

ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: Aug 18, 2022

563-252-1247

www.maryicjoseph.org

LIVE THE LITURGY Inspiration for the week: Caught in the Rising Action

Think of some of your favorite iconic movies. I'm not talking about the feel-good comedies or the offbeat coming-of-age flicks. I'm talking about the movies that you found had a profound impact on you or made you go "Hmmm."

I'm willing to bet that the plot of this film features some tough moments and difficult scenarios. However happy the ending, at some point, the situation for the protagonist might look awfully hopeless. The script speaks some truth to you about what it is to be human in difficult circumstances. What it means to persevere.

We're attracted to the tension that exists when the hero is besieged. We're captivated by the decisions he makes in the darkest hour of the night when it seems like the dawn will never come. Why? Because we know that feeling so well. This is the essence of our human life on earth: waiting, hoping, doubting — and enduring.

We know the ending to our story, but we don't know when it's coming. We live our whole lives in the rising action of the narrative. Sure, it gets old. Tiresome, even dull. We may start to despair that the climactic scene is coming at all.

But faith is the realization of things hoped for, and evidence of things not seen. We feel it watching a great movie,

Silent Auction: Unsure of what to donate to this year's Silent Auction? We would love to put together Gift Baskets with your donation. We have the baskets, 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!

Fall Fundraiser Information

Silent Auction: Donations of new or hand crafted items for the silent auction will be accepted through August 24; Donations may be dropped off at Brinkmann Hall before and after weekend Masses and on 8/17 and 8/24 from Noon-6pm. To arrange another time, please call Sue Bahls, 252-3253 or Anna Moser, 252-3703.

Bidding in person/online: August 27 thru Sept 11 at 12:00 noon.

Cash Raffle/Donations: Each \$100 will buy a ticket for a chance to win four cash prizes of \$500 each. Drawing: Sept. 11, after the 10:00am Mass. Tickets can be purchased now or donations made (*checks to St. Mary Fall Festival and indicate Tickets or Donation*) and drop in the collection basket.

Collected To-Date: \$5800

because we recognize it intuitively: it is faith which earns the happy ending. No one is drawn to the story when the hero gives up or gets tired of waiting for the payoff. Everyday stewardship is the collection of choices we make while we're waiting, because we are called to action, not idleness, even in our perpetual state of expectation.— *Tracy Earl Welliver*,

Mass Schedule: August 22 – August 28, 2022

Mon., Aug 22: [No Mass scheduled], "Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary"

Tues., Aug 23: 8:30 A.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Tracy Werges (2nd Anniv.)
10:00 A.M. - St. Mary, Guttenberg
Funeral Mass – Francis 'Frank' Spielbauer

Wed., Aug 24: 8:30 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg
"St. Bartholomew" – *Owen Kann & Annie Ries*

Thur., Aug 25: 8:30 A.M. – Guttenberg River Living Center
People of the Parish

Fri., Aug 26: [No Mass Scheduled]

Sat., Aug 27: Vigil of 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:00 P.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Vince & Inez Hoeger//Amy Hoeger
5:30 P.M.—St. Mary, Guttenberg
Robert 'Bob' Hoffmann & Tony Schissel

Sun., Aug 28: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:30 A.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista
10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass, **Live Streamed**
Lynne Finnegan & Merl Meyer

GOSPEL REFLECTION: The Narrow Gate

“Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough.” [Luke 13:24](#)

What does this line tell us? It reveals that we cannot enter Heaven by our own will or through our own effort. Furthermore, it tells us that though some will try to get to Heaven through their own effort, this approach will not work. Upon meeting our Lord, after death, they will be surprised that they are not a member of His Kingdom.

This clear and somewhat shocking statement from our Lord should have the effect of causing you to step back and look at your life so as to sincerely and humbly examine the path you are on. Jesus’ directness and clarity on this real experience that some will have should help to open your eyes so as to honestly examine if He is speaking about you.

It takes true humility to face the truth, at times, and to admit if we are trying to rely more upon ourselves than upon Christ. The “narrow gate” is that gate through which the humble enter. Pride and self-sufficiency lead us to attempt to make our own path to Heaven. But this path is never the correct one.

Entering the “narrow gate” also means that we listen to God. He, as the divine Shepherd, is always calling to us in a gentle way. Only when we are attentive to His voice will we know where He is leading us. Only then will we discover the way through the one and only narrow gate.

Reflect, today, upon that moment when you meet our Lord face to face. What will that encounter be like? Will it be one where He greets you with open arms saying, “Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into your reward.” Or will it be one in which He says, “I do not know you.” Now is the time to face your life of faith with honesty, striving to rely only upon the strength of our divine Lord.

Lord, I do desire to enter the narrow gate. I choose to follow Your gentle voice, leading me to Heaven. Help me to remain humble in life, shedding all that leads me to rely upon myself. May I rely only upon You, dear Lord, and trust You in all things. Jesus, I trust in You.



MATTHEW

The King and His Kingdom

24 Session Scripture Study by Jeff Cavins

Tuesday Mornings, 8:30am or
Thursday Evenings, 6:30pm

Starting 9/27 & 9/29 in Brinkmann Hall
(6 sessions this fall; next 6 sessions start
Feb 2023, completion Spring 2024)

Cost \$30.00. Information sheets in the
entry way of church. Call Jerry Balk at
563-252-2361 or 563-580-4539 for more
information and to sign up. Please sign up
soon so study books can be purchased
and distributed prior to first session.

Mark Your Calendars . . .

Please patronize these St. Mary’s
volunteers who work at the Bender’s
Foods cookout stand they raise funds for
their many different church events.

Aug 19 & 20: Knights of Columbus
Aug 26 & 27: St. Mary’s Parish Life

A Stewardship Moment

Today’s reading from Isaiah describes the
Israelites bringing their offering to the
Lord “in clean vessels.” The gift of myself
- my patient endurance and fidelity to the
will of God - is as important as the
monetary gift I offer.

A Prayer for the New School Year

God of all wisdom, we praise you for gifting us with curiosity and learning. Give to all students, teachers, and caregivers a clear sense of your love. May they feel your presence throughout this school year. Guide their choices, their quest for knowledge, and their relationships. Use their successes and failures as opportunities to grow in understanding of who you would have them to be. Continue to shape them, that they may walk in the way of Christ, grow strong in Spirit’s love for all people, and know the complete joy of life in you. In the name of Christ our Great Teacher, we pray. Amen. ~Linda Witte Henke

Buenie Family Picnic, Sunday, September 4, 2022

Chicken and Ham Dinner, Country Store, Silent Auction, Kids Games,
Meat Wheel. Fun and Games for the Entire Family!

Upcoming Parish Events (BH = Brinkmann Hall)

Aug 19/20: KC’s hosting the Bender’s Foods Cookout; 11am-6pm
Aug 24: Silent Auction Donations due

Aug 26/27: Parish Life hosting the Bender’s Foods Cookout, 11am-6pm
Aug 27-Sept 11: Silent Auction Bidding, before/after Masses

Sept 6: CDA Meeting, Noon, Brinkmann Hall
KC Meeting, 7:30 pm

Sept 11: Fall Fundraiser Drawing; Four \$500 prizes to be given out

Please submit newsletter items by Tuesday night to: churchlady@smic.pvt.k12.ia.us