

# SEPTEMBER 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025

## THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

### ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

304 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Imogene, IA 51645 Mailing address: PO Box 375 Shenandoah, IA 51601-0375

[stpatsimogene@gmail.com](mailto:stpatsimogene@gmail.com) [www.stpatrickimogene.com](http://www.stpatrickimogene.com)

**FATHER LAZARUS KIRIGIA - PASTOR**

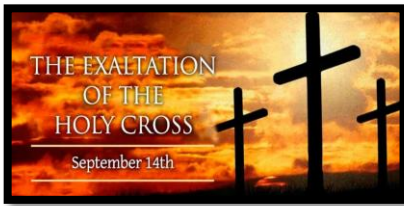
1510 Highland Red Oak, Iowa 712-623-2744 (Office) 515-724-4754 (Emergencies) Email: [lkirigia@dmdiocese.org](mailto:lkirigia@dmdiocese.org)

Mission Statement-Aware of our rich Catholic tradition we strive to keep Jesus as the center of our worship and life.

*We are open to ongoing formation in faith through the sacraments, life experiences, and other opportunities for reflection.*

*We are committed to witnessing our faith by serving others and working for justice and peace.*

Please join our faith community in kneeling at the end of Mass and silently saying three Hail Marys for world peace and an end to abortion.



**MASSES** – Sunday-8:30am Saturday-5pm (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month) Tuesday-8:30am, Thursday-6pm  
Holydays-check bulletin

**RECONCILIATION**-Saturday-4:15pm-4:45pm (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month).

Sunday – 8am – 8:15am on Sunday after the first Saturday Mass of the month.

**ADORATION**-Tuesday 1am-10am, 7pm-12am Wednesday 12am-11am, 6pm-10pm

**SUNDAY COFFEE** – after Mass most YFF Sundays YFF-9:45am-10:35am Sundays

**Contact Father Lazarus**: when a family member is in the hospital, when he needs to bring communion to the homebound or when someone is in need of anointing, to schedule a baptism and at least **6 months** before your

anticipated wedding date. **East bookcase**: Please sign our Guest Register. Feel free to take a brief parish history and/or a self-guided tour sheet. **Vestibule bulletin board**-If you would like to become a member of our faith family, please fill out a registration blank, drop it in the collection basket or mail to the church. **Tithe envelopes**-top shelf of east bookcase; put your name on the first few envelopes.

**\*\*Livestream Mass: Sunday 8:30am\*\*** [www.facebook.com/stpatrickimogeneiowa](https://www.facebook.com/stpatrickimogeneiowa)

	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
	<b>Sept. 13</b>	<b>Sept. 14</b>	<b>Sept. 21</b>	<b>Sept. 27</b>	<b>Sept. 28</b>
<b>Lector</b>	Tom Dinville	YFF	Madonna Smith	Jake McGargill	Rick Dailey
<b>EME</b>	Genene Fienup	Bridget Campbell	Amy Gutschenritter	Kathy Harbor	John Martin
<b>EME</b>		Dan Kinsella	Joe Cheney		Sarah Martin
<b>EME</b>		Jim Martin	Aaron Molnar		Tom Martin
<b>Server</b>		YFF	Caroline Gutschenritter		Lillie Martin
<b>Server</b>		YFF	Caroline Campbell		Ellie Kinsella
<b>Server</b>		YFF	Finn Martin		Maia Forney
<b>Gifts</b>	Kim & Becky Hughes	YFF	Joe & JoAnn Cheney	Jeff & Jennifer Johnson	Raphael & Ida Ekpai
<b>Usher</b>	Bill Ditmars	YFF	Andy Campbell	Bernie Hughes	Ken Forney
<b>Usher</b>	Donnie Doyle	YFF	Joe Cheney	Tim Martin	Hannah Forney
<b>Usher</b>	Kim Hughes	YFF	James Doyle	George McGargill	Jim Gutschenritter
<b>Usher</b>	Becky Hughes	YFF	Raphael Ekpai	Aaron Molnar	Joe Gutschenritter
<b>Greeters</b>	Bill & Pam Ditmars	YFF	James & Melonie Doyle	Bernie Hughes	Henry Martin
<b>Streaming</b>		Rita Laughlin	Maryanne Dailey		Maryanne Dailey
<b>Sacristan</b>	Tara Doyle	Aaron Molnar	Jim Martin	Genene Fienup	Tom Martin

### Mass Intentions

**Sat. Sept. 13:** +LaVon Kudron

**Sun. Sept 14:** Members of the parish

**Tues. Sept. 16:** +Jerry & +Pat Head

**Thurs. Sept. 18:** +Agnes Brunetti

**Sun. Sept 21:** +Travis Durfey

**Tues. Sept. 23:** +Eleanor McDonald Eller

## THOUGHTS FROM FATHER LAZARUS

The feast we celebrate today was established to commemorate the discovery of the True Cross of Jesus by St. Helena in the 4th century. This feast invites us to meditate upon the redemption won for us by Christ. More than an occasion to venerate the physical relics of the instrument of Christ's death, this feast celebrates the decisive victory that Christ's suffering and death brought about. Indeed, we give thanks and praise that by his cross, Jesus has redeemed the world.

We find the origins of today's feast (The Exaltation of the Holy Cross) back in the year 335 A.D., when, on September 14th of that year, a basilica built by the Emperor Constantine was consecrated. The site was that of Calvary and the Holy Sepulcher. Earlier, the Roman Emperor Hadrian had leveled the site, covering it with earth and building a temple to the Roman goddess Venus along with a statue to Jupiter on top of Calvary's site. A few years later, Emperor Constantine encouraged Christianity to flourish in the Roman Empire. Constantine's mother, whom we know as St. Helena, subsequently searched for and found the remnants of our Lord's Cross after excavating Hadrian's temple terrace to get down to the actual site of Calvary.

In 614, the Persians invaded Jerusalem and took the True Cross as a trophy. The Persians, primarily followers of the ancient religion of Zoroastrianism, were not Christians. Allowing the Holy Cross to remain in their possession was seen as sacrilegious. Eight years later, in 622, Eastern Roman Emperor Heraclius initiated military campaigns to recapture Jerusalem and the True Cross. Finally, in 628, he triumphed, and the following year, Emperor Heraclius entered Jerusalem with the True Cross, with great ceremony, and wearing sumptuous and bejeweled vestments, Heraclius, in a grand procession, carried the Cross on his shoulder back to Calvary, the site of Constantine's original basilica, restoring it to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. After that, the Feast of the Holy Cross became a universal celebration within the Church, starting in Rome and subsequently spreading throughout the entire empire, and has been celebrated annually on September 14 ever since.

The legend has it that when Emperor Heraclius arrived at the gate in Jerusalem's wall leading to Calvary carrying the cross, he found that he couldn't move. Some invisible force had stopped him; he simply couldn't move forward. The Bishop of Jerusalem, a man named Zachary, addressed the Emperor in these words: "In all of this finery, you are far from imitating Christ's poverty and the lowly state of our Savior when He carried the Cross." Thereupon, the Byzantine Emperor Heraclius took off his finery and donned a simple cloak. It was then he found that he could move forward -- and so carried the Cross back to Calvary's site.

The lesson for us is obvious. We must ask ourselves what burdens us, what weighs us down, and keeps us from spiritually moving forward. The Cross is not so heavy that we cannot carry it or move under its weight. Christ, after all, said, "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me..." If He is yoked with us, then there is no burden too heavy that you and He cannot carry together. But if you are burdened by the weight of this world's glitter and gold, you will soon be immobilized by it. It will not only weigh you down, it will crush your spirit.

As we commemorate the triumph of Christ's Cross, call to mind the crosses you bear each day. More often than not, when faced with crosses, we seek a way out, succumb to self-pity, and are often tempted by anger and despair. Instead, try to allow Jesus to enter those crosses, transform them, and use them for His glory, your good, and the good of others. Crosses in life should not be avoided; they must be transformed. Although the suffering may remain, it must become redeemed suffering, thus bearing an abundance of good fruit in ways that only God can accomplish.

*Have a Blessed Week, Fr. Lazarus Kirigia*

### Our Gifts to God 9/7

Plate: \$2126.00      Tithes \$585.00  
Children: \$11.00      Votives: \$227.21  
Donuts: \$122.00      Food Pantry: 80.00

### Altar Society

The updated monthly committee list is on the table in the vestibule.

The Altar Society would like to send a care package to our current college students. If you have a college student in your family, please let us know their address. The deadline for getting the names to Vickie is Sunday, Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>. You can email their name and address to Vickie Williams: vckjs@yahoo.com  
Thank you

### Seminarian Special Collection Sept 13/14 – THIS WEEKEND

The Seminarian Fund provides support for the education of the men who are discerning priesthood within the Diocese of Des Moines. Contributing to the Seminarian Fund helps form our faith leaders of the next generation. Thank you for your generosity.

### Special Collection for the people of Gaza September 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>

Archbishop Timothy Broglio, President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has appealed to all of our nation's dioceses, urging support for a special collection for the people of Gaza. Funds gathered from this collection by our Diocese will be sent directly to support the work of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) as they continue to provide vital humanitarian relief to the sick, malnourished, and wounded. May our hope-fueled generosity bring some comfort and relief to our brothers and sisters suffering in Gaza

### Parish Council

The Parish Council will meet on Thursday, Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> after Mass.



Declan Martin	Sept 2nd
Tom Campin	Sept 3rd
Janie Brannen	Sept 4th
Tom Dinville	Sept 4th
Max Forney	Sept 6th
Conde Burkhiser	Sept 8th
Marge McDonald	Sept 9th
Rita Semmons	Sept 11th
Adrian Gutschenritter	Sept 12th
Bryson Williams	Sept 12th
Karoline Carnes	Sept 13th
Maia Forney	Sept 14th
Pam Ditmars	Sept 18th
Ava Mahoney	Sept 21st
Doug Gipe	Sept 28th
Therese Sunderman	Sept 28th
Peggy Martin	Sept 30th

### THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who helped with the outside grounds cleanup last Sunday.

### NCYC Breakfast September 21

The NCYC Students are hosting their first breakfast of the year on Sunday, Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>. Please make plans to stop downstairs after Mass and support these students.

### 2025 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL



Parish Goal: \$25,770  
Gifts: \$22,475  
Amount Due: \$3,295

*Thank you to everyone who has already given. If you have not yet given, you can write ADA in the memo on your check and drop it in the collection basket or give online: [www.dmdiocese.org/giving](http://www.dmdiocese.org/giving)*

Sep 7, 2025 | Altar society Sept meeting

Officers in Attendance: Kathy Harbor, President | Vickie Williams, Vice-President | Mary Speichinger, Sect/Treasurer

Members in Attendance: Maryanne Daily, Peggy Martin, Patty Baran, Maria Blake, Laurie McGargill, Karen Gutschenritter, Sandy Bugg, Regina Loehr

Minutes Recorded:

Kathy opened the meeting at 9:45 a.m. in the rectory with the Memorare.

A special welcome to our new member, Regina Loehr, and her family!

Treasurer's Report:

Checking - \$2,071.97

Savings - \$9,961.02

A mass will be said for Gladys Taylor, sister-in-law to Bob and Maxine Wilkinson at the date of their choosing.

Correspondence: Received: A Thank you was read from the family of Ryan Huebner at his passing. Sent: Cards will be sent to Maxine and Bob Wilkinson for the passing of Gladys Taylor. A Thinking of you card will also be sent to Kathy Regan.

Kathy moved to approve the treasurer's report. Maryanne seconded.

Old Business:

Kathy thanked the outgoing officers (Maryanne, Sandy, & Laurie) for their service and support. Peggy Martin & Patty Baran picked up discussion of the pillows to be sent to college students around St. Patrick's Day 2026. Peggy thought there could be savings if the altar society purchased our own stuffing and completed the pillows at a meeting. Shipping could be saved if we hand them out for parents to deliver. The committee will wait to get a new list for who to deliver to, and finalize costs for the next meeting.

New Business:

The monthly committees and donut schedule for 2025/2026 were reviewed. Updates will be made as we receive them. Maryanne will put extras in the back of the church. Kathy will call the committee chairs before their month to check in.

The bulletin announced "back to school" care packages would be sent to current college students. Members are to email their student's name and address to Vickie (vckjs@yahoo.com). It was decided to place a 2 week deadline to receive names, so the packages could be delivered in a timely fashion. Details and expenses to be finalized at the next meeting. This list of names would be used to help inform quantity needed/costs of the St Patrick's Day Pillow project.

Peggy Martin discussed an idea for the Altar Society to auction pies during the Turkey Shoot as a way to help raise funds to continue our give-back efforts. Mary Speichinger agreed to head this up, and will provide an outline of "the plan" for the next meeting.

Mary noted the committee will take recommendations for programs this year, and Maria Blake volunteered to make a presentation on the Rosary during the month of October. A date set for October 19, and will take place in the basement. Maria will connect with Rita, Tom, or Sarah Martin, to see if High School students could attend. Maryanne will help coordinate a Microphone and set up for the presentation video, as well as help draft an announcement for the bulletin. All are invited to attend. Peggy moved to close the meeting, and Laurie seconded. The meeting was adjourned just at 10:45 a.m. The "Prayer for Priests" was recited.

Next Meeting: Sunday, October 5 in the rectory.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Speichinger



# HARVEST MASS 2025



**ST. PATRICK  
PARISH IS  
FAMILY**



OCIA – Order of Christian Initial of Adults is the process that helps you grow in awareness of God’s call to conversion, provides opportunities to reflect on that call, and moves you towards full initiation through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

If you are interested or have questions about joining the Catholic church, please contact Fr. Lazarus ([lkirigia@dmdioocese.org](mailto:lkirigia@dmdioocese.org))