

## Contacts

### Nursing Home Chaplain

Fr. Eze Venantius Umunnakwe, C.S.Sp.

### Finance Council

Sara Hawk, Kayla Keller, Pat Van Dyke, David Psotka,  
Max Schauf & Jeff Thompson

### Trustees

Pat Van Dyke & David Psotka

### Pastoral Council

Rebecca Albers, Jill Gavin, Krisha Schauf, Eddie  
Vonnahme, Gary Van Dyke & Lee Dentlinger

### Safety Committee

Amy McCasland, Steve Gehringer & Frank Hawk Jr.

### Inspections & Facility Maintenance

Gary Van Dyke: (515) 238-4691 [grvandy@gmail.com](mailto:grvandy@gmail.com)

### Music Ministry

Lesla Dembinski, Mary Seibert, Lyle Schwery, & Helen  
Gavin

### Altar & Rosary

### Knights of Columbus

Larry Bertrand: (254) 396-9551,  
[larry\\_bertrand@yahoo.com](mailto:larry_bertrand@yahoo.com)

### RE Director

Michelle Fick: (641) 297-2223, [joro23@juno.com](mailto:joro23@juno.com)

### STAT Leader

Alex Miller: (515) 961-3026

### Liturgy Schedule

Jill Gavin: (515) 979-3196, [jill44gavin@gmail.com](mailto:jill44gavin@gmail.com)

### Funeral Dinner Coordinators

Margie Gehringer & JoEllyn Gavin

### Cemetery


Joan Psotka (641) 297-2216


### Hall Rental

Kayla Keller (515) 238-2944, [keller.kayla.m@gmail.com](mailto:keller.kayla.m@gmail.com)

### Welcome Spokesperson

Gary Van Dyke: (515) 238-4691 [grvandy@gmail.com](mailto:grvandy@gmail.com)

 Immaculate Conception Catholic Church – St. Marys, IA

 [www.immaculateconceptionstmarys.org](http://www.immaculateconceptionstmarys.org)

## Worship Schedule

### Sunday, September 3

124: Jer 20:7-9 Ps 63:2-6, 8-9 Rom 12:1-2  
Mt 16:21-27

7:30 AM Reconciliation

8:00 AM Mass

Mass intentions: †Ken Croat

### Monday, August 28

431: 1 Thes 4:13-18 Ps 96:1, 3-5, 11-13 Lk 4:16-30

### Tuesday, August 29

432: 1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11 Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 Lk 4:31-37

5:00 PM Adoration

5:30 PM Rosary

6:00 PM Mass

Mass intentions:

### Wednesday, August 30

433: Col 1:1-8 Ps 52:10-11 Lk 4:38-44

### Thursday, August 31

434: Col 1:9-14 Ps 98:2-6 Lk 5:1-11

### Friday, September 1

636: Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30 Ps 13:6abc  
Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23

### Saturday, September 2

436: Col 1:21-23 Ps 54:3-4, 6, 8 Lk 6:1-5  
*see 719-724*

### Sunday, September 10

127: Ez 33:7-9 Ps 95:1-2, 6-9 Rom 13:8-10  
Mt 18:15-20

7:30 AM Reconciliation

8:00 AM Mass

Mass intentions: †Ken Croat, †Dale Gavin



# Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

September 3, 2023



## Pastor

Rev. Fr. Eze Venantius Umunnakwe, C.S.Sp.  
111 Saint James St., Saint Marys, IA 50241  
Rectory Phone: (641) 297-2267  
Cell Phone: (*emergency only*): (660) 215-0757  
Email: [eponvu@yahoo.com](mailto:eponvu@yahoo.com)

## Office

Sarah Gehringer, Office Manager  
Phone: (641) 297-2359 | Email: [immacula@myomnitel.com](mailto:immacula@myomnitel.com)  
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
121 Saint James St., PO Box 88, St. Mary's, IA 50241

## Church

101 Saint James St., Saint Marys, IA 50241

### *Tuesdays*

Adoration at 5:00 PM  
Rosary at 5:30 PM  
Mass at 6:00 PM

### *Sundays*

Reconciliation at 7:30 AM  
Mass at 8:00 AM

## WEEKEND HOMILIES

I suppose that if a person were to search all through the Scriptures trying to find a couple of passages that make Christianity sound like a dangerous business, we really couldn't do much better than to settle on these readings for today. The first is from the personal writings of the Old Testament prophet Jeremiah. With a voice as cutting as any in Scripture he calls the people to stop hiding from the reality of their comfortable lives, face up to their failings, their sin, and do something about it, become again the people of God. And for that Jeremiah was an outcast. He was ridiculed, even persecuted, by those whom he confronted with the truth. And the Gospel, too, has much of that same demanding quality to it. Here Christ begins to introduce to his apostles the idea of his death. But Peter objected. It was not going to be that way.

Christ reacts very sharply to Peter. But it was necessary. Peter, perhaps more than any of the others, had to understand what was happening, had to see the point to it, the value. And then Christ explains his response, but in a puzzling, enigmatic sort of way, almost with a kind of a riddle. Whoever wants to save his life will lose it, whoever loses his life for me will save it. If anyone wants to follow me, he can do so only by carrying the cross that I carry. So again there seems to be almost that sense of a harshness to the practice of God's values. That sense that Christianity, if you do it right, has to hurt. Nothing could be further from the truth. God calls us not to suffering and pain but to happiness, a joy, a feeling of rightness to our lives. And it is an absolute promise, there is no "maybe" attached to it. It is a sure and certain thing.

But if the promise is absolute, it is by no means unconditional. Nowhere does God promise us, "You will be happy and satisfied, no matter what you do, no matter how you live." The promise is given to those who accept no standard other than Christ's, who do not compromise with the truth, even if that means a cross of one kind or another. And that is the point. Purposefulness. The fact is that a very great deal of the burdens that mark our lives have nothing at all to do with the cross. They are of human origin. We make them ourselves, by centering our lives on something less than the truth, something less than real value. A burden, a hardship in our lives is a cross, if it has a purpose, if it leads somewhere, if it leads to a resurrection. That after all is what most clearly marks the cross of Christ.

Excerpts taken from *Seasons in The Word*

### RE News – Michelle Fick

#### **Religious Ed Class/Parent Meeting | September 10<sup>th</sup> | Immediately following Mass**

Class will begin with a brief parent meeting. The calendar & other materials will be distributed at this time and parents can complete the RE registration sheet. There will be a fun activity for the students to do with their parents. RE will be followed by the Family Potluck at 11:30.

At this time, there are no first graders and only one kindergartener. If anyone is aware or know of any four/five-year-old children in the parish; please let me know, hopefully we can organize a program for them. You can call 641.297.2223 or email [joro23@juno.com](mailto:joro23@juno.com).

Class schedule: Sept 10 – Class, Sep 17 – Class, Sep 24 - Class

#### **Madison/Warren Ecumenical Association Fall Kickoff | September 24<sup>th</sup> | Truro City Park**

Everyone is invited for food fellowship with other churches.

Enjoy music by Grateful Hearts at 3:00pm.

Food at 4:00pm- Grilled Burgers, Hot Dogs, Salads, desserts, and drinks all provided. Free will donation appreciated. Hope to see you there!

#### **Please, keep them in your prayers:**

Jolene Schwery, AJ, Sean, & Jason Wiegert, Cindy Robison, Joyce Smith, Herb Moore, Doug Hollands, Charlotte Banks, Doug George, Mike Hraha, Mary Long, Chase Sanders, Jim Kahler, Ellen Pontolilo, Phil & Crystal Finck, Janice Gavin, and Mel Stills.



*Your own labors will yield you a living, happy and prosperous will you be.*

*Psalm 128:2*

### ANNOUNCEMENT

#### **Family Potluck | September 10<sup>th</sup> | 11:30 AM**

Let's share a meal and have some fun! Kickball, cornhole, and delicious food. We will eat inside the hall and then move outside for games. In the event of rain, we will have indoor games.

#### Please bring your own:

Table service

Drinks

Lawn chairs

Gloves/bat/ball for those that would like to play baseball

#### Please bring a dish to share according to your Band of the Month:

January-March: Meat

April-June: Veggies/Potato

July-September: Fruit/Side salad

October-December: Dessert

*Don't Miss the Family Potluck!*



#### **Pastoral Council Meeting | September 12<sup>th</sup> | 6:30 PM**

#### **Richard Allen Gonzalez & Emily Elizabeth Hill Wedding | September 16<sup>th</sup> | 2:00 PM**

Celebrant: Fr. Ray Higgins

#### **Finance Council Meeting | September 20<sup>th</sup> | 5:00 PM**

#### **Coffee & Donut Social | October 8<sup>th</sup> | Immediately following Mass**

#### **Parish Liturgy Committee Meeting | October 24<sup>th</sup> | 6:30 PM**

#### **Parish Directory Pictures | October 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> | 2 PM - 8 PM**

We will have a professional photographer set up in the hall on Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> to take directory photos. This is a complimentary service and all families will receive a free directory and 8x10 portrait. More information to come!

#### **Annual Diocesan Appeal:**

Thank you to the 34 families who have already given or pledged \$14,635 to the Annual Diocesan Appeal! We are still \$11,373 dollars away from our parish goal of \$26,008. Your help is needed. Please prayerfully consider supporting the Catholic Church in Southwest Iowa by pledging to the Appeal. A gift in any amount will be gratefully received and sincerely appreciated. Your contribution card can be placed in the collection basket, brought or mailed to the parish office, or mailed directly to the Diocese. Or you can give directly online at [dmdiocese.org/giving](http://dmdiocese.org/giving). Thank you!

#### **MONEY COUNTERS**

**Sept 3:** Susan Matlage-Simms (take to the night drop box) & Kayla Keller

**Sept 10:** Mary Seibert (take to the night drop box) & Brenda Freeman

#### **Collections Saturday, August 27**

Tithes/Plate: \$488.00

ACH's: \$280.00

#### **LITURGICAL ASSIGNMENTS SEPTEMBER 10**

**Lector:** Eddie Vonnahme

**Gifts:** Mark Matlage Family

**Euch. Min:** Susan Matlage-Simms, Jill

Gavin, Katie Vonnahme

**Ushers:** Louis Vonnahme & Ethan Nelson

**Servers:** Lucy & Ben Vonnahme, Haven

Cassady

**Band of the Month:** Mark & Lesa

Dembinski

*Celebrate!*

*September Birthdays*

9<sup>th</sup> – Sharon Dentlinger

*September Anniversaries*

17<sup>th</sup> – Jerome & Kathy Lippold