

ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: Jan 11, 2024 ~ Rectory: 563-252-1247 ~ Fr.'s Cell: 563-258-3958 ~ www.maryicjoseph.org

LIVE THE LITURGY: A Listening Heart

source: www.youngcatholics.com

The 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time centers on the theme of recognizing and answering God's summons. In 1 Samuel 3:3B-10, the young prophet Samuel perceives God's beckoning during his slumber. Upon waking, he acknowledges, "I'm listening." This serves as a divine awakening.

Samuel's readiness to heed God's call sets an example for us today. In our daily lives, we might not encounter such direct divine communication, yet we're often faced with opportunities to listen and respond to God's guidance. Just as Samuel displayed attentiveness, we can cultivate an open heart to God's nudges.

This passage invites us to reflect on how we engage with God's invitations in our routines. Our response doesn't have to be grand or complex; a simple act of acknowledging and seeking to understand God's will can set us on a meaningful path. This story isn't about flashy revelations but about the willingness to be receptive to God's messages.

In our modern world, noise and distractions can cloud our ability to hear God's call. Samuel's story reminds us to create moments of stillness, even in our busy lives, to discern God's voice. As we contemplate this narrative, let's consider how we can adopt Samuel's attitude of attentiveness, responding with a humble "I'm listening" whenever God reaches out to us.

NOTICE: On January 28, 2024, the **FATIMA** movie will be presented, after the 10:00 Mass, about 11:30, in Brinkmann Hall after a **FREE** lite luncheon, by the PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE.

FATIMA MOVIE: In 1917, outside the parish of Fátima, Portugal, a 10-year-old girl and her two younger cousins witness multiple visitations of the Virgin Mary, who tells them that only prayer and suffering will bring an end to WWI. Fatima is an uplifting story about the power of faith. The movie's best feature is showing how young and innocent the children were, and despite that, they would not budge from their story, the truth. If you have never heard of the Miracle of the Sun or Our Lady of Fatima, this movie is a good introduction, but don't stop there, because this is NOT the full story. Lucia continued to receive instructions from Our Lady throughout her life. **This movie has been updated and released in October, 2020 and is very inspiring.**

Roof Replacement Projects

The roofs on the church and the old school will be replaced in 2024. 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.

KC Biscuits & Gravy Breakfast

Drive-thru and Dine In
St. Mary Church

Sunday, January 21

8-11:30am

Free will donation.



Mass Schedule: Jan 15 – Jan 21, 2023

Mon., Jan 15: [No Mass Scheduled]

Tues., Jan 16: [No Mass Scheduled]

Wed., Jan 17: 8:30 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg
Donna Balk & Sherrie Casey

Thur., Jan 18: 10:00 A.M. – Guttenberg Care Center
People of the Parish

Fri., Jan 19: [No Mass Scheduled]

Sat., Jan 20: Vigil of Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:00 P.M. – St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Angeline Berns & Amy Hoeger
5:30 P.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg
Dec'd of Class of 1956

Sun., Jan 21: Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:30 A.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista
10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, *live streamed*
Lynne Finnegan & Tom Tujetsch

GOSPEL REFLECTION: “Your Servant is Listening”

~ source: Kimberly Grassmeyer , Creighton University

Today’s Old Testament lesson shares the story of a young Samuel. He is awakened several times in the night by a voice calling his name, but because he was not yet familiar with the Lord, did not realize who it was that had been speaking. Eli, who had likewise been awakened because of Samuel’s earnestness to respond on being called, realized that it must have been God who was speaking to Samuel, and encouraged him to respond to the voice the next time with the words “Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.” Ultimately, Samuel again heard the voice calling to him, and did respond as directed, beginning a life-long relationship with his Lord.

My first reaction on reading this was a memory of my grandmother, who sought to teach me as a young girl to read the bible and strengthen my faith. She demonstrated God’s love through her actions and her words, and I’ve always tried to emulate her example. Because of her, I pray regularly and I talk TO God, but I can’t say that I talk WITH God, or have a conversation with God. I’ve never heard God speak to me – at least not in the way that Samuel did. Like many of you, I suspect, I seek God and I regularly find God, in a breeze on my cheek or in the laughter of a child. Or, maybe in an answered prayer, I understand that God has spoken to me through action. In those moments I fabricate an interpretation in my head of the grace or the lesson that God has sent to me.

I’ve been encouraged by others – the gentle and wise Fr. Larry Gillick, S.J. among them – that I might try quieting my mind and my heart. That in being at peace, with an open heart, I might listen and hear. LISTEN. It’s such a powerful word and a loving act. If you need that advice also, I’m happy to share it with you! And I’ll pray for all of us that we can be still, know that God is with us, and to hear God’s voice as young Samuel did. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Dear God, thank you for all of the ways You have worked in our lives during the past year.

You have blessed us with good things, comforted us in hard times, and challenged us to grow more like Jesus every day.

As we set goals for the new year, give our family strength and vision for the future.

Help us to encourage each other to grow in faith and in love.

Fill us with Your love and kindness, so that we can be patient with one another no matter what is going on, or how we are feeling.

Help us to bear with each other in love and gentleness.

Thank you for the ways You protect our family & provide for us.

Protect us from evil; keep our family safe, physically & spiritually.

Help us to trust in You to provide all that we need.

Show us how we can serve others in our community.

Help us to show them Your love.

We ask these things in the name of Jesus, Your Son.

Amen.

Gundersen Health System is offering a virtual class: Healthy Living with Chronic Pain, starts Wed., February 7 through March 13 for six Wednesday mornings. Cost: \$30, includes textbook. Pre-register by calling (608) 775-6870 or visit gundersenhealth.org/living-well

A Stewardship Moment

In today’s first reading, we hear Samuel respond eagerly, “Here I am!” each time the Lord calls him. May we, too, be listening for the call of God in our lives and be ready to say like the psalmist, “Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.”

Upcoming Parish Events . . .

(BH is Brinkmann Hall; PC is Parish Center)

Jan 15: Parish Council/Finance Meeting, 6:30pm

Jan 17: Sacred Seed Sowers Book Club, 1pm, PC
Faith Formation Classes, 6pm

Jan 21: KC Breakfast, 8:00-11:30am

Jan 24: Faith Formation Classes, 6pm

Jan 27: Beauty in Christ Women’s Conf, 8:30-1:30, PC

Jan 28: Fatima Movie after Mass and lite luncheon, BH

Jan 31: Sacred Seed Sowers Book Club, 1pm, PC

Feb 6: CDA, Noon in Monona

KC Meeting, 7:30pm

Feb 7: Faith Formation Classes, 6pm

Please email items for the bulletin by 7:30am Wednesday morning to OfficeOfStMary@gmail.com

Does your Heart need a Revival?

Attend the 2024 Archdiocesan Women’s Conference,

Beauty in Christ: Reviving Our Hearts

Saturday, January 27, 2024, 8:30 a.m.to 1:30 p.m.

St. Mary Parish Center, 510 S 2nd St, Guttenberg

Join hundreds of women from across the archdiocese for this virtual conference to revive your heart in Jesus! Speakers Mari Pablo and Mary Pedersen will share the ways their hearts have been revived through the Real Presence of Jesus.

Cost is \$25 and includes lunch. Register by January 24th by calling (563)219-4129, emailing dbq096ym@dbqarch.org, clicking [here](#), or scanning here.



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
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Prayer Line: Betty Evers, 563-252-1666
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