



Jacob de Wet, *The Calling of St. Peter and St. Andrew* (photo: Public domain)

**January 25, 2026**  
*Third Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Isaiah 8:23-9:3; 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17; Matthew 4:12-23

*“Jesus proclaimed the Gospel of the kingdom  
and cured every disease among the people.”*

In our second reading today, St. Paul responds to rivalries that were beginning to fracture the early Christian communities. “I urge you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ... that there be no divisions among you.” Paul understood that God always draws us toward unity, while the evil one works through pride and fear to pull us apart. Division weakens our witness, while unity strengthens it. Yet Paul is not calling for bland sameness. Unity does not mean uniformity. God delights in a diversity of gifts, cultures, and traditions, but never intends for those differences to become walls between us.

As our archdiocese looks toward coming together into pastorates, it's natural that difficult emotions surface. Change often feels like loss. We may wonder how towns with a longtime, bitter school sporting rivalry could ever worship together, or how parishes with different histories and styles can truly become one. It can feel like an erosion of identity. But what if God is not erasing who we are, but deepening it? What if He is inviting us to root our identity not in rivalry or tradition alone, but in Christ Himself?

One thing is certain: anytime we hear a voice urging us to tear others down, cling to resentment, or build artificial barriers, that is not the voice of God. The voice of God always leads toward healing, humility, and communion. As we come together in pastorates and begin the slow, holy work of mending what has been divided, we have a powerful opportunity. In a culture that emphasizes differences, we can become a sign of what unites us. When Christ is our center, not our externals, we begin to live the promise of Isaiah: “anguish has taken wing, dispelled is darkness,” and unity becomes our witness to the world.

Next Week's Readings:  
Zephaniah 2:3,3:12-13; 1 Corinthians 1:26-31; Matthew 5:1-12a

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**Katie Schmitt**, School  
Principal

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# MASS SCHEDULE

## Monday, January 26 | No Mass

+Pray for Vocations to the Priesthood

## Tuesday, January 27 | Mass

5:15 p.m. +John Tevis

Sacristan: Terry Duerre

## Wednesday, January 28 | Funeral Mass

11:00 a.m. +Larry Houdek

## Thursday, January 29 | Mass

9:00 a.m. +Dan Courtney

Sacristan: Sherry Sherfy

## Friday, January 30 | Mass

8:00 a.m. +Ruben Gamez

Sacristan: Donna Ryant

## Saturday, January 31 | Mass

4:00 p.m. +Scott Steffen

EMHCs: Jim & Anne Ott; Lisa Kimball

Lectors: Brian McGee

Servers: Axton Langreck

Music: Harlan Larson; Mary Larson

Greeters: Galen & Lavon Fye; Pat Korsmo

Hosts: Bryan & Denise Sheehy

Ushers: Bryan Sheehy; Joe & Lynn Rose; Jim Murphy

Sacristan: Brian McGee

## Sunday, February 1 | Mass

8:00 a.m. +For the People

EMHCs: Emily Dohlman-Govern; Frank & Donna Ryant

Lectors: Carol Foley; Emily Dohlman-Govern

Servers: Claire, James, & Cora Kach

Music: Katie Ferrie; Andrea Klimesh

Greeters: Kenny & Jeri Andera; Pat & Mar Ollendieck

Hosts: Kenny & Jeri Andera

Ushers: Dale & Lynette Andera; Alisha Carolan; Warren Steffen

Sacristan: Frank & Donna Ryant

## Sunday, February 1 | Mass

10:00 a.m. +Frank McConnell

EMHCs: Janel Langreck; Sue Runyan; Jerry O'Donnell

Lectors: Gary Langreck; Sue Runyan

Servers: Sebastian Gourley; Raelynn Rissman

Music: Good News Singers

Greeters: Ken & Nita Hackman; Audrey Hyke

Hosts: Curtis & Kayla Head Family

Ushers: Jerry & Wanda Reicks; Randy & Tommy Mashek

Sacristan: Jerry & Wanda Reicks



Missalettes: Chuck, Tillie, and Dennis De Walle

Candle: Larry and Colleen Voves

Bread: Sheri Conlan

## 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
MARK TIESKOTTER	LINDA WOOD	JERRY SMITH
BETTE SULLIVAN	CHARLENE RYAN	



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Thank you for being part of our Journey in Faith. Over the past year, thousands of you have prayerfully shared your thoughts, hopes, and dreams for the future of our Church in the Archdiocese of Dubuque. This process has truly been guided by the Holy Spirit and enriched by your deep love for your parishes and for the mission of the Church.

After months of listening, gathering feedback, and discernment, I am pleased to share that the Journey in Faith Core Team has now developed the first version of a final pastorate plan. It reflects significant changes shaped directly by your feedback and that of your pastors. In fact, not a single pastorate from the earlier models (A, B, or C) made it into this new version—an encouraging sign of how seriously your voices have been heard. In some cases entirely new models were given and in others the parishes were grouped like a previous model, but there were changes in Mass locations or the number of Masses. I am grateful for the careful and thoughtful work the Core Team has done in creating a recommendation that best represents the feedback we received.

The Archdiocesan Planning Commission reviewed this first version of the final pastorate plan this January, and the priests will review it in early February. Based on their feedback, we will continue to refine the plan prayerfully and collaboratively in the months that follow. This next phase represents the right work at the right time in the right way, working together to ensure vibrant, sustainable communities of faith across our Archdiocese.

As we prepare for the next steps, I also want to highlight the ongoing Journey in Faith Prep Series, which is being sent weekly to priests and parish staff. These important resources are helping the parishes prepare for tasks and processes prior to the announcements this spring.

I know that change can bring both hope and heartache. New beginnings stir excitement for what God is making possible, yet they also can awaken a sense of loss for what is familiar. Both experiences are natural and part of our shared journey. The Holy Spirit is guiding us toward renewal. Together, we are discerning how to bring the light of Christ more fully into our parishes and communities.

To stay informed and connected, please visit [dbqjourneyinfaith.org](http://dbqjourneyinfaith.org), where you will find helpful updates, accurate information, and resources for ongoing engagement. Thank you again for your faith, your trust, and your willingness to embrace this journey. I am filled with great hope for the Church in northeast Iowa and for what God is doing among us.

Walking with you on this Journey in Faith,  
Archbishop Thomas Zinkula

## Stewardship of Offering

JANUARY 18, 2026

Total Stewardship Contributions/Offertory Income

Needed each week:	\$ 10,837.00
Last week's Envelope Contribution Income:	\$ 9,283.00
Last week's ACH Contribution Income:	\$ 7,206.00
Last week's offertory income:	\$ 393.35

*The watchword today is "immediately." Peter and Andrew, James and John all respond immediately to the call of Christ. May I be as open to God's call and as ready to use my talents in His service as those first disciples were!*



## DADDY DAUGHTER

# Dance

All fathers (father figures) and daughters are invited to join us for a magical evening fit for a princess. Join us Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-8:00 PM in the Parish Hall (Church Basement).

Join us for music, food, games and more!

Please RSVP online here:



# Grandparent Bingo



All grandparents (grandparent figures) and grandchildren are invited for an afternoon of BINGO fun! Please bring candy or other small prizes to share!

**All are welcome!!**

Sunday, February 22nd  
2:15-3:30 PM Notre Dame Parish Hall  
(Church Basement)



## FATHER SON GAME DAY!

All fathers (father figures) and sons are invited to join us for an afternoon of games and fun!

Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup> in the Notre Dame School gym from 2:00-4:00 PM

There is NO cost to join and snacks are provided!

All are welcome to join for as long as they would like!



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](http://www.notredamecresco.com/womens-conference)



# NOTRE DAME NEWS

FAITH ~ FAMILY ~ EXCELLENCE

Winter 2025



## Thank You for supporting our Catholic School!

At Notre Dame Catholic School, we are blessed to learn, pray and grow in a faith-filled environment. We are grateful for the prayers, contributions, time, and talent that you generously share with our school. **When you support our school, you invest in the future of all of our students and the Catholic Church!**



Catholic Schools  
United in Faith and Community

# A Note From the Principal's Desk

## Celebrating Catholic Education!

As we celebrate Catholic Schools Week, we reflect on three core values that define Notre Dame Catholic School - **Faith, Family, and Excellence**. **Faith** guides our daily prayer, our classrooms, and the way we treat one another. **Excellence** shapes our academic expectations, fosters each child's God-given gifts, and prepares students for lifelong success. And our school community truly feels like a **family** - supportive, welcoming, and united together in our mission.

Today, families have more opportunities than ever to choose a Catholic education for their child(ren). Education Savings Accounts (ESA's), Our Faith STO (School Tuition Organization), and expanded school choice in the State of Iowa help make a faith-based, high-quality Catholic education accessible and affordable for more families.

I am deeply grateful for the strong, faith-filled community that makes Notre Dame such a special place. Together, we continue forming not only successful students, but devoted disciples of Christ.



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



**Tip Off Coming Soon!**  
Help us reach our goal of selling 600 tickets - sales begin soon!

# OUR SCHOOL at a glance



**171 Students**  
in Playgroup - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Catholicity**  
Recipient of 2024 Spirit of VISION Award

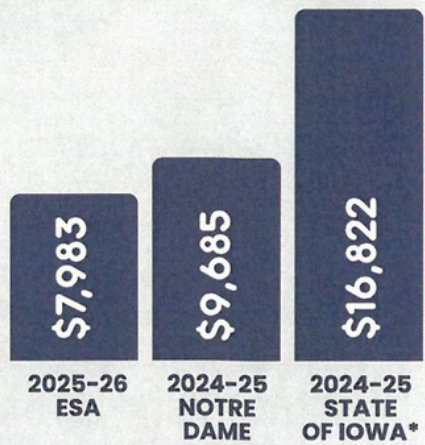
**20%**  
enrollment growth 2024-25 vs. 2023-24

**84% ELA**

**82% MATH**

% of 3rd & 4th grade students  
**Proficient or Advanced**  
in Spring 2024 ISASP testing

**30%** Of our certified staff have Master's Degrees



**Fully Accredited**  
by the State of Iowa through the Archdiocese of Dubuque

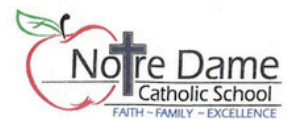
**Cost to Educate**  
ESA covers about 80% of the true cost to educate a K-5th grade student

\*Source: Elementary School per-pupil median expenditure, iaschoolperformance.gov, 2024



## 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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## TAKE NOTE:

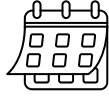
### Budget Boxes and Calendars

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.



**Notre Dame Parish Fax Number** will no longer be in use beginning in February.

**Parish End of Year Reports** will be published and available next weekend at all of the Masses.



**Lent is approaching quickly!** Our next parish newsletter will be sent out at the end of next week with a calendar of our parish's Lenten opportunities. Ash Wednesday is February 18<sup>th</sup>.

## PLANNING AHEAD:

**Baptism Class** will be held on February 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Church. All families who have not taken this class (or within the last 3 years) and would like to have their child(ren) baptized, please register by going to <https://notredamecresco.com/baptism-registration>.

**Good News Singers**, our church choir, sings on the first and third Sunday of the month at the 10 a.m. Mass. All are welcome to join the choir. Practice is at 9 a.m. in the Parish Hall on the Sunday's they are scheduled.

**St. Peter's Soup Luncheon** has been scheduled for Feb. 22 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Save the date. If you are in the St. Peter Circle, be on the lookout for a letter in the mail or an email with details on what help is needed and how to sign up. If you would like to help with rollicky making on February 13<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m., please contact the parish office.

## This Week at Notre Dame

**Card Party** will be held on Mon., Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. All are welcome to attend.

**Sacred Conversation** groups will meet on Tues., Jan 27<sup>th</sup> at their respective times.

**Financial Peace University Course** will meet on Wed., Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. in the school.

**1st Eucharist Parent/Participant Meeting** will be held in the Parish Hall on Wed., Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>, at 6:15 p.m. Please remember to bring an empty container with a lid to the meeting.

**Bible Study** will not be held until March/April.

**Cookies & Rolls** will be served after all of the Masses next weekend. We hope you can join us for this time of fellowship.



## Our Sympathy

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul Larry Houdek.  
Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord.

## In the Community

**Annual Cancer Benefit Breakfast** will be held on Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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](http://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.

### Congratulations to Tom Barnes, winner of the \$100 SCRIP gift card package!

For every \$100 purchased in SCRIP cards from October 1st-December 31<sup>st</sup>, parishioners were entered into a drawing for a bundle of \$100 worth of local gift cards. Winner was chosen at random.

## Together with Purpose

During the Masses held on the weekend of Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, we will have a renewal of marriage vows within Mass, led by Fr. Jacob Rouse.

National Marriage Week:  
February 7-14th

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