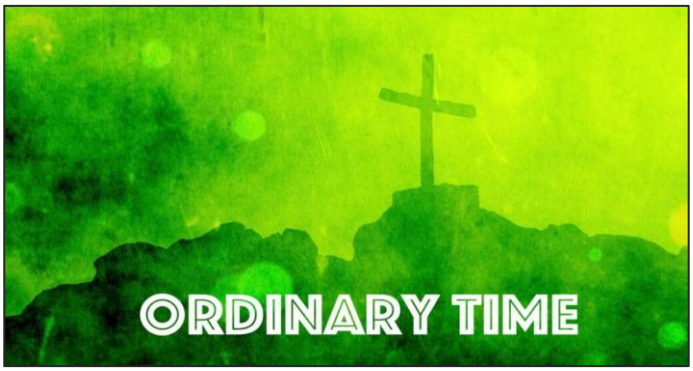


St. Patrick Catholic Church &
St. Mary Catholic Church

August 16, 2026
Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mason City Area Pastorate—Volume 1, Issue 5

Pastorate Pastor's Pen

The Twentieth Sunday of Ordinary Time—The gospel this weekend has been a difficult one to explain because Jesus calls a Canaanite woman a dog. That is confounding to those who think Jesus is all loving and would therefore never call someone a name. Others could use the passage to argue against Jesus' divinity citing speech unbecoming of God. While this passage makes me uncomfortable, I don't retreat from it. Let's see what was going on.

Firstly, Matthew's gospel was written primarily for a Jewish audience. They would be accustomed to referring to Canaanites, who were pagan Gentiles, in a pejorative way. They were not sons and daughters of Abraham.

Secondly, God called the Israelites and their descendants to be his vehicle of conversion to the world. It would make sense convert the Chosen People first and then the world through them in Christ. It didn't quite work that way and God is using the Church Jesus founded, our Church, to do that work. That brings you into the gospel, even indirectly.

Thirdly, we can understand why Jesus didn't speak to the woman at first, and then said that he was sent only for the lost children of Israel. The woman was persistent, however, in her request that her possessed daughter be healed. The repartee between them is interesting and clever. It takes the adversarial edge off of the conversation. To Jesus' remark that it wasn't right to take the food of children and feed it to the dogs, again showing God's choice of his people, the woman cleverly responded that even the dogs get the scraps that fall from the table. The image isn't appealing, but the conversation establishes the context for the healing of the woman's daughter.

We can't miss an important point this gospel establishes. What brought the woman to Jesus was his reputation as a teacher and healer. It was a risk that she would approach him even though Jesus was travelling through predominantly Gentile territories. It seems likely that it wouldn't have been comfortable for Jesus, a Jew, travelling through these places. comfortable for Jesus, a Jew, travelling through these places. But, it set a clear contrast between the Jew and the Gentile. The woman risked speaking to Jesus because she had faith in him. An unaccompanied woman should not be speaking to a man and vice versa. She persisted even when Jesus resisted her plea. She did him homage, another act reserved for God alone. By the end of the conversation, it was clear that she loved her daughter enough to risk the request and persisted until Jesus granted it. Faith can move mountains and Jesus healed her daughter. My reaction at the end of the gospel is, "Wow!" Matthew implies that the faith that the Gentile had in Jesus was stronger than the children of Israel.

The gospel moves us from an awkward situation and an uncomfortable conversation to the question, "Do you have faith like this woman?" To contemporize the question, you and I are adopted by God the Father through baptism in Christ's death and resurrection. We are members of the Church God uses as his instrument of evangelization to the world. Do we have the faith of that woman which calls us to trust in Christ and be persistent in the practice of the faith we received at baptism? These are great questions to ask and reflect upon especially with the changes now occurring because of Journey in Faith.

Epiphany Parish Festival Sunday, August 23—You are all invited to the Epiphany Parish Festival which will begin with the 10:30 AM Mass on the St. Joseph Church grounds. After that, there will be food, festivities, new games, auctions, the treasures and more store and more. It is a great family event and I invite you all to attend.

St. Mary

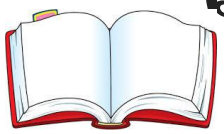
611 Sherman, Ackley, 641-847-2329
stmarystpatrick@gmail.com

Liturgical Ministers

August 17 – 5:30 p.m. Mass
Lector : Linda Sudtelgte
Altar Servers: Sergio Rogel
Sacristan: Jodi Uthe

August 20 – 8:30 a.m. Mass
Lector: Denise Sprain
Sacristan: Jim Wessels

Book Club



Read and discuss
Tuesday, September 1 @ 5:30 p.m.
"Angel Falls" by Kristin Hannah
Read in September to discuss on October 6
Theo of Golden by Allen Levi
(This is a change from our original pick)

Read in October to discuss on November 3rd
The Most Fun We Ever Had
by Claire Lombardo

Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesdays – 11:30 – 12:30
In the church

Rosary in Spanish on Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.
Everyone is welcome!

Quilting

August 18 – 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Parish Hall
Everyone is welcome!

Confession Times

Webster City Saturday 3:30 to 4:30
Webster City Sunday 9:00 to 9:30
Clarion Sunday 8:00 to 8:30
Iowa Falls Saturday 4:00 to 4:30
Eldora Sunday 9:45 to 10:15

At most daily masses the priest can hear a confession before or after mass

Join us after Mass

August 17 after 5:30 p.m. Mass
Light lunch
August 20 after 8:30 a.m. Mass
Coffee and treats

"Let no one mislead you or prevent you from seeing what really urn to Jesus, and discover direction of your lives."
II, Saint Louis, Missouri

METAL CABINET NEEDED

We are looking for a tall metal cabinet, to use for storage. If you have one you would like to donate let Jolene know.

St. Patrick

1405 N. Federal, Hampton 641-456-4857
Office Hours: Monday through Thursday
9:00 AM-1:00 PM, excluding holidays.

Liturgical Ministries

August 23, 2026

Mass—August 23rd, 2026 9:00 a.m.

Lector: Patrick Kelly
Ushers: Greg Cavazos, Ryne Magner
Eucharistic Ministers: Joe & Lili Alonzo
Money Counters: Mary Ann Patton, Ruth Ann Kelch
Altar Servers: James & Joseph Conlon, Kael Sullivan
Sacristan: Judy Nelson
Linens: Sue Garrett

You are responsible to find your own replacement.

Journey in Faith
Trust. Transform. Together.

Journey in Faith: Priest Teams

The pastorate structure introduces a renewed way of organizing leadership across parish communities. It is designed to better support both priests and the faithful, while strengthening the Church's mission for the future.

Rather than placing the responsibility of leadership on a single, often overextended pastor, the new model establishes priest teams, consisting of a pastor and one or more parochial vicars. While the term parochial vicar is new to our archdiocese, it is the preferred term used by the Catholic Church for priests appointed by the archbishop to assist the pastor in ministry and pastoral services under the pastor's authority. This allows multiple priests to serve together—sharing responsibility, supporting one another in life and ministry, and offering a more balanced and sustainable approach to pastoral leadership. This shift brings a renewed sense of collaboration and support—allowing priests to focus more fully on sacramental ministry, pastoral care, and accompanying people in their faith.

ST. PATRICK FOOD PANTRY

Did you know St. Patrick has a food pantry? The food pantry is open every Wednesday from 10 am – 12 pm. We partner with the Food Bank of Iowa and provide food to families in the Hampton area. If you would like to help support this mission, please contact the parish office!

STEWARDSHIP TREASURY

SUNDAY AUGUST 9, 2026

REGULAR	**$ 1,347.00**
OFFERTORY	**$ 135.00**

Give On-Line at www.franklinhardincatholic.org online-giving.

Happenings Week of August 16th, 2026

Tuesday/ Martes August 18th
7:00 PM AA/Al-Anon (RE Center)

Wednesday/ Miercoles – August 19th
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Food Pantry/Despensa de Alimentos (Social Hall)

Thursday/ Jueves – August 20th
1:00 – 3:00 PM Crafts – Social Hall
6:00 PM Adoration

Friday/ Viernes – August 21st
8:30 AM Mass

Sunday/ Domingo August 23rd
9:00 AM Mass

St.Patrick FAITH FORMATION CLASSES

Mark your calendar for the start of **Faith Formation on Wednesday, September 30th**. Registration forms will be sent to students registered in the past. If you need a registration form, please contact the parish office.

SCRIP INFORMATION

The days are beginning to get shorter again and this can only mean that School Days will begin in about a month. School means there are tons of things to buy for our students.

Don't forget that we have Scrip Cards for student needs and they include JCPenney, Ross-Dress for Less, Five and Below, Kohls, Walmart, Target, PetCo, and Visa. We also have cards for hungry little faces such as Starbucks, Arbys, Hardees, Subway, McDonalds and Applebees.

What makes Scrip Cards so nice is that you can mail them if they are away at college or starting a career. Scrip Cards give you full value and a donation to Saint Patrick Catholic Church at the same time.

Scrip sales year to date have been $41,575.00 with earnings (profit) to St. Patrick of $1,628.95.

This fundraiser is the most successful fundraiser that St. Patrick has.

Thank you for your continued support.

Please contact Dick Nelson should you have questions. Cards can be purchased anytime, or he will take special orders.

The Mason City Area Pastorate News

- Parish Councils and Pastorate Council and Commission
  - Each parish in the archdiocese is to have a Finance Council and a Pastoral Council. Both entities are advisory to the pastor. A parish Finance Council is mandated by canon law.
  - Each pastorate will have a Pastorate Commission and a Pastorate Finance Council. These are new entities because of the new pastorate structure of the parishes. Each parish in the pastorate will have representatives on the Pastorate Commission and the Pastorate Finance Council.
  - Each parish is to have two directors who serve on the corporate board of the parish with the pastor, the Archbishop and the Vicar General of the Archdiocese. Common practice has been that the chairs of the Finance Council and the Pastoral Council are appointed as parish directors.
  - It is incumbent upon the pastor of each parish and of the pastorate to appoint members to the aforementioned entities. Due consideration will be given to those currently serving on the Pastoral Council or Finance Council.
  - Appointment to these different entities is for one year.
- The purpose of all councils, commissions and committees at a parish, pastorate, or archdiocesan level are to be aligned with and foster the mission, vision and values of the Archdiocese of Dubuque (https://www.dbqjourneyinfaith.org/mission-vision-and-values). Members of councils and commissions must be formally appointed. Committee members do not need to be appointed.
- If you are interested in learning more or serving on one of these entities, please contact me, Fr. Dave O'Connor, at (d.oconnor@dbqarch.org or 641-423-5001).

Confession times for the pastorate

- Sacred Heart, Manly—After the 8:00 AM Thursday Mass
- Epiphany Parish, Mason City—Saturdays from 8 AM to 9 AM
- Sacred Heart, Rockwell—Spanish or English at 1 1:00 AM on Sunday
- St. Patrick, Hampton—Before the 9:00 AM Mass on Sunday

Eucharistic Adoration

- Epiphany Parish, Mason City—The first Friday of the month after the 12:05 PM Mass until 8:00 AM on Saturday; The third Wednesday of the month after the 12:05 PM Mass until 4 PM.
- Sacred Heart, Rockwell—From 11:00 AM-11:50 AM on Sundays
- St. Patrick, Hampton—Thursdays at 6:00 PM

Please make use of your parish's prayer chain:

St. Mary, Ackley:

Jolene Harms at stmarystpatrick@gmail.com

St. Patrick, Hampton:

Mary Ann Patton at thepattons 4@gmail.com

Journey in Faith: Priest Teams

The pastorate structure introduces a renewed way of organizing leadership across parish communities. It is designed to better support both priests and the faithful, while strengthening the Church's mission for the future.
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The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick—If you are seriously or chronically ill, or will be having a serious surgery, you are a candidate to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Those who are advanced in age even without a noticeable decline in health may be anointed as well.
Please call the parish office well in advance of a surgery you will be having to schedule a time to be anointed. You will be offered the opportunity to go to confession as well.
Hospital Visits—As of this writing and to my knowledge, MercyOne has not resolved the issue of clergy access to the names of parishioners who are hospitalized. We can always call the hospital and ask for the room number or to speak of a hospitalized parishioner, but we have to know who is hospitalized in order to do so. Hence, we can't call and inquire about someone we don't know is in the hospital.
I would encourage making a call to the office if you or a loved one is or will be hospitalized at MercyOne. The priests are accustomed to visiting the hospital and we would be happy to do so if we know who is hospitalized.

Severe Weather Disaster Proclamations: Help is Available

Severe weather through the summer months continues to impact families across Iowa. In counties with an active disaster declaration, the Iowa Individual Disaster Assistance Grant Program (IIAGP) allows each eligible household to receive up to $7,000 for items that qualify under one of the four.

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, August 17
5:30 p.m. St. Mary

Thursday, August 20
8:30 a.m. St. Mary

Friday, August 21
8:30 a.m. Susan Blanche St. Patrick

Sunday, August 23
9:00 a.m. Vernice Kelly St. Patrick

Live stream of Mass
www.franklinhardincatholic.org/livestream
YouTube Channel: Franklin Hardin Catholic