

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

Saturday 4:00 p.m. Mass

Livestreamed at:

<https://youtube.com/@notredamecresco>

Mindy Jones, Bookkeeper

Connie Frana, Office Manager

Melanie Vobr,

Coordinator of Faith Formation

m.vobr@dbqarch.org

Brian McGee,

Coordinator of Family & Youth Ministry

b.mcgee@dbqarch.org

LeRoy Webb, Pastoral Minister

Katie Schmitt, Principal

563 547-4513

School Website: [https://](https://sites.google.com/nd.pvt.k12.ia.us/)

sites.google.com/nd.pvt.k12.ia.us/

[ndschooll/home?authuser=0](https://sites.google.com/nd.pvt.k12.ia.us/ndschooll/home?authuser=0)

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 **Feb. 12, 2024.**

7:00 p.m. (Note date is subject to change).

Reconciliation Contact the parish office 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 17, 2023

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 out 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 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 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

Monday, Dec. 18—No Mass. Pray for vocations

Tuesday, Dec. 19—Mass

5:15 p.m. +James And Mary Kreitzer

Sacristan: Stan and Connie Kepros

Wednesday, Dec. 20—Mass

8:00 a.m. +Frank Lorenzo

Music: Jed Becker

Sacristan: Jed and Joyce Becker

Thursday, Dec. 21—Mass

9:00 a.m. +Robert Sindelar

Sacristan: Stan and Connie Kepros

1:00 p.m. (Note Time) Mass at Accura +Lorraine Munkel

Friday, Dec. 22—Mass

8:00 a.m. +Ruben Gamez

Sacristan: Bill and Connie Sindelar

Saturday, Dec. 23—Mass in church and livestreamed

4:00 p.m. +Joe and Peggy Rouchka; Al and Emma Myer

EMHCs: Marlene Quinn, Steve and Terry Duerre

Lector: Terry Duerre

Servers: Braylee Teeling

Music: Pam Daley, Wendy Schatz

Greeters: Don and Lois Recker

Hosts: Don and Lois Recker

Ushers: Steve Duerre, Adam, Aidan, Awnan Skoda

Sacristan: Steve and Terry Duerre

Sunday, Dec. 24—4th Sunday of Advent—Note Mass time

9:00 a.m. +Mike McCabe; Frank and Rita Schulte

EMHCs: Boyd Turnbull, Joyce Jirak, Barb Martinek

Lector: Roger Kleve, Boyd Turnbull

Servers: Carly Miller, Garrett Vobr

Music: Katie Ferrie, Wendy Schatz

Greeters: Roger and Elaine Kleve

Hosts: Quentin and Darlene Vsetecka

Ushers: Quentin and Darlene Vsetecka,

David and Shannon Andera

Sacristan: Boyd Turnbull

Sunday, Dec. 24—Christmas Eve—Note Mass times

4:00 p.m. +Leona Whalen

EMHCs: Alanda Meyer, Jim and Anne Ott

(Marlene Quinn, Brian McGee if needed)

Lector: Brian McGee, Marlene Quinn

Servers: Sam Meyer

Music: Pam Daley, Polly Jones

Greeters: Joe and Lynn Rose

Hosts: Jim and Anne Ott

Ushers: Ray Schwarzhoff, Joe and Lynn Rose, Jim Murphy

(Melvin Sobolik, Bryan Sheehy if needed)

Sacristan: Carol Stoker and Mindy Jones

8:00 p.m. +Nestor and Dolly Reicks

EMHCs: Frank and Donna Ryant, Marlene Ferrie

(Julie Wilson, Emily Dohlman Govern if needed)

Lector: Julie Wilson, Emily Dohlman Govern

Servers: Jack Keller, Carley and Danny Kapler

Music: Good News Singers, Deb Moellers

Greeters: Bart and Julie Wilson

Hosts: Frank and Donna Ryant

Ushers: Bart Wilson, Ken Hubka, Dick Jones, Tom Mullen

(Julie Wilson if needed)

Sacristan: Frank and Donna Ryant

Continued on top of next column. . .

Monday, Dec. 25—Christmas Day—Note Mass time

9:00 a.m. +Merlin Reicks

EMHCs: Sue Runyan, Don and Kris Dietzenbach

(Chuck and Sanna Feldman if needed)

Lector: Sue Runyan

Servers: Julianne Fisk, Luke Fisk

Music: Teen Choir, Jamie Fisk

Greeters: Chuck and Sanna Feldman

Hosts: Jerry and Wanda Reicks

Ushers: Don Dietzenbach Family, Jerry and Wanda Reicks

(Brian McConnell, Ken Hruska, if needed)

Sacristan: Jerry and Wanda Reicks

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.*

In Memory

Mary Jane Hudson

Sanctuary Candle

Larry Voves

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
Tom Rouchka	JoDene Van Dyke
Arlene Kuennen	Joyce Kapler
Bill Smith	Don Neubauer
Ann Burgess	Frances Kovarik Langham
Liz Yount	Dan Pahl
Lavon Hyberger	Kevin Neuzil
Mary Stejskal	John Gossman
Paula Growden	Pat Smith
Randy Smith	Beverly Koshatka
Janice Ries	Brenda Anding
Stu Gordon	Shelly McAllister
Lisa Peter	Ethan Pepera
Ellie Lorenzo	Colleen Voves
Deb Wilkins	Leona Herold
Connie Frana	Dick Franks
Lonnie Dishinger	Marinus Mlady
Audrey Grinhaug	Bill Rink
Luther Govern	Ken Hruska
Naomi Gossman	

Ministry of Prayer Network: *If you would like to serve on this Prayer Network, please email the office at: DBQ047S1@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

December 10, 2023

Total Stewardship Contributions/Offertory Income

Needed each week: \$ 10,750.00

Last week's Envelope Contribution Income: \$ 10,782.60

Last week's ACH Contribution Income: \$ 770.00

Last week's offertory income: \$ 729.75

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?

St. Andrew's Circle Thank you to all who supported the supper and Bingo sponsored by St. Andrew Circle. If you are a member of this circle and have not yet paid your dues, please do so as soon as possible. Thanks!

Donations are being accepted for Christmas Flowers. Please put your donation in an envelope marked "Christmas Flowers" with you name and the name(s) of those you wish to remember.

Wee Families will be available online Dec. 17 notredamecresco.com Short and sweet faith formation for young families. Ideal for children ages 1-5.

Into the Deep will be available online Dec. 17 notredamecresco.com Theme: Why is there a difference between Catholic and Protestant Bibles? Check out: https://youtu.be_p3xIZwTC-o

Christmas Choir Practice will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 19, **5:00 p.m.**, (Note time) Notre Dame Church. Everyone is welcome.

Knights of Columbus will meet on Tues., Dec. 19, 7:00 p.m., KC Room in church.

Bible Study will not be held from Dec. 20 through February. Please watch for further announcements.

Notre Dame Children and Youth Choirs are seeking new members! The Children's Choir is open to all students in grades 1-6, and leads the community in song during Masses throughout the year: Sign up at: <https://notredamecresco.com/liturgical-ministry>.

Scrip Program (includes Dollar Fresh, HyVee, Pinter's, Ruppert's Ace Hardware, Fareway, Fisk's, Subway, Casey's, A & W, Sue-Z-Q, Atomic Pizza and Kwik Star.) Cards available at the parish office and in church the weekends of **December 16-17**.

December 18th Grades K-5 Christmas Concert: 1:30 PM and 6:30 PM at Notre Dame Catholic Church. All are welcome to attend.

Finding Light, Hope & Healing "Finding Light, Hope, and Healing" is our new parish ministry that is open to all who are newly separated and divorced, those still struggling with issues many years later, and children of divorced/separated parents. Trained parish ministers are ready to walk with you on an individual basis by providing a listening ear, helpful resources and guidance. For more information, contact Melanie Vobr at the Parish Office by calling 563-547-3565 or emailing m.vobr@dbqarch.org.

Adult Winter Dance Join us Saturday, January 13th from 6:00PM—Midnight at the Heritage Event Center (229 3rd Ave. W., Cresco) for our Adult Winter Dance! This event is open to anyone age 18 and older and features a catered meal from McAllister's, cash bar, and great music! Dress code is business-casual. Tickets required for admittance. Tickets available for individuals or couples at the Parish Office. Contact Brian McGee for more information at b.mcgee@dbqarch.org.

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 those who serve on the Cemetery Boards.

Congratulations to Austin and Maddie (Fitzgerald) Hrdlicka who were married at Notre Dame on Dec. 9.



The Word Among Us Advent Booklets are available in the front entrance of the church for you to take and use during Advent.

Thank you to all who helped with and donated cookies for the plates for the shut ins.

Christmas Decorating of the church will be held on Sun., Dec. 24, 10:00 a.m. Your help will be appreciated.

Note: To plan ahead, the mass schedule for the weekend of Dec. 23-25: Sat. Dec. 23, 4:00 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 24, 9:00 a.m. (Note no 8 or 10 a.m.); 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.; Mon., Dec. 25, 9:00 a.m.

VFW Breakfast Dec. 17, 8:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m. VFW Hall, Cresco. Regular, Blueberry and Chocolate Chip pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs and beverage. Donations to Roof Fund appreciated.

Our women and men religious offer gratitude. A sister shares, "I thank the Lord for all who give. I don't think we would make it without them." Thank you for giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious last week. Your donation makes a difference in the lives of elderly women and men religious. To learn more about how your gift helps, visit retiredreligious.org

Note: St. Wenceslaus Parish will not be having a midnight mass on Christmas Eve. To check out their mass schedule, visit their website.

Be a Pen Pal to a 3rd Grader at Notre Dame and/or Crestwood. Looking for adult volunteers 55 and older to write three letters and meet your Pen Pal at the end of the semester. Contact RSVP at 563 277-5181 or rsvp@decorahlibrary.org

Official Archdiocesan Eucharistic Pilgrimage Site - Blessed Sacrament Church in Waterloo Archbishop Zinkula has granted Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Waterloo to be an official Eucharistic Pilgrimage Site for the Archdiocese of Dubuque for a six month period from Monday, December 4, 2023 (1st Monday of Advent) through Sunday, June 2, 2024 (Corpus Christi). This is the only church in the archdiocese named for the Blessed Sacrament. More details to come, but the church will be open for all pilgrims to visit from Monday through Friday 8:30am - 9:00pm and Saturday from 8:30am - 4:00pm (just before Mass). Church will be closed outside of Mass on Sunday, unless there are groups who wish to visit and can schedule with the Parish Business Office. Groups can also schedule their own Mass during these times and are welcome to do so. The Eucharist will be exposed during these times for pilgrims to spend in adoration and prayer. Every Thursday, there will be extra opportunities for confession at various times, a Marian prayer group in the afternoon, and healing prayer ministry during the evening. Finally, pilgrims will have an opportunity to obtain a plenary indulgence related to the Eucharist for coming to Blessed Sacrament. There are certain conditions that must be fulfilled in order to obtain the indulgence, and more info will be forthcoming. Thank you!

Nobody is your enemy

Anyone that annoys you. . . is teaching you patience and calmness.
Anybody that offends you. . . is teaching you forgiveness.
Anything that you hate. . . is teaching you unconditional love.
Anything that you fear. . . is teaching you courage to overcome fears.
Anything you can't control. . . is teaching you to let go.
Any attack you get from people. . . is teaching you defense.
Anyone who looks down on you. . . is teaching you to look up to God.
Always look for the lesson in every situation. Be polite, calm, gentle and thankful to God because He will be with you to the end.

May your day be blessed!

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