

December 28, 2025

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Colossians 3:12-21; Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

*“Let the peace of Christ control your hearts;
Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.”*

As we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, the gospel reminds us that family life is never easy. Even the Lord’s family had to endure hardship and exile at the onset. Because of the fear and wrath of Herod, the Holy Family was forced to make an arduous journey to Egypt. For months and probably years they were separated from familiar people and places.

Eventually, they did return to Nazareth. What was it like? How had things changed? Were they missed? Hopefully the ties, especially among their family members, remained strong. One of the marks of a “holy” family would be firm resilience. Confidence that even though circumstances may have shifted, love remains constant.

Who has been missing from your Sunday assembly at Mass? Have you reached out to this person or family? When you encounter fellow parishioners at worship or parish activities who may have been away for a while, what do you say? How do you offer welcome and hospitality? At times we can presume that people who have drifted from parish life are lazy or angry. We grow to be judgmental. But perhaps, like the Holy Family, there has been a hardship or they have had to carry out their relationship with God at another place for various reasons. Members of holy families are resilient in their commitment to one another. By God’s grace, may we be found as such.

Next Week’s Readings:

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

PARISH OFFICE

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Monday-Friday

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Katie Schmitt, School
Principal

563.547.4513

School Website:

www.tinyurl.com/ndcschool

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, December 29 | No Mass

+Pray for Holy Marriages

Tuesday, December 30 | Mass

5:15 p.m. +Frank McConnell

Sacristan: Duane Heit

Wednesday, December 31 | Mass

8:00 a.m. +Michaelleen and Darrell Riehle

Sacristan: Duane Heit

Thursday, January 1 | Holy Day Mass

9:00 a.m. +Virony Antony & Regina George

EMHCs: Sue Runyan; Jim & Anne Ott

Lectors: Sue Runyan; Brian McGe

Servers: Bella & Bailey Vobr

Music: Melanie Vobr; Polly Jones

Greeters: Galen & Lavon Fye

Hosts: Jim & Anne Ott

Ushers: Brian McGe; Dick Jones; Joe & Julie Haskovec

Sacristan: Carol Stoker; Mindy Jones

Thursday, January 1 | Holy Day Mass

12:05 p.m. +Jack Ferrie

Sacristan: Steve & Terry Duerre

Thursday, January 1 | Holy Day Mass

5:15 p.m. +Bud and Mary Ann Billmyer

EMHCs: Boyd Turnbull; Jodi Dull; Kris Dietzenbach

Lectors: Boyd Turnbull; Jed Becker

Servers: Liam Moon; Mason Keune

Music: Joe Wach; Polly Jones

Greeters: Joe & Lynn Rose; Rita Shea

Hosts: Bootie Kapler; Barb Prochaska

Ushers: Brad & Jodi Dull; Jed & Joyce Becker

Sacristan: Karen Hyke

Friday, January 2 | Mass

8:00 a.m. +Betty Cleveland

Sacristan: Jerry & Barb O'Donnell

Saturday, January 3 | Mass

4:00 p.m. +For the People

EMHCs: Jim & Anne Ott; Marlene Quinn

Lectors: Karen Hyke

Servers: Lily Godman

Music: Pam Daley; Polly Jones

Greeters: Bryan & Denise Sheehy; Barb Prochaska

Hosts: Barb Prochaska; Barb Huhe

Ushers: Joe & Lynn Rose; Joey Reinhart; Bryan Sheehy

Sacristan: Karen Hyke; Joey Reinhart

Sunday, January 4 | Mass

8:00 a.m. +Kay, Ronald, Leo, and Richard Eckerman

EMHCs: Phil & Kim Walker; Emily Dohlman-Govern

Lectors: Holly Manske; Brooks Manske

Servers: Luther Govern; Lincoln Manske; Max Manske

Music: Darlene Vsetecka; Andrea Klimesh

Greeters: David & Elaine Bergan; Sheila Grabau

Hosts: Dave, Robin, & Cody Sobolik

Ushers: Dave, Robin, & Cody Sobolik; Marvin Lensing

Sacristan: Marvin Lensing

Sunday, January 4 | Mass

10:00 a.m. +Cale Jackson

EMHCs: Patty Elsbernd; Gary & Janel Langreck

Lectors: Gary Langreck; Nita Hackman

Servers: Marian & Claire Elsbernd

Music: Good News Singers

Greeters: Ken & Nita Hackman

Hosts: Chris & Amanda Keller Family

Ushers: Matt & Erin Daley Family; Chris Keller; Jack Keller

Sacristan: Jerry & Wanda Reicks

Missalettes: For the People
Candle: Brian Sovereign
Bread: Brian Sovereign
Wine: Brian Sovereign

Stewardship of Prayer

Please pray for the sick of our parish, including the following and those listed in the Book of Petitions. (Prayer List will be cleared on December 28th. Please contact the office to keep your loved one on the list if needed. Thank you!)

LISA PETER	MATT DUERRE	JERRY SMITH	TONY WICKS
CLARE STEJSKAL	JOYCE KAPLER	BETTE SULLIVAN	TESS SHEEHY
STU GORDON	DIANE KOVARIK	BRENT NEWMAN	WAYNE SCRABECK
HEATHER KANIK	MARY STEVENSON	MALISSA KAPPES	ED KOVARIK
BEV BINA	MARIA LARSON	MARK TIESKOTTER	RICK SCHOLBROCK
SHARON BOYD	MARY GANSEN	SARAH FRANKLIN	KYLE SLIFKA
PATTY ELSBERND	AUDREY HYKE	BILL SINDELAR	BETTY WENTHOLD
BILL DALEY	MICHELLE FUNKE	DEB WILKINS	
DON ZAKOSTELECKY		MADELYN OPPREICHT	

Novena January 3-11th



In the most recent "Go Forth" newsletter from the Archbishop, parishioners were invited to join in praying a Novena from the Feast of the Most Holy Name of Jesus (Jan 3) to the Baptism of the Lord (Jan 11). But what is a Novena?

- Nine days of prayer with a specific intention. It is a structured way to be persistent in prayer and build trust in God's timing.
- Usually involves repeated prayers, scripture, and often praise of Saints or Mary.
- The first novena was the apostles praying for nine days between Jesus' Ascension and Pentecost, waiting for the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:14)
- It is not necessary to pray the novena at the same time every day (although you can).
- Novenas should not be seen as magical incantations that guarantee desired results. God controls the universe and we certainly do not control God. He is a loving Father in Heaven. Even though our intentions may be good, God knows what is best for us, whether we understand his divine intention or not.

The novena for Journey in Faith will be placed as an insert in the bulletin on January 3rd and 4th. We will post it on our social media platforms and have a link on our calendar and website.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Stewardship of Offering

DECEMBER 21, 2025

Total Stewardship Contributions/Offertory Income

Needed each week:	\$ 10,837.00
Last week's Envelope Contribution Income:	\$ 16,620.46
Last week's ACH Contribution Income:	\$ 825.00
Last week's offertory income:	\$ 500.75

Joseph's obedience to God was not a one-time thing. His attention to the angel's warning kept Jesus from being murdered by Herod and led to the fulfillment of the prophecy that the Messiah would be a Nazorean. Fidelity to God's will assures the best use of my talents, too!



Drive Through Living Nativity Help Wanted!

Notre Dame Parish and Immanuel Lutheran Church will be hosting a "Drive Through" Living Nativity on Sunday, January 4th at Notre Dame Parish.

We need volunteers to help provide the following:

- Set up-meet at the Notre Dame Parking Lot at Noon on Sunday, January 4th
- Cast of characters: all adults and children interested in being part of the Living Nativity as the Holy Family, Wise Men, Shepherds, Soldiers, Angels, etc. are welcome to join! Costumes provided!
- Donations of baked goods and hot cocoa-any/all donations of baked goods and hot cocoa for our cast are appreciated!
- Clean-up crew-7:00 PM on Sunday January 4th and the morning of Monday, January 5th.

For more information or to get involved, contact Brian McGee at the Parish Office or at b.mcgee@dbqarch.org.

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Sign up for this *Financial Peace University* class today!

Ever feel like no matter what you do, you can't get ahead with money? You're not alone. You'd be surprised how many people you know are struggling just like you. But it's time to make a change! Join our Financial Peace University class at 6:00 p.m. starting on January 14th and learn to pay off debt, save money, and build lasting wealth. Each household pays \$79 to attend. The registration cost includes a hardcopy workbook, access to Ramsey+ for an entire year, and the classes that are weekly from January 14-March 11th.

QR Code





ADULT WINTER

Dance

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17TH

5:00-10:00 PM

HERITAGE EVENT CENTER

229 3RD AVE. W CRESCO, IA 52136

**TICKETS: \$25 PER PERSON (INCLUDES A CATERED MEAL FROM
MCALLISTER'S) AVAILABLE IN THE PARISH OFFICE AND ONLINE:**



2026 Women's conference



Grace for the JOURNEY

Saturday
JANUARY 31

LIVESTREAM starts at 9:00 am
-1:30 pm

Speakers



Kitty Cleveland



Kelsey Kaiser

Join us for the 2026
Women's Conference

*Beauty in Christ:
Grace for the Journey!*

Gather with other faith-filled women
at Notre Dame, or participate
virtually from your own home! Be
inspired to know that His grace is
enough!

Registration is \$20 which includes
access to recordings, breakfast,
lunch, and door prizes!



For more information: www.notredamecresco.com/womens-conference

TAKE NOTE:



Christmas Flowers

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

Budget Boxes and Calendars

2026 Budget Boxes and Calendars are available in the Church. If you participate in ACH, Gifts of Grain or Gifts from your IRA, you do not have a budget box.



Drive Through Living Nativity will be held on Sun., Jan. 4th, from 5-7:30 p.m. in the Notre Dame parish parking lot with real people and real animals! Sponsored by Notre Dame and Immanuel Lutheran.

This Week at Notre Dame

Bible Study will meet on TUES. Dec. 30th, at 8:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Office to go over the upcoming weekend's readings. All are welcome to attend either session.

Sacred Conversations will meet at 9:30 a.m. in the Joseph Room and 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Please note change in times.

Learn to Make Rosaries has been rescheduled to January 12th and will still be from 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. At this come-and-go event, you will learn how to make a rosary in a one-on-one learning environment. All supplies will be provided. No cost to attend.



THANK YOU!

Thank you to those who have donated! We have received a \$15,000 Howard County Foundation Grant, a \$4,000 memorial from Judy Bohr, and many parishioners donations!



PROJECT INCLUDES:

- Locking doors for our parish hall (school lunchroom)
- Security cameras
- 24/7 Monitoring
- Remote Access
- System Maintenance

We are still accepting monetary donations towards this "Safe and Secure Space" project for incurring monthly expenses.

LOST SOMETHING?

WE CAN HELP YOU FIND IT!

Did you lose an item at Mass recently? Did you accidentally leave something behind after Mass? Did you know we have two 'lost and found' places in the Church? This is your reminder to check them out to see if your lost item is there.

➤ Brochure Stand

Some small items get left on the Brochure Stand in the gathering space.

➤ Elevator Lobby

Other items are placed on the shelf on top of the table at the bottom of the stairs to the elevator entrance.



PLANNING AHEAD:

SURPRISE WINTER FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT!

All families are invited to join us for a Surprise Winter Movie Night!

Tuesday, December 30th from 6:30-8:30 PM
Notre Dame Parish Hall (Church Basement)

Snacks, drinks, and children's activities available!

Everyone is welcome!!

Free Will donations appreciated

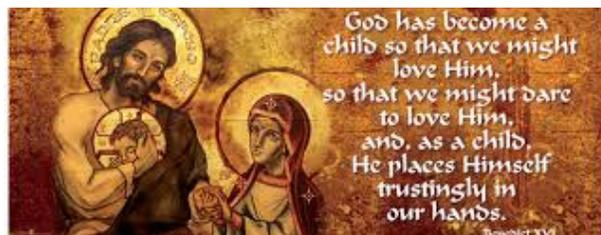


Our Sympathy

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the souls of Bill Daley and Ken Meehan. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

In the Community

Married Couples Register for the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend - it's the best gift you'll ever give to each other and your marriage! For more information contact Denise and Greg at 563-920-9419 or visit wwme.org. Upcoming Dates: February 13-15 in Dubuque, April 10-12 in Marshalltown, October 9-11 in Epworth.



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