

# ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: Nov. 23, 2023 ~ Rectory: 563-252-1247 ~ Fr.'s Cell: 563-258-3958 ~ [www.maryicjoseph.org](http://www.maryicjoseph.org)

## LIVE THE LITURGY: We are Called

~ source: Nicky Santos, S.J.; Creighton University

Today's responsorial psalm reminds me of the Sunday School teacher who decided to have her young class memorize Psalm 23 and gave them a month to do so. Little Rick, one of the boys in the class, was very excited about the task but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line. On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the whole congregation, Rick was very nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my shepherd, and that's all I need to know."

In many respects, Rick got it. All we really need to know is that the Lord is our shepherd. And that he cares for us. The first reading from Ezekiel is filled with words and phrases that exhibit this care: "look after"; "tend"; "rescue"; "pasture"; "give them rest"; "seek out"; "bring back"; "bind up the injured"; "heal the sick".

The kingship of Christ that we celebrate today is a kingship of care. Care for all but particularly for the least ones: the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the ill, the ones in prison. The disciples are invited to care for these because in doing so they care for Jesus who identifies with these least ones. Today's feast both consoles as well as challenges us. We are consoled by the Lord's care for us, which is indeed comforting. At the same time, we are reminded that we are called to care for one another, particularly the least among us.



### 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 served that day after Mass. All proceeds will go toward preserving the convent. Contact Nancy Nuehring at 563-880-0280 or [clay.nancy4@live.com](mailto:clay.nancy4@live.com) with questions.



Due to various outbreaks of Covid, General Absolution of ones' sins will be given on the first weekend of December at all 3-linked parishes.

### Mass Schedule: Nov 27 – Dec 3, 2023

**Mon., Nov 27:** [No Mass Scheduled]

**Tues., Nov 28:** 8:30 A.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo  
(last weekday Mass until Spring)  
*People of the Parish*

**Wed., Nov 29:** 8:30 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg  
*Richard Goerdts & Daniel Goerdts  
Edward & Editha Hartmann*

**Thur., Nov 30:** 10:00 A.M. – Guttenberg Care Center  
*Leon Berns & Pete Davis*

**Fri., Dec 1:** [No Mass Scheduled]

**Sat., Dec 2:** Vigil of First Sunday of Advent  
4:00 P.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo  
*Willis Wagner & David Rohner*  
5:30 P.M.—St. Mary, Guttenberg  
*Sherri Westemeier [1<sup>st</sup> Anniv.] & Carol Schlueter*

**Sun., Dec 3:** First Sunday of Advent  
8:30 A.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista  
*Patrick 'Pat' Hefel [Month Mind]*  
10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass, **Live Streamed**  
*Mary Lou Gulbro // Roger & Janet Prusha*

### Roofing Replacement Projects

The contractor was onsite a couple of weeks ago 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](mailto:youthministry@smic.pvt.k12.ia.us) with any questions.

**GOSPEL REFLECTION: Don't Be a Goat**

source: young-catholics.com

The gospel for the Solemnity of Christ the King presents Jesus as both a shepherd and a king. This dual role signifies a leader who not only rules but also nurtures and protects. The sheep in the metaphor are those who follow Christ's example by showing compassion and service to others. Whether it's volunteering at a soup kitchen, taking care of the sick, or advocating for social justice, these actions align with Christ's teachings.

Contrastingly, the goats represent those who turn a blind eye to the suffering of others. Indifference or rationalizing the plight of the marginalized reflects a departure from the core Christian teaching of empathy and love. Instead of blaming people for their misfortune, our faith calls us to uplift those who are vulnerable and marginalized.

Following Christ, our Shepherd King, means more than just adhering to rules; it means living a life of service and advocacy. When we assist those who are struggling, we are serving Christ Himself. Thus, caring for the needs of

**St. Mary Social Justice Committee's 5th Annual CHRISTMAS CLOTHING MISSION**

Please select a tag from the Giving Tree in the back of church. Each tag will identify an item for a child or adult in need. After you purchase the item, return it with the tag attached, and place it in the container at the back of church.

Please do not gift wrap. Items need to be returned by Dec 17. All items collected will be given to needy families in our area. The Family Resource Center is helping to identify and distribute the items.



*Giving alms to the poor is a corporal work of mercy.*

**Soup Luncheon & Vendor Show, Immaculate Conception Church, N. Buena Vista, IA; Sunday December 3**  
10:30 AM - 2:00 PM; Special appearance by Santa  
Come do your Christmas shopping!!

**Birthingright** of Dubuque would like to thank you for your kind donations of baby clothes, items and diapers. It is very much appreciated!!

**Christmas Mass Schedule**

Due to Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday, there will be no Masses on Saturday December 23. The only weekend Mass will be Sunday, Dec. 24th at Guttenberg at 10:00 A.M.

Christmas Eve: Sunday Dec. 24:  
4:00 P.M. – St. Joseph, Garnavillo. children's Mass  
5:30 P.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, children's Mass


Christmas Day: Monday Dec. 25:  
8:30 A.M. – N. Buena Vista – children's Mass  
10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg

**A Stewardship Moment**

When the Son of Man comes in glory, may we be among those who have fed the hungry, welcomed the stranger, and clothed the naked. For Jesus tells us clearly that it is those who have demonstrated good stewardship by sharing their gifts with the less fortunate who will receive God's blessing and inherit the kingdom.

**Upcoming Parish Events . . .**

- (BH is Brinkmann Hall; PC is Parish Center)
- Nov 11-26: Festival of Trees, Convent, After Masses
- Nov 26: Friends of St. Mary, Soup and Sandwich lunch after Mass and 2pm bidding closes on trees. Mission Trip Information Mtg, after Mass, PC
- Dec 5: CDA Mtg, Noon, Brinkmann Hall  
KC Mtg; 7:30pm
- Dec 6: Sacred Seed Sowers Book Club, 1pm, PC  
Faith Formation, 6pm
- Dec 7: Parish Vitality Group Mtg, 6:30pm, PC
- Dec 8: Decorate Church, 1pm
- Dec 10: Coffee/Donuts after Mass, BH
- Dec 13: Faith Formation, 6pm
- Dec 20: Sacred Seed Sowers Book Club, 1pm, PC



**Merry Christmas**  
From: St. Mary Parish Life  
To: You!!

A holiday gift: **"THE ROCKING CHAIR PROPHET"** book, by Matthew Kelly, has arrived and is now available at the entry ways of the church. It is great book to read; containing many every day, common sense events.

**Decorating the Church —\*\*Date Change\*\***



Volunteers are sought to help decorate our church for the Advent and Christmas season at 1pm on **Friday, December 8**. Call Lora Kolker for more info: 563-880-9111.

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