

ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: Apr 18, 2024 ~ Rectory: 563-252-1247 ~ Fr.'s Cell: 563-258-3958 ~ www.maryicjoseph.org

LIVE THE LITURGY: Children of God

source: *Larry Gillick, S.J.; Creighton.edu*

So as to be more available to the graces of the Scriptures, imagine Jesus' standing on the fringe of a crowd which is confronting Peter and John who are behind bars. Nobody in the crowd recognizes Jesus; they are so intent on listening to Peter's speech in defense of his having healed a man who was crippled.

Jesus keeps nodding in great affirmation of Peter's words and especially his confidence. You notice Jesus' enthusiasm for what is being said so you draw closer to Peter and John to catch the real meaning of his defense and just desiring to understand more clearly about what they are being accused.

We pray with our desires to belong as "children of God." We pray with the desires to believe that the Good Shepherd knows us each by name. The "in crowd" is defined by Jesus and we pray to experience our being included. Faith is not easy in our "prove-it-to-me" world. Peter and John lived their belief in the rising of Jesus and the healing power that gave to them for the service of others. We pray during these Easter days not only to believe, but trust the power the resurrection gives us to be healed and extend that healing in service of others.

From the desk of the Pastor:

I will be retiring July 9, 2024 and the Archbishop has assigned Rev. Paul Kwaku Ameyaw, on loan from the Diocese of Techiman, Ghana, as pastor of our three linked parishes.



BAPTISM INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD & OUR COMMUNITIES OF FAITH:

Sat., April 20, 2024 at St. Joseph, Garnavillo, during Mass

Sloane Clara Clefisch

daughter of Luke & Amanda (Mueller) Clefisch

May you grow in the love & wisdom of Jesus Christ!

PARISH LIFE will be hosting coffee, juice and donuts this Sunday after Mass in Brinkmann Hall. All are welcome!



Fellowship

Mass Schedule: Apr 22 – Apr 28, 2024

Mon., Apr 22: [No Mass Scheduled]

Tues., Apr 23: 8:30 A.M. – St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Janaan Bauer & Mary Jane Steger

Wed., Apr 24: 8:30 A.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg
Ann Olinger & Kathleen Bockenstedt

Thur., Apr 25: 8:30 A.M. – Guttenberg River Living Center
Amy (Steffen) Clay & Bernice Haas

Fri., Apr 26: [No Mass Scheduled]

Sat., Apr 27: Vigil of Fifth Sunday of Easter
4:00 P.M. Mass—St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Louis III & Amy Matt
5:30 P.M. Mass—St. Mary, Guttenberg
Carol Schlueter Family

Sun., Apr 28: Fifth Sunday of Easter
8:30 A.M. Mass – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista
People of the Parish
10:00 A.M. – Mass – St. Mary, Guttenberg, *live streamed*
Frank & Jane Elsinger

Bringing the Gospel Into Your Family:

Today is a day to give thanks to the shepherds! Invite family members to talk about the good shepherds in their lives and in your family's life. Write thank-you notes, email, call or text these people this week and let them know how important they are in your faith life!



Roof Replacement Project

\$425,646 estimated cost



Paid out of parish funds: \$159,203

Donations: \$53,620

The 4th Sunday of Easter invites us to reflect on Jesus Christ's role as the Good Shepherd, a theme beautifully unveiled in the Gospel reading. This imagery is not just a metaphor but a deep revelation of Christ's sacrificial love and commitment towards us. Unlike a hired hand who might flee at the first sign of danger, Jesus stands firm, ready to lay down His life for His sheep. This act of ultimate sacrifice is a testament to the depth of His care and concern for us. It's a love that goes beyond duty or obligation. Jesus wants to be our shepherd, guiding us, protecting us, and leading us to pastures of eternal life.

In today's readings, we are invited to contemplate the nature of this sacrifice. It's a voluntary offering from Jesus, not coerced or done grudgingly but out of a boundless love for humanity. He emphasizes that He lays down His life willingly, with the power to take it up again. This authority and voluntary sacrifice underline the divine mission and the profound love Jesus has for us, highlighting His unique role in God's salvific plan.

St. Mary Immaculate Conception School Celebration

Anyone who has ever attended St. Mary's school is invited!

Saturday, June 8, 2024, Brinkmann Hall
Mass @ 5:30pm; Social Hour begins at 6:15pm
Dinner at 7pm. Tickets are \$20; payable at the door



Reservations Due by **Friday, May 31, 2024** to
Austin Greve, 563-880-3899, agreve@alpinecom.net ;
Pat Kolker, 563-880-9815 or Phoebe Johnson, 563-880-4767

WHO ARE STEPHEN MINISTERS?

People trained to listen and support men and women facing a life change - grief, cancer, divorce, financial difficulties, hospitalization, chronic illness, job loss, disability, loneliness, a spiritual crisis, or other life struggles. With compassionate hearts for those who are hurting, they're trained and equipped with 50 hours of caring ministry skills by Stephen Leaders. Typically they have one care receiver at a time and meet once a week to listen, care, pray, encourage, and offer *confidential* and non-judgmental support.

Becky Shaffer, 319-393-1234

COMMUNITY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024

“Scuba: Diving into Friendship with God”

Monday, June 10 through Friday, June 14, 2024, 8am - Noon

REGISTRATION DEADLINE – Wednesday, May 1st

COST:\$10 – payable WITH the Registration form, checks payable to Community VBS.

Registration forms available at the back of church.

Priest: Rev. Marvin J. Bries, 563-252-1247
Deacon: James Pfaffly, 563-880-9696
Faith Formation: Erin Schmelzer, 563-880-7471
Parish Life: Lois Bries, 563-252-3026
Stewardship/Liturgy: Sue Bahls, 563-252-3253
Social Justice: Gerald Bormann, 563-419-6967
Choir: Gina Dahlstrom-Osburn, 563-213-9021

Finance:
Jim Schlueter
563-252-1490
Steve Bahls
Marv Althoff
Jeff Burr
Al Schlueter
Tom Augustyn

Stephen Ministry: Becky Shaffer, 319-393-1234

Parish Council:
Don Scherbring
563-252-1556
Gerald Bormann
Lois Bries
Sue Bahls
Adam Scherbring

Parish Center: Lora Kolker, 563-880-9111
Parish Center Reservations: 563-252-1577
Knights: Adam Scherbring, 563-880-3808
St. Anne: Maggie Schlueter, 563-252-1490
Cath Daughters: Lois Bries: 563-252-3026
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

A Prayer of Joyful Thanksgiving

Based on Psalm 118

I will rejoice and sing joyfully!

Your love is infinite.

I called to you Lord, and you rescued me.

You have freed me from fear and doubt.

I was overwhelmed and there was no solution.

Everywhere I looked, I saw death.

I knew I would be destroyed.

So I called to you Lord, my only hope,

And you saved me.

I shall not die! I am alive!

Teach me to be more like you.

Make me bold in my living Lord.

May my life be my song of thanksgiving.

I will praise you everyday

And tell all the world of my gratitude.

For you have rescued me.

Amen.

A Stewardship Moment

To be good stewards we must be good shepherds, willing to lay down our lives for those committed to our care, not mere hired hands who run off, “leaving the sheep to be snatched and scattered by the wolf.”

Upcoming Parish Events . . .

(BH is Brinkmann Hall; PC is Parish Center)

Apr 21: Fellowship Sunday, Coffee and Donuts, BH

Apr 22: Parish Council & Finance Meeting; 6:30pm

May 1: Sacred Seed Sowers Book Club, 1pm, PC

Faith Formation Classes, 6pm

Confirmation & May Crowning Mass, 6:30pm

May 5: Stephen Ministry Commissioning during Mass

May 7: CDA Mtg @ Noon, BH

KC Mtg, 7:30pm

May 15: Sacred Seed Sowers Book Club, 1pm, PC

Jun 8 : St. Mary Alumni Banquet, BH

Jun 10-14: Vacation Bible School @ St. John's

Please email items for the bulletin by 7:30am Wednesday morning to OfficeOfStMary@gmail.com