

ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: Sept 21, 2023 ~ Rectory: 563-252-1247 ~ Fr.'s Cell: 563-258-3958 ~ www.maryicjoseph.org

LIVE THE LITURGY: Rising Beyond Limited Views

~ source: young-catholics.com

The first reading this weekend, Isaiah 55:6-9, calls us to seek the Lord while He is near and to forsake our wicked ways. It reminds us that God's thoughts and ways transcend our own, just as the heavens are higher than the earth. This passage invites humility and a recognition of our limited perspective before the divine wisdom.

In the context of the gospel for the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, Matthew 20:1-16A, these verses resonate deeply. The parable illustrates God's unfathomable generosity, where all workers, regardless of when they arrive, receive the same reward. Isaiah's message of God's transcendent thoughts finds its echo here. Just as the landowner's ways surpassed the laborers' expectations, God's mercy exceeds our understanding.

Both passages invite us to release our rigid notions of fairness and instead embrace God's vast, compassionate perspective. Just as the heavens dwarf the earth, God's grace surpasses human comprehension. This calls for a shift in our attitudes, from judgment to rejoicing in God's abundant love.

As we ponder Isaiah's words and the parable's message, we're called to humility and trust. We're urged to seek God earnestly and to relinquish our self-centered viewpoints. The divine economy of grace challenges us to let go of our limited sense of justice and instead embrace the boundless generosity of our Creator.

Clarity Clinic 'Baby Bottle' Appeal is scheduled for the weekend of Sept. 30 & Oct. 1 at all 3 linked parishes. To support their efforts, you may take a baby bottle home and returning it in 2 weeks with your donation or use a donation envelope which will be available.



Fall Silent Auction and Raffle

- Donations **are needed** for the Silent Auction. They can be dropped off 1/2 hr before or after weekend Masses.
- Silent Auction Bidding starts on Oct 8
- 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*)

A Sacramental Minister flyer will be distributed the weekend of October 7/8. Please prayerfully consider how you could help in one or more of these areas: usher, eucharistic minister, reader, altar servers, gift bearers, rosary & music 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 25 – October 1, 2023

Mon., Sept 25: [No Mass Scheduled]

Tues., Sept 26: 8:30 A.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Vince & Inez Hoeger/Amy Hoeger

Wed., Sept 27: 8:30 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg
"St. Vincent de Paul" *Owen Kann & Lydia Kann*

Thur., Sept 28: 8:30 A.M. – Guttenberg River Living Center
Janice Ulbrich & Amy [Steffen] Clay

Fri., Sept 29: [No Mass Scheduled], Feast of Archangels

Sat., Sept 30: Vigil of Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:00 P.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Leon Berns & Henry Mueller
5:30 P.M.—St. Mary, Guttenberg
Tom Tujetsch & Tom Kuempel

Sun., Oct 1: Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:30 A.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista
Cyril & Ann Lelifeld
10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass
Lynne Finnegan & Fran Troester

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Desiring the Fullness of Grace for All

source: *mycatholic.life*

Is life always fair? It would seem not. We have all experienced situations in life when we felt as though we were cheated. Children are especially sensitive to this and will often complain to a parent when they feel as though they have been treated unjustly. From an earthly perspective, it is true that life is not always fair. But we ought not live by an earthly perspective. We are called to live according to the divine perspective. From that perspective, everything is fair in the end, and true justice is meted out to everyone.

When we consider the question of whether or not life is fair, we should always begin with the Son of God. Jesus was certainly not treated fairly. In fact, it is hard to conclude that anyone who has ever lived received a more unjust treatment than Jesus, at least from an earthly perspective. He was perfect in every way. He treated everyone throughout His life with perfect virtue. He never lied, cheated, stole, etc. Yet we all know what happened to Him. He was falsely accused, dishonestly judged, brutally abused, and murdered on a cross. From an earthly perspective, it is clear that this was not fair.

Jesus' life, along with ours, must not be evaluated from the perspective of earthly justice. It's not that treating others unjustly is permissible by the will of God. Each of us has a moral responsibility to act in justice as a minimum requirement. But we are also called to exceed earthly justice and live by the new standard of supernatural grace. From that perspective, Jesus' suffering and death was not tragic; it was glorious. His Cross was not an instrument of injustice, it was His throne upon which He established His new Kingdom. Once grace enters the picture, all apparent injustice is turned upside down and must be looked at from a different perspective.

The parable we read today presents to us the scenario in which God has chosen to bestow His grace and mercy in abundance to all who turn to Him. We can never earn the right to His mercy. Nothing we can do will ever give us the right to the gift of eternal salvation. Therefore, this parable especially challenges us to look at Heaven and the life of grace on earth from the perspective of "gift." All is a gift from God. Whether we convert at the end of our lives, after living sinful lives, or whether we have spent our whole lives serving the will of God, all is a gift in the end, all is grace.

Only when we comprehend God's goodness and infinite generosity will we be able to overcome our temptations toward jealousy and selfishness. Those who have dedicated their entire lives to the love of God, if it is a genuine love and service of God, will, as a result, take on the perspective of the mind and heart of God. Part of that perspective is the burning desire to generously bestow God's infinite grace and mercy upon everyone who turns to Him. Even the most hardened sinner who has been the source of much hurt in life is a candidate for the fullness of God's grace if they repent. This must be our desire. We must be like the landowner in this parable who rejoices when laborers show up in the last hour and then lavishes a full day's wages upon them. Not only is this fair from the divine perspective, it must become our personal desire as we labor through life.

Reflect, today, upon how deeply you desire to see those who have not yet given their lives to God to come to Him and receive the fullness of grace. Look at them within the context of this parable. Examine how you feel about those laborers who have not yet begun their service of God. Examine, also, your feelings toward those who seem undeserving of the fullness of God's grace. If you find that you have jealousy, or judge others from the perspective of earthly justice, work to eliminate that perspective so that your heart's deepest desire is to see God bestow the fullness of mercy upon everyone in this world when they turn to Him with a contrite heart.

A Stewardship Moment

In today's Gospel, the vineyard owner says, "I am free to do as I please with my money, am I not?" We are likewise free. Is a generous return to the Lord in thanksgiving for His many blessings among the choices we have made?

Upcoming Parish Events

(BH is Brinkmann Hall; PC is Parish Center)

- Sept 23: **Women's Faith Sharing Group, 1pm, PC**
- Sept 25: Parish Vitality Committee Mtg, 6:30pm, PC
- Sept 26: Scripture Study, 7:30-10:30am, PC
- Sept 27: Faith Formation, 6pm, PC
- Sept 28: Scripture Study, 6:30-8:30pm, PC
- Oct 14: Women's Faith Sharing Group, 1pm, PC

Faith Formation needs a 6th grade teacher. Please contact Erin at 563-880-7471.

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