St. Patrick Catholic Church
St. Mary Catholic Church

Pastorate Pastor's Pen

The Thirtieth Sunday of Ordinary Time—Today's gospel presents the scene of Jesus being tested by the Pharisees. One who was a scholar of the law put Jesus to the test asking which commandment of the law was the greatest. Jesus' response was brilliant. He didn't choose one law of the Decalogue (the Ten Commandments) and make the others less significant. Rather, he said that the whole law was based on love of God and neighbor. In essence, he emphasized what "thou shalt" do rather than, "thou shalt not" do.

So, yes, the love of God comes first which we can see in the first three commandments of the law. Have no false gods in your life, do not swear on God's name and keep the Sabbath holy. Regarding the Sabbath, claiming that I can determine what day I will keep holy doesn't work. Sunday is the Lord's Day, the equivalent of the Jewish Sabbath. You can't declare another day as your Sunday.

The rest of the commandments, the fourth through the tenth, have to do with one's neighbor. They cover care for one's parents, murder, adultery, stealing, lying and being covetous of a neighbor's spouse or goods. Human beings need help in establishing proper order in one's life and be shown how to live in the community of marriage, the family, the Church and the world. Love of neighbor isn't free flowing anger towards another, premarital or extramarital sex, contracepting children, destroying the reputation of another, lying, stealing or cheating others. One can try to rationalize the commandments away to justify one's behavior. Ultimately, it doesn't work and there will be a reckoning on this side of the grave or the other. Better on this side so there is time to repent and ask for forgiveness.

There are inspired authors of the New Testament who basically say this: Love of God and neighbor are inextricably tied together. That's a tall order, which is entirely possible through prayer, penance, the sacraments and learning sacred scripture. The good example of others is also very helpful, especially by the saints I will reference in my column below. These spiritual practices are a cooperation with God's grace to help you to love the way Jesus teaches. God never asks us to love in the way he commands without his help. His grace abounds and builds on human nature which leads us to realize that God has first loved us. That's the first wonderful step in loving God, self and neighbor.

All Saints Day—Next weekend, the Solemnity of All Saints falls on a weekend. This great celebration begins the month of November as a commemoration of all the faithful departed who are dwelling eternally with God in heaven. Many of the saints are known to us as those canonized by the Church and proposed by the Church for public veneration. Many others aren't canonized but nonetheless share in the beatific vision of God and are a part of the communion of saints.

Saints are given to the Church by God for our inspiration and their intercession. We see how they lived their lives according to the gospel, certainly practicing heroic virtue and oftentimes practicing their faith in heroic ways as well. We can look up to the saints and be inspired to be like them in some way whether it be their prayer life and spirituality, the service of God, the Church and others. I have my own "favorite" saints, like St. John Paul II, St. Theresa of Avila, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, St. Paul and St. Carol Acutis. I ask them for help in my daily life or to help you. I also see in them something that I would like to imitate. They also act as an encouraging boost when I am not as faithful to the gospel as I should be.

All Saints Day is a celebration of the Christian life as taught and modeled by Christ. It is a day when we celebrate the fulfillment of the Paschal Mystery of Christ's death and resurrection, that all who die with Christ will rise with him to everlasting life. We can be inspired that Christ's promises are fulfilled and that we can strive to dwell in the everlasting life of heaven. I hope you have a favorite saint or two who inspire you in your life's journey. It really helps your practice of the faith if you do.

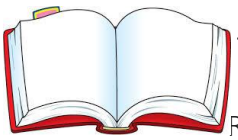
All Souls Day—Is November 2nd. It is an important annual liturgical day when we pray for the dead. Given the uniqueness of the day, All Souls Day Masses will be celebrated in each of the four parishes of the pastorate. Please check the bulletin for the time and place of each Mass.

St. Mary

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

Book Club

Read and discuss

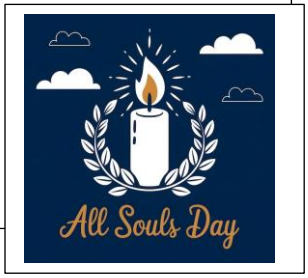


Read in October to discuss on November 3rd
The Most Fun We Ever Had
by Claire Lombardo
Read in November to discuss
November 30 at 5 p.m.
Soup and Side Supper
The Christmas Wish
by Ricard Siddow
Everyone is welcome to join! Great discussion and fellowship!

All Souls

"Remember Those Who Have Died In The Peace of Christ and All The Dead Whose Faith Is Known To You Alone."
(Fourth Eucharistic Prayer)

We will light a candle for the St. Mary parishioners who have passed away in the last year. We will light those candles in their memory on November 5 at the 8:30 a.m. Mass.
Gary Bonewitz
Kay King
Marlyn Nymeyer
David Deike



Liturgical Ministers

October 28 – 7:00 p.m.
Lector: Caleb Harms
Altar Servers: Alex Harms, Lucas Mausser
Sacristan: Jodi Uthe

October 29 – 8:30 a.m. Mass
Lector: Doug Lindaman
Sacristan: Jim Wessels

Eucharistic Adoration

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

Rosary in Spanish on Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.

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



One thing I realized is that….
Everything always ends up working out. Sometimes even better and greater than you can imagine.
Trust that.
Mother Teresa

Fall Festival

Drive thru take-out only
St. Mary Catholic Church, Williams
Everyone welcome

Sunday, November 1 – 4-6 p.m.

Menu: Chicken and noodles, meat loaf, mashed potatoes, corn, salad, pie
$15 per meal

St. Patrick

1405 N. Federal, Hampton 641-456-4857
Office Hours: Monday through Thursday
9:00 AM-1:00 PM, excluding holidays.
dbq097sec@dbqarch.org

Liturgical Ministries

Mass—November 1, 2026 9:00 a.m.

Lector: Rachel Heilskov
Ushers: Madonna Weiland, Bridget Brocka
Eucharistic Ministers: Dean & Samantha Markwardt, Jose & Maria Alonzo
Money Counters: Mary Ann Patton, Phil O'Connor
Altar Servers: James & Joseph Conlon, Victor Magner
Sacristan: Lili & Joe Alonzo
Linens: Lili & Joe Alonzo

You are responsible for finding your own replacement.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FAITH FORMATION STUDENTS CONFIRMED ON OCTOBER 18TH!



Spirit of God, grant me: The gift of wisdom To see the world through your eyes, The gift of counsel To make difficult decisions, The gifts of knowledge and understanding To use my mind to know you and to love you, The gift of fortitude To have the courage to live in the faith Despite the difficulties and disappointments, The gift of piety To be able to express my special love And commitment to you, And the right kind of awesome fear That makes me pause to wonder and revere God's Love. Amen.

STEWARDSHIP TREASURY
SUNDAY OCTOBER 18, 2026

REGULAR	**$**	**644.00**
OFFERTORY	**$**	**478.77**

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

Happenings Week of October 25, 2026

Tuesday/ Martes October 27th
7:00 PM AA/Al-Anon (RE Center)

Wednesday/ Miércoles – October 28th
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Food Pantry/Despensa de Alimentos (Social Hall)
6:30 – Faith Formation

Thursday/ Jueves – October 29th
1:00 – 3:00 PM Crafts – Social Hall
6:00 PM Adoration

Friday/ Viernes – October 30th
8:30 AM Mass

Sunday/ Domingo November 1st
8:00 AM – Reconciliation
9:00 AM Mass

Journey in Faith
Trust. Transform. Together.

Journey in Faith: The Touchpoint Survey closes Sunday
This weekend is your final opportunity to complete our *Journey in Faith* Touchpoint Survey. Your input is important and will help pastorate leaders set priorities and develop a proposal for a final weekend Mass schedule.

If you haven't responded, please take a few minutes to share your experience before the survey closes at midnight on Sunday, October 25:
linkhttps://forms.gle/TuC4JVPQncQLs4eBA

Or use this QR CODE:

Thank you for helping shape our future together!

ROLL BREAKFAST NEXT SUNDAY NOVEMBER 1st
Plan to join us for rolls, coffee and fellowship!

All Souls Day Mass Monday November 2nd



Please join us for Mass at 8:30 am

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

Sign-up for Flocknote

St. Mary/St. Patrick will begin using the app Flocknote

Flocknote will be used to help inform our parishioners by text message.

It would be used for notifying you of cancelations due to weather, funeral info, prayer chain, etc.

We are asking you to sign up for the app, to help us keep you informed.

St. Mary - Go to: stmaryackley.flocknote.com

St. Patrick – Go to: stpatrickhampton.flocknote.com

You will see a screen to enter your information, you will then go to the next screen there will be options of the notifications you would like to receive:

Faith Formation - Prayer Chain (St. Mary only) - Parish

Pick which ones you would like to be notified for..... and that is all you have to do!!

If you need help signing up stop at the parish office and Jolene would be happy to help you!!

Individual Healing Prayer Next Weekend

Are you or a loved one carrying physical, emotional, or spiritual burdens? MCAP Healing Prayer Ministry has trained prayer team members available to pray with you at Holy Family Catholic Church, 722 N. Adams Ave., Mason City, Iowa. Join us on Saturday, October 31 after 4 p.m. Mass and on Sunday, November 1 after 8 a.m. Mass for individual prayer. If these dates do not work, please contact the Parish Office at 641-423-5001 to schedule an appointment. All prayers are strictly confidential.

October is Respect Life Month—Please consider this from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"I would now like to say a special word to women who have had an abortion. The Church is aware of the many factors which may have influenced your decision, and she does not doubt that in many cases it was a painful and even shattering decision. The wound in your heart may not yet have healed. ...But do not give in to discouragement and do not lose hope. ...The Father of mercies is ready to give you his forgiveness and his peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation."

Pope Saint John Paul II, Evangelium vitae, no. 99. © 1995, Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

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

Confession times for the Mason City 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 before the 5:30 p.m. Mass on Wednesday at 5 p.m.
- 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 6-8 PM
- St. Mary, Ackley – Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m.– 12:30 p.m.

Thank you

Thank you to the ladies that served the reception after Confirmation. Your willingness to help out is greatly appreciated!!



MASS SCHEDULE

Wednesday, October 28
7:00 p.m. St. Mary

Thursday, October 29
8:30 a.m. St. Mary

Friday, October 30
8:30 a.m. Gerald Kelch St. Patrick

Sunday, November 1
9:00 a.m. Eleanor Hearst St. Patrick

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