

# ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: Dec 01, 2022 ~ Rectory: 563-252-1247 ~ Fr.'s Cell: 563-258-3958 ~ www.maryicjoseph.org

## LIVE THE LITURGY Inspiration for the week: Is Christ King in Our Hearts?

When you think of a king, who is the first person to pop into your head? It may depend on how much history you know, or which historical period intrigues you the most. As Americans, the first person we might think of is King George III, whose reign has become synonymous in our national lore with the concept of tyranny.

We don't have much familiarity with kingship in modern American society. Kings tend to make us uneasy. Presidents, on the other hand — we can handle those, because we know we are a president's boss. No matter how much power he has, we are the electorate. We are the source of that power. We're comfortable with this arrangement.

But with kings it is profoundly different. Traditionally, the king derives his power from God. His rule bridges humanity with the divine.

We should reflect carefully on whether or not we have made Jesus Christ king in our hearts, or whether we regard him as a president. The difference isn't just one of titles, it's one of roles. Subjects do not demand anything of a king. They beseech. They entreat. They submit, and they accept.

Do we demand of Christ, or do we beseech? Do we tolerate God's edicts with grumbling, or do we embrace His word as the means of our reconciliation with Him?

The "good thief" treated Christ as a king. His counterpart treated him as a president. And it's worth remembering that Jesus Christ is not the President of the Universe. — *Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS*

PARISH LIFE will be hosting coffee, juice, milk and donuts this Sunday, **Dec. 4, 2022 after Mass.**

Come and socialize with our faith community.

### Soup Luncheon & Vendor Show Immaculate Conception Church, N. Buena Vista, IA;

**Sunday Dec 4** 10:30 AM - 2:00 PM;  
Special appearance by Santa, 11AM - 1PM  
Come do your Christmas shopping with  
many Vendors and Crafters on hand.



### Chili Supper

**Monday December 5**

4pm until gone

Take out/Drive Thru only

Chili, cinnamon rolls, applesauce, cheese  
Free Will Offering, Hosted by KC's

### Mass Schedule: December 5 – December 11, 2022

**Mon., Dec 5:** [No Mass Scheduled]

**Tues., Dec 6:** – [No Mass at Garnavillo; winter schedule starts]

**Wed., Dec. 7 Vigil of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception**  
5:30 P.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg  
*People of the Parish*

**Thur., Dec 8: Feast of the Immaculate Conception**  
8:30 A.M. – Guttenberg River Living Center  
Sacrament of Anointing; *Dorothy, Verna & Joe Wach*

**Fri., Dec 9:** [No Mass Scheduled]

**Sat., Dec 10: Vigil of Third Sunday of Advent**  
4:00 P.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo  
*Bert Behrend & Tracy Werges*  
5:30 P.M.—St. Mary, Guttenberg  
*Earl 'Butch' Meyer & Merl Meyer*

**Sun., Dec 11: Second Sunday of Advent**  
8:30 A.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista  
10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass, **Live Streamed**  
*Mary (Kann) Parker [Month Mind] & Arthur Herman*  
7:00 P.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg  
**Clayton Ridge High School Winter Concert**

**Christmas Flowers:** If you would like to donate a poinsettia in memory of loved ones or in thanksgiving, please bring to the church by Dec 21 or place a monetary donation in the collection basket. Please include the name(s) of those who you would like to remember or honor.

Join us for **Sunday School.** Class will be held in the SMIC Faith Formation building on Sundays from 9:45am -10:45am for preschool, kindergarten and first grade students. Dec 4th, 11th & 18th.

**GOSPEL REFLECTION: Public Repentance**

When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance.” [Matthew 3:7-8](#)

This was both a very intense and yet very holy encounter. It was intense in that Saint John the Baptist, who had become quite popular and respected and was considered a great prophet, spoke harshly toward the Pharisees and Sadducees. “You brood of vipers!” he says. This was not the way the Pharisees and Sadducees were normally spoken to.

John speaks this way because it was the truth. These religious leaders were not leading anyone closer to God. One only needs to ponder all that Jesus would eventually say to the Pharisees and Sadducees to understand what kind of people these religious leaders had become.

So this passage is certainly intense. But it is also very holy. It is holy because this “brood of vipers” needed to be chastised. They needed to be condemned and challenged. They needed to be humbled. And there is nothing more humbling than sincerely repenting of one’s sins in a public way.

Notice that John does not dismiss the leaders outright. Rather, he requires of them “evidence” of their repentance. Why? Because of the spiritual damage these men did to the people of Israel on account of their pride, self-righteousness, hypocrisy, love of public honors, condemnation of others, etc. They had so distorted the faith that the good of their souls required public repentance. It required that everyone see sincere good fruits flowing from their lives as a sign that they had changed. Though this is a tall order for the Pharisees and Sadducees, it’s the way to holiness for them.

The same is true for us. If you have allowed yourself to fall into some of the same traps as the Pharisees and Sadducees, then you, too, will greatly benefit from clear and humble public change. If you have struggled with self-righteousness, a critical tongue, a “holier than thou” attitude or a judgmental attitude toward others, then you might have great need for a humble and public repentance.

Reflect, today, upon the Pharisees and Sadducees. Try to understand their sin and the reason John called them a “brood of vipers.” If you see any of their pride and self-righteousness within your own soul, then listen to this exhortation from John the Baptist as if it were spoken to you directly. “Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance.” Do this, and God will free you through the gift of true humility.

*My humble Lord, You call all people to repentance with great humility and sincerity. Please help me to see my sin and to never shy away from facing it, so that You can free me from that filth and set me more firmly on the path to holiness. Jesus, I trust in You. ~source: mycatholic.life*

Birthright of Dubuque would like to thank our parishioners and youth for the donations of baby items.

On this second Sunday of Advent as we prepare for the coming of Jesus, we remember that Jesus is our hope and our peace. Light the second purple candle on your advent wreath, the candle of Peace.

**Christmas Mass Schedule**

**Saturday, Dec. 24, Christmas Eve**

- 4:00 P.M. – St. Joseph, Garnavillo, Children’s Mass
- 5:30 P.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Children’s Mass

**Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day**

- 8:30 A.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista Children’s Mass
- 10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass with Adult Choir



**Giving Tree:** *select a tag from the Giving Tree, purchase the item & return it to church by December 18th with the tag attached. There is no need to gift wrap.*

**Upcoming Parish Events . . . .**

- Dec 4: Coffee/Donuts after Mass  
Sunday School for PK, K, 1st; 9:45-10:45am
- Dec 5: Chili Supper, 4pm til sold out
- Dec 6: CDA Mtg at Noon in Monona  
St. Anne Mtg/Christmas gathering, 7pm, BH  
KC Mtg, 7:30 pm
- Dec 7: Faith Formation, 6 pm  
Youth Ministry, 6:15 pm
- Dec 11: Sunday School for PK, K, 1st; 9:45-10:45am  
Clayton Ridge Christmas Concert, 7pm
- Dec 14: Faith Formation, 6 pm  
Youth Ministry, 6:15 pm
- Dec 18: Sunday School for PK, K, 1st; 9:45-10:45am

**A Stewardship Moment**

We must be good stewards of God’s gifts to us, receiving them gratefully and cultivating them with care, lest we be the ones about whom John the Baptist speaks today, cautioning us, “Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

Are you interested in possibly becoming a Deacon? Please join us at an informational meeting on the Permanent Diaconate on December 15 at 7:00 p.m in the Parish Hall (church basement) at St. Benedict Parish in Decorah, IA. Wives are encouraged to attend as well. Call Deacon Nick Francois if you have any questions at 563-379-8488.