St. Patrick Catholic Church & St. Mary Catholic Church

August 9, 2026 Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mason City Area Pastorate—Volume 1, Issue 4

Pastorate Pastor's Pen

The Nineteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time—I like this Sunday's gospel because I find it easy to understand. It is difficult for me, however, to apply it to my life.

Here's what I like and find interesting. After the miracle of the loaves and fish, Jesus wanted to be alone so he **made** his disciples get into the boat to precede him to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. The disciples had no choice but to go without him. He wouldn't be there when the storm squall blew up.

While he was praying, the storm grew and intensified. The winds and waves were terrible. It was chaos on the water and the disciples were hanging on to survive. The waters in the Bible have a special connotation of chaos. This is life without God and the order he brings to life. The chaos was no match for Jesus because he approached the disciples while walking on the water. The storm was child's play for him.

He approached the boat at the fourth hour of the night, which suggests at the very last minute. The disciples were in the depths of darkness right before the light of dawn would occur. They thought Jesus was a ghost which added to their fear. Jesus spoke encouraged the disciples while he identified himself to them. The passage didn't say that he shouted over the wind and the waves. He simply stated that he arrived. He was dawn's early light.

Good old impetuous Peter said that if the person walking on water really was Jesus, then he should command Peter to walk on the water. So, Jesus replied with, "Come." It was a simple command which caused Peter to leave the boat, something counterintuitive to what he learned about survival during a storm.

Things were going well for Peter until he became aware of what he was doing. His eyes were focused on the chaos of the water rather than on Jesus and that's when he began to sink. When that occurred, then we heard a cry from Peter, asking the Lord to save him. Jesus did by stretching out his hand and catching Peter. The Lord asked him why he doubted already knowing that Peter's faith was anemic.

When Jesus got into the boat, the wind died down. He walked on the water, over the chaos of evil and disorder, he plucked Peter out of the chaos and saved him from drowning. Jesus showed that he was master over the winds and the waters, over all creation, and the disciples did him homage.

What a cool story! I said I liked the story but I have trouble with the application. The reason is that I can lack trust in Jesus when I am in the midst of my own storms in life. I want to save myself from the chaos of the wind and waters when they churn in my life. I identify myself with Peter, crying out to Jesus for help, but then focusing on the chaos rather than Jesus. Like Peter, I have had periods of my life when I doubted and my faith was anemic. The key is always to look to Jesus when the messy or difficult or just plain awful stuff is happening in your life. Jesus is the one who pulls us out of the waters and invites us to walk with him in the midst of chaos.

I would encourage any of you who has a storm story in your life, and by the way, it doesn't need to be literally a storm, that you reflect upon how, when or if you called on Jesus. If you did, how did Jesus accompany you during the storm? How did you know that he was there? It is important that you and I reflect upon the stormy moments in our lives and to see God at work. People need to hear these stories and especially how God cared for you during the storm. The stories encourage the faith of others and strengthens your faith.

Stuck in a Rut?

Have you ever heard anyone say that they are "stuck in a rut?" Being stuck in a rut may mean that someone has a monotonous routine in life. Nothing is new, there is no joy or excitement. Being in a rut may mean someone is trapped in the cycle of their own negative thoughts and emotions about themself or others. It might refer to being in a situation in life that someone got themselves into without knowing how to get out.

Now that the changes are occurring with Journey in Faith, I've noticed that some folks are becoming impatient because they expect things to be the same as they were before. What is happening or will happen usually won't occur according to the timeline you knew before. Change takes time and you can get stuck in a rut of impatience or disillusionment. But you don't have to stay there. Every day, every week, God's superabundant grace in the scriptures and the Holy Eucharist is there to revive and heal you.

Anger, stubbornness and gossip are other ruts I have been witnessing lately. They can be powerful ways that individuals exile themselves from the parish community and/or the Eucharist. It can become an all or nothing situation. It is my way or the highway because I didn't want or like what is occurring now. But it doesn't have to be that way. The Lord is calling. Heed his voice. Let nothing separate you from God's love. God is always faithful to you. Don't spend yourself on what cannot satisfy (gossip, anger, etc.) when the superabundant food and drink of the Eucharist is there for you.

King David wrote of the Lord, "You open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing" (Ps 145:16). David goes on to say that God is gracious, merciful, slow to anger, kind and good to all. He is near to all who call upon him in truth. Hear this word from the Lord. Take it into your heart. Live not by the ruts in your life, by what exhausts you or drives you into exile from God or your faith community. Live by the nourishment of the Eucharist and be fed by his word and sacrament. This is the way to address the changes that are occurring right now.

St. Mary

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

Book Club

Read and discuss
Tuesday, September 1 @ 5:30 p.m.
"Angel Falls"
by Kristin Hannah
Tuesday, October 6 @ 5:30 p.m.
"This Book Made Me Think Of You" by Libby Page
Everyone is welcome to join! Great discussion and fellowship!

Don't forget to turn in your Social Assistance Offering Envelopes!

Quilting

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

Amazing

St. Mary had many trees blown down during the storm last week. An email and some text and we had over 25 people show up for clean-up Tuesday evening. Many hands definitely made light work. Thank you everyone. That is what makes St. Mary's an amazing community!

Liturgical Ministers

August 13 - 8:30 a.m. Mass
Lector: Doug Lindaman
Sacristan: Jim Wessels

Please remember to find your own replacements

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

Eucharistic Adoration

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

Waterloo Suicide Grief Support Group Offers New September Sessions

Find comfort, hope, and healing in community through *When A Loved One Dies by Suicide*, a grief support group rooted in Catholic faith and tradition. The next eight-week series begins September 14th, 2026, from 4:00 - 5:30 PM at the Catholic Charities Waterloo Regional Office. Guided by Catholic Charities Therapist, Julianne Klesel, participants will engage in prayer, reflection, and conversation on topics such as understanding psychological pain, finding strength in the Church's teachings, and exploring opportunities for healing and service. While designed for those who have lost a loved one to suicide, all are welcome to participate. The group is free, but registration is required. To learn more, contact Julianne Klesel at 319-340-4309, j.klesel@dbqarch.org, or visit catholiccharitiesdubuque.org/suicide-grief-support-group.

ACKLEY FOOD PANTRY

Ackley Food Pantry needs a few items: toilet paper, paper towels and vegetable oil. If you can help out leave the items in the basket at the back of church

Coffee and treats

August 13 after 8:30 a.m. Mass

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 16th, 2026

Mass—August 16th, 2026 9:00 a.m.

Lector: Maggie Pearson
Ushers: April Schoning, Phil O' Connor
Eucharistic Ministers: Joe & Lili Alonzo
Money Counters: April Schoning, Ryan & Monica Winters
Altar Servers: Cameron Horton, Yamilla Fuentes, Ruby Alonzo
Sacristan: Judy Nelson
Linens: Sue Garrett

You are responsible to find your own replacement.

Journey in Faith
Trust. Transform. Together.

Journey in Faith: Director of Evangelization and Director of Operations

The Director of Evangelization and Director of Operations will be key leadership positions at the pastorate level moving forward. Each pastorate will hire a Director of Evangelization and a Director of Operations between September 2026 and January 2027. The Director of Evangelization will help lead the pastorate's mission of evangelization and forming disciples, while the Director of Operations will oversee the administrative and operational functions that support that mission. What can you do? Pray and discern. Please pray for the success of the hiring process and discern if you or someone you know is called to serve in one of these important leadership roles. Both positions report directly to the pastor and require vision, initiative, and a commitment to our Catholic mission, with strong experience in supervision and leadership. More information, including job descriptions, will be shared in the coming months.

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 2, 2026

REGULAR	**$**	**2,235.00**
OFFERTORY	**$**	**63.00**
FOOD PANTRY	**$**	**75.00**

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

Happenings Week of August 9th, 2026

Tuesday/ Martes August 11th
7:00 PM AA/Al-Anon (RE Center)

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

Thursday/ Jueves – August 13th
1:00 – 3:00 PM Crafts – Social Hall
6:00 PM Adoration

Friday/ Viernes – August 14th
8:30 AM Mass

Sunday/ Domingo August 16th
9:00 AM Mass

UPCOMING ROLL BREAKFASTS

Roll Breakfasts will be held August 9th as we welcome those new to St. Patrick and our new priests: Rev. Dave O' Connor, Rev. Paul Ameyaw Rev. Peter Binder, Rev. Georges Midiangu Please join us as we welcome everyone to St. Patrick!

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

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

Faith in Action: Postville Relief

Hundreds of families in Postville are facing uncertainty following the destructive fire at the Agri Star Meat & Poultry Plant. While the fire did not cause any reported injuries to those at the plant, the repercussions of losing a major employer are just beginning to reverberate across the community. Without the stability of employment, already vulnerable families will soon be facing impossible decisions about rent, utilities, groceries, and their future in Postville. Community agencies and faith communities have mobilized to respond to this community disaster. We are grateful to our partners across the network for upholding the dignity of those in need. We are collaborating with our partner agencies to assess needs and establish long-term recovery plans.

As part of this effort, we have established a disaster relief fund at https://catholiccharitiesdubuque.org/postville to help families with long-term stability. For those interested in contributing to this effort, 100% of donations will be distributed to those impacted by the fire. Any donations collected at a parish can be mailed to Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Dubuque (1229 Mt. Loretta Ave, Dubuque, IA 52003). Our team of Certified Disaster Case Managers and HUD-Certified Housing Counselors will be processing applications for assistance in partnership with St. Bridget Catholic Church in Postville. Our priority will be helping those who may not be eligible for assistance elsewhere. For more information on disaster relief, please call 563-588-0558 or email m.stammeyer@dbqarch.org.

The Archdiocese of Dubuque and Catholic Charities ask for your prayers for the Postville community during this difficult time. We will share more information about emerging needs as it becomes available.

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

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 categories: temporary housing, food assistance, personal property, and home repair. Supporting documentation is required. Applicants have 45 days from the date of the Governor's proclamation to apply. **Current counties with disaster declarations in the Archdiocese of Dubuque include: Allamakee, Marshall, Story, Hamilton, Franklin, & Hardin.** Visit https://homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/disasters/individual-disaster-assistance-programs to learn more.

MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, August 13 8:30 a.m.	St. Mary
Friday, August 14 8:30 a.m. Eugene Kelch	St. Patrick
Sunday, August 16 9:00 a.m. Larry Prause	St. Patrick