

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

December 20 & 21, 2025

## CONTACT information



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

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### Business Manager:

Geri Thompson - stcstmstp@netins.net

### Parish Secretary:

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.



## PARISH announcements

### St. Patrick RE Program

The St. Patrick's Children's Christmas Eve Program will begin at 5:15, preceding the Christmas Eve Mass at 5:30.

### St. Mary's Snow Removal

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



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

## Christmas Prayer

by Pope John XXIII

O SWEET CHILD OF BETHLEHEM,  
GRANT THAT WE MAY SHARE WITH ALL OUR  
HEARTS IN THIS PROFOUND  
MYSTERY OF CHRISTMAS.  
PUT INTO THE HEARTS OF MEN AND WOMEN  
THIS PEACE FOR WHICH THEY  
SOMETIMES SEEK SO DESPERATELY  
AND WHICH YOU ALONE CAN GIVE TO THEM.  
HELP THEM TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER BETTER,  
AND TO LIVE AS BROTHERS AND SISTERS,  
CHILDREN OF THE SAME FATHER.  
REVEAL TO THEM ALSO YOUR BEAUTY,  
HOLINESS AND PURITY.  
AWAKEN IN THEIR HEARTS LOVE  
AND GRATITUDE FOR  
YOUR INFINITE GOODNESS.  
JOIN THEM ALL  
TOGETHER IN YOUR LOVE.  
AND GIVE US YOUR HEAVENLY PEACE.  
AMEN.

CatholicLink

# FROM THE DESK OF

## Fr. Ray Higgins



Dear Parish Family,

As we light the final candle on our Advent wreath, the liturgy shifts our gaze from Israel's long history to the immediate events preceding Christ's birth. This Sunday, the Gospel of Matthew (1:18-24) invites us to step into the shoes of St. Joseph.

Joseph faced a crisis that would shatter any man's peace: his betrothed was with child, and the child was not his. Yet, in the midst of this turmoil, Joseph displays a profound holiness. When the angel appears to him in a dream to reveal the truth of the Incarnation, Joseph does not argue. He does not ask for more proof. He simply wakes up and does as the angel commanded.

It is often noted that St. Joseph speaks no words in the New Testament. His sanctity is wrapped in a profound stillness. This brings to mind a riddle that I think fits this final week of Advent perfectly:

The Riddle: I am not found on any map, but every person seeks me. I am never bought, but I am often sold. I am broken the moment you speak my name. What am I? The answer, of course, is Silence.

St. Joseph is the patron saint of this "holy silence." In our modern world, silence is often viewed as empty space—something to be filled with noise, podcasts, music, or news. But for the Christian, silence is not empty; it is the necessary atmosphere for meeting God.

This riddle reminds us of a vital spiritual truth: Silence is fragile. In our noisy world, we must intentionally cultivate it. We often "sell" our silence to the demands of life, trading our peace for busyness. But if we are constantly speaking, or constantly surrounded by noise, we cannot hear the "still, small voice" of the Holy Spirit.

Joseph could hear the angel because his heart was quiet. He was listening. If he had been consumed by the noise of his own fear or the gossip of the town, he might have missed the instruction to take Mary into his home.

As we enter this final, often chaotic week before Christmas, I challenge you to protect your silence. "Buy back" a few moments of quiet this week. Turn off the car radio; sit by the tree in the dark; spend five minutes in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

It is in that silence that we, like Joseph, will find the courage to welcome Emmanuel—God with us—into our homes and hearts.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Ray

## 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 tress 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**

**\*\*The St. Patrick's Children's Christmas Eve Program will begin at 5:15, preceding the Christmas Eve Mass.**

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

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](http://www.immaculatainstitute.org)

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



## 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 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

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  
Thurs., January 1 at 8:00 AM — Orville Leinen  
Fri., January 2 at 8:00 AM — George & Meranda Holland

### 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— \$1,670  
ADA Goal \$24,220 ADA Balance Due \$3,270

### St. Mary Weekly Offering

Sunday weekly offering— \$476  
ADA— PAID IN FULL

### St. Patrick Weekly Offering

Sunday weekly offering— \$837  
ADA— PAID IN FULL