

ST. MARY PARISH

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

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563-252-1247

www.maryicjoseph.org

LIVE THE LITURGY Inspiration for the week: Advent Waiting by D Todd Williamson

Waiting in line can be one of two experiences. See if you identify with the examples below:

First Example: Waiting in Dread: You're standing in line at the post office or the grocery store, waiting for your turn. You're tapping your foot and keep looking at your watch. You don't want to be in this line. Before long, you begin to think, "Oh, I can't wait for this to be over!" Often times, the other people in line with you feel the same way! No one speaks to anyone else. Clearly few are enjoying the experience; the impatience or irritability you feel might even be visible on your face. Such an experience of waiting in line can seem isolating, almost lonely.

Second Example: Waiting in Excitement: Now think about the times when you waited in line at an amusement park, to buy tickets to see your favorite baseball team, or to hear your favorite band. In these instances, the waiting is much different. People are excited and you might even be talking to some of them about the ride you're getting ready to experience, the sports team that you love, or the band you're about to hear.

This second example is the kind of waiting we are called to in Advent.

Waiting in Joyful Hope: At Mass, after praying the Lord's Prayer, we hear ". . . as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ." This prayer reminds us that during Advent, we wait in joy, in hope, and in anticipation for the wonderful event we are about to experience—the feast of Christmas, the coming of Christ into our lives in new ways, the return of Christ in glory at the end of time. As the Church, we wait during Advent and look forward to celebrating the fact that God loves us so much that he sent his Son into the world to save us. This waiting is far from empty; rather, it is full of the hope that God promises us as we prepare for Christ in the feast of Christmas.

The Second Coming: During Advent, we eagerly anticipate the coming of Christ. However, we are not waiting for Jesus to be born—that event occurred over two thousand years ago. While we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus that has occurred, we also use the season of Advent to anticipate The Second Coming. When Jesus comes again, the Kingdom of God will appear in its fullness. The just will reign with Christ forever, glorified in body and soul, and the material universe will be transformed.

CHRISTMAS GIFT: If you did not receive this special book by Matthew Kelly, "**LIFE IS MESSY**," this weekend, look for it in the entry way of church. This is a gift from St. Mary's for all of the 3-linked parishes going into the Christmas season. This book is a loose collection of journal entries written by the author during very difficult times and the process of healing and becoming a stronger person. This book was promoted by the St. Mary's Parish Life Committee & Catholic Daughters of America.

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.



Sacrament of General Absolution of one's sins will take place during the Penitential Rite on the weekend of Dec. 4 & 5 at all three parishes.

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.

Mass Schedule: Nov. 29 – Dec. 5, 2021

Mon., Nov 29: [No Mass Scheduled]

Tues., Nov 30: 8:30 A.M. St. Joseph, Garnavillo, Mass
Vincent & Inez Hoeger//Amy Hoeger

Wed., Dec 1: 8:30 A.M. St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass, Gr. 3
Ann Olinger & Kathleen Bockenstedt

Thur., Dec 2: 10:00 A.M. – Guttenberg Care Center
Jackie Spielbauer & Family

Fri., Dec 3: [No Mass Scheduled], St. Francis Xavier

Sat., Dec 4: Vigil of Second Sunday of Advent
4:00 P.M. – St. Joseph, Garnavillo, Mass
Lee Smith & Eileen Walz
5:30 P.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass
Carol Schlueter

Sun., Dec 5: Second Sunday of Advent
8:30 A.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista
10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass, *Live Streamed*
Lynne Finnegan & Tom Tujetsch

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Advent Begins!

“Be vigilant at all times and pray.” [Luke 21:36a](#)

Advent begins with a call to vigilance as reflected in the passage above. There are numerous Scripture passages that call us to this vigilance and anticipation of the Lord’s coming. Being vigilant means, also, that we are prepared. We are not caught off guard. Imagine if Christmas morning came and you woke up suddenly realizing that you forgot to prepare! Imagine if you had no gifts, no food purchased and no plans were made. Of course you wouldn’t allow that to happen, but we do sometimes allow it to happen spiritually speaking. We often are not prepared to celebrate the birth of Christ within our hearts.

The first week of Advent also offers the focus of the Second Coming of Christ. Jesus will return again, in all splendor and glory, to judge the living and the dead. We profess that fact every Sunday in our Creed. So, even though Advent is a time for the preparation of the celebration of the first coming of Jesus in the flesh, it is also a time to acknowledge that His first coming is ultimately fulfilled in His final glorious coming.

As Advent begins, reflect upon how ready you are for Jesus’ coming. Are you preparing for it with the same fervor that you prepare for Christmas through shopping, cooking, decorating, etc.? Are you looking forward to that day when He will return? Are you preparing for the spiritual celebration of His birth? Are you awake and attentive to the numerous ways that God speaks to you on a daily basis?

If you find that you are not as prepared for His return in glory as you’d like to be, make this Advent a time when you get your heart ready. Commit to prayer, spiritual exercises, reflection and attentiveness to His gentle and glorious voice.

Lord, as Advent begins, help me to put my eyes on You. Help me to open my ears to Your voice. And help me to open my heart to Your glorious presence. May I be attentive to You in every way You desire to come to me. Jesus, I trust in You.

source: mycatholiclife.com

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.

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.

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

A Stewardship Moment
“Be on guard,” Jesus warns in today’s Gospel, “lest your spirits become bloated with indulgence.” Let us heed His warning and follow the advice of St. Paul, conducting ourselves in a way pleasing to God, overflowing with love for one another.

 **Soup Luncheon & Vendor Show** 
Sunday, December 5, 2021
Immaculate Conception Parish Hall, N. Buena Vista
9:00am—1pm
Chicken Noodle, Chili, Potato Soup, Turkey & Dressing
Sandwiches, sloppy joes, beverage and dessert.
Start your Christmas shopping! **Santa** arrives at 11:00am!

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 7: KC Meeting, 7:30 pm
Dec 8: Youth Ministry, 6:15-8pm, Brinkmann Hall
Dec 15: SMIC Christmas Concert, 6pm
Dec 15: Youth Ministry, 6:15-8pm, Brinkmann Hall