

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

December 13 & 14, 2025

## CONTACT information



**Fr. Ray Higgins** - Please reach him on rectory number

**Deacon Dennis Patrick** - (641) 757-0851 or  
[deacondennisp@gmail.com](mailto:deacondennisp@gmail.com)

**Rectory** - (641) 747-2569

**Office** - (641) 747-3843

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

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### Business Manager:

Geri Thompson - [stcstmstp@netins.net](mailto:stcstmstp@netins.net)

### Parish Secretary:

Misean Hernandez - [stmpcsecretary@outlook.com](mailto:stmpcsecretary@outlook.com)

### Director of Religious Education:

Jamie Carlson - [stmpcdre@gmail.com](mailto:stmpcdre@gmail.com)

### Cemetery Grounds Keeper and Coordinator

Justin Downing - (515) 250-8988

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### 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](mailto:stmpcsecretary@outlook.com) by 8PM Tuesday.

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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



## PARISH announcements

### Sounds of Christmas

Guthrie Center Church Musicians in Concert

Sunday, December 14th, 2PM

First United Methodist Church

405 Prairie St., Guthrie Center



Free-will offering for  
GC Association of Churches

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### St. Mary's Snow Removal

Please contact a council member or office staff if you would be interested in snow removal this winter.



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### St. Cecilia's Christmas Program

St. Cecilia's Religious Ed. program will be after Mass on Sunday, December 14th.

Following the program coffee, juice, and rolls will be served. Please stay and support our young people and join in fellowship after the program.



# FROM THE DESK OF

## Fr. Ray Higgins

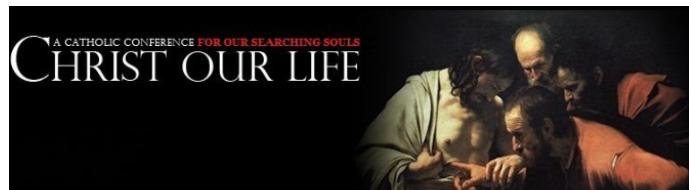


Dear Parishioners,

This weekend, we light the rose candle and are told to "Rejoice" (Gaudete). Still, the Gospel shows us a scene that doesn't seem joyful at first. John the Baptist is in a dark prison cell. He sends a message to Jesus, asking, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" John expected the Messiah to bring quick justice and break down barriers. Instead, he hears that Jesus is healing the sick, preaching to the poor, and sharing meals with sinners. Jesus' reply to John matters for us, too: "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk..." Jesus tells John and us to focus on the fruit, not the fortress. We often wish God would take away our struggles right away. We want our problems to disappear now. But St. James reminds us in the second reading to "be patient, like a farmer waiting for the precious fruit of the earth." This Advent, real joy comes from seeing that while we wait for big answers, God is already working quietly in small ways. He is softening hearts, healing old wounds, and planting seeds of hope. The harvest will come. Don't lose heart.

Have a blessed week,

Fr. Ray



## 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**  
(Formerly Wells Fargo Arena)

### SILENT IGNATIAN RETREAT FOR WOMEN

#### To Be Filled - A Lenten Preached Retreat

Creighton University

Retreat Center

**March 12 – 15, 2026**

God wants nothing more than to fill what's un-filled in our lives. Our relationships, jobs, ministries, life circumstances and hopes can be areas we feel are lacking something. Even our faith can feel like a basket holding only fragments of bread. We long for an ever deepening fulfillment in God, yet we don't know the way to that.

To the deeper. To the fuller.

During this retreat we will walk with Jesus and encounter Him where we most need Him, where we most miss Him, yet don't expect Him to be. We invite you to enter into the silence of this Ignatian Preached Retreat for Women.



Bring your baskets—unfilled as they are—and give yourself and God this uninterrupted time.

There will be a series of retreat talks, opportunities for spiritual direction, the sacrament of reconciliation, daily mass and much prayer and rest alongside Jesus. Come! This Lenten rest stop is awaiting you.



Mona Finocchiaro Snider, originally from Omaha, is a Spiritual Director in the Ignatian tradition. In 2015, Mona received her Certification in Spiritual Direction from Creighton University. She has spent two decades serving at the Ignatian Spirituality Center of Kansas City as a director of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, a formator of prayer guides, supervisor and retreat giver. She loves witnessing the grace of God working in others and accompanying those who seek a deeper closeness with Christ in their life.



The retreat cost is based on single occupancy and includes meals—\$425

Check in Thursday between 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

The retreat concludes Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

A non-refundable deposit of \$85 is requested at registration. Register by scanning the code or on-line at [csrc.retreatportal.com/events](http://csrc.retreatportal.com/events)



# PARISH announcements

## 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

## St. Cecilia

St. Cecilia's parish has placed a crib like basket among the small trees to the left of the alter in anticipation of the Christ Child. Lets overflow it with non-perishable food for the food pantry during this advent season.

## Dear Parish Families,

During the Sundays of Advent the children's offertory, a manager will be present instead of a collection basket. Just as the Holy Family needed assistance, so do many of our community families. We invite our parish families to bring baby items to be donated to Guthrie Public Health and New Opportunities. Children may wish to place in the crib the gift of praying for someone or acts of charity/kindness performed that week written on a piece of paper as a great way to help those in need. Together, let us prepare a loving bed for the coming Christ child.



# HOLIDAY mass times



December 24: Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m. at St. Mary

5:30 p.m. at St. Patrick

7:15 p.m. at St. Cecilia

December 25: Christmas Day

9:00 a.m. at St. Cecilia

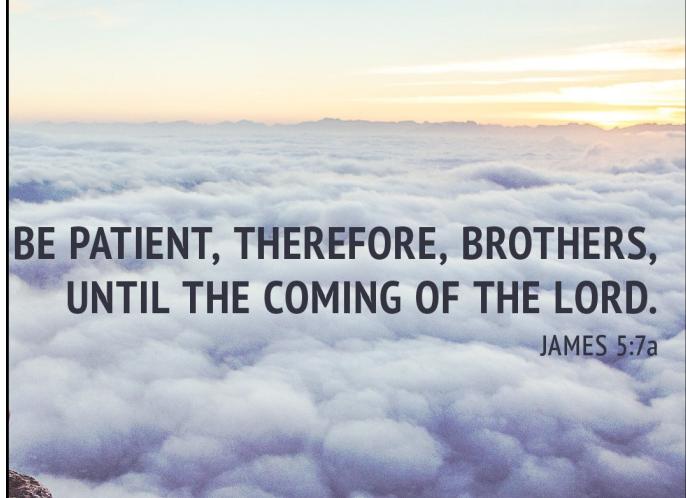
December 31: Solemnity of Mary Vigil

5:30 p.m. at St. Mary (TIME CHANGE)

January 1: Solemnity of Mary

9:00 a.m. at St. Cecilia

**Marriage is a journey!!** A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend can help you enrich your marriage and add some pazzazz to your journey. Whether you've been married 1 year or 50, a Marriage Encounter Weekend may be just the thing you need to put a breath of fresh air into your relationship. Upcoming weekends are: February 13-15 in Dubuque, April 10-12 in Marshalltown, October 9-11 in Epworth. For more information call Denise at (563)920-9419 or register at [wwme.org](http://wwme.org).





# 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  
4:30 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., December 13 at 4:30 PM – Annette & Andy Haverman

Sun., December 14 at 8:00 AM – Roger Meyer

Sun., December 14 at 9:30 AM – Don Reinhart

Tues., December 16 at 5:30 PM – Darla Davis

Wed., December 17 at 8:00 AM – Timothy Crees

Thurs., December 18 at 8:00 AM – Susanne Follet

Fri., December 19 at 8:00 AM – Shelly Bauler

Sat., December 20 at 4:30 PM – Anita Sheehan

Sun., December 21 at 8:00 AM – Clem & Marion Fowler Family

Sun., December 21 at 9:30 AM – Jean Knobbe

Tues., December 23 at 5:30 PM – Carlene Murrane Family & Matt Murrane

Wed., December 24 at 8:00 AM – Kim Lubeck

Thurs., December 25 at 8:00 AM – Don & Joan Staver Family

Fri., December 26 at 8:00 AM – Duane Clark

## 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— \$4,050  
ADA Goal \$24,220 ADA Balance Due \$3,270

## St. Mary Weekly Offering

Sunday weekly offering— \$1,179  
ADA— PAID IN FULL

## St. Patrick Weekly Offering

Sunday weekly offering— \$219  
ADA— PAID IN FULL