

ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: May 05, 2022

563-252-1247

www.maryicjoseph.org

LIVE THE LITURGY Inspiration for the week: Gifts in Disguise

Have you ever opened a gift and wondered what the giver was thinking?

I won't call out any of my family or friends here, but suffice to say, I think we have all been the confused recipient of a sweater that wasn't our size or a gift card to a store where we don't shop. But we smiled all the same and said how much it meant to us, because we know that when it comes to gifts, it's all about the gesture.

Suffering is a lot like that—the gift you never asked for, and don't really want to receive. Sometimes we look at suffering and, like the apostles who see Jesus as a stranger on the shore, we don't recognize it for what it can be. We don't appreciate the catalyst suffering can be for change, for growth, for grace. What was the gift that you received in disguise? Was it a relationship that confounded and frustrated you? Was it a job that tested your spirit? An obstacle that stopped you dead in your tracks? A rejection that threatened to break your spirit?

If I go back and look at the worst gifts I've ever gotten, chances are that I didn't like them because I didn't know what to do with them — they were more fitted for someone else's interests, someone else's life. It's the same with suffering. We're tempted to cast suffering aside when it comes our way because it doesn't fit the person we are. Suffering is made to fit the person God knows we have the ability, with His grace, to become.

Hang onto that suffering. Unlike the misshapen sweater, it really will come in handy.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



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

Sunday, May 8 at St. Mary, Guttenberg after Mass

Josephine Grace Knipper

daughter of Trevor & Stacia (White) Knipper

Saturday, May 14 at St. Joseph, Garnavillo during Mass

Rhys Zachary Mueller

son of Zachary & Katherine (Werges) Mueller

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

Happy Mother's Day

Upcoming Meeting. . .

There will be a **Parish Council, Finance and Festival meeting on May 15th** after the 10:00 am Mass. Meeting will start at approximately 10:50am. The goal of this meeting is to set the date and location of the auction. The group to save the convent is invited to have one or two spoke persons give an update about the convent.

~ Don Scherbring



Food Shelf Weekend: The 2nd collection this weekend will be for the food pantry at the Family Resource Center in Guttenberg.

Online Givers please note: WeShare, our online giving provider, upgraded their system this week. When you login using your current email address and password, you will notice a new look. You do not need to do anything; your donations will occur as schedule.

Mass Schedule: May 9 – May 15, 2022

Mon., May 9: [No Mass Schedule]

Tues., May 10: 8:30 A.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Dec'd of Tschirgi Family

Wed., May 11: 8:30 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, 5th/6th Grades
Fran Troester & Florence (Frommelt) Junk
6:30 P.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Confirmation Mass
People of the Parish

Thur., May 12: 8:30 A.M. - Guttenberg River Living Center
Harold Mueller & Special Intention

Fri., May 13: [No Mass Schedule]

Sat., May 14: Vigil of Fifth Sunday of Easter
4:00 P.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Barb Mohning
5:30 P.M.—St. Mary, Guttenberg
Herman & Theresa Mueller/Marjorie Hamann

Sun., May 15: Fifth Sunday of Easter
8:30 A.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista
10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass, **Live Streamed**
Imogene (Bries) Feldmann & Richard Goerd

GOSPEL REFLECTION: **Contrasting Voices**

“My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me.” [John 10:27](#)

Jesus offers a clear contrast among shepherds. This would apply to priests, parents and all of us in our own unique way. The contrast He offers is between the ones who care deeply for those entrusted to their care, and those who are just going through the motions and are more motivated by selfishness than sacrificial love.

Jesus perfectly manifested sacrificial love as the Divine Shepherd. He was willing to go all the way for us, His sheep. He was willing to sacrifice everything. He did not let suffering, persecution, rejection and the like deter Him from His responsibility of caring for us in a total and complete way. It should inspire us, console us and encourage us to know how deep His love for us really is.

This love is seen, also, in the unwavering love of a parent, sibling, or dear friend. When the love one offers us is unwavering, especially in difficult times, this is a great support. And love offered to another like this forges a deep spiritual bond that is stronger than any hardship we may face. No matter what “wolf” comes our way, we must know of the unwavering support of the Divine Shepherd. And when we can see that love made manifest in the unwavering support of others, we are doubly blessed.

But the contrast should not be ignored either. Jesus gives the example of “a hired man who is not a shepherd” who sees the wolf coming and runs. It’s important to point out how damaging this man is to the people of God. When he runs from his responsibility and gives into selfish motivation, he leaves the flock untended and vulnerable to attack. We should see in this hired man the temptation we all inevitably face in life. It’s hard to stick with it through the hard times. It’s hard to be there for those who need us when they need us. It’s hard to be faithful in all things and to never shy away in the face of the temptation of fear.

Jesus offers His unwavering love and support to us as our Shepherd, but He also wants us to return this gift to Him by offering this same unwavering commitment to one another.

Reflect, today, how well you imitate the Good Shepherd. Where you are lacking, let Him shepherd you so that you may shepherd others. Run to the Good Shepherd and trust in His perfect love for you.

Jesus, our Good Shepherd, I thank You for Your unwavering support of me as my Shepherd. And I thank You for those who act as Your instruments of this deep love and commitment. Help me to fulfill my role of shepherding Your people, the people You have placed in my life. May I never run from the glorious responsibility You have called me to. Jesus, I trust in You.

source: [mycatholiclife.com](#)

SMIC School is seeking to fill the following positions for the 2022/2023 school year: **Elementary Teacher & Middle School Teacher**. Submit resume to eschmelzer@smic.pvt.k12.ia.us

Prayer Siege Conference: 2-day Seminar on Intercessory Prayer. May 20th 1-8pm and May 21 9am-5pm; Johnson’s Restaurant, Elkader. Register by May 15 to startaprayersiege@gmail.com.

The crafting ladies are selling their inventory of craft supplies—ribbons, fall, Christmas items, garlands, wreaths, etc. For more information please contact Margie Deutmeyer 563-252-1569

SMIC School and the PPA group would like to **thank you** for supporting the recent candy bar and rummage/bake sale fundraisers. The candy bar fundraiser netted \$4050 and the rummage/bake sale \$2860. The items left over from the rummage sale were donated to Camp Courageous. *Thank you! Thank you!*

Friends of St. Mary IC PPA (Parents, Parishioners, Alumni)

Upcoming Events:

- May 18, SMIC Spring Concert, 6pm
- May 24, SMIC Talent Show, 2:30pm
- May 25, PPA Meeting, 5:30pm Middle School

Upcoming Fundraisers:

- Scrip Sales — ongoing
- Coming Soon — Calendar Raffle

Mandy Ludovissy, 563-880-8860; Lisa Kies, 563-880-1946; Jane Parker, 563-880-5469



During the month of May, decorated crosses for Memorial Day will be for sale after the 5:30 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. Masses in the back of church

A Stewardship Moment

Paul and Barnabas encountered both violent rejection and joyful acceptance of the message that they preached. We, too, may meet with mixed reactions when we use our gifts in the service of God. But, the Gospel assures us, the reward for those who follow faithfully is eternal life.

Upcoming Parish Events (BH = Brinkmann Hall)

- May 11: Confirmation, 6:30pm, St. Mary, Guttenberg
May 15: Parish Council, Finance, Festival Meeting, 10:50am, BH
May 29: 8th Grade Graduation Mass & Breakfast
Jun 7: KC Meeting, 7:30pm, BH

Please submit newsletter items by Tuesday night to: churchlady@smic.pvt.k12.ia.us