

# JANUARY 4, 2026

## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

### ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

304 3rd Street Imogene, IA 51645 Mailing address: PO Box 375 Shenandoah, IA 51601-0375  
[stpatimogene@gmail.com](mailto:stpatimogene@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@dmadiocese.org](mailto:lkirigia@dmadiocese.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

Holidays-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](http://www.facebook.com/stpatrickimogeneiowa)**

	Sunday	Saturday	Sunday	Sunday
	Jan. 4	Jan. 10	Jan. 11	Jan. 18
<b>Lector</b>	Amy Gutschenritter	Tom Denville	Abby Martin	Peggy Martin
<b>EME</b>	Bridget Campbell	Kathy Harbor	Amy Gutschenritter	John Martin
<b>EME</b>	Dan Kinsella		Joe Cheney	Sarah Martin
<b>EME</b>	Jim Martin		Aaron Molnar	Tom Martin
<b>Server</b>	Caroline Campbell		Addy Christiansen	Lillie Martin
<b>Server</b>	Devon Gutschenritter		John Martin	Caroline Gutschenritter
<b>Server</b>	Maia Forney		Nora Martin	Ethan Hughes
<b>Gifts</b>	Bridget & Andy Campbell	Kim & Becky Hughes	Joe & JoAnn Cheney	Ekpai Family
<b>Usher</b>	Andy Campbell	Bill Ditmars	Ken Forney	Dan Kinsella
<b>Usher</b>	Joe Cheney	Donnie Doyle	Hannah Forney	Trevor Christensen
<b>Usher</b>	James Doyle	Kim Hughes	Jim Gutschenritter	Jim Martin
<b>Usher</b>	Raphael Ekpai	Beckly Hughes	Joe Gutschenritter	Tom Martin
<b>Greeters</b>	Kinsella Family	Bill & Pam Ditmars	Jerry Laughlin	Madonna Smith
<b>Streaming</b>	Nora Martin		Kari Kinsella	Maryanne D.
<b>Sacristan</b>	Tom Martin	Tara Doyle	Joe Cheney	Joe Cheney

#### Mass Intention

**Sun. Jan. 4:** +Justin Owens and +Dwight Smith

**Tues. Jan. 6:** +Ed Regan

**Thurs. Jan. 8:** +Michelle & +Linda Laughlin

**Sat. Jan. 10:** +Travis Durfey and +Betty & +Dan Head

**Sun. Jan. 11:** Members of the parish

**Tues. Jan. 13:** +Jerry & +Pat Head

**Thurs. Jan. 15:** +Agnes Hughes Brunetti and +Marty & +Margaret Laughlin

**Sun. Jan. 18:** Members of the parish

## THOUGHTS FROM FATHER LAZARUS

During Christmas time, we give presents to different people, and others give presents to us. What's it all about? It all goes back to the story of the wise men going to Bethlehem, falling down on their knees, and offering the best gifts they could afford to the Baby King. But Christmas is not just about giving presents. It's more about being present, i.e., sharing ourselves with warmth, affection, and sincerity. The quality of our personal presence is everything. In practice, gift-giving may sometimes be aimed more at maintaining goodwill and keeping the peace than being truly present. In fact, gift-giving may at times be part of the commercialization of Christmas instead of an expression of unconditional love.

The wise men were completely single-minded and sincere in their gift-giving. Their gifts were expressions of their respect, reverence, gratitude, and love for the child. Their gifts were given with no strings attached, no conditions, and no mixed motives. The flaws in our own gift-giving may make us feel that the whole business of exchanging Christmas presents should be abolished, and that the commercialization of Christmas should be restrained and restricted, if not eliminated altogether.

If we think such thoughts, it may help to remember that the consumerism of Christmas is somewhat necessary. Were it a completely spiritual celebration, hundreds of small businesses would go to the wall. Thousands of factory workers making artificial trees, chocolates, decorations, cards, and toys would find themselves unemployed. It may also be helpful to remember that if people did not spend money on gifts to family and friends at Christmas, their consciences would not be roused to make donations to the poor and needy at this special time of giving and sharing. (Many charities, in fact, experience a big boost at Christmas time).

Despite the limits and flaws in our gift-giving, it's important to both keep the practice alive and to purify it of its worst excesses. It's particularly important to the lives of children. The good news is that while they are attracted to receiving, e.g., a gift of an iPad or of shiny new roller-blades, they are also attracted to the manger scene, and to the story of the baby lying there clothed in rags. Their hearts are touched by the plight of his parents, who are so poor that they can offer him nothing but their protection and affection.

In fact, children very easily get the message that this is a story of love. They appreciate the humanity of the Holy Family, their struggles, and their sacrifices, to bring to the human race the Light of the Nations.

The story of the visit by the Wise Men is a story of giving and receiving. It speaks of how gifts express love between persons, and of how gifts given with love bind people together. But it is not simply about the giving of things (in this case, gold, frankincense, and myrrh) but the giving of persons, the sharing of selves.

In celebrating Epiphany, we are celebrating the greatest proof of goodness there has ever been, of God's deeply personal love for us. For it was out of love that the Father gave us the Son, and gave him to be our Light, our Savior, our King, and our Joy. His presence to us is nothing less than the divine presence in our lives.

*Have a Blessed Week, Fr. Lazarus Kirigia*

**Our Gifts to God:  
12/24 & 12/25 & 12/27 & 12/28**

Plate: \$8592.31      Tithes: \$4330.00  
Children: \$49.00      Masses: \$60.00

Correction to **Our Gifts to God** from last week's count: Poinsettias should have been \$740.00.

**Thank you for all you did for the parish in  
2025**

- Father Lazarus who brings Christ to us in word and example and guides us on our faith journey.
- Pastoral Council members: Aaron Molnar, Joe Cheney, Susie McDonald, Mary Maher, Jerry Laughlin
- Finance Council members: Dan Kinsella, Genene Fienup, Becky Hughes, Ken Forney, Rick Dailey, Rita Laughlin
- Director of Religious Education: Rita Laughlin
- YFF teachers: Tom Martin, Sarah Martin, Jim Martin, Ida Ekpai, Dan Martin, Bridget Campbell, Zeb Burkiser, Rita Laughlin
- The Knights of Columbus
- The Altar Society: Mary Speichinger, Kathy Harbor, Vickie Williams and all members of the monthly committees.
- The youth who serve at Mass
- Our Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers, Greeters, Sacristans and all who live stream the Mass.
- The choir and musicians: Susie McDonald, Therese Sunderman, Mary Speichinger, Jack Campbell
- Custodian: Paul Blake
- Cemetery sextons: Donnie Doyle and Jerry McDonald
- Parish Records Coordinator: Tara Doyle
- Altar, candles, flowers: Bridget Campbell and Sarah Martin
- All who take care of the church grounds throughout the year
- Church tours: Jake McGargill
- Funeral lunch coordinator: Kari Martin
- Wedding Coordinator: Melonie Doyle
- Sponsor Couples: Andy & Bridget Campbell, James & Melonie Doyle, Sandy & Darwin Bugg
- NCYC: Kari Kinsella, Jim & Kari Martin
- Mass intentions and church hall schedule: Peggy Martin
- Adoration coordinators and Adorers who make the commitment to spend 1hr with the Lord each week

**For all others, too numerous to mention individually, who helped the parish in countless ways in 2025.....THANK YOU!**



Melonie Doyle	Jan 3rd
Darwin Bugg	Jan 6th
Waylon Burge	Jan 6th
Dave McGargill	Jan 8th
Trevor Christensen	Jan 10th
Andy Campbell	Jan 13th
Maryanne Dailey	Jan 15th
Kim Hughes	Jan 16th
Jerry McDonald	Jan 18th
Sam McGargill	Jan 20th
Jerry Doyle	Jan 23rd
Christina John	Jan 23rd
Nate Hughes	Jan 24th
Ryan Laughlin	Jan 26th
Abby Martin	Jan 26th
Stephanie Berglund	Jan 30th
Jim Martin	Jan 31st

**THANK YOU**

Thank you for the many beautiful cards I received to mark my 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. I appreciate your thoughtfulness and kind words and I want you to know you are all very special to me. Please enjoy a prayerful and blessed 2026.

**-Patty Baron**

*Thank you to our St. Patrick family and friends for thinking of us at the time of our brother, Ed Blackburn's death. Your prayers, concern, and thoughtfulness are greatly appreciated.*

**-Melonie & James Doyle**

**Please remember in your prayers  
+Wanda Maher**

Wanda passed away on Dec. 28th. She is the wife of Marty and mother of Marie, Julie, John and Lisa. The sympathy of the St. Patrick faith family is extended to her entire family.

***May she rest eternally in the loving arms of our Savior***

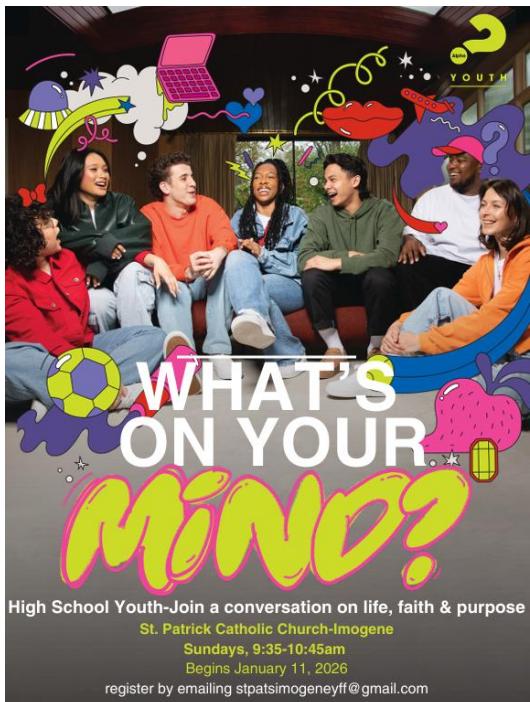
## Altar Society Meeting

The Altar Society will meet after Mass this morning (Jan. 4) in the Rectory.

January 2026
CH-Tara Doyle
Mary Maher
Mary Speichinger
Kelsey Owens
Regina Forney
Britney Doyle
Karen Clark

**YFF resumes next Sunday, Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>.**

Alpha Teen starts next Sunday, Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>. Don't forget to register!



## Join a conversation ...

Explore faith together.

Alpha is a series of group conversations that explore the basics of the Christian faith in a friendly environment.

YOU'RE INVITED

**St. Patrick Catholic Church Hall**  
304 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Imogene, IA 51645

**Sundays, January 11 - April 19, 2026**  
3:00-5:00pm

Email [stpatsimogene@gmail.com](mailto:stpatsimogene@gmail.com) to register

- Connect with new people
- Watch an episode on a question of faith
- Share your thoughts & hear from others



## ALPHA STARTS NEXT SUNDAY, JAN. 11<sup>TH</sup>

If you haven't already registered, please do so before next Sunday. To register, simply email the church secretary([stpatsimogene@gmail.com](mailto:stpatsimogene@gmail.com)). Because there is a meal served each week, we ask that you register so we know how much food to prepare. If you haven't attended Alpha yet, this is your opportunity. It's a great way to start the new year.

This retreat is next Saturday, Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>.

The sign-up sheet is on the table in the vestibule.



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



**Knights of Columbus**

**BREAKFAST**

**SUNDAY, JAN. 18**  
**AFTER 8:30AM MASS**  
**DOWNSTAIRS IN THE CHURCH HALL**

**PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE SHENANDOAH PREGNANCY & RESOURCE CENTER**







**St. Clare Church**  
**51st Annual Spaghetti Dinner**  
**AT J. BRUNER'S – 117 N 15<sup>th</sup>, CLARINDA EAST SIDE OF THE SQUARE**

**Sunday, January 25, 2026**  
**From 11:00 am – 1:00 pm**  
**Mass time at St. Clare will be 10 AM**

**Free Will offering**  
**Carry-out option available**  
Call 712-542-2030 or email [stclareclarinda@mchsi.com](mailto:stclareclarinda@mchsi.com)  
for more details