

ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: May 18, 2023 ~ Rectory: 563-252-1247 ~ Fr.'s Cell: 563-258-3958 ~ www.maryicjoseph.org

LIVE THE LITURGY: Answering the Call to be Disciple Makers ~source: *young-catholics.com*

We believe that Jesus is with us always, even though he has ascended into heaven. This is a comforting thought that reminds us of his continued presence and love for us. The Gospel reading from Matthew also reminds us of our responsibility to make disciples. This task may seem daunting, but Jesus has given us the tools and the example to follow in his footsteps.

To be a disciple maker is more than just quoting Scripture or sharing knowledge about the faith. It involves a deep love for others that is willing to sacrifice for their well-being. Jesus showed us this love by giving up his life on the cross for our salvation. We are called to follow his example by putting the needs of others before our own desires. Making disciples requires us to step out of our comfort zones and engage with those who may have different beliefs or backgrounds. It is an act of love that seeks to bring others closer to God and share the joy of the Gospel with them. This is not always an easy task, but it is one that is filled with grace and blessings.

A Prayer & Blessing for our graduates . . .

*For I know well the plans I have in mind for you ... **plans for your welfare** and not for woe, so as to give you a future of hope. When you call me, and come and pray to me, I will listen to you. When you look for me, you will find me. Yes, when you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me...and I will change your lot.*

(Jeremiah 29:11-14)

The Lord bless you and keep you!

The Lord let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!

(Numbers 6:24-26)

THANK YOU for the statue of St. Jude in honor of Mary Ernster by her family on the back north altar. We need someone to make a stand like the one on the south side, Please contact Fr. Bries for more info.

Need volunteers to form a St. Mary Cemetery Association board and two sextons to oversee care of our two cemeteries. Contact Fr. Bries at 252-1247 if interested. Must be active members of our parish family.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS . . .

Turning St. Mary school into our Parish Center for parishioners (and community) use is moving forward! Please stop by the Open House following 5:30 Mass on June 10 or the 10:00 Mass on June 11. If you haven't been in the building for awhile, take a tour, have a snack, share ideas with committee members. We look forward to seeing you there!

The readings for the Ascension call us to take on the job title of "Disciple Maker" with humility and faith. We are not alone in this task, as the Holy Spirit guides us and empowers us to share the message of Christ with others. Through prayer, study, and living out our faith in our daily lives, we can become effective disciple makers and fulfill the mission that Jesus gave us.

Mass Schedule: May 22 – May 29, 2023

Mon., May 22: [No Mass Scheduled]

Tues., May 23: 8:30 A.M. – St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Vincent & Inez Hoeger/Amy Hoeger

Wed., May 24: 8:30 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg
Cyril & Ann Liefefeld

Thur., May 25: 8:30 A.M. – Guttenberg River Living Center
People of the Parish

Fri., May 26: 10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg
Funeral Mass for Robert 'Bob' & Elaine Hoffmann

Sat., May 27: Vigil of Pentecost
4:00 P.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Tracy Werges & Bert Behrend
5:30 P.M.—St. Mary, Guttenberg
Verna Greenwood & Lynne Finnegan

Sun., May 28: Feast of Pentecost
8:30 A.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista
10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass. *Live Streamed*
Gary Westhoff (Month's Mind)

Mon., May 29: Memorial Day
10:00 A.M. - St. Joseph Cemetery Chapel, Garnavillo

GOSPEL REFLECTION: In All His Glory

source: *mycatholic.life*

The heart-piercing flash of time when the wife's eyes lock with her husband's as she steps into the lifeboat, but he stays on board the listing ship. The wailing and crying as mothers and children are ripped apart on the platform at Auschwitz-Birkenau. The well-loved cousin who leaves his far-flung relatives' home after a visit, everyone knowing he will never pass that way again. The emotional farewell. The final, bittersweet call. The last hug and tender kiss on the teary cheek. History, literature, and everyday reality are thick with dramatic goodbyes.

Departures can be painful, none more than the mysterious finality of a soul's departure from this life. For those without faith, confusion deepens the pain. Without God there is, after life, just the void. The real absence. Emptiness, chaos, and guesswork about what frightening reality awaits behind the curtain. Today's Feast of the Ascension is a peek behind that curtain and what the believer sees is life, fulfillment, and hope. In the Ascension, we have a preview of coming attractions and much, much more. Forty days after His Resurrection from the dead, the disciples witness the Lord go away. But they are not sad. Saint Luke relates that the disciples were full of joy upon returning to Jerusalem after witnessing Jesus' Ascension on the Mount of Olives. Jesus had gone away but had not died. He had departed but was fully alive. Christ showed that there was an alternative path, a different way to "do" leaving time and space.

Most memory is happy memory. We naturally forget what causes us pain and embarrassment and more easily retain what brings smiles and light. Our Catholic religion serves us well when it remembers truths on our behalf. The Church tells us year in and year out where we came from—God. It reads to us at Mass the stories of our salvation. It reminds us that death and suffering are painful but not the end. And in the Ascension the Church preserves the very positive memory of man's greatness. The Ascension reinforces our dignity. It is a shot of vitamin B right into the spine. We stand taller and straighter when we know that we are meant to live forever in the Father's house in heaven.

Many modern biologists point to a pile of wet clay and say, "Look, here is man." Modern visual artists often show bloody, suffering, degraded man and say, "Look, here is man." Sensualists sell the unclothed body to the lustful and say, "Look, here is man." Pontius Pilate stood the broken and bloody body of Jesus before the rabble and said the same, "Ecce Homo." Today the Church asks its believers to gaze up at the Ascension and to say, "Here is man too. Here is the body restored, in all of man's resplendent power." It is not enough for us to guess about our origins. We must reflect upon our destination. Where we are going says more about us than where we came from. Man is not a small pile of dirt. He is not his broken jaw, his foreclosed home, his failed marriage, or his carnal desires. He is these things, but he is more. Man is great because God is great. At Mass the priest says, "Lift up your hearts," and the people respond, "We lift them up to the Lord." Indeed. Today we marvel at the spectacle of the God-Man Jesus Christ ascending to heaven and to home. From that high place, and only from there, can we properly gauge our dignity. The Ascension should not invite speculation about the number of rooms in the Father's mansion, or how exactly the Lord zoomed up into the clouds. The Ascension is about what comes next. It's about our dignity. It teaches us that self importance is nothing. It is union with God that makes us great and makes us happy.

Lord Jesus, You were from Mary biologically but from the Father theologically. On this Feast of the Ascension, You return to the Father's house. Help all who believe in You and who belong to You in the Church to one day join You in that heavenly home forever and ever.

The raised gardens in the convent yard are tilled up thanks to Rick Johnson. The garden to the north is spoken for. The other 2 raised beds are available if anyone would like to plant some vegetables for yourself, the Family Resource Center food bank or to share with our parish family after Mass. All we ask is that you keep your garden up and a free will donation to the old school roof replacement fund. Contact Jane Parker, (563) 880-5469 to reserve your garden. First come first serve.

A Stewardship Moment

In today's Gospel, Jesus prays, "I have given You glory on earth by finishing the work You gave Me to do." Good stewards follow His example by using their time and talents for the glory of God.

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



Upcoming Parish Events . . .

May 27: Women's Faith Sharing, 1pm @ Sodes

June 4: Celebration of Fr. Bries' 50th Jubilee of Priesthood Ordination

June 6: Catholic Daughter's installation Mass for new members at St Mary at 11:00 am with lunch following at Sodes.

June 10/11: Parish Center Open House after Masses

June 12-16: Community Vacation Bible School, St. John's