my mind and heart, is to live from that truest part of ourselves, from our hearts. And, from that place, we will necessarily grow in wisdom and meet Wisdom, meet Christ. So how do we do that?

For me, it begins by trying to be present to each moment, not looking to the past or the future. All we have is the present moment. Next, I try to be aware (awake?) to what I see in other people that really strikes me, maybe to the extreme. This is important because what we notice in others, is generally present in ourselves somewhere. Sometimes it is talked about as when we get "triggered" and respond by either flying off the handle or putting someone on a pedestal. When I notice this happening, it is a clue for me to pause and ask, what is going on inside or me, how am I feeling? What does this feeling remind me of? When I can do this, I am freer to respond from a place of Love and Wisdom instead of fear or hurt. I also learn a bit more about myself and God's love for me at those moments.

A simple example. My daughter and 18 month old granddaughter were with me this week. My son-in-law was traveling and she needed support while working from home. I was putting my granddaughter down for a nap. She and I were resting on the bed but she was not going to sleep. I felt myself starting to get anxious. I could hear myself saying "I wish she would hurry up and just go to sleep." I stopped in that moment and asked "what else do I have to do that is more important than this?" The answer of course, is nothing, but the "world" was calling. Simply being present enough to ask myself the question allowed me to make the choice from Love to rest with my granddaughter and be patient. This sounds so simple, yet I found it very profound. I feel that in caring for her I was being Christ to her and she in her simple presence was Christ to me in that moment (and many others). I am grateful for that chance to be with her and to learn that I can be patient and present. I am smiling at myself as I type this reflection, that is days overdue, and my example of being awake is allowing for another to sleep.

How is Jesus inviting us to stay awake this day? How is Wisdom inviting us to stay awake to ourselves and God in each moment; not for something or some time to come but to live a Christ filled, heaven on earth, life today.

Parish Vitality Goals Update: Thank you to those who have indicated they would like to be an usher, reader, Eucharistic Minister, Mass server, choir member, gift bearer or rosary leader! Parishioners are welcome and invited to join these ministries at any time. Thank you for helping us to meet our first goal of increasing parishioner involvement!

The "ADVENT & CHRISTMAS" booklets are now available at the entry ways of church. Advent begins Sunday December 3rd.

A Stewardship Moment

Like the sensible bridesmaids in today's parable, good stewards make sure that they, and whatever gifts are theirs to share, are ready to serve when the Master calls.

Festival of Trees—Friends of St. Mary

The Convent is open after Masses for viewing trees and placing bids. The final day for bids will be Sunday, Nov 26 at 2pm. There will also be a soup and sandwich luncheon that day served after Mass. All proceeds will go toward preserving the convent. Contact Nancy Nuehring at 563-880-0280 or clay.nancy4@live.com with questions.



Upcoming Parish Events . . .

(BH is Brinkmann Hall; PC is Parish Center)

- Nov 11-26: Festival of Trees, Convent
- Nov 12: KC Breakfast, 8-11:30am
Youth Mass in Honor of Veterans
- Nov 15: Sacred Seed Sowers Book Club, 1pm, PC
Faith Formation, 6pm, Mass and family potluck
- Nov 19: Coffee/Donuts after Mass, BH
- Nov 26: Friends of St. Mary, Soup and Sandwich lunch after Mass and 2pm bidding closes on trees.

Decorating the Church

Volunteers are sought to help decorate our church for the Advent and Christmas season after the 10am Mass on November 26th. There will be boxes to carry, some heavy lifting and ladders to climb, so women, men, young adults are all needed. Opportunity to earn service hours. Call Lora Kolker for more info: 563-880-9111.

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