



November 16, 2025
Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Malachi 3:19-20a; 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12; Luke 21:5-19

*“Stand erect and raise your heads
because your redemption is at hand.”*

As we near the end of another liturgical year, the scriptures stir our imagination to ponder the end times for the entire world. What will it be like? Perhaps some encounter the Journey in Faith as “the end times,” as our parishes are realigned and some of our churches are no longer utilized for Sunday Mass.

In the gospel for today, Jesus remarks that a day will come when the Temple would no longer have a stone upon another stone. They all would be thrown down. That magnificent structure, beautifully decorated, that served as the locus for Hebrew worship, would be demolished and destroyed.

We may wonder about the future of our churches, especially if they won't be used for Sunday worship. Will we still pray there? Will we continue to utilize other facilities at our parish, such as a hall, rectory, or former school?

The Journey in Faith process stirs us to consider how our structures could still help to facilitate evangelization through formation events, prayer, and devotions. Every parish must consider how its buildings foster prayer, worship, charity and lifelong learning. Malachi promises that even in the midst of destruction among evildoers, those who remain faithful and revere God will enjoy the healing rays of the sun of justice. Although life holds uncertainty, our continued effort can lead to a powerful demonstration of faith.

Next Week's Readings:

2 Samuel 5:1-3; Colossians 1:12-20; Luke 23:35-43

PARISH OFFICE

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

Phone: 563.547.3565

Fax: 563.547.3835

Website: notredamecresco.com

Parish Staff

Father Jacob Rouse, Pastor
dbqrouse@dbqarch.org
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LeRoy Webb, Pastoral Minister

Katie Schmitt, School
Principal

563.547.4513

School Website:

www.tinyurl.com/ndcschool

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, November 17 | No Mass
+Pray for Vocations to Religious Life

Tuesday, November 18 | Mass
5:15 p.m. +Bud and Mary Ann Billmyer
Sacristan: Duane Heit

Wednesday, November 19 | Mass
8:00 a.m. +Larry and Kay Barnes; Kelly Barnes
Sacristan: Roger & Elaine Kleve
Music: Jed Becker

Thursday, November 20 | Mass
9:00 a.m. +Dan Courtney
Sacristan: Sherry Sherfy
1:00 p.m. Accura Mass
+Gene Myers

Friday, November 21 | Mass
8:00 a.m. +John, Adolph Jr., Jay, Jim, and Janet Hayek
Sacristan: Donna Ryant

Saturday, November 22 | Mass
4:00 p.m. +Lynn and Dolores Schwade
EMHCs: Becky McGee; Duane Heit; Angie Kappes
Lectors: Brian McGee
Servers: Axton Langreck
Music: Harlan Larson; Mary Larson
Greeters: Bryan & Denise Sheehy; Barb Prochaska
Hosts: Gretchen Laub; Carver Munkel
Ushers: Gretchen Laub; Carver Munkel; Brian McGee; Bryan Sheehy
Sacristan: Brian McGee

Sunday, November 23 | Mass
8:00 a.m. +Adolph and Mary Jirak
EMHCs: Emily Dohlman-Govern; Julie Haskovec; Patti Guyer
Lectors: Carol Foley; Emily Dohlman-Govern
Servers: Claire, James, & Cora Kach
Music: Dee Hosek & Polly Jones
Greeters: Tom & Steph Feldman Family; Chuck & Sanna Feldman
Hosts: Tom & Steph Feldman Family
Ushers: Marvin Lensing; Dave, Robin, & Cody Sobolik
Sacristan: Marvin Lensing

Sunday, November 23 | Mass
10:00 a.m. +Michaeleen and Darrell Riehle
EMHCs: Jed & Joyce Becker; Sue Runyan
Lectors: Jed Becker; Sue Runyan
Servers: Laney Lickteig; Raelynn Rissman
Music: Jaclyn Jirak-Wright; Polly Jones
Greeters: Ken & Nita Hackman
Hosts: Ken & Nita Hackman
Ushers: Brian McConnell; Richard McConnell; Sue Sovereign; Kathy McCarville
Sacristan: Jerry & Barb O'Donnell



Missalettes: Leonard & Cecilia Kapler
Candle: Deanne Webb
Bread: Deanne Webb
Wine: Deanne Webb

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	DIANE KOVARIK	BRENT NEWMAN	WAYNE SCRABECK
CLARE STEJSKAL	MARY STEVENSON	MALISSA KAPPES	ED KOVARIK
STU GORDON	DAVE BOELMAN	MARK TIESKOTTER	RICK SCHOLBROCK
JIM MURPHY	MARIA LARSON	SARAH FRANKLIN	KYLE SLIFKA
BEV BINA	MARY GANSEN	BILL SINDELAR	BETTY WENTHOLD
SHARON BOYD	AUDREY HYKE	DEB WILKINS	HEATHER KANIK

Our family members who are on

Active-Duty

(or a current National Guard member)

we would like to highlight them during the month of November. Please send their information and picture to notredamecresco@dbqarch.org. Thank you!



Staff Sergeant Stephen Murphy is a fuel systems technician in the U.S. Air Force. He has served for 18 years, been deployed multiple times and has literally seen the world. During this time, he has worked on cargo jets and fighter jets in the Middle East, Germany, Spain, Africa and the United States. Stephen currently works on F-16 fighter jets in South Carolina. He is the son of Jim and Sheila Murphy.

Heavenly Father, we lift up our U.S. veterans, active-duty service members, and their families. We ask for Your protection, strength, and guidance for those currently serving, and for peace, healing, and comfort for veterans and those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. We also pray for their families, asking for Your blessings upon them as they support their loved ones and for comfort in their sacrifices and worries. Amen.

Stewardship of Offering

NOVEMBER 9, 2025

Total Stewardship Contributions/Offertory Income	
Needed each week:	\$ 10,837.00
Last week's Envelope Contribution Income:	\$ 14,460.00
Last week's ACH Contribution Income:	\$ 825.00
Last week's offertory income:	\$ 505.00

Today's readings paint a somewhat frightening picture of the end of time. But the Gospel ends with the assurance to faithful stewards that those who persevere will be saved.

Crestwood Winter League Softball Sunday Brunch Fundraiser Sunday, November 16, 2025 10:00-1:00 @ McAllisters



Age 3-5: \$7
Age 6-10: \$10
Age 11 & up: \$20
Carry Outs available

Menu:

Egg Bake, Biscuits and Gravy, Waffles, Sausage links, Ham, Hashbrowns, Fried Chicken, Meatballs, Salads and Desserts

Proceeds go towards off-season Winter League Dome Play

November 25 - 2:00pm

Thanksgiving Prayer Service

Kindergarten Classes will lead this prayer service in the church. Assisting Kindergarten will be students in 1st-5th Grade. Non-perishable food items will be collected.

Advent Retreat for Women

Join us for Adoration, retreat talk by Deacon Jim Zajicek, Benediction and Q&A time. Followed by cookies and fellowship!

My Duties to Family Members Not Practicing the Faith

Saturday, November 22, 2025

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
St. Mary's Catholic Church
311 Seventh Street
McGregor, Iowa

Notre Dame Catholic Parish

Mother Daughter TEA PARTY

SUN. NOV. 23
2:00-4:00 PM

All mothers (mother figures) and daughters ages 0-12 are invited to join us for an afternoon of tea, snacks, and activities, including ceramic cup decorating, cookie decorating, and more! All are welcome and free will donations encouraged! This is a come and go event and you need not be present for the entire event!

Everyone Welcome!

Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service

Sunday, November 23rd ~ 7:00 p.m.
Notre Dame Parish, 223 2nd Ave. East, Cresco, IA

Thank you to all who helped clean the church!



This Week at Notre Dame

Knights of Columbus Council #1571 will meet on Tuesday, November 18th, at 7:00 p.m. in the KC Room in the Church.

Bible Study on the upcoming weekend Mass readings will be held this Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. in the Joseph Room of the Parish Office. All are welcome to attend.

Mass Intentions can no longer be scheduled at this time. We will begin moving Mass intentions previously scheduled after July 1st to the current open daily Mass times.

CORNERSTONE

Wee Families

TINY LITTLE FAITH ENCOUNTERS

Short and sweet faith formation for young families. Ideal for children ages 1-5.

Get to know your Church, your parish, and your faith better, one wee step at a time.

We help *you* lead your children in faith.
m.vobr@dbqarch.org

November 16th in the Church
4:30-5:00PM
MINI LESSON 4:30-4:45PM
MILK & COOKIES 4:45-5:00PM
Mini Lesson: God's Storybook!

INTO THE DEEP

A special series for those that want to ask the tough questions and discover the deep waters of the month's theme.

THIS MONTH'S TOPIC:
WHAT IS THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE CHURCH?

NOVEMBER 16TH • 7 - 8 PM
NOTRE DAME CHURCH
MEET BY THE TABERNACLE

Save the Date

Supper with SANTA

Dec. 5th from 5:30-7:30PM in the Parish Hall

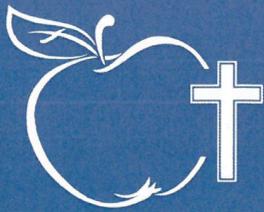
In the Community

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: November 16th and December 21st.

Assumption Parish Fall Card Party will be held on Sunday, November 16th at 1:30 at the Assumption (Little Turkey) church basement. You can play your choice of 500 or Euchre. \$5 admission includes a lunch at the end. There will also be a raffle.

Swiss Steak Dinner will be held at the Cresco United Methodist Church (310 N Elm) on Monday, Nov. 24, from 3:30-6:30 p.m. (or until the food is gone). All tickets are \$16. Menu includes: swiss steak, potatoes & gravy, corn, coleslaw, roll, butter, and the choice of apple, cherry, or pumpkin pie. Curbside pickup only. You can purchase tickets at CUSB or Cresco Bank & Trust, by calling Melodee Balk (563-547-3314), or coming through the line on the night of the dinner.

Fish Fry & Chicken Feast will be held at McAllister's in Cresco (lower level) on December 5th sponsored by Protivin Legion Post 605. Serving from 4-7:30 p.m. Dine in or carry out. Salad and dessert bar. \$20 per person. Auxiliary bake sale at same time. Proceeds to benefit many many legion functions and donations.



NOTRE DAME NEWS

FAITH ~ FAMILY ~ EXCELLENCE

Fall 2025



Second grade visits The Shrine of the Grotto of the Redemption

A Note From the Principal's Desk

Welcome to the 2025-2026 School Year!

At Notre Dame Catholic School, our vision is **"To develop and provide faith-based education built on faith, family, and excellence."** These three pillars guide and inspire us each day. Thank you for entrusting us with your child(ren) – it is a responsibility and blessing we hold dearly.

Every day, our dedicated staff strives to model our faith, work together as a family, and maintain high expectations so each student can grow to their fullest potential.

We are excited to share that Notre Dame's enrollment has grown! This year, we are blessed to have:

- **18 students** in our 3-year-old playgroup
- **27 students** in preschool
- **126 students** in kindergarten through 5th grade

That's a total of **171 students** from playgroup through 5th grade! In grades K-5 alone, we've grown from 105 students last year to 126 this year, welcoming 31 kindergarteners.

As we move further into the school year, our attention turns to fundraising efforts. While we are thankful for Educational Savings Accounts (ESA), fundraising remains a vital part of maintaining the financial health of Notre Dame Catholic School. Our Annual Alumni Campaign will kick off right before Thanksgiving, followed by our online auction and drive thru Lasagna Supper – a beloved community tradition and the official start to Catholic Schools Week. Funds raised from these events help us sustain a full and talented staff and make ongoing improvements to our reading curriculum.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions, concerns, or compliments. I look forward to working together to make this a wonderful year for our students and families.

Take care and God bless!



Katie Schmitt

Principal
Notre Dame Catholic School
kschmitt@nd.pvt.k12.ia.us

Welcome!

Help us welcome our newest Notre Dame staff members



Miss Audrey Casterton
1st Grade



Miss Macy Manning
3rd - 5th Grade
Grammar,
Guidance,
& Intervention

171

of students enrolled for the '25-'26 school year

First Grade

Mrs. Toale and Miss Casterton

This fall first graders have been growing smiles and smarts. Highlights of our quarter include raising monarch caterpillars and releasing butterflies, a trip to Pinter's Gardens and Pumpkins, learning about fire safety, and dancing to a Scholastic News article. We can't wait for next quarter's adventures and learning!



We are building
God's kingdom,
one student
at a time!



LEFT: Mrs. Hron's class leading our Grandparent's Day Mass celebration

Music

Mrs. Ringoen

Preschool through fifth grade students keep the music room a very busy place!

Preschool students met Mrs. Ringoen's sidekick Chickadee and have been exploring musical opposites like loud and quiet!

Kindergarten students, along with our special guest Speckles the frog, played the cup game to practice different ways we use our voices: speaking, whispering, shouting, and singing. Understanding the differences between how it feels and sounds to use these voices will help us to develop our best singing voices throughout the rest of the school year.

First grade musicians deepened their understanding of high and low sounds with Do and Sol.

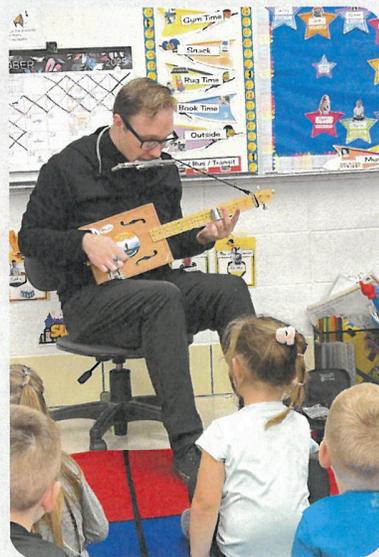
Second graders fed our friendly music-eating monster, Mellie, some tasty written melody snacks using Do, Mi, and Sol in our Feed the Monster game.

Third and fourth grade students used the book When Step Met Skip and lots of movement to practice reading, hearing, and singing repeated notes, steps, skips, and leaps.

Fifth grade students have been exploring dynamics through some instrument playing and a variety of movement games.

Preschool

Mrs. Haskovec



Preschool children have been busy playing, creating art projects and learning about fall activities and holidays. During these activities they have been learning how to be a "super friend" by being kind and using gentle hands. The highlight of this quarter has been the fire truck visiting us, learning about corn, and carving pumpkins!





1

Second Grade

Mrs. Slifka

- 1 The second grade students attended The Shrine of the Grotto of the Redemption in West Bend, Iowa to discover the beauty and learn the story of Jesus' redemption through silent stones.
- 2 Our visit to the Cresco Fire Station helped us appreciate the importance of safety and the gift of our volunteer firefighters.
- 3 Angela Bries, conservationist of Prairie Edge Nature Center, "flew" into our classroom to expand our knowledge of the nine types of bats found in Iowa.
- 4 Our math and literacy centers allow us to work individually and in groups on technology, sentence writing, reading with expression, and acting out math equations with our bodies.



3



2



4



Measuring an apple peel that was 88 inches long!

Kindergarten

Mrs. Daley and Mrs. Smith

Kindergarten students have been learning about apples and pumpkins during the fall season. We also had a teddy bear picnic to share a snack with friends. We enjoyed seeing the fire truck for fire safety week. They have really enjoyed getting to meet the Superkids in our literacy program.



Physical Education

Mrs. Schuster

In grades K-2, students have practiced overhand throwing, underhand tossing, foot dribbling, hand dribbling, floor hockey skills, fitness, as well as cooperative games! We continue to work on locomotor movements throughout each unit. Locomotor movements include skipping, galloping, sliding, jumping, walking, and hopping.



In grades 3-5, students have gone through a football unit to practice their throwing skills, a soccer unit to practice their foot dribbling (we even played scooter soccer), and a basketball unit to practice their hand dribbling. New this year, students participated in a floor hockey unit - so fun! During all of these small-sided games, students have been working on finding open space and teamwork. Students have also played cooperative games and fitness games!

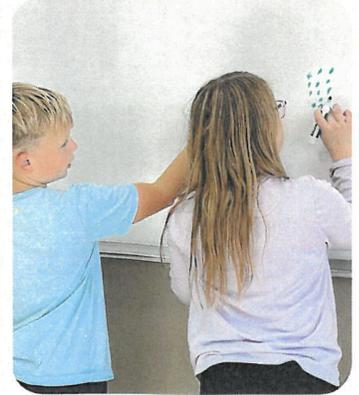


Third Grade

Mrs. Balk

Third grade students were quick to learn the routines of third grade! This is the first year they get to rotate to four other classrooms. They have enjoyed reviewing math skills and demonstrating learning of new skills by solving math problems on the board in small groups. Multiplication has been the main focus in math. The students have completed a dinosaur report. This project was worked on in science and writing. They were able to select a dinosaur; they then researched their dinosaur and wrote a report.

Third grade went on two field trips during the first quarter. One trip was to The Shrine of the Grotto of the Redemption in West Bend, the other was to the City Park in West Union. We also supported Mrs. Slifka's son as he received his fifth round of chemotherapy. Everyone at Notre Dame was given a green bracelet and we all wore them to show our support.



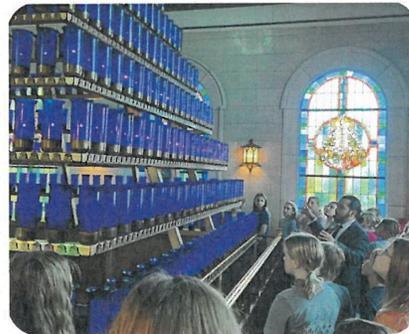
Religion / Faith Formation

Mr. McGee



Robotics Club

Fourth and fifth grade students have the opportunity to join Robotics Club, an after-school program that Mrs. Haskovec hosts twice a month. Participants can explore LEGO EV3 and Spike Essential kits, 3D pens, OSMO programming, BeeBots, and Cubelets!



We have gone on some exciting and faith filled adventures during our first quarter Religion classes! Students have explored the key heroes and events of Salvation History in the Bible, studied the Catechism of the Catholic Church and Nicene Creed, and studied about our friends the Saints, especially Mary the Queen of all Saints. Students also explored the St. Carlo Acutis Eucharistic Miracles exhibit hosted at the parish, participated in our first Saint Family Activity honoring St. Pier Giorgio Frassati, and our first grade students enjoyed an in-depth church tour, including an opportunity to play the organ!



We moved our adventures off campus with second and third grade students visiting the Shrine of the Grotto of Redemption in West Bend, IA and the fourth and fifth grade students took a special pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in LaCrosse, WI. Mr. Smith's 4th grade students also participated in a special time capsule activity with our friends at the Memory Care Unit at Evans Senior Living Community.

Although we've had a number of adventures already, it's important to remember... we're just getting started!



Playgroup

Mrs. Beran

Playgroup students have had a great start to the school year. We focused on Fruit & Friendship in September, Transportation & Patience in October and have just started our Joys of Fall & Thankfulness theme for November.

The children enjoy daily creative play time, art, music & movement, books and gym time, plus so much more. We pack our days with fun and learning! Two highlights in October were Red Day (which was also the day the fire truck visited) and Black & Orange Day (in lieu of Halloween costumes).

Fourth Grade

Mr. Smith & Mrs. Willey

Fourth grade went on a religion pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine in LaCrosse with Mr. McGee. It was a beautiful day to be outside and the grounds are very peaceful and lovely. We enjoyed a fun team building day at the park in West Union. A big thank you to Dairy Queen of West Union for the blizzard treats! We had *Water Rocks*, from Iowa State University, come in and teach us about pollinators.



Field Trip Fun

Fourth and Fifth Grade pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine in LaCrosse, WI

Fifth Grade

Mrs. Hron & Miss Manning

Fifth grade students have had an exciting school year filled with memorable field trips and special activities! They visited the Norman Borlaug Farm, participated in Farm Safety Day, and enjoyed a fun day in West Union with park time and ice cream.

As part of a character-building activity, students each chose a "word of the school year" to help improve an area of their life, then made bracelets and wrote about their word choice. One of the most memorable days so far was Johnny Appleseed Day, where everyone brought in a different apple-flavored treat. The afternoon was filled with fun and delicious taste-testing as students shared and enjoyed each other's snacks!



Thank You!

The Archdiocese of Dubuque's Office of Catholic Schools recognizes outstanding achievement in Catholicity, Academics, and Operational Vitality through its **Spirit of VISION Award**. Notre Dame Catholic School recently received the award for Catholicity, recognizing our commitment to offering a Christ-centered, faith-filled education.

THANK YOU to our students, staff, families, and parish community for your essential role in this accomplishment - God bless you all!

Library

Mrs. Beran

All classes grades K-5 look forward to starting our class time each week with a riddle or question of the day. Then, Mrs. Beran reads a book aloud. Sometimes we also have "Book Talks" where Mrs. Beran shares about various books she finds interesting in our library. Students also have the opportunity to check out up to two books each week. Several have been exploring new books or genres they've never read before!

We recently held our "Candy Land: Reading is Sweet!" Scholastic Book Fair! Because of everyone's generous support, we're excited to add more quality books to our library soon!

Important Events

Now-December 31
RaiseRight
Holiday Giveaway

December 11
K-5 Christmas Concert

December 16
Preschool
Christmas Program

January 15-22
Online Auction

January 23
Lasagna Dinner

January 25-31
Catholic Schools Week

No School

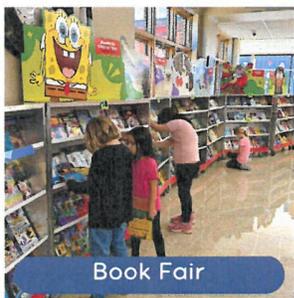
November 26-28
December 19 - January 2
January 19



Shop with RaiseRight

The holiday season is a great time to buy RaiseRight gift cards! Purchase for gift giving, upcoming shopping deals, or holiday hosting essentials. Plus, for every \$100 purchased in RaiseRight gift cards through December 31, receive an entry to win a \$100 local gift card bundle!

Visit tinyurl.com/ndcscraiserright for more information.

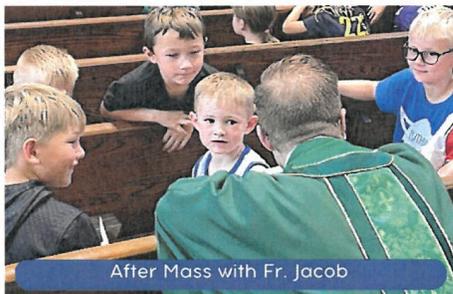


Book Fair



Butterfly Release

All Around Notre Dame!



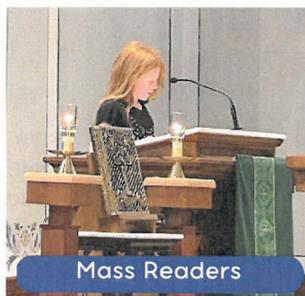
After Mass with Fr. Jacob



Packing Meals for Children in Africa



Playgroup Fun



Mass Readers



Grandparent's Day



Our Mission

Notre Dame Catholic School is an accredited, faith-based environment for students in playgroup through fifth grade. We provide a nurturing academic environment supporting students to meet their full spiritual and academic potential. Christian values, religious instruction, service learning, and faith experiences help to shape students and pave the way for them to be future leaders of our community.



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