St. Patrick Catholic Church
St. Mary Catholic Church

July 26, 2026 Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mason City Area Pastorate—Volume 1, Issue 2
Bulletin Announcements—26 July 2026—The Seventeenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Pastorate Pastor's Pen

The Seventeenth Sunday of Ordinary Time—My parents owned a pair of metal detectors they used to search for lost items buried in the ground. They found coins, rings, bracelets and the like. Most of the time they found junk. It was a fun hobby anyway and always exciting because one day they might find a buried treasure.

Their hobby came to mind because of the opening parable Jesus told in this Sunday's gospel. The kingdom of heaven, he said, is like a treasure buried in a field which a person finds and hides again. He goes to sell all that he has in order to buy the field to own the treasure.

Parables are simple stories that pack a profound meaning. The man obviously found a treasure of great value. In order to have it, he had to give up what he had to obtain the treasure. There was a profound risk in selling everything he had in order to obtain the treasure. One message the parable has is that something can be so valuable that it is worth risking everything to have it.

I think that the treasure Jesus was talking about is faith. There's a lot to our faith, but I can offer it to you in a concise kernel. Jesus became incarnate to save us from our sins and reconcile us with our heavenly Father. That's why he died. He conquered death so that we wouldn't be dominated by it any longer. The wages of sin is death, which Jesus paid for through his death on the cross. His resurrection from the dead means that even if we die believing in him, we will rise to new and everlasting life. Because of Jesus, death doesn't have a stranglehold on us.

How important is your faith to you? What are you willing to give away in your life or leave behind that currently obstructs or hampers your faith in God? What has become more important in your life than the death and resurrection of Jesus, your salvation from sin and eternal life? What is so important that you would be willing to give up heaven for it? Eternity is forever while the things in this world will pass away.

Something that helps me when I struggle with matters in my own life is I ask myself a simple question. Is what I am doing, saying, thinking, feeling, craving or possessing going to help me on the road to heaven? Will it open heaven to me or cause me to turn away from it. The answer is usually simple. No, what I am worrying about, craving, mad about or want to change isn't necessary for my salvation and it is not helping me to heaven. These things become a stumbling block. I am not treating heaven like the treasure that it is, worth getting rid of anything that hinders me from eternal life with God.

With the implementation of the Journey in Faith pastoral plan underway, we can begin to see the benefits and the sacrifices that the plan entails. One immediate benefit I heard people say is that they noticed that the churches were fuller than last week. The singing was noteworthy, too, as more voices filled the church. Regarding the sacrifices, I heard from folks displeased with Mass times and how the weekend and weekday Masses were distributed in the pastorate. Others wanted no change at all.

God's timing is perfect and this gospel comes at the right time for our new pastorate. We are being called to treasure our faith and not the pocket change of what seems to be most important. This is a time when we are all being challenged to grow, that we leave the old behind and embrace the new.

Mensaje del Párroco del Pastorado

Decimoséptimo domingo del Tiempo Ordinario — Mis padres tenían un par de detectores de metales que usaban para buscar objetos enterrados en el suelo. Encontraron monedas, anillos, pulseras y similares. La mayoría de las veces era chatarra. De todas formas, era un pasatiempo divertido y emocionante ya que algún día podrían encontrar un tesoro escondido.

La primera parábola que Jesús contó en el evangelio de este domingo me recordó a esta afición. El reino de los cielos dijo, es como un tesoro que alguien encuentra enterrado en un campo y vuelve a esconder. Vende todo lo que tiene, y compra el campo para poseer el tesoro.

Las parábolas son historias sencillas de profundo significado. El hombre, obviamente, encontró un tesoro de gran valor. Pero para obtenerlo, tuvo que renunciar a todas sus posesiones. Tomó un gran riesgo al vender todo lo que tenía por el tesoro. Un mensaje de la parábola es que algo puede ser tan valioso que merece la pena arriesgarlo todo para tenerlo.

Creo que el tesoro del que hablaba Jesús es la fe. Se puede hablar mucho de nuestra fe, pero se puede resumir, Jesús se encarnó para salvarnos de nuestros pecados y reconciliarnos con nuestro Padre celestial. Por eso murió. Conquistó la muerte para que ya no nos dominara. El pago del pecado es la muerte, que Jesús pagó con su muerte en la cruz. Su resurrección de entre los muertos significa que, aunque muramos creyendo en él, resucitaremos a una vida nueva y eterna. Gracias a Jesús, la muerte no nos controla.

¿Qué importancia le das a tu fe? ¿Qué estás dispuesto a abandonar en tu vida qué está obstaculizando tu fe en Dios? ¿Qué se ha vuelto más importante para ti que la muerte y resurrección de Jesús, tu salvación del pecado y la vida eterna? ¿Qué es eso tan importante que te hace renunciar al cielo? La eternidad es para siempre, mientras que las cosas mundanas desaparecerán.

Cuando lucho con dificultades personales, me hago una sencilla pregunta. ¿Lo que hago, digo, pienso, siento, anhelo o poseo, me ayudará al camino al cielo? ¿Me abrirá el cielo o me alejará de él? La respuesta suele ser sencilla. No, aquello que anhelo, que me preocupa, que me enfada o que quiero cambiar, no es necesario para mi salvación y no me ayuda a llegar al cielo. Esas cosas se convierten en un obstáculo. No estoy tratando al cielo como el tesoro que es, que vale la pena deshacerme de todo lo que me impida la vida eterna con Dios.

Al empezar el plan Journey in Faith, vemos sus beneficios y sacrificios. Un beneficio inmediato que escuché es que las iglesias estuvieron más llenas que la semana anterior, y el canto también es digno de mencionar, ya que más voces llenaron las iglesias. En cuanto a los sacrificios, algunas personas se mostraron descontentas con los horarios y distribución de las misas dominicales y de semana. Otros no querían ningún cambio.

El momento de Dios es perfecto y este evangelio llega en el momento adecuado para nuestro nuevo pastorado. Se nos llama a valorar nuestra fe y no los detalles que parecen ser lo más importante. Este es un momento en el que todos estamos siendo desafiados a crecer, a dejar atrás lo viejo y abrazar lo nuevo

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!

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who helped with Father Kevin's farewell reception. Thank you to the ladies that made the pies, to the grilling crew, to everyone who helped serve and clean-up. It was a great way to send him on to his new assignment!

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 30 - 8:30 a.m. Mass

Lector: Cindy Richtsmeier

Sacristan: Jim Wessels

Please remember to find your own replacements

May God Bless her washed in the waters of baptism

June Charlotte Schumacher

Parents Katelyn Baltes and Lucas Schumacher

Baptized at St. Mary – July 12, 2026

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

Coffee and treats

July 30 after 8:30 a.m. Mass

"You will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart."

Jeremiah 29:12-13

St. Patrick

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

Liturgical Ministries

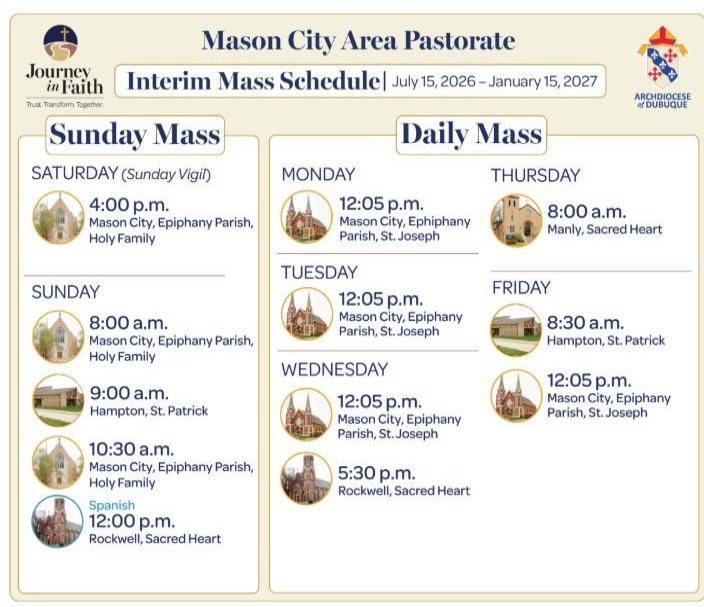
August 2nd, 2026 – Agosto 2nd, 2026

Mass—Agosto 2nd, 2026 9:00 a.m.

Lector: Emma Svob
Ushers: Sue Basye, Trace Brocka
Eucharistic Ministers: Jose & Maria Alonzo
Money Counters: Donna Devereux, Vicki Naber
Altar Servers: Drew & Cameron Horton, Rhiannon Prestidge
Sacristan: Judy Nelson
Linens: Sue Garrett

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 19, 2026

REGULAR	**$ 914.00**
OFFERTORY	**$ 131.00**

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

Happenings Week of July 26th, 2026

Tuesday/ Martes July 28th / Julio 28th
7:00 PM AA/Al-Anon (RE Center)

Wednesday/ Miercoles – July 29th/ Julio 29th
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Food Pantry/Despensa de Alimentos (Social Hall)

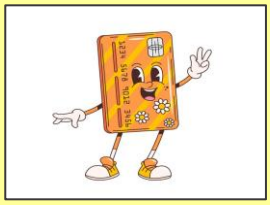
Thursday/ Jueves – July 30th / Julio 30th
1:00 – 3:00 PM Crafts – Social Hall
6:00 PM Adoration

Friday/ Viernes – July 31st/ Julio 31st
8:30 AM Mass

Sunday/ Domingo August 2nd / Agosto 2nd, 2026
9:00 AM Mass

UPCOMING ROLL BREAKFASTS

Roll Breakfasts will be held on, 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!



SCRIP INFORMATION

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.
WHAT ARE SCRIP CARDS AND HOW DO THEY WORK?
Scrip cards are actual gift cards that you purchase after Mass on Sunday morning. We have them for Fareway, Dollar Fresh, Kwik Star and sooo many more. We buy them at a discount, you pay full price and the difference is credited to your donation records each week.
We take cash or check to purchase Scrip cards you do not need to be a member of St. Patrick to purchase them.

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

The Mason City Area Pastorate News—

- The priests are now situated in their living spaces in the pastorate
  - Frs. Dave, Peter and Georges will be living at the Holy Family Rectory, Mason City
  - Fr. Paul is living at the St. Patrick Rectory, Hampton
- The pastorate weekend and weekday Masses are on an interim basis until January 2027
  - The number of weekend Masses, where they will be celebrated and in which language was determined by the archbishop.
  - The priests of the pastorate will rotate Masses in the pastorate so that they will reach each parish at least on a monthly basis.
  - The weekday Masses and locations were determined by me after consultation with departing pastors and they with their pastoral councils and/or other parish leadership. The weekday Masses were determined while considering the overall needs of the pastorate, the schedules before the pastorate was implemented, the number of Masses per day that a priest is canonically (according to canon law) permitted and the average number of funerals and weddings per each parish in the pastorate.
- Care facilities, hospice and home visits
  - Based on the information gathered from the parishes in the pastorate, we have a current list as of July 1, 2026, of parishioners in care facilities and homebound. We will be organizing visitation of these individuals on a rotating basis.
  - I have received some requests of care facility Masses. This will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.
- Emergency calls requiring the presence of a priest.
  - An emergency means
    - That there has been a serious trauma or accident where the ministry of a priest is essential.
    - That a person is in danger of death, imminently dying or is on the verge of death and a priest is needed to administer the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and bestow the Apostolic Pardon.
  - When an emergency occurs and meets the above criteria, please call the Epiphany Parish office (641-423-5001). When you call, you will either speak to someone in the office or be given the opportunity to leave a message. It would be helpful if you had this information ready when you call
    - The caller's name
    - The caller's phone number or the best number to reach someone when the priest returns the call
    - The address of the location where the priest is needed
    - The name(s) of the person(s) who are involved with the emergency, and in particular, the name of the person who needs to be anointed.
    - General information about the situation in which the priest will be offering his ministry (the person is dying; the person is able or unable to receive Holy Communion, etc.) and anything else you would want him to know

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.

Catholic Relief Services Requesting Support for Venezuelan Earthquake Recovery

Your help is needed in response to the earthquakes which occurred late June in Venezuela. Catholic Relief Services is working through Caritas Venezuela and the local Church to deliver emergency shelter, food, safe water, medical care, and other critical relief to those affected. With thousands and thousands of people's lives impacted, your gift today will help get urgently needed supplies to families and communities in the difficult days ahead. Please visit www.crs.org for more information and to see how you can help.

MASS SCHEDULE

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

Friday, July 31
8:30 a.m. Tony Kelch St. Patrick

Sunday, August 2
9:00 a.m. Lyle & Beullah Patton St. Patrick

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