

ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: Nov. 18, 2021

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LIVE THE LITURGY Inspiration for the week:

Giving

In the time of Christ, sacrifice was nothing new to the Jewish people. The Israelites were experts at sacrifice. So, after centuries of every kind of offering imaginable, what was so special about Christ's? What made it so different from the sacrifices offered by the Levitical priests for centuries before his death?

Well, to adequately answer that question would consume whole volumes. And, of course, the first and most important reason is that Christ was the son of God and the savior of the world, not a random (if "unblemished") lamb offering. It was only by the blood of Christ that we could be redeemed.

But another answer is this: Christ's sacrifice cost him. In fact, it cost him everything. The offerings made by the Israelites through their priests cost them too, of course. They gave of their flocks, of their household stores, of their wealth. But Christ gave differently. He gave of himself. He gave until it was all gone.

Such is the highest form of stewardship: the gift of self to the point of discomfort. It can take a multitude of forms and I am not saying we are all called to be nailed to the cross. In fact, for most of us, our gifts will not involve physical discomfort at all. But certainly, stewardship demands discomfort. It demands that we go against our human nature of putting ourselves first, of thinking primarily of our own needs and desires. And most of all, it demands love. For that, above all else, distinguished the gift Christ gave us.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

The special edition of "**LIFE IS MESSY**," by Matthew Kelly, will be distributed after Mass on the weekend of Nov. 27 & 28. This is a holiday gift from St. Mary's Parish for all of our parishioners, promoted through St. Mary's Parish Life Committee and members of the Catholic Daughters of America. Make sure you receive this special book of "Matthew Kelly's life challenges."

St. Mary Parish Members are invited to a reception on **December 5th** after the 10am Mass to celebrate Carla Bolsinger's legacy as organist at St. Mary's Church. Please come and thank her for her lifelong music ministry and have cake and coffee in Brinkman Hall.



Mass Schedule: Nov. 22 – Nov. 28, 2021

Mon., Nov 22: [No Mass Scheduled] , Feast of St. Cecilia

Tues., Nov 23: [No Mass Scheduled]

Wed., Nov 24: Eve of Thanksgiving
4:00 P.M. St. Joseph, Garnavillo, Mass
Dec'd of Koopman/Kainz Family

Thur., Nov 25: Thanksgiving Day
9:00 A.M. - St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass
Dec'd of Bries/Goerd Family



Fri., Nov 26: [No Mass Scheduled]

Sat., Nov 27: Vigil of First Sunday of Advent
4:00 P.M. – St. Joseph, Garnavillo, Mass
People of Parish
5:30 P.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass
Carolyn Oberbroeckling

Sun., Nov 28: First Sunday of Advent
8:30 A.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista
10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass, *Live Streamed*
Vernon & Joyce Cherne

The Catholic Daughters would like to **thank** all the parishioners of the 3 linked parishes for the donations made to the Family Resource Center Food Pantry. \$1400 was donated!

Invitation to all ladies of St. Mary: Catholic Daughters invite you to their Dec. 7 luncheon at Noon in Brinkmann Hall followed by a meeting and their annual white elephant silent auction. Proceeds will go to our local family resource center for children's Christmas gifts.

The KCs would like to thank all who supported the breakfast this past weekend !!

SPECIAL NOTE: From the Desk of the Archbishop

"I encourage everyone to get the covid-19 vaccine shots for your safety and the safety of others."

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Recognizing the King

Jesus' kingship is altogether different.

As we enter in this Gospel scene, we find Pilate in a quandary in this interrogation. St. Cyril of Alexandria explains: "Having nothing at all of which to accuse him, and none of those crimes to allege against him that normally bring with them just punishment — and Pilate persisting in inquiring why they had brought him — they assert that Jesus had sinned against Caesar in assuming the dominion that Caesar had acquired over the Jews and in changing the glory of his kingdom to suit his personal aspirations." Pilate is unsatisfied with Jesus' answer, so in an effort to placate the escalating tension in the gathered crowd and to assuage the situation in the eyes of Roman hierarchs, Pilate has Jesus scourged (in the following chapter of the Gospel text). Little did he know that he was preparing Jesus for his royal presentation.

... Jesus is soon dressed in his royal wardrobe, after having been brutally tortured, and then returned to Pilate and the gathered crowd. The paradoxical sight stuns them all, as it does us yet today. We are confused at the sight of the King in his royal wardrobe precisely because we tend to view Jesus' kingship with human eyes instead of through the lens of faith. We prefer to see kings in splendid majesty, and here is Jesus bloodied and bruised. We prefer to see the pageantry of the royal court, and here is Jesus standing alone. We prefer to see our kings with an enchanting presence over the crowd, and yet, we see Jesus whose presence seems to incite a riot.

And so, when we join our question to Pilate's — "then you are a king?" (18:37) — we betray our own blindness to Jesus' kingship... Jesus' kingship is hidden in plain sight, he stood literally next to Pilate, who didn't recognize him. Many of us are probably in the same situation as Pilate, unable to recognize the kingship of Jesus: maybe it's due to a lack of faith, maybe it's due to unrepentant sin patterns, maybe it's due to unforgiveness in relationships, or maybe it's something else. Ask yourself, "What would change if I really did recognize Jesus' kingship over my life? Might things be better off? Same? Or worse?"

Br. John-Marmion Villa

St. Mary Social Justice Committee's 3rd annual CHRISTMAS CLOTHING MISSION



This year the need is greater than ever due to Covid's effect on our working and needy families.

Please select a tag from the Giving Tree in the back of church. Each tag will identify an item for a child or adult in need. After you purchase the item, please return it with the tag attached, and place it in the container at the back of church. There is no need to gift wrap.

The Giving Tree will be put up November 26. Items need to be returned by December 19. The Family Resource Center is helping us to identify and distribute the clothing.

Clothing the naked is a corporal work of mercy.

Thanksgiving Prayer: Father all-powerful, your gifts of love are countless and your goodness infinite. On Thanksgiving Day we come before you with gratitude for your kindness: open our hearts to concern for our fellow men and women, so that we may share your gifts in loving service. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



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

Saturday, Nov. 20 at St. Joseph, Garnavillo during Mass

Suraya Marianna Rose Rodenberg

daughter of David & Ashley (Wilson) Rodenberg

May you grow in age, knowledge & wisdom in the Lord!

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:

(No children's Mass this year due to covid)
Fri., Dec., 24, 4:00 P.M. - Garnavillo
6:00 P.M. - N. Buena Vista
Sat., Dec. 25, 9:00 A.M. - Guttenberg

SMIC News: After 36 years in education, with 8 of them at SMIC, our principal, Joanne Hedemann has announced she will be retiring after the 2021/2022 school year. We are actively searching for her replacement. You can help by sharing this opportunity and praying that a suitable candidate will come forth to lead our school.

A Stewardship Moment

Today's second reading reminds us that the sacrifice of Christ frees us from sin and makes us a royal nation of priests in the service of God. How am I using my gifts to serve God and others?

Upcoming Parish Events

Nov 28: Advent Begins
Dec 1: Youth Ministry, 6:15-8pm, Brinkmann Hall
Dec 5: After 10:00am Mass; Celebration of Carla's organist legacy!
Dec 7: CDA Mtg, Noon, Brinkmann Hall; all women invited!
Dec 8: Youth Ministry, 6:15-8pm, Brinkmann Hall