

ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: Nov. 16, 2023 ~ Rectory: 563-252-1247 ~ Fr.'s Cell: 563-258-3958 ~ www.maryicjoseph.org

LIVE THE LITURGY: **The Importance of Spiritual Preparedness**

~ source: young-catholics.com

The passages from 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6 and Matthew 25:14-30 both stress the importance of being proactive and alert in different aspects of life, especially in spirituality. 1 Thessalonians warns about the unpredictability of the "Day of the Lord," highlighting the need for preparedness. Similarly, the Parable of the Talents in Matthew advises against complacency in using one's gifts and abilities.

Both messages for this weekend encourage a state of readiness. They tell us that just as you wouldn't ignore your health or finances, you shouldn't neglect your spiritual well-being. Being "sober and alert" means you are aware of your responsibilities and are taking steps to fulfill them.

In summary, these texts prompt us to maintain a proactive approach to spiritual growth. They caution against getting too comfortable and underscore the importance of continual self-assessment and action.



PARISH LIFE will be hosting coffee, juice and donuts this **Sunday, Nov. 19** after Mass in Brinkmann Hall. Enjoy fellowship with our family of parishioners.



Fellowship

Due to various outbreaks of Covid, General Absolution of ones' sins will be given on the first weekend of December at all 3-linked parishes.

Roofing Replacement Projects

The contractor was onsite this past week and is in the process of firming up their estimate. A fundraising campaign has started and donations are being accepted. Please make checks out to St. Mary Parish and indicate Roof Project in the memo line.

MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITY

There will be an informational meeting November, 26th, after the 10 AM Mass for parents and youth on a Catholic Heart Workcamp mission trip next summer. The meeting will be held in the Parish Center. The mission trip is open to both graduating seniors this year and students entering 8th-12th grades next school year. Contact Katey Simon at youthministry@smic.pvt.k12.ia.us with any questions.

The Social Justice Committee would like to **THANK** all those who donated bibles for the inmates at the jail. A jailer commented that the bibles are read and taken home upon release. This is a corporal work of mercy that all can participate in.

Also as you begin your holiday shopping, the Social Justice Committee would like to remind you of the upcoming Christmas Clothing Mission/Giving Tree. More info to come.

Mass Schedule: Nov 20 – Nov 26, 2023

Mon., Nov 20: [No Mass Scheduled]

Tues., Nov 21: 8:30 A.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Thanksgiving Mass

Dec'd of Kainz/Koopmann Families

Wed., Nov 22: 8:30 A.M. – Guttenberg River Living Center
Elmer Oberbroeckling & People of the Parish

Thur., Nov 23: 8:30 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg
Thanksgiving Mass

Dec'd of Bries/Goerd Families

Fri., Nov 24: [No Mass Scheduled]

Sat., Nov 25: Vigil of Feast of Christ the King
4:00 P.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Bert Behrend & Glenn Berns

5:30 P.M.—St. Mary, Guttenberg
Sherrie Westemeier & Donna Balk

Sun., Nov 26: Feast of Christ the King
8:30 A.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista
10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass, **Live Streamed**
Dec'd of Kann/Kolker Families

In today’s Gospel an important man has invested in his servants. He gives them money to care for while he is away. Two of the servants invest the money and can give back more than they were given when their master returns. One servant, afraid of losing the money, buried it to protect it and so was able to give the master exactly what he had been entrusted with. The two with a good return on the investment are understandably rewarded. Their master praises their resourcefulness and trusts them with greater responsibility after their good job. The servant who returns his coin intact, however, is not praised. He is reprimanded for not increasing his wealth. The others doubled the money, and this guy didn’t. He thought he would be praised for not losing the money, but that was the base line. Returning the coins was the least he could do. He didn’t show any initiative. He didn’t go above and beyond. The others took a risk. If their investments had not paid off, they might have ended up with less money, or even none of the money they were given. That would be bad. The third servant was afraid of such a situation and chose to take the safer route and preserve the money so he wouldn’t have to explain a potential loss to his boss. If he got in trouble for returning the exact amount, what would have happened if he had lost the money?

And of course we are those servants. What will we do with what God has given us? Will we hide our light under a bushel, or will we make the best use of our talents and give back more than we have been given. Preserving our lives is the least we can do. The best we can do is to appreciate and take advantage of what has been entrusted to us. We can use our hearts and minds to give glory to god and to help each other. We can be like the wife in the first reading who takes her husband’s love and gives back even more. We should be like the enterprising servants who take a risk, but return even more than they were given. Life is risky and uncertain, but we need to actively do our very best. And we have to act now. We can’t hide our light. We can’t bury our talents. We don’t know when the master will return and when we will be held to account. Will we waste our lives, or use our talents to make a greater return to God?

What’s Happening in Faith Formation . . .

- The 3rd grade Faith Formation class has been learning about kindness and recently visited the residents of the River Living Center. They gave each a care bag and prayed with them. The residents really appreciated this!
- Our parish is blessed to have three new Mass servers to assist at Mass. Congratulations to **Bradley Schroeder, Wyatt Parker and Emmitt Bockenstedt.**
- Please see the Faith Formation tab on our website for pictures of the Mass servers, Youth Mass, Trunk or Treat And Living Center visits.

A Stewardship Moment
 Good stewards are like the industrious and reliable servants in today’s Gospel, prudently using and multiplying the gifts entrusted to them by God.

Festival of Trees—Friends of St. Mary

The Convent is open after Masses for viewing trees and placing bids. The final day for bids will be Sunday, Nov 26 at 2pm. There will also be a soup and sandwich luncheon that day served after Mass. All proceeds will go toward preserving the convent. Contact Nancy Nuehring at 563-880-0280 or clay.nancy4@live.com with questions.



Upcoming Parish Events . . .
 (BH is Brinkmann Hall; PC is Parish Center)
 Nov 11-26: Festival of Trees, Convent, After Masses
 Nov 19: Coffee/Donuts after Mass, BH
 Nov 26: Friends of St. Mary, Soup and Sandwich lunch after Mass and 2pm bidding closes on trees. Decorating of Church, after Mass
 Mission Trip Information Mtg, after Mass, PC
 Dec 5: CDA Mtg, Noon, Brinkmann Hall
 KC Mtg; 7:30pm
 Dec 6: Faith Formation, 6pm
 Dec 13: Faith Formation, 6pm

Decorating the Church



Volunteers are sought to help decorate our church for the Advent and Christmas season after the 10am Mass on November 26th. There will be boxes to carry, some heavy lifting and ladders to climb, so women, men, young adults are all needed. Opportunity to earn service hours. Call Lora Kolker for more info: 563-880-9111.

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

Priest: Rev. Marvin J. Bries, 563-252-1247
 Deacon: James Pfaffly, 563-880-9696
 Faith Formation: Erin Schmelzer, 563-880-7471
 Parish Life: Lois Bries, 563-252-3026
 Stewardship/Liturgy: Sue Bahls, 563-252-3253
 Social Justice: Gerald Bormann, 563-419-6967
 Choir: Gina Dahlstrom-Osburn, 563-213-9021

Finance:
 Jim Schlueter
 563-252-1490
 Steve Bahls
 Marv Althoff
 Jeff Burr
 Al Schlueter
 Tom Augustyn

Parish Council:
 Don Scherbring
 563-252-1556
 Gerald Bormann
 Lois Bries
 Sue Bahls
 Adam Scherbring

Parish Center: Lora Kolker, 563-880-9111
 Parish Center Reservations: 563-252-1577
 Knights: Adam Scherbring, 563-880-3808
 St. Anne: Maggie Schlueter, 563-252-1490
 Cath Daughters: Lois Bries: 563-252-3026
 Prayer Line: Betty Evers, 563-252-1666
 Friends of St Mary: Jane Parker, 563-880-5469