

# ST. MARY PARISH

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

May 8, 2025 ~ Rectory: 563-252-1247 ~ Fr.'s Cell: 563-880-6017 ~ www.maryicjoseph.org

## LIVE THE LITURGY:

~ St. Mary's Liturgy Committee

You don't need to be a sheep in a field to know the power of the human voice. If it's someone you love - a parent, spouse, friend - just hearing them can leave you feeling comforted or uplifted. A phone call, a whisper, a word of love or support can change everything.

It's the same way with the Good Shepherd. His is a voice like no other - promising eternal life, mercy, consolation, hope. Christ, the Good Shepherd, leads His flock, as Revelation puts it, to "springs of life-giving water" (v. 17).

The question for us is very simple: Are we listening? Jesus calls out to us in our thirst, in our wandering and wondering. He knows us - not only what we need but also where we need to go.

In a noisy world where so many voices compete for our attention, there is only one voice that matters.

### Stop, listen, and hear. What is He saying?

As you celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday, spend some time considering Jesus, the Lamb who is your shepherd. Rejoice that He has not left you to make your way on this journey alone. He has gone before you, and He will lead you home.

Jesus, Good Shepherd of my soul, thank you for your love and protection!

### Eucharistic Adoration

Beginning on Wednesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, we will have Eucharistic Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament the first Wednesday of each month starting after the 8:30am Mass and continuing until 7pm, ending with Benediction.

What is Eucharistic Adoration? It is spending time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament outside of Mass. You'll have a "holy-hour" with Jesus! During this quiet time, you can pray in whatever way you want, bringing Jesus your needs, desires, fears, regrets, and more. Some suggestions for prayer are reciting the rosary, reading the daily gospel passages for reflection, any gospel readings or your favorite prayers. Try to silence your mind and heart, reject distracting thoughts and listen to God speaking to you.

During Eucharistic Adoration, there must be at least two people present at all times while the Blessed Sacrament is exposed. To ensure this, we will have a sign up book available next week in the back of church. Please be seated at the front of the church and remember it is God who is substantially present in exposed host. When your Adoration time is over, please remain in the church until your replacement arrives.

Let us pray that our church members can make this Eucharistic Adoration an important part of our faith journey for many years to come.



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

Sunday, May 18 at Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista, 2pm

#### Clara Eileen Meyer

Daughter of Alex & Molly Meyer

May you grow in the love & wisdom of Jesus Christ!

### Mass Schedule: May 12 – May 18, 2025

**Mon., May 12:** [No Mass Scheduled]

**Tues., May 13:** 8:30 A.M. Mass—St. Joseph, Garnavillo  
*Glenn Berns & Rita Eulberg*

**Wed., May 14:** 8:30 A.M. Mass – St. Mary, Guttenberg  
*Eunice Connelly*

**Thur., May 15:** 10:00 A.M. Mass—Guttenberg Care Center  
*Roger Steffen*

**Fri., May 16:** 8:30 A.M. Mass – St. Mary, Guttenberg  
*Jim & Mary Gamerdinger*

**Sat., May 17:** Vigil of Fifth Sunday of Easter  
4:00 P.M. Mass—St. Joseph, Garnavillo  
*Henry & Cindy Mueller*  
5:30 P.M. Mass—St. Mary, Guttenberg  
*Trudy Vogt*

**Sun., May 18:** Fifth Sunday of Easter  
8:30 A.M. Mass – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista  
*People of the Parish*  
10:00 A.M. – Mass – St. Mary, Guttenberg, *live streamed*  
*People of the Parish*

**Homily, Fourth Sunday of Easter:**

“My sheep hear my voice...”

~ Deacon Jim Pfaffly

Today’s very brief gospel is packed with nuggets of wisdom and reassurance. Shortly before the words that Jesus spoke in today’s gospel, he used an analogy, and stated that he was the Good Shepherd. It was left to his listeners to understand that we all are his sheep. Understanding that, every phrase in today’s gospel is important.

First of all, Jesus declared that “My sheep hear my voice”. The theologian, Bishop Robert Barron suggests that we do know his voice. When we listen to our conscience, if it is fully developed, we are probably listening to Jesus. Whenever we have that nagging thought in the back of our mind that we should do something, we probably should do it because it is very possible that Jesus is trying to talk to us. Secondly, Jesus stated that “I know them, and they follow me.” Of course he knows us. He knows us completely. As Psalm 139 tells us, “Even before a word is on my tongue, Lord, you know it all.”

The next four words in today’s gospel says, “and they follow me.” are something that only ourselves and Jesus can answer. Do we actually follow Him or do we just talk a good game? The next sentence should give us great comfort. “I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish.” This is the promise of following Jesus. We will be given eternal life, and Jesus has reserved a place for us in His Father’s house. Speaking of His Father’s house, today’s second reading gives us a small glimpse of what heaven will be like.

The next two sentences in the gospel should also give us comfort. “No one can take them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me is greater than all, and no one can take them out of the Father’s hand.” This tells us that if we seek protection in God’s hands we cannot be taken over by the devil. Even though St. Peter warns us in other scripture that “Your opponent the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion looking for [someone] to devour.” We are reassured by Jesus’ words that the Heavenly Father is greater than all others. Finally, Jesus tells us that “The Father and I are one.” It makes no difference if we pray to our Heavenly Father, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit, they are one; the one true God; the Triune God.

Today I suggest that if we can take this image of Jesus being the Good Shepherd who cares for his flock and leads them to eternal life, it will give us the strength we need when the trials of life get heavy on our shoulders. In Jesus we have more than a friend who walks with us, we have the Triune God who loves us and wants us to spend eternity with Him in heaven. All we need to do is to listen to Him and follow Him.

**Happy Mother’s Day!** Lord Jesus, we seek your divine guidance for all mothers. Grant them wisdom, strength, and patience as they nurture and love their children. May your light illuminate their paths, guiding their decisions and actions. Surround them with your grace, and fill their hearts with peace, knowing they are supported by your everlasting love. Amen.

In the coming few weeks, we will take up the Our Call to Share – Spring collection. This is a 4-in-1 collection that supports four important regional and national ministries. By giving to ministries beyond our local parish, we respond to Christ’s call to be as one body – united in faith and mission - through our support of the broader Catholic Church.

The Knights of Columbus have selected **Gerald Bormann** as May’s Knight of the Month. Congrats Gerald!

**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.

Please consider this your personal invitation to the **St. Mary School Alumni Banquet: June 7, 2025**  
Calling all High School and Grade School graduates, former students, families, friends, faculty, staff and supporters this is your time to reconnect and celebrate our legacy!

**Upcoming Parish Events . . .**  
(BH is Brinkmann Hall; PC is Parish Center)  
May 18: Coffee & Donuts after Mass  
May 19: Liturgy Group Meeting, 9:30am PC  
May 21: Sacred Seed Sowers Book Club, 1pm, PC  
Jun 4: Eucharistic Adoration: 9am—7pm  
Jun 7: St. Mary School Alumni Banquet, after 5:30 Mass  
Jun 9-13: Community Vacation Bible School, St. John’s

Mass: 5:30 p.m., Social hour begins at 6:15 p.m., Dinner will be served at 7 p.m. Dinner tickets are \$20.00 at the door.

**Reservations are DUE by: Friday, May 30, 2025 to:**  
Phoebe Johnson at 563-880-4767 or Beth Sadewasser at 563-880-2743 or Austin Greve at [agreve@alpinecom.net](mailto:agreve@alpinecom.net)  
St. Mary’s Alumni, P.O. Box 982, Guttenberg, IA 52052  
**FB: St. Mary’s School of Guttenberg Alumni**

Priest: Fr. Paul Kwaku Ameyaw, 563-880-6017  
Deacon: James Pfaffly, 563-880-9696  
Faith Formation: Erin Schmelzer, 563-880-7471  
Youth Ministry: Katey Simon, 563-219-4129  
Parish Life: Lois Bries, 563-252-3026  
Liturgy: Sue Bahls, 563-252-3253  
Social Concerns Gerald Bormann, 563-419-6967  
Choir: Anna Moser, 563-880-1176  
Secretary: Lisa Kies, 880-1946; [officeofstmary@gmail.com](mailto:officeofstmary@gmail.com)

**Finance:**  
Jim Schlueter  
563-252-1490  
Marv Althoff  
Jeff Burr  
Tom Augustyn  
Sharon Keehner  
Austin Greve

**Parish Council:**  
Beth Sadewasser, Chair  
563-880-2743  
Jessie Young, Gerald  
Bormann, Lois Bries  
Adam Scherbring  
Larry Wille

Parish Center: Lora Kolker, 563-880-9111  
Parish Center Reservations: 563-252-1577  
Knights: Dale Wille, 309-232-9476  
St. Anne: Maggie Schlueter, 563-252-1490  
Cath Daughters: Janet Happel: 319-530-9121  
Prayer Line: Betty Evers, 563-252-1666  
Friends of St Mary: Jane Parker, 563-880-5469  
St. Mary Alumni: Pat Kolker, 563-880-9815  
Phoebe Johnson: 563 880-4767

Stephen Ministry: Becky Shaffer, 319-393-1234