

ST. MARY PARISH

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

Newsletter: Apr 25, 2024 ~ Rectory: 563-252-1247 ~ Fr.'s Cell: 563-258-3958 ~ www.maryicjoseph.org

LIVE THE LITURGY: **Bearing Fruit**

source: young-catholics.com

The Gospel for the 5th Sunday of Easter presents us with the beautiful metaphor of the vine and the branches. Jesus emphasizes the importance of remaining in Him to bear fruit. Like branches that cannot survive, let alone bear fruit when severed from the vine, our spiritual lives wither without a deep and sustaining connection to Christ. This imagery invites us to consider the nature of the fruit we're called to bear. It's not merely about individual accomplishments but about contributing to the flourishing of the whole community, to the glory of God.

Bearing fruit requires trust and drawing strength from the Lord. It involves pruning—letting go of what hinders our growth and embracing a process of spiritual refinement. This is not always comfortable, but it is necessary for growth. In the spirit of the 5th Sunday of Easter Year B, we are reminded that our efforts, grounded in faith and sustained by grace, can lead to abundant life for ourselves and for others.

2024 Confirmation Class

Please keep our confirmandi in your prayers as they prepare to receive this sacrament on Wednesday, May 1, 6:30pm.



Emmitt Bockenstedt
Maddy Breitbach
Mallory Dean
Kinley Deutmeyer
Danica Errthum
Connor Glenis
Matthew Kies
Brody McGuine
Carter Mitchell
Wyatt Parker
Nova Patzner
Stormy Patzner
Bella Ries
Kristina Roepke
Kyle Sadewasser
Wilfred Schmidt
Bradley Schroeder
Ava Vonderhaar
Rashell Westhoff
Sawyer Wille
Kolten Willenborg
Gavin Willenbring



Please join current and past Stephen Ministers during and/or after the **10:00 Mass on May 5th** to celebrate 30 years of Stephen Ministry in Guttenberg!

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



Sunday., May 5, 2024 at St. Mary, Guttenberg, after Mass

Griffen Robert Ries

10 yr old son of Andrew & Kaylee (White) Ries

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

Mass Schedule: Apr 29 – May 5, 2024

Mon., Apr 29: [No Mass Scheduled]

Tues., Apr 30: 8:30 A.M. – St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Amy Hoeger & Gerald Hoeger

Wed., May 1: 6:30 P.M. – St. Mary, Guttenberg
Confirmation Mass and May Crowning
People of the Parish

Thur., May 2: 10:00 A.M. – Guttenberg Care Center
Leon Berns & Pete Davis

Fri., May 3: [No Mass Scheduled]

Sat., May 4: Vigil of Sixth Sunday of Easter
4:00 P.M. Mass—St. Joseph, Garnavillo
Henry Mueller & Angie Berns
5:30 P.M. Mass—St. Mary, Guttenberg
Jim & Lou Kuempel

Sun., May 5: Sixth Sunday of Easter
8:30 A.M. Mass – Immaculate Conception, N. Buena Vista
Lorraine Hefel (Month's Mind)
10:00 A.M. – Mass – St. Mary, Guttenberg, *live streamed*
Anthony Mueller & Bernice Haas

Lord, You send out Your Spirit to touch the hearts of all people, so that they may believe in You and in Jesus whom You sent. Look kindly on these candidates for Confirmation as they listen to Your voice. Open their hearts to Your Spirit and bring to fulfilment the good work that You have begun in them. As we prepare these youth for Confirmation, make each of us an instrument of Your love. Teach us to appreciate what is holy in others, and to be patient with what we do not understand. Deepen our faith in the Gospel and help us to pass it on by our example. We pray that You will continue to guide us and sustain us. Amen.

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Boldness in Faith

source: young-catholics.com

We've all experienced moments of feeling like outsiders, awkwardly on the fringes of a group, unsure of our place or welcome. This experience can be profoundly isolating, highlighting our deepest insecurities and fears. Imagine, then, the daunting challenge faced by St. Paul. Following his dramatic conversion, he found himself in a precarious position. Once a fervent persecutor of Christians, he was now passionate about spreading the very faith he had tried to destroy.

The first reading captures this pivotal moment. Despite the understandable suspicion and fear from the disciples, Paul "spoke out boldly in the name of the Lord." His courage wasn't just about speaking; it was about embodying a new way of living, characterized by a radical commitment to the Gospel.

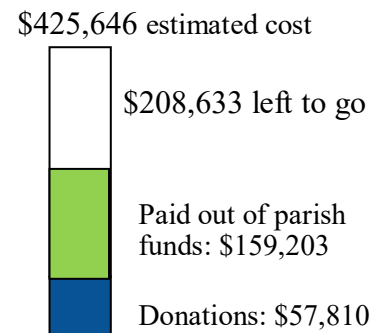
This boldness is not unique to Paul. It is a calling for all Christians, even today. Many of us shy away from actively sharing our faith, daunted by the prospect of evangelization. Yet, the early Church flourished precisely because of such boldness in both word and action. This challenges us to consider: How are we called to be bold in our faith today? How might our words and actions contribute to building up the Church and spreading the Gospel?

Bringing the Gospel Into Your Family
 Discuss with your family what you are doing to remain strong in your connection to the vine (Jesus) and to the vine grower (God the Father). Then talk about things that are happening that could potentially weaken your connection to Jesus, the vine. For example, the sports schedule is taking precedence over attending Sunday Mass and religious education classes. Or, the busy pace of weeknights has crowded out time for family prayer at the end of the day. Make a plan to re-energize your connection to the vine, and work together to accomplish the plan!

Roof Replacement Projects

We are halfway there!!! Thank you to all our donors for your continued generosity in supporting St. Mary Parish! Donations may be placed in the collection basket or made online at www.maryicjoseph.org

The roofers plan to be here the first or 2nd week of May and will be here for about a month. The remaining balance (\$212,823) will be due upon completion of the job.




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

NEW "FREE" BOOKS FOR YOUR SPIRITUALITY!

 The Parish Life Committee has purchased several new books to help you grow your faith. They are located on the tables in the entry way along with the free CDs and DVDs.
 Take a look, you might find something that interests you!

A Stewardship Moment

The good steward lives the advice of St. John, loving in deed and in truth, rather than just talking about it.

Upcoming Parish Events . . .

(BH is Brinkmann Hall; PC is Parish Center)

- 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 12: **Baccalaureate Mass 10am**
- May 15: Sacred Seed Sowers Book Club, 1pm, PC
- Jun 5: Sacred Seed Sowers Book Club, 1pm, PC
- Jun 8: St. Mary Alumni Banquet, BH
- Jun 10: Sacred Seed Sowers Book Club, 1pm, PC
- Jun 10-14: Vacation Bible School @ St. John's

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

COMMUNITY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024

Monday, June 10 through Friday, June 14, 2024, 8am - Noon
REGISTRATION DEADLINE – Wednesday, May 1st

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

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

Stephen Ministry: Becky Shaffer, 319-393-1234