

ST. MARY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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

Newsletter: Nov 24, 2020

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Expectant Waiting and Preparation

Typically, we think of the Advent Season as preparing for Christmas (The coming of the Christ Child). Yes, it is that, but Advent is also so much more. Indeed, it is Expectant Waiting and Preparation for the Coming Of Christ, and that includes His coming as a result of His birth in Bethlehem (Christmas), His coming in the heart of the believer (a personal relationship), and the Return Of Christ at His Second Coming. We need to be prepared and be looking forward to all of these.

Although we predominately spend our time waiting and preparing for Christmas, the Readings for this Sunday (Nov. 29 the first Sunday of Advent) actually focus more on the other two comings of Christ. The Second Reading calls us to prepare/develop our Personal Relationship with Jesus. It calls out that as you “wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ” (read this as ... develop your personal relationship with Jesus), remember that “God is faithful, and by him you were called to fellowship (relationship) with His Son.”. This enables us to truly know Jesus and discern God’s will for our life. With regard to the First Reading as well as the Gospel, each point to being prepared for the Return Of Christ at His Second Coming. In the First Reading Isaiah says ...”Return (this is Christ’s Second Coming) for the sake of Your servants, ... that You might meet us doing right (being prepared) ...”, while the Gospel also encourages us to be prepared when it tells us to “Watch, therefore; you do not know when the time will come” (for His second Coming).

So ... This year, in our Expectant Waiting and Preparation for Christ’s coming at Christmas, lets also make sure and focus on the growth of our personal relationship with Him so that we are ready “when the Lord of the house is coming” at the end of our life.

Dear Lord: Bless us not only as we yearn to meet your Son at His coming at Christmas, but by also helping us grow in our personal relationship with Him, and through our preparedness for His Second Coming. I pray this in Jesus’ name.

Fr. Marvin Bries

SPECIAL NOTES from Father Bries:

Mass for the Holy Day of Obligation for Feast of the Immaculate Conception will be Tuesday, Dec. 8th at 8:30 A.M. at Guttenberg with 6th/7th graders.

Due to the coronavirus no individual confessions will take place during Advent. A general absolution of one’s sins will be given at the Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

LOOKING AHEAD: The last four week-ends attendance at all 3-linked parish Masses have decreased significantly because of the fear of coronavirus. Due to Fr. Koopman being unavailable to help out and Fr. Gaul at Stonehill Care Center, I have reduced the number of Masses for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Christmas Eve: 4 p.m., Garnavillo
6 p.m., N. Buena Vista

Christmas Day: 9 a.m., Guttenberg
(No children’s Masses scheduled due to the continued threat of the Covid-19 virus.)

Public Mass Schedule: Nov 30 – Dec 6, 2020

Please use sanitizer, practice social distancing & masks encouraged

Mon., Nov 30: [No Mass Scheduled], “FULL MOON”,
“Feast of St. Andrew”

Tues., Dec 1: 8:30 A.M. – St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Paul Puelz

Wed., Dec 2: 8:30 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, 6/7th Grade
Ann Olinger [Month’s Mind]

Thur., Dec 3: [No Mass Scheduled]

Fri., Dec 4: [No Mass Scheduled]

Sat., Dec 5: VIGIL OF SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
4:00 P.M. – St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Loren Mohning & Ed Burlingame
5:30 P.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg
Robert ‘Bob’ & Joan Goedken

Sun., Dec 6: SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
8:30 A.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista
10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg
Mary Lou Gulbro

Mass Readings for November 29, 2020:

Reading 1: [IS 63:16B-17, 19B; 64:2-7](#): You, LORD, are our father, our redeemer you are named forever. Why do you let us wander, O LORD, from your ways, and harden our hearts so that we fear you not? Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your heritage. Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you, while you wrought awesome deeds we could not hope for, such as they had not heard of from of old. No ear has ever heard, no eye ever seen, any God but you doing such deeds for those who wait for him. Would that you might meet us doing right, that we were mindful of you in our ways! Behold, you are angry, and we are sinful; all of us have become like unclean people, all our good deeds are like polluted rags; we have all withered like leaves, and our guilt carries us away like the wind. There is none who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to cling to you; for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us up to our guilt. Yet, O LORD, you are our father; we are the clay and you the potter: we are all the work of your hands.

Responsorial Psalm: [PS 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19](#):

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hearken, from your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth. Rouse your power, and come to save us. /R/

Once again, O LORD of hosts, look down from heaven, and see; take care of this vine, and protect what your right hand has planted the son of man whom you yourself made strong. /R/

May your help be with the man of your right hand, with the son of man whom you yourself made strong. Then we will no more withdraw from you; give us new life, and we will call upon your name. /R/

Reading II: [1 COR 1:3-9](#): Brothers and sisters: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always on your account for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus, that in him you were enriched in every way, with all discourse and all knowledge, as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you, so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will keep you firm to the end, irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia. Show us Lord, your love; and grant us your salvation. **Alleluia, alleluia.** [PS 85:8](#)

Gospel, [MK 13:33-37](#): Jesus said to his disciples: “Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: ‘Watch!’”

REMINDER: Please support the religious retirement fund. Envelope can be found in your budget box.

Archbishop Jackels Virtual Fireside Get-Together Invitation - December 9 at 6:30 pm

Pull up a chair to the virtual fireplace and join Archbishop Jackels for a family-friendly evening with warm conversation, entertainment and good cheer. Archbishop will be hosting a first ever virtual *Fireside Get-Together* on *Wednesday, December 9 from 6:30-7:30 pm*.

The evening will include scripture, reflections by Archbishop on this crazy year we’ve had, surprise musical performances and opportunity to spread Christmas cheer....and much more.

You have to register in advance at www.dbqarch.org/fireside. You’ll be emailed a special link you will use to electronically join when you sign up. “See” you there.

The 2021 Mass Missals are in the back of church. Since we are unable to have them in the pews, we invite you to take a missal home with you to use. Feel free to bring it with you to Mass and take it home with you at the end of Mass.

Upcoming Events

- Dec. 1:** KC Mtg, 7:30pm, Brinkmann Hall
- Dec. 6:** 10AM Mass aired on Channel 6 & FB
- Dec. 7:** KC Drive Thru Chili Supper; 3:30-7pm
- Dec. 9:** 6:30pm *Fireside Get-Together with Archbishop Jackels(virtual)*
- Dec. 13:** 10AM Mass aired on Channel 6 & FB

2nd Annual CHRISTMAS CLOTHING MISSION

for the needy in the Guttenberg area. 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.*



On this first Sunday of Advent we remember the hope that we have in Jesus Christ. Light the first purple candle on your advent wreath, the candle of Hope.