

ST. MARY PARISH

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

November 28, 2024 ~ Rectory: 563-252-1247 ~ Fr.'s Cell: 563-880-6017 ~ www.maryicjoseph.org

LIVE THE LITURGY: Call to Vigilance ~ St. Mary's Liturgy Committee
 Christmas is drawing near but the readings this week describe the end of the world. Christ's second coming in glory is one of the main themes of Advent, along with His arrival as an infant and His daily appearance in our lives through the Holy Spirit. The Church's call to vigilance on this First Sunday of Advent is not only for the beginning of our preparation for Christmas. It is also for all times. Christians in every age have struggled to find the Good News in "the end of the world prophecies." The end of the world is good news to people for whom the systems of the world do not function. Those who have had to sacrifice the things they need so that others can have what they want. The Church's call to vigilance this week is intended to stir up our souls with the recognition that God is always breaking into our lives when we take things for granted, beckoning us to open wide our hearts to receive Him in every sign of His love.

Important Please Read—Survey Info: St. Mary Parish, along with all parishes in the archdiocese, is participating in a **Disciple Maker Index (DMI)** survey conducted by Catholic Leadership Institute. The DMI survey is an important step leading to new mission and vision statements, and pastoral priorities. The survey assesses our unique strengths and opportunities. We are seeking as much input as possible. The survey opens on December 5. The link will be published in next week's bulletin.

Christmas Eve/Day Mass Schedule:

December 24, Christmas Eve:
 4pm, Garnavillo; 5:30pm Guttenberg
 December 25, Christmas Day:
 8:30am, N. Buena Vista; 10am, Guttenberg



Your participation matters and is vital to the future of our parish!

BAPTISM INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD & OUR COMMUNITIES OF FAITH:
 Sunday, December 1, 2024 at St. Joseph, Garnavillo, 2pm
Eriana Emily Jeanette Rodenberg
 daughter of David and Ashley Rodenberg
 May you grow in the love & wisdom of Jesus Christ!



Mass Schedule: Dec 2 – Dec 8, 2024

Choir practice will be held on December 15 and 22 after the 10am Mass. If you are interested in the choir, please plan on joining us in the choir loft!

Mon. Dec 2: [No Mass Scheduled]
Tues., Dec 3: [No Mass Scheduled]

Ministry Interest Forms: Thank you to those who have completed the ministry interest form. Completed forms may be placed in the collection basket or scan the QR code to complete online. Your talents are needed in our parish!



Wed., Dec 4: 8:30 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg
Deceased of Kann/Kolker Family
Thur., Dec 5: 10:00 A. M.—Guttenberg Care Center
Karen Wachendorf
Fri., Dec 6: 8:30 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg
Jeff Bolsinger
 9:00-9:45 A.M. — Confessions

Christmas Flowers: If you would like to donate a poinsettia in memory of loved ones or in thanksgiving, please bring to the church by Dec 15 or place a monetary donation in the collection basket. Please include the name(s) of those who you would like to remember or honor.



Sat., Dec 7: Vigil of 2nd Sunday of Advent
 4:00 P.M. Mass—St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Phyllis Berns, (Month's Mind)
 5:30 P.M. Mass—St. Mary, Guttenberg
Carol Schlueter Family

Quilts & More Fundraiser
 Sat. Nov. 30, 9am—2pm; Parish Center
 Proceeds to the Roof Fund and other community projects

Sun., Dec 8: 2nd Sunday of Advent
 8:30 A.M. Mass – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista
People of the Parish
 10:00 A.M. – Mass – St. Mary, Guttenberg, *live streamed*
People of the Parish

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Growing in Love and Holiness

source: young-catholics.com

The 1st Sunday of Advent calls us to grow in love and holiness. In the second reading, Paul prays for the Thessalonians to increase in love and to live in holiness. This message is important as we begin Advent. We are called to love more and live better lives.

Paul's prayer reminds us to focus on our relationships. Increasing in love means caring for others, helping those in need, and showing kindness. These actions reflect God's love in our lives. By loving more, we prepare our hearts for Jesus' coming.

Living in holiness means following God's teachings. It means avoiding sin and striving to do what is right. Paul urges us to live in ways that please God. This can be challenging, but it is important for our spiritual growth. Holiness helps us to be ready for Jesus.

As we start Advent, the 1st Sunday of Advent Year C encourages us to examine our lives. Are we growing in love? Are we living in holiness? By focusing on these themes, we can prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus and deepen our faith.



A Christmas Gift for you . . .

The **PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE** has made available at all church entrances a **FREE SPIRITUAL BOOK** for the coming holidays.

"33 DAYS to EUCHARISTIC GLORY" will take you on a spiritual pilgrimage. Make sure you get your **FREE** copy

St. Mary Social Justice Committee's 6th Annual CHRISTMAS CLOTHING MISSION

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, return it with the tag attached, and place it in the container at the back of church. *Please do not gift wrap.* Items need to be returned by Dec 15. All items collected will be given to needy families in our area. The Family Resource Center will distribute the items.



Tree will be up on Friday, Nov. 29th

Giving alms to the poor is a corporal work of mercy.

Friends of St. Mary's has pans of lasagna available for purchase through January or until sold out. Pre-ordering is not required. Lasagnas can be picked up at Sodes, Tuesday—Saturday, 7am-4pm. Funds raised will go toward installing a handicap ramp at the convent.

Thank you to all who supported the Faith Formation Rummage Sale this past weekend. Donations totaled: \$1662

Bringing the Gospel Into Your Family:

Yes, it is important to be ready for the Second Coming of Christ, but it is also important to be prepared for his arrival into every moment of every day. He may come to us through a conversation, in the form of a beggar on the streets, through the words or actions of our children, or through the kindness of a stranger. Are our hearts open to receiving him? Advent affords us the opportunity to prepare our hearts and lives for Christ's coming today, at Christmas, and at the end of all time. This Advent, open your eyes, your ears, and your heart to the coming of Christ in ordinary and extraordinary ways. [~http://www.rc1blectionary.com](http://www.rc1blectionary.com)

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.

Upcoming Parish Events . . .

(BH is Brinkmann Hall; PC is Parish Center)

- Dec 1: Advent Begins
Patriotic Rosary, 5:30pm
- Dec 2: Parish Council, 6:30pm, PC
- Dec 3: CDA Meeting, Noon in Monona
KC Meeting, 7:30pm
- Dec 4: Sacred Seed Sowers Book Club, 1pm, PC
Faith Formation Classes, 6pm
- Dec 11: Faith Formation Classes, 6pm
- Dec 18: Sacred Seed Sowers Book Club, 1pm, PC

Priest: Fr. Paul Kwaku Ameyaw, 563-880-6017
Deacon: James Pfaffly, 563-880-9696
Faith Formation: Erin Schmelzer, 563-880-7471
Youth Ministry: Katey Simon, 563-219-4129
Parish Life: Lois Bries, 563-252-3026
Stewardship/Liturgy: Sue Bahls, 563-252-3253
Social Justice: Gerald Bormann, 563-419-6967
Choir:
Secretary: Lisa Kies, 563-880-1946; officeofstmary@gmail.com

Finance:
Jim Schlueter
563-252-1490
Marv Althoff
Jeff Burr
Tom Augustyn
Sharon Keehner
Austin Greve

Parish Council:
Gerald Bormann
Lois Bries
Jim Schlueter
Adam Scherbring
Larry Wille
Beth Sadewasser
Jessie Young

Parish Center: Lora Kolker, 563-880-9111
Parish Center Reservations: 563-252-1577
Knights: Dale Wille, 309-232-9476
St. Anne: Maggie Schlueter, 563-252-1490
Cath Daughters: Janet Happel: 319-530-9121
Prayer Line: Betty Evers, 563-252-1666
Friends of St Mary: Jane Parker, 563-880-5469
St. Mary Alumni: Pat Kolker, 563-880-9815
Phoebe Johnson: 563 880-4767

Stephen Ministry: Becky Shaffer, 319-393-1234