St. Patrick Catholic Church & St. Mary Catholic Church

July 19, 2026 Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mason City Area Pastorate—Volume 1, Issue 1

Pastorate Pastor's Pen

Hello from Fr. David O'Connor! Since I am new to Sacred Heart, Rockwell, and St. Patrick, Hampton, I am pleased to introduce myself to you.

I was born in Dubuque, IA, and raised in Mason City. My home parish is St. Joseph, Mason City, and I attended school there, Central Catholic when it was formed and graduated from Newman High School in 1978. I went to Loras College in Dubuque, and earned a bachelor's degree in History in 1982. From there, I was assigned to the North American College in Rome to study for the priesthood. My academic classwork was done at the Angelicum in Rome and I finished with a bachelor's degree in theology (S.T.B.). I attended one year of post-bachelorette work at St. Anselmo in Rome during my final year in seminary. During that year, I was ordained a transitional deacon by His Eminence William Cardinal Baum at the Basilica of St. Peter in Vatican City State during the pontificate of St. John Paul II. That same year, I was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Dubuque by Archbishop Daniel W. Kucera on July 19, 1986. Sunday is my 40th anniversary of ordination.

I have had many and varied assignments in Cedar Rapids, Dubuque, St. Catherine and St. Donatus (both towns in Iowa), Bellevue and Marion. Suffice to say that before becoming pastor of Epiphany Parish, Mason City, and Sacred Heart Parish, Manly, the arc of my assignments was a line from Cedar Rapids to Dubuque and Bellevue and then to Marion. I returned to North Iowa in 2024. Most of my forty years I have served as a pastor, 27 years in all, and I have also have been a high school and college chaplain as well as worked in various archdiocesan offices.

My current assignment is to be pastor of the Mason City Pastorate, Pastoral Coordinator of Newman Catholic School and Dean of the Mason City Deanery. I am pleased and excited to be your pastor!

Welcome! I wish to extend a warm welcome to those who have joined us for the pastorate Masses this weekend. We've embarked on a new path that represents a significant change in the Archdiocese of Dubuque. I am glad you are a part of the Masses this weekend and I offer a special welcome to those who are attending Mass at a new time or a new place. Thank you for being here!

The Sixteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time—We are steeped in the parable section of St. Matthew's gospel being read during the weekend Masses. The parables are an effective teaching tool Jesus used to invite the listener into the mystery of the Kingdom of God.

One parable Jesus tells this weekend is a comparison of a tiny mustard seed to the kingdom of God. From the seed comes a mighty bush where birds can find shelter. One way of understanding the parable is to say that a little bit goes a long way. What does that mean? Jesus said that if you had the faith the size of a mustard seed, you could move mountains. A little bit of faith goes a long way with God. He can move mountains with it.

As we are beginning to live with and experience the new pastorates and the implementation of the mission of Journey in Faith, this period of time can be unsettling. You might be wondering whether or not you belong, especially if your parish or church isn't a place designated for the celebration of weekend Mass. You may feel like a stranger in a new church or the church where you have been attending Mass for a long time. You might be having a hard time with Journey in Faith. Or, like me, you may sometimes feel overwhelmed by it all. The examples are endless. The point is that you don't have to be comfortable with everything or understand the how or the why of everything to which Journey in Faith is calling you. That's where faith comes in, even if it is a little bit the size of a mustard seed. Give God your trust and he will take care of the rest in a way only he can do. If all of this seems like a huge mountain for you to climb, a little bit of faith is all God asks from you to deal with that mountain. Don't let the mountain, whatever it is, overwhelm you. You don't have to. God will move it.

Mensaje del Párroco del Pastorado

¡Hola, de parte del Padre David O'Connor! Como soy nuevo en Sacred Heart, Rockwell y St. Patrick, Hampton, me complace presentarme.

Nací en Dubuque, Ia. y crecí en Mason City. Mi parroquia natal es St. Joseph, Mason City, donde también asistí a la escuela, inauguralmente Central Catholic, y me gradué de Newman High School en 1978. Asistí al Loras College en Dubuque, donde obtuve una licenciatura en Historia en 1982. De ahí, fui asignado a estudiar sacerdocio en el North American College, Roma. Mis tareas académicas las hice en el Angelicum de Roma y terminé con una licenciatura en teología (S.T.B.). Realicé un año de trabajo post-licenciado en St. Anselmo en Roma durante mi último año de seminario. Ese año fui ordenado diácono transitorio por Su Eminencia el Cardenal William Baum en la Basílica de San Pedro en Ciudad del Vaticano durante el pontificado de San Juan Pablo II. Fui ordenado sacerdote para la Arquidiócesis de Dubuque por el arzobispo Daniel W. Kucera el 19 de julio de 1986. El domingo es mi 40º aniversario de ordenación.

He tenido varias asignaciones en Cedar Rapids, Dubuque, St. Catherine y St. Donatus (ambos pueblos en Iowa), Bellevue y Marion. De más está decir que antes de convertirme en párroco de la Parroquia Epiphany en Mason City, y de la parroquia Sacred Heart en Manly, el rango de mis asignaciones fue una línea desde Cedar Rapids hasta Dubuque y Bellevue, y luego hasta Marion. Regresé al norte de Iowa en el 2024. La mayoría de mis cuarenta años los he servido como párroco, 27 años en total.

También fui capellán de una escuela secundaria y de una universidad, además de trabajar en varias oficinas arquidiocesanas.

Mi asignación actual es Párroco del Pastorado de Mason City, Coordinador pastoral de Newman Catholic School y Decano del Decanato de Mason City. ¡Estoy encantado y emocionado de ser tu pastor!

¡Bienvenido! Deseo dar una cálida bienvenida a quienes se nos han unido a las misas pastorales de este fin de semana. Hemos emprendido una nueva trayectoria que representa un cambio significativo en la Arquidiócesis de Dubuque. Me alegra que estés con nosotros y doy una especial bienvenida a quienes asisten a misa a un nuevo horario, o en un nuevo lugar. ¡Gracias por estar aquí!

Decimosexto Domingo de Tiempo Ordinario — Nos impregnamos en la sección de parábolas del evangelio de San Mateo que leemos durante las misas del fin de semana. Las parábolas son una herramienta de enseñanza eficaz que Jesús utilizó para invitar al oyente al misterio del Reino de Dios. La parábola que cuenta Jesús este fin de semana es la comparación del reino de Dios a una pequeña semilla de mostaza. De la semilla surge un arbusto imponente donde las aves pueden encontrar refugio. Una forma de entender la parábola, es decir que algo pequeño puede hacer una gran diferencia. ¿Qué significa eso? Jesús dijo que, si tu fe es del tamaño de una semilla de mostaza, puedes mover montañas. Un poco de fe significa mucho para Dios; puede mover montañas con ella.

Mientras comenzamos a vivir y experimentar los nuevos pastorados y la implementación de la misión de Journey in Faith, este período puede parecernos algo inquietante. Quizá te preguntes si sigues sintiéndote parte de la iglesia, especialmente si tu parroquia no fue designada para celebrar misa dominical. Quizá te sientas extraño en una iglesia nueva, o incluso en la que llevas asistiendo por mucho tiempo. Puede que te esté costando entender Journey in Faith; o, como yo, a veces puedes sentirte abrumado con todo esto. Hay muchos ejemplos. La cuestión es que no tienes que sentirte a gusto con todo, ni entender cómo o por qué existe Journey in Faith. Ahí es donde entra la fe, aunque sea del tamaño de una semilla de mostaza. Dale tu confianza a Dios y él se encargará del resto de la manera que sólo él puede. Si todo esto te parece una montaña enorme para escalar, un poco de fe es todo lo que Dios te pide para afrontarla. No dejes que la montaña, sea lo que sea, te abrume. No tienes por qué hacerlo. Dios la moverá.

St. Mary

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

Book Club

Read and discuss

Tuesday, August 4 @ 5:30 p.m.

"Something in the Water" by Catherine Steadman

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!

Quilts on the roll at St. Mary

St. Mary will be making quilts to distribute as comfort quilts and to be donated. It will take place on the 3rd Tuesday of the month next meeting will be July 21- 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. in the parish hall. Even if you don't sew your help is needed. Lunch will be provided.

If you have any questions talk to Denise Sprain 641-847-2262 Hope to see you there!

NOTICE DATE CHANGE!!

Thank you

A huge thank you to everyone who helped put up flags at the cemetery. Your work is so much appreciated.

Stewardship - Treasure

Sunday, July 12, 2026, 2026

Adult Envelopes	$1154
Offertory	$157

Give Online www.FranklinHardinCatholic.org/online -giving

Liturgical Ministers

July 20 – 5:30 p.m. Mass
Lector: Barb Keninger
Ushers: volunteers
Altar Servers: Sergio Rogel
Sacristan: Linda Sudtelgte

July 22 – 7 p.m. Mass
Lectors: Katelyn Porter
Ushers: volunteers
Altar Servers: Alex Harms, Nora Fistler
Sacristan: Jodi Uthe

July 23 – 8:30 a.m. Mass
Lector: Barb Keninger
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

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

Fellowship/food after Mass

July 20 at 5:30 p.m.

St. Patrick

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

Liturgical Ministries

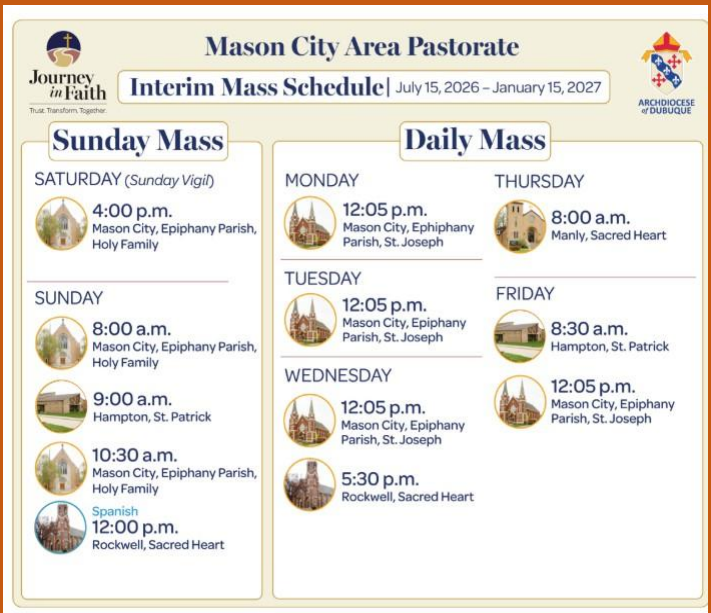
July 26th, 2026 – Julio 26th, 2026

Mass—July 26th, 2026 9:00 a.m.

Lector: Rachel Heilskov
Ushers: Greg Cavazos, Ryne Magner
Eucharistic Ministers: Dwight & Sherry Peterson
Money Counters: Madonna Weiland, Margy Suter
Altar Servers: James & Joseph Conlon, Kael Sullivan
Sacristan: Madonna Weiland
Linens: Judy Nelson

You are responsible to find your own replacement.
Usted es responsable de encontrar su propio reemplazo.

NEW MASS TIMES
MASON CITY PASTORATE



Daily Mass will be at St. Patrick on Friday's at 8:30 AM
Sunday Mass will be at St. Patrick Sunday at 9:00 AM

STEWARDSHIP TREASURY
SUNDAY JULY 12th, 2026

REGULAR	**$ 630.00**
OFFERTORY	**$ 595.00**

Give On-Line at www.franklinhardincatholic.org online-giving.
Dona en línea para www.franklinhardincatholic.org donaciones en línea.

Happenings Week of July 19th, 2026

Tuesday/ Martes July 21st / Julio 21st
7:00 PM AA/Al-Anon (RE Center)

Wednesday/ Miercoles – July 22nd/ Julio 22nd
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Food Pantry/Despensa de Alimentos (Social Hall)

Thursday/ Jueves – July 23rd / Julio 23rd
1:00 – 3:00 PM Crafts – Social Hall
6:00 PM Adoration

Friday/ Viernes – July 24th/ Julio 24th
8:30 AM Mass

Sunday/ Domingo July 26th / Julio 26th
9:00 AM Mass

UPCOMING ROLL BREAKFASTS

Roll Breakfasts will be held on July 19th, July 26th, August 2nd and 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!

A big thank you to everyone who helped with Father Kevin's farewell party and donated toward his gifts.

Also, Thank YOU to those that helped clean the rectory to prepare for Father Paul:
Ambar Flores, Lina Able Lejos, Esther Garcia, Anabel Alanis, Yesenia Morteo, Clara Valentin, Gabriela Garza, Candy Maza, Margarita Rincon, Alizarti Alanis

The Mason City Area Pastorate News

- The priests of the pastorate will be welcomed at all of the parishes following the Masses July 18-19. All are welcome to any or all of these events.
    - In Mason City, cookies and/or donuts will be served after the 4 PM, 8 AM and 10:30 AM Masses.
    - In Hampton, donuts will be served after the 9:00 AM Mass.
    - In Rockwell, a dinner will be served after the Noon Spanish Mass.
- Finances
    - Each parish will have its own Finance Council that will function as it has before the pastorate was formed.
    - There will, however, be some immediate expenses for which the pastorate is responsible. Namely, the salaries of the priests, their room and board and health insurance.
    - To meet the immediate need, each parish will be assessed a percentage of the support that is required for the support of the priests.
    - To house the pastorate funds, a pastorate banking account will be established.
    - Please continue to support your parish. There are many ways to do so:
        - ACH designated for your parish
        - Your budget envelopes
        - The generic envelopes provided at each parish which asks you to designate where your contribution will be allocated, either to the parish you designate or to the pastorate.
        - Please note that bills and change that is placed in the collection basket will be designated to the pastorate. If you wish to place a check in the collection basket and you don't have your envelope, please use the generic envelope and designate where your wish your contribution to go.

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: Marshall, Allamakee, Dubuque, Hancock, Winnebago, and Worth. Visit https://homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/disasters/individual-disaster-assistance-programs to learn more.

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 heath 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.

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, July 20
5:30 p.m. St. Mary

Wednesday, July 22
7:00 p.m. St. Mary

Thursday, July 23
8:30 a.m. St. Mary

Friday, July 24
8:30 a.m. St. Patrick

Sunday, July 26
9:00 a.m. Larry Prause
St. Patrick

Father Kevin's new address:
1423 Kimball Avenue,
Waterloo, IA 50702