

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

Neola, IA

Parish Office:
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Priest Office:
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Faith Formation:
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Parish Hall:
712.485.2433

Website:
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St. Patrick Catholic Church
310 Avon Street
P.O. Box 127
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



March 14/15, 2026 4th Sunday of Lent

READING I 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a
PSALM 23: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
READING II Ephesians 5:8-14
GOSPEL John 9:1-41

March 21/22, 2026 5th Sunday of Lent

READING I Ezekiel 37:12-14
PSALM 130: With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.
READING II Romans 8:8-11
GOSPEL John 11:1-45

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Day

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

In the Gospel today, we hear Jesus declare that he is the light of the world. Later, Saint Paul writes that we should live as children of light. How appropriate on this second scrutiny Sunday, when we are called to take an honest look at ourselves to see our weaknesses and sinful tendencies, that we are reminded how important it is to shine a light on our character and expose it to the light of day. "Live as children of light," Paul writes, "for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth." Let us ask God for forgiveness and guidance so that we can go forth shining with the light of Christ.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Word

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

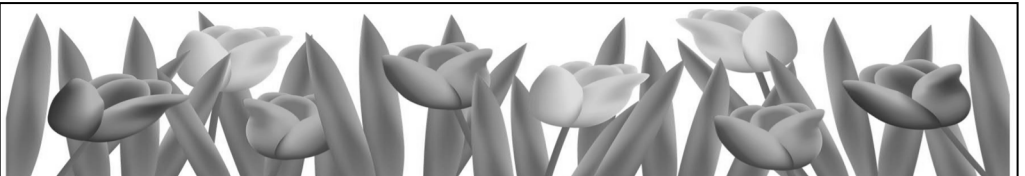
Two overlooked people play starring roles in today's readings. First, we hear the Lord choose David - the youngest of Jesse's sons, who was left tending the sheep while his brothers were paraded before Samuel - to be king. Then, after Jesus heals a blind man on the sabbath, the man is questioned repeatedly as to how this happened. By the end of the Gospel, it becomes obvious who truly has eyes of faith. As we listen to today's readings, may we remember not to overlook those who seem less capable or remarkable.

In today's first reading, the Lord asserts that God does not see how people see. We tend to see appearances, but God looks into the heart. How often do we find ourselves unable to see past appearances: the way someone looks, or sounds, or acts? In doing so, are we showing unconscious biases, prejudices, or assumptions? Let us not be like the Pharisees in the Gospel who became indignant when questioning the man who once was blind. They cannot see past their belief that the man must have been born in sin. Nor can they look past the fact that Jesus happened to heal this man on the sabbath. These preconceived judgments blind them to the wonders of God, revealed in Christ.

Question of the Week

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

What are my blind spots? What biases do I have that distort the way I see others or see the world? Am I willing to ask someone I know well to be honest with me?



Weekday Masses

- Mar 16 - No Mass
- Mar 17 - St Patrick Parish - St Patrick's Day 5:30 PM
- Mar 18 - St Columbanus Parish 6:00 PM
- Mar 19 - St Patrick Parish - Dan McDermott 8:30 AM
- Mar 20 - No Mass

Weekend Masses

- Mar 21 - St Patrick Parish - Richard Corrin 4:00 PM
- Mar 22 - St Columbanus Parish 8:00 AM
- Mar 22 - St Patrick Parish -
Edward & Rose Catherine McDonald-Leonard 9:30 AM

MARCH 21, 2026 - 4:00 PM

- Lectors - David Mann
- Servers - None
- EME - Scott Brooks
David Mann
Maureen Mann

MARCH 22, 2026 - 9:30 AM

- Lectors - Rita Heinen
- Servers - Jack Murphy & Natalie Scriven
- EME - Geri Bjorling
Eric Busch
Shannon Nye

MARCH 28, 2026 - 4:00 PM

- Lectors - Mary Fischer
- Passion - Ashley Lopez
RaeShelle Jensen
- Servers - Grace Shively
Charles Williams
- EME - Scott Brooks
David Mann
Maureen Mann

MARCH 29, 2026 - 9:30 AM

- Lectors - Rita Heinen
- Passion - Corey Hough
Matt Brummett
- Servers - Ben Fischer
Henry Fischer
- EME - Scott Brooks
Eric Busch
Samantha Nye

APRIL 2, 2026 - HOLY THURSDAY - 7:00 PM (at St Patrick)

- Lector - Rhea Gross
- Servers - Case Gross, Noah Wollenhaupt, & Alexandra Nye
- EME - Scott Brooks, Eric Busch, & Max Kozeal

APRIL 18, 2025 - GOOD FRIDAY - 3:00 PM (at St Columbanus)

All Ministers handled by St Columbanus

APRIL 19, 2025 - EASTER VIGIL - 8:00 PM (at St Patrick)

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

APRIL 20, 2025 - EASTER SUNDAY - 9:30 AM

- Lector - Rhea Gross
- Servers - Emma & Thomas Sweeney
- EME - Kristen Carlson, Liz Lyons, & Geri Bjorling

TITHE COUNTERS

- | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Mar 15 - Sue Stenlund | Anne Brummett | Jim Mahlberg |
| Mar 22 - Roberta Morse | Cecilia Powell | Peggy Thielen |
| Mar 29 - Kevin Nye | Diane Rodenburg | Dani Baxter |
| Apr 5 - Mark Pogge | Sue Stenlund | Roger Hall |

COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| Mar 15 - Roberta Morse | Norm Baker |
| Mar 22 - Jeannie Disalvo | Liz Lyons |
| Mar 29 - Jennifer Fischer | Samantha Nye |
| Apr 5 - Carolyn McDermott | Roberta Morse |

ST. PATRICK SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION: St. Patrick Catholic Church of Neola, IA scholarship application is now available. Applicants will need to pick up and fill out two forms. Application and Sacrament information sheet must be obtained in person, by the applicant only, from only Father Julius. Forms are not available online and will not be mailed nor emailed out. Forms must be submitted in person, by the applicant only, to only Father Julius. Mailed, emailed, scanned or faxed forms will not be accepted. Forms must be submitted by the end of Mass on April 12, 2026. This scholarship is not associated with any other scholarships.

YOU'RE INVITED: Sunday, April 19th, Kathy Graeve will celebrate her 75th birthday one day early. She is inviting anyone who wants to attend a 12:30 pm rosary and 1:00 pm Mass at St Patrick Neola to please let her know by April 6th. A meal will follow in the parish hall followed by a presentation by Mary Mutti from MI. You may also just come at 2:00 to the hall, but please RSVP.

Calendar of Events:

- Mar 17 - St Patrick Day Mass & Soup Supper, 5:30 pm
- Mar 18 - Stations of the Cross, St. Columbanus, 5:30 pm
Pastoral/Finance Council Meeting, St Columbanus, after Mass
- Mar 20 - Stations of the Cross, St Patrick, 5:00 pm
Fish Fry, St Patrick, 5-7 pm
- Mar 22 - Faith Formation Classes, 10:35-11:35 am
Faith Formation Reconciliation, 11:00 am
- Mar 24 - Finance Council Meeting, St Patrick, 6:00 pm
- Mar 25 - Communal Penance, St Columbanus, 5:00 pm
Confirmation Class, 7:00 pm
- Mar 26 - Foundation Meeting, 6:00 pm
- Mar 27 - Stations of the Cross, St Patrick, 5:00 pm
Fish Fry, St Patrick, 5-7 pm
Chrism Mass, St Ambrose Cathedral Des Moines, 5:00 pm
- Mar 29 - Palm Sunday Mass Time Changes
St Columbanus, 8:00 am & St Patrick, 10:00 am
No Faith Formation Classes
- Mar 29-31 - Holy Week Bible Study with Deacon Scott, 6-7 pm
- Mar 31 - Communal Penance, St Patrick, 7:00 pm
- Apr 2 - **Holy Thursday:** 7:00 pm, our two parishes join together at St Patrick Neola to celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper with washing of feet and Procession of the Eucharist followed by Exposition until 9:30 pm.
- Apr 3 - **Good Friday:** 3:00 pm, our two parishes join together at St Columbanus Weston to celebrate the Lord's Passion: The Solemn Liturgical Service with Veneration of the Cross & Holy Communion. Mass is not celebrated on this day. (Collection for the Holy Land.) - Stations of the Cross begins at 2:30 pm.
- Apr 4 - **Holy Saturday:** 8:00 pm, our two parishes join together at St Patrick Neola to celebrate the Easter Vigil Service with blessing of the new fire, Baptismal water and the Easter Candle.
- Apr 5 - **Easter Sunday:** (Note Mass times)
8:00 am Mass at St. Columbanus
10:00 am Mass at St. Patrick's
No Faith Formation Sessions
- Apr 6-10 - No Weekday Masses

Offering Report

	Last Weeks	Fiscal Year to Date
Sunday Envelopes	\$ 1,885.50	\$ 74,122.26
Open Offering	\$ 232.50	\$ 6,771.25
Children's Offering	\$ 18.00	\$ 596.11

Memorial Calendar

- Mar 17 - Memorial of St. Patrick
- Mar 18 - Memorial of St. Cyril of Jerusalem
- Mar 19 - Solemnity of St. Joseph
- Mar 20 - Spring begins
- Mar 21 - International Day for the
Elimination of Racial Discrimination



CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES: This week we take up the Catholic Relief Services Collection to reveal Christ's love to our brothers and sisters in need. This collection makes grants to six Catholic agencies that provide relief and support for struggling communities and work for peace and reconciliation among our marginalized brothers and sisters, both here and around the world. Please be generous.

GHANA MEDICAL EQUIPMENT PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday, April 19, 2026, 8 to 11:30 am

St. Mary's Parish Hall in Panama

Please bring gently used medical equipment (Wheelchairs, Walkers, Cains, etc.) to send to Fr. Michael Antoh's hometown in Ghana You can bring items to the breakfast or contact Meg Dunlop at 712-579-2270 or Lynn Schmitz 712-579-1907 to make other arrangements. Free Will Donation will go to shipping!

PLEASE JOIN US.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY SOUP SUPPER

MARCH 17, 2026
AFTER 5:30 PM MASS

ST PATRICK NEOLA PARISH HALL

If you'd like to bring a food item or help at the event, please see the sign-up genius at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10COA4BAAAD2AA1F4C25-62452538-stpatrick>

40 HOURS DEVOTION

We need your help manning the 40 Hours Devotion beginning at 4:00 pm on Palm Sunday (March 29th) and ending at 8:00 am on Tuesday, March 31st, followed by Mass at 8:30 am. We need at least one person for every hour & would really like to have two for the hours over night. If you would like to sign up, please scan the QR Code below or contact the parish office.

The 40 Hours Devotion is a solemn Catholic devotion involving 40 continuous hours of intense prayer and Eucharistic Adoration before the exposed Blessed Sacrament, usually held over three days. It represents the time Jesus spent in the tomb, honoring His sacrifice & offering reparation for sins.

Purpose: To deepen the faithful's relationship with Jesus, foster adoration, and offer prayers for the community, conversion of sinners, and specific intentions.

Origin: Originated in Milan, Italy, around 1530 to promote prayer, and was later popularized in the U.S. by St. John Neumann in the 1850s.

Symbolism: The number 40 signifies a significant period of preparation or penance, reminiscent of the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert or 40 hours in the tomb.



THE MAN OF THE SHROUD

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE TURIN SHROUD CENTER OF COLORADO

Presentation by Shroud expert, Jim Bertrand, M. Ed., includes a full-size replica of the Shroud of Turin.

Thursday, March 19 at 6:30pm at St. Patrick Catholic Church

You're invited to an up-close experience of the most studied artifact of all time - **The Shroud of Turin.** Witness this powerful presentation of the history, science, and mystery behind what many believe to be the **authentic burial cloth of Jesus Christ.** Then, you can ask **YOURSELF** - who is this Man of the Shroud?

SHROUD OF TURIN EXHIBIT

WALK THROUGH THE TEMPORARY EXHIBIT AT ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
The display is free to view as follows:

Monday, March 16 - 9 am to 4 pm
Tuesday, March 17 - 9 am to 8 pm
Wednesday, March 18 - 9 am to 8 pm
Thursday, March 19 - 9 am to 8 pm

4 Valley View Drive, Council Bluffs | stpatrickcb.org

First Annual Birthright of Council Bluffs Arts & Crafts Fair

Saturday, March 28, 2026
10:00 am - 3:00 pm
St. Patrick's Catholic Church
4 Valley View Drive, Council Bluffs

No admission charge to public
Food and drinks available for purchase

Calling all **Arts & Craft Vendors***
\$20 per table (limit 2 tables max per crafter)
Donate one item for raffle to benefit Birthright*

*If you are interested in participating
Email us @ birthrightcb@gmail.com and we will send you the Jot Form link for registration
Questions call Barb 402-452-7365

or scan QR code for online registration form

March Birthdays							
Julie Klein	1	Julie Ravlin	7	Sam Hulsing	16	Evan Reineke	27
Lisa Pape	1	Trenton Huebner	7	Kathleen Roane	16	Adam McDermott	27
Anna Baragary	1	Andrew Baxter	8	Eugene Johnson	16	Chris Corrin	28
Helen Lewis	2	Kelly Alfors	9	Lexi Powell	16	Lori Eckrich	29
Nancy Ryan	2	Audrey Haverkamp	10	Heath Rodenburg	17	Angie Rodenburg	29
Kelly Dollen	2	Dani Baxter	10	Walter Ausdemore	17	Jack Murphy	29
Morgan Lausen	2	Chyane Sparks	10	Mary Beth Bladt	18	Adam Ring	30
Adam Goeser	3	Vince Wilson	11	Ellie Wollenhaupt	19	Isabella Buckholdt	30
Rob Larsen	4	Ashley Lopez	11	Bill Busch	20	Michael Denning	31
Rachel Hundtofte	5	Kurt Hulsing	12	Michael Ring	20		
Patrick Andersen	5	Sheila Heilman	12	Marilyn Alfors	21	March Anniversaries	
Mike Greiner	6	Vern Bertelsen	12	Jackie Bertelsen	21	Scott/Gina Huebner	1
Pat Ausdemore	6	Tyler Weidner	12	Jean Hofmaster	21	Ryan/Lori Tiarks	1
Matt Fletcher	6	Andrew Morse	13	Baylon Harman	21	Darrold/Joyce Martens	2
Nikki Scriven	6	Chuck Waters	13	Nancy Rohatsch	22	Tony/Trisha Alfors	6
Darrel Petersen	7	Pat Fischer	14	David Kramer	23	Mike/Melinda Reineke	6
		Tim Slobodnik	15	Ben Fischer	24	Mark/Karla Pogge	9
		Matt Ryba	15	Kaylee Lopez	26	Bryan/Misty Weidner	24

We welcome you into God's family! If you are interested in learning more about our church, or would like to join, please pick up a registration form at one of the entrances of the church, stop by the parish office, or call Father Julius for an appointment.

For information about Baptism, Sacrament of the Sick, Pastoral Visitations, Reconciliation, RCIA, Marriage, Adoration, or the Prayer Chain, please visit our website at <https://stpatricksneola.com/> or contact the Parish Office at 712.485.2750.

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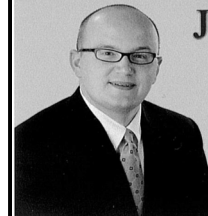
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Living LENT

MEMORIALS: If you'd like to make a donation (perhaps in memory of a loved one) towards the cost of the Lilies that adorn our sanctuary during the Easter season, please put your donation and the name(s) of the person in an envelope and mark it "Lilies". Drop the envelope in the collection basket or deliver it to the parish office. Deadline is Sunday, March 29th.



COMMUNAL PENANCE NIGHTS:

- St. Columbanus - March 25 - 5:00 pm
- St. Patrick - March 31 - 7:00 pm - 2 priests will be available

HOLY WEEK BIBLE STUDY: Deacon Scott will be having a 3-night Bible Study about Holy Week. This will be held in the Faith Formation Building on March 29th, 30th, & 31st from 6 to 7 pm. Everyone is invited. Free to attend.

CHRISM MASS: Bishop William Joensen will bless oils and Sacred Chrism at the Chrism Mass at 5:00 pm on Friday, March 27 at St. Ambrose Cathedral in Des Moines. Everyone is invited to this special Mass. The oil and Chrism will be used for sacraments throughout the Diocese in the coming year.

PALM SUNDAY MASSES: All Palm Sunday Masses will begin in the Parish Hall. Please note the time change for the Sunday Masses:
 St. Columbanus Weston: 8:00 am
 St. Patrick Neola: 10:00 am

HOLY THURSDAY: The following individuals have volunteered to have their feet washed on Holy Thursday:

Max Kozeal	Vivian Gross	Kristen Carlson
Luanna Ring	Marsha Slobodnik	Tim Slobodnik
Deb Hurd	Fani Barajas	Gerri Bjorling
Jenny Hall	Roger Hall	Diane Rodenburg

GOOD FRIDAY:

- Reminder that Good Friday is a fast day for all Catholics ages 18-59, which means 1 regular meal, 2 snacks not equal to a meal, and no meat.
- This year the Good Friday Service will be at St Columbanus Weston.
- Stations of the Cross will be at 2:30 pm, followed by Good Friday Service at 3:00 pm.

EASTER SUNDAY MASSES: Please note the time changes:
 St. Columbanus Weston: 8:00 am
 St. Patrick Neola: 10:00 am

St Patrick Catholic Church Neola

Fish Fry

FRIDAYS



St. Patrick Parish Hall, Neola IA

When:

February 20	February 27
March 6	March 13
March 20	March 27

5:00 PM to 7:00PM

Adults: \$15.00 - Children (5-10 Yrs.): \$5.00
 - Children Under 5: Free

Dinner includes: Fried & Baked Alaskan Pollock, Baked Potato, Mac & Cheese, Orsi's Bread, Cole Slaw, Relishes, & Dessert!
 (May substitute grilled cheese for fish)

For Questions, contact the Parish Office at 712.485.2750
 For Carry Out's call 712.485.2433

Sign-Up Genius for help needed:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10COA4DAAAD2AA1F4C25-62160283-fish>

<p>March 20 – Fish Fry Hosted by circles:</p>	<p>7 – Teresa Hoffman 8 – Rhea Gross 9 – Diane Rodenburg</p>	<p>10 – Shannon Nye 11 – Sandi Pauley 12 – Roberta Morse</p>
<p>March 27 – Fish Fry Hosted by circles:</p>	<p>13 – Kari Kunze 14 – Peggy Thielen 15 – Misty Weidner</p>	<p>16 – Rita Heinen 17 – Hannah Cook 18 – Liz Lyons</p>

2026 Lent Project

The Parish Pastoral Council voted that for this year's Lenten Project, we assist both Legacy Grove Senior Veterans Apartments and the Fund-raising Benefit for Hazel and Brielle.

Monetary donations will be collected from Ash Wednesday (February 18) to Easter Sunday (April 5). Here are the ways to make a donation. Please clearly mark that the donation is for the "Lent Projects".

- Place in the box on the donation table at the front of church marked: "2026 Lent Project" or mail your donation directly to the parish office at P.O. Box 127, Neola IA 51559.
- Please make all checks payable to St. Patrick's Church.
- All monetary donations will be split evenly between the two unless otherwise noted.



Tough Like BRIELLE & HAZEL

BENEFIT AUCTION

March 15, 2026
 St. Patrick's Parish Center • Neola, Iowa
 Free Will Offering Lunch | 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
 Live Auction | 1:00 PM



LENT

Faith Conversations

Week of March 15-21

SUNDAY READINGS: *1 Samuel 16: 1, 6-7, 10-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5: 8-14; John 9:1-41*

ADULT REFLECTION

This week's readings have a theme of seeing and light. In the first reading, God chooses the unlikely candidate David, as king; because "not as man sees does God see." The second reading calls the first Christians at Ephesus to "live as children of light" and the Gospel tells of the healing of a blind man.

To this man born blind, Jesus reveals himself as the Light of the World, the Son of Man (a title affirming his humanity but also his identity as the Messiah. See Daniel 7.) Jesus' compassion and openness to this man is contrasted with his "you are saying, 'We see,' so your sin remains" statement to the Pharisees. But it makes sense. Jesus looks into the heart. Only the hearts disposed to see can benefit from the light Jesus shares with all. He's actually trying to cure the Pharisees' blindness too.

The Pharisees' hearts "have all the answers" and are disposed to judge others—including Jesus— from their narrow perspective. The blind man's heart is open, knowing he doesn't have all the answers, and is disposed to seek and believe.

Reflection Questions:

- How is God calling you to greater openness and belief?
- What are your blind spots that you need Jesus to reveal and heal?

FAMILY CONVERSATION STARTERS

Talk about what it would be like to be born blind. (You might even take turns together walking around blindfolded.) What do you think it means to be spiritually "blind" or to "see" spiritually — with our minds and hearts? Might we be spiritually blind in some ways?

In this week's Sunday Gospel, Jesus calls himself the Light of the World. How does Jesus help us see? How can he heal our spiritual blindness?



PRAYER

Jesus, you are our Light! Thank you so much for the gift of seeing — physically and spiritually. Show us yourself this Lent. Strengthen our faith and open the eyes of our hearts to the needs and the goodness of others. Amen.



FASTING

Judging others' behavior is a natural part of figuring out the kind of person we want to be. It becomes unhealthy when we condemn what we can't know or use our comparisons to excuse or protect ourselves, or if we harden our hearts towards those we judge "less" or "wrong." Where are you prone to be judgmental of others in an unhealthy way? Give up such thoughts/comments this week.



ALMSGIVING

Bring light to someone in darkness this week. Read to an elder who can no longer see well, support an institute for the blind, call someone you know is struggling with spiritual darkness to listen and lend support, or send a relative an uplifting book with a note.



DIocese of Des Moines



With support from:
St. Joseph Evangelization
Center

Find this and other
resources to share at
dmdiocese.org/living-lent



Did you know...

the renovation of our church began 30 years ago this month?

In the spring of 1995, a committee led by Fr. Wayne Gubbels met and started the planning & fundraising effort called "Building on the Past – Choosing for the Future". The minimum goal was \$600,000 to be paid annually, quarterly or monthly over a one, two or three year period. The plan was presented to parishioners and information was mailed to church members, St Joseph alumni, former residents, & businesses in early fall of 1995.

Although the church had often been refurbished, most notably with work on the interior wood around 1960 and interior painting and stenciling in the early 1980s, it had reached a point when more repairs were needed. Repairs would include the roof, tuckpointing, & interior. It was determined that there were 9 coats of paint on the interior walls & any new paint would start peeling off within months. The church did not have air conditioning before this remodel.

We knew that raising the estimated \$540,000 would be difficult. We raised the 50% cash the Diocesan Building Commission required. We actually had about \$300,000 cash with additional pledges of about nearly \$100,000. The Church then mortgaged the parish farm to Farmers & Merchants Bank for \$146,000 for the rest of the money required. The note was for a 10 year payback of the money. The loan was paid back in one year, with the mortgage being burned by Fr Wayne Gubbels in a Mass around Christmas time 1997. The members of the parish & friends of St. Patrick's were quite united in the process & very generous with their talents & treasures.

On Sunday, March 19, 1996, when repairs were ready to begin, Masses were moved to the parish hall for the duration of the repairs. The finished project was revealed to parishioners on Sunday, December 22, 1996 as they processed to the church following Mass in the hall. The first services held in the new atmosphere were the appropriately joyous occasions of Christmas Eve Mass on Tuesday, December 24, 1996 and Christmas Day Mass on Wednesday, December 25, 1996.

Changes included:

- There is a striking contrast with the previous elaborately stenciled and intensely colored painting on the walls & ceilings. Now, light radiates through the sanctuary off white walls, ceilings and pillars trimmed with subdued stenciling and decorative accents picked out in gold and silvery gray.
- Restored statuary, brought out of the shadows by halogen lighting, and the Stations of the Cross, brightened by a lighter background and minimal trim, are similarly highlighted.
- Although significant changes have been made to the front of church, great care was taken to retain its character and to match new or adapted furniture with existing furnishings. The altar used in Mass has been remodeled into a less cumbersome table style; the back altar was cut back to allow more space but otherwise unchanged; new chairs may be seen in front of it; the ambo was widened with smaller wings that match the original central section; and a new baptismal font was completed.
- The pews are new and have been carefully matched to both new and existing woodworking. The front row of pews was replaced by chairs to allow more flexible seating opportunities for special occasions, handicapped access, etc.
- Statues of Mary and Joseph that were once on either side of the altar area have now been moved to the west side and flank the doorway into the new Reconciliation Chapel.

- Visible through the doorway is the restored Pieta, now located in the chapel anteroom.
- The choir loft and the stair approaching it have been simplified and opened up to create a brighter and more spacious impression. Tiered seating was also added to the balcony.
- To the west, where the Reconciliation Chapel was previously located, is a new, handicapped-accessible restroom.
- Statues of St Patrick and St Aloysius flanking the entry benefit from a simpler background and the effect of spot lighting.
- Outside, the church has a new roof; approximately five to ten percent of the exterior was tuckpointed; and guttering and downspouts were replaced.
- Basement, improvements include shoring up of one corner of the concrete blocks; 30 tons of sand moved by volunteers; new heating, air conditioning and ventilation; and complete rewiring and a new sound system installed.

The original estimate was \$540,000, but the final project came in at approximately \$560,000. Most of that difference was for items not originally budgeted, including the sound system, restoring of the Peta, new doors, keyboard, etc.

Architect: Steve Laughlin of Leo A. Daly

Interior Designer: Eileen Ratigan of Ratigan Church Art in Omaha

Pews, millwork, & new or remodeled furniture: Patrick Ratigan of Ratigan-Schottler (Eileen's brother)

*Information from Neola Gazette articles dated 12/28/95 & 1/2/97 and from John Fischer.