

ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: May 25, 2023 ~ Rectory: 563-252-1247 ~ Fr.'s Cell: 563-258-3958 ~ www.maryicjoseph.org

LIVE THE LITURGY: The Holy Spirit's Gift of Communication

~source: *young-catholics.com*

One of the gifts that the Holy Spirit bestows upon the Church is the ability to communicate the Gospel to diverse communities in ways that are accessible and meaningful to them. As we encounter people who are different from us, whether in language, culture, or background, the Holy Spirit will give us the words and the wisdom to share the Good News with them.

In today's world, where people are often divided by language, culture, and ideology, this gift of the Holy Spirit is especially important. We are called to be ambassadors of Christ's love, reaching out to all people with compassion and understanding. We must be willing to listen to their stories, to learn from their experiences, and to share the Gospel in a way that speaks to their hearts.

So on this feast of Pentecost, let us renew our commitment to the Holy Spirit and ask for the grace to be open to the Spirit's guidance in our lives. Let us be bold in proclaiming the Gospel to all people, confident that the Holy Spirit

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.

Fr. Bries' Jubilee

Sunday, June 4, 2023

Mass at 10:00 AM

Meal: 11am to 1pm in Brinkmann Hall with music by Steve and Michele Dikkers

Saint Mary/Immaculate Conception School Display

Western Theme



Music by The Lovehandles and Chris Ross
Activities from Noon-3pm:

Kids Games

Petting Zoo

Bounce House s

Ice Cream Machine

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!

will give us the words and the wisdom to do so. And let us be grateful for the gift of the Holy Spirit, which empowers us to be agents of God's love in the world.

Mass Schedule: May 29 – June 4, 2023

Mon., May 29: Memorial Day

10:00 A.M. - St. Joseph Cemetery Chapel, Garnavillo

Joe & Anita Schmelzer & Families

Tues., May 30: [No Mass Scheduled]

Wed., May 31: 8:30 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg

“Visitation of Blessed Virgin Mary”

Tom Kuempel & Barb Pape (C.D. of A.)

Thur., Jun 1: 10:00 A.M. – Guttenberg Care Center, “St. Justin”

Leon Berns & Pete Davis

Fri., Jun 2: [No Mass Scheduled]

Sat., Jun 3: Vigil of Feast of The Most Holy Trinity

4:00 P.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo

Louis & Amy Matt

5:30 P.M.—St. Mary, Guttenberg

People of the Parish

Sun., Jun 4: Feast of The Most Holy Trinity

8:30 A.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista

10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass. *Live Streamed*

Dec'd of Bries/Goerdts Families

GOSPEL REFLECTION: The Holy Spirit's Fire Transforms Us Forever by: Douglas Sousa, S.T.L.

Once the Holy Spirit transforms us, we are free to proclaim the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection of Jesus. One of the most powerful symbols used to describe the Holy Spirit is fire. It is the reason why we wear red on Pentecost. By depicting the Holy Spirit as fire, the Scriptures teach us about the effects that he has on the lives of believers. Like fire, the Holy Spirit transforms us, purifies us, and sets us aflame with love of God.

The Holy Spirit *transforms us*. Fire changes whatever it touches. Once something is burned, it cannot return to what it was. Just so, once we are sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit through baptism and confirmation, we are forever changed. We cannot undo baptism or confirmation. No matter how hard we may try to reject that gift of faith and grace, it is forever with us. Just as we write our names on the cover of a book we love, just so each of us has been marked by God as his special possession. So, we can go before God with confidence knowing that He will hear us. And if we find in our hearts something that must change, all we need to do is ask the Holy Spirit and there is no doubt we will be forever transformed by his fire.

The Holy Spirit *purifies us*. Just as we boil water to kill the bacteria in it, so the Holy Spirit's presence in our souls burns away all that is not of God. The fire of God's Spirit melts our sinful self away by giving us a love for God which makes anything that offends Him loathsome to us. This image of purifying fire also reminds us that our transformation involves some pain. We resist change and cling to our sinful habits. But as we surrender to the Holy Spirit's purifying power, we discover the peace, joy, and love that emerge once our sin is burned away.

Finally, the Holy Spirit *sets us aflame with love for God*. When we have an intense love for someone, we sometimes say we are "on fire" for that person. Or if we want something badly enough, we will say we have a "burning desire" for it. Just so, the Holy Spirit gives us a love of God that is intense and all consuming. It is the love which empowered Jesus to hand his life over for our salvation. It is the love that compelled the apostles to witness to the death and resurrection of Jesus. It is the love which today inspires people to leave their comfortable lives to serve the needy. If we are feeling dead inside, we need to give our hearts over to the presence and action of the Holy Spirit. We will find that our hearts are so engulfed with God and His love that there will not be enough hours in the day to proclaim His wonders and sing His praises.

God's saving work is not finished with the cross and resurrection. Rather He invites us to enter into the mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection by making our lives an offering to Him. He desires that each of us also share in the joy of bringing His saving word to others. The gift of the Holy Spirit which has forever marked us as God's sons and daughters empowers us to do just that. He is continually at work within us to transform us, purify us and set us on fire with love. It is ours for the asking. But watch out — there is no telling what wonders the Lord will work in our lives.

Memorial Day Prayer

Heavenly Father, we lift up in prayer today our brothers and sisters who have gone before us, sacrificing their own lives for the protection and safety of others. We are grateful for their service. May they inspire us to live selflessly in our own lives, as Christ calls us to do. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

Franciscan Common Venture is a volunteer program sponsored by the Sisters of St. Francis of Dubuque, IA. There are some upcoming opportunities in our area for persons age 21+. If interested, contact **Sr. Michelle Balek, OSF**: 563-583-9786, balekm@osfdbq.org, or visit our website: www.osfdbq.org/commonventure for a list of opportunities.

A Stewardship Moment

In the second reading today, St. Paul reminds the Corinthians, "There are different gifts, but the same Spirit, there are different ministries, but the same Lord. " How am I using my gifts for the common good?"

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,— **Cancelled this week**

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: Women's Faith Sharing, 1pm @ Sodes

June 10/11: Parish Center Open House after Masses

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