

# ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: Aug 19, 2021

563-252-1247

www.maryicjoseph.org

## LIVE THE LITURGY Inspiration for the week:

Many people give their allegiance to something until it asks them to do something challenging or radical. Then, they find themselves rethinking whether they want to be associated with it. The same holds for God. Either we serve God, or we don't. There can be no lukewarm stance with regard to faith. If we are in, then faith in Jesus Christ asks us to do some difficult things: work in service of God's kingdom, love our enemies, offer no resistance to injury, and trust that the Eucharist is in fact Jesus' very Body and Blood. For some, buying into these things may prove too difficult and a return to a life without them is preferred. But truth is truth and it can only be found in God. If we find it hard to accept it from the mouth of Christ, where else can we go to find it? The task before us is to commit to the truth even when it may be easier to pursue something else. Truth is always worth obtaining even when it is difficult. Jesus offers us the truth of life, a life that is found in his own flesh and blood and a life of discipleship. ©LPI

**UPDATE ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2021-2022:** A letter will be sent home to the children's parents via Facebook on SMIC zoom site later in September. Since we cannot get catechists to teach your children on Wednesday nights it will be a homeschooling situation except for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders which will meet on Wednesday nights during Advent and Lent to prepare them for First Confession/Communion and Confirmation for respective grades. We need someone to volunteer to teach 2<sup>nd</sup> graders on those Wednesday nights in Advent and Lent. Please call SMIC secretary - Erin Schmelzer at 252-1577. Fr. Bries will prepare 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> graders for Confirmation. Also 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> graders need to attend Youth Ministry sessions apart from Confirmation on Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in St. Mary's Church in Guttenberg. Keep in mind that a Confirmation sponsor cannot be a parent but a practicing Catholic and confirmed adult. Parents of other grades will pick up quarterly packet for their child/children some time in later September. More info to follow in the bulletin and the Guttenberg Press.

### Fall Festival Fundraiser

Purchase tickets(\$100ea) for a chance to win one of four \$500 prizes or make donations:

\*online at <https://maryicjoseph.weshareonline.org/>

\* put money in an envelope in the weekend collection marked **Festival-Tickets or Festival—Donation**, or

\*send money to St Mary Church, PO Box 847; Guttenberg, IA 52052

(make checks out to St. Mary Fall Festival and mark Tickets or Donation)

Current balance: \$11,640; goal is \$26,000—almost half way!

### Silent Auction Items Needed!

Please bring silent auction items to Brinkmann Hall no later than Wed, Sept 1 at 10:00am Questions? Call Sue Bahls 252-3253.

### Buenie Picnic

Immaculate Conception Church,  
N. Buena Vista

**Sunday, Sept 5**

Carryout Chicken Dinner 11-3pm, \$15  
Country Store and Silent Auction  
UTV Raffle

### Public Mass Schedule: Aug 23– Aug 29, 2021

**Mon., Aug 23:** [No Mass Scheduled]

**Tues., Aug 24:** 8:30 A.M. – St. Joseph, Garnavillo, Mass  
“St. Bartholomew” – Chuck Peterman

**Wed., Aug 25:** 8:30 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass  
Opening School Mass with 7th/8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Ron Judkins & Donna Stewart

**Thur., Aug 26:** 8:30 A.M. – Guttenberg River Living Center  
Harold Mueller & Owen Kann

**Fri., Aug 27:** [No Mass Scheduled]

**Sat., Aug., 28:** 11:00 A.M. – Funeral Prayer Service for Verdus Kann  
at Tuecke Allyn Funeral Home

**Sat., Aug., 28:** 2:00 PM – St. Mary, Guttenberg - Wedding Ceremony  
**Nicholas Friedlein & MacKenzie Klein**

**Sat., Aug 28:** Vigil of Twenty-Second Sunday in Time  
4:00 P.M. – St. Joseph, Garnavillo, Mass  
Vincent & Inez Hoeger/Amy Hoeger  
5:30 P.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass  
Dec'd of Evers Family & Carolyn Oberbroeckling

**Sun., Aug 29:** Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time  
8:30 A.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista  
People of the Parish  
10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass, *Live Streamed*  
Nick Westhoff & Dan & Rose Leliefeld Family

## GOSPEL REFLECTION: We Have Come to Believe

As a result of this, many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him. Jesus then said to the Twelve, “Do you also want to leave?” Simon Peter answered him, “Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God.” [John 6:66-69](#)

As a result of what? As a result of Jesus’ teaching on the Eucharist “many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him.” The Eucharist was the deepest and most beautiful teaching Jesus had given, but for some it was more than they could handle. So many left Him. But this passage also reveals the beautiful faith of the Apostles, especially Peter.

First of all, Jesus does not back down in any way from His beautiful and very deep teaching on the Holy Eucharist. What He said He stands behind, namely, that “unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you” ([John 6:53](#)). He goes on to say, “For my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink” ([John 6:55](#)).

From there, Jesus turns to His disciples and gives them the freedom to accept or reject what He just taught. This freedom He gives to them is essential to them entering into authentic faith. If Jesus would have pressured or manipulated the disciples, it would have been hard for them to freely choose to accept Him and all He taught.

The same is true with us. Jesus does not require us to follow Him. He will not force or manipulate us into believing. He will not pressure us. Rather, Jesus offers Himself and His teachings and invites us to believe.

Within this context, Peter makes a profound statement of faith. “Master, to whom shall we go?” In other words, Peter was saying, “Lord, even if the teaching is hard, and even if it is unpopular to follow you, and even if we must suffer, be rejected, be misunderstood...you are the best option.” Think about it. What other option even comes close to the option of accepting the full and deep teachings of Jesus? Is it better to only take part of what He says? Doing that is a form of rejection of Him.

Peter gives us the witness of one who has come to believe that there is only one good option in life. That option is the choice to follow Jesus no matter what. Nothing in life is worth choosing over Christ. We should strive to discover this truth that He is the only one worth choosing.

Reflect, today, upon these words of Peter. “Lord, to whom shall we go?” Jesus is God, the Messiah and Savior. He has the words of everlasting life. He is the best “option” to choose. Say those words of Peter and, in saying them, make the choice to choose Him no matter how popular or unpopular that choice is and no matter if others are making it. Going with the flow leads us down the wrong river. Making the right choice sets us on solid ground.

*Lord, there is no place for me to go other than You and Your way. You are the Lord of all, and You are the Messiah. I choose You and accept all that You have taught. Jesus, I trust in You.*

source: [mycatholiclife.com](#)

Blessed are you, Lord God, Creator of body and mind and heart; you have sent the Spirit of wisdom and knowledge to guide your people in all their ways. At the beginning of this new school year we implore your mercy: bless the students, teachers, and staff that together we may grow in faith, hope, and love as we learn from you and each other how to follow your Son Jesus. Expand the horizons of our minds, that we may grow in wisdom, understanding, and knowledge; deepen our commitment to seek the truth of your ways; and enliven our faith to reach out to those in need.

Amen

The KCs will be running the Cookout at Benders Foods on Aug. 20 & 21, 11am—6pm

### A Stewardship Moment

In today’s first reading, Joshua challenges the people to decide whom they will serve. Recalling God’s faithfulness to them and to their ancestors, the people declare, “We also will serve the Lord, for He is our God.” May we, too, be mindful of God’s gifts to us and renew our commitment to serve Him with grateful hearts.

### Upcoming Parish Events . . .

- Aug 20, 21: KC Cookout at Benders Foods, 11am-6pm
- Sept 1: Silent Auction items due by 10:00am in Brinkmann Hall
- Sept 5: Buenie Picnic
- Sept 4-19: St. Mary Parish Silent Auction, Brinkmann Hall
- Sept 7: CDA Mtg, Noon at St. Patrick’s in Monona
- Sept 7: KC Meeting, 7:30 pm in the Clubhouse
- Sept 12: Festival Drawing after 10:00 am Mass
- Sept 19: Silent Auction bidding closes at Noon.

### Area Events . . .

- Aug 29: Holy Trinity Church Fundraiser, Church of Cash, World Class Johnny Cash Tribute, 2:30pm Concert. Tickets at UNGS Shopping Center, Luxemburg

**5<sup>th</sup> Annual Parkinson’s Awareness Walk** – Please join us Saturday, Sept 25 at the Guttenberg Golf & Country Club for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Parkinson’s Awareness Walk. Registration begins at 9:30AM and the walk starts at 10AM. Silent auction and our delicious lunch will be open. 4 person best shot golf event with shotgun start at 11AM. Please call Krystal at 563-663-1262 for more info.