

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://
sites.google.com/nd.pvt.k12.ia.us/
ndschoo/home?authuser=0](https://sites.google.com/nd.pvt.k12.ia.us/ndschoo/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 31, 2023

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3; Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Luke 2:22-40

It is most ironic that as we lament the breakdown of the traditional family in our society, we celebrate a most untraditional family as the source of true and traditional family values. The "family" of Joseph, Mary and Jesus was anything but typical for their day. No matter how much of God's intervention we may ascribe to the make up of this threesome, the facts are: Joseph was not the physical father of Jesus, yet took the mother of Jesus to himself as wife. And, furthermore, there was only one child—a rather unusual and even disdainful condition for a family of Israel at that time.

The question is posed, then—what constitutes a true and traditional family, and what family values does such a family have? To look to the "Holy Family" for neat and clear answers to these questions is a mistake.

Joseph, Mary and Jesus are celebrated as the "Holy Family," not because of the particular make up of the relationships, but rather according to how the relationships were lived.

These three lived with each other in deep charity, trust, forgiveness and mutual respect. These qualities are crucial for any family's well-being, no matter what shape it takes.

Next week's readings:

Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

The Lord remembers his covenant forever.

Monday, Jan. 1—New Year's —not a holyday of obligation

9:00 a.m. +David and Maxine Herold
EMHCs: Gary and Janel Langreck, Jim Truka
Lector: Jim Truka, Gary Langreck
Servers: Lincoln and Brooks Manske
Music: LuAnn McCormick, Polly Jones
Greeters: Gary and Janel Langreck
Hosts: Don Dietzenbach Family
Ushers: Don Dietzenbach Family, Marvin Lensing,
 Dale Lickteig
Sacristan: Marvin Lensing

Tuesday, Jan. 2—Mass

5:15 p.m. +Tom Kleve
Sacristan: Stan and Connie Kepros

Wednesday, Jan. 3—Mass

8:00 a.m. +Wilmer Hubka
Music: Jed Becker
Sacristan: Jed and Joyce Becker

Thursday, Jan. 4—Mass

9:00 a.m. +Gene Murphy
Sacristan: Inez Kruse

Friday, Jan. 5—Mass

8:00 a.m. +Isaac Wiltgen; Marian Wiltgen
Sacristan: Bill and Connie Sindelar

Saturday, Jan. 6—Mass in church and livestreamed

4:00 p.m. +Martin and Emma Jean Koudelka
EMHCs: Lisa Kimball, Brian McGee, Vicki McGee
Lector: Brian McGee
Servers: Cora Johnson
Music: Harlan Larson, Mary Larson
Greeters: Gretchen Laub, Carver Munkel
Hosts: Gretchen Laub, Carver Munkel
Ushers: Steve Duerre, Gretchen Laub, Carver Munkel,
 Ray Schwarzhoff
Sacristan: Steve and Terry Duerre

Sunday, Jan. 7—Mass

8:00 a.m. +Ron Ollendick
EMHCs: Frank and Donna Ryant, Patti Guyer
Lector: Carol Foley, Ken Hubka
Servers: Carly Miller, Garrett Vobr
Music: Pam Daley, Deb Moellers
Greeters: Kenny and Jeri Andera
Hosts: Kenny and Jeri Andera
Ushers: Alisha Carolan, Jordan Guyer, Ken Hruska,
 Ken Hubka
Sacristan: Frank and Donna Ryant

10:00 a.m. +Joseph and Anna Svestka

EMHCs: Patty Elsbernd, Jerry O'Donnell, Tracy Hart
Lector: Jerry and Barb O'Donnell
Servers: Hadley and Harper Riehle
Music: Good News Singers, Deb Moellers
Greeters: Jim and Val Rink
Hosts: Curtis Head Family
Ushers: Matt Daley Family, Brad and Jodi Dull
Sacristan: Jerry and Barb O'Donnell

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, he has spoken to us through the Son.

In Memory

Leoba Dotzler

Sanctuary Candle

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	Brenda Anding
Janice Ries	Shelly McAllister
Stu Gordon	Ethan Pepera
Lisa Peter	Colleen Voves
Ellie Lorenzo	Leona Herold
Deb Wilkins	Dick Franks
Connie Frana	Marinus Mlady
Lonnie Dishinger	Bill Rink
Audrey Grinhaus	Ken Hruska
Luther Govern	Jeff Henderson
Matt Duerre	

Our sympathy. . .

*Your prayers are requested for the repose of the souls of **Naomi Gossman**; and **Chuck Pierce**, son of LaRita Pierce.*

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 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: 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 24, 2023

Total Stewardship Contributions/Offertory Income	
Needed each week:	\$ 10,750.00
Last week's Envelope Contribution Income:	\$ 10,592.00
Christmas Contributions:	\$ 14,532.00
Last week's ACH Contribution Income:	\$ 770.00
Last week's offertory income:	\$ 2,010.09

"Whatever you do," says St. Paul to the Colossians, ". . . do it in the name of the Lord Jesus. Give thanks to God the Father through him." And so it is that we offer our gifts in the Eucharist "through Him, with Him and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit. . ."

Notre Dame Living Nativity—Join us for our Living Nativity following the 4:00 PM Mass on Saturday, December 30th in the Notre Dame parking lot. Cocoa and cider will be available in the Parish Hall immediately following Mass and throughout the event. The Living Nativity will be led by the Notre Dame Children's Choir

Sewing Circle will meet on Tues., Jan. 2, 2:00 p.m., Notre Dame Church Hall.

Ministers of Care will meet on Tues., Jan. 2, 4:00 p.m., Joseph Room.

Buildings and Grounds Committee will meet on Thurs., Jan. 4, 7:00 p.m., Joseph Room.

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

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 at church Jan. 6-7.

Christmas Decorations will be taken down on Sun., Jan. 7, 11:00 a.m. Your help will be appreciated.

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. **Note: Deadline to purchase tickets is Jan. 2. Get your tickets today!** Contact Brian McGee for more information at b.mcgee@dbqarch.org.

Eucharistic Congress Bus Trip from Waterloo - <https://waterloocatholics.org/Eucharistic-Congress-Bus-Trip>
The Catholic Parishes in Waterloo are hoping to organize a bus trip to the Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis. Check out the link above for details. This is a great opportunity for those desiring to go to the Congress, but are hesitant to organize the trip themselves.

National Eucharistic Pilgrimage - LaCrosse, WI - June 7, 2024 The National Eucharistic Pilgrimage will be passing through LaCrosse. The Diocese of LaCrosse will be hosting a special Eucharistic Rally. <https://diolc.org/the-answer/>

Perpetual Pilgrims Opportunity: The National Eucharistic Congress, Inc. is excited to invite young people ages 19-29 to apply in service as Perpetual Pilgrims along the four distinct routes destined for the 10th National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, IN. Joined by a priest chaplain, a consistent group of volunteers is needed to accompany Jesus in the Eucharist from May 17 to July 21, 2024. Perpetual Pilgrims will travel a combined distance of 6,500 miles, stopping at many holy sites along this unprecedented coast-to-coast pilgrimage modeled after the Gospel account of Jesus' journey to Emmaus two millennia ago.

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 Liturgy Committee.

2024 Archdiocesan Women's Conference: *Beauty in Christ: Reviving Our Hearts* Jesus desires to Revive your Heart! Register now for the 2024 Archdiocesan Women's Conference, Saturday, Jan. 27, 2024, 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Notre Dame! Join hundreds of women from across the Archdiocese attending virtually or at a parish near you to revive your heart in Jesus! Speakers Mari Pablo and Mary Pedersen will share the ways their hearts have been revived through the Real Presence of Jesus. Get ready for revival and register now! For more information and to register: <https://notredamecresco.com/womens-conference>

Save the Date for the 2024 Archdiocese of Dubuque Men's Conference! You're invited to the 28th Annual Archdiocese of Dubuque Men's Conference. *Notre Dame will be a Virtual Host Site on Sat., March 16 from 9:00 a.m.—1:30 p.m. \$20/person. Join us in the parish hall for all or part of the day. If you are unable to attend in person for all/any of the day but still want access to the recording/livestream, register and receive log-in information.* The keynote speaker will be **John Edwards**, who is the founder and director of Pew Ministries, a Catholic apostolate with the mission of bringing the person of Jesus Christ to the person in the pew. John is also the host of the popular "Just A Guy in the Pew" Podcast (www.justaguyinthepew.com). *For more information on the presentation at Notre Dame, contact Melanie Vobr at 563 547-3565 or m.vobr@dbqarch.org*

Mental Health Awareness During the Holidays Holidays are often difficult for people who are experiencing grief and other major life disruptions. The sounds, sights, and smells of the holiday season may trigger feelings of sadness, loss, emptiness, and anxiety. Take the time to consider what may be expected of you, socially and emotionally, as well as your hopes for this season. Counseling may be an option for those who are struggling to cope. **Catholic Charities offers in-person and telehealth counseling with licensed mental health professionals in English and Spanish.** For more information on counseling at Catholic Charities or to schedule your first appointment, please call 563.588.0558 or visit CatholicCharitiesDubuque.org/counseling.

Mental Health Crisis Line: 988.

Check out our website: notredamecresco.com You can now contribute to Notre Dame Parish through the website using your checking account or credit card. Also register as a new parishioner of Notre Dame Parish on the website. For more information, call the parish office

A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Dear God, thank you for all of the ways You have worked in our lives during the past year.

You have blessed us with good things, comforted us in hard times, and challenged us to grow more like Jesus every day.

As we set goals for the new year, give our family strength and vision for the future.

Help us to encourage each other to grow in faith and in love.

Fill us with Your love and kindness, so that we can be patient with one another no matter what is going on, or how we are feeling.

Help us to bear with each other in love and gentleness.

Thank you for all the ways You protect our family and provide for us.

Protect us from evil, and keep our family safe, both physically and spiritually.

Help us to trust in You to provide all that we need.

Show us how we can serve others in our community.

Help us to show them Your love.

We ask these things in the name of Jesus, Your Son.

Amen.

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