



February 1, 2026
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Zephaniah 2:3,3:12-13; 1 Corinthians 1:26-31; Matthew 5:1-12a

*“Rejoice and be glad;
your reward will be great in heaven.”*

Zephaniah lived and preached during a time of great uncertainty. The northern kingdom of Israel had already fallen, and the southern kingdom of Judah faced real threats to its survival. People were anxious about the future: Would they be conquered? Would the Temple be destroyed? Would their homes and their way of life endure for the next generation? In the midst of that fear and instability, Zephaniah proclaimed a clear message; now was the time to return to faithfulness to the Lord.

Under King Josiah, there was a call to rediscover Sacred Scripture and to live again by God’s law. That same call echoes through Zephaniah’s words and into our own time. Today, we also face uncertainty: declining numbers of priests, fewer people receiving the sacraments, and many wondering what the future of the Church will look like. We may not fear conquest, but we do ask similar questions: What will happen to our parish? Will our church still be here? Will our faith endure for our children and grandchildren?

Regarding this future of Journey in Faith... one person was heard saying, “if they take Mass away from my Church, I will no longer go to Mass.” But is that the kind of faithfulness we are called to? No, as with Zephaniah, the call is to faithfulness, no matter what the future holds. To seek the Lord. To pray, to dwell in His Word, and to immerse ourselves in the beautiful Mystery of the “Word-Made-Flesh” that amazing awe-inspiring Mystery we encounter in every Mass, in the holy Sacrifice of the Mass, of the Living Word of Flesh made real in us and before us in the Most Holy Eucharist.

No matter what the future holds, and whatever happens, we hear the prophetic call to be faithful, in season and out of season, when things are well and when things are challenging. We seek the Lord and remain faithful to Him no matter what happens.

Next Week’s Readings:
Isaiah 58:7-10; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5; Matthew 5:13-16

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
ext. 2

Mindy Jones, Business Manager
m.jones@dbqarch.org
ext. 3

Melanie Vobr, Adult Faith
Formation Coordinator
m.vobr@dbqarch.org
ext. 4

Brian McGee, Youth Faith
Formation Coordinator
b.mcgee@dbqarch.org
ext. 5

LeRoy Webb, Pastoral Minister

Katie Schmitt, School
Principal

563.547.4513
School Website:
www.tinyurl.com/ndcschool

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, February 2 | No Mass

+Pray for Vocations to Religious Life

Tuesday, February 3 | Mass

5:15 p.m. +Edward Hovorka

Sacristan: Karen Hyke

Wednesday, February 4 | Mass

8:00 a.m. +Norma Smith

Sacristan: Jed & Joyce Becker

Music: Jed Becker

Thursday, February 5 | Mass

9:00 a.m. +Rosie Gooder

Sacristan: Inez Kruse

Friday, February 6 | Mass

8:00 a.m. +Roger Craft

Sacristan: Jerry & Barb O'Donnell

Saturday, February 7 | Mass

4:00 p.m. +Scott Steffen

EMHCs: Steve & Terry Duerre; Angie Kappes

Lectors: Terry Duerre

Servers: Lily Godman

Music: Pam Daley; Jamie Fisk

Greeters: Don & Lois Recker; Lois Ollendieck

Hosts: Don & Lois Recker

Ushers: Gretchen Laub; Carver Munkel; Steve

Duerre; Ray Schwarzhoff

Sacristan: Carol Stoker; Mindy Jones

Sunday, February 8 | Mass

8:00 a.m. +Colby Fye

EMHCs: Phil & Kim Walker; Boyd Turnbull

Lectors: Boyd Turnbull; Jim Truka

Servers: Oakley Vobr; Raelynn Fortney

Music: Dee Hosek; Andrea Klimesh

Greeters: Jim & Lori Truka; Betty Hebrink

Hosts: Tom & Steph Feldman Family

Ushers: Chris & Atley Bina; Art Schwarzhoff;

Tom Mullen

Sacristan: Boyd Turnbull

Sunday, February 8 | Mass

10:00 a.m. +For the People

EMHCs: Don & Kris Dietzenbach; Jerry

O'Donnell

Lectors: Jerry & Barb O'Donnell

Servers: Genevieve Opprecht; Raelynn

Rissman

Music: Joe Wacha; Andrea Klimesh

Greeters: Jolene Trachta; Kathy McCarville

Hosts: Don & Kris Dietzenbach Family

Ushers: Matt & Erin Daley Family; Don & Kris

Dietzenbach

Sacristan: Jerry & Barb O'Donnell



Missalettes: Louie and Mabel Balk

Stewardship of Prayer

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

MADONNA KUENNEN

DON ZAKOSTELECKY

MADelyn OPPREICHT

JOYCE KAPLER

PATTY ELSBERND

MARK TIESKOTTER

BETTE SULLIVAN

BILL SINDELAR

BRENT NEWMAN

MATT DUERRE

JODENE VANDYKE

LINDA WOOD

CHARLENE RYAN

LISA PETER

STU GORDON

DI KOVARIK

MICHELLE FUNKE

EASTON HODGES

JERRY SMITH

Knights of Columbus
Council 1571 Cresco

Valentine's Day Dinner
February 14, 2026



SPECIAL MENU
PRIME RIB
AND SHRIMP



5:00-8:00 PM
\$25 PER PLATE

Heritage Event Center:
229 3rd Ave. W
Cresco, IA 52136

National Marriage Week:
February 7-14th



Together with Purpose

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

Stewardship of Offering

JANUARY 25, 2026

Total Stewardship Contributions/Offertory Income

Needed each week: \$ 10,837.00

Last week's Envelope Contribution Income: \$ 1,659.00

Last week's ACH Contribution Income: \$ 826.00

Last week's offertory income: \$ 469.26

Blessed are they who are what they are and do what they do for the sake of the kingdom! The Gospel today assures good stewards that their suffering and their service on behalf of the kingdom will be rewarded!

Pastoral Council Meeting (Virtually Held on 1/22/26)

Present on Google Meet: Father Jacob, Julie Wilson, Janel Langreck, Holly Mankse, Bryan Sheehy, Joe Wacha (on phone), Mindy Jones, Jessica Johnson, Jami Schwickerath

Absent: Keith Wherry and Patti Guyer

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 by Father and he started the meeting with a prayer.

Approval of Old Minutes: Janel asked for a correction on the spelling of her name and Keith. Jami apologized and updated the names. Janel approved the minutes and Father seconded it.

Old Business: None noted.

Committee Reports:

Liturgy: Joe shared the last meeting was December 4 but there is no lighting update as Sim's still needs parts. Mass of Remembrance went well. The candles at this were paid for by Circles of Faith. They received grant money for two conductor stands and two keyboard covers. The decorations for Christmas went up and down by a group very efficiently. Brian McGee is doing a lot of social events. Holy Days of Obligation mass at 9am, 12:05, 5:15pm. We have had just two since the last meeting. We had Mass of Creation at Christmas and now have the Heritage Mass til Lent comes.

Circles of Faith: Last met December 15. A discussion was had on keeping it calling this or naming it Life. The group decided to keep it called Circles of Faith. They have updated the books with committee members and are trying to get more people signed up. There have been continued discussions regarding funeral food options. They delivered cookies to Home Bound Parishioners. It was shared that they need help making diapers, sewed and people who can sew and can make them.

School Board: Holly shared they are still doing work on the Leadership goal. FAST reading scores for kindergarten and first grade are being worked on. Raise Right sales have increased. Catholic Schools Week Dress Up Days are being discussed. Lasagna sales were down \$245 which is around 10 people but the auction raised \$17,965. Even with cold weather and no school, lasagna supper is going to happen. Tuition set a 7% increase totaling \$8,295/student. ESA is at \$7,988/student. There will be a parent meeting on January 28 to discuss tuition.

Stewardship: Janel shared the reverse collection went well. 971 pounds of food has been donated. Cash donations are \$493.50. If doing cash, please put in the memo that is for the Food Pantry and address the check to NEICAC – Howard County Food Pantry. The Don Davis account has \$1153.80 as of the October meeting with no updates.

Faith Formation: Jami shared the December meeting did not happen. Brian shared that 22 Students will be confirmed on March 21 and 20 students will get First Communion May 3. He is doing lots of youth activities and had a successful dance last weekend. Father shared there are a lot of baptisms over the next month. Melanie included her notes that she was seeking individuals to help make rosaries as there were no more parishioners doing that. She will help train those willing to make them.

Finance: Jessica shared she missed the last meeting. They received the Howard County Foundation Grant of \$15,000 that will assist in getting the doors. They are also working with Bob's Electric to help with installation. The budget is being discussed and recommended to be on track to be similar to this 25/26 budget. Discussion has occurred around the tuition cost beyond the ESA amount. The Parish is at 50% of the Church year with income at 54% and expenses at 59%. School is at 59% and expenses are at 45%.

Building and Grounds: Father Jacob spoke for Keith who was not there. With receiving the grant for the added security, the doors have been ordered from CBS and they have accepted the quote from Bob's Electric. The doors will be steel with crash bars installed at the lunch room both to protect the students and keep the church open. The handwashing sink in the kitchen near the food prep was moved for ease of washing hands and doing food prep. There was discussion around adding more steel to the serving area of the kitchen but the team thought it could lose its aesthetic appeal. The stained glass window by Mary has been leaking when it rains and snows and it has been damaging the paint below. It recently was repaired and Jerry Riehle has agreed to touch up the paint. There is a need for a new roof on the church but with other things going on, this purchase has been put on hold. As well, the quest for solar panels has been put on hold. They are still waiting on parts to make the Live Stream livelier.

Emergency Meeting: No emergencies noted so no meeting occurred.

Pastor's Report: Father Jacob shared that Journey in Faith is still happening. The archbishops met in a "conclave" type meeting to discuss. Each Tuesday there is a JIF video on YouTube to watch and pray with. Father shared that it is a marathon, not a sprint to find the answer. There could be consolidation of mass schedules across the regions. He shares knowledge he heard from a speaker: people "love change but hate transition". We need extra care when doing the transition. There are 7 areas of Loss with 4 Responses, Ceremony which is closer and the Transition Faze: of Purpose, Plan, Picture, Part. February 3 all the priests will meet in Reinbeck to plan. They will be told a possible plan and share their feedback. April 10 the priests will gather again and be told of changes and assignments with the public learning on April 11. Keep Praying. Meeting closed at 7:40 motioned by Bryan and seconded by Julie.

Respectfully submitted 1/23/26 by Jami Schwickerath

Notre Dame Family Circles of Faith Meeting --- December 15, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Joye Meyer with an Our Father.

Officers Present: Joye Meyer, Donna Ryant, Pat Pinter, Terry Duerre

The Secretary's report was reviewed. Elaine Kleve motioned that the minutes be approved as written, seconded by Bootie Kapler. Motion carried. The Treasurer's Report was reviewed. Mindy Jones made a motion to approve the report as printed, seconded by Elaine Kleve. Motion carried.

Thank You notes were read.

Sewing Circle Report: The group has approximately 15 layettes completed and stored at this time. If anyone would like to donate old flannel sheets, terry towels, etc. these can be used to make diapers, bibs, etc. please drop them off in the Sewing Circle room in the church basement. It is unlocked. Help is needed to make the diapers -- (best results with a Serger sewing machine) -- please call the parish office.

The next Funeral committee is #4, Next Saturday committee will be #2

Old Business: Further discussion was held concerning funeral dinner options. It was decided that the families would be given all the options and work with the parish committee to plan. The parish committee will coordinate with the funeral committee chair people and caterers.

New Business: Twenty one plates of cookies were delivered to the shut ins and Christmas cards were sent to nursing home residents. A big thank you to those who make the cookies each year and to the group who faithfully delivers them each year. Anyone who would like to help with this project, please contact Elaine Kleve.

Annual Christmas gifts were sent out to staff, school, and organizations per the usual list as a thank you for all they do for the parish.

A working copy of the 2026 Circles of Faith was available at the meeting. The group went through the booklet checking for errors and adding phone numbers where possible. Final edits will be made and the booklet will be made available. Thanks to everyone who stepped up to fill open chair people slots.

The parish office will be in touch with Special Committees for upcoming projects.

Terri Duerre made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alanda Meyer. The meeting was adjourned with a Hail Mary.

The next meeting is March 16, 2026 at 5:30 in the Parish Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Pinter, Recording Secretary

Notre Dame Parish/School July-Dec, 2025

Receipts		Expenditures	
Church		Church	
Advertising	\$ 8,400.00	Adult Faith Formation	\$ 2,427.43
Budget - Adults/Youth	\$ 282,200.50	Arch Taxa/Collections	\$ 13,904.70
Donations/Gifts	\$ 37,290.00	D&L Loan Int	\$ 2,263.99
Easter/Christmas/Thanksgiving	\$ 18,608.74	Community Life	\$ 1,509.43
Faith Formation Adult	\$ 1,153.72	Household	\$ 3,522.44
Int/Div	\$ 1,037.45	Property insurance	\$ 9,921.00
Offertory	\$ 14,441.42	Lit/Sac	\$ 13,707.55
Rent	\$ 500.00	Maintenance/Imp.	\$ 42,465.60
Sacramental offerings	\$ 9,723.40	Office	\$ 10,634.65
Youth Faith Formation	\$ 9,167.90	Payroll Expenses	\$ 158,518.63
		Priest Ins/Retirement	
		Sub Priest/mileage	\$ 2,937.63
		Utilities	\$ 25,796.03
		Youth Faith Formation	\$ 7,431.03
School		School	
Tuition/STO	\$ 617,856.34	Instruction	\$ 30,180.26
Donations/Gifts	\$ 79,365.69	Administration	\$ 18,043.46
Kids Club	\$ 1,508.19	Fundraising	\$ 4,513.26
Scrip	\$ 132,275.23	Fair Stand	\$ 7,470.80
Fundraising	\$ 22,013.50	Scrip	\$ 125,503.49
Interest/Dividends	\$ 157.25	Maintenance	\$ 15,429.36
Other Income	\$ 3,290.68	Capital Outlay	
Grants	\$ 14,016.50	Fixed charges	\$ 1,234.10
Fair Stand	\$ 6,029.50	Student Activity	\$ 5,972.71
Snack Income	\$ 2,835.00	Payroll Expenses	\$ 541,846.66
		Lunch Benefit	
		Utilities	\$ 13,814.30
		Snack Expense	\$ 2,578.14
		Lunch	
		Milk	\$ 4,319.62
		Food Supplies	\$ 6,753.60
		Supplies	\$ 667.20
		Mileage/Staff Development	\$ 238.00
		Bookkeeping	\$ 142.89
		Utilities	\$ 1,392.06
		Payroll Expenses	\$ 23,726.63
		Total Expenditures	\$ 1,098,866.65
Total Receipts	\$ 1,331,373.03		
Total Receipts	\$ 1,331,373.03		
Cash Bal June 30, 2025	\$ 38,061.72		
Total to Acct. for Expenditures	\$ 1,369,434.75		
Cash Bal December 31, 2025	\$ 270,568.10		

Liabilities	
Arch Loan Balance	\$ 135,988.36
Good Samaritan	\$ 1,128.80
Landscaping	\$ 2,147.50

Church Assets	
Hoffman Trust	\$ 24,339.62
Improvement Fund	\$ 927.57
Church Renovation	\$ 3,469.65
ND Parish Savings	\$ 93,327.17
Parsih Capital Campaign	\$ 182.11
ND Parish CFAD	\$ 112,160.93
ND Funding our Future	\$ 8,309.36
ND DAPP/Taxa savings	\$ 253.75

School Assets	
CFAD Dietenbach School Tuition	\$ 108,865.29
CFAD Msgr. Heineman Endowment	\$ 213,363.66
Drilling Trust-D&L	\$ 10,686.65
Ed. Endowment - D & L	\$ 44.55
Fran Barnes Savings	\$ 13,870.01
Fran Barnes/Endowment Fund	\$ 157,451.78
Hubka Estate	\$ 4,673.62
Mary Kleve Estate - D&L	\$ 3,564.18
School Savings	\$ 26,904.80

ST. BRIDGET ORATORY

July 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025

INCOME

Donations	\$	17,970.00
Fundraising	\$	13,696.00
Offertory	\$	10,441.00
Hall Rent	\$	2,025.00
Sacramental Offerings	\$	170.00
Total Receipts	\$	44,302.00

EXPENSES

Fundraising	\$	11,409.38
Mowing	\$	3,456.10
Maintenance	\$	2,444.98
Utilities	\$	2,199.31
Insurance	\$	894.00
Total Expenditures	\$	20,403.77

Total Receipts	\$	44,302.00
Checking Balance 7/1/25	\$	40,425.32
Total to account for	\$	84,727.32
Expenditures	\$	20,403.77
Checking Balance 6/30/25	\$	64,323.55

Savings Balance 7/1/25	\$	84,760.28
Interest	\$	1,281.84
Savings Balance 6/30/25	\$	86,042.12

St. Bridget Oratory Directors

Scott Courtney David Sexton

ST. BRIDGET CEMETERY 12/31/25

Checking Acct.	\$	22,259.93
Perpetual Care Acct.	\$	270,000.00
St. Bridget Cemetery Savings Acct.	\$	12,198.64

St. Bridget Cemetery Directors

D. Edward Christopher David Bergan

CALVARY CEMETERY 12/31/25

Perpetual Care	\$	125,137.64
General Fund	\$	72,277.41
Checking Acct.	\$	88,489.52

Calvary Cemetery Lay Directors

Camilla Conway Jeff McAllister

ST. AGNES ORATORY

July 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025

INCOME

Contributions	\$	1,100.00
Total Receipts	\$	1,100.00

EXPENSES

Insurance	\$	596.00
Total Expense	\$	596.00

Total Receipts	\$	1,100.00
Checking Balance 7/1/25	\$	2,229.67
Total to Account For	\$	3,329.67
Total Expenditures	\$	596.00
Checking Balance 6/30/25	\$	2,733.67

ST. AGNES GUILD

Checking Acct.	\$	24,093.50
CD's	\$	12,600.89

St. Agnes Oratory Lay Directors

Jeff McCabe Diane McCabe

ST. AGNES CEMETERY 12/31/25

Checking Acct.	\$	3,367.70
CD's	\$	58,906.73
Arch. Of Dub.	\$	14,643.99
Savings	\$	30,792.63

St Agnes Cemetery Lay Directors

Margaret Miller Michael Gossman

ST. KIERNAN CEMETERY 12/31/25

Checking Acct	\$	4,124.85
Arch. Of Dub.	\$	5,374.84
CD's	\$	1,000.00

St. Kieran Cemetery Lay Directors

Gary Hovey Justin Hovey

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.



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

Baccalaureate 2026

We would like to celebrate all of our high school graduates and their families on Sunday, May 10th, at the 10 a.m. Mass. RSVP @ <https://notredamecresco.com/youth-events>



This Week at Notre Dame

Sewing Circle will be held on Mon., Feb. 2nd, at 2:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

Financial Peace University Course will meet on Wed., Feb. 4th, at 6:00 p.m. in the school.

Cornerstone (Week 1) will be held in the Parish Hall on Wed., Feb. 4th, at 6:15 p.m. The session for parents and participants will begin with a meal.

Bible Study will not be held until March/April.

Liturgy Committee will meet on Thurs., Feb. 5th, at 3:30 p.m. in the Parish Office.

SCRIP giftcards will be sold after all Masses next weekend.

PLANNING AHEAD:

Baptism Class will be held on February 9th 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>.

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 13th at 10 a.m., please contact the parish office.



Our Sympathy

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul Colette Kuhn. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord.

Thank you to an anonymous donor of \$23,000 for updates in the church basement in memory of Msgr. Carl Schmitt for his love of Catholic education.

In the Community

Healing the Whole Person Register for this 8-part group series being held at St. Benedict's in Decorah. This teaching, presented by Dr. Bob Schuchts & Sr. Miriam James Heidland, is for anyone desiring wholeness, freedom, and an encounter with a loving Creator. If you're looking for a deeper understanding of God's love and the healing of your own story, you'll fit right in. It will be held Thursday evenings from 7-8:30 p.m. from Feb. 26- Apr 23 (except for Apr 2). Register by going to: <https://bit.ly/heal2026>. RSVP deadline is Feb. 19th.

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 visit wwme.org. Upcoming Dates: February 13-15 in Dubuque, April 10-12 in Marshalltown, October 9-11 in Epworth.

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to everyone who donated to, registered, and bid in this year's auction!
Your support of Notre Dame Catholic School is appreciated!

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