

ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: Jan 25, 2024 ~ Rectory: 563-252-1247 ~ Fr.'s Cell: 563-258-3958 ~ www.maryicjoseph.org

LIVE THE LITURGY: **Lumps and Bumps**

source: Larry Gillick, S.J., Creighton University

I had an orange for breakfast this morning which was very juicy and sweet, but the peel was difficult to pull off and there were an amazing number of seeds in each section of the fruit. It all became quite messy, but the tastes were worth the struggle. It would be easier just to open a can of orange juice and seedlessly enjoy the tastes.

Each of us labors to taste life with joy, but there are difficulties. There are events which have coverings or hard things to peel away. There are lumps and bumps in our everyday lives; relationships which are bothering to us. We keep drinking life's juices though despite the seeds of discontent.

We are tempted also to read books or articles for easy canned resolutions or answers. We can think that somebody has reduced all of life to a simple idea or practice which is easy to swallow. We can even think that religion or sacred scripture has it all reduced to just our opening the can of God and all shall be sweet.

As we prepare for the celebration of this week's liturgy, we can pray with the peels and seeds as well as the juice of receiving and living the Eucharist. To love God does not mean liking the seeds. We pray for the freedom to receive it all and not turn easily to frozen or concentrated or deluded life-juice.

Invitation to join Aquinas Communications (radiodubuque) for joint rosary on Sat., Feb 3rd at 11am at St. Mary, Guttenberg. Rosary Intention: Devotion to the Holy Family

This Sunday, January 28, the movie **FATIMA** 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.**



BAPTISM INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD & OUR COMMUNITIES OF FAITH:

Sun., Feb. 4, 2024 at St. Mary, Guttenberg during Mass

Joseph Dean Scherbring

son of Adam & Malorie (Klosterman) Scherbring

May you grow in age, knowledge & wisdom in the Lord!

Mass Schedule: Jan 29 – Feb 4, 2024

Mon., Jan 29: 11:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg

Funeral Mass for John Ertl (2 hour visitation prior to Mass)

Tues., Jan 30: [No Mass Scheduled]

Wed., Jan 31: 8:30 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg

“St. John Bosco”

Charlie & Mary Bries & Jim

Thur., Feb 1: 10:00 A.M. – Guttenberg Care Center

Leon Berns & Pete Davis

Fri., Feb 2: [No Mass Scheduled]

Sat., Feb 3: Vigil of Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 P.M. – St. Joseph, Garnavillo

L'Dean Berns (Month Mind)

5:30 P.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg

Jim & Lou Kuempel & James Auer

Sun., Feb 4: Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, **live streamed**

Betty Klein & Mary Wright

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

source: Tamora Whitney, Creighton University

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

God spoke directly to Moses. In the first reading God has promised the people that he will speak directly to someone from their own kin like he speaks to Moses so those people can hear and understand. They will be able to hear the word of God in their own language and within their own culture. What an amazing opportunity. I know I would love to hear directly from God. Today it seems hard to know exactly what to do and what really is God’s will. Back then God spoke directly to Moses, and he said exactly what to do. The people in the first reading have a prophet in their midst. But this opportunity comes with responsibility also. They have to listen and obey. And false prophets will not be tolerated. Actually, this helps them out too, because anyone who pretends to prophesy, but isn’t the prophet God speaks to directly will die, so the people actually know that their prophet is real. That makes it easier to trust in and follow his words.

Even the demons listen to Jesus and obey. He calls out the unclean spirit that recognizes that Jesus is the voice of God and no match for the evil spirit, which is destroyed at his words. The people are amazed at this, but the voice of God is that powerful.

It’s more difficult today to hear and understand the voice of God, but not impossible. We can read it here in the scriptures. We can sense it in our conscience. We can see it in God’s creation. We should be alert and aware for where it will express itself. God is all around us. We need to recognize his voice when we hear it. *If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.*

Asking all **new and current Readers and Eucharistic Ministers** to attend an informational meeting on February 20, 2024 at 6:30pm in the Parish Center meeting room. We will review the protocol and procedures and scheduling for these important ministries. We will be handing out to each of you a great book pertaining to your ministry. Light refreshments will be served. Hope you give this consideration to join us! Any questions call Sue Bahls 563-252-3253 or Lois Bries 563-252-3026.

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.

ARCHBISHOP ZINKULA VISIT!

Archbishop Zinkula will be visiting and speaking with 7th-12th grade Faith Formation students from 7PM-8PM on Wednesday, February 21st, at St. Mary Church, Guttenberg. The public is welcome to attend!

“DAILY REFLECTIONS FOR LENT” booklets will be available in the entry ways of church starting the weekend of January 27 & 28.

“STATIONS OF THE CROSS” will start on February 17 & 18 at 5:10pm on Saturdays and 9:40am on Sundays, throughout the Lenten season in place of the Rosary. For your participation, booklets are available at church entrances.

2023 Contribution Statements are available at the back of church. Please pick up at your convenience. The church is open daily.

A Stewardship Moment

Moses told the people, “The Lord will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own kinsmen.”
God still provides among His people the gifts and talents necessary to continue the work of His Church.
What gifts are yours to share?

Upcoming Parish Events . . .

(BH is Brinkmann Hall; PC is Parish Center)

- Jan 28: Fatima Movie after Mass and lite luncheon, BH
- Feb 6: CDA, Noon in Monona
KC Meeting, 7:30pm
Scripture Study, 7:30-10:30am, PC
- Feb 7: Sacred Seed Sowers Book Club, 1pm, PC
Faith Formation Classes, 6pm
- Feb 8: Scripture Study, 6:30-8:30pm, PC
- Feb 13: Scripture Study, 7:30-10:30am, PC
- Feb 14: Ash Wednesday, Lent begins
Faith Formation; 6:30 Service; soup supper after
- Feb 15: Scripture Study, 6:30-8:30pm, PC
- Feb 20: Readers & Euch. Ministers , 6:30pm, PC
- Feb 21: Sacred Seed Sowers Book Club, 1pm, PC
Faith Formation Classes, 6pm
Archbishop Zinkula, 7-8pm

Please email items for the bulletin by 7:30am Wednesday morning to 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