

ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: Sept 2, 2021

563-252-1247

www.maryicjoseph.org

LIVE THE LITURGY Inspiration for the week:

BE STRONG, FEAR NOT. We really need to hear those words from Isaiah, don't we? There are so many things that cause our hearts to be frightened these days. Spending time in the Word realigns our eyes and ears and hearts. Isaiah preaches Here is your God...He comes to save you. Again, his words are for us today! When Jesus heals the deaf man in the Gospel, he exclaimed Ephphatha! Be opened! You're not open if you spend more time in fear, missing the signs of God all around you. Every act of kindness someone extends (or that you extend), a baby's smile, each heartwarming story shared, all blessings, flowers blooming, a butterfly emerging from a chrysalis, all these are reminders for us to be open to God at work in our lives. Fear not. Ephphatha.

UPDATE ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2021-2022: A letter will be sent home to the children's parents via Facebook on SMIC zoom site later in September. **Since we cannot get catechists to teach your children on Wednesday nights it will be a homeschooling situation** except for 2nd grade and 7th & 8th graders which will meet on Wednesday nights during Advent and Lent to prepare them for First Confession/Communion and Confirmation for respective grades. **We need someone to volunteer to teach 2nd graders on those Wednesday nights in Advent and Lent.** Please call SMIC secretary - Erin Schmelzer at 252-1577. Fr. Bries will prepare 7th/8th graders for Confirmation. **Also 7th/8th graders need to attend Youth Ministry sessions apart from Confirmation on Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in St. Mary's Church in Guttenberg.** Keep in mind that a Confirmation sponsor cannot be a parent but a practicing Catholic and confirmed adult. Parents of other grades will pick up quarterly packet for their child/children some time in later September. More info to follow in the bulletin and the Guttenberg Press.

Fall Festival Fundraiser

Purchase tickets(\$100ea) for a chance to win one of four \$500 prizes or make donations:

*online at <https://maryicjoseph.weshareonline.org/>

* put money in an envelope in the weekend collection marked **Festival-Tickets or Festival—Donation**, or *send money to St Mary Church, PO Box 847; Guttenberg, IA 52052

(make checks out to St. Mary Fall Festival and mark Tickets or Donation)

Current balance: **\$19565**; goal is \$26,000; thank you for your generosity!

Silent Auction/Craft Fair

Brinkmann Hall — Open Sat/Sun after Mass on Sept 4/5; 11/12 and 18/19. Also online bidding available for silent auction at facebook.com/maryicjoseph

St. Mary Crafters will have an area setup in Brinkmann Hall where they will be selling craft items. Check it out while you browse the Silent Auction Items! Open Saturday/ Sunday after Mass, Sept 4/5, Sept 11/12 and Sept 18/19

Public Mass Schedule: Sept 6 – Sept 12, 2021

Mon., Sept 6: [No Mass Scheduled]

Tues., Sept 7: 8:30 A.M. – St. Joseph, Garnavillo, Mass
Margaret Schlueter & Kathleen Neylan

Wed., Sept 8: 8:30 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass, 4th Grade.
Dick Andregg & Annie Ries

Thur., Sept 9: 8:30 A.M. – Guttenberg River Living Center
Harold Mueller & Shirley Kann

Fri., Sept 10: [No Mass Scheduled]

Sat., Sept 11: Vigil of Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Time
4:00 P.M. – St. Joseph, Garnavillo, Mass
Leon Berns

5:30 P.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass
Fran Troester & Sherrie Casey

Sun., Sept 12: Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:30 A.M. – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista

10:00 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg, Mass, *Live Streamed*
Laura Wille (Month Mind)

Buenie Picnic, Immaculate Conception Church, N. Buena Vista,
Sunday, Sept 5, Carryout Chicken Dinner 11-3pm, \$15
Country Store and Silent Auction
UTV Raffle

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Be Opened! “*Ephphatha!*”— that is, “Be opened!” [Mark 7:34b](#)

These are powerful words. Why are they powerful? They are powerful because they are more than words. They are words that actually accomplish what they say. These words are spoken by Jesus after the deaf man is brought to Him with the request for healing. By saying the command “Be opened!”, the deaf man’s ears are opened and his speech impediment is removed.

When Jesus speaks, His word changes things. This is true in this story, but it is also true in our lives. We all are deaf and struggle with a speech impediment in the sense that we do not always hear the voice of God and we do not always speak His word and words of charity. For that reason, these words of Jesus must be spoken to us. We must let Him take us off to a quiet place alone and speak to us. We must let Him say those words to us. “*Ephphatha!*—Be opened!”

What is it that you are not hearing properly? What is it God has been saying to you for a long time that you refuse to hear? What is it you have allowed yourself to become deaf to? Let our Lord open the “ears” of your heart so that you can hear all that He wishes to say to you. Once that happens, Jesus will also help you speak His words of truth and love.

Reflect, today, upon how open you are to hearing the voice of God. We all struggle at times with listening, and we especially may struggle listening to God. Spend some time alone with our Lord and let Him heal you so that you can hear and understand all that He is saying to you.

Lord, I do not always listen to You. Please speak Your words of healing to me so that I can hear You more clearly. In hearing You, may I listen to all that You have to say. Jesus, I trust in You.

source: mycatholiclife.com

From Dennis Rima of the Clarity Clinic:

I got all the envelopes counted and your parishes were **AMAZING!** The total amount received from the envelopes from all three parishes was: **\$23,185** WOW! That is just short of 20 babies saved from abortion! This is the most money your three parishes have ever raised in one of the semi-annual years. I believe the most you had raised up to this year in one year was about \$14,000. Your parishes blew that out of the water!

HUGE thank you from all of us here at the clinic. You are all a HUGE blessing to us!

Thank You ~ If you donated to the STO (School Tuition Organization) in 2020, over 3,000 students have you to thank because soon they will begin their learning, or return to their Catholic schools. Thank you for having helped families avoid the heartbreaking decision to leave the schools they love due to financial hardship. The generosity of our STO donors is being returned through the **increased 75% Iowa Income tax credit**. On 5/20/21, the state increased the credit from 65 to 75%. This increase is retroactive to Jan. 1st, 2021, meaning all donations earn the more significant credit this calendar year. Here is a recent Op Ed published in the Dubuque Telegraph Herald about this credit. <https://bit.ly/3qTXRrU> If you’ve already decided to donate to the STO, please do so early to ensure tax credits are still available. Your early contributions also help the STO make plans for our crucial end of year campaign push. Should you have questions about the Our Faith STO, feel free to reach out to atb.zeman@dbqarch.org. Thank you for your vital support of the Church, Catholic education, and the Our Faith STO.

Prayer Line: Do you know that we have an active prayer line? If you or someone you know is in need of special prayers(ie, upcoming surgery, heart attack, terminal illness, etc), we have a group of parishioners at St. Mary who pray for your special needs. Please contact Betty Evers, 563-252-1666 or Fr. Bries, 563-252-1247. Betty will then start the prayer chain and soon many people will be praying for you. Also, if you are interested in being a prayer warrior, please contact Betty.

Upcoming Parish Events

- Sept 5: Buenie Picnic
- Sept 4/5: St. Mary Silent Auction & Craft Fair, Brinkmann Hall; Saturday/Sunday after Mass
- Sept 7: CDA Mtg, Noon at St. Patrick’s in Monona
- Sept 7: KC Meeting, 7:30 pm , Brinkmann Hall
- Sept 11/12: St. Mary Silent Auction & Craft Fair, Brinkmann Hall; Saturday/Sunday after Mass
- Sept 12: Festival Drawing after 10:00 am Mass**
- Sept 18/19: St. Mary Silent Auction & Craft Fair, Brinkmann Hall; Saturday/Sunday after Mass
- Sept 19: Silent Auction bidding closes at Noon.

A Stewardship Moment

The good steward must not show favoritism. The rich may have many material gifts to share, but St. James reminds us in the second reading that God has chosen the world’s poor to be rich and inheritors of God’s kingdom.

FOOD PANTRY THIS WEEKEND: Collection after communion. If writing a check please make it out to GMHC Resource Center. The bank is very strict about who check is made out to.