

January 11, 2026 ***The Baptism of the Lord***

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7; Acts 10:34-38; Matthew 3:13-17

*“The heavens were opened and the voice of the Father thundered:
This is my beloved Son, listen to him.”*

As we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, today’s feast also is an apt time to consider our own baptismal call. Each person is uniquely gifted by God with particular gifts to contribute to the building up of God’s kingdom.

And each person has the free will to choose: will these gifts truly be used for God’s glory? A clever wit can bring forth the joy of laughter or the sting of a sarcastic remark. We can build bridges or burn them. Always, we get to choose. These choices matter, and particularly when we don’t understand the “why” of life events, such as contemplating a change to parish life. At these times, it becomes important to engage in consistent and intentional prayer, where we can know ourselves as God’s beloved child, in whom He is well pleased. May we be able to see this in ourselves and in each person we encounter.

In remembering Jesus stepping into the waters of the Jordan, we are reminded that baptism is not only a moment from the past, but a living identity that shapes how we move through the world today. Baptism calls us to listen for God’s voice amid uncertainty, to trust that the Spirit who descended upon Jesus is also at work in us, guiding our decisions and strengthening our resolve. When change feels unsettling or the path forward unclear, our baptism anchors us in hope, reminding us that we do not walk alone. Rooted in this grace, we are empowered to respond with humility, charity, and courage, allowing God to work through our gifts for the good of the whole community.

Next Week’s Readings:

Isaiah 49:3, 5-6; 1 Corinthians 1:1-3; John 1:29-34

PARISH OFFICE

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9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Monday-Friday

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School Website:

www.tinyurl.com/ndcschool

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, January 12 | No Mass
+Pray for Vocations to Religious Life

Tuesday, January 13 | Mass
5:15 p.m. +Mary Jane Hudson
Sacristan: Terry Duerre

Wednesday, January 14 | Mass
8:00 a.m. +Pamela Becker
Sacristan: Roger & Elaine Kleve
Music: Jed Becker

Thursday, January 15 | Mass
9:00 a.m. +Donald Sebastian
Sacristan: Sherry Sherfy
1:00 p.m. Mass at Accura
+Tom McGee

Friday, January 16 | Mass
8:00 a.m. +Raymond, Frances, and Michael
Langham
Sacristan: Donna Ryant

Saturday, January 17 | Mass
4:00 p.m. +Paul Svestka Jr.
EMHCs: Angie Kappes; Brian McGee; Alanda Meyer
Lectors: Brian McGee
Servers: Sam & Jameson Meyer
Music: Pam Daley; Darlene Vsetecka
Greeters: Pat Korsmo; Lois Ollendieck
Hosts: Jim & Anne Ott
Ushers: Joe & Lynn Rose; Ray Schwarzhoff; Bryan Sheehy
Sacristan: Carol Stoker; Mindy Jones

Sunday, January 18 | Mass
8:00 a.m. +Nestor and Dolly Reicks
EMHCs: Phil & Kim Walker; Patti Guyer
Lectors: Roger Kleve; Jim Truka
Servers: Oakley Vobr; Raelynn Fortney
Music: Darlene Vsetecka; Andrea Klimesh
Greeters: Mike & Rachel Gooder; Terry Eckerman
Hosts: Mike & Rachel Gooder
Ushers: Jordan Guyer; Chris & Atley Bina; Tony Roberts
Sacristan: Boyd Turnbull

Sunday, January 18 | Mass
10:00 a.m. +For the People
EMHCs: Jodi Dull; Jerry O'Donnell; Tracy Hart
Lectors: Tracy Hart; Jerry O'Donnell
Servers: Ellie Sajdak; Laney Lickteig
Music: Good News Singers
Greeters: Aby George & Mary Juliet Nirakassery
Antony Family
Hosts: Brad & Jodi Dull
Ushers: Matt & Erin Daley Family; Brad & Jodi Dull
Sacristan: Jerry & Barb O'Donnell



Missalettes: Chuck, Tillie, and Dennis De Walle
Candle: Larry and Colleen Voves
Bread: Paul Svestka Jr.
Wine: Paul Svestka Jr.

Stewardship of Prayer

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

MADONNA KUENNEN	BILL SINDELAR	LISA PETER
DON ZAKOSTELECKY	KYLE SLIFKA	STU GORDON
MADelyn OPPREICHT	BRENT NEWMAN	DI KOVARIK
JOYCE KAPLER	MATT DUERRE	MICHELLE FUNKE
PATTY ELSBERND	JODENE VANDYKE	EASTON HODGES



Day of Prayer January 14th

For the JIF Day of Prayer, we encourage everyone to pray the Evening Prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours for the specific intercession of the Journey in Faith process and decisions.

Father will go live on his YouTube channel at 5:15 p.m. on Wednesday, January 14th, to pray with you. Feel free to watch it live or at a later time. You can find the Liturgy of the Hours by going to iBreviary.com or downloading either the "iBreviary" or "Laudate" app.

The Liturgy of the Hours/Divine Office is the official daily prayer of the Catholic Church. It is structured around five main prayer times (Morning Prayer, Daytime Prayer, Evening Prayer, Office of Readings, and Night Prayer). Priests and other religious have to pray the Office, but all baptized are encouraged to pray the Liturgy of the Hours. Why?

1. The Church encourages it! (Check out the apostolic letter "Sacrosanctum Concilium" to see why. Don't worry, it's been translated to English.
2. It provides a structure for your prayer life because it is set on a schedule with specific readings and prayers. It is perfect for those who struggle to cultivate a regular prayer life.
3. It immerses you in prayer with Scripture. By praying it, you will be immersed in the Psalms, readings from the Old Testament and readings from the New Testament.
4. It follows the Liturgical Year! You will be praying with the Liturgical Year and learn about the different feast days we celebrate during the week.
5. It's great for travel. Traveling can bring change to your regular schedule, but the Liturgy of the Hours/Divine Office schedule will always stay the same.

Five reasons based on infographic from: <https://catholic-link.org/>

Stewardship of Offering

JANUARY 4, 2026

Total Stewardship Contributions/Offertory Income	
Needed each week:	\$ 10,837.00
Last week's Envelope Contribution Income:	\$ 3,562.00
Last week's ACH Contribution Income:	\$ 826.00
Last week's offertory income:	\$ 507.36

Our Baptism, like the Lord's, is a consecration to service. The bishop's pastoral on stewardship reminds us that "...there is a fundamental obligation arising from the Sacrament of Baptism that people place their gifts, their resources --- their selves --- at God's service in and through the Church."

TAKE NOTE:

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.



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:

Volunteers Needed to help take down the Christmas decorations in the Church on January 11th after the 10 a.m. Mass.

Lasagna Supper, fundraiser for the Notre Dame School, will be held on January 23rd from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. as a pre-order and drive-thru only. Tickets are \$12 and include a meal of lasagna, french bread, salad, and dessert. They will be available for purchase beginning on January 10th in the Parish Office. Online auction available from January 16th-23rd at 6 p.m.

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

This Week at Notre Dame

Rosary Making will be held in the Parish Office from 10 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. on Mon., Jan. 12th. 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.

Card Party will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Mon., January 12th, in the Parish Hall. All are invited to attend.

Finance Council will meet on Tues., Jan. 13th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Office.

Financial Peace University Course will meet on Wed., Jan. 14th at 6:00 p.m. in the school.

Cornerstone (Week 2) will be held in the school on Wed., Jan. 14th for participants.

Bible Study will not be held until March/April.

Catholic School Board will meet on Wed., Jan. 14th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Office.

Adult Winter Dance will be held on Sat., Jan 17th, from 5-10 p.m. at McAllisters. Tickets are available at the Parish Office.

Into the Deep, a multi-age discussion based on the month's topic and video, will take place on January 18th, from 9-10 a.m., in the KC Room of the Church. This month's theme is, "Why should I care about the Old Testament since it was fulfilled?". The video can be found here: <https://youtu.be/nx316bsgbrQ?si=SgkwLDF00yesamh3>.

Wee Families, a wiggle-friendly faith formation program for 1-5 year olds and their families will be held on Sun., Jan 18th, from 4:30 - 5:00 p.m. beginning in the gathering space of the Church. This month's topic is: "Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes (Gestures of the Mass)".

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH
AND ATTENDED THE
DRIVE-THRU LIVING NATIVITY!

Together we helped raise \$305
for Community Action and
collected numerous canned
goods for them as well!

THANK
YOU
♥

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.

The 20th Annual Masopust will be held Saturday, February 14, 2026, at PIVO Brewery in Calmar, IA. This year's featured village is Albrechtice nad Vltavou, the Swehla family heritage is from this area. Pre-sale only tickets are \$40 and include an afternoon of dancing, music by Adam Sandhurst & The Jolly Jammers, plus live and silent auctions. Doors open at noon, music begins at 1 PM, and a traditional Czech meal of pork cutlets with all the trimmings will be served at 5:30 PM. For tickets, contact Ken Zajicek at 563-379-4100 or Audrey Lensing at 563-380-3015.

Annual Cancer Benefit Breakfast will be held on Sunday, January 18th from 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the VFW Hall in Cresco. Serving regular, blueberry, and chocolate chip pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, and beverage for freewill donation. Dine in or carryout. Proceeds go to HOCA & Milz Cancer Fund. Sponsored by VFW Post 4561 and Auxiliary.

SIGN UP FOR **FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY**

Wherever you are with money, FPU is for you.

Whether you're at rock bottom or just want to do better, there's hope.
Take the first step to financial peace. Sign up today!

It's not about how much money you have—it's about
learning how to use it well.

Use the QR code below to hear from a fellow
parishioner on why Financial Peace University is for
everyone, whether you're just starting out, raising a
family, or planning for retirement.

 Registration closes January 12



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.

REGISTER





YOUTH BOARD GAME DAY

All students in grades 6-12 are welcome to join us Sunday, January 18th from 2:00-4:00 PM in the Parish Hall for an afternoon of

board and card games!

Snacks provided!

No cost to attend!

Participants are welcome to bring their own (church appropriate) games to share!

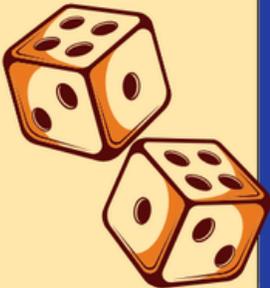
This is a come and go event-participants do not need to be present for the entire event!

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18TH

2:00-4:00 PM

Parish Hall (church basement)

Contact Brian McGee for more information!!





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 to the "Safe and Secure" project!

PROJECT INCLUDES:

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



On Tuesday, we attended the Howard County Community Foundation award celebration, where we were honored to receive a \$15,000 grant. Pictured below are Julie Haskovec (grant writer), Mindy Jones (Finance Council representative), and Janel Langreck (Parish Council representative). We would like to extend special thanks to Julie and Mindy for the time and dedication they put into organizing and writing the grant proposal, and to the Howard County Community Foundation for their generous support.



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

Thank You!

Christmas Flower Donations, Notre Dame – 2025

Thank You!

Given By:

In Memory Of:

Mickie Sir
Ron Praska
Robert and Marie Moudry

Marlene Quinn and Melanie Stockdale
Mike and Lori McConnell

Frank and Donna Ryant
Judy Rouchka

Galen and Lavon Fye
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William Berka
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McCarville and Kaderabek Families
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Joe and Peggy Rouchka, Joe and Christina Rouchka;
Al and Emma Myer; Otto and Persis Lienhard;
Rosemary Gansen
Colby Fye
Deceased members of the Joe and Ethel Sexton Family and
Jim and Shirley McConnell
Colby Fye
John Gosch; Bill Gosch; Orvie and Fran Herold;
Tom Herold; Zach Staplekamp
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Jackie McGee; Monica Newman; Ed and Ida Morse;
Mary Morse; Tom Plunkett; Brad Plunkett; Bert Brown;
Keith Krisher and the unborn
Deceased members of the Tieskotter and Vrzak Families
Pat, Marie and Mike O'Shea;
Leonard, Colletta and Patricia Hauber
Susan, Elvira and Charles Shaver; Georgene and Bill Foley
Dwight and Mary Schulz; Belva and Jerry Wilson
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