

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

January 3 & 4, 2025

CONTACT information



Fr. Ray Higgins - Please reach him on rectory number

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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



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

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



FROM THE DESK OF

Fr. Ray Higgins



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On this Feast of the Epiphany, the Church shares a simple but life-changing truth: God reveals Himself to everyone, and those who truly meet Him are never the same.

The Magi followed the light, found Christ, gave their gifts, and then returned home by a different path. Epiphany is not just about seeing Jesus; it is about letting Him guide our lives in new directions.

Isaiah says, “Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come.” This light is not meant to be kept to ourselves. It shines out and draws others in. St. Paul reminds us that this mystery is for all people. The Gospel shows that when Christ is revealed, hearts are moved, lives are changed, and gifts are given. This kind of Epiphany happens every day in our parish.

As we start a new year, I want to thank everyone who supports our parish with their time, talents, and gifts. Thanks to you, our parish runs well, our worship is meaningful, our ministries are active, and Christ’s light shines in our community.

Thank you to our dedicated volunteers, parish groups, councils, committees, and everyone who serves quietly each week. Thank you also to those whose generous financial support keeps our worship, faith formation, outreach, and daily parish life going. Your generosity, both visible and behind the scenes, truly matters.

Epiphany also encourages each of us to ask: What gift is the Lord asking me to bring this year? No one is expected to do everything, but everyone can do something. Even a small, steady gift of time or support makes a real difference. When we give regularly and with purpose, we help the parish plan well and continue Christ’s mission with confidence.

Like the Magi, we do not give leftovers—we offer our best, not out of obligation, but out of gratitude and trust.

Thank you again for your faith, your generosity, and your love for our parish. Please be assured of my prayers and sincere appreciation.

In Christ’s light,

Fr. Ray Higgins

**SAVE
the dates**



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

Today, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. The term "Epiphany" is derived from a Greek word meaning "to reveal." It is a celebration of God's revelation. Indeed, on Christmas Day, God disclosed Himself in His incarnate Son, the Savior of humanity.

Yet, Epiphany signifies a distinct and extraordinary moment of divine revelation. On this day, the three wise men, also known as magi or kings from the East, visited and honored the Christ Child. Through this act, God's glory was revealed and made manifest to the entire world, symbolized by the presence of the magi.

The revelation of God through the Epiphany underscores that His salvation, made possible through the Incarnation, is universal. It is inclusive and does not discriminate. Though Jesus was born at a specific time and place, the grace He brings transcends all boundaries and limitations.

Consequently, Epiphany serves as a powerful reminder to reject all forms of exclusivity, discrimination, and sectarianism that foster division, hatred, and hostility in the name of religion.

God cannot be claimed as the exclusive possession of any individual or group. His grace is universal, and His revelation cannot be confined or restricted. Religion should not serve as a fortress to enclose God or a barrier to exclude others.

Therefore, the celebration of Epiphany is a resounding call to reject religious extremism and communal violence. It exposes the absurdity of individuals who, under the guise of religiosity, act contrary to its essence.

Such actions often degrade into inhumane cruelty, inflicting suffering upon others. These individuals arrogantly position themselves as self-appointed guardians of God, usurping divine authority and acting as if they were gods themselves.

In truth, God's revelation has not reached the hearts of such individuals. In their efforts to project themselves as mediators of God's grace, they, in fact, obstruct it. They resemble King Herod in the Gospel, who, upon hearing of the Messiah's birth, felt threatened and schemed to destroy the incarnate God.

In contrast, the celebration of Epiphany invites us to emulate the wisdom of the magi. These men recognized Jesus as the Savior and Liberator. They earnestly sought a personal encounter with Him, employing their knowledge, intelligence, and resources—such as scripture and astronomy—to discern His presence.

Their unwavering determination and openness to divine guidance, exemplified by their following of the star, led them on a challenging journey. They demonstrated profound humility and faith by kneeling before the Christ Child and offering Him homage.

The magi's dedication was richly rewarded with the rare privilege of encountering the Savior of the world—a grace denied to many in His immediate surroundings.

A CATHOLIC CONFERENCE FOR OUR SEARCHING SOULS

CHRIST OUR LIFE

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)



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., 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

Sat., January 10 at 4:30 PM – Carlene Murrane Family & Matt Murrane
Sun., January 11 at 8:00 AM – Living/deceased members of Callahan & Holland Family
Sun., January 11 at 9:30 AM – Lee & Jean Knobbe
Tues., January 13 at 5:30 PM – Anita Sheehan
Wed., January 14 at 8:00 AM – Bernadette Clark
Thurs., January 15 at 8:00 AM – Clem & Marion Fowler Family
Fri., January 16 at 8:00 AM – Lucille Sewell

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— \$1,359
Christmas- \$4,059.30
ACH-\$1,025

St. Mary Weekly Offering

Sunday weekly offering— \$1,426
Christmas- \$4,059.30
ACH-\$1,025

St. Patrick Weekly Offering

Sunday weekly offering— \$1,504
Christmas- \$1,755
ACH-\$1,824

All ADA PAID IN FULL