



Howard County Catholics

Sts. Peter & Paul | St. Anthony | St. Joseph

March 29, 2026

Rev. Vincent L. Parsons
J.C.L., Pastor

pastor@howardcountycatholics.com

Rev. Mr. Neil Baquet
Deacon

deaconnail@howardcountycatholics.com

Rev. Mr. Phil Lukasiewicz
Deacon

deaconphil@howardcountycatholics.com

Julie Dush
Homebound Pastoral Minister
308-968-3421

Judi Baker
SPP Office Manager
Monday-Friday 8am-4pm
308-754-4002
office@howardcountycatholics.com

Kathy Gorecki
SA & SJ Office Manager
308-754-8126

Tri-Parish Website:
www.howardcountycatholics.com

Daily Mass Schedule:

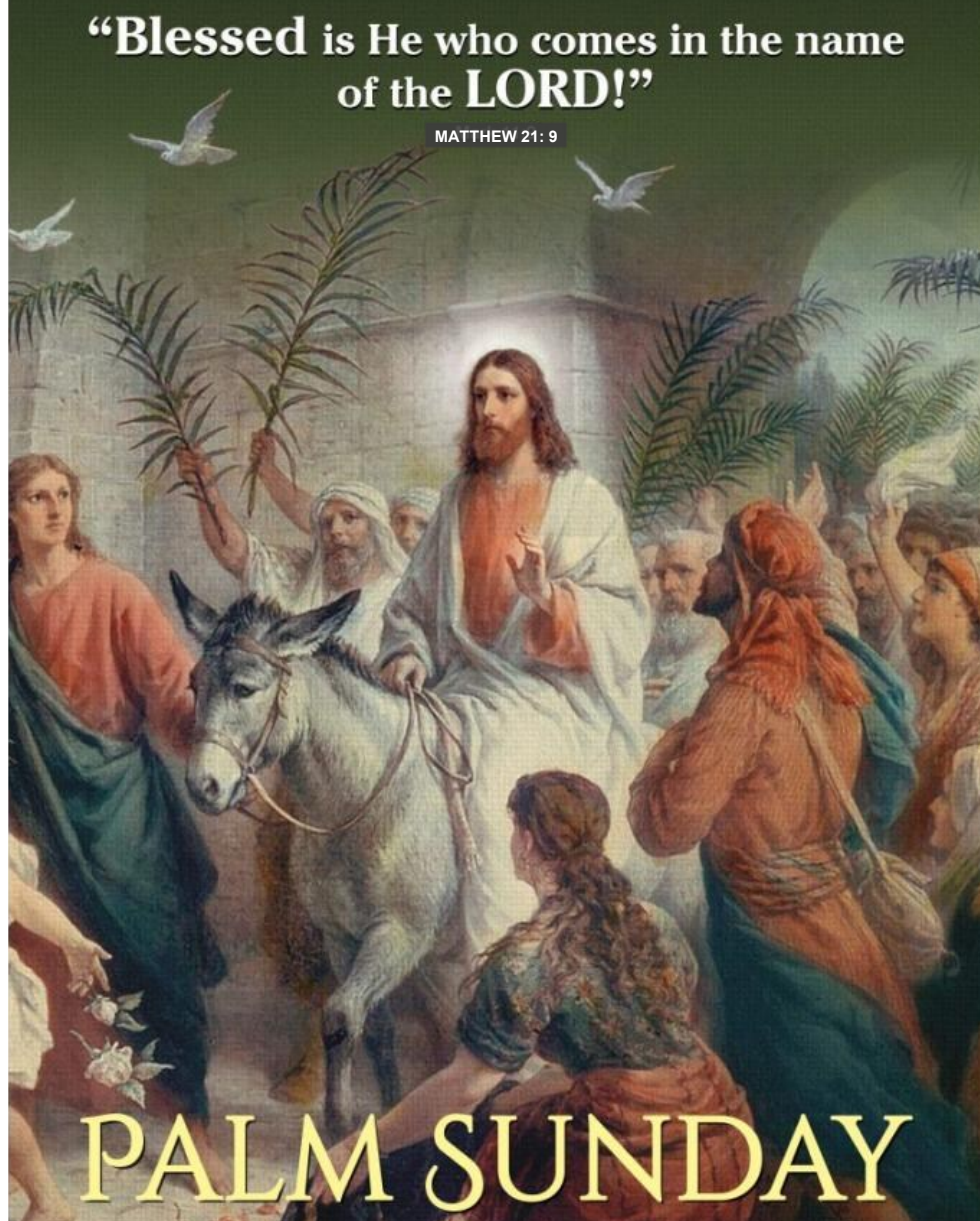
Tues/Thurs 8:30am Wed 12:05pm SPP
Friday 9:00am - at Brookfield/Matelyn

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays at 4:30pm or
by appointment

Sacrament of Baptism

Please call the Parish Office



**“Blessed is He who comes in the name
of the LORD!”**

MATTHEW 21: 9

PALM SUNDAY

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Holy Thursday - 7pm | Good Friday - 12:05pm
Holy Saturday - 8pm | Easter Sunday 8am & 10am

AT STS. PETER & PAUL CHURCH

PALM SUNDAY CCW BRUNCH 9:00~11:30am Parish Life Center!



Liturgical Ministry Directors

Deacon Neil & Julie Baquet
 deaconneil@howardcountycatholics.com
 308-571-0291

Tri-Parish Media

Facebook:

St. Anthony Catholic Church of Padua/Farwell
 St. Joseph Catholic Church
 Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church

My Parish App:

Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church

Prayer Chain Contacts

St. Paul - Dianne Rice (308-571-0039)
 St. Paul - Ann Rief (308-380-0619)
 Farwell - Thereasa Nealon
 (308-336-3349)
 Elba - Betty Poss (308-750-0512)



Directors of Religious Education

Mrs. Becky Knox - Preschool to 4th
 rebecca.knox@spwildcat.org
 308-571-0430

Mrs. Judi Baker - 5th to 11th grade
 office@howardcountycatholics.com
 308-750-8418

Youth Religious Ed. Classes

Preschool thru 4th Grades:
 Sundays 9:00am – 10:00am
 5th thru 11th Grades:
 Wednesday 7:00pm - 8:00pm
 Classes held at SPP
 Parish Life Center classrooms
 (Confirmation Class at Bed Head Coffee)

Ministry Schedule

APRIL 4TH & 5TH

SATURDAY 5:00PM MASS

MUSIC: Serbousek Group
GREET: Joe & Paulette Hansen /
 Glen & Michele Killion

LECTOR: Marlene Kosmicki
EM: Kenny & Sharon Tibbetts
S: Reagan & Brogan Grabowski

SUNDAY 8:00AM MASS

MUSIC: Thede Family
GREET: Betty Roebuck /
 Fowler Family

LECTOR: Todd Peters
EM: Travis & Trish Hedman
S: Owen, Archer, & Easton Shotkoski

SUNDAY 10:00AM MASS

MUSIC: Kezeor Group
GREET: Mike & Judi Baker
LECTOR: Tina Headrick
EM: Amy Brandt / Chris Elstermeier /
 Bill Gregoski / Heather Valasek
SERVE: Paisley Call / Macy Bockmann

Palm Sunday

NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR

The Cincinnati Reds were hosting the Los Angeles Dodgers for a weekend series. Tommy Lasorda was the manager of the Dodgers at the time. Tommy was a faithful Catholic. Even when the Dodgers were playing baseball on the road, Tommy would begin his Sunday morning by attending Mass. On this particular Sunday Tommy attended Mass in the downtown church in Cincinnati. The Cincinnati Reds' manager happened to attend the same Mass. Arriving late, the Reds' manager took a pew in the back of church. He spotted Tommy up front. After the Mass, when the parishioners were heading to the exits, Tommy visited the Blessed Virgin's shrine. He knelt and prayed. Then he lit a candle and walked out.

The Reds manager kept his distance, hiding behind a pillar so Tommy couldn't see him. The Reds manager watched every move that Lasorda made. When Tommy lit the candle, the Reds manager became a bit uneasy. He assumed that Tommy was trying to achieve a divine edge on the crucial game they were going to play that afternoon. When Tommy left the church the Reds manager casually walked up to the votive light stand and blew out the candle that Tommy had just lit.

Why do people light candles in church? In nearly every church, there are candles for people to light. Shrines around the world have countless candles burning. Have you ever noticed how children love to light candles? There is something fascinating about candles. A burning candle is so warm, so comforting and so consoling.

Any burning light is a reminder of Christ, the Light of the World. The flame of a candle is symbolic of love because of its warmth and cheerfulness. As the candle burns itself out and is consumed in giving its light and service to people, it is a sign of sacrifice and sacrificial love.

Using candles in church is an age-old practice. Candles are recommended or used for every sacrament except for the sacrament of reconciliation, unless reconciliation is within a 'Penance Service.' In the early days of Christianity flaming torches and incense accompanied the officials of imperial Rome as a sign of dignity and respect. The same practice was adopted to show reverence for the bishop of Rome. Blessed candles are kept in Christian homes and are lit for times of prayer,

When I was a kid, my mother would always wake the family up during an electrical storm. She would light a candle. Then we would pray for safety. The candle was our way of asking for God's protection during the storm. People light candles beside the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. The candle symbolizes the presence of that person before God, praying for a special favor, or calling upon a saint to intercede before God for a special blessing.

J. Vincent L. Parsons

This Week's Schedule

Monday, March 30

No Daily Mass / Rosary 9am (SPP)
 Individual Reconciliations 6pm (SPP)
 Women's Bible Study 6:30pm (PLC)
 OCIA Candidate Practice 7pm (SPP)

Tuesday, March 31

Daily Mass 8:30am / Rosary 9am (SPP)
 Intention: †Melvin Boysen
 By Tom & Pat Knutson

Wednesday, April 1

Rosary 11:30am / Daily Mass 12:05pm (SPP)
 Intention: †Anne Puncuchar
 By Alan & Betty Pfeifer
 Religious Ed. 5th-11th 7pm (PLC Classrooms)

Thursday, April 2

HOLY THURSDAY Mass 7:00pm
 Intention: †Mary Mostek
 By Jerry Dembowski
 HOLY ADORATION 8-10PM (SPP)

Friday, April 3

GOOD FRIDAY Service 12:05pm

Saturday, April 4

Easter Vigil Mass 8:00pm (SPP)
 Intention: People of the Parishes
 OCIA Sacraments of Initiation (SPP)

Sunday, April 5

EASTER SUNDAY Mass 8:00am (SPP)
 Intention: †Oren & Mary McIntyre
 By Dan, Barbara, & Tom McIntyre
 EASTER SUNDAY Mass 10:00am (SPP)
 Intention: †Art Schmidt
 By Family

HOLY WEEK

THURSDAY
MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
7:00PM
ADORATION 8PM-10PM

FRIDAY
THE LORD'S PASSION
12:05PM

SATURDAY
EASTER VIGIL
8:00PM

EASTER SUNDAY
8:00AM
10:00AM

STS. PETER & PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH 713 ELM STREET ST. PAUL

CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS ~ EASTER VIGIL

The Easter Vigil takes place on Holy Saturday, the evening before Easter Sunday, and the Liturgy begins with the *Lucernarium*, a service of light that includes the blessing of the Paschal candle, which symbolizes Jesus, the Light of the World. The second part consists of the Liturgy of the Word with a series of Scripture readings. Then, the Catechumens are presented to the parish community, who pray for them with the Litany of the Saints. Next, the priest blesses the baptismal water. Those seeking Baptism then renounce sin and profess their faith after which they are baptized "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit". After baptism, the newly baptized may be dressed in white garments and presented with a candle lighted from the Paschal Candle. They are then confirmed by the priest or bishop who lays hands on their heads, and invokes the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. He then anoints them with the oil called Sacred Chrism. At Communion, the newly baptized receive the Eucharist, Christ's Body and Blood, for the first time.
(SOURCE: www.usccb.org)

Tri-Parish Events & News

LAST CHANCE RECONCILIATION
Monday, MARCH 30, 6 to 7pm at Sts. Peter & Paul Church, Father Vince is graciously offering an opportunity for those needing reconciliation before Easter.

OCIA PREPARATIONS
Candidates please be at SPP Church at 7pm on March 30th to practice for the Easter Vigil Mass.

FISH FRY
The Gross Profit from our March 20th Fish Fry = \$4,272.00 plus \$133.00 Gross from the Bar for all three Fish Frys. A net profit will be reported once all the bills are in. The CCW and Knights of Columbus would like to express their sincere gratitude to ALL that helped make our Fish Fries a success! Every person, in whatever way you contributed, helped make it possible. THANK YOU!

ANNE ALT SCHOLARSHIP
Applications are accepted until April 15, 2026. Visit our Parish website, wait for the Anne Alt Scholarship screen and click on it to access the application site. No late applications will be accepted.

ADORATION SCHEDULE
Holy Adoration will be following Holy Thursday Mass, 8-10pm. *(No first Friday Adoration this month.)*

NO FARWELL MASS
Due to Easter, there will not be a Mass at St. Anthony on April 4th.

NO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
No classes on April 5th - Have a Blessed Easter with your families!

PRE-BAPTISMAL CLASS
For Parents wishing to get their child Baptized (may attend before baby is born) - the class will be Sunday, April 12th, 11am-12pm SPP Parish Life Center

SWIENCONKA...
Polish Blessing of Easter Baskets, bring your filled baskets, meats, & any other Easter Sunday meal items to the Church on Holy Saturday at 11am for a blessing from Father Vince. Questions: 308-750-6439

Eternal Life
In your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Monica Kramer, of North Platte, who taught at SPP Catholic School from 1975-77. Mass of Christian Burial was March 27, 2026 at Holy Spirit Church in North Platte. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord.

Area Events & News

POLISH HERITAGE CENTER
Kolache Making Class - April 18th 10am at St. Francis Hall - Ashton, NE Recipe will be provided, participants will be guided through the art of making traditional kolaches. All skill levels are welcome. To register or for more information, please call 308-750-6439.

WORLD YOUTH DAY Pilgrimage to Seoul South Korea
August 1-10, 2027 by Diocese of GI
ZOOM Meeting April 23, 2026, 7:30pm Register gidiocese.org/WYD.

iDeall RELATIONSHIPS
Spirit Catholic Radio - starts April 6, 8pm on 91.5FM Catholic perspective on Christ-centered relationships.

Finance Corner

Sunday Collections & OSV Online Giving
March 16 - 22, 2026

The Lord's Portion Farwell & Elba
St. Anthony Church \$266.00
St. Joseph \$769.50

The Lord's Portion Sts. Peter & Paul
Actual General Fund \$2712.00
OSV On-Line General Fund \$1210.80
Maintenance \$25.00
Parish Life Center \$10.00
Restoring Our Father's House \$103.00

MARCH Totals as of 3/22/26
Monthly Budget \$20000.00
Actual General Fund \$14731.57
Online General Fund \$5335.20
Monthly Surplus (Deficit) \$66.77

Special Collections
PARISH - Easter Flowers \$280.00
DIOCESE - Catholic Home Mission \$50.00

THANK YOU
for your continued support!

Todd & Cindy Peters
Riley & Katlynn Peters

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Tracy Hadenfeldt, DVM Phone: 308-754-4222
Barrett Huneke, DVM spvetclinic3@gmail.com



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