

THE CATHOLIC CHURCHES OF ST. CECILIA • ST. MARY • ST. PATRICK

August 15 & 16, 2026

CONTACT information



Fr. Ray Higgins - Please reach him on rectory number

Deacon Dennis Patrick - (641) 757-0851 or
deacondennisp@gmail.com

Rectory - (641) 747-2569

Office - (641) 747-3843

Web - <https://st-mary-patrick-cecilia.com/>

Business Manager:

Geri Thompson - stcstmstp@netins.net

Parish Secretary:

Misean Hernandez - stmpcsecretary@outlook.com

Director of Religious Education:

Jamie Terwilleger - stmpcdre@gmail.com

Cemetery Grounds Keeper and Coordinator

Justin Downing - (515) 250-8988

Sacramental Emergencies

In the event of an emergency, please contact Fr. Ray Higgins at (641) 747-2569 for the emergency number.

Sacrament Guidelines:

Contact the Rectory to make arrangements prior to marriage and baptismal sacraments.

Bulletin Announcements:

Send bulletin announcements to Misean at stmpcsecretary@outlook.com by 8PM Tuesday.

PARISH announcements



St. Cecilia's Annual Chicken Dinner - We need your help!

We are seeking volunteer chairs for our Annual Chicken Dinner on October 4, 2026.

As a chair, you will coordinate volunteers and assist with planning, setup, service, and cleanup. You will be fully supported by experienced volunteers who are ready to ensure the day's success.

This is a wonderful opportunity to serve our parish family, share your gifts, and help continue a St. Cecilia tradition. We would be truly grateful for your consideration and support.

Please prayerfully consider volunteering. If you are interested, please contact John McDermitt at 641-431-0042.



St. Cecilia's RE program

We are in need of Religious Education teachers to help guide our children as they grow in their faith and relationship with Christ.

You don't need to have all the answers—just a willing heart, a love for God, and a desire to share your faith.

Please prayerfully consider saying yes to this important ministry. Your time and example can make a lasting difference in a child's life and in the future of our parish.

If you would like to help, please let us know at: stmpcsecretary@outlook.com



ST. CECILIA PARISH

220 N 1ST ST.
PANORA, IA 50216



ST. MARY PARISH

603 MAIN STREET
GUTHRIE CENTER, IA 50115



ST. PATRICK PARISH

214 PRAIRIE STREET
BAYARD, IA 50029

FROM THE DESK OF

Fr. Ray Higgins



Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday's readings show us something beautiful about God's heart. **God never gives up on His people.** Isaiah tells us that God wants His house to be "a house of prayer for all peoples." St. Paul reminds us that "the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable." In the Gospel, the Canaanite woman, whom the disciples wanted to send away, keeps trusting Jesus until He says those wonderful words: **"O woman, great is your faith!"**

Together, these readings invite us to see others as God does. Sometimes we might feel like giving up on someone, whether it's a child who has wandered from the faith, a family member who has made poor choices, someone we find hard to understand, or even ourselves. But if God hasn't given up on them, we shouldn't either. **God keeps calling, gathering, healing, and inviting us home.**

That same spirit of faith and generosity shows in how we care for the Church and the responsibilities God gives us. I want to clear up something about **tithing and stewardship**. Our giving can support several important needs. Giving to the **Annual Diocesan Appeal (ADA)** counts as tithing. So does giving to the **Building Fund** or the **Cemetery Fund**. Our regular support for the **parish's general operations** is also tithing. All of these are ways we return to God a portion of what He has given us.

At the same time, our parish relies on regular tithing each week **to cover general operations**. While special gifts help with important needs, we still need steady support for things like utilities, insurance, salaries, ministry, maintenance, liturgical needs, and all the usual expenses that keep our parish serving God's people. **These are not competing ways to give, but different parts of our shared stewardship.** I especially ask everyone who can to help us **meet our ADA goal**.

I also want to give a **heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make our RAGBRAI dinner such a success**. Thank you to those who planned and prepared, cooked and served, worked behind the scenes, cleaned up, donated food and supplies, and gave so generously of your time and energy. I am just as grateful to those who made financial donations to the project.

Thanks to everyone's combined efforts, we raised about \$12,000 from the RAGBRAI dinner. These funds **will go toward much-needed repairs and improvements to the rectory.** This is a wonderful accomplishment and a great example of what can happen when many people give what they can.

We will soon **share a report outlining the planned rectory repairs and expected costs.** This way, everyone can see what work needs to be done and how the \$12,000 raised, along with other generous donations, will be used.

All of this may connect to Sunday's Scriptures more than we first realize. **God does not give up on His people, and He asks us not to give up on each other or on the good work He has given us.**

Thank you for your faith, your generosity, and all the ways you continue to care for our parish family. God bless you,

Fr. Ray

UPCOMING events



Christ Our Life Catholic Conference

When: September 26 & 27, 2026

Where: Casey's Center Des Moines

Why: To hear world-class speakers, learn more about our faith, be inspired, worship and praise God in community with thousands and experience the joy of His presence!

How: Attend in person or livestream

Cost: \$30 for the entire weekend
23 and under FREE!



Scan the QR code to
to purchase tickets

For more information, go to:
ChristOurLifelowa.com

Let's Believe...Live...and Celebrate Our Faith!

MARRIED COUPLES: Does gardening give you a sense of wonder and fulfillment? On your wedding day, you lovingly planted the seeds of a lifelong relationship. A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will give you the "gardening tools" you need to help your marriage grow and blossom. For information call Denise and Greg - 563-920-9419 or register at wwme.org. Upcoming dates are October 9-11, 2026 in Epworth and February 12-14, 2027 in Dubuque.

Do you know a couple who have been married 70, 75 or more years? Worldwide Marriage Encounter highlights and honors couples who have very long marriages. Every state in the US will honor one nominated couple who is married the longest. Please nominate a couple by going to wwme.org and nominate them at the top of the page. Nominations should be in by September 1st. For questions call 641-753-6953.



Beginning this week, Saturday night, August 8th St. Cecilia's mass will be at 6pm instead of 6:30 pm for the rest of the summer.

Requesting Hospital and Nursing Home Clergy Visits

If your loved one is admitted to a hospital, nursing home, or care facility, please remember to contact the parish office to request a clergy visit. If it's an emergency, contact Fr. Ray directly. Due to privacy regulations, hospitals and care facilities are often unable to notify the parish when someone is admitted. By informing the parish, you help ensure that a member of the clergy can visit, offer prayer, provide pastoral support, and administer the Sacraments if desired.

Please call Fr. Ray with the name of the person, the facility where they are staying, and any room information if available. Thank you for helping us care for members of our parish community during times of illness and recovery.

Tap into Faith

Tap into Faith is a monthly event bringing people together for an evening of faith and fellowship in a casual environment. All adults welcome, no RSVP needed. Food and beverage available for purchase. Sponsored by Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Catholic Church.

Event Time & Date(s):

Sunday, August 23 Speaker 7:30-8:30pm Feel free to get there ahead of time to eat and socialize.
Location: The King's Head Room at Magee's Irish Pub; 1610 SW Main St, Ankeny

Upcoming Speakers:

- September 27: Tom Chapman (Executive Director of Iowa Catholic Conference)
- October 25: Maggie DeWitte (Executive Director of Pulse Life Advocates)
- November 22: Fr. Ambrose Ladu Daniel (Associate Pastor of OLIH)



WEEKLY calendar

Saturday

4:00 PM Confessions, Bayard
4:15 PM Divine Mercy, Bayard
4:30 PM Mass, Bayard

Saturday

4:00 PM Confessions, Bayard
4:05 PM First Saturday Rosary, Bayard
4:15 PM Divine Mercy, Bayard
4:30 PM Mass, Bayard
6:00 AM Confessions, Panora
6:30 PM Mass, Panora

Sunday

7:30 AM Confessions, Panora
7:45 AM Divine Mercy, Panora
8:00 AM Mass, Panora
9:00 AM-10:00 AM Adoration, Bayard
9:15 AM Divine Mercy, Guthrie Center
9:30 AM Mass, Guthrie Center
10:30 AM Confessions, Guthrie Center

Monday

No Mass

Tuesday

3:30 - 4:30 PM Adoration, Panora
5:15 PM Confessions & Divine Mercy, Bayard
5:30 PM Mass, Bayard

Wednesday

7:45 AM Confessions & Divine Mercy, Panora
8:00 AM Mass, Panora
9:00 AM Prayer Group, Panora
3:30 PM Adoration, Guthrie Center (TIME CHANGE)

Thursday

7:45 AM Confessions & Divine Mercy, Panora
8:00 AM Mass, Panora

Friday

7:45 AM Confessions & Divine Mercy, Guthrie Center
8:00 AM Mass, Guthrie Center

MASS intentions



Sat., August 15 at 4:30 PM — Mass for the People
Sat. August 15 at 6:00 PM — Ed & Deanna
Sun., August 16 at 8:00 AM — Ed & Jeanne McDermott
Sun., August 16 at 9:30 AM — Kroy Redfern
Tues., August 18 at 5:30 PM— Kenny Ludwig
Wed., August 19 at 8:00 AM — Dick & Diane Zapf
Thurs., August 20 at 8:00 AM — Eddie Dorsett & Family
Fri., August 21 at 8:00 AM — Margaret Reinhart

Sat., August 22 at 4:30 PM — Mass for the People
Sat. August 22 at 6:00 PM — Len Snyder Family
Sun., August 23 at 8:00 AM — John Vogl
Sun., August 23 at 9:30 AM — Gary Simmotorich
Tues., August 25 at 5:30 PM— George & Miranda Holland
Wed., August 26 at 8:00 AM — Timothy Crees
Thurs., August 27 at 8:00 AM — Orville Leinen
Fri., August 28 at 8:00 AM — Paul & Agatha Sailer

Chaplet of Divine Mercy Closing Prayer

Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless, and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments, we might not despair, nor become despondent, but with great confidence, submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy Itself. Amen.

WEEKLY offerings



St. Cecilia Weekly Offering

Sunday weekly offering- \$3,386
ADA Goal \$23,161 ADA Balance Due \$8,281

St. Mary Weekly Offering

Sunday weekly offering— \$1,281.25
ADA Goal \$14,880 ADA Balance Due \$284

St. Patrick Weekly Offering

Sunday weekly offering- \$343
ADA-PAID IN FULL



Mass intention envelopes can be found in the back of church. Please fill in the requested information, add your donation and place the envelope in the collection plate.