

# ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: Nov 17, 2022 ~ Rectory: 563-252-1247 ~ Fr.'s Cell: 563-258-3958 ~ www.maryicjoseph.org

**LIVE THE LITURGY Inspiration for the week:** Many make it their life's ambition to determine precisely when the world will end. By reading the signs of the times, consulting scripture, or looking to prophetic predictions that are sometimes centuries old, they claim a certain credibility in being able to do so. Is all that necessary to know? Even when his disciples pointedly ask him this question, Jesus does not directly answer. While the end will inevitably come, Jesus points out that there is a lot we need to do first: remain faithful, face persecution, endure suffering, face wars and insurrections, and give testimony. Human beings tend to focus their energies on the wrong kingdom. Consumed with all of the things we have built and seeking to preserve them, we forget that we belong to a different kingdom, the Kingdom of God.

All of the "stuff" we have constructed will be taken away. All that will remain is God's kingdom. Which kingdom do we prefer? We answer that question by honestly looking at where we invest most of our time and energy. What matters to us as we embrace a new moment or day in our lives? If our relationship with God, the strength and integrity of our souls, and the steadfastness of our character are of utmost importance, then it matters little when the physical end will come. We will have what we need to persevere, endure, and confront whatever comes our way. Jesus cautions that we do not allow ourselves to be overwhelmed or overly terrified by the agonies and disappointments of the world. Although we may be apprehensive and uncertain when faced with complex challenges, God is with us. We will receive the inspiration we need to forge ahead.

God is a God of salvation and new beginnings. Whether we consider the daily unfolding of our earthly lives or our eternal ones to come, God never leaves us with dead ends. There is always hope, and there is always something new to come. As Julian of Norwich reminds us, "God made us, God loves us and God keeps us." This wisdom holds true whether life is stable and profitable or challenging and uncertain. If we remember this simple truth, we will be ready regardless of the day or the hour. ©LPi

**Mon., Nov. 21 – Special Joint Meeting**  
with St. Mary of Guttenberg Parish  
Pastoral Council & Finance &  
Administration Committee – 6:30 P.M. –  
Held in Brinkmann Hall – final closure  
details of SMIC School System.

The officers of St Anne's are inviting all women of our parish to a Christmas Gathering/ Meeting on Tuesday December 6 at 7 P.M. in Brinkman Hall. We will have light refreshments and a short program presented by Wendy Shea, Carol Hartman and Janet Happel on their recent Pilgrimage to Italy. So many women of our parish give so freely of their time in our St. Anne's ministry roles and we thank you! For you and those who don't know what we are all about, come and spend the evening in friendship and fellowship!

**A note from the choir director:**

St. Mary's adult choir is looking to expand for the Christmas Season. Please consider joining us for singing in the loft and downstairs on occasion. We are also actively searching for pianists or organists for rehearsals and Masses. Contact Gina Dahlstrom-Osburn 563 213 9021

## Mass Schedule: November 21 – November 27, 2022

**Mon., Nov 21:** [No Mass Scheduled]

**Tues., Nov 22:** 8:30 A.M. —St. Joseph, Garnavillo  
*Dec'd of Koopman/Kainz Fam.*

**Wed., Nov 23:** **Vigil of Thanksgiving Day**  
5:30 P.M. - St. Mary, Guttenberg  
*People of the Parish*

**Thur., Nov 24:** **Thanksgiving Day**  
8:30 A.M. - Guttenberg River Living Center  
*Dec'd of Bries/Goerdts Fam.*

**Fri., Nov 25:** [No Mass Scheduled]

**Sat., Nov 26:** **Vigil of First Sunday of Advent**  
4:00 P.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo  
*Elaine/Carol/& LeeAllen Troester*  
5:30 P.M.—St. Mary, Guttenberg  
*People of the Parish*

**Sun., Nov 27:** **First Sunday of Advent**  
8:30 A.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista  
10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass, Live Streamed  
*Lawrence & Adeline Hoeger*

## **GOSPEL REFLECTION: Christ is King!**

Happy Solemnity of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe! This is the last Sunday of the Church year which means we focus on the final and glorious things to come! It also means that next Sunday is already the First Sunday of Advent.

When we say Jesus is a king, we mean a few things. First, He is our Shepherd. As our Shepherd He desires to lead us personally as a loving father would. He wants to enter our lives personally, intimately and carefully, never imposing Himself but always offering Himself as our guide. The difficulty with this is that it's very easy for us to reject this kind of kingship. As King, Jesus desires to lead every aspect of our lives and lead us in all things. He desires to become the absolute ruler and monarch of our souls. He wants us to come to Him for everything and to become dependent upon Him always. But He will not impose this sort of kingship upon us. We must accept it freely and without reservation. Jesus will only govern our lives if we freely surrender ourselves over. When that happens, though, His Kingdom begins to become established within us! And through us in the world.

Additionally, Jesus does wish for His Kingdom to begin to be established in our world. First and foremost this takes place when we become His sheep and thus become His instruments to help convert the world. However, as King, He also calls us to establish His Kingship by seeing to it that His truth and law is respected within civil society. It's Christ's authority as King that gives us the authority and duty as Christians to do all we can to fight civil injustices and bring about a respect for every human person. All civil law ultimately gains its authority from Christ alone since He is the one and only Universal King.

But many do not recognize Him as King, so what about them? Should we "impose" God's law upon those who do not believe? The answer is both yes and no. First, there are some things we cannot impose. For example, we cannot force people to go to Mass each Sunday. This would hinder one's freedom to enter into this precious gift. We know Jesus requires it of us for the good of our souls, but it must still be embraced freely. However, there are some things that we must "impose" upon others. The protection of the unborn, poor and vulnerable must be "imposed." The freedom of conscience must be written into our laws. The freedom to practice our faith openly (religious liberty) within any institution must be "imposed" also. And there are many other things we could list here. What's important to point out is that, at the end of all time, Jesus will be returning to Earth in all His glory and He will then establish His permanent and unending Kingdom. At that time, all people will see God as He is. And His law will become one with "civil" law. Every knee will bend before the great King and all will know the truth. At that time, true justice will reign and every evil will be corrected. What a glorious day that will be!

Reflect, today, upon your own embrace of Christ as King. Does He truly govern your life in every way? Do you allow Him to have complete control over your life? When this is done freely and completely, the Kingdom of God is established in your life. Let Him reign so that you can be converted and, through you, others can come to know Him as Lord of all!

*source: mycatholic.life*

### **Gospel reflection questions:**

**Nov. 20 — Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**

*Luke 23:35-43:* As we celebrate the last Sunday of the Church year, we hear a story about Jesus' great love. When he was suffering and dying, he reached out in love to the man we now call "the good thief." Jesus promised him eternal life in heaven.

**What does this Gospel say about Jesus and forgiveness?**

PARISH LIFE will be hosting coffee, juice, milk and donuts on **Dec. 4, 2022 after 10am Mass**. Come and socialize with our faith community.

The "**ADVENT & CHRISTMAS**" booklets are available at the entry ways of church. Advent begins Sunday Nov. 27th.

### **A Stewardship Moment**

Today we celebrate Christ the King and are reminded that all was created through Him and for Him. Does my stewardship of the blessings entrusted to me give evidence that Christ is Lord of my life?

### **PRAYER**

Living God, We long for your love in our hearts.  
This world has left us cold and alone.  
Fill us with the life that only you can give.  
Call our name, and we will run to you.  
Pick us out from the midst of the crowd,  
And we will welcome you.  
Tell us what we must do to bring you into our homes,  
And we will do it. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**SCRIP:** We need your help in closing out the SCRIP inventory that remains at Peoples State Bank. Available: Essers, Kwik Star and Subway. Thank you in advance for your help!

### **Upcoming Parish Events . . . .**

Dec 4 Coffee/Donuts after Mass  
Dec 6: CDA Mtg at Noon in Monona  
St. Anne's Mtg/Christmas gathering, 7pm, BH  
KC Mtg, 7:30 pm  
Dec 7: Faith Formation, 6 pm  
Youth Ministry, 6:15 pm  
Dec 14: Faith Formation, 6 pm  
Youth Ministry, 6:15 pm

Please note the parish office/secretary has a new email address. It is: **OfficeOfStMary@gmail.com**  
Please begin using this email address.