

# ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: July 6, 2023 ~ Rectory: 563-252-1247 ~ Fr.'s Cell: 563-258-3958 ~ [www.maryicjoseph.org](http://www.maryicjoseph.org)

## **LIVE THE LITURGY:** Relying on Jesus in Difficult Times

*source: young-catholics.com*

The readings remind us that we are not alone. Just as God promised a new king in Zechariah's time, He has given us Jesus Christ, the King of Kings, who offers us His love, mercy, and companionship. Jesus understands our burdens because He carried the weight of the world upon His own shoulders. He beckons us to come to Him, to surrender our anxieties, and to find solace in His gentle and compassionate presence.

Turning to Jesus in our times of need requires humility, faith, and a willingness to let go of our self-reliance. It means acknowledging that we cannot navigate life's challenges alone and that we need the help of our loving Savior. It involves surrendering our burdens and allowing Him to guide us along the path of righteousness, justice, and peace.

As we reflect on these readings for the 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time, let us take comfort in the knowledge that God's promises endure, even in the most difficult of times. Let us trust in Jesus, who offers us rest for our weary souls and shoulders the weight of our burdens. May we seek His guidance, His strength, and His love in all aspects of our lives, knowing that with Him by our side, we can face any trial or tribulation. Let us turn to Him and say, "Lord Jesus, help me. I surrender my burdens to You. Grant me the grace to find rest and hope in Your loving embrace."

## **FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR:**

**Thank you** for all the cards and gifts on my 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in God's priesthood and 76<sup>th</sup> birthday. I bought a newer Ford Taurus to do my priestly work. God bless one and all for your kindness.

**Due to COVID Outbreak especially in Garnavillo, general absolution will be given the weekend of July 15th and 16th during the penitential rite.**

Mass Servers: We are in need of Mass servers and would like to add them to the monthly Ministry schedule. If you are interested and in the 5th grade or older (including adults) please click this link, [Mass Server](#) or contact Erin Schmelzer at 563-880-7471

**Wanted:** Contractor to re-roof the convent. If you know of someone please call Jane Parker @ 563-880-5469

Spiritual and Christian books are available on the table in the entry of the church for you to read and use. There are also Christian movies on dvd that can be viewed and returned. *These are provided by the PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE!*

**From Gina the Choir Director . . .**  
Choir practice is typically held on Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm in the choir loft. These practices are open to any potentially new singers. Questions? Call or text Gina at 563-213-9021

## **Mass Schedule: July 10 – July 16, 2023**

**Mon., Jul 10:** [No Mass Scheduled]

**Tues., Jul 11:** 8:30 A.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo  
*Vince & Inez Hoeger/Amy Hoeger*

**Wed., Jul 12:** 8:30 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg  
*Loris Kickbush & Fred Bush*

**Thur., Jul 13:** 8:30 A.M. – Guttenberg River Living Center  
*Janice Ulbrich & Amy (Steffen) Clay*

**Fri., Jul 14:** [No Mass Scheduled], "St. Kateri Tekawitha"

**Sat., Jul 15:** Vigil of Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
4:00 P.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo  
*People of the Parish*  
5:30 P.M.—St. Mary, Guttenberg, *Live Streamed*  
*Living & Deceased Sholly Family*

**Sun., Jul 16:** Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
8:30 A.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista  
10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass  
*People of the Parish*

## GOSPEL REFLECTION: The Light Burden of Grace

source: mycatholic.life

*“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.” [Matthew 11:28-30](#)*

Around the year 167 BC, two new groups of religious leaders emerged within Judaism: the scribes and Pharisees. By the time that Jesus walked the earth, these religious leaders had developed many customs, false doctrines and religious practices that they claimed were derived from the Law of Moses. However, Jesus condemned their teachings as scrupulous, self-centered, and hypocritical. What they taught was often a distortion of the Law. Recall, for example, that the Pharisees condemned the disciples for picking heads of wheat and eating them on the Sabbath, claiming that this violated the Third Commandment. Clearly, Jesus taught that it didn't.

In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks to those “who labor and are burdened” and invites them to carry the light and easy yoke that He will give them. In other words, Jesus is identifying the fact that the scribes and Pharisees had so distorted the Law of Moses that the practice of the Jewish faith had become a burden that was too difficult to carry. In contrast, Jesus' New Law of grace was freeing, light, and easy.

When you consider Jesus' many teachings, do you see them as easy to follow? Or do they seem to be too much at times? For example, Jesus said to “be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect” ([Matthew 5:48](#)). This was not only an invitation, it was also a command and a requirement. So are Jesus' teachings easy? Or are they overwhelming?

Of course, since Jesus Himself says that “my yoke is easy, and my burden light,” then we can be certain that they are. Jesus not only calls us to moral perfection, He also gives us the means by which we can obtain it. By analogy, say someone told you to move a boulder that weighed 2,000 pounds. Could you do that? You could if the person also gave you a large tractor to use for the task. In that case, it would be as easy as using the machine correctly. So it is with all that our Lord asks of us. When we find some moral obligation to be difficult or even overwhelming, then we are not relying upon the grace that God has given us to fulfill His command.

Reflect, today, upon Jesus' gentle invitation to you to embrace the “yoke” of perfection. Do not see it as too much. Rather, see it as a joyous invitation from our Lord. Ponder the fact that God not only calls you to the heights of holiness, He also provides you with the means to obtain it. Have faith in His almighty power and open yourself to it more fully so that You will be able to do anything and everything our Lord asks of you with ease and joy.

*My gentle Lord, You place upon my shoulders Your own yoke to carry. I say “Yes” to all that You ask of me, and I thank You for bestowing Your mercy upon me. Please remove every yoke from me that is not from You, so that I can follow You with the joy of the light burden of Your grace. Jesus, I trust in You.*

### Help Clayton County Womenade celebrate 10 years!!

Clayton County Womenade **will hold a gathering in July!!** Stadium Bar and Grill in Guttenberg on **Tuesday, July 11, 2023 at 12:00 noon. All are invited!**

Giving to Clayton County Womenade is your opportunity to give back for your blessings!! Any donation is accepted. **This money goes entirely to the support of struggling families referred by agencies in Clayton County.** Donations may be made at or mailed to Peoples State Bank, 15 Goethe St., PO Box 430, Guttenberg, IA 52052

We can now also accept donations through Paypal! (To use Paypal, sign into your Paypal account. Choose to Send Money to Friends or Family. Enter [womenade@alpinecom.net](mailto:womenade@alpinecom.net) as the recipient. There are no fees charged to either you or Womenade if you use monies in your paypal account, or withdrawn from your bank account.) There is a fee if you use a credit card.

Clayton County Womenade is also a Thrivent Choice recipient.

30th Annual Julyfest St. Joseph's Parish, Farley, Iowa  
**Sunday, July 9**  
Polka Mass at 9:30; Parade at 11:00

### A Stewardship Moment

“Let all your works give You thanks, Oh Lord, and let Your faithful ones bless You,” says the psalmist. Stewardship is this “attitude of gratitude” for the many gifts God has given us.

Gundersen Health System will hold Virtual 2 ½ hour weekly classes: “Healthy Living with Chronic Pain” and “Healthy Living with Diabetes” in August-Sept for 6 weeks. For more information, please call 608-775-6870.

### Upcoming Parish Events . . . .

Jul 8: Women's Faith Sharing, 1pm @ Sodes

Jul 11: CDA meeting at Noon in Monona  
KC Mtg, 7:30pm

Jul 15: Parish Life will be at the Farmer's Market, 8-Noon  
selling baked goods and vegetables

Jul 17: Finance Committee/Parish Council Mtg; 6:30pm

Jul 22: Women's Faith Sharing, 1pm @ Sodes

Aug 18/19: Parish Life sponsoring the Benders  
Cookout

Please email items for the bulletin by 7:30am  
Wednesday morning to [OfficeOfStMary@gmail.com](mailto:OfficeOfStMary@gmail.com)