

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

December 27 & 28, 2025

CONTACT information



Fr. Ray Higgins - Please reach him on rectory number

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Misean Hernandez - stmpcsecretary@outlook.com

Director of Religious Education:

Jamie Carlson - 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.



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



PRAYER for the New Year

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

to be consoled as to console,

to be understood as to understand,

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.

—Attributed to St. Francis of Assisi



FROM THE DESK OF

Fr. Ray Higgins



Pastoral Letter for the Feast of the Holy Family

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On this Feast of the Holy Family, we are invited to look not at an idealized or perfect family, but at a real one—a family that trusted God day by day in the midst of uncertainty, sacrifice, and love.

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph knew displacement, fear, hard decisions, and long journeys. They fled in the night. They lived as refugees. They made choices without knowing the outcome. And yet, it was precisely there—in ordinary, sometimes stressful family life—that God was most present.

This feast reminds us of a powerful truth: holiness is not created by having a perfect family, but by choosing faithful love, patience, forgiveness, and trust in God—especially when life is difficult. God sanctifies family life not by removing hardship, but by entering it with us.

For many today, family life can feel tiring, fractured, or fragile. This feast reassures us that God is not distant from those struggles. If God chose to dwell within the Holy Family amid uncertainty, He is certainly present in our homes, our relationships, and our efforts to love one another well—however imperfect they may be.

A Word of Heartfelt Gratitude

As we celebrate this holy season, I want to express my deep and sincere thanks to all of you for your kindness, prayers, cards, gifts, and expressions of generosity to me at Christmastime. Your thoughtfulness is deeply appreciated and never taken for granted.

I am also grateful beyond words to everyone who ministers at the Altar and serves our parish throughout the year—especially our sacristans, decorators, lectors, altar servers, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, deacons, musicians, cantors, choirs, ushers, greeters, and all who serve quietly and faithfully behind the scenes.

A special thank-you to all who helped make Christmas so prayerful, beautiful, and meaningful this year. From the preparation of the church, to the music, liturgy, hospitality, and countless unseen acts of service—your dedication lifted hearts to God and made the celebration of Christ's birth truly special.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God – Mass Times

Please mark your calendars for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, a Holy Day of Obligation:

- Wednesday, December 31 Vigil Mass – 5:30 p.m. at St. Mary (Please note the TIME CHANGE)
- Thursday, January 1 Solemnity Mass – 9:00 a.m. at St. Cecilia

As we begin the New Year, we place ourselves, our families, and our parish under the loving care of Mary, the Mother of God.

With gratitude and prayers, Fr. Ray Higgins

SAVE
the dates



Statewide parish announcement

A new formal Decree issued by Archbishop Zinkula for the Province of Dubuque, which includes the Archdiocese of Dubuque, the Diocese of Davenport, the Diocese of Des Moines, and the Diocese of Sioux City. It raises the standard amount of a Mass offering to \$10.00 per Mass throughout the State of Iowa.

The Decree goes into effect on January 1, 2026

Lenten Retreat Dates at St. Patrick's Church

Feb 23 & 24, 2026

Featuring Josh Mazrin

Joshua Mazrin is the founder and Executive Director of the Immaculata Institute, an organization which seeks to continue St. Maximilian Kolbe's mission of extending the Blessed Kingdom of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus as far as possible, as soon as possible, through winning over all souls to the Immaculata. The Immaculata Institute offers resources for dioceses, parishes, faith formation groups, and individuals, helping those consecrate themselves to the Immaculata.

www.immaculatainstitute.org

Topics will include Crushing the Head of the Serpent: Marian Consecration as Spiritual Warfare & How to Pray Without Ceasing



HOLIDAY
mass times



December 31: Solemnity of Mary Vigil

5:30 p.m. at St. Mary

January 1: Solemnity of Mary

9:00 a.m. at St. Cecilia



COUNCIL
meetings

St. Cecilia - Thursday, January 15 at 6:30PM

St. Patrick - Tuesday, January 20 at 6:30PM

St. Mary - Wednesday, January 21 at 6:00PM

**MARRIED COUPLES - WANT TO GIVE A GIFT THAT
KEEPS ON GIVING?**

Register for the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend - it's the best gift you'll ever give to each other and your marriage! For more information contact Denise and Greg at 563-920-9419 or visit wwme.org. Upcoming Dates: February 13-15 in Dubuque, April 10-12 in Marshalltown, October 9-11 in Epworth, IA.



CHRIST OUR LIFE
A CATHOLIC CONFERENCE FOR OUR SEARCHING SOULS

Save the Date!

September 26 & 27, 2026

World Class Speakers, Masses Saturday and Sunday, Reconciliation, Adoration, Great Music & Community

Casey's Center Des Moines, IA
(Formally Wells Fargo Arena)



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

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 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.

MASS intentions



Sat., December 27 at 4:30 PM – Brad & Marian Tate & Family
Sun., December 28 at 8:00 AM – Dick Zapf
Sun., December 28 at 9:30 AM – Ezri Hernandez
Tues., December 30 at 5:30 PM – Crosier Family
Wed., December 31 at 8:00 AM – Kenny Ludwig
Wed., December 31 at 5:30 PM – Mass for the People
Thurs., January 1 at 9:00 AM – Orville Leinen
Fri., January 2 at 8:00 AM – George & Meranda Holland

Sat., January 3 at 4:30 PM – Kay Vaux
Sun., January 4 at 8:00 AM – Ward Gustafson
Sun., January 4 at 9:30 AM – Fr Ray Higgins & Family
Tues., January 6 at 5:30 PM – Darla Davis
Wed., January 7 at 8:00 AM – Marilyn Sweetnam
Thurs., January 8 at 8:00 AM – Cathi Beiermann
Fri., January 9 at 8:00 AM – Lori & David Faucher

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— \$8,937.20
ADA Goal \$24,220 ADA Balance Due \$3,270

St. Mary Weekly Offering

Sunday weekly offering— \$1,826
ADA— PAID IN FULL

St. Patrick Weekly Offering

Sunday weekly offering— \$8,728
ADA— PAID IN FULL