

# ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: Dec. 7, 2023 ~ Rectory: 563-252-1247 ~ Fr.'s Cell: 563-258-3958 ~ [www.maryicjoseph.org](http://www.maryicjoseph.org)

## LIVE THE LITURGY: Embracing Humility and Repentance

~ source: young-catholics.com

John the Baptist exemplifies humility, a virtue essential for Advent preparation. He acknowledges his role as merely the forerunner to someone greater – Jesus. John’s humility in recognizing his place in God’s plan is a powerful model for us. In our parish communities and personal lives, embracing humility like John’s allows us to make room for others to lead and for God’s work to be done through them.

Our Advent journey, then, is marked by a dual movement: inward, to confront and repent of our sins, and outward, to embrace humility and allow God to work through us and others. As we reflect on the messages of Isaiah and John the Baptist for the 2nd Sunday of Advent Year B, we’re invited to smooth the path for Christ’s coming into our hearts and communities, transforming our lives in anticipation of His arrival. This preparation is not just an Advent exercise but a continual call to live in alignment with the divine will, guided by Jesus, our shepherd, who leads us out of the exile of sin into the embrace of God’s love.

**PARISH LIFE** will be hosting coffee, juice and donuts this **Sunday** after Mass in Brinkmann Hall.

Enjoy fellowship with our family of parishioners.



Fellowship

### Roof Replacement Projects

The roofs on the church and the old school will be replaced in 2024 at an estimated cost of \$250,000. Donations are being accepted. Please make checks out to St. Mary Parish and indicate Roof Project in the memo line.

A sample of the steel shakes that will be put on the church and old school building can be found at the back of church.

### Religious Retirement Fund Collection:

Senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have devoted their lives to prayer, service, and works of mercy. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious collection helps to furnish medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please give as you are able.

SAVE THE DATE! . . . . .

### **Beauty In Christ Women’s Conference**

Saturday, January 27, 2024

8:30 AM – 1:30 PM

St. Mary Parish Center, Guttenberg

More information coming soon!

### Fall Fundraiser Accounting:

Silent Auction/Donations: \$7,589

Raffle/Donations: \$6,250

Less Raffle Payout: \$2,000

Net Profit: \$11,839

*Thank you for your donations!*

**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.



A holiday gift . . . To: **You**

From: St. Mary Parish Life

“**THE ROCKING CHAIR PROPHET**” book, by Matthew Kelly, has arrived and is now available at the entry ways of the church. It is great book to read; containing many every day, common sense events.

### **Mass Schedule: Dec 11 – Dec 17, 2023**

**Mon., Dec 11:** [No Mass Scheduled]

**Tues., Dec 12:** [No Mass Scheduled]

**Wed., Dec 13:** 8:30 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg

*Alice Green & Betty Klein*

**Thur., Dec 14:** 8:30 A.M. – Guttenberg River Living Center

*Elmer Oberbroeckling & Amy [Steffen] Clay*

**Fri., Dec 15:** [No Mass Scheduled]

**Sat., Dec 16:** Vigil of Third Sunday of Advent

4:00 P.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo

*Francis Stroschein & Gerald Hoeger*

5:30 P.M.—St. Mary, Guttenberg

*John/Theresa/Mark Ryan*

**Sun., Dec 17:** Third Sunday of Advent

8:30 A.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista

*People of the Parish*

10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass, **Live Streamed**

*Albert & Regina Schlueter & Family*

**GOSPEL REFLECTION:**

source: [Julie Kalkowski](#), Creighton University

*“The Christian knows that Christ has been working in humanity for twenty centuries and that the person that is converted to Christ is the new human being that society needs to organize a world according to God’s heart.”*

~ St. Oscar Romero

Today’s readings seem made to order for the tumultuous times we are living through. From the opening line of the Prophet Isaiah: *Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God.*” to the Psalm: *“Kindness and truth shall meet...”* and finally, to the Gospel with John proclaiming: *“One mightier than I is coming after me.”*

All the readings seem to be specifically crafted to address the reality of our world today. These readings can assist us as we are preparing our hearts to welcome Jesus into our world. If the events in our world are causing you grief and anxiety, read and reread the opening lines from Isaiah about comfort.

These are chaotic times and I know the only true north in my life is the peace that comes from God. What do I need to do to stay grounded in God so that I can give comfort to others and not add to their unease and worries?

In the gospel, Mark describes how people from “the whole of Judean countryside and.... Jerusalem” were traveling to have John baptize them “as they acknowledged their sins.” What are my sins that I need to acknowledge during this Advent season? What barriers do I need to dismantle so I can prepare my heart for Jesus’? What is preventing me from becoming someone who can “organize a world according to God’s heart”?

Lastly, and this is for all of us who are over-achievers and overly responsible, think back to what John the Baptist said in today’s Gospel. John was very clear about what his role was: *“I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”* John was preparing the world for Jesus, our Redeemer. Instead of capitalizing on his newfound ‘fame’, John humbly continued to fulfil the mission given to him. John helps me realize that I don’t have to do everything, I just need to do my part. Spending time with God will clarify my ‘role’.

I hope you can take comfort from today’s readings. Sit with them and let them speak to you. Maybe you’ll find that during this Advent season, we can all move towards becoming “...the new human being society needs.”

**St. Mary Social Justice Committee’s 5th Annual CHRISTMAS CLOTHING MISSION**

*Please select a tag from the Giving Tree in the back of church. Each tag will identify an item for a child or adult in need. After you purchase the item, return it with the tag attached, and place it in the container at the back of church. Please do not gift wrap. Items need to be returned by Dec 17. All items collected will be given to needy families in our area. The Family Resource Center is helping to identify & distribute the items.*



*Giving alms to the poor is a corporal work of mercy.*

**A Stewardship Moment**

John the Baptist’s call to repentance is echoed in the U.S. bishops’ pastoral letter on stewardship: “Christians must beg God for the grace of conversion: the grace to know how they are, to whom they belong, how they are to live – the grace to repent and change and grow, the grace to become good disciples and stewards.”

**Christmas Mass Schedule**

Due to Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday, there will be no Masses on Saturday December 23. The only weekend Mass will be Sunday, Dec. 24th at Guttenberg at 10:00 A.M.

Christmas Eve: Sunday Dec. 24:  
 4:00 P.M. – St. Joseph, Garnavillo. children’s Mass  
 5:30 P.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, children’s Mass

Christmas Day: Monday Dec. 25:  
 8:30 A.M. – N. Buena Vista – children’s Mass  
 10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg



**Upcoming Parish Events . . .**

(BH is Brinkmann Hall; PC is Parish Center)  
 Dec 7: Parish Vitality Group Mtg, 6:30pm, PC  
 Dec 8: Decorate Church, 1pm  
 Dec 10: Coffee/Donuts after Mass, BH  
 Dec 13: Faith Formation, 6pm  
 Dec 20: Sacred Seed Sowers Book Club, 1pm, PC

Please email items for the bulletin by 7:30am Wednesday morning to [OfficeOfStMary@gmail.com](mailto: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  
 Friends of St Mary: Jane Parker, 563-880-5469