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September 7, 2025

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wisdom 9:13-18b: Philemon 9-10, 12-17: Luke 14:25-33

*“Let your face shine upon your servant;
and teach me your laws.”*

This Sunday’s readings ask us to pause and consider what it truly means to follow Christ. The Book of Wisdom reminds us that our own plans are limited and uncertain, but with God’s gift of wisdom, our hearts and paths are set right. Paul, in his letter to Philemon, urges the community to see Onesimus not as a slave but as a beloved brother—an invitation to reconciliation and transformation. And in the Gospel, Jesus speaks directly about the cost of discipleship: to follow Him means placing our lives, our priorities, and even our comforts in His hands.

When Jesus first called the disciples, they left behind their homes, jobs, and families to follow someone they hardly knew. They stepped into uncertainty with nothing but trust. We, however, have the gift of knowing that Jesus is truly God, who laid down His life for us and desires only what is best. That doesn’t make discipleship easy—it can still be uncomfortable and challenging—but it does give us the assurance that our sacrifices are never in vain.

This same spirit is guiding our Archdiocese through the Journey in Faith pastoral planning process. Just as the early Church grew through prayer, sacrifice, and unity, we too are being invited to renew our mission, strengthen our parishes, and build up the Body of Christ for generations to come.

As we continue to walk together in this process, let us pray for the courage to follow Christ without hesitation, the humility to seek God’s wisdom above our own, and the love to embrace one another as true family in faith.

Next Week’s Readings:

Numbers 21:4b-9: Philippians 2:6-11: John 3:13-17



PARISH OFFICE

116 3rd St E
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Monday-Friday

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Website: notredamecresco.com

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Katie Schmitt, School
Principal

563.547.4513

School Website:

www.tinyurl.com/ndcschool

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, September 8 | No Mass
+Pray for Vocations to the Religious Life

Tuesday, September 9 | No Mass

Wednesday, September 10 | No Mass

Thursday, September 11 | Mass
9:00 a.m. +Dan Gebel and Dana Gebel
Sacristan: Joyce Jirak

Friday, September 12 | No Mass

Saturday, September 13 | Mass
4:00 p.m. +Andy, Bernadine, Richard and David Tieskotter
EMHCs: Duane Heit; Becky McGee; Marlene Quinn
Lectors: Duane Heit; Marlene Quinn
Servers: Cora Johnson
Music: Harlan Larson; Mary Larson
Greeters: Neil & Cindy Grube
Hosts: Dave, Robin, & Cody Sobolik
Ushers: Dave, Robin, & Cody Sobolik; Jim Murphy
Sacristan: Harlan & Mary Larson

Sunday, September 14 | Mass
8:00 a.m. +Gordon and Eileen Jirak
EMHCs: Julie Wilson; Emily Dohlman-Govern; Julie Haskovec
Lectors: Julie Wilson; Brooks Manske
Servers: Luther Govern; Cora Kach
Music: Katie Ferrie; Andrea Klimesh
Greeters: Joe & Julie Haskovec
Hosts: Joe & Julie Haskovec
Ushers: David & Shannon Andera; Dale & Lynette Andera
Sacristan: Stan & Connie Kepros

Sunday, September 14 | Mass
10:00 a.m. +Tom Kleve
EMHCs: Jed Becker; Gary Langreck; Jerry O'Donnell
Lectors: Jed Becker; Gary Langreck
Servers: Sully McCarville; Landree McCarville; Bria McCarville
Music: Jackie Jirak-Wright; Andrea Klimesh
Greeters: Jolene Trachta; Jim & Val Rink
Hosts: Kathy McCarville
Ushers: Kathy McCarville; Brad & Jodi Dull; Richard McConnell
Sacristan: Jerry & Barb O'Donnell



Bread: Ron Ollendick
Wine: Ron Ollendick
Candle: Ron Ollendick
Misalletes: For the People

Stewardship of Prayer

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

JODENE VAN DYKE	MATT DUERRE	JERRY SMITH	TONY WICKS
ETHAN PEPERA	JOYCE KAPLER	BETTE SULLIVAN	TESS SHEEHY
LISA PETER	DEB WILKINS	BRENT NEWMAN	WAYNE SCRABECK
CLARE STEJSKAL	DIANE KOVARIK	MALISSA KAPPES	ED KOVARIK
STU GORDON	VICKI MCGEE	MATTHEW FERRIE	RICK SCHOLBROCK
JIM MURPHY	MARY STEVENSON	MARK TIESKOTTER	KYLE SLIFKA
BEV BINA	DAVE BOELMAN	SARAH FRANKLIN	KEN HRUSKA
SHARON BOYD	MARIA LARSON	BILL SINDELAR	AUDREY HYKE

Welcome

to NOTRE DAME!

Miss Audrey Casterton

First Grade Teacher



We're excited to have Miss Casterton begin her teaching journey with us as a First Grade teacher at Notre Dame Catholic School. A recent graduate of the University of Northern Iowa, she received a degree in Elementary Education with minors in both Literacy and Social Emotional Learning. This summer, she also earned her coaching certification.

Outside of the classroom, Miss Casterton enjoys spending time with her family and friends in the Decorah area. She loves golfing, fishing, going for walks, and attending country music concerts. One of her favorite hobbies is traveling; she's traveled to Norway with the Nordic Dancers (her most memorable trip), and she's already planning her next adventure for next summer when she heads to the Grand Tetons! She also shares her musical gifts and talents with others by singing in weddings and playing piano. Currently, she's learning how to play guitar, which she hopes to incorporate into the classroom this year.

Miss Casterton is ready for a school year full of fun, learning, and growth!

We're thrilled to welcome her to Notre Dame and look forward to the many ways she will share her talents and enthusiasm with our school community!

Stewardship of Offering

AUGUST 31, 2025

Total Stewardship Contributions/Offertory Income	
Needed each week:	\$ 10,827.00
Last week's Envelope Contribution Income:	\$ 3,865.00
Last week's ACH Contribution Income:	\$ 5,567.00
Last week's offertory income:	\$ 488.87

Jesus tells the crowd that only those who renounce all of their possessions can be His disciples. Is He truly asking us to give up everything? Perhaps instead He is trying to help us see that everything we think we own is really a gift from God. Good stewards know that and strive to use those gifts accountably.



The Archdiocese of Dubuque has released the first set of potential map options, each map proposes how we could restructure parish clusters into larger pastorates. These changes would affect our parish, including where and how Masses are celebrated.

Three potential options have been developed. No final decisions have been made, and the maps you'll see are still subject to change based on YOUR feedback. We encourage you to take time to review them, reflect on what these changes could mean for you and your family.

These changes are necessary due to the serious challenges currently facing our Archdiocese. We must care for both our priests and parishioners in today's reality. Right now, only 18% of people in our area identify as Catholic, and Mass attendance has dropped by 46% since 2006. Infant baptisms and marriages are also declining in our Archdiocese, while funerals have increased.

At the same time, we have fewer priests available to serve our parishes. There are 160 parishes in our Archdiocese being served by only 85 priests in active ministry. Nearly 30% of those are over the age of 60 and will retire, and many are serving from outside the country.

We are making changes now so that we can continue to serve our faith communities with care, dignity, and sustainability. This plan will help us better support the health and well-being of our priests while ensuring that our parish communities remain vibrant and connected for years to come.

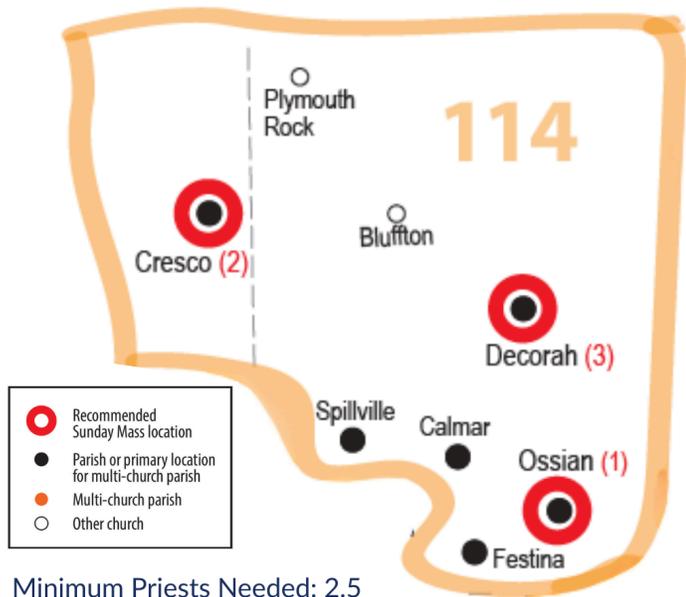
We recognize this process will be difficult, and we ask that all of us approach this with compassion for our fellow parishes and parishioners. These changes may benefit some and present challenges for others—but it is important that, as a faith community, we support one another and listen with open hearts.

When you're ready, we have outlined the next steps to ensure your feedback is directed to the appropriate place. Archbishop Zinkula is seeking your input and wants to understand how these proposals may impact parishioners directly.

Thank you for taking the time to review the Pastorate options and for being part of this important process.

— Notre Dame Parish Staff

Model A

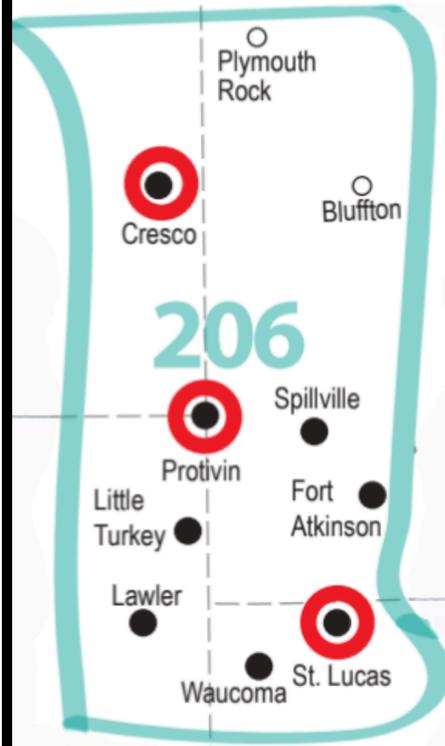


- Recommended Sunday Mass location
- Parish or primary location for multi-church parish
- Multi-church parish
- Other church

Minimum Priests Needed: 2.5
 Number of Parishioners: 6,262
 Weekly Attendance: 1,698
 Total Capacity: 2,552
 Capacity Utilized: 67%



Model B

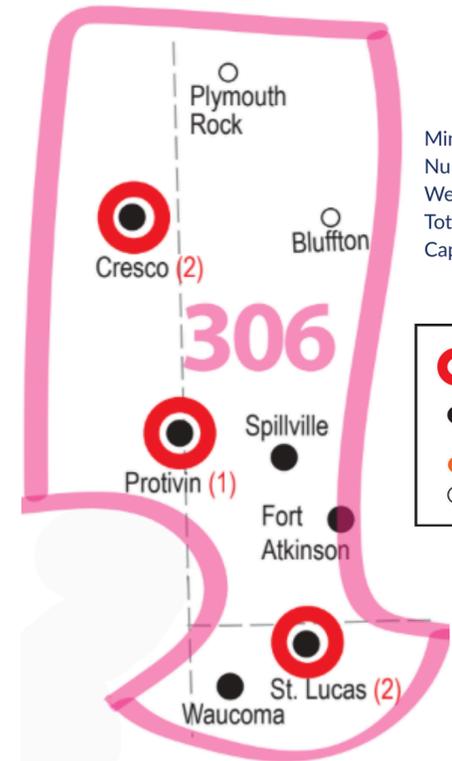


Minimum Priests Needed: 2
 Number of Parishioners: 4,639
 Weekly Attendance: 1,368
 Total Capacity: 2,448
 Capacity Utilized: 56%

- Recommended Sunday Mass location
- Parish or primary location for multi-church parish
- Multi-church parish
- Other church



Model C



Minimum Priests Needed: 2
 Number of Parishioners: 4,093
 Weekly Attendance: 1,104
 Total Capacity: 2,067
 Capacity Utilized: 53%

- Recommended Sunday Mass location
- Parish or primary location for multi-church parish
- Multi-church parish
- Other church



Next

// September //

Register to attend an information session led by the Archdiocese about the proposed maps. Contact the parish office if you need assistance in registering.

// October & November //

Attend a parish-specific meeting at Notre Dame. These will be led by your parish Journey in Faith team to discuss and offer feedback.

// Anytime //

Visit with a Journey in Faith team member at your parish to learn more. Your team members are: Don & Kris Dietzenbach, Curtis Head, Jessica Johnson, Father Jacob, & Melanie Vobr

Share your feedback directly with the Archdiocese team forming these new Pastorates

View full maps, data, and details on the *Journey in Faith* website under *Pastorate Models*.



Notre Dame
Catholic Parish



BACK TO SCHOOL RETREAT

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH
9:30 AM-3:00 PM
NOTRE DAME PARISH HALL

TAKE A BREAK WITH JESUS TO START THE
SCHOOL YEAR STRONG!



OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS IN
GRADE 6-12

RSVP ONLINE TODAY:!!





MOTHER/SON MASQUERADE BALL

Saturday, September 13th in the Notre Dame Parish Hall
(Church Basement) from 5:00-7:00 PM

All mothers (mother figures) and sons ages 0-12 are invited to join us for an evening of mystery and excitement at our Masquerade Ball! This event feature music, food, activities, and more!

Child mask decorating kit included!!

Please RSVP on our Parish Website





KITCHEN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

2-3 days per week from 8-9:30 a.m. doing the dishes and washing tables

Get Started

Call 563-547-3565, ext 3 or email m.jones@dbqarch.org



This Week at Notre Dame

Card Party will meet on Monday, September 8th at 2:00 p.m. in the parish hall. All are welcome to attend.

Catholic School Board will meet on Wednesday, September 10th at 7:00 p.m. in the parish office.

SCRIP gift cards will NOT be sold in the back of church this weekend due to the lack of ESA funds coming in. They are hoping to sell them next weekend pending funds available.

Reverse Collection will be held next weekend. Please take a tag and bring back the item on the tag for the food pantry.

Parish Office Hours Changing to 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday. On Thursday's the staff will attend the school Mass together from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

TABLE OF PLENTY

Bring extra garden produce to the church entrance Saturdays after 3 p.m. through Sunday at 10 a.m. Produce left after 10:00 Mass will be donated to the food pantry. Feel free to take produce and leave a donation, which also goes to the food pantry.

Our Lady (Notre Dame) is asking each of us to pray the rosary every day. The rosary is so powerful and carries with it so many graces. Continue to tally the number of rosaries prayed on any piece of paper and drop it into the collection basket as part of your offering. Monthly totals will be published in the bulletin.

Rosaries prayed in August: 243.



Connie's Garden

We would like to express our gratitude to Tom Frana, the Gehling families, Pinters landscaping and all the wonderful parishioners that gave monetary donations towards Connie's garden. A huge thank to all of the volunteers that cleared the space on Saturday morning. Your time and talents are greatly appreciated. Connie's memory will live on through this special garden.



Congratulations to those Baptized in the month of August:

Callan Hart Langreck
CHILD OF
PATRICK & SAMANTHA LANGRECK

Corbin Donald & Owen Gregory Sajdak
CHILDREN OF
BRANDON & KIRSTEN SAJDAK

In the Community

Chester Lime Springs Community Club Breakfast will be held on Sunday, September 14th, at the Chester Community Center from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Free-will donation. Serving egg bake, scrambled eggs, pancakes, sausage, muffins, and beverages. All proceeds go to upkeep of community center.

VFW Breakfast will be held at the VFW Hall every 3rd Sunday from September - May. Menu includes: regular, blueberry, & chocolate chip pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, & beverage. Serving from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Free-will donation. Sponsored by VFW Post and Auxiliary 4561. Upcoming dates include: September 14th, October 19th, November 16th, and December 21st.

Czech Heritage Partnership invites you to a wonderful **piano concert with Czech pianist, Tomas Visek**. He has won several awards including his latest -1st prize at the prestigious "World's Best Musicians Competition". He will be performing pieces from Antonin Dvorak (1841-1904) on Friday October 10th, 2025 at 6pm at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Spillville, IA. This is a free-will donation event.

Veterans Banquet will be held on Saturday, November 8th at McAllister's Heritage Event Center. Social will begin at 5:00 p.m. Meal will begin at 6:00 p.m. Program begins at 7:00 p.m. This year's keynote speaker is Dee Hosek. There will be a quilt raffle for a beautiful quilt crafted by Coleen Cauwels for \$5 a ticket. You must be present to win. The banquet is open to the public. There will also be a free meal to veterans on November 5th from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Heritage Event Center.

Women of the Decorah Deanery, There are many good things happening within the Archdiocese of Dubuque for women. Please use the QR code to access the Fall edition of *THE LINK* for important information on:

- Journey In Faith from the Archdiocese,
- ACCW Annual Meeting (September 27th),
- Beauty in Christ Women's Conference (January 31st) and
- Eucharistic Pilgrimage



September 14th - Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, AMEN!

SIGN OF THE CROSS

The cross symbolizes Jesus' sacrificial love for us on calvary. We invoke the presence and power of God

Like at the passover, we are protected by the blood of the true lamb

Tahv means "mark", it is a mark that distinguishes

Through the words, we consecrate our thoughts, desires, prayers & actions

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