

ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: Sept 01, 2022 ~ Rectory: 563-252-1247 ~ Fr.'s Cell: 563-258-3958 ~ www.maryicjoseph.org

LIVE THE LITURGY Inspiration for the week: Chancing the Narrow Gate

From doctors to counselors, anthropologists to schoolteachers, it seems like everyone has their own parenting style to peddle, guaranteeing it will result in a happy and well-adjusted kid.

You've got "gentle parenting," predicated on respect for the child's feelings and needs. You've got "attachment parenting," based on the belief that kids need time to adjust to being outside of the womb. You've got "free-range parenting," where self-sufficiency reigns supreme.

But of all the parenting approaches I've come across, I've never encountered a philosophy that rejects discipline altogether. There are lots of conflicting opinions on how best to administer that discipline, but I've never heard any parent or parenting "expert" worth their salt say that a mother or father should completely ignore misbehavior that threatens the well-being of the child himself.

Discipline is in our human DNA. Consider for a moment what the world would look like if it came to be filled with people who had never been taught to reflect on their life challenges. People who bristled at the suggestion of personal growth.

And yet we become this way with God. Even the most "devout" among us shy away from occasions of divine constructive criticism. We avoid confession and forego daily examinations of conscience. We keep things superficial in our prayer life, avoiding depth of heart and real intimacy with God, afraid of what He will speak to us.

But when we do this, we rob ourselves of an opportunity to rely on God's fatherly strength, to rest in His mercy, to fill ourselves up with His goodness. We're putting up our hands, saying: "No thanks, Father, I'm good. You can keep your discipline. You can keep your grace." When we do this, we are making a beeline for the "narrow gate," sure of our own strength and ability to pass through it. All I can say is this, proceed at your own peril. Are you so sure of yourself?— *Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS*

Buenie Family Picnic,

Sunday, September 4, 2022

Chicken and Ham Dinner, Country Store, Silent Auction, Kids Games, Meat Wheel. Fun and Games for the Entire Family!

HIPPA – Right of Privacy has become stricter in regards to me as pastor. I cannot go to the hospital front desk and ask if any Catholics are patients there. You need to tell the nurse that you want your pastor to visit you in the hospital or at home.

Fall Fundraiser Information

Silent Auction: Bidding in person/online: August 27 thru Sept 11 at 12:00 noon. If you are bidding online, be sure to get a confirmation of your bid, since we are not always available online. You can also give your phone number online, so we can contact you if your bid is accepted. Church basement will be open on Saturdays from 5:00 to 6:30 pm and Sundays from 9:30 am to 11:30 am.

Cash Raffle/Donations: Each \$100 will buy a ticket for a chance to win four cash prizes of \$500 each. Drawing: Sept. 11, after the 10:00am Mass. Tickets can be purchased now or donations made (*checks to St. Mary Fall Festival and indicate Tickets or Donation*) and drop in the collection basket.

Mass Schedule: September 5, – September 11, 2022

Mon., Sept 5: [No Mass scheduled]

Tues., Sept 6: 8:30 A.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Ann Olinger & Kathleen Bockenstedt

Wed., Sept 7: 8:30 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg
People of the Parish

Thur., Sept 8: – 8:30 A.M. – Guttenberg River Living Center
"Nativity of BVM"; *Fran Troester (Anniv.)*

Fri., Sept 9: [No Mass Scheduled]

Sat., Sept 10: Vigil of 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:00 P.M.—St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Marion & Darwin Moses
5:30 P.M.—St. Mary, Guttenberg
Carolyn Oberbroeckling

Sun., Sept 11: 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:30 A.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista
10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass, **Live Streamed**
Arthur Herman

**** Fall Fundraiser Donations/Tickets Amount to date is: \$9600 ****

GOSPEL REFLECTION: The Prayer of an Earthen Shelter

“This one began to build but did not have the resources to finish.” – Luke 14:30

If I had to choose one of the Bible’s 31,102 verses to have inscribed on my tombstone, it would be Luke 14:30.

As a companion piece, my obituary could tell the story of my life through the list of projects I never finished. Swimming lessons in preschool. Piano in the sixth grade. Every journal I’ve ever tried to keep. That trip to Europe. The house my husband and I designed and never built. My life is littered with these unfinished projects, races for which I could not make it across the finish line. Whether it was strength, interest, money, or something else, I just didn’t have “it.” I came up short.

And these are just the literal examples. Every day, I am compelled to begin building what I feel inadequate to finish. I wake up so tired, but the day must start. I don’t have enough time or inspiration, but my work must be turned in. My patience is long gone, but the children must be parented.

I am writing this at 7:13 in the morning, and already my mind is racing through the tasks I must complete this day, tallying up my strength against the job and finding it insufficient. My earthen shelter is weighed down by many concerns.

When my first child was an infant and I was adjusting to the demands of working motherhood, I got into the habit of beginning each day by inviting God into my weakness. This sounds like a pious spiritual practice, but it isn’t. It’s a prayer born from desperation. It’s not poetic and it wouldn’t look pretty on the back of any holy cards. Here it is: “Lord, I have no idea how I’m going to make it through this day. I assume you have some ideas. Let’s go with those ideas.”

When I read of Christ’s admonition to renounce our earthly possessions, I think of this clumsy prayer. My anxieties, my fears, my expectations — these are my possessions, and I cling to them like a child clings to an old, smelly blanket. My stamina, my abilities, my insight, my good intentions — these are also my possessions, but I don’t have enough of them. I never have. I never will.

When I was younger, I learned to ride horses. The thing you have to accept about horseback riding is that the animal does not need to listen to you. He chooses to, and there will come a time when he chooses *not* to. He will be spooked by something and take off at a gallop you never intended, or he will become irritated and begin to buck you from his back. I learned that if you try to control the horse in his mania, you will almost certainly be thrown. The only way to stay in the saddle is to take a deep breath and become small on the back of the beast while he thrashes. Recognize the strength of the horse and melt into it. Accept it. Cling to it. Renounce control.



MATTHEW

The King and His Kingdom

24 Session Scripture Study by Jeff Cavins

Tuesday Mornings, 8:30am or
Thursday Evenings, 6:30pm

Starting 9/27 & 9/29 in Brinkmann Hall

(6 sessions this fall; next 6 sessions start
Feb 2023, completion Spring 2024)

Cost \$30.00. Information sheets in the
entry way of church. Call Jerry Balk at
563-252-2361 or 563-580-4539 for more
information and to sign up. Please sign up
soon so study books can be purchased
and distributed prior to first session.

A Stewardship Moment

Jesus tells the crowd that only those who renounce all of their possessions can be His disciples. Is He truly asking us to give up everything? Perhaps instead He is trying to help us see that everything we think we own is really a gift from God. Good stewards know that and strive to use those gifts accountably.

It’s a feeling of vulnerability and fear that quickly turns to calm strength as the episode passes, the horse settles, and you find yourself still seated in the saddle, knuckles white around the reins.

It’s the same feeling I have every morning when I sit and take stock of my life and myself and acknowledge that I don’t have it — whatever “it” is. And I turn my empty palms to God, saying: fill me at daybreak. Turn me back to dust. Prosper the work of my hands. Make straight my paths.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman, ~LPi

Ramp Blessing: The handicap ramp is completed! We will have a blessing of the ramp on Sept. 18 after the 10:00 am Mass. There will be coffee and donuts following. We will have more information next week.

Fr. Bries’ cell phone number for emergencies is: 563-258-3958. Please use this number when spiritual blessings are needed and Father is not in the rectory(563-252-1247).

Upcoming Parish Events (BH = Brinkmann Hall)

Aug 27-Sept 11: Silent Auction Bidding, before/after Masses

Sept 6: CDA Meeting, Noon, Brinkmann Hall
KC Meeting, 7:30 pm

Sept 11: Fall Fundraiser Drawing; Four \$500 prizes to be given out;
Silent Auction bidding ends at Noon!

Please submit newsletter items by Tuesday night to: churchlady@smic.pvt.k12.ia.us