

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

September 19 & 20, 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 Terwilliger - 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



PLEASE MARK YOUR
CALENDARS



October 1st-14th has been designated for cemetery cleanup to prepare for the upcoming winter season. If you have any cemetery decorations at the gravesite that you are wanting to keep to later display at the cemetery, please take them home prior the October 1st. All decorations remaining during Oct. 1st-14th will be discarded. Decorations may be returned to cemetery after the 14th. Thank you for your help! If you have any questions contact Cindy Ahrens at 641-740-1100.

St. Cecilia's Chicken dinner

Are you ready for some good chicken?

Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 4th to attend St. Cecilia's chicken dinner. We need your help to spread the word.



formedTM
Forming Catholics for Life.

RECENTLY ADDED



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, In our first two Virtues Classes, we have focused on two questions: What am I becoming? and What am I practicing? The choices we make again and again shape our habits, and those habits make certain responses easier. For instance, setting aside time for prayer each morning, choosing patience in a tough conversation, or reaching out to someone in need are small decisions that, over time, become habits that shape us. On the other hand, if we often complain, hold grudges, or miss chances to help others, those actions can also become habits that are hard to break. Every day, the way we talk to our family, approach our work, or handle frustration shapes who we are becoming. If Baptism makes us children of God, do we still need to think about virtue? The answer is yes. Baptism gives us new life in Christ. God welcomes us as His children and gives us sanctifying grace, which we do not earn by good behavior. However, Baptism does not instantly make all our thoughts, desires, habits, and actions Christlike. We need to live out the new life God gives us and let it grow. Neglect is not spiritually neutral. Not practicing virtue does not suddenly make us like Satan, who completely rejects God. Most of us are a mix: we may truly love God but also feel busy, tired, distracted, hurt, or unmotivated. Still, God is always patient and ready to help us grow. Even if we struggle

or fall short, every honest effort matters, and each step toward virtue brings us closer to Him. But if we keep avoiding prayer, making excuses for resentment, choosing comfort instead of love, or putting off the good we know we should do, those choices shape us. We become less open to hearing and following God. There is a big difference between someone who tries, fails, repents, and starts again; someone who is simply worn out and needs help; and someone who has become indifferent and says, “I do not care what God wants.” God meets each of us with mercy, but He does not leave us the same. He gives us grace for the next step of faith. This Thursday, Class 3 will look at how grace and our own effort work together. Grace comes first and gives us the motivation and strength we need. Our choices show our real cooperation with God. By making faithful choices again and again, virtue becomes a steady readiness to do His will. Please join us this Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Even if you missed the first two classes or need to miss a session, you are always welcome. Each class includes a review, and I am happy to help you catch up. Baptism gives us new life. Grace gives us the strength to live it. Virtue shapes us to live faithfully as God’s children.

Sincerely,

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!

Our 12-Week Journey

Sept. 24 — Grace & Human Effort — Does God change me, or do I change myself?

Oct. 1 — Prudence — How do I know what's right?

Oct. 8 — Justice — What do I owe God and others?

Oct. 15 — Fortitude — Doing what's right when it costs me

Oct. 22 — Temperance — Who's in charge— me or my desires?

Oct. 29 — Faith — Learning to see through God's eyes

Nov. 5 — Hope — What keeps me going when life gets difficult?

Nov. 12 — Charity — Learning to love like Christ

Nov. 19 — The Battle Within — Why do I keep doing this?

Nov. 26 — Thanksgiving — No Class

Dec. 3 — A Rule of Life — How do I make change last?

**Thursday evenings at St. Mary's parish hall
starting at 7PM.**

His Call. Their Hearts. Your Generosity. OUR FUTURE.

Build our Diocese's future through the

\$59,500

average annual formation
cost per seminarian

13

seminarians in formation



Will you choose to respond
Generously?

<https://www.dmdiocese.org/giving/diocesan-special-collections/seminarian-special-collection>

CLERGY FORMATION APPEAL

\$7,600

average annual cost per
deacon candidate

35

men in deacon formation



"Will you lend your prayers toward their
dedication and growth to serve Christ's
body in the Diocese of Des Moines?"

Bishop William Joensen



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
5:30 PM Confessions, Panora
6:00 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

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., Sept 19 at 4:30 PM — Mass for the People
Sun., Sept 20 at 8:00 AM — Joe, Lucy and Jerry Wolterman
Sun., Sept 20 at 9:30 AM — Margaret Reinhart
Tues., Sept 22 at 5:30 PM— Crosier Family
Wed., Sept 23 at 8:00 AM — Dick Zapf
Thurs., Sept 24 at 8:00 AM — Paul & Agatha Sailer
Fri., Sept 25 at 8:00 AM — Deceased family members of Kevin & Peggy Dentlinger

Sat., Sept 26 at 4:30 PM — Matt Murrane
Sun., Sept 27 at 8:00 AM — Mass for the People
Sun., Sept 27 at 9:30 AM — Colin Spielman
Tues., Sept 29 at 5:30 PM— Crosier Family
Wed., Sept 30 at 8:00 AM — Dave & Cindy Ahrens
Thurs., Oct 1 at 8:00 AM — Paul & Agatha Sailer
Fri., Oct 2 at 8:00 AM — Viola Rohe

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- \$1,156
ADA Goal \$23,161 ADA Balance Due \$4,931

St. Mary Weekly Offering

Sunday weekly offering— \$925
ADA-PAID IN FULL

St. Patrick Weekly Offering

Sunday weekly offering- \$1,010
ADA-PAID IN FULL