

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

July 19 & 20, 2025

**CONTACT**  
information



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

**Deacon Dennis Patrick** - (641) 757-0851 or  
deacondennis@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 Carlson - stmpcdre@gmail.com

**Cemetery Grounds Keeper and Coordinator**

Chris Downing- (641) 740-7943

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



**PARISH**  
announcements

**Summer Mass time added!!!**

We will be starting a 6:30PM Mass time at St. Cecilia's in Panora during the summer.

**ADULT FAITH SESSION DATES:**

Aug 20 - 6:30 p.m. at St. Cecilia

All parishioners welcome to attend.

**Laptop computer needed at St. Cecilia**

Do you have a functional laptop with a SD disc port that you would be willing to donate to St. Cecilia?

If so, please contact Paul Nagel at 515-480-9894 or Connie Ziller at 515-371-6135.



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.



**COUNCIL**  
meetings

St. Cecilia - Thursday, August 7th at 6:30 PM

St. Patrick - Tuesday, August 12th at 6:30 PM

St. Mary - Wednesday, August 13th at 6:00 PM

# FROM THE DESK OF

## Fr. Ray Higgins



Dear Parish Family,

This Sunday's readings from Ordinary Time, Year C (Genesis 18:1-10a; Psalm 15; Colossians 1:24-28; and Luke 10:38-42) offer us a powerful reminder of what matters most in the life of faith: welcoming the presence of God with attentiveness and hospitality.

In the Gospel, we encounter the well-known story of Martha and Mary. Martha is busy serving and attending to the necessary tasks of hospitality. Mary, on the other hand, sits at the feet of Jesus, listening to Him speak. When Martha asks Jesus to intervene, He gently reminds her: "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is a need for only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, and it will not be taken from her."

The essential message is this: Our activity must flow from our attentiveness to the Lord. In a world that constantly pulls us in a hundred directions, Jesus invites us to sit at His feet, to listen, and to be filled. Only then can our work, our service, and even our suffering (as Paul writes in Colossians) become fruitful offerings united with Christ.

This Gospel is not about choosing between being like Martha or Mary, but about putting first things first. When we take time for prayer, the Eucharist, and Scripture, we are choosing "the better part"—the source of our peace and strength.

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to the St. Cecilia Knights of Columbus for hosting our beautiful outdoor Mass at Boulder Beach and for the excellent meal that followed. Many thanks also to Deacon Dennis, our musicians and singers, altar servers, lectors, and ushers—your joyful service makes our worship richer and more welcoming. And a special thank you to Fr. Francis Higgins for his excellent homily, which reminded us of the joy of being together and the importance of being mindful of who our neighbor is.

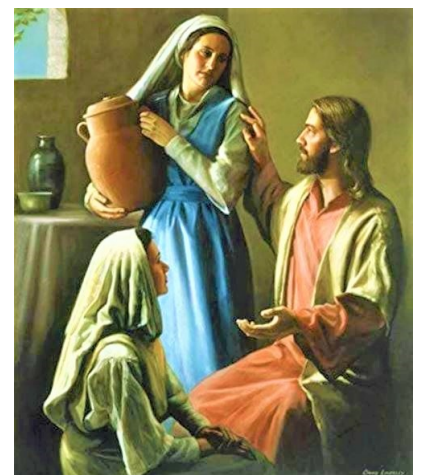
As our parishes continue to grow in faith and fellowship, I invite you to stay tuned to the bulletin and parish announcements for upcoming adult faith formation opportunities. Whether you're just beginning your journey or have walked with the Lord for many years, there is always more to discover—and more ways to grow.

Please also note that I will be away **from Sunday, July 20, through Friday, July 25**, to spend time in Branson, Missouri, with family and friends. Daily Masses will continue as scheduled, and Fr. Francis will cover them during my absence.

As we go forth this week, may we all take time to be still in the presence of Christ and listen. May we find in Him the peace that orders our days and gives meaning to our work.

With gratitude and prayers,

Fr. Ray Higgins



# JULY pilgrimage

## Jubilee Year of Hope July Pilgrimage

Thursday, July 24th we will travel to Corpus Christi Catholic Church in Council Bluffs:  
3304 4th Ave.

We will leave St. Cecilia's parking lot at 2:00 p.m. arriving at approximately 3:00 p.m. for a Holy Hour.

Afterward we will have a meal together before travelling back home.

Please let us know if you are planning to travel with us. As always, you may travel on your own that day, or any day you choose.

Again, remember to bring your "passport".

**MARRIED COUPLES.** Give your marriage a well-deserved vacation. Plan to go on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend and come back with a marriage that is refreshed and full of energy! Our next weekend is September 12-14 in Dubuque.

For more information call Denise and Greg at (563)920-9419 or visit



## AL-ANON START UP 2025 TUESDAYS 7PM (BACK DOOR) AT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 119 E. MAIN ST. PANORA, IA

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Emily 641-332-2778

HEARTLAND FOR KIDS presents a benefit concert for MARY'S MEALS

**mary's meals** a simple solution to world hunger

# JASPER WINERY

Thursday, August 28 6:00-9:00  
2400 George Flagg Pkwy, Des Moines, IA 50321

Enjoy a fun evening with Nashville musicians Phoenix Mendoza and Josh Leo and Kitty Steadman at Jasper Winery while raising money for Mary's Meals. Any monetary donation will help the world's most vulnerable children receive an education and provide them with enough to eat. Bring a friend to have fun and make a difference. Food sponsored by the Knights of Columbus will be available for a free will donation.

MARY'S MEALS is currently feeding 2.49 million children in 20 of the poorest countries in the world. The life changing meals they provide make it possible for hungry children to come to school and give them the energy they need to concentrate and participate in class.

**\$25.20**  
FEEDS A CHILD FOR THE ENTIRE SCHOOL YEAR

To donate online please go to: [www.marysmealsusa.org](http://www.marysmealsusa.org)

KITTY STEADMAN JWW LAMAR Willie Farrel MC



## FOOD ASSISTANCE DURING SUMMER BREAK



SCAN HERE



# WEEKLY calendar

## Saturday

4:00 PM Confessions, Bayard  
 4:05 PM First Saturday Rosary, Bayard  
 4:15 PM Divine Mercy, Bayard  
 4:30 PM Mass, Bayard  
 6:30 PM Mass, Panora  
 7:30 PM Confessions, Panora

## Sunday

7:30 AM Confessions, Panora  
 7:45 AM Rosary, 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

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No Mass

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 5:15 PM Confessions & Divine Mercy, Bayard  
 5:30 PM Mass, Bayard

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### All Parish Reminder for Weekly Offerings

Offerings can go directly to the general fund, the building fund, cemetery or ADA.

Please put your parish and chosen offering designation in the memo line.

# MASS intentions



Sat., July 19 at 4:30 PM – Marie Murrane  
 Sat., July 19 at 6:30 PM – Mass for the People  
 Sun., July 20 at 8:00 AM – Jerry Suther  
 Sun., July 20 at 9:30 AM – Deceased members of Callahan & Holland family  
 Tues., July 22 at 5:30 PM – Crosier Family  
 Wed., July 23 at 8:00 AM – Scott Bauler  
 Thurs., July 24 at 8:00 AM – Orville Leinen & Kennebeck Family living & deceased  
 Fri., July 25 at 8:00 AM – Kirk Klohs  
 Sat., July 26 at 4:30 PM – David & Rita Halsey  
 Sat., July 26 at 6:30 PM – Mass for the People  
 Sun., July 27 at 8:00 AM – Lansink Family living & deceased  
 Sun., July 27 at 9:30 AM – Len Snyder Family  
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 Wed., July 30 at 8:00 AM – Living & deceased members of Bauler Family  
 Thurs., July 31 at 8:00 AM – Delphine Demers  
 Fri., August 1 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— \$2,345  
 ADA Goal \$24,220 ADA Balance Due \$8,265

### St. Mary Weekly Offering

Sunday weekly offering— \$688.05  
 ADA Goal \$15,849 ADA Balance Due \$3,539

### St. Patrick Weekly Offering

Sunday weekly offering— \$944  
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# FROM THE DESK OF

## Fr. Ray Higgins



Dear Parish Family,

I had a nice time with my mother, Jeanine Holland, and Fr. Dan Kirby in Branson, MO. We were able to enjoy the scenery, the Branson Belle Showboat, the biblical story of David at the Sight & Sound Theater, and, of course, the long-standing show Presley's Country Jubilee. The summer seems to be passing by incredibly fast, and I hope you are enjoying it with family and friends.

This Sunday's readings present a profound truth: God is not distant, but deeply relational, attentive, and responsive to our needs. He listens to our prayers, even when we don't fully understand what we're asking for. He desires that we approach Him with the confidence of children who trust their Father.

### Essential Message of the Readings

**Genesis 18:20–32** shows Abraham persistently interceding on behalf of Sodom. Though the city is sinful, Abraham appeals to God's mercy, and God listens with patience and compassion.

**Colossians 2:12–14** reminds us that through baptism, we were buried with Christ and raised to new life. Our sins nailed to the cross, and we now live as forgiven children of God.

In **Luke 11:1–13**, Jesus teaches the Our Father and exhorts us to ask, seek, and knock. He compares God to a loving Father who desires to give the Holy Spirit to those who ask.

### Why This Matters

Prayer is not magic, but rather a relationship and formulas don't manipulate God; He responds to hearts that trust Him. Jesus reveals that even when we don't receive exactly what we asked for, the Father gives us what is needed. One of the greatest gifts we receive is the Holy Spirit, the very presence of God who strengthens, guides, and transforms us.

Too often, we give up on prayer because we don't "get what we want." These readings remind us that we are called not to "transactional prayer," where we seek something by praying and promising something to obtain it. God has spoken about the importance of persistence in prayer, but let's remember that worship and prayer, above all, are "transformational"—prayer that aligns our hearts with God's will.

A heartfelt thank you to Mary Jane Carothers for sharing her recent pilgrimage to Lourdes with the Adult Education Class. Mary Jane's witness to God's presence along her journey reminded those in attendance that God continues to walk with us, even in unexpected places.

In Christ's peace,

Fr. Ray Higgins

# UPCOMING events



HEARTLAND FOR KIDS presents a benefit concert for MARY'S MEALS

**JASPER WINERY**  
Thursday, August 28 6:00-9:00  
2400 George Flagg Pkwy, Des Moines, IA 50321

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KITTY STEADMAN, JMW, LAMAR, Willie Farrell MC

## 3-Day Silent Directed Ignatian Retreats

FALL & WINTER DATES

Thurs-Sun Oct 23 - 26, 2025  
Thurs-Sun Dec 4 - 7, 2025  
Thurs-Sun Jan 22 - 25, 2026

If you have been on retreats before and looking for a more personal retreat experience, consider one of the dates below. These retreats start with check-in between 4:00-5:00pm for the 6pm supper and conclude at 3pm the final day. You would be assigned a spiritual director who you would meet with each day. Directors are guided with the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola.

Register at [creighton.edu/retreatcenter/scheduleofretreats](http://creighton.edu/retreatcenter/scheduleofretreats) or scan code.

Terri Lou Duggan  
Melodie Anstey  
Creighton University  
Retreat Center  
712-778-2466  
curc@creighton.edu

Creighton University Retreat Center

The cost is \$400 for room, all meals, and private sessions. A non-refundable deposit of \$75 would be requested at registration.

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### 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 [curc.retreatportal.com/events](http://curc.retreatportal.com/events)

Creighton University Retreat Center  
16493 Conrail Ave | Griswold, IA 51535 | 712.778.2466 | [curc@creighton.edu](mailto:curc@creighton.edu)



# WEEKLY calendar

# MASS intentions



## Saturday

4:00 PM Confessions, Bayard  
 4:05 PM First Saturday Rosary, Bayard  
 4:15 PM Divine Mercy, Bayard  
 4:30 PM Mass, Bayard  
 6:30 PM Mass, Panora  
 7:30 PM Confessions, Panora

## Sunday

7:30 AM Confessions, Panora  
 7:45 AM Rosary, Panora  
 8:00 AM Mass, Panora  
 9:00 AM-10:00 AM Adoration, Bayard  
 9:15 AM Divine Mercy, Guthrie Center  
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No Mass

## Tuesday

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Sat., July 26 at 4:30 PM – David & Rita Halsey  
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 Sun., July 27 at 9:30 AM – Len Snyder Family  
 Tues., July 29 at 5:30 PM – Kenny Ludwig  
 Wed., July 30 at 8:00 AM – Living & deceased members of  
 Bauler Family  
 Thurs., July 31 at 8:00 AM – Delphine Demers  
 Fri., August 1 at 8:00 AM – Lucille Sewell

Sat., August 2 at 4:30 PM – Seidl Family  
 Sat., August 2 at 6:30 PM – Mass for the People  
 Sun., August 3 at 8:00 AM – Families of Dan Donahey and  
 Dr. James and Barbara Ward  
 Sun., August 3 at 9:30 AM – George, Miranda & Maritza Holland  
 Tues., August 5 at 5:30 PM – Fr. Higgins & Higgins family  
 Wed., August 6 at 8:00 AM – Delphine Demers  
 Thurs., August 7 at 8:00 AM – Living & deceased members of  
 Galles Family  
 Fri., August 8 at 8:00 AM – Rita Halsey

### 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.

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Sunday weekly offering— \$857  
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**PARISH**  
announcements

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**ADULT FAITH SESSION DATES:**

Aug 20 - 6:30 p.m. at St. Cecilia

All parishioners welcome to attend.

**HOLY DAY**  
mass



**Mass schedule for Assumption of Mary:**

Thursday, August 14

6:30PM at St Cecilia

Friday, August 15

8:00AM at St Mary

6:30PM at St Patrick



**COUNCIL**  
meetings

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# FROM THE DESK OF

## Fr. Ray Higgins



Dear Parish Family,

“Vanity of vanities, all things are vanity!” These words from Ecclesiastes can sound harsh, but they are an invitation to look at our lives with fresh eyes. The Gospel parable reminds us that the temporary life here on earth, not appropriately spent, but for the sole purpose of gaining wealth, fame, and power, can still end in disaster, and leave no time spent building true treasure in heaven, our true home.

What is this true treasure in heaven we should be building? Our relationship with God, the love we share with our families and friends, and the good we do for others, is what gives eternal life, peace, and true happiness. These readings call us to examine whether we are storing up “treasures in heaven” or only building “barns” here on earth.

St. Paul reminds us in Colossians: “Seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.” The Good News and lesson is that we must intentionally re-center our lives on Christ. It may involve letting go of worries of financial security and do your best to care for your family, it may mean to let go of envy if others have more or the constant pressure to “keep up” with the world, it may also mean to let go of resentments and seek reconciliation if you have wronged others or they have wronged you. When we place God first, then we will find true peace and purpose.

This coming week is an opportunity to demonstrate by seeking what is above. We will celebrate the Assumption of Mary on Friday, August 15, a Holy Day of Obligation. This beautiful feast celebrates the reality that Mary, having lived her life completely for Christ, was taken body and soul into heaven. She reminds us of our ultimate calling: to be with God forever.

Mass times for the Holy Day are:

- Thursday, August 14 at 6:30 PM – St. Cecilia Church, Panora
- Friday, August 15 at 8:00 AM – St. Mary Church, Guthrie Center
- Friday, August 15 at 6:30 PM – St. Patrick Church, Bayard

Please plan to attend one of these Masses as we honor Our Blessed Mother and refocus our hearts on heaven.

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This week, ask yourself:

- Am I building “bigger barns,” storing up things that won’t last?
- How can I invest more fully in the relationships and the faith that will last forever?

May Mary, who shows us the way to her Son, help us to seek the treasures that endure.

In Christ,

Fr. Ray

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KITTY STEADMAN, JMW, LAMAR, Willie Farrell MC

## St. Patrick's— Perry Job Opportunity

St. Patrick School is seeking a licensed educator to fill our late vacancy in 3rd grade for the 2025-26 academic school year. The position is available full time with benefits. Questions regarding the position can be directed to Dr. Kandice Pattillo at [kpattillo@stpatricks-perry-ia.org](mailto:kpattillo@stpatricks-perry-ia.org) or 515-465-4186. The position is posted to the Teachlowa website.



# 3-Day Silent Directed Ignatian Retreats

FALL & WINTER DATES

Thurs-Sun Oct 23 - 26, 2025  
Thurs-Sun Dec 4 - 7, 2025  
Thurs-Sun Jan 22 - 25, 2026

If you have been on retreats before and looking for a more personal retreat experience, consider one of the dates below. These retreats start with check-in between 4:00-5:00pm for the 6pm supper and conclude at 3pm the final day. You would be assigned a spiritual director who you would meet with each day. Directors are guided with the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola.

Register at [creighton.edu/retreatcenter/scheduleofretreats](http://creighton.edu/retreatcenter/scheduleofretreats) or scan code.

Terri Lou Duggan  
Melodie Anstey  
Creighton University  
Retreat Center  
712-778-2466  
[curc@creighton.edu](mailto:curc@creighton.edu)

Creighton University Retreat Center

The cost is \$400 for room, all meals, and private sessions. A non-refundable deposit of \$75 would be requested at registration.

## 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.*

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CHURCH GOODS & RELIGIOUS ARTICLES

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Statement

ST MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH  
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 Guthrie Center, IA 50115

**Statement Date:** 8/6/2025  
**Salesperson:** Catalog  
**Customer Number:** 5011500

**Contac**

Date	Reference	Description	Charge	Credit	Balance
7/14/2025	6095186-IN		162.30		162.30
Total:					162.30
Current	1 Month	2 Months	3 Months	4 Months	Balance Due
0.00	162.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	162.30

ENJOY YOUR SUMMER

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

August 16 & 17, 2025

**CONTACT**  
information



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

**Deacon Dennis Patrick** - (641) 757-0851 or  
deacondennis@gmail.com

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

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

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

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**ST. MARY PARISH**  
603 MAIN STREET  
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**ST. PATRICK PARISH**  
214 PRAIRIE STREET  
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**PARISH**  
announcements

**Summer Mass time added!!!**

6:30PM Mass time at St. Cecilia's in Panora during the summer will end Labor day weekend. August 30th will be the last 6:30

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August 20th at 6:30PM- St. Cecilia's

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All parishioners welcome to attend.

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**St. Mary's RE**

St. Mary's Religious Education classes will be held on Wednesdays from 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM this year. Dates will be sent out at a later time. If you would be willing to teach or would like more information, please contact Jamie Carlson at [stmpcdre@gmail.com](mailto:stmpcdre@gmail.com). We are looking for teachers that can teach all the time, every other time, or even be a substitute.

# FROM THE DESK OF

## Fr. Ray Higgins



Dear Parish Families,

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus declares, "I came to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already blazing!" (Luke 12:49). He's not speaking of destruction, but of a holy fire — one that purifies, awakens, and transforms. Like a prairie fire that clears away dead growth to make room for new life, Christ's fire burns away complacency and calls us to deeper faith. It may cause division, even within families, because truth challenges comfort and discipleship demands courage.

As a parish, we're invited to carry this fire — not with fear, but with purpose. In our homes, our ministries, and our community, we can be bearers of Christ's light: speaking truth with love, living our faith boldly, and kindling hope in others. Let us welcome the fire Jesus brings, trusting that what it consumes, He will renew with grace.

A few parish updates: the 6:30 p.m. extra Saturday evening Mass at St. Cecilia, which has been offered during the summer months, will conclude **on August 30**. Later, we can assess whether this is something we should continue in the future. On another note, I encourage each of you to consider attending one of the adult education classes being offered. These are excellent opportunities to deepen your understanding of the faith and connect with others. I plan to provide additional sessions as we move into the fall and winter seasons.

I also want to highlight the importance of your help with our upcoming Parish Dinners in all three parishes please look for details in future bulletins. Currently, I want to draw attention to parishioners of St. Cecilia about the upcoming Chicken Dinner. Like all Parish Dinners, this event is more than a meal — it's a chance to come together in fellowship and extend hospitality to the broader community. It's one of the ways we live out our mission: welcoming, serving, and sharing the joy of our faith. Whether you can help with setup, serving, cleanup, or simply by attending and inviting others, your participation makes a difference. Let's make this a true parish celebration!

Finally, I ask for your generous support of the Annual Diocesan Appeal. Let's work together to fulfill our parish obligation soon. In addition, please remember the other essential funds that sustain our parish life — such as the building and maintenance fund and the cemetery fund. Your stewardship ensures that our facilities remain welcoming and our sacred spaces are cared for with dignity.

May the fire of Christ's love continue to burn brightly in our hearts and our parish.

In Christ's peace,

Fr. Ray

# UPCOMING events



## Jubilee Year of Hope August Pilgrimage

Monday, August 18th we will travel to the Basilica of St. John in Des Moines.

We will leave St. Cecilia's parking lot at 10:30 a.m. to attend noon Mass.

Afterward we will have a meal together before travelling back home.

Please let us know if you are planning to travel with us. As always, you may travel on your own that day, or any day you choose.

Again, remember to bring your "passport".

Questions? Call or text 515-371-6135

Do you know a couple who have been married 70, 75 or more years? Worldwide Marriage Encounter highlights and honors couples who have very long marriages. Every state in the US will honor one nominated couple who is married the longest. Please nominate a couple by going to [wwme.org](http://wwme.org) and nominate them at the top of the page. Nominations should be in by September 1st.

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# 3-Day

Silent Directed

## Ignatian Retreats



Creighton University  
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# WEEKLY calendar

## Saturday

4:00 PM Confessions, Bayard  
 4:05 PM First Saturday Rosary, Bayard  
 4:15 PM Divine Mercy, Bayard  
 4:30 PM Mass, Bayard  
 6:30 PM Mass, Panora  
 7:30 PM Confessions, Panora

## Sunday

7:30 AM Confessions, Panora  
 7:45 AM Rosary, Panora  
 8:00 AM Mass, Panora  
 9:00 AM-10:00 AM Adoration, Bayard  
 9:15 AM Divine Mercy, Guthrie Center  
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## Monday

No Mass

## Tuesday

3:30 - 4:30 PM Adoration, Panora  
 5:15 PM Confessions & Divine Mercy, Bayard  
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7:45 AM Confessions & Divine Mercy, Panora  
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 Sat., August 16 at 6:30 PM – Novena for Holy Souls  
 Sun., August 17 at 8:00 AM – Brennen Cox  
 Sun., August 17 at 9:30 AM – All parish musicians  
 Tues., August 19 at 5:30 PM – David & Rita Halsey  
 Wed., August 20 at 8:00 AM – Dick Zapf  
 Thurs., August 21 at 8:00 AM – Eddie Dorsett & Family  
 Fri., August 22 at 8:00 AM – Lucille Sewell

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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— \$1,386  
 ADA Goal \$24,220 ADA Balance Due \$7,350

### St. Mary Weekly Offering

Sunday weekly offering— \$867  
 ADA Goal \$15,849 ADA Balance Due \$1,639

### St. Patrick Weekly Offering

Sunday weekly offering— \$1,378  
 ADA Goal \$11,272 ADA Balance Due \$2,022

THE CATHOLIC CHURCHES OF  
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# FROM THE DESK OF

Fr. Ray Higgins



Dear Parishioners,

In today's Gospel, someone asks Jesus: "Lord, will only a few people be saved?" (Luke 13:23). Instead of giving numbers, Jesus turns the question back on us: "Strive to enter through the narrow gate."

This "narrow gate" is not about God making heaven exclusive, but about reminding us that discipleship is not easy. Following Christ is more than saying we know Him or showing up occasionally—it's about daily living with faith, integrity, forgiveness, compassion, and perseverance. The narrow gate means choosing God's ways when the wider road of comfort, indifference, or selfishness looks easier.

The significance is clear: salvation is not automatic, but a response to God's grace. The Lord calls each of us to live in such a way that our hearts are open, our lives are authentic, and our love is sincere.

Takeaway to Ponder:

- Am I walking through the "narrow gate" in my daily choices?
- Do my words and actions show that I know Christ personally—or only from a distance?
- What changes do I need to make so that my faith is not only professed, but lived?

This Gospel matters because it challenges us to live without complacency. Heaven is real, eternity is real, and how we live today shapes who we become for eternity. Jesus assures us: those who strive, those who trust in His grace, will not be disappointed.

---

Parish Life Update

As Labor Day approaches, we mark the close of summer. With that, our Saturday 6:30 pm summer Mass in Panora will end after August 30. I want to thank all who attended and served at these liturgies. They have been a blessing throughout the summer months.

As we turn the corner into fall, may we each recommit to walking through the narrow gate together as a parish family—encouraging one another in prayer, faith, and works of charity.

In Christ,

Fr. Ray Higgins

# UPCOMING events



## Candle Light Rosary

Help us in praying for our country, peace in the world and to ask blessing on the new school year.

Sunday, September 7, 2025 at 7PM

The Grotto of Domus Trinitatis

24750 Noble Ave.

Carroll, Iowa

Please bring lawn chairs.



\*We will move indoor if weather is poor

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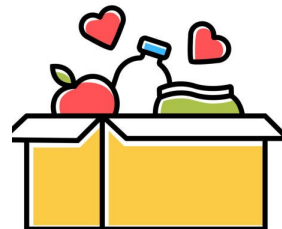


## St. Mary's Food Drive

We will have a food pantry due the month of September. Please, please any canned or other non-perishable items in the box in the vestibule of the church.

If you wish to donate money, checks should be made out to the First Presbyterian Church with "food pantry" on the memo line. Please contact Judy Bauler if you have any questions.

Thank you for your generosity.



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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.



# WEEKLY calendar

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 7:30 PM Confessions, Panora

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September 27 & 28, 2025

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220 N 1ST ST.  
PANORA, IA 50216



**ST. MARY PARISH**

603 MAIN STREET  
GUTHRIE CENTER, IA 50115



**ST. PATRICK PARISH**

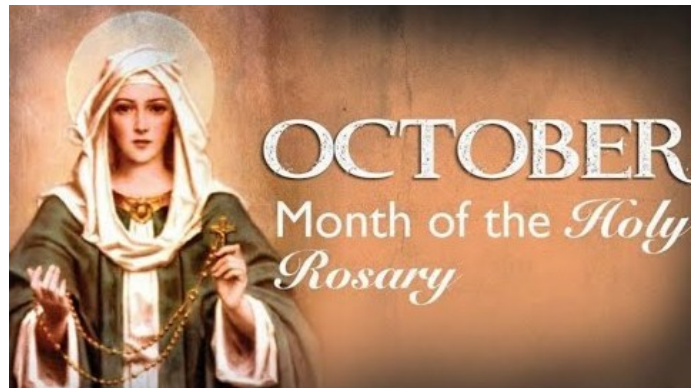
214 PRAIRIE STREET  
BAYARD, IA 50029



## PARISH announcements

### St. Cecilia's Chicken Dinner

Are you ready for some good chicken? Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup> to attend St. Cecilia's chicken dinner!! Please we need your help and spread the word!



**DIVINE TREASURES**  
Your Faith. Your Journey. Your Store.



## Pop Up Market

NOVEMBER 1ST

- 30 MIN BEFORE & AFTER 4:30 MASS
- ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH BAYARD
- 30 MIN BEFORE & AFTER 9:30 MASS
- ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH GUTHRIE CENTER

NOVEMBER 2ND

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[www.divinetreasuresinc.net](http://www.divinetreasuresinc.net)

# FROM THE DESK OF

## Fr. Ray Higgins



Dear Parish Family,

Remember that next Sunday, October 5, St. Cecilia's will be hosting its Annual Chicken Dinner at the Veterans Auditorium in Panora, IA. Please support this great effort and invite all your family and friends.

There is a great urgency from the Word of God this Sunday. The prophet Amos warns those who grow complacent in their comfort while others experience suffering. St. Paul urges Timothy to "pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness." And in the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the rich man and Lazarus: one man who feasted every day, blind to the poor man at his very doorstep.

The rich man's sin was not wealth itself, but indifference. He never saw Lazarus. That blindness cost him eternity.

The same challenge comes to us: Who is the Lazarus outside our door? Who is lonely, struggling, overlooked, or suffering, while we are tempted to look the other way?

- For men, this message calls us to true strength. Possessions or achievements do not measure our lives, but rather by how we use our strength to protect, provide for, and lift others.
- For women, it calls forth the gift of compassion. Women so often notice what others miss. The Lord asks you to extend that gift toward those who feel invisible or forgotten.
- For young adults, the Gospel is a challenge to choose purpose over comfort. The true meaning of life is not found in self-indulgence, but in building a life of love, service, and faith.

The Psalm reminds us that the Lord "raises those who are bowed down" and "loves the just." If God's heart beats for the poor and forgotten, then our hearts must also be in rhythm with His.

This week, let's not wait for another sign. God has already spoken through His Word. Let us open our eyes, see the Lazarus at our doorstep, and respond with love. In doing so, we serve Christ Himself and prepare our hearts for the eternal banquet of heaven.

Sincerely,

Fr. Ray

# UPCOMING events



## Stand up for life!



Show your support for the sanctity of human life, especially the unborn.

Join the annual  
Carroll, Iowa

## LIFE CHAIN

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Sunday, October 5th

We will gather in the Carroll County Court House parking lot at 1:45. Refreshments served after the event.

Sponsored by: C.A.I.F.L. (Carroll Area Iowans for Life)

### Guthrie Center First United Methodist Church Harvest Supper

Wednesday, October 15, 5-7PM

405 Prairie St., Guthrie Center

roast pork, dressing, mashed potatoes & gravy,  
green beans, rolls, homemade salads & pies

For Carry outs— come to church from 4:45-6:30PM  
(15 minute parking on the east side)

FREE WILL DONATION

**Married Couples.** Would you like to relive the excitement, romance and passion from your honeymoon? Rekindle that spark on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. For more information call 563-920-9419 or you can sign up at [wwme.org](http://wwme.org). Upcoming dates are February 13-15, 2026 both in Dubuque, Iowa. Sign up soon as space is limited.



### St. Mary's Food Drive

We will have a food pantry due the month of September. Please, please any canned or other non-perishable items in the box in the vestibule of the church.

If you wish to donate money, checks should be made out to the First Presbyterian Church with "food pantry" on the memo line. Please contact Judy Bauler if you have any questions.

Thank you for your generosity.



### Rosary at Holy Spirit Church in Carroll, Iowa

Feast Day of Our Lady of the Rosary  
October 7th  
7:00 pm at Holy Spirit Church

### "Helping Our Family and Friends back to Christ through the Rosary."

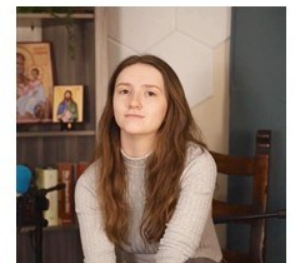
Join us for Mike's presentation, Adoration, Benediction, the Rosary and a reception to follow.



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Teresa Scherschligt

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Rosary Foundation



# WEEKLY calendar

# MASS intentions



### Saturday

4:00 PM Confessions, Bayard  
 4:05 PM First Saturday Rosary, Bayard  
 4:15 PM Divine Mercy, Bayard  
 4:30 PM Mass, Bayard  
 6:30 PM Mass, Panora  
 7:30 PM Confessions, Panora

### Sunday

7:30 AM Confessions, Panora  
 7:45 AM Rosary, 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

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No Mass

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 5:30 PM Mass, Bayard

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 8:00 AM Mass, Panora  
 9:00 AM Prayer Group, Panora  
 4:00 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

Sat., September 27 at 4:30 PM – Mass for the People  
 Sun., September 28 at 8:00 AM – Brad Rose  
 Sun., September 28 at 9:30 AM – Viola Rohe  
 Tues., September 30 at 5:30 PM – For the soul of Kathy Kretsinger  
 Wed., October 1 at 8:00 AM – Scott Bauler  
 Thurs., October 2 at 8:00 AM – Susanne Follet  
 Fri., October 3 at 8:00 AM – Spencer Sloss

Sat., October 4 at 4:30 PM – Mass for the People  
 Sun., October 5 at 8:00 AM – Dick Zapf  
 Sun., October 5 at 9:30 AM – Ray & Lois Tunning  
 Tues., October 7 at 5:30 PM – For the soul of Kathy Kretsinger  
 Wed., October 8 at 8:00 AM – Jack Stringer  
 Thurs., October 9 at 8:00 AM – Shelly Bauler  
 Fri., October 10 at 8:00 AM – Madison Tunning

### 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— \$5,628  
 ADA Goal \$24,220 ADA Balance Due \$7,030

### St. Mary Weekly Offering

Sunday weekly offering— \$1,224  
 ADA— PAID IN FULL

### St. Patrick Weekly Offering

Sunday weekly offering— \$748  
 ADA Goal \$11,272 ADA Balance Due \$522

### All Parish Reminder for Weekly Offerings

Offerings can go directly to the general fund, the building fund, cemetery or ADA.

Please put your parish and chosen offering designation in the memo line.

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

October 4 & 5, 2025

## CONTACT information



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

**Deacon Dennis Patrick** - (641) 757-0851 or  
deacondennis@gmail.com

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

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

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

### Business Manager:

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603 MAIN STREET  
GUTHRIE CENTER, IA 50115



ST. PATRICK PARISH  
214 PRAIRIE STREET  
BAYARD, IA 50029



## PARISH announcements

### St. Cecilia's Chicken Dinner

Are you ready for some good chicken? Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup> to attend St. Cecilia's chicken dinner!!

11AM-1:30PM at Panora Community Center

Adults \$15.00, Children 6 and above \$10,  
Children 5 and under free



## COUNCIL meetings

St. Cecilia - Thursday, October 9th at 6:30PM

St. Patrick - Tuesday, October 14th at 6:30PM

St. Mary - Wednesday, October 15th at 6:00PM



# FROM THE DESK OF

## Fr. Ray Higgins



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The Gospel this Sunday invites us to hold two seemingly paradoxical images in our hearts. Jesus tells us that even a mustard seed of faith can command a mulberry tree to be uprooted and planted in the sea. And then, after we have finished our work, we are to say, "We are unprofitable servants; we have done what we were obliged to do."

It's a challenging message. We live in a world that craves recognition. We want to be seen, thanked, and celebrated. And yet, Jesus invites us to a deeper kind of faith—a faith that serves not for applause, but for love.

True discipleship is lived in a humble trust that God's power works through our smallest acts, and in a service that seeks no recognition. The tiny mustard seed reminds us that faith is a gift of grace, not a measure of our own strength. The confession of the "unprofitable servant" shows that the reward we seek is not the applause of men but the silent gratitude of our Lord, who sees every hidden act of love.

I think of the quiet heroes among us. The ones who show up early to unlock the church doors. Who ministers at the Mass, who visits and brings Holy Communion to the sick. Many who pray for others without being asked, who assist with various parish events, who endure and support their families silently in many ways, and those who serve in quiet capacities in their communities, etc. Their names may never be announced—but their faith moves mountains.

Let us therefore ask the Holy Spirit each morning to kindle in us that tiny, genuine faith, and let us finish every task with the prayer of the unprofitable servant, offering our work to God alone. In doing so, we join the countless "useless servants" who, though unseen, are beloved by the Father.

A reminder, this Sunday, October 5, is the annual St. Cecilia Chicken Dinner at Veterans' Memorial in Panora, IA. This gathering is a cherished opportunity for fellowship, delicious food, and community outreach for the parish. A heartfelt thank you to all who have contributed in past years—your dedication and generosity embody the very humility and service the Gospel calls us to. Your quiet, steadfast work makes this event possible and strengthens the bonds of our community.

May the Lord bless our efforts, both in the kitchen and in the hidden corners of daily life, and may we all grow in the mustard-seed faith that moves mountains and the humble spirit that serves without seeking reward.

In Christ's love,

Fr. Ray

# UPCOMING events



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Join the annual  
Carroll, Iowa

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405 Prairie St., Guthrie Center

roast pork, dressing, mashed potatoes & gravy,  
green beans, rolls, homemade salads & pies

For Carry outs— come to church from 4:45-6:30PM  
(15 minute parking on the east side)

FREE WILL DONATION

### Drive thru Harvest Dinner— Guthrie Activity Center

Wednesday, October 22, 4:45-6:30PM

2 ham balls, green beans, mashed potatoes,  
roll and pumpkin bar

\$10/meal

209 State Street, Guthrie Center



## Pop Up Market

NOVEMBER 1ST

30 MIN BEFORE & AFTER 4:30 MASS

ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH  
BAYARD

NOVEMBER 2ND

30 MIN BEFORE & AFTER 9:30 MASS

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH  
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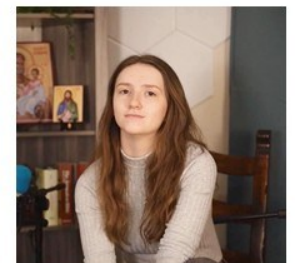
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 4:30 PM Mass, Bayard  
 6:30 PM Mass, Panora  
 7:30 PM Confessions, Panora

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7:30 AM Confessions, Panora  
 7:45 AM Rosary, Panora  
 8:00 AM Mass, Panora  
 9:00 AM-10:00 AM Adoration, Bayard  
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 10:30 AM Confessions, Guthrie Center

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No Mass

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 5:30 PM Mass, Bayard

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# WEEKLY offerings



### St. Cecilia Weekly Offering

Sunday weekly offering— \$1,650  
 Gaza- \$451  
 ACH- \$1,025  
 ADA Goal \$24,220 ADA Balance Due \$6,485

### St. Mary Weekly Offering

Sunday weekly offering— \$442  
 Gaza- \$415  
 ACH- \$1,424  
 ADA— PAID IN FULL

### St. Patrick Weekly Offering

Sunday weekly offering— \$775  
 Gaza- \$78  
 ACH- \$810  
 ADA— PAID IN FULL

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

October 11 & 12, 2025

## CONTACT information



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19 AND HE SAID TO HIM,  
"RISE AND GO YOUR WAY;  
YOUR FAITH HAS MADE YOU  
WELL."

LUKE 17:11-19 (ESV)

# FROM THE DESK OF

## Fr. Ray Higgins



Dear Parishioners,

In today's Gospel, ten lepers cry out to Jesus for mercy—and all ten were healed. But only one returns to give thanks. He falls at Jesus' feet, praising God with a loud voice. And it's to that one alone that Jesus says, "Your faith has saved you."

There's an essential difference between being healed and being made whole. Healing changes our condition; gratitude changes our heart.

So often we receive blessings—answered prayers, restored health, reconciled relationships—and then move on, forgetting to return to the Lord in thanksgiving. Yet gratitude is what transforms faith from obligation into relationship, from ritual into joy.

When we pause to say, "Thank you, Lord," we rediscover that the greatest gift isn't just what God has done for us, but that God is with us.

Gratitude is the doorway to deeper faith. It grounds us, humbles us, and reminds us that every good thing is a gift meant to be shared with others.

Let this week be a time to "turn back" like the Samaritan—to recognize the blessings in our lives and to thank the Giver.

---

A Grateful Parish

This weekend, we also pause to express our sincere thanks to everyone who coordinated, volunteered, donated, and participated in St. Cecilia's Chicken Dinner.

Your generosity, hard work, and joyful spirit made the event a great success, truly demonstrating community and faith in action. From those who prepared food, served meals, set up, cleaned up, or came to enjoy fellowship—thank you!

May your service and gratitude continue to draw our parish family closer to Christ and to one another.

Sincerely,

Fr. Ray

# UPCOMING events



## Guthrie Center First United Methodist Church Harvest Supper

Wednesday, October 15, 5-7PM

405 Prairie St., Guthrie Center

roast pork, dressing, mashed potatoes & gravy,  
green beans, rolls, homemade salads & pies

For Carry outs– come to church from 4:45-6:30PM  
(15 minute parking on the east side)

FREE WILL DONATION

## Annunciation Men's Club Fall Breakfast

Serving Pancakes, Eggs and Sausage

Sunday, October 19th 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Annunciation Parish Center, Coon Rapids

Adults \$8.00 Children 10 & under \$4.00

Carry outs available by calling

999-2472

All carry-out meals are \$8.00



## Drive thru Harvest Dinner– Guthrie Activity Center

Wednesday, October 22, 4:45-6:30PM

2 ham balls, green beans, mashed potatoes,  
roll and pumpkin bar

\$10/meal

209 State Street, 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.

AMERICAN LEGION  
POST 44

# ANNUAL FALL BRUNCH

FREE WILL OFFERING

OCTOBER **25** 7-11 am

BAYARD COMMUNITY CENTER  
MAIN ST BAYARD, IA 50029  
**DINE IN / CARRY OUT**

- MADE TO ORDER EGGS
- SAUSAGE
- PANCAKES
- BISCUITS WITH GRAVY
- COFFEE, MILK, JUICE

LET US SERVE YOU  
ONCE MORE!

# 3-Day

*Silent Directed*

# Ignatian Retreats



FALL & WINTER DATES

Thurs-Sun Oct 23 - 26, 2025

Thurs-Sun Dec 4 - 7, 2025

Thurs-Sun Jan 22 - 25, 2026



The cost is \$400 for room, all meals, and private sessions. A non-refundable deposit of \$75 would be requested at registration.

If you have been on retreats before and looking for a more personal retreat experience, consider one of the dates below. These retreats start with check-in between 4:00-5:00pm for the 6pm supper and conclude at 3pm the final day. You would be assigned a spiritual director who you would meet with each day. Directors are guided with the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola.

Register at  
[creighton.edu/retreatcenter/scheduleofretreats](http://creighton.edu/retreatcenter/scheduleofretreats)  
or scan code.

Terri Lou Duggan  
Melodie Anstey  
Creighton University  
Retreat Center  
712-778-2466  
[curc@creighton.edu](mailto:curc@creighton.edu)





# WEEKLY calendar

# MASS intentions



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 Thurs., October 16 at 8:00 AM – Susanne Follet  
 Fri., October 17 at 8:00 AM – All parish musicians

Sat., October 18 at 4:30 PM – Anita Sheehan  
 Sun., October 19 at 8:00 AM – Ed & Jeane McDermott  
 Sun., October 19 at 9:30 AM – Len & Leona Troshynski  
 Tues., October 21 at 5:30 PM – Healing for Darla Davis  
 Wed., October 22 at 8:00 AM – Orville Leinen  
 Thurs., October 23 at 8:00 AM – Eddie Dorsett & Family  
 Fri., October 24 at 8:00 AM – Samantha Sloss

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# WEEKLY offerings



### St. Cecilia Weekly Offering

Sunday weekly offering— \$1,697  
 ADA Goal \$24,220 ADA Balance Due \$6,485

### St. Mary Weekly Offering

Sunday weekly offering— \$618.90  
 ADA— PAID IN FULL

### St. Patrick Weekly Offering

Sunday weekly offering— \$597  
 ADA— PAID IN FULL

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

October 18 & 19, 2025

## CONTACT information



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

**Deacon Dennis Patrick** - (641) 757-0851 or  
deacondennis@gmail.com

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

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

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

### 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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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.



## PARISH announcements

The St. Cecilia's Church Councils sincerely thank everyone who supported our annual Chicken Dinner Fundraiser. Your time, desserts, and company made it a wonderful success!

Because of your generosity, we raised enough to donate \$1,000 each to the local food pantry, New Opportunities, and The Giving Christmas—organizations that bring hope and help to families in need within our community.



**DIVINE TREASURES**  
Your Faith. Your Journey. Your Store.



# Pop Up Market

NOVEMBER 1ST

- 🕒 30 MIN BEFORE & AFTER 4:30 MASS
- 📍 ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH  
BAYARD

NOVEMBER 2ND

- 🕒 30 MIN BEFORE & AFTER 9:30 MASS
- 📍 ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH  
GUTHRIE CENTER

We make it simple.  
The Catholic products you love, brought right to you!



@divinetreasuresinc  
[www.divinetreasuresinc.net](http://www.divinetreasuresinc.net)



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



“Persevere in Prayer, Stay Watchful in Spirit” — Gospel of Luke 18:1–8

Dear Friends in Christ,

In this Sunday’s Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the persistent widow and the unjust judge. “Pray always and do not lose heart,” He says. The widow’s persistence teaches us a valuable lesson: God desires that we remain steadfast in our faith and prayer, even when challenges arise or the world seems unjust. Perseverance in prayer strengthens our trust in God’s providence and sharpens our awareness of what is true and what is false.

This call to remain vigilant in faith also extends to how we live and interact in the world around us. In recent weeks, we’ve been made aware of people trying to scam parishioners using my name or the names of other church leaders. They often send emails or text messages pretending to be me, asking for money or gift cards under the guise of a “discreet matter” or “urgent help.” These are not from me.

Let me be clear:

- I will never ask for money or personal information through text messages or emails.
- Our parish does not solicit donations this way.
- If you receive a suspicious message, check the actual email address or phone number. Scammers count on people not looking closely.
- Always contact me directly through my official parish phone number or email address — never the one the scammer provides.

Church bulletins and public communications are often accessible online, making it easy for scammers to mimic church leaders. Please be alert, and help spread the word to those who may not be as tech-savvy.

Jesus reminds us to pray always and not lose heart. Part of that vigilance is protecting one another — especially our elderly, neighbors, and fellow parishioners — from those who would seek to harm or deceive. Together, let’s stand firm in faith, trust in the Lord, and look out for one another.

In Christ,

Fr. Ray

# UPCOMING events



## Annunciation Men's Club Fall Breakfast

Serving Pancakes, Eggs and Sausage  
 Sunday, October 19th 8:00 am – 12:00 pm  
 Annunciation Parish Center, Coon Rapids  
 Adults \$8.00 Children 10 & under \$4.00

Carry outs available by calling  
 999-2472



All

carry-out meals are \$8.00

## Drive thru Harvest Dinner– Main Street Fundraiser

### Guthrie Center Activity Center

Wednesday, October 22, 4:45-6:30PM  
 2 ham balls, green beans, mashed potatoes,  
 roll and pumpkin bar

\$10/meal

209 State Street, Guthrie Center

**ART CONTEST**  
 SPIRIT CATHOLIC RADIO 2025  
 THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY  
 SUBMIT YOUR ARTWORK BY  
 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12TH, 2025  
 Spirit CATHOLIC RADIO NETWORK

AMERICAN LEGION  
 POST 44  
**ANNUAL  
 FALL  
 BRUNCH**  
 FREE WILL OFFERING  
**OCTOBER 25 7-11 am**  
 BAYARD COMMUNITY CENTER  
 MAIN ST BAYARD, IA 50029  
**DINE IN / CARRY OUT**

- MADE TO ORDER EGGS
- SAUSAGE
- PANCAKES
- BISCUITS WITH GRAVY
- COFFEE, MILK, JUICE

LET US SERVE YOU  
 ONCE MORE!

# 3-Day

Silent Directed

## Ignatian Retreats

FALL & WINTER DATES  
 Thurs-Sun Oct 23 - 26, 2025  
 Thurs-Sun Dec 4 - 7, 2025  
 Thurs-Sun Jan 22 - 25, 2026

If you have been on retreats before and looking for a more personal retreat experience, consider one of the dates below. These retreats start with check-in between 4:00-5:00pm for the 6pm supper and conclude at 3pm the final day. You would be assigned a spiritual director who you would meet with each day. Directors are guided with the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola.

Register at  
[creighton.edu/retreatcenter/scheduleofretreats](http://creighton.edu/retreatcenter/scheduleofretreats)  
 or scan code.

Creighton University  
 Retreat Center  
 Terri Lou Duggan  
 Melodie Anstey  
 Creighton University  
 Retreat Center  
 712-778-2466  
[curc@creighton.edu](mailto:curc@creighton.edu)

The cost is \$400 for room, all meals, and private sessions. A non-refundable deposit of \$75 would be requested at registration.

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.



# WEEKLY calendar

## Saturday

4:00 PM Confessions, Bayard  
 4:05 PM First Saturday Rosary, Bayard  
 4:15 PM Rosary, Bayard  
 4:30 PM Mass, Bayard  
 6:30 PM Mass, Panora  
 7:30 PM Confessions, Panora

## Sunday

7:30 AM Confessions, Panora  
 7:45 AM Rosary, Panora  
 8:00 AM Mass, Panora  
 9:00 AM-10:00 AM Adoration, Bayard  
 9:15 AM Rosary, 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 & Rosary, Bayard  
 5:30 PM Mass, Bayard

## Wednesday

7:45 AM Confessions & Rosary, Panora  
 8:00 AM Mass, Panora  
 9:00 AM Prayer Group, Panora  
 4:00 PM Adoration, Guthrie Center

## Thursday

7:45 AM Confessions & Rosary, Panora  
 8:00 AM Mass, Panora

## Friday

7:45 AM Confessions & Rosary, Guthrie Center  
 8:00 AM Mass, Guthrie Center

### All Parish Reminder for Weekly Offerings

Offerings can go directly to the general fund, the building fund, cemetery or ADA.

Please put your parish and chosen offering designation in the memo line.

# MASS intentions



Sat., October 18 at 4:30 PM – Anita Sheehan  
 Sun., October 19 at 8:00 AM – Ed & Jeane McDermott  
 Sun., October 19 at 9:30 AM – Len & Leona Troshynski  
 Tues., October 21 at 5:30 PM – Healing for Darla Davis  
 Wed., October 22 at 8:00 AM – Orville Leinen  
 Thurs., October 23 at 8:00 AM – Eddie Dorsett & Family  
 Fri., October 24 at 8:00 AM – Samantha Sloss

Sat., October 25 at 4:30 PM – Mass for the People  
 Sun., October 26 at 8:00 AM – Kim Lubeck  
 Sun., October 26 at 9:30 AM – Sue Schmit  
 Tues., October 28 at 5:30 PM – Soul of Greg Kenyon  
 Wed., October 29 at 8:00 AM – Jerry Suther  
 Thurs., October 30 at 8:00 AM – Family of Jim Meyer  
 Fri., October 31 at 8:00 AM – Travis Clark

Fall is a beautiful season full of color and crisp fresh air. A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience is like autumn because it's a weekend full of fresh air, new beginnings and a time to rejoice in the beauty of your marriage. It's a great time to rekindle communication and enjoy a weekend away. Dates of upcoming experiences are a non-residential weekend November 7-9 in Ankeny and a residential weekend February 13-15 in Dubuque. For more information call Greg and Denise - 563-920-9419



# WEEKLY offerings



### St. Cecilia Weekly Offering

Sunday weekly offering— \$1,481  
 ADA Goal \$24,220 ADA Balance Due \$6,485

### St. Mary Weekly Offering

Sunday weekly offering— \$1,504  
 ADA— PAID IN FULL

### St. Patrick Weekly Offering

Sunday weekly offering— \$635  
 ADA— PAID IN FULL

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

October 25 & 26, 2025

## CONTACT information



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

**Deacon Dennis Patrick** - (641) 757-0851 or  
deacondennis@gmail.com

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

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

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

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### 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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In the event of an emergency, please contact Fr. Ray Higgins at (641) 747-2569 for the emergency number.

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## PARISH announcements

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Your Faith. Your Journey. Your Store.



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📍 ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH  
BAYARD

NOVEMBER 2ND

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603 MAIN STREET  
GUTHRIE CENTER, IA 50115



**ST. PATRICK PARISH**  
214 PRAIRIE STREET  
BAYARD, IA 50029



## ALL SAINTS' DAY

# FROM THE DESK OF

## Fr. Ray Higgins



Dear Parish Family,

Thank you for your continued prayers for my Aunt Valerie. She remains in the hospital and will be moved to a care center this coming week. Your compassion and support have been a great comfort to our family—thank you for walking with us.

This Sunday's Gospel reminds us that God hears the humble. The Pharisee boasts of his goodness, while the tax collector prays, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner." Jesus tells us it is the humble man who goes home justified.

But humility begins with awareness—the quiet attentiveness that allows us to see ourselves truthfully and recognize God's presence. Awareness in prayer means we stop performing and start listening. It means we notice what's stirring in our hearts and bring it honestly before the Lord. To allow what we discern to transform us into what God intends for each of us.

Sirach tells us that the prayer of the lowly "pierces the clouds." That kind of prayer doesn't come from pride—it comes from awareness.

This week's question to ponder:

Do I come before God seeking to impress Him—or to be transformed by Him?

Let us be a parish that prays with awareness, walks in humility, and welcomes the mercy that transforms.

In Christ,

Fr. Ray

I have fought a good fight,  
I have finished my course,  
I have kept the faith: henceforth  
there is laid up for me a  
crown of righteousness, which  
the Lord, the righteous judge,  
shall give me at that day:  
and not to me only, but unto  
all them also that love  
his appearing.  
2 Timothy 4:7-8

# UPCOMING events



## Annunciation Ladies Guild Annual Beef & Noodle Dinner

Serving Homemade Beef & Noodles,  
Mashed potatoes, Green beans and Dessert

Sunday ~ November 9th,  
Annunciation Parish Center

11:00am ~ 1:00 Pm

Raffling Four Items

Tickets are \$1 or buy 6 tickets for \$5.

Carry outs available by calling: 999-2472



**Married Couples.** Would you like to relive the excitement, romance and passion from your honeymoon? Rekindle that spark on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. For more information call Denise and Greg at 563-920-9419 or sign up at [wwme.org](http://wwme.org). Upcoming experiences are a non-residential weekend in Ankeny, November 7-9 and a residential weekend February 13-15, 2026.



**SPiRiT CATHOLIC RADIO 2025**  
**ART CONTEST**  
THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY  
SUBMIT YOUR ARTWORK BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12TH, 2025  
Spirit CATHOLIC RADIO NETWORK

## Guthrie Center Association of Churches 2025 Sounds of Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 14, 2025 at 2PM

First United Methodist Church

405 Prairie St., Guthrie Center

Community Choir: directed by Pastor Jolene James

Rehearsal: Wed. Nov 19 & 26 and Dec 3 & 10  
at 7-7:30PM, GC First United Methodist Church

Solo/small group: from all churches are welcome  
to perform

Info: to be included in the written program, please  
submit program info to United Methodist Church  
office (641-332-2408) before Monday, Dec. 1.

## SILENT IGNATIAN RETREAT FOR WOMEN

### To Be Filled - A Lenten Preached Retreat

Creighton University  
Retreat Center  
March 12 - 15, 2026

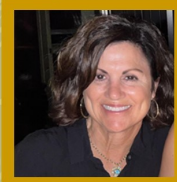
God wants nothing more than to fill what's un-filled in our lives. Our relationships, jobs, ministries, life circumstances and hopes can be areas we feel are lacking something. Even our faith can feel like a basket holding only fragments of bread. We long for an ever deepening fulfillment in God, yet 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 [curc.retreatportal.com/events](http://curc.retreatportal.com/events)



Creighton University Retreat Center

16493 Contrail Ave | Griswold, IA 51535 | 712.778.2466 | [curc@creighton.edu](mailto:curc@creighton.edu)



# WEEKLY calendar

## Saturday

4:00 PM Confessions, Bayard  
 4:05 PM First Saturday Rosary, Bayard  
 4:15 PM Rosary, Bayard  
 4:30 PM Mass, Bayard  
 6:30 PM Mass, Panora  
 7:30 PM Confessions, Panora

## Sunday

7:30 AM Confessions, Panora  
 7:45 AM Rosary, Panora  
 8:00 AM Mass, Panora  
 9:00 AM-10:00 AM Adoration, Bayard  
 9:15 AM Rosary, 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 & Rosary, Bayard  
 5:30 PM Mass, Bayard

## Wednesday

7:45 AM Confessions & Rosary, Panora  
 8:00 AM Mass, Panora  
 9:00 AM Prayer Group, Panora  
 4:00 PM Adoration, Guthrie Center

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 Fri., October 31 at 8:00 AM – Travis Clark

Sat., October 25 at 4:30 PM – Souls of Jim & Rosie McAlister  
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 Sun., October 26 at 9:30 AM – Claire & Willie Faucher  
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 Wed., October 29 at 8:00 AM – Orville Leinen  
 Thurs., October 30 at 8:00 AM – Eddie Dorsett & Family  
 Fri., October 31 at 8:00 AM – Lori Faucher



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.

# WEEKLY offerings



### St. Cecilia Weekly Offering

Sunday weekly offering— \$1,381  
 ADA Goal \$24,220 ADA Balance Due \$6,485

### St. Mary Weekly Offering

Sunday weekly offering— \$3,230.80  
 ADA— PAID IN FULL

### St. Patrick Weekly Offering

Sunday weekly offering— \$705  
 ADA— PAID IN FULL

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

November 1 & 2, 2025

## CONTACT information



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deacondennisp@gmail.com

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

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603 MAIN STREET  
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## PARISH announcements



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📍 ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH  
BAYARD

NOVEMBER 2ND

🕒 30 MIN BEFORE & AFTER 9:30 MASS

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GUTHRIE CENTER

We make it simple.  
The Catholic products you love, brought right to you!



@divinetreasuresinc  
[www.divinetreasuresinc.net](http://www.divinetreasuresinc.net)



LET'S "RAKE IN SOME BLESSINGS!"

St. Mary's Church landscape clean-up day will be November 9th directly following Mass.

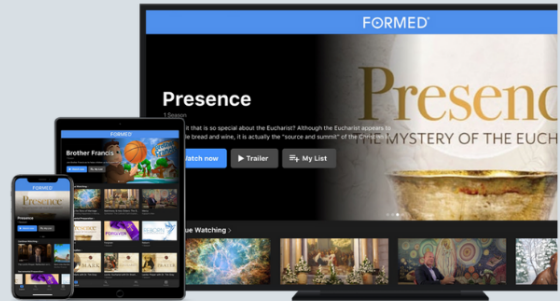
Please bring: power or manual hedge trimmers, chainsaws, blowers, rakes and large garbage bags.

Please join us in making the grounds around God's house beautiful while raking in extra blessings doing it!

Questions or to RSVP text or call Cindy @641-740-1100

# Grow Spiritually!

## WWW.FORMED.ORG



Content for everyone - Adults & Children. Watch alone or as a family!

Membership for this site has been provided by the Parish.  
It's **FREE** to you and your family - No catches!

Available thru  
August 10,  
2025

### Access online with any device

- 1 Go to [www.FORMED.org](http://www.FORMED.org)
- 2 Click Sign Up
- 3 Select I Belong to a Parish or Organization
- 4 Enter your zip code to find our Church
- 5 Enter your name and email

### Using multiple devices

After logging onto one device, you will be able to continue to access content on that specific device. Simply "sign in" each time.

If you use multiple devices, you will need to sign up on each one of them. There is no limit to the number you can use.

If you have blocked ads, you may need to deactivate this feature while using FORMED.org.



### Questions or thoughts?

Connie Ziller  
[Cdziller@gmail.com](mailto:Cdziller@gmail.com)  
(515) 371-6135

Cindy Ahrens  
[4cindyahrens@gmail.com](mailto:4cindyahrens@gmail.com)  
(641) 740-1100 or (641) 757-3639

### Improve your spiritual well-being



FORMED.org offers several resources to help you and your family grow spiritually.

Formed is independent of St. Cecilia, St. Mary & St. Patrick Roman Catholic Churches.

# UPCOMING events



## Annunciation Ladies Guild Annual Beef & Noodle Dinner

Serving Homemade Beef & Noodles,  
Mashed potatoes, Green beans and Dessert

Sunday ~ November 9th,  
Annunciation Parish Center

11:00am ~ 1:00 Pm

Raffling Four Items

Tickets are \$1 or buy 6 tickets for \$5.

Carry outs available by calling: 999-2472



**Married Couples.** Would you like to relive the excitement, romance and passion from your honeymoon? Rekindle that spark on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. For more information call Denise and Greg at 563-920-9419 or sign up at [wwme.org](http://wwme.org). Upcoming experiences are a non-residential weekend in Ankeny, November 7-9 and a residential weekend February 13-15, 2026.



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Sunday, December 14, 2025 at 2PM

First United Methodist Church

405 Prairie St., Guthrie Center

Community Choir: directed by Pastor Jolene James

Rehearsal: Wed. Nov 19 & 26 and Dec 3 & 10  
at 7-7:30PM, GC First United Methodist Church

Solo/small group: from all churches are welcome  
to perform

Info: to be included in the written program, please  
submit program info to United Methodist Church  
office (641-332-2408) before Monday, Dec. 1.



St. Mary and St. Cecilia parishes share the responsibility of maintenance and upkeep of Resurrection Catholic Cemetery.

The cemetery fund is separate from the general church collection funds.

During the entire month of November, coinciding with All Soul's Day, we invite anyone wishing to donate to the cemetery fund to use your regular tithing envelopes noting on check/envelope "cemetery fund."

Thank you in advance for your support!





# 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  
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8:00 AM Mass, Panora  
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No Mass

## Tuesday

3:30 - 4:30 PM Adoration, Panora  
5:15 PM Confessions & Divine Mercy, Bayard  
5:30 PM Mass, Bayard

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7:45 AM Confessions & Divine Mercy, Panora  
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Sun., November 2 at 8:00 AM — Ron Schafer & Arlan Woedehoff  
Sun., November 2 at 9:30 AM — Claire & Willie Faucher  
Tues., November 4 at 5:30 PM — Healing for Darla Davis  
Wed., November 5 at 8:00 AM — Orville Leinen  
Thurs., November 6 at 8:00 AM — Eddie Dorsett & Family  
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### 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— \$1,538  
ACH- \$925

ADA Goal \$24,220 ADA Balance Due \$3,575

### St. Mary Weekly Offering

Sunday weekly offering— \$2,300  
ACH- \$1,839  
ADA— PAID IN FULL

### St. Patrick Weekly Offering

Sunday weekly offering— \$427  
ACH- \$810  
ADA— PAID IN FULL

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

November 1 & 2, 2025

## 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](mailto:stcstmstp@netins.net)

### Parish Secretary:

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### Cemetery Grounds Keeper and Coordinator

Justin Downing - (515) 250-8988

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603 MAIN STREET  
GUTHRIE CENTER, IA 50115



**ST. PATRICK PARISH**  
214 PRAIRIE STREET  
BAYARD, IA 50029



## PARISH announcements



**DIVINE TREASURES**  
Your Faith. Your Journey. Your Store.



## Pop Up Market

NOVEMBER 1ST

🕒 30 MIN BEFORE & AFTER 4:30 MASS

📍 ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH  
BAYARD

NOVEMBER 2ND

🕒 30 MIN BEFORE & AFTER 9:30 MASS

📍 ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH  
GUTHRIE CENTER

We make it simple.  
The Catholic products you love, brought right to you!



@divinetreasuresinc  
[www.divinetreasuresinc.net](http://www.divinetreasuresinc.net)



LET'S "RAKE IN SOME BLESSINGS!"

St. Mary's Church landscape clean-up day will be November 9th directly following Mass.

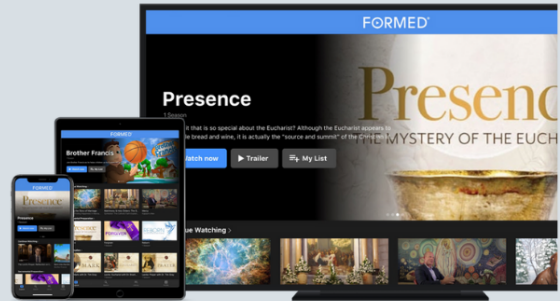
Please bring: power or manual hedge trimmers, chainsaws, blowers, rakes and large garbage bags.

Please join us in making the grounds around God's house beautiful while raking in extra blessings doing it!

Questions or to RSVP text or call Cindy @641-740-1100

# Grow Spiritually!

## WWW.FORMED.ORG



Content for everyone - Adults & Children. Watch alone or as a family!

Membership for this site has been provided by the Parish.  
It's **FREE** to you and your family - No catches!

Available thru  
August 10,  
2025

### Access online with any device

- 1 Go to [www.FORMED.org](http://www.FORMED.org)
- 2 Click Sign Up
- 3 Select I Belong to a Parish or Organization
- 4 Enter your zip code to find our Church
- 5 Enter your name and email

### Using multiple devices

After logging onto one device, you will be able to continue to access content on that specific device. Simply "sign in" each time.

If you use multiple devices, you will need to sign up on each one of them. There is no limit to the number you can use.

If you have blocked ads, you may need to deactivate this feature while using FORMED.org.



### Questions or thoughts?

Connie Ziller  
[Cdziller@gmail.com](mailto:Cdziller@gmail.com)  
(515) 371-6135

Cindy Ahrens  
[4cindyahrens@gmail.com](mailto:4cindyahrens@gmail.com)  
(641) 740-1100 or (641) 757-3639

### Improve your spiritual well-being



FORMED.org offers several resources to help you and your family grow spiritually.

Formed is independent of St. Cecilia, St. Mary & St. Patrick Roman Catholic Churches.

# UPCOMING events



## Annunciation Ladies Guild Annual Beef & Noodle Dinner

Serving Homemade Beef & Noodles,  
Mashed potatoes, Green beans and Dessert

Sunday ~ November 9th,  
Annunciation Parish Center

11:00am ~ 1:00 Pm

Raffling Four Items

Tickets are \$1 or buy 6 tickets for \$5.

Carry outs available by calling: 999-2472



**Married Couples.** Would you like to relive the excitement, romance and passion from your honeymoon? Rekindle that spark on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. For more information call Denise and Greg at 563-920-9419 or sign up at [wwme.org](http://wwme.org). Upcoming experiences are a non-residential weekend in Ankeny, November 7-9 and a residential weekend February 13-15, 2026.



## Guthrie Center Association of Churches 2025 Sounds of Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 14, 2025 at 2PM

First United Methodist Church

405 Prairie St., Guthrie Center

Community Choir: directed by Pastor Jolene James

Rehearsal: Wed. Nov 19 & 26 and Dec 3 & 10  
at 7-7:30PM, GC First United Methodist Church

Solo/small group: from all churches are welcome  
to perform

Info: to be included in the written program, please  
submit program info to United Methodist Church  
office (641-332-2408) before Monday, Dec. 1.



St. Mary and St. Cecilia parishes share the responsibility of maintenance and upkeep of Resurrection Catholic Cemetery.

The cemetery fund is separate from the general church collection funds.

During the entire month of November, coinciding with All Soul's Day, we invite anyone wishing to donate to the cemetery fund to use your regular tithing envelopes noting on check/envelope "cemetery fund."

Thank you in advance for your support!





# WEEKLY calendar

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4:00 PM Confessions, Bayard  
4:15 PM Divine Mercy, Bayard  
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8:00 AM Mass, Panora  
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10:30 AM Confessions, Guthrie Center

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November 15 & 16, 2025

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## 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)

# FROM THE DESK OF

## Fr. Ray Higgins



Dear Parishioners,

As we approach the final weeks of the Church's liturgical year, we are reminded that everything in this world is passing—but love endures. The readings this Sunday speak of trials, upheaval, and change, yet they also shine with the promise of healing and hope. Jesus tells us, "By your perseverance you will secure your lives." That perseverance is not just about enduring hardships, it's about living faithfully, generously, and with compassion.

This is a powerful message for families. In a world that often feels chaotic or uncertain, we are called to be beacons of Christ's light—especially to those who feel forgotten.

Many of our brothers and sisters in nursing homes, assisted living, or homebound situations have no one to visit them. Some haven't had a visitor in weeks, even months. As a parish family, we can bring the warmth of Christ's healing rays to them—not just in words, but in presence.

### How Can We Live This Out?

- Visit the sick and elderly: A simple visit, a shared prayer, or a kind conversation can bring immense joy and comfort. We can also offer prayer cards and if you want to you can bring them Holy Communion. We will instruct you and it is very simple and easy. Please sign up at the back of the church and someone will contact you.
- Sign up to serve: Please consider placing your name and phone number on the volunteer sheet at the back of the Church. You'll be contacted and paired with someone in need of a visit. You are also welcome to visit more than one person. Plus, you can visit individually or go as a family. Please sign up at the back of the church and someone will contact you.
- Coordinate with others: If many families or individuals sign up, we can organize a rotation so that each homebound or Care Center person receives multiple visits each month over time. Imagine the joy of knowing someone will come each week! Please sign up at the back of the church and someone will contact you.

### Why It Matters

This is not just a good deed—it's a Gospel response. Jesus calls us to visit the sick, comfort the lonely, and be His hands and feet in the world. It's a way for families and individuals to live out their faith, as well as teaching children by example, for them to imitate in the future the value of compassion and the dignity of every life.

Let us persevere in hope and let that hope move us to action. The Sun of Justice is rising—may we reflect His light in every home we enter. Please sign up at the back of the church and someone will contact you.

In Christ's love,

Fr. Ray

# ADVENT ideas



## Waiting Well

Advent with Fr. Mike Schmitz

God wants to shape and mold us during times of waiting, but the problem is...

Instead of waiting, we get worried, anxious, we check out, and we get lost scrolling on our phones.

Fr. Mike wants to help you learn to wait well this Advent, with daily videos in the Ascension App starting November 30, 2025.

Get Prayer Plan

Join Waitlist



**formed**<sup>TM</sup>  
Forming Catholics for *Life*.



# HOLIDAY mass times



November 27: Thanksgiving

9:00 a.m. at St. Mary

December 8: Immaculate Conception

8:00 a.m. at St. Cecilia

6:30 p.m. at St. Mary

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

6:30 p.m. at St. Mary

January 1: Solemnity of Mary

9:00 a.m. at St. Cecilia

**Married Couples.** Would you like to relive the excitement, romance and passion from your honeymoon? Rekindle that spark on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. For more information call Denise and Greg at 563-920-9419 or sign up at [wwme.org](http://wwme.org). Upcoming experiences are a non-residential weekend in Ankeny, November 7-9 and a residential weekend February 13-15, 2026.





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9:30 AM Mass, Guthrie Center  
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## Monday

No Mass

## Tuesday

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# MASS intentions



Sat., November 15 at 4:30 PM — Anita Sheehan  
Sun., November 16 at 8:00 AM — Mass for the People  
Sun., November 16 at 9:30 AM — All parish musicians  
Tues., November 18 at 5:30 PM — Souls of Jim & Rosie McAlister  
Wed., November 19 at 8:00 AM — Arthur & Julia Moylan & Family  
Thurs., November 20 at 8:00 AM — Eddie Dorsett & Family  
Fri., November 21 at 8:00 AM — Donita Saathoff

Sat., November 22 at 4:30 PM — Mass for the People  
Sun., November 23 at 8:00 AM — Living & deceased members of Tim & Carla Fitzgerald  
Sun., November 23 at 9:30 AM — Don Reinhart  
Tues., November 25 at 5:30 PM — Soul of Greg Kenyon  
Wed., November 26 at 8:00 AM — Scott Bauler  
Thurs., November 27 at 8:00 AM — Jerry Suther  
Fri., November 28 at 8:00 AM — Michele DePhillips

### Chaplet of Divine Mercy Closing Prayer

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ADA— PAID IN FULL

### St. Patrick Weekly Offering

Sunday weekly offering— \$2,585.50  
ADA— PAID IN FULL

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

November 22 & 23, 2025

## CONTACT information



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BAYARD, IA 50029



## PARISH announcements



Anyone wishing to donate to Resurrection Catholic Cemetery fund, please note on tithing envelope/check "cemetery fund."

Thank you.

### Sounds of Christmas

Guthrie Center Church Musicians in Concert

Sunday, December 14th, 2PM

First United Methodist Church

405 Prairie St., Guthrie Center 4

Free-will offering for

GC Association of Churches



## 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)

# FROM THE DESK OF

## Fr. Ray Higgins



A Prayerful Advent for Families and Individuals

Dear Parish Family,

As we enter the sacred season of Advent, I invite each of you—families, couples, individuals—to make this time a prayerful journey toward the heart of Christ. Advent is not just a countdown to Christmas. It is a season of longing, hope, and preparation.

This year, we're encouraging every household to use the Magnificat Advent Companion 2025 as a daily guide. (We offer one to each household). It offers short reflections, Scripture readings, and beautiful prayers to help us stay focused on the true meaning of the season.

### Simple Ways to Make Advent Prayerful:

- **Light your Advent wreath** together each evening and pray the blessing found in the Companion.
- **Read the daily Gospel reflection** and invite each family member to share a thought or feeling.
- **Bless your Christmas tree and Nativity scene** as sacred signs of God's presence in your home.
- **Practice the 7 Advent Stations**—one each week or during the final days before Christmas—to walk through salvation history as a family.
- **Offer acts of kindness:** visit someone who's lonely, write a note of encouragement, or serve together in the community.

Let this Advent be a time when Christ is welcomed not only into our churches, but into our homes, our conversations, and our hearts.

I will also have 3 Holy Hours with Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions. Here are the dates and times: **December 3, 6 pm to 7 pm at St. Mary in Guthrie Center; December 10, 6 pm to 7 pm at St. Patrick in Bayard; and December 18, 6 pm to 7 pm at St. Cecilia in Panora.**

### Parish Invitation & Outreach

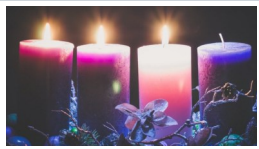
We are continuing our Volunteer Visitors Ministry—bringing comfort and companionship to the sick and elderly in homes, nursing facilities, and assisted living. If you feel called to serve, please sign up at the back of the church. Even one visit a month can make a world of difference. Also, I will have index cards and a box where you can submit the name of someone who needs a friendly visitor. I want to update our current list of those needing a visit and possible Holy Communion brought to them.

If you or someone you know is interested in **learning more about the Catholic faith or joining our parish**, please reach out to: Deacon Dennis Patrick, Deacon Dick and Connie Ziller, or feel free to speak with me personally after Mass or during the week.

Let's walk together this Advent—watchful, prayerful, and full of hope.

In Christ, Fr. Ray

# ADVENT ideas



# HOLIDAY mass times



November 27: Thanksgiving

9:00 a.m. at St. Mary

December 8: Immaculate Conception

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**Marriage is a journey!!** A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend can help you enrich your marriage and add some pazazz 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



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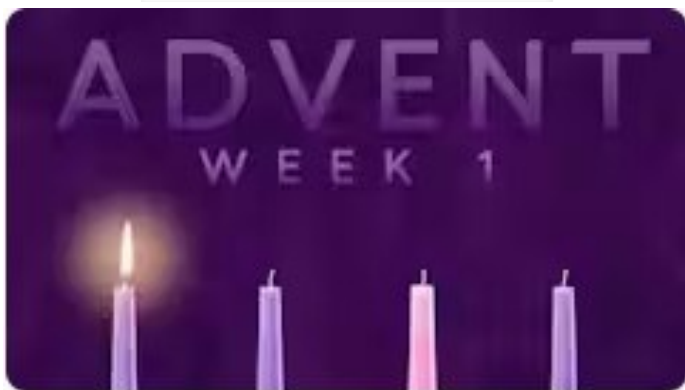
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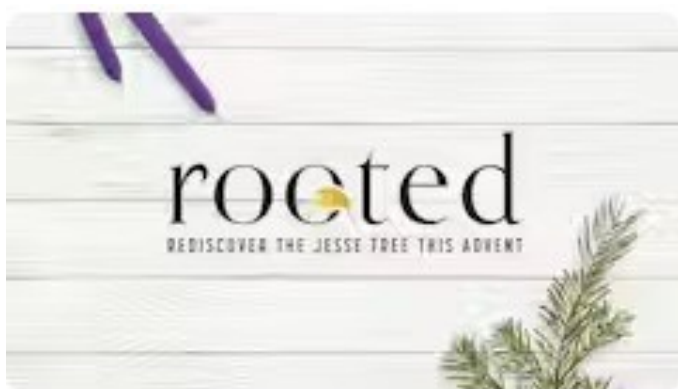
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Week 1



Rooted





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Sat., November 29 at 4:30 PM — Annette & Andy Haverman  
Sun., November 30 at 8:00 AM — Mass for the People  
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### 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— \$2,546.75  
ADA Goal \$24,220 ADA Balance Due \$3,575

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Sunday weekly offering— \$896  
ADA— PAID IN FULL

### St. Patrick Weekly Offering

Sunday weekly offering— \$650  
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# THE CATHOLIC CHURCHES OF ST. CECILIA • ST. MARY • ST. PATRICK

November 29 & 30, 2025

## CONTACT information



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

**Deacon Dennis Patrick** - (641) 757-0851 or  
deacondennis@gmail.com

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

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

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

### Business Manager:

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### Parish Secretary:

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## PARISH announcements



Anyone wishing to donate to Resurrection Catholic Cemetery fund, please note on tithing envelope/check "cemetery fund."

Thank you.

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Guthrie Center Church Musicians in Concert

Sunday, December 14th, 2PM

First United Methodist Church

405 Prairie St., Guthrie Center

Free-will offering for

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# FROM THE DESK OF

## Fr. Ray Higgins



Today we begin our Advent journey, a season of joyful and watchful expectation. Our readings sound like a spiritual alarm clock: "You know the time; it is the hour now for you to awake from your sleep" (Romans 13:11).

This wake-up call isn't meant to frighten us, but to focus us. We are to shake off the slumber of routine and distraction and actively prepare our hearts for the Lord. Here are a few ways we can "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 13:14) together this season:

### **Parish Advent Opportunities**

#### **• Magnificat Advent Companion 2025**

Last weekend, I encouraged every household to use this daily guide. It offers short reflections, Scripture readings, and beautiful prayers to help us stay focused on the true meaning of the season.

#### **• Holy Hours with Eucharistic Adoration & Confessions**

- o December 3, 6–7 pm at St. Mary, Guthrie Center
- o December 10, 6–7 pm at St. Patrick, Bayard
- o December 18, 6–7 pm at St. Cecilia, Panora

#### **• Volunteer Visitors Ministry**

We continue to bring comfort and companionship to the sick and elderly in homes, nursing facilities, and assisted living facilities.

- o Sign up at the back of the church—even one visit a month makes a world of difference.
- o Index cards and a box will be available for submitting the names of those who need a friendly visitor or Holy Communion.

#### **• Interested in the Catholic Faith or Joining Our Parish?**

Please reach out to:

- Deacon Dennis Patrick
- Deacon Dick and Connie Ziller
- Or speak with me personally after Mass or during the week.

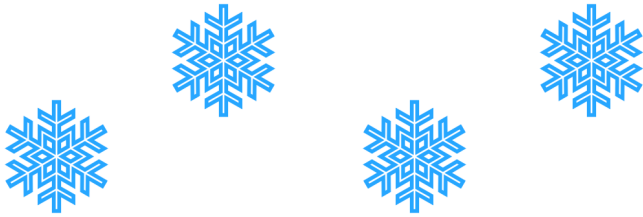
Blessings,

Fr. Ray

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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 Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we enter the Second Sunday of Advent, the Word of God calls us to prepare with hope, unity, and repentance.

- Isaiah gives us a vision of the Messiah: a shoot from the stump of Jesse, bringing justice and peace so profound that even creation itself is reconciled.
- Paul reminds us that Christ came for all—Jew and Gentile alike—so that together we may glorify God in harmony.
- John the Baptist urges us to repent, to bear good fruit, and to make straight the paths for the Lord.

Advent is not passive waiting—it is active preparation. We are called to turn our hearts toward Christ, to reconcile with one another, and to live in hope for the peace He brings. Let us use these weeks to deepen our prayer, renew our lives, and prepare joyfully for His coming

The following are reminders of upcoming events

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Holy Day of Obligation – December 8 Mass Times:

- St. Cecilia's, Panora – 8:00 am
- St. Mary's, Guthrie Center – 6:30 pm
- Annunciation Parish, Coon Rapids – 6:30 pm

Advent Eucharistic Adoration & Confession

- St. Mary's, Guthrie Center – Completed this past week
- St. Patrick's, Bayard – December 10, 6–7 pm
- St. Cecilia's, Panora – December 18, 6–7 pm

Come spend time with the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament and prepare your heart through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Advent Resources

Plenty of Magnificat Advent Books are available at the back of the Church. Please take one home to guide your daily prayer and reflection this season.

Have a blessed week,

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.

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## FREE CHRISTMAS CONCERT CHRISTIAN RECORDING ARTIST RACHEL SCOTT



Live, In Concert, Sunday, December 7th, 6:30 p.m.  
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Kimballton Iowa

Sponsored by Landmands Bank Kimballton, Marne-Elk Horn Telephone Company,  
and members of Bethany Lutheran Church and Immanuel Lutheran Church



Rachel has been singing professionally for over two decades, and with her band has toured through much of the Upper Midwest. She has opened for such headliners as Hillsong London, Michael W. Smith, Sara Groves and Rebecca St. James. There is no admission charge (a freewill offering will be received). We at Immanuel and Bethany are looking forward to joining you and others in what will be a worshipful celebration of our Savior's birth. May he dwell richly within you this Christmas.

**Peace and Joy to you in Christ!**



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ADA— PAID IN FULL

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ADA— PAID IN FULL

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# 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,

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## 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 [curc.retreatportal.com/events](http://curc.retreatportal.com/events)



Creighton University Retreat Center  
16493 Contrail Ave | Griswold, IA 51535 | 712.778.2466 | [curc@creighton.edu](mailto:curc@creighton.edu)

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UNTIL THE COMING OF THE LORD.**

JAMES 5:7a



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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

# 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

**Deacon Dennis Patrick** - (641) 757-0851 or  
deacondennis@gmail.com

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

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

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

### 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

### Sacramental Emergencies

In the event of an emergency, please contact Fr. Ray Higgins at (641) 747-2569 for the emergency number.

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Contact the Rectory to make arrangements prior to marriage and baptismal sacraments.

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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

### 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.



## 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.

# 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 manger 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

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

December 27 & 28, 2025

## CONTACT information



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## 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.

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### 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.

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### 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**

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**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](http://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)



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4:00 PM Confessions, Bayard  
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4:30 PM Mass, Bayard

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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

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ADA Goal \$24,220 ADA Balance Due \$3,270

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ADA— PAID IN FULL

### St. Patrick Weekly Offering

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