

ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: Sept 14, 2023 ~ Rectory: 563-252-1247 ~ Fr.'s Cell: 563-258-3958 ~ www.maryicjoseph.org

LIVE THE LITURGY: Understanding Forgiveness

~ source: young-catholics.com

The parable of the Unforgiving Servant today's Gospel conveys a significant lesson about forgiveness. Though the details of slavery and debt bondage may seem distant, the core message resonates with contemporary readers: God's mercy is abundant, and we must pass that mercy on to others. Just as the king forgives the servant's debt, we too have been forgiven by God, and we are called to extend that same grace to others.

The parable takes a serious turn when the forgiven servant fails to show mercy to another. This harsh act is met with severe consequences, reflecting a spiritual truth: If we do not forgive others, we risk losing the grace we have received. The Gospel calls Catholics to be mindful of how we treat others, recognizing that our actions reflect our relationship with God. Forgiveness is not optional but a necessary expression of our faith.

Lastly, the Gospel challenges the tendency to quantify or limit forgiveness. Peter's question about how many times to forgive is answered by Jesus with a call to unlimited mercy. God's forgiveness is not constrained by numbers or conditions; it's a boundless grace that transforms us. For Catholics, this is a reminder to approach others with the same unlimited compassion and forgiveness, reflecting God's own boundless love in our daily lives.

Clarity Clinic Appeal is rescheduled for the weekend of Sept. 30 & Oct. 1 at all 3 linked parishes.

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



Fellowship

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.

CAUTION AS YOU USE THE NEW GLASS CHURCH DOORS: Diamond rings can scratch the glass as it has already happened.

Faith Formation Update: Classes start this Wednesday, Sept. 20 at 6pm!

- 7th & 8th Grade will prepare for Confirmation which will be held May 1, 2024 at 6:30 P.M. at St. Mary's of Guttenberg with newly elected Archbishop Thomas Zinkula
- 9th – 12th will be in Youth Ministry



BAPTISM INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD & OUR COMMUNITIES OF FAITH:

Saturday, September 30 at St. Mary, Guttenberg after Mass

Iyla Andrea Kann

daughter of Rich & Hayle (Bockenstedt) Kann

May you grow in age, knowledge & wisdom in the Lord!

Mass Schedule: Sept 18 – Sept 24, 2023

Mon., Sept 18: [No Mass Scheduled]

Tues., Sept 19: 8:30 A.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Jack & Norma Eulberg

Wed., Sept 20: 8:30 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg
Ann Olinger & Kathleen Bockenstedt

Thur., Sept 21: 10:00 A.M. – Guttenberg Care Center
"Feast of St. Matthew" *People of the Parish*

Fri., Sept 22: [No Mass Scheduled]

Sat., Sept. 23 – 2:00 P.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg
Wedding Ceremony
Savannah Domeyer & Casey Zarr



Sat., Sept 23: Vigil of Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:00 P.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Lois Mueller [Month Mind]
50th Wedding Anniversary – Jim & Marilyn Kann
5:30 P.M.—St. Mary, Guttenberg
Roger Bries – [Month Mind]

Sun., Sept 24: Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:30 A.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista
10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass, *Live Streamed*
50th Wedding Anniversary Donald & Donna (Steffen) Scherbring

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Forgive and be Forgiven

source: Eileen Wirth, Creighton University

“Forgive your neighbor’s injustice; then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven.” Sirach

In junior high, several “mean girls” frequently shoved me into trees and pulled my hair because I was a small, awkward nerd with a “bully me” target on my back. More than 50 years later I almost skipped our high school class reunion to avoid seeing the ring leader.

“Isn’t it time you got over that?” asked my saintly cousin.

He was right but today’s readings made me realize how hard it is to forget things we think we’ve forgiven, like being bullied. “Forgive your neighbor’s injustice then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven.”

It’s something all of us need to work on. You don’t get through life without hurting others and being hurt. It’s pretty easy to SAY you forgive someone but actually DOING it (if you’re honest with yourself) is another matter.

One of the most useful models for forgiveness that I have encountered comes from AA, the step where the person in recovery makes amends to everyone they have hurt. It’s healing for both parties as I discovered when someone I am extremely close to went through the process.

You don’t have to be in a 12- step program to do it – just a simple note or phone call can help heal a broken relationship if both parties are open to it.

It helps to recognize that we can become better, deeper and more compassionate people from experiencing the hurts others inflict on us. Would I have the inordinate number of amazing friends who have blessed my life if grade school hadn’t been so awful? Who knows, but we have to trust that “God writes straight with crooked lines.”

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.

If nothing else, we almost always feel better when we try to forgive and forget rather than cherishing favorite grudges. We know that God is merciful and understands our struggles so we’re not doing this unassisted.

A Stewardship Moment

Stewardship is not optional! “None of us lives as his own master and none of us dies as his own master,” says St. Paul. “While we live, we are responsible to the Lord, and when we die, we die as His servants.”

Upcoming Parish Events

(BH is Brinkmann Hall; PC is Parish Center)

Sept 17: Coffee and Donuts after Mass in BH
Sept 18: Friends of St. Mary, 6:30pm PC, **All are welcome**
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

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