



St. Mary Catholic Church St. Patrick Catholic Church

September 20, 2026

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mason City Area Pastorate—Volume 1, Issue 10

Pastorate Pastor's Pen

The Twenty-Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time—Today's gospel presents the Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard. An alternate title might be the Parable of the Unfair Vineyard Owner. He asked people to work for him at the beginning and throughout the day until quitting time. When he paid the laborers, those working for a measly hour or so are paid the same as those working under the hot sun since the workday began. The latter cried foul as the owner appeared to be applying unfair compensation practices.

Maybe his compensation of the workers was unfair even though he could pay workers as he pleased. We would think so. A worker should be paid for the time worked a day, so naturally those who worked longer should be compensated to a greater degree than those who joined the workforce late in the day.

This parable isn't really about what is a fair wage. It speaks about being a part of the Kingdom of God. The roots of the story are found with Israel. The Israelites were the ones planted in the vineyard by God, the owner. They were to labor for God to bring the nations to worship him as one people. The Church succeeded the ancient vineyard, and now the disciples of Christ labor to bring about God's will and the salvation of souls.

Now we can see another way of interpreting the parable. Some come to Christ, are baptized and follow him their entire lives. Some come as late as their deathbed. I remember baptizing, confirming and giving First Holy Communion to a woman just hours before her death. She may have been late in coming to Jesus, but in God's eyes, she was just in time.

Christians can become disjointed when the unsaved turn to God's mercy and salvation. Maybe they are convicts or have done a terrible evil to others. Maybe they've lived a profligate life and then towards the end of their lives repented of their ways. In terms of fairness, it seems like these types of individuals should be severely punished or salvation withheld from them. But, that's not how God thinks. A repentant, humble heart God will not spurn. He will not break the bruised reed or quench the smoldering wick. He wills that all be saved.

Imagine if I had refused to baptize the woman on her deathbed because she came to Jesus too late. I had no idea what her life had been like nor did I need to know. Imagine what God would say to me at my life's end if I refused salvation to that woman who asked for it. When it comes to salvation, we can't act by our feelings alone. It has to be by what Jesus teaches. He didn't go to the cross because of a feeling. He decided to embrace the will of his Father, suffer and die. Today's parable calls us to a conversion of our minds and feelings. It asks us to think as God does when it comes to the salvation of souls. We can't allow feelings get the best of us. Rather, when it comes to bringing people to Christ, God is calling the best out of us.

Forgiveness—Last Sunday, we reflected upon the theme of forgiveness. In light of the state of our society and the world, it is beneficial to continue that reflection this weekend.

Friday, September 11th, was the 25th anniversary of the attacks in the United States. If you are old enough, do you remember where you were and what you were doing when you first learned about the attacks? I was eating breakfast on a bright, beautiful Tuesday morning when news broke about the attack on the World Trade Center. I was shocked and in denial. We opened the church, had another Mass that day and invited people to prayer.

Think about what you did and where you were the weekend after the attacks. I was at Mass with hundreds of people, much more than normal, who attended Mass that weekend and the next. Do you remember what was preached that weekend? I do. The scripture readings were about forgiveness and the prodigal son. I wondered about God's timing as the attack was so raw, but I rolled with it because God's timing is perfect.

It may seem ironic that the scripture readings last Sunday spoke about forgiveness. We've had the intervening years to reflect upon what occurred in 2001. Even though feelings can make that day very much present, we are in a better place to reflect. And, we can extend the theme to other events and relationships that have had hurtful effects in our lives.

Peter had a good religious formation and realized the importance of forgiving one's neighbor. How many times was necessary? It can be hard to forgive once and up to seven times was a lot, especially if it involved the same person. Jesus said that there isn't a limit to the number of times we are to forgive.

Why? When pondering the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant, we need to realize that he owed the master a huge sum of money that he couldn't possibly repay. In our currency, it amounted to billions of dollars. Who can repay that? Yet, the master, who is God in the story, forgave the debt owed to him, which in this case, represented the sins the servant committed against God. There is no way we can make up for even one sin, as tiny as it may be, before God. The amount the fellow servant owed the forgiven man was about \$8000, a drop in the bucket to what was owed to the master. The expectation is that you and I forgive others as we have been forgiven by God.

Why does God ask us to forgive? Of all the ways God could reveal himself, he says that he is kind, merciful, slow to anger and rich in compassion. He pardons all your iniquities and heals all your ills. He doesn't always chide you or nurse his anger because of your sins. God doesn't deal with us according to our sins which calls for death. Through the cross he bought your life back from the destruction caused by sin. His forgiveness crowns you with his kindness and compassion. Seek forgiveness of your sins from him, and as God is generous to you, then extend forgiveness generously to others.

OK, so how do you forgive? If you don't forgive, you become prone to anger, vengeance and hurtful things. You can remember the sins of others in great detail and hug these feelings about them tightly. If you nourish anger and these other feelings, how can you expect healing from the Lord? It is like you become those feelings. You don't allow the Lord room to work in your life. How can you seek pardon in your own life when you refuse mercy to another as you desire mercy from God? Remember the last days, God says, which for us is our own death and the Second Coming of Christ. You don't want to die in a state of unforgiveness. Rather, remember the commandments and the covenant God made with us. The covenant is the cross whereby Christ suffered for our sins and was the bloody sacrifice that bought you back from your sins. Remember the commandments and seek forgiveness of your transgressions. Forgive as you have been forgiven. You may not forget what happened, but forgiveness brings true freedom and peace.

Apply what I have shared to a person in your life that you haven't forgiven. If it would be too traumatic, think of another example. Recall what happened, but don't dwell there. Then, recall the times God has forgiven you, when a big burden has been lifted from your soul. Remember how good that was and how it felt. Then, turn in your prayerful mind to that person you have a hard time forgiving. Realize that you don't want to live in that anger or a desire for retribution. It saps your life away. You're not alone. As God lifted the heavy weight from you, so he can generously help lift the heavy weight of forgiving another. Ask him to do the heavy lifting for you. He will help because he is kind, merciful, and compassionate. He will be the graced help for you to be that way, too.

St. Mary

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Book Club



Read and discuss
in September to discuss on October 6
Angel Falls by Kristin Hannah
Theo of Golden by Allen Levi

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

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

September 21 after 5:30 p.m. Mass
for light snacks

September 24 after 8:30 a.m. Mass
Coffee and treats

TURKEY DINNER



Mark your calendars....
St. Mary Turkey Dinner is
planned for October 11

Liturgical Ministers

September 21 – 5:30 p.m.

Lector: Jim Wessels
Altar Servers: Nora Fistler
Sacristan: Linda Sudtelgte

September 23 – 7 p.m. Mass – Youth Mass

Lector: Caleb Harms
Ushers: Caleb Harms, Sergio Rogel,
Sam Mausser, Giselle Flores
Altar Servers: Alex Harms, Lucas Mausser
Sacristan: Jodi Uthe

September 24 – 8:30 a.m. Mass

Lector: Rosie 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!



In Remembrance

David Deike

Husband of Mary Deike

His funeral was at St. Mary September 8
May He Rest In Eternal
Peace

"God always saves the best for
us. But he asks us to let ourselves
be surprised by his
love, to accept his
surprises. Let us trust God!."



- Pope Francis, World Youth Day 2013
- Homily at Aparecida, Brazil

St. Patrick

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

Liturgical Ministries

Mass—September 27th, 2026 9:00 a.m.

Lector: Emma Svob

Ushers: Dwight Peterson, Trace Brocka

Eucharistic Ministers: Joe & Lili Alonzo, Mary Ann Patton,
Ruth Ann Kelch

Money Counters: Donna Devereux, Vicki Naber

Altar Servers: Cameron Horton, Yamilla Fuentes, Ruby
Alonzo

Sacristan: Rachel Heilskov

Linens: Sue Basye

You are responsible for finding your own replacement.

Happenings Week of September 20th, 2026

Tuesday/ Martes September 22nd

7:00 PM AA/Al-Anon (RE Center)

Wednesday/ Miercoles – September 23rd

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Food Pantry/Despensa de Alimentos
(Social Hall)

Thursday/ Jueves – September 24th

1:00 – 3:00 PM Crafts – Social Hall
6:00 PM Adoration

Friday/ Viernes – September 25th

8:30 AM Mass

Sunday/ Domingo September 27th

8:00 AM – Reconciliation
9:00 AM Mass



SCRIP CARDS INFORMATION

What are Scrip cards and how do they work?
Scrip cards can be compared to gift cards that
you can buy downtown, except they are sold

after Sunday morning Mass and help fund your church. We buy
cards for the things that you need to buy like food, fuel and other
things, including gifts. We buy these cards at a discount; you
buy these cards from us at full price. The difference is logged
into your contributions records every week. Your contributions
are reported back to you in January of the following year, at tax
time. Scrip Sales year to date show that we have sold a face
amount of cards totaling \$49,045.00 which has given us
\$1,927.92 of earnings to help support our parish.

ST. PATRICK'S

FAITH FORMATION

PRESCHOOL - 12TH
GRADE AND PARENTS

FUN NIGHT

SEPTEMBER 30
6:30 - 7:30

PIZZA **GAMES** **PRIZES**

**REGISTER FOR FAITH
FORMATION CLASSES**

STEWARDSHIP TREASURY SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13th, 2026

Regular	\$825.00
Offertory	\$119.00

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

Journey in Faith:

"We" over "me"

Once God leads us out and begins to form us,
He invites us to become something together.
He is building a Church where we know who
we are, what we are called to, and that we
belong to one another. Unity doesn't mean we
all think, act, or do things the same way. It
means we learn to trust one another, make
space for one another, and move forward
together with a shared sense of purpose.
What would it look like for you to choose "we"
over "me"? Where is God inviting you to build
trust? What might you need to let go of so
that we can become more united? Take these
questions to prayer. Ask God to show you
where you can build bridges, extend trust, and
help create a stronger sense of who we are.

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!!

Say their Name

"Say Their Name" grief support group will have meetings beginning on Monday, September 28, 2026, at 10:00 AM at St. Patrick's Church; [1405 No. Federal St.](#); in Hampton.

Everyone experiences grief in their lifetime, whether it be from the loss of a parent, sibling, spouse, child, good friend, or even a beloved pet. This group is led by lay people who have experienced grief and survived it. It's free confidential, and non-denominational. Everyone is welcomed!

For more information, contact St. Patrick's Church's office at [641-456-4857](tel:641-456-4857); Maggie at [641-425-1046](tel:641-425-1046), or Fran at [515-290-5147](tel:515-290-5147).

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.

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 thepattons4@gmail.com

Share your faith with the youth of St. Patrick

Faith Formation teacher needed

St. Patrick is in need of teachers for the following grades: Seventh and Eighth grade

If you have any questions or are interested contact the office at St. Patrick

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, September 21
5:30 p.m.

St. Mary

Wednesday, September 23
7:00 p.m.

St. Mary

Thursday, September 24
8:30 a.m.

St. Mary

Friday, September 25

8:30 a.m. Harvie-Marj Kampman St. Patrick

Sunday, September 27

9:00 a.m. For the people St. Patrick

Live stream of Mass

www.franklinhardincatholic.org/livestream
YouTube Channel: Franklin Hardin Catholic