

# ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: Sept 7, 2023 ~ Rectory: 563-252-1247 ~ Fr.'s Cell: 563-258-3958 ~ [www.maryicjoseph.org](http://www.maryicjoseph.org)

## LIVE THE LITURGY: **Embracing Accountability**

~ source: *young-catholics.com*

The readings for the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time also challenge us to look beyond our own happiness and embrace a deeper sense of responsibility for one another. If our focus remains solely on our own interests, we miss the core message. The call to assist those in need resonates strongly, urging us to extend a helping hand when others require support.

Equally significant is our obligation to confront corruption and injustice. Silence in the face of wrongdoing implicates us in it, both individually and as a society. This duty to voice our dissent applies not only to personal interactions but also to our engagement with broader societal issues.

To uphold moral integrity, we must not shy away from declaring, “that is wrong.” This principle extends beyond personal encounters, reaching into the fabric of our communities and political systems. By speaking out against immorality, we take a stand against it, asserting our commitment to upholding what is right. This resonates with our individual responsibilities and our role in shaping the collective moral compass. In essence, these teachings urge us to cultivate a culture of accountability, where the pursuit of justice and righteousness prevails.

**THANK YOU** to all who helped support the Buenie Family Picnic this past weekend!

The Knights of Columbus will be holding their annual **Tootsie Roll Drive** this weekend to benefit people with disabilities.

**PARISH LIFE** will be hosting coffee, juice and donuts Sunday, September 17 after Mass in Brinkmann Hall. Enjoy fellowship with our family of parishioners.



The bi-annual Clarity Clinic Appeal will take place this weekend at all 3-linked parishes. There will be a special guest speaker.

### Mass Schedule: Sept 11 – Sept 17, 2023

**SCRIPTURE STUDY:** Time to start preparing for the continuing study of Matthew by Jeff Cavins. Session 13 will be presented starting on September 26, 7:30 – 10:30 AM in the Parish Center and the same session on September 28, 6:30 – 8:30 PM, also, in the Parish Center.

**Mon., Sept 11:** [No Mass Scheduled]

**Tues., Sept 12:** 8:30 A.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo  
*Vince & Inez Hoeger/Amy Hoeger*

**Wed., Sept 13:** 8:30 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg  
*Bob Hartmann*

**Thur., Sept 14:** 8:30 A.M. – River Living Center  
“Exaltation of the Cross”, *Janice Ulbrich & Amy [Steffen] Clay*

### Prayer for Vocations:

Father, we're your people, the work of your hands. So precious are we in your sight that you sent your Son, Jesus. Jesus calls us to heal the broken-hearted, to dry the tears of those who mourn, to give hope to those who despair, and to rejoice in your steadfast love. We, the baptized, realize our call to serve. Help us to know how. Call forth from among us priests, sisters, brothers and lay ministers. With our hearts you continue to love your people. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

**Fri., Sept 15:** [No Mass Scheduled]

**Sat., Sept 16:** Vigil of Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
4:00 P.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo  
*Glenn Berns [Month Mind]*  
5:30 P.M.—St. Mary, Guttenberg  
*Robert ‘Bob’ & Elaine Hoffmann*

**Sun., Sept 17:** Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
8:30 A.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista  
10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass, *Live Streamed*  
*George Miller & Jeff Bolsinger*

**GOSPEL REFLECTION:**      **The Measure of Love**

source: Rev. Richard Gabuzda Creighton University

Perhaps we can best appreciate today’s gospel passage by recalling that it is immediately preceded by the parable of the lost sheep. In that passage, the shepherd leaves the ninety-nine sheep and goes in search of the one stray sheep, so much does he value that lost sheep.

Today’s message about a sin committed by a brother, is not intended to provide an outline for an increasingly intense juridical procedure whose intention is to get a person to admit that he’s wrong so that he can be punished. It is an exercise of love for the brother who is a sinner, a lost sheep. Love, which knows no limits, moves one to do whatever can be done to bring back the brother from a place of serious sin to the joy of repentance. The increasing intensity—from a one-on-one conversation to a small group to “the Church” to pointing out that the sin has broken the person’s relationships with the Body—only illustrates the depth of love one ought to have for the sinner. His very life is a stake—do all that you can to persuade him to return and, if needed, enlist the help of others to do so!

When we have been hurt, seriously hurt by another, the sting tends to propel us toward seeking some form of revenge or making the offender hurt in some way. But the gospel proposes love as a remedy.

In the culture in which we live, we seem to vacillate between two extremes. On the one hand we hear voices constantly shouting on social media, broadcasting someone’s faults to a wide audience. On the other hand, many of us revert to a complete withdrawal from pointing out faults, usually with “who am I to judge?” as our justification. It seems that on both ends, the focus remains on “me,” rather than on love for a person who sins.

In the face of someone who is in serious sin, we are called to go against the tendency to think only of ourselves and, instead, to pray for the grace to love the sinner, to see in him or her the lost sheep. Then, moved by love, we ask for the grace to do whatever it takes to bring the sinner to repentance.

**Fall Silent Auction and Raffle**

We will be having a fall silent auction and raffle like we have had the past couple of years. This year’s raffle drawing and close of the silent auction will take place on Oct. 22. Bidding for the silent auction opens on Oct. 8.

**Silent Auction:** Unsure of what to donate to this year’s Silent Auction? We would love to put together Gift Baskets/Boxes with your donation. We have the baskets/boxes, fillers, wrap and ribbons and will assemble. Will also make sure you get credit for your donation. Suggestions are: gift certificates, coffees, teas, mugs , non perishable food items and candies, toys , books, puzzle books, DVDs, bath and beauty items, smaller seasonal decorations, etc. The list is endless, you may have better ideas than these. All donations appreciated! Also, donations of new or hand crafted items will be accepted starting Sept 5 one half hour before and after each Mass on the weekends or call Sue Bahls, 252-3253 for more arrangements.

**Cash Raffle/Donations:** Each \$100 will buy a ticket for a chance to win four cash prizes of \$500 each. Drawing: October 22, after the 10:00am Mass. Tickets can be purchased now or donations made (*please make checks to St. Mary Fall Festival and indicate Tickets or Donation*) and drop in the collection basket.

**Highlights of St. Anne’s Meeting held July 31**

- Jaderial Staebler spoke about her role as a campus missionary for FOCUS. Group agreed to donate \$250 to support her ministry.
- Funeral Dinner guidelines are being updated;
- Donation made to Mary’s Meals

**A Stewardship Moment**

Am I my brother’s keeper? All three readings today suggest that for the Christian steward the answer is “Yes!”

**Upcoming Parish Events . . . .**

(BH is Brinkmann Hall; PC is Parish Center)

- Sept 9/10: KC Annual Tootsie Roll Drive
- Sept 17: Coffee and Donuts after Mass in BH
- Sept 19: Sacred Seed Sowers Book Club, 9:30am, PC
- Sept 20: Faith Formation Starts, 6pm**
- Sept 25: Parish Vitality Committee Mtg, 6:30pm, PC
- Sept 26: Scripture Study, 7:30-10:30am, PC
- Sept 28: Scripture Study, 9:30-8:30pm, PC

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