

NOVEMBER 30, 2025

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

stpatsimogene@gmail.com www.stpatrickimogene.com

FATHER LAZARUS KIRIGIA - PASTOR

1510 Highland Red Oak, Iowa 712-623-2744 (Office) 515-724-4754 (Emergencies) Email: 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 (2nd & 4th Saturday of the month) Tuesday-8:30am, Thursday-6pm

Holydays-check bulletin

RECONCILIATION-Saturday-4:15pm-4:45pm (2nd & 4th 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

	Sunday Nov. 30	Sunday Dec. 7	Monday Dec. 8 Holy Day	Saturday Dec. 13	Sunday Dec. 14
Lector	A. Gutschenritter	Peggy Martin	Sarah Martin	Tom Dinville	YFF
EME	John Martin	Bridget Campbell	A. Gutschenritter	Kathy Harbor	John Martin
EME	Sarah Martin	Tom Martin	Joe Cheney		Sarah Martin
EME	Aaron Molnar	Sarah Martin	Aaron Molnar		Tom Martin
Server	Caroline Gutschenritter	Ethan Laughlin	Lillie Martin		YFF
Server	Nora Martin	Jonathan Ekpai	Nora Martin		YFF
Server	Ethan Nelson	Madeleine Ekpai	Caroline Gutschenritter		YFF
Gifts	Marge McDonald	Madonna Smith	Dan Martin Family	Bill & Pam Ditmars	YFF
Usher	Paul Blake	Joe Cheney	Tom Martin	Bill Ditmars	YFF
Usher	Gerard Brannen	James Doyle	Hannah Forney	Donnie Doyle	YFF
Usher	Darwin Bugg	Raphael Ekpai	Jim Gutschenritter	Kim Hughes	YFF
Usher	Sandy Bugg	Andy Campbell	Joe Gutschenritter	Becky Hughes	YFF
Greeters	Jim & Karen Gutschenritter	Henry Martin	Aaron Molnar	Kim & Becky Hughes	YFF
Streaming	Maryanne Dailey	Kari Kinsella	Rita Laughlin		Maryanne D.
Sacristan	Jim Martin	Aaron Molnar	Tom Martin	Tara Doyle	Joe Cheney

Mass Intentions

Sun. Nov. 30: Members of the Parish

Sun. Dec. 7: Members of the parish

Tues. Dec. 2: +Jerry Head & +Pat Head

Mon. Dec. 8: +Dwight Smith

Thurs. Dec. 4: +Ed Regan

Tues. Dec. 9: +Gary Maher

THOUGHTS FROM FATHER LAZARUS

This is the first Sunday of the new liturgical year, the First Sunday of Advent. This year, we return to the A cycle of readings, with the gospel focus mostly on the Gospel of Matthew. Advent begins with a question: What are we waiting for? This question is both ancient and immediate. It echoes through the prophets in the Bible and stirs the wilderness cry of John the Baptist, and rests quietly in the heart of a young woman who says yes. It lingers in our souls, in our longing for peace, our hunger for meaning, and our ache for healing.

But Advent doesn't exist in a vacuum. The waiting gives way to wonder. The promise becomes presence, and that question is transformed. Once Christ has come, the question becomes: Now that he is here, how shall we live? We're not waiting for time to pass. We are waiting for a world to change and for ourselves to be ready to help change it.

In today's first reading, we hear the prophet Isaiah calling us to climb to the top of the mountain and look for the Lord's advent, the Lord's coming into our lives. At the end of today's first reading, when we hear Isaiah cry out, "O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!" We need to understand that Isaiah isn't simply talking about nature's daylight and nighttime darkness; he is talking about what we see with our minds and hearts. He's calling us to rise above our daily worries, concerns, and anxieties in order to take a look over the whole of our lives with all of their peaks and valleys. As Christians, we do that in the vision of Christ, the Light of the World, and God's gift to us.

The problem you and I face comes not from the fact that we are unconcerned or apathetic, or lazy. The problem you and I have is that we're far too concerned about so many other things. Often these are legitimate concerns, worries that are thrust upon us by the world in which we live. We are so caught up in all of the events of our days that we do not pay attention to our souls, our inner spirits, and our inner selves. This spiritual blindness is spoken of in biblical language as darkness. And what do we do in darkness? Usually, we sleep. We sleep because we shut down, tune out, and turn off.

When we, through accident, through chance, or in some other unexpected event, become aware of God's activity in our lives, we suddenly pay attention — we wake up. And in that moment of waking up, we likely think that God's coming to us is sudden, unexpected, startling. God has, however, always been there. He is actively present to us all of the time, each and every day. It's our awareness of Him that has changed. God hasn't changed in the slightest way. He is constant; He is always present. It is we who are inconstant, changeable, and inattentive.

We often speak of Advent as being a season of time in which we prepare for the Lord's coming into our lives. Perhaps we should see it as a season of heightened awareness, for the truth is that we should be looking for God already at work in our lives every day. God is always offering Himself to us. We, however, are not always responding because we're not paying attention. Advent is a time to conscientiously, deliberately, and with awareness respond to His offer of Himself to us. We have to "see the Light," so to speak.

The question I would suggest we ask ourselves as we begin this Advent is: Where do I see moments of "sleepiness" in my life and family life? Times when we overlook each other and take each other for granted? How can we help one another "stay awake" to kindness, gratitude, and peace this week? Choose one daily individual or family practice to help you stay awake, lighting a candle at dinner and sharing one moment of gratitude, checking each other before bed, or taking a moment of silence each morning. Make this Advent and Christmas different, stay awake!

Blessed Advent, Fr. Lazarus Kirigia.

Our Gifts to God 11/22 & 11/23

Plate: \$2114.00 Tithes: \$95.00
 Children: \$21.45 Donuts: \$107.00
 Masses: \$30.00 Bingo: \$1271.00
 Wheel: \$688.00 Afghan: \$110.00
 Food, Pies, Pillow: \$1596.00
 Building Fund: 420.00

Updated: Our Gifts to God 11/16

Plate: \$1895.00 Tithes: \$225.00
 Children: \$12.00 Masses: \$40.00
 Donuts: \$105.00
 Special Collection: \$726.75

Altar Society

- There are still dishes left from the Turkey Shoot. Please stop downstairs after Mass and pick up your dish.
- The next meeting is Sunday, Dec. 7th after Mass.

December Committee

CH-Maxine Wilkinson

Karoline Carnes

Becky Head

Annie Burnison

Susie McDonald

Donuts - 7th, 14th

A note from Mary Maher who attended NCYC:

NCYC Trip

A big thank you to all. It was a wonderful way to learn more about God ("I am") and our faith. Thank you to the NCYC group for inviting me to attend the NCYC Convention with you. Appreciation also goes to the kids I traveled with. I want you all to know how great the kids from Imogene are. And thank you to all who supported their breakfasts the last two years to make this trip possible. There were so many inspirational and awesome speakers, it really inspired me to feel closer to God ("I am").

Just one of the quotes that stood out for me:
"Because I am ("God") you are transformed."



Ann Owens	Dec 2nd
Nick Laughlin	Dec 6th
Natalie Gutschenritter	Dec 7th
Darene Gutschenritter	Dec 15th
Lucy Martin	Dec 15th
Ava Forney	Dec 15th
Terry Regan	Dec 15th
Annie Burnison	Dec 16th
Kari Kinsella	Dec 16th
Patty Baran	Dec 17th
Leah Mahoney	Dec 19th
Anne McDonald	Dec 21st
Kennedy Miller	Dec 23rd
Paul Head	Dec 24th
Laurie McGargill	Dec 27th
Pat Doyle	Dec 28th
Jessica Hughes	Dec 30th
Raphael Ekpai	Dec 31st

2025 ANNUAL
DIOCESAN APPEAL



Parish Goal: \$25,770
 Total Collected: \$25,975

THANK YOU

We reached our 2025 goal. We are so thankful to everyone who contributed and helped us exceed our goal by \$205.

Thank you note from St. Mary Church in Red Oak

To all of the parishioners who donated to our book shipping project to support Fr. Eliud's schoolchildren in Kenya, an enormous THANK YOU! Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Our initial goal was \$5,840. We were able to raise \$5,856 total, just in time for our final payment due date, thanks be to God!

YFF

Rehearsal for the YFF Advent program is next Sunday, Dec. 7th. The YFF Advent program is Sunday, Dec. 14th at 9:45am.



MOMS DAY OUT

Need to do some Christmas shopping or Christmas baking?
Need an afternoon without the little ones before
Christmas? We are here to help!

Saturday, December, 13th
10:00am - 4:30pm

St. Patrick Church Hall

Drop your kids off any time after 10am and pick them up any time
before 4:30pm. They will be cared for by adults in the parish.

Sign up sheet on the table in the vestibule. Please sign up by Dec. 7th. Questions? Contact Maryanne Dailey
stpatzimogene@gmail.com



There are boxes in the vestibule for your unwrapped gifts.
Deadline: Dec. 14th

**SHENANDOAH
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

LIL' SHOPPER'S HOLIDAY GIFT SHOP

This holiday season, St. Patrick - Imogene will team up with Teresa Hughes and Shenandoah Elementary School to help young students discover the joy of giving.

We will be accepting gently used items or items you want to "regift". Both male and female gifts are needed. These gifts don't have to be large items. Items like candles, home decor, hand lotion, tape measures, any small tool or jewelry.

This "gift shop" will be monitored by members of a St. Patrick Parish discipleship group and Teresa Hughes and will be set up in a classroom. Young students will have the opportunity to shop for a gift for a loved one at home. This is a great opportunity to teach little ones about the season of giving.

Christmas Poinsettias - \$20 Deadline is Dec. 14

The envelopes for the memorial Christmas poinsettias are on the table in the vestibule. Please complete the information on the outside of the envelope, put your payment inside the envelope and drop the envelope in the collection basket, the basket on the Vestibule table or give to Kathy Harbor, Vickie Williams, or Mary Speichinger

Poinsettias for Homebound Parishioners: The Altar Society would like to remember the members of our parish who are homebound and unable to attend Mass, or in care facilities, by bringing them a poinsettia. Please share names of homebound parishioners to Mary Speichinger (mary.a.honeyman@gmail.com) by Dec 14.





Women's Irish Christmas Retreat

January 10, 2026 12:30-4:30 PM
St. Patrick Catholic Church • Imogene, Iowa

Light Lunch • Mass to Follow Retreat

Irish Origins
Women's Irish Christmas is a designated day in Ireland when women of the parish, who often carry the domestic responsibilities throughout the year, slip away to celebrate together at the end of the holidays leaving both hearth & home to the men.

Gather for a Day of Community and Reflection
Women's Irish Christmas offers a timely opportunity to pause and step back from your hurried pace. As Christmas season comes to a close, celebrate with your parish friends while spending time in reflection for the New Year. Mindful of those who traveled to welcome the Christ Child, we will turn our attention inward as we contemplate the journey ahead.

• **RSVP by January 3, 2026** •
Retreat directed by Kathy Regan
Sign up in the Vestibule

ST. PATRICK - YOUTH FAITH FORMATION

SEASON OF GIVING FOOD BOXES



There is a second collection this weekend to raise funds to help fill boxes of food to be delivered by the YFF students to the residents of Imogene. During the season of giving, we want to show kindness to those in the community.

Thank you for your generosity.

Boxes will be delivered on Sunday, Dec. 14th



St. Patrick Parish

living out our Catholic faith





Holiday Mass Schedule

Mon. Dec. 8
Immaculate Conception
Holy Day of Obligation
5pm in Imogene
7pm in Red Oak

Wed. Dec. 24
Christmas Eve Mass
4pm in Imogene
6pm in Red Oak

Thurs. Dec. 25
Christmas Day Mass
8:30am in Imogene
10:30am in Red Oak

Wed. Dec. 31
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Holy Day of Obligation
5pm in Imogene
9am on Jan. 1 in Red Oak