

# Notre Dame Parish

Cresco, Iowa

St. Agnes Oratory, Plymouth Rock and St. Bridget Oratory, Bluffton

*"My soul proclaims  
the greatness of  
the Lord;*

*my spirit rejoices  
in God my savior."*

Luke 1:46-47



**Rev. Jacob Rouse**  
**Pastor**

Notre Dame Church  
223 2nd Ave. E.

Parish Office:  
9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.  
**Monday through Friday**  
116 East Third Street  
Phone: 563 547-3565  
Fax: 563 547-3835  
Hall: 563 547-4652

**Parish Website:**  
[notredamecresco.com](http://notredamecresco.com)

Jodi Dull, Business Manager  
Connie Frana, Office Manager  
Melanie Vobr,  
Coordinator of Faith Formation  
LeRoy Webb, Pastoral Minister  
Randy Greenfield, Facilities Manager  
512 718-4634  
Katie Schmitt, Principal  
563 547-4513

School Website:  
[www.ndcschool.weebly.com](http://www.ndcschool.weebly.com)

## *Celebration of Sacraments*

**Baptism** Please contact the parish office to register for the required Baptism class, to schedule a Baptism or for more information. Next Baptism preparation class is scheduled for **February 8, 2021**, 7:00 p.m. (Note date is subject to change).

**Reconciliation** Saturday 3:15—3:50 p.m.; Sunday 9:15—9:50 a.m. or contact the parish office or email Fr. Jacob at: [dbqrouse@dbqarch.org](mailto:dbqrouse@dbqarch.org) to schedule an appointment to celebrate this Sacrament of God's forgiveness.

**Marriage** Contact the parish office at least six months before intended wedding date.

**December 13, 2020**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

*Isaiah 61:1-2a; 10-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8 19-28*

John the Baptist figures prominently in the gospel of this third Sunday of Advent. Last Sunday he played the same prominent role. This is about the only time of the church year we hear about John. Then he disappears from the scene.

John is the one who tells us to prepare—to get ready for one greater than himself. John does not draw attention to himself, even though we are told great numbers of people came to hear him and to be baptized by him. But John always spoke of one who was to come after—one, “whose sandals I am not even worthy to unfasten.”

In all this, John sets an example for us. Our good deeds done for the Lord; our telling others about the Lord; should lead others to the Lord and not to ourselves. If others see “Christ in us” that is all and good.

We should hope that by word and works we would help lead others to know Christ. But it is Christ who works in and through us. “To Christ be the honor and the glory,” an old saying states.

If we lead others to Christ we imitate the great St. John the Baptist. To do thus should be one of our Advent goals.

*Next week's readings:*

*2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38*

Fr. Jacob will continue to live stream all weekday and weekend masses on his YouTube. You can access it by logging into our new parish website:

[notredamecresco.com](http://notredamecresco.com)

and scroll down on the home page and click on the YouTube icon

Please keep in mind that the Archbishop has continued the dispensation from attendance at mass until further notice so if you have any concern (including age, health, etc.) about attending mass in church, please stay home!

Notre Dame Church south elevator lobby doors are open from 7:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Monday—Friday when school is in session and for activities. All doors are open an hour prior to mass and an hour following mass.

**Monday, December 14—No Mass**

Pray for everyone affected by Covid.

**Tuesday, December 15—Mass in church and livestreamed**

Rosary at 4:55 p.m.

**5:15 p.m.** +Don Carolan

**Wednesday, December 16—Mass in church and livestreamed**

**8:00 a.m.** +James and Patricia Fisher

**Thursday, December 17—Mass in church and livestreamed**

**School Mass: school personnel and students only in church.**

**Public is invited to watch the livestream**

**9:00 a.m.** +Grace Slifka

**Friday, December 18—Mass in church and livestreamed**

**8:00 a.m.** +Bernard and Ruth Reicks

**Saturday, December 19—Mass in church and livestreamed**

**2:00 p.m.** Wedding of Tony Herold and Tracy Hageman

**4:00 p.m.** +Harold and Dorothy Grube

**EMs:** Marlene Quinn, Steve and Terry Duerre, Becky McGee

**Lector:** Marlene Quinn

**Servers:** Emma and Reagan Drees

**Music:** Pam Daley, Deb Moellers

**Ushers:** Steve and Terry Duerre, Ethan Rice  
Ray Schwarzhoff

**Sunday, December 20—Mass in church and livestreamed**

**8:00 a.m.** +Leland and Evelyn Truka

**EMs:** Jim Truka, Julie Haskovec, Boyd and Mary Turnbull

**Lector:** Jim Truka

**Servers:** Jordyn Fisk, Mason Regan

**Music:** Rita Roberts, Jamie Fisk

**Ushers:** Joe and Julie Haskovec, Tony Roberts,  
Warren Steffen

**10:00 a.m. Mass in church and livestreamed**

+Vern Walker

**EMs:** Tom and Connie Frana, Steve and Sheila Slifka

**Lector:** Michelle Midthus

**Servers:** Mackenzie and Madison Midthus

**Music:** Joe Wach, Deb Moellers

**Ushers:** Steve Slifka, Jerry Wilson, Jerry and Wanda Reicks

*Forgive me, Father, for the times when I am anxious.  
You have promised to take care of all my needs.*

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation with several priests will be available at Notre Dame on Sunday, December 13, 1:00 p.m. Reconciliation is also available before each Mass and by appointment.**

**Christmas Mass Schedule at Notre Dame:** December 24: 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.; December 25: 9:00 a.m.

## In Memory

Louie and Mabel Balk

Sanctuary Candle

Larry Voves

Altar Bread

Mike McCabe and Frank Schulte Missalettes

## Stewardship of Prayer

*Please pray for the sick of our parish, including the following and those listed in the Book of Petitions.*

Parker Byrnes	Dianne Kovarik
Makiah Pierce	Dean Dietzenbach
Dorothy Barnes	Debra Winsell
Steve McCarville	Bill Smith
Mark Grube	Paige Nierling
Jerome Nibaur	Tom Thraenert
Brent Newman	Monica McGee Newman
Dick Ollendieck	Arlene Kuennen
Wilma Daley	Marcia Murray
Marie Kreitzer	Pat Smith
Randy Smith	Beckett Dietzenbach
Al Reicks	Leona Kriener
Elizabeth Yount	Sadie Thraenert
Wayne Carolan	Paula Growden
Richard Bruening	Clyde Straka
Kellie Riehle	

## Our sympathy. . .

*Your prayers are requested for the repose of the souls of David Corcoran; and Norbert Kuennen, brother to Henry Kuennen. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.*

**We clear the prayer list quarterly. Please contact the office at that time to have a name put on again if desired.**

*We are pleased to pray for the sick, if you would like to add a name, please call the parish office after receiving permission from the person to have their name published; however, to preserve space if a person has sufficiently recovered and can be removed from the prayer list, also please contact the parish office.*

**Ministry of Prayer Network:** *If you would like to serve on this Prayer Network, please email the office at: DBQ047S@dbqarch.org. When a request is received, you will receive an email asking for your prayers for the immediate need. If you have an urgent need for prayer, call the office at 563 547-3565 to activate the prayer network.*

## Stewardship of Offering

**Dec. 6, 2020**

Total Stewardship Contributions/Offertory Income	
Needed each week:	\$10,923.00
Last week's Envelope Contribution Income:	\$ 6,648.00
Last week's ACH Contribution Income:	\$ 623.00
Last week's offertory income:	\$ 213.50

*All of the people in today's readings—the prophet Isaiah, the Virgin Mary, St. Paul, St. John the Baptist—seemed to understand clearly and rejoice in what God was calling them to be and to do. Do I?*

**2021 Calendars and Circles of Faith Booklets** are available in the front entrance of the church and in the front porch of the parish office. Circles of Faith booklets are also available on the parish website. Thank you to our calendar supporters and to all who volunteer to serve on our Circles and committees.

**Knights of Columbus** will meet on Tues., Dec. 15, 7:00 p.m., KC Room.

**Giving Tree** Thank you to all who participated in the CARE Giving Tree this year.

**Liturgical Ministry Schedule:** There is a liturgical schedule for the month of Dec. available on the parish website. *If you are willing to serve as an EM, Usher, Lector, Server or Musician during the month of January, please contact the parish office, 563 547-3565.*

**Decorating Notre Dame Church for Christmas** will be done on Sunday, Dec. 20, immediately following the 10:00 a.m. Mass. Your help will be appreciated. Please wear a mask while helping decorate.

**Retirement Fund for Religious** Make a difference. "Every dollar makes a difference in covering our expenses," says a Trappist abbot. Hundreds of US religious communities struggle to provide for aging members because most senior Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests served for little pay. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps these communities bridge the gap, offering support for medications, nursing care and other necessities. Please be generous. *Envelopes available in your budget boxes.*

**Time is running out!** Still not sure about this "STO" thing? It's simple. If you file an Iowa income tax return, your contributions to the *Our Faith* STO receive a 65% tax credit. That means for every \$1,000 you donated, you receive an Iowa income tax credit of \$650. Thus, a \$1000 contribution reduces your Iowa tax liability by a whopping \$650 and the gift may qualify as a charitable contribution on your federal income tax return. And that gift you made? It helps make a Catholic education affordable for every child. Thus, a gift that costs you a maximum of \$350 provides \$1,000 in need-based tuition assistance for a family in need of help. Time is running out to contribute to the STO in 2020! To learn more visit [www.ourfaithsto.org](http://www.ourfaithsto.org) or call the Archdiocese of Dubuque at 800 876-3546 ext 219.

**Football Mania** *Congratulations to the Winners for this week of football mania:* Kenneth Whitman, \$25.00; Mike and Ann Manske, \$25.00; Dave Teeling, \$25.00; and Dale Henkes, \$25.00. Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets for this Notre Dame School's Fall Fundraiser. Tickets can still be purchased for the balance of the season by contacting the school. *Don't miss out on your chance to win!*

**Donations for Christmas Flowers** may be given in memory of loved ones—please put your donation in an envelope marked "Christmas Flowers" with your name and the name(s) of those you want to be remembered. Thank you!

**Scrip Program now includes Dollar Fresh and HyVee as well as Pinter's, Ruppert's Ace Hardware, Fareway, Fisk's, Subway, Casey's, A & W, Long John Silvers, Sue-Z-Q and Kwik Star.** Gift cards are available for purchase at the parish office. Please call to place your order, 563 547-3565. Note: SCRIP will be sold at the masses the weekends of Dec. 12-13; and 19-20. They make great gifts!

### **Thank You**

*We are grateful for all the volunteers who offer their time and talent as good stewards for the betterment of the parish. This week we thank the members of the Seven Sisters Apostolate.*

**We welcome Leaton James Laganieri, son of Amber Hron and John Laganieri, who was baptized at Notre Dame on Dec. 6.**



Since 2008, a **Mass for Mental Illness Awareness (M4MIA)** has been held in Cedar Rapids. The mass was attended by those afflicted by mental illness, their caregivers and members of the Church and general community interested in alleviating the suffering and eliminating the stigma of those affected. Due to the pandemic it was not possible to have the Mass this year. Despite this, we believe it to be of utmost importance to acknowledge the struggle that so many face on a daily basis. These hardships are no doubt multiplied by the COVID-19 outbreak and the upcoming holiday season. *You are invited to join Father Jacob Rouse for an interactive Live Streamed Mental Health Awareness event on December 13th at 3:30pm.* He will be sharing his personal journey regarding mental health issues, grace, and the cross of Jesus Christ. Please email questions or issues you would like to be discussed or you can use the comment section of the Live Stream (free YouTube account required) Follow this link <https://tinyurl.com/fatherjacobyoutube> to join!

**VFW Breakfast** Dec. 20, 8:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m. Cresco VFW Hall. Serving pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, butter and syrup. Sponsored by VFW Post & Auxiliary 4561. Carryout or Dine In. Freewill donation. Masks and social distancing required.

**CASA Volunteer:** There is no better gift than to support a child in need! Volunteer to be a CASA Advocate and help support youth in your local area! For more information email: [kerry.brennan@dia.iowa.gov](mailto:kerry.brennan@dia.iowa.gov)

**A Christmas Reflections Open House: German-American Museum, St. Lucas.** Dec. 19-20 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. Visit museum with historic displays and a new exhibit: a collection of attic vignettes – Christmas décor, school room, tea and dining area, religious corner, antique toys and games. Masks are encouraged.

**Meeting of Northeast Iowa Prolifers,** Tuesday, December 15th, at 10:15 am-12Noon, St. Benedict Parish, Decorah. We will be working on the projects we started at our last meeting. Any questions, call Jody and Mary Eileen Devine Meyer at 563-380-7892, 563-380-7894.

**2021 Virtual Archdiocesan Women's Conference *Beauty in Christ: ON FIRE WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT!*** Saturday, January 30, 2021, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. It will offer two national speakers, prayer opportunities, a variety of vendors, and conversation with other faith-filled women. Featured speakers include Maria Vadia and Caroline Gambale-Dirkens, with Maria offering talks in English and Spanish! The presentations will ignite women into a deeper relationship with the Holy Spirit! Take this opportunity to fire up your faith! More information can be found at: <https://www.archwomensconference.org/>.

### **What Do You Want for Christmas?**

"What do you want for Christmas?" This is a question we ask each other often before Christmas. Yet how many of us actually take a few minutes to kneel before the altar and ask Him what He wants from us this Christmas. When we kneel and ask Jesus what He wants from us, it is very possible that we will hear Him whisper that He wants us to share a little more of our time with Him. Maybe each of us could include in our list to spend more time with God.

- ☐ Participate in Mass more frequently to the level of our comfort in person or online
- ☐ Find some time for prayer each morning.
- ☐ End our day with spiritual reading.
- ☐ Say the rosary while we drive to work or with our family.
- ☐ Participate in Eucharistic Adoration
- ☐ Stop into church occasionally for a quiet visit.
- ☐ Set up an appointment for Reconciliation.

The gift of time with God could be the very best gift we could give ourselves in this most unusual year, It may be just what our own hearts are truly longing for to bring us peace.

Notre Dame Family Circles of Faith Meeting --- December 7, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Donna Ryant with a Hail Mary.

Officers Present: Donna Ryant, Pat Pinter, and Terry Duerre

The Secretary's report was reviewed. One correction was made to the list of officers present at the last meeting. Elaine Kleve motioned that the minutes be approved as corrected, seconded by Connie Frana. Motion carried. The Treasurer's Report was reviewed. Connie Frana made a motion to approve the report as printed, seconded by Joye Meyer. Motion carried.

Old Business: Additional discussion was held concerning the future of the Circle of Faith Projects. All committees are the same as last year – the group was hopeful that we can go back to doing projects in 2021. We are bound by the school lunch regulations as to the use of the kitchen/dining area during this challenging time.

Joye Meyer will be our president next year; all other officers, chair people, committee leaders will remain the same. The new Circles of Faith Booklets are complete and can be picked up in the back of Church.

New Business: The dishwasher in the church hall needs to be replaced; the estimates are ranging from \$10K - \$20K; \$10,000 has been earmarked from the Central Endowment Fund. Joyce Becker made a motion that the Circles of Faith pay towards this need, up the amount of \$10,000. Motion was seconded by Pat Gosch, motion carried.

Elaine Kleve and Joye Meyer volunteered to sort through the dishes, pans, containers, left in the church basement; they will contact those whose names are on the containers and store or dispose of the rest.

We will not be taking cookies to the shut-ins this year – it was suggested that we send Christmas cards with a Spiritual Bouquet included to let them know that we are thinking of them and praying for them.

Christmas gifts were discussed; Pat Gosch made a motion that we give the same amounts as last year to those on the updated list, seconded by Terry Duerre. Motion carried.

2021 Budget envelopes are ordered but have not yet arrived -- hopefully they will be here before the end of the year.

Elaine Kleve made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Joye Meyer. The meeting was adjourned with an Our Father.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Pinter, Recording Secretary



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