

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

Neola, IA

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Neola, IA 51559

Administrator: Rev. Julius Itamid
Deacon: Rev. Mr. Scott Brooks
Faith Formation Director: Shannon Nye
Business Manager: RaeShelle Jensen

MASS TIMES:
Weekdays: See page 2 for schedule
Saturday Evening: 5:30 PM (April to September)
4:00 PM (October to March)
Sunday Morning: 9:30 AM
Holidays: As announced in the bulletin
Reconciliation: First Saturday evening before Mass

ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Weston, IA



St. Columbanus Catholic Church
22720 Weston Ave
Underwood, IA 51576-3920
Served from Neola

MASS TIMES:
Sunday Morning: 8:00 AM
Holidays: As announced in the bulletin
Reconciliation by appointment

January 31/February 1, 2026 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

READING I Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13
PSALM 146: Blessed are the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!
READING II 1 Corinthians 1:26-31
GOSPEL Matthew 5:1-12a

February 7/8, 2026 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

READING I Isaiah 58:7-10
PSALM 112: The just man is a light in darkness to the upright.
READING II 1 Corinthians 2:1-5
GOSPEL Matthew 5:13-16

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Day

Taken from "Pastoral Patterns" by GIA Publications, Inc.

Matthew structures his Gospel around five lengthy sermons of Jesus and today we hear the beginning of the first of them, the well-known and oft-quoted Sermon on the Mount. It can be a challenge to hear it as the radical departure from conventional thinking that it was when Jesus first spoke these words from the mountaintop. May we ask God for the grace to realign our ideals and realize the kingdom of heaven.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Word

Taken from "Pastoral Patterns" by GIA Publications, Inc.

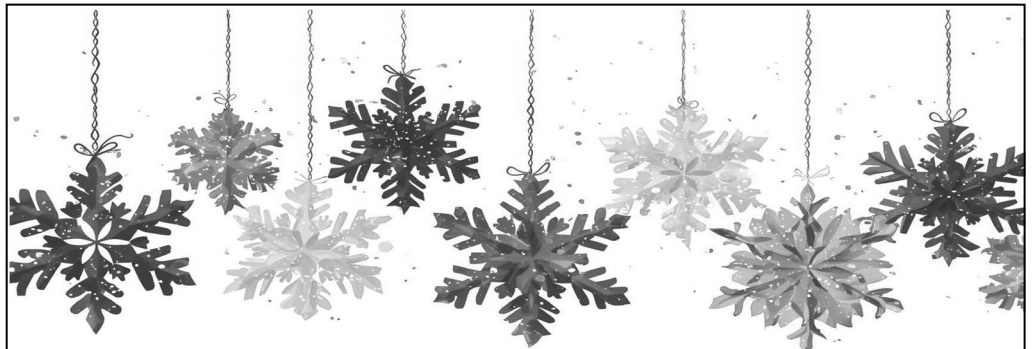
Zephaniah prepares us for today's Gospel, instructing us to seek justice and humility. Paul writes that God purposely chose the weak and lowly, for Christ has become our strength and our glory. Jesus teaches the crowds the Beatitudes, telling them that it is those who are meek, merciful, and poor in spirit who are blessed. So today we sing out, "Blessed are the poor in spirit," looking to the Lord to satisfy our every need.

It's difficult to imagine a more countercultural way for Jesus to begin the first of his five sermons that make up Matthew's Gospel. At that time and as far back as Adam and Eve, poverty and misery were regarded as punishment for sin. These were signs that you certainly did not have God's blessing. To some extent this is still true, though our culture often puts the blame on the people themselves. In any case, no one who is poor in any way is usually considered blessed. But this is what Jesus leads with. Not only that, so are those in mourning, those too meek to get their way, victims of injustice, and so on. If God truly is blessing them, why are they still so misfortunate?

Question of the Week

Taken from "Pastoral Patterns" by GIA Publications, Inc.

How will I allow myself to be meek, merciful, and poor in spirit, choosing to rely more often on God's grace?



Weekday Masses

Feb 2 - Presentation of the Lord - Bob & Katie Roane 8:30 AM
 Feb 3 - St. Blaise - Irmgard Vaiskunas 6:30 PM
 Feb 4 - St. Columbanus Parish 6:00 PM
 Feb 5 - No Mass
 Feb 6 - Bob & Sally Osbahr 8:30 AM

Weekend Masses

Feb 7 - St Patrick Parish - Mary Baker 8:30 AM
 Feb 7 - St. Patrick Parish - Jean E. Fischer 4:00 PM
 Feb 8 - St. Columbanus Parish 8:00 AM
 Feb 8 - St. Patrick Parish - Eileen Denning 9:30 AM

FEBRUARY 7, 2026 - 4:00 PM

Lectors - David Mann
 Servers - None

EME - Scott Brooks
 Norm Baker
 Kari Kunze

FEBRUARY 8, 2026 - 9:30 AM

Lectors - 4th Grade Class
 Servers - Noah Wollenhaupt
 Joseph Gerken

EME - Scott Brooks
 Angie Kozeal
 Max Kozeal

FEBRUARY 14, 2026 - 4:00 PM

Lector - Max Michels
 Servers - None
 EME - Scott Brooks
 Andrea Bolte
 Travis Bolte

FEBRUARY 15, 2026 - 9:30 AM

Lector - Vivian Gross
 Servers - Case Gross & Grace Shively
 EME - Rhea Gross
 Kristen Carlson
 Emily Leaders

FEBRUARY 18, 2026 - 6:30 PM - ASH WEDNESDAY

Lector - RaeShelle Jensen
 Servers - Samantha & Alexandra Nye
 EME - Scott Brooks, David Mann & Maureen Mann

FEBRUARY 21, 2026 - 4:00 PM

Lector - Travis Bolte
 Servers - None
 EME - Scott Brooks
 Eric Busch
 Maureen Mann

FEBRUARY 22, 2026 - 9:30 AM

Lector - Samantha Nye
 Servers - Henry & Ben Fischer
 EME - Liz Lyons
 Roberta Morse
 Shannon Nye

TITHE COUNTERS

Feb 1 - Cecilia Powell	Dani Baxter	Roger Hall
Feb 8 - Diane Rodenburg	Sue Stenlund	Rita Heinen
Feb 15 - Peggy Thielen	Jim Mahlberg	Kevin Nye
Feb 22 - Anne Brummett	Roberta Morse	Mark Pogge

COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS

Feb 1 - Jeannie Disalvo	Jennifer Fischer
Feb 8 - Liz Lyons	Carolyn McDermott
Feb 15 - Roberta Morse	Samantha Nye
Feb 22 - Norm Baker	Jennifer Fischer

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS: St. Patrick's parish community extends prayerful sympathy to the families of:

1. Geraldine Russmann passed away on January 25th. Her Funeral Mass of Resurrection was celebrated Saturday morning at St Patrick's Neola
2. Peggy Ausdemore passed away on January 26th. Visitation will be at Cutler O'Neill Monday night from 4 to 8 and Graveside Service Tuesday morning at 11.

CRUX LENTEN BIBLE STUDY: We will be hosting the CRUX Lenten bible study on Wednesday mornings at 10am during Lent beginning on Feb 18 (Ash Wednesday) and Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm beginning on Feb 19. These will be 90 minutes sessions. You will need to pick up your book the weekend before. If you would like to join us for either of these sessions or just want the book please contact Shannon in the parish office.

OCIA: St. Patrick's would like to thank Travis and Andrea Bolte for serving on our OCIA (formerly RCIA) team for so many years. They are asking to step back at this time and we are in need of people to fill these spots alongside Mary Fischer and myself. We will be beginning classes soon, so if you or someone you know are interested in learning about or becoming Catholic, please reach out to me in the office. Thank you! Shannon Nye

Calendar of Events:

Feb 2 - Presentation of the Lord Mass, St Patrick, 8:30 am
 Feb 3 - St Blaise Mass, St Patrick, 6:30 pm
 Feb 5 - First Thursday Adoration & Reconciliation, 6:30-7:30 pm
 Feb 7 - Reconciliation, 3:00-3:45 pm
 Feb 8 - Children's Mass
 Faith Formation Classes, 10:35-11:35 am
 Rooted Families Class, after 9:30 am Mass
 Coffee & Rolls, after 9:30 am Mass
 Feb 10 - Pastoral Council Meeting, St Patrick, 7:00 pm
 Feb 11 - Confirmation Class, 7:00 pm
 Feb 15 - All Family Faith Formation & High School, hall, after Mass
 Feb 17 - Finance Council Meeting, St Patrick, 6:00 pm
 Feb 18 - Ash Wednesday Mass, St Patrick, 6:30 pm
 Feb 20 - Stations of the Cross, St Patrick, 5:00 pm
 Fish Fry, St Patrick, 5-7 pm
 Feb 22 - Faith Formation Classes, 10:35-11:35 am
 Lent Retreat with Fr Seth Owusu, St Patrick hall, 3:00 pm
 Feb 25 - Stations of the Cross, St Columbanus, 5:30 pm
 Confirmation Class, 7:00 pm
 Feb 27 - Stations of the Cross, St Patrick, 5:00 pm
 Fish Fry, St Patrick, 5-7 pm

Offering Report

	Last Weeks	Fiscal Year to Date
Sunday Envelopes	\$ 1,175.00	\$ 62,545.80
Open Offering	\$ 45.00	\$ 5,456.50
Children's Offering	\$ 14.00	\$ 460.35

Memorial Calendar

- Feb 1 - National Freedom Day
 National Day of Prayer for African-American Family
 Black History Month
- Feb 2 - Feast of the Presentation of the Lord
 World Day for Consecrated Life
 Groundhog Day
- Feb 3 - Memorial of St. Blaise & St. Ansgar
 Blessing of Throats
- Feb 5 - Memorial of St. Agatha
- Feb 6 - Memorial of St. Paul Miki & Companions
- Feb 7 - Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary



FR. WAYNE GUBBELS LETTER: As most of you know, I have had some health issues during this past fall season, and was in the hospital several times, and had a number of tests. They finally seemed to get to the cause of all of this the early part of December. There was a build-up of plaque in the abdominal area, and impeding the flow of blood & oxygen. We found that out when my primary doctor sent me to a vascular surgeon. He did surgery on January 2 at Methodist Hospital in Omaha, and I am feeling much better, and slowly gaining my strength back, and have an appetite again. So I am hoping to be able to fill in to preside and preach, and hopefully as we move into Lent and Easter; I have really missed doing that. I wanted to let parishes know that. We can see how things progress. But I feel so much better since the surgery. Thank you for all the prayer and support through all of this.

PALMS: If you have old Palms that you would like burnt and used for Ash Wednesday, they can be left in the basket in the sacristy until February 8th.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETING: Did you know that the Neola Chapter #1115 of the KOC was started back on April 29, 1906? That means it will be 120 years old this year. The Chapter went dormant not long before Covid hit, but we would like to get it back up and active. We will be having a meeting on March 1st in the parish hall after 9:30 am Mass. This meeting is for any current members as well as anyone that would like to join and is open for men from both St Patrick and St Columbanus. We hope you can attend the meeting. If you have any questions, please contact the parish office at 712-485-2750.

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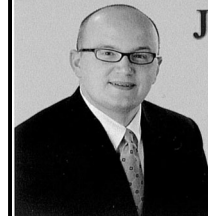
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St. Patrick's Church, Neola and St. Columbanus Church, Weston

Rev. Julius Itamid, Administrator

One Minute Meditations

St. Onesimus

Born in Phrygia, St. Onesimus was enslaved to Philemon of Colossae in present-day Turkey. He encountered St. Paul during the apostle's imprisonment in Rome, where Onesimus had fled after stealing from his master. Moved by Paul's witness, he repented, was baptized, and later gained his freedom. Onesimus became a trusted companion and co-worker of St. Paul and was eventually martyred for the faith during the persecutions under Emperor Domitian.

God's Valentine to us

If God sent a Valentine, it might sound something like this: "My darling child" (Jeremiah 31:20), "You are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you" (Isaiah 43:4). "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love" (John 15:9). "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends..." (John 15:13-14). "Do you love me?" (John 21:16) That makes the Bible the world's longest love letter.

"God is not the enemy of our freedom but its ground. That is something we ought to relearn in these days. Only love that is almighty can ground a joy that is free from anxiety." Pope Benedict XVI

"What do you seek?" (John 1:38)

Have you ever felt restless or quietly dissatisfied, sensing that something in your life needs changing? Lent offers that opportunity. It is a spiritual reset, inviting us to reorient our hearts toward Christ, the true source of peace, joy, purpose, and meaning. Here are practical ways to deepen your encounter with God and His love this Lent.

Faith is relational, not informational. The first disciples were not content with simply hearing about Jesus. They wanted to be with Him and to know Him personally. Christ extends that same invitation to us today. We respond by making room for Him through prayer and meditation, regular participation in Mass, and time with Scripture, not as duties to complete, but as ways of choosing a living relationship with the One who loves us most.

Choose trust over control. "Let Him lead and guide you," Pope Leo has urged. God's invitation to deeper friendship is renewed each day, and Lent is a privileged time to respond with intention. Begin each morning by

offering your day to God, placing your work, relationships, and uncertainties in His hands. This simple act of trust opens the door to genuine freedom.

Share what you have received. A true encounter with God naturally leads to what Pope Leo called "missionary

"If you sense the Lord calling you, do not be afraid...He alone knows the deepest, perhaps hidden, longings of your heart — the path that will lead you to true fulfillment." (Pope Leo XIV)

zeal," the desire to share with others what we have received. After meeting Christ, St. Andrew simply brought his brother, Simon Peter, to Him. Likewise, sharing your faith is often as simple as an honest conversation with a friend about the source of your hope. You are not persuading or performing; you are inviting someone you care about to meet the Friend who has changed your life.

This Lent, let renewal take root. Choose presence, trust, and generosity, and allow God to do the rest.

Why Do Catholics Do That? Why do Catholics give up meat on Fridays in Lent?

Abstaining from meat on Fridays in Lent is not merely a rule, but a reverent sacrifice rooted in remembrance of Christ's sacrifice on Good Friday. By giving up something we enjoy but do not need, we unite a small, bodily sacrifice to His offering on the Cross.

This "prayer of the body" strengthens the prayer of the soul, training our hearts in discipline and gratitude. It keeps our focus on Christ and serves as a quiet, outward sign of faith. For the same reasons, the Church encourages Friday penance throughout the year.

When things go wrong, choose charity

When difficulties arise, our instinct is often to complain, assign blame, or turn inward with harsh self-criticism. These reactions rarely solve the problem. More often, they weaken charity, cloud judgment, and strain relationships. A more constructive response is to choose kindness deliberately, in thought, speech, and action.

Practice kindness in thought: When self-pity, resentment, comparison, or harsh self-judgment appear, treat them as temptations rather than truths. Pause and redirect your thinking. Replace them with a steady reminder such as, "This is difficult, but I can respond well." Offer yourself the same patience you would give a friend.

Practice kindness in speech: Before speaking, ask whether

your words will help or simply vent frustration. If you would not say something to or about someone you love, refrain. When emotions run high, bring your complaints to prayer first. Naming them before God can bring clarity and restraint.

Practice kindness in action: Focus on what you can do rather than what you cannot control. Choose one concrete act of goodwill: express gratitude, offer help, listen attentively, or perform a small, unnoticed kindness. These simple actions restore perspective and soften difficult moments.

Responding with kindness does not ignore problems. It creates the conditions for peace, clearer judgment, and constructive action to take root.

from **S**cripture

Matthew 4:1-11, He chose us

In this passage, Jesus is tempted by the Devil. First, Satan tempted Jesus to satisfy His hunger with a miracle – to put physical needs above spiritual needs. Jesus showed us that spiritual needs come first, and to entrust both to God’s care. Next, Satan commanded Jesus to jump from the temple roof, forcing God’s hand. Again, Jesus refused: serving God means doing things God’s way.

Finally, Satan offered to surrender all the kingdoms of the world if Jesus would worship him. While horrible, it

promised a “painless” way to save the world. Jesus rejected it, choosing the Cross because it was the only way to save us. He chose us. When tempted to do what’s “easy” versus what’s morally right, ask for the strength to choose what’s right.

The season of Lent is a powerful opportunity for spiritual renewal and growth in love. We can take comfort knowing Jesus faced the same temptations we do and conquered them. If we stay close to Jesus, He will lead us to victory.

Q & A What to do with dryness in prayer

God never leaves us, yet our experience of prayer can ebb and flow. There are times of joy and peace, and others marked by dryness and difficulty. While dry seasons can be discouraging, that is often when our faith can grow the most. Don’t avoid them, but live them well.

Ask why. Dryness in prayer can point to areas that need attention. Chronic stress, lack of rest, constant busyness, excessive screen time, or unresolved sin can weaken our attentiveness to God. Examine your habits and ask what may be interfering with prayer.

Remember the good times. When times are tough, memory sustains love. Follow Mary’s example, who “kept all these things, pondering them in her heart” (Luke 2:19). Recall the ways God has acted in your life. Remembering His faithfulness restores confidence.

Renew your “yes” daily. Mary’s consent to God’s will was a daily surrender, even amid suffering. Resist the temptation to abandon prayer. Each day, echo her words: “Let it be done unto me according to your word” (Luke 1:38).

Feasts & Celebrations

February 5 – St. Agatha (c.251). Born to a noble Sicilian family, St. Agatha dedicated herself to God at the age of fifteen. The governor Quintianus was determined to marry her and threatened her if she refused him. She kept her vow despite torture, and imprisonment. God sent her a vision of St. Peter to comfort her, heal her, and fill her dungeon with heavenly light.

February 18 – Ash Wednesday. The first day of Lent. The ashes of old palms are placed on the forehead in the shape of a Cross, as a sign of penance. It’s

also a day of abstinence from meat and fasting – one regular meal and two small meals that together don’t equal a full meal.

February 22 – St. Margaret of Cortona (1297). St. Margaret’s conversion came after the sudden death of the man she was having an affair with. Shaken, she repented and became a Franciscan tertiary. She founded a hospital and an order of Tertiary sisters — *le Poverelle* — to operate it.

February 22 – The Chair of St. Peter. Today marks St. Peter’s establishment of the Holy See, the “seat” of authority, in Rome. We thank God for His Church and pray for its holy preservation.

Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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