

ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: Nov. 30, 2023 ~ Rectory: 563-252-1247 ~ Fr.'s Cell: 563-258-3958 ~ www.maryicjoseph.org

LIVE THE LITURGY: Be Watchful! Be Alert!

~ source: young-catholics.com

As we prepare for the arrival of Jesus, it is important to reflect on how we can actively get ready for His coming. Just like when we throw a party, we make sure everything is ready for our guests, we should also be preparing our hearts for Jesus.

One way to prepare our hearts is through prayer. Prayer is a powerful tool that can help us connect with God and open our hearts to His presence. If our current prayer routine seems dry or stagnant, this is a good time to try a new way to pray. Whether it's through journaling, meditating on Scripture, or participating in a prayer group, exploring different prayer methods can help us deepen our relationship with God and prepare our hearts for Jesus.

Service projects are another meaningful way to make ourselves ready for Jesus. By helping others, we shift our focus away from ourselves and onto the needs of those around us. This selflessness allows us to align our hearts with the heart of Jesus, who came to serve and not to be served. Engaging in service projects, whether it's volunteering at a local shelter, participating in a community clean-up, or simply lending a helping hand to a neighbor in need, can help us cultivate a spirit of generosity and compassion.

In all our preparations, it's important to **be creative**. Advent is a time to break free from our routines and open ourselves up to new possibilities. Let this season be a time of exploration and discovery, as we seek to be alert to what the Lord is calling us to do next. By being watchful and alert, we can actively participate in the coming of Jesus and experience the true joy and meaning of Advent.

Fall Fundraiser Accounting:

Silent Auction/Donations: \$7,589
Raffle/Donations: \$6,250
Less Raffle Payout: \$2,000
Net Profit: \$11,839

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: Dec 4 – Dec 10, 2023

Mon., Dec 4: [No Mass Scheduled]

Tues., Dec 5: [No Weekday Mass Until Spring]

Wed., Dec 6: 8:30 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg
Loris Kickbush & Fred Bush

Thur., Dec 7: 10:00 A.M. – Guttenberg Care Center
Leon Berns & Pete Davis

Fri., Dec 8: 8:30 A.M. - St. Mary, Guttenberg –
Feast of the Immaculate Conception
People of the Parish

Sat., Dec 9: Vigil of Second Sunday of Advent
4:00 P.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Vince & Inez Hoeger/Amy Hoeger
5:30 P.M.—St. Mary, Guttenberg
Earl 'Butch' Meyer & Lynne Finnegan

Sun., Dec 10: Second Sunday of Advent
8:30 A.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista
People of the Parish
10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass, **Live Streamed**
Daniel Goerdts [Month Mind] & Richard Goerdts

Roof Replacement Projects

The roofs on the church and the old school will be replaced in 2024 at an estimated cost of \$250,000. 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.

A sample of the steel shakes that will be put on the church and old school building can be found at the back of church.



A holiday gift . . . To: **You**
From: St. Mary Parish Life
“**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.

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

GOSPEL REFLECTION:**Embracing Advent's Gifts**

source: young-catholics.com

The second reading for the 1st Sunday of Advent, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9, speaks of grace, fellowship, and the strengthening of faith as we await the revelation of Jesus Christ. This passage is fitting for the first Sunday of Advent, which marks a period of expectant waiting and preparation for both the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus and the anticipation of His return.

The beginning of Advent is a time to reflect on the grace that is given to us through Christ. Just as Paul greeted the Corinthians with a message of grace and peace, Advent ushers in a season to embrace these gifts anew. This grace is not earned, but it is a gift that sustains believers, enabling them to be enriched in every way. As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, we're invited to reflect on how this grace has been evident in our own lives and how we might extend it to others.

Paul also speaks of the Corinthians not lacking any spiritual gift as they wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. This assurance is a reminder that God provides what is necessary for the journey of faith. In Advent, Catholics are called to trust in God's provision, recognizing that spiritual growth is part of the preparation for Jesus' coming. The gifts of the Spirit are sources of strength and should be nurtured through prayer, reading Scripture, and participating in the sacraments.

Finally, the passage ends with a promise that God will keep us firm to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Advent is a time of hopeful expectation, but also a call to perseverance. The period of waiting is not passive; it's active vigilance, where believers are called to live out their faith authentically. The reflection on this promise can be a source of comfort and motivation, as we strive to live in a manner worthy of the calling we have received in Christ, especially during this season of watchful anticipation.

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 & distribute the items.



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

PARISH LIFE will be hosting coffee, juice and donuts **Sunday, Dec. 10** after Mass in Brinkmann Hall. Enjoy fellowship with our family of parishioners.



Fellowship

A Stewardship Moment

We are the servants of God, each with his or her own task. We will be judged good stewards if, at His coming, He finds us ready and conscientiously pursuing the tasks to which we have been called.

Light the first purple candle on your advent wreath . . . the candle of Hope

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

Upcoming Parish Events . . .

(BH is Brinkmann Hall; PC is Parish Center)

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

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-Osborn, 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