

ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: July 27, 2023 ~ Rectory: 563-252-1247 ~ Fr.'s Cell: 563-258-3958 ~ www.maryicjoseph.org

LIVE THE LITURGY: Wisdom for Leaders

~ Colleen Jurkiewicz, @LPI

Solomon's example in the first reading serves as an inspiration for individuals in leadership roles, whether it be within the Church, politics, schools, or communities. He demonstrates a profound understanding that leadership is not merely a position of power, but rather an opportunity for service and sacrifice. When God presents Solomon, a young leader, with the chance to ask for anything he desires, Solomon's response is a testament to his selflessness and wisdom.

Rather than requesting personal comfort or wealth, Solomon humbly asks for wisdom. This decision reveals his deep concern for the well-being of the people he will govern. Wisdom, in his eyes, is the key to making sound decisions that will benefit those under his leadership. It demonstrates that a good leader prioritizes the needs and interests of others above their own. Solomon's choice to seek wisdom exemplifies a fundamental principle of leadership: it is not about personal gain, but about serving others and ensuring their welfare.

In light of Solomon's example, it becomes evident that our prayers for leaders should focus on their recognition and embodiment of this selfless mindset. A leader who genuinely cares about the welfare of their followers and seeks wisdom to guide their decisions can have a profound impact on the community they serve. By prioritizing the greater good over personal comfort, leaders can inspire trust, foster unity, and promote progress. Therefore, it is crucial for us to pray for all leaders, regardless of their domain, to embrace the values of service and sacrifice

THANK YOU - Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) Missionary, Jaderial Staebler, would like to thank everyone for their generosity and kindness this past weekend. She is excited to start serving at UW-Platteville and see the ways God will bless the students through your gifts! If you would like to consider joining her on mission in any capacity or learn more about her role, **contact her at 563-880-9553** or see her personal page focus.org/missionaries/jaderial-staebler/

Jaderial will be available after Masses in Guttenberg this weekend.

PARISH LIFE will be hosting coffee, juice and donuts this Sunday after Mass in Brinkmann Hall. Please come, visit and enjoy the time spent with our family of parishioners.



Fellowship

Mass Schedule: July 30 – Aug 6, 2023

Mon., Jul 31: [No Mass Scheduled], St. Ignatius of Antioch

Tues., Aug 1: 8:30 A.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo
“St. Alphonsus Liguori” – [Full Moon]
Vince & Inez Hoeger/Amy Hoeger

Wed., Aug 2: 8:30 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg
Verna Greenwood & Fred Bush

Thur., Aug 3: 10:00 A.M. – Guttenberg Care Center
Leon Berns & Pete Davis

Fri., Aug 4: [No Mass Scheduled], “St. John Vianney”

Sat., Aug 5: Vigil of Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord
4:00 P.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Theresa & Herman Mueller
5:30 P.M.—St. Mary, Guttenberg
Mary Tujetsch & Arthur Herman

Sun., Aug 6: Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord
8:30 A.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista
People of the Parish
10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass, *Live Streamed*
Donna Balk & Julie Schlueter

Socks and Undies Drive



The Social Justice Committee is hosting a Socks and Underwear Drive to benefit school age kids in Pre-K through Jr. High. The GMHC Family Resource Center has notified us of this basic back to school need. Please join us in helping to fulfill this need.

Donations of new, unopened packages of socks and underwear are being collected now through Aug. 13. All sizes from 4T thru Jr-High. Please place donations in the box at the back of church. The Resource Center will distribute them to needed families before school starts.

St. Anne's Society will meet on Monday, July 31 at 6:30 pm in the Parish Center. All women of our parish are welcome to attend. We will have a short business meeting, an informational video about Mary's Meals and light refreshments. Hope you can join us!

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Joy and Judgment

source: mycatholic.life

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net thrown into the sea, which collects fish of every kind. When it is full they haul it ashore and sit down to put what is good into buckets. What is bad they throw away. Thus it will be at the end of the age. The angels will go out and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.” [Matthew 13:47-50](#)

This parable is the third of three parables Jesus tells in a row. The first compares the Kingdom of Heaven to a “treasure buried in a field.” When a person finds it, they sell everything they have so as to buy that field. The second parable likens the Kingdom of Heaven to a merchant who is in search of fine pearls. “When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it.” In both of these parables, the discovery of the Kingdom of Heaven is a great joy. The person discovering the treasure or the pearl is so elated that he is willing to trade all that he has so as to obtain it.

The third of these three parables, however, is much different. In this case, the Kingdom of Heaven is likened to a net that gathers all people at the end of the age and separates them, the good from the bad. The parable then concludes with a frightening image. The wicked will be thrown “into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.”

In the end, for those who enter the glories of Heaven, there will be unending joy. And this fact must be understood so as to draw us into those riches of grace. Anticipation of such a gift should motivate us to diligently seek out the many graces our Lord wishes to bestow upon us. But sometimes we need a bit more of a nudge. We can easily become complacent in our life of faith and our search for God’s will. For that reason, Jesus includes the third parable, outlining the consequences some will endure at the end of time. Though it might not be a happy thought, it is a holy thought because it reveals God’s definitive justice and judgment at the end of time.

Do you believe in the Justice of God? Do you believe that He will exact definitive judgment upon those who reject His holy will in this life? Do you believe that Hell is real and is a possibility for us all? If this thought is difficult to accept, then it might be worth further prayerfully pondering this third parable. Justice and judgment are real. If we are not fully motivated in life to diligently seek out the glory of the Kingdom of Heaven, then we should at least honestly face the reality of the consequences that await.

Reflect, today, upon the glory, beauty and splendor of God. Try to put your eyes of faith upon the Treasure of the Kingdom of Heaven. Allow this prayerful meditation to inspire you to make obtaining the Kingdom of Heaven your sole mission in life. But if you struggle with this joyous discovery, then do not hesitate to reflect upon the potential consequences. The Lord speaks of these consequences of God’s justice and judgment for our good so as to keep them from becoming our reality.

From Gina the Choir Director . . .
Choir practice is typically held on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm in the choir loft. These practices are open to anyone interested in singing. Questions? Call or text Gina at 563-213-9021

Calling all Book Lovers! I will be hosting a get together/ meeting to gauge interest in starting a St. Mary’s Book Club, concentrating on non-fiction and fiction books of the spiritual genre. I would love to utilize the many books our Parish Life Committee so generously gift and make available to our parishioners. Along with those and wanting to share my personal favorites that have enriched my faith life, please plan to attend on Tuesday, August 1 at 9:00 am in the Parish Center. Come with your ideas and favorites too! Questions? call- Sue Bahls 563-252-3253.



Faith Formation is currently seeking 4 catechists (religion teachers) for the 5th grade and 6th grade classes; ideally two adults for each class. No experience required – just a heart to share your faith! You will receive a catechist/teacher guide and student workbooks to guide you. For more information, please contact Erin Schmelzer, 563-880-7471 or eschmelzer@smic.pvt.k12.ia.us

NOTICE: The Social Justice Group is looking to add another person or two to our ranks. We currently do such projects as The Giving Tree at Christmas, deliver booklets to the county jail, and take food and money to the Resource Center. We also are planning a few other projects. If interested please contact Gerald Bormann @ 563-419-6967

Upcoming Parish Events
(BH is Brinkmann Hall; PC is Parish Center)
Jul 27: Parish Vitality Meeting, 6:30pm, PC
Jul 30: Coffee & Donuts after Mass
Jul 31: St. Anne’s, 6pm, PC
Aug 1: St. Mary’s Book Club, 9 am, PC
CD of A; noon, BH
KC Mtg; 7:30 pm
Aug 18/19: Parish Life sponsoring the Bender’s Cookout
Aug 27: Blessing of Backpacks

A Stewardship Moment

“The law of Your mouth is to me more precious than thousands of gold and silver pieces,” says the psalmist today. Does the amount of my offering suggest that I could honestly say the same?

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