

Notre Dame Parish

Cresco, Iowa

St. Agnes Oratory, Plymouth Rock and St. Bridget Oratory, Bluffton

*"My soul proclaims
the greatness of
the Lord;*

*my spirit rejoices
in God my savior."*

Luke 1.46-47



Rev. Jacob Rouse
Pastor

Notre Dame Church
223 2nd Ave. E.

Parish Office:

9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Monday through Friday

116 East Third Street

Phone: 563 547-3565

Fax: 563 547-3835

Hall: 563 547-4652

Parish Website:

notredamecresco.com

Saturday 4:00 p.m. Mass

Livestreamed at:

<https://youtube.com/@notredamecresco>

Mindy Jones, Bookkeeper

Connie Frana, Office Manager

Melanie Vobr,

Coordinator of Faith Formation

m.vobr@dbqarch.org

Brian McGee,

Coordinator of Family & Youth Ministry

b.mcgee@dbqarch.org

LeRoy Webb, Pastoral Minister

Katie Schmitt, Principal

563 547-4513

School Website: [https://](https://sites.google.com/nd.pvt.k12.ia.us/ndschoo/home?authuser=0)

[sites.google.com/nd.pvt.k12.ia.us/](https://sites.google.com/nd.pvt.k12.ia.us/ndschoo/home?authuser=0)

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Celebration of Sacraments

Baptism Please contact the parish office to register for the required Baptism class, to schedule a Baptism or for more information. Next Baptism preparation class is scheduled for **Feb. 12, 2024.**

7:00 p.m. (Note date is subject to change).

Reconciliation Contact the parish office to schedule an appointment to celebrate this Sacrament of God's forgiveness.

Marriage Contact the parish office at least six months before intended wedding date.

February 4, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Job 7:1-4, 6-7; 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23; Mark 1:29-39

Human suffering is rampant. This is not news—one would have to be blind and deaf not to be aware of the massive amount of human beings who suffer.

The alleviation of suffering seems to be all too feeble. This is not news either. It is always an uphill struggle against the ravages of pain, disease, starvation and natural calamities.

The problem of suffering and the effort to explain it is as old as mankind. An entire book in the Old Testament is given over to this matter—we hear a snippet from the Book of Job today (Nor does the book satisfactorily “answer” the problem of innocent suffering and a loving God.)

In the New Testament the dilemma is faced head on: God in Jesus, confronts suffering and negative powers with great force. Today's reading from Mark depicts Jesus as a healer of major stature. People flock to Him for healing like the thirsty who desperately need water. Jesus flees this press of people; the disciples call Him back into action; He continues to preach and expel demons. At least at the beginning of Mark's gospel it appears the power over suffering has the upper hand.

Next week's readings:

Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46; 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1; Mark 1:40-45

Praise the Lord who heals the brokenhearted.

Monday, Feb. 5— No Mass. Pray for vocations.

Tuesday, Feb. 6—Mass
5:15 p.m. +Rusty and Dorothy Barnes
Sacristan: Ken and Maryln Shores

Wednesday, Feb. 7—Mass
8:00 a.m. +Jerry and Jenna Simon
Music: Jed Becker
Sacristan: Roger and Elaine Kleve

Thursday, Feb. 8—Mass
9:00 a.m. +Gene Murphy
Sacristan: Joyce Jirak

Friday, Feb. 9—Mass
8:00 a.m. +Ben Sir
Sacristan: Jerry and Barb O'Donnell

Saturday, Feb. 10—Mass in church and livestreamed
4:00 p.m. +Ireaneus and Catherine Moellers
EMHCs: Angie Kappes, Steve and Terry Duerre

Lector: Terry Duerre
Servers: Leah Henkes
Music: Pam Daley, Wendy Schatz
Greeters: Brian McGee, Rita Shea
Hosts: Bryan and Denise Sheehy
Ushers: Joey Reinhart, Joe and Lynn Rose, Bryan Sheehy
Sacristan: Karen Hyke and Joey Reinhart

Sunday, Feb. 11—Mass
8:00 a.m. +Martin and Emma Jean Koudelka
EMHCs: Frank and Donna Ryant, Jim Truka
Lectors: Jim Truka, Roger Kleve
Servers: Carly Miller, Garrett Vobr
Music: Katie Ferrie, Jamie Fisk
Greeters: Janet Andera, Betty Hebrink
Hosts: Frank and Donna Ryant
Ushers: Alisha Carolan, Nick and Ava Ferrie, Cody Kerian
Sacristan: Frank and Donna Ryant

10:00 a.m. +Lam Voong
EMHCs: Jerry O'Donnell, Michelle Midthus, Tracy Hart
Lectors: Brian and Michelle Midthus
Servers: Mackenzie and Madison Midthus
Music: Teen Choir, Jamie Fisk
Greeters: Gary and Janel Langreck
Hosts: Brian and Jill McConnell
Ushers: Brian McConnell, Richard McConnell,
Jerry Wilson, Kathy McCarville
Sacristan: Jerry and Barb O'Donnell

*O come, let us worship God and bow low before the
God who made us, for he is the Lord our God.*

Radio Rosary is broadcast every Sunday morning at 8:30 a.m. and every evening at 6:00 p.m. during Lent on KCZQ 102.3 FM. Sponsors are welcome to support this broadcast. Cost is \$30.00 per broadcast. If you are interested in contributing towards this Radio Rosary, please contact Mary Gansen, 563 547-5495 or the parish office, 563 547-3565.

Weather related mass schedule information: If school is delayed or cancelled, daily morning mass is cancelled. If school is dismissed early or cancelled, Tuesday afternoon mass will be cancelled. If school is delayed, Tuesday afternoon mass will be held.

In Memory

Mary Jane Hudson	Sanctuary Candle
Tom Kleve	Altar Wine
Ed and Joyce Barloon	Missalettes (Feb.)

Stewardship of Prayer

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

Parker Byrnes	Dianne Kovarik
Makiah Pierce	Dean Dietzenbach
Tom Rouchka	JoDene Van Dyke
Arlene Kuennen	Joyce Kapler
Bill Smith	Don Neubauer
Ann Burgess	Frances Kovarik Langham
Liz Yount	Dan Pahl
Luther Govern	Kevin Neuzil
Mary Stejskal	John Gossman
Paula Growden	Pat Smith
Randy Smith	Brenda Anding
Janice Ries	Shelly McAllister
Stu Gordon	Ethan Pepera
Lisa Peter	Colleen Voves
Ellie Lorenzo	Leona Herold
Deb Wilkins	Dick Franks
Connie Frana	Marinus Mlady
Lonnie Dishinger	Bill Rink
Audrey Grinhaug	Ken Hruska
Matt Duerre	Axel Heller
Roger Malli	Ron Scanlan

We are pleased to pray for the sick, if you would like to add a name, please call the parish office after receiving permission from the person to have their name published; however, to preserve space if a person has recovered and can be removed from the prayer list, also please contact the parish office.

Ministry of Prayer Network: *If you would like to serve on this Prayer Network, please email the office at: DBQ047SI@dbqarch.org. When a request is received, you will receive an email asking for your prayers for the immediate need. If you have an urgent need for prayer, call the office at 563 547-3565 to activate the prayer network.*

Stewardship of Offering

January 28, 2024

Total Stewardship Contributions/Offertory Income	
Needed each week:	\$ 10,750.00
Last week's Envelope Contribution Income:	\$ 18,107.00
Last week's ACH Contribution Income:	\$ 5,839.00
Last week's offertory income:	\$ 512.00

Like St. Paul in the second reading, the good steward can say, "I do all that I do for the sake of the gospel in the hope of having a share in its blessings."

Bible Study will not be held through February. Please watch for further announcements.

Coffee and Rolls will be served following all the masses on the weekend of Feb. 3-4 in the Notre Dame Church Hall. Everyone is welcome to join in the food and fellowship!

Mother-Son SuperHero Bash-Join us Sunday, February 4th from 1:00-3:00 PM for our Mother-Son SuperHero Bash. This event is open to all mothers and sons ages 12 and under and includes games, snacks, and super activities to bring out the hero in all of us! Contact Brian McGee at b.mcgee@dbqarch.org for more information.

Sewing Circle will meet on Mon., Feb. 5, 2:00 p.m., Notre Dame Church hall.

Notre Dame Family Circles of Faith 2024 booklets are available on the parish website. Several circles are in need of chairpeople. If you are willing to volunteer, please contact the parish office. Thank you!

Baptism Class: If you are expecting a baby or preparing to have your child baptized and have not attended a Baptism Class in the past three years, you need to attend a Baptism class before the Baptism takes place. Please note this class is offered 4 times a year. The next class will be held on **Monday, Feb. 12, 7:00 p.m.**, Notre Dame Church. Please call the parish office to register, 563 547-3565.

Liturgical Ministry Schedule A new schedule for April through September is being compiled. If you would like to start a ministry or discontinue one, please contact the parish office. Your time and talent is needed and appreciated to serve the parish.

"Daddy Daughter Dance-Calling all fathers and father figures! On Sunday, March 10th the Family Ministry Committee will be hosting our Daddy Daughter Dance from 5:00-7:00 PM in the Parish Hall! Join us for an evening of music, dining, pictures, and crafts. Open to all girls 12 and under. Please RSVP at <https://notredamecresco.com/family-ministry>

Looking for an experience of a lifetime? Discover Faith, Fellowship and Fun as a Totus Tuus Missionary! Totus Tuus calls upon college students and seminarians who are hired to share their energy, enthusiasm, love and witness of the faith, commitment to spiritual growth, ability to work as a team and desire to work with youth. If you are interested in serving as a Totus Tuus Missionary for Summer 2024, contact Joanne Pohland at 563 556-2580, ext 255 or j.pohland@dbqarch.org

WHEN ALL THE HUSTLE-BUSTLE OF THE HOLIDAYS ARE OVER..... Don't you and your spouse deserve a beautiful, romantic weekend away together? If you agree then you'll want to attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. For more info contact Denise and Greg – 563-920-9419. **Upcoming dates:** February 16-18 in Marshalltown, April 12-14, 2024 in Epworth, September 27-29 in Dubuque and November 8-10 in Holstein, IA

How do I become a member of the Catholic Church?

What do Catholics believe? If you or someone you know are inquiring into the Catholic faith, or are a parishioner who wants to learn more about your faith, please contact the parish office at 563 547-3565 to receive information.

Thank You

We are grateful for all the volunteers who offer their time and talent as good stewards for the betterment of the parish. This week we thank the Eucharistic Ministers.

Rosary Program - Our Lady (*Notre Dame*) is asking each of us to pray the rosary every day. The rosary is so powerful, and carries with it so many graces. Continue to tally the number of rosaries prayed on any piece of paper and drop the results in the collection basket as part of your offering. Monthly totals will be published in the bulletin. Rosaries, along with instructions on how to pray the rosary, and tally slips can be found in the News and Literature stand in the church entry. Rosaries prayed in January: **155. Notre Dame, pray for us.**

"Beautiful Eucharist" books by Matthew Kelly are available in the front entrance of the church. Please feel free to take one for yourself and/or to give to someone else.

Scrip Program (includes Dollar Fresh, HyVee, Pinter's, Ruppert's Ace Hardware, Fareway, Fisk's, Subway, Casey's, A & W, Sue-Z-Q, Atomic Pizza and Kwik Star.) Cards available at the parish office and at church **Feb. 3-4.**

Save the Date for the 2024 Archdiocese of Dubuque Men's Conference! You're invited to the 28th Annual Archdiocese of Dubuque Men's Conference. *Notre Dame will be a Virtual Host Site on Sat., March 16 from 9:00 a.m.—1:30 p.m. \$20/person. Join us in the parish hall for all or part of the day. If you are unable to attend in person for all/any of the day but still want access to the recording/livestream, register and receive log-in information.* The keynote speaker will be **John Edwards**, who is the founder and director of Pew Ministries, a Catholic apostolate with the mission of bringing the person of Jesus Christ to the person in the pew. John is also the host of the popular "Just A Guy in the Pew" Podcast (www.justaguyinthepew.com). *For more information on the presentation at Notre Dame, contact Melanie Vobr at 563 547-3565 or m.vobr@dbqarch.org*

Cresco Area Blood Drive Thurs., Feb. 15, 12:00—5:00 p.m., United Methodist Church. To make an appointment call 563 547-5839. Appointments preferred.

"Come, let us Adore" As we celebrate our 50th Jubilee, the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration invite single women, ages 18 - 40, who are considering religious life, to visit for a weeklong Monastic Experience March 2-7, 2024 at our monastery in Clyde, Missouri. It's a chance to experience the daily rhythm of our life where you can join us in singing the divine office, attend daily Mass, spend time in personal prayer and open your heart to God's call by learning about discernment and prayer. There is no cost to attend, and more details can be found at www.benedictinesisters.org. To register, contact Sr. Maria Victoria at (660) 944-2221 ex. 127 or e-mail vocation@benedictinesisters.org.

Don Davis Good Samaritan Fund Donations are always accepted for this fund through Notre Dame Parish and will be deposited in the local Salvation Army account administered by CUSB. It will provide a centralized community resource for all Cresco area churches to refer requests for emergency financial assistance. For more information, contact the parish office.

Prayer Shawl Ministry Prayer Shawls are available at the front entrance of the church to anyone who is ill or going through a hard time and needs to know that someone cares about them. We have yarn available to pick up at the parish office for those who would like to make the shawls. Thank you.

One of the most worthy sentiments of the human heart is hope, a tendency towards something morally good and in itself human.

Our sustenance in the midst of difficulties and obstacles, encountered in the struggle to attain perfection, is the virtue of supernatural hope.

The object of this hope is eternal life.

February Youth Group Sessions!

Join us for our February Youth Group Sessions for an evening of games, food, and fellowship. This is NOT a class session, and participants do not need to be parishioners to attend!

High School Session (all students in grades 9-12)
Monday, February 12th at 6:00 PM
in the Parish Hall.

Middle School Session (all students in grades 6-8)
Monday, February 19th at 6:00 PM
in the Parish Hall.

Pizza provided at both sessions!!

Contact Brian McGee for more information at
b.mcgee@dbqarch.org

Notre Dame Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes - January 25, 2024

The January 25, 2024 meeting of the Notre Dame Pastoral Council was called to order by Jim Truka. Fr. Jacob led the group in prayer. The group then recited the Parish Mission Statement. Present were Fr. Jacob Rouse, Jim Truka, Brian McConnell, Holly Manske, Mary Larson, Janel Langreck, Joe Wacha, Keith Wherry, Patti Guyer and Joye Meyer. Absent Maryln Shores.

The minutes of the October 26, 2023 meeting were reviewed. Mary Larson made motion to approve minutes as presented, seconded by Keith Wherry. Motion approved by consensus. The agenda was reviewed. Joe Wacha made a motion to accept the agenda as presented, seconded by Patti Guyer. Motion approved by consensus.

Old Business: Keith made motion to approve the 2023-2024 amended budget previously approved by the Catholic School Board and the Finance Council, seconded by Joe Wacha. Approved by consensus.

Joe Wacha reported on the December 7 Liturgy Committee Meeting. Joe will check into getting the cords removed and installation of outlets in the choir area. Having the Knights of Columbus attend the Mass of Remembrance was a nice addition. In the future, the Mass of Remembrance will be held on the Holy Day and will not be moved to the weekend. Christmas decorations were put up December 24th after 10 am mass. Thank you to those who helped. Cornerstone is now in its 4th year. The meal on the first Wednesday of the month has been well attended. Fr. Jacob loves using the Mass of Creation. The Heritage Mass will be used for the season of Christmas through Lent.

Joye Meyer reported on the December 11 Circles of Faith meeting. The following Special Committees who will provide the main course for meals for Cornerstone Class on the first Wednesday of each month: December #5, January #6, February #1, March #2 and April #3. The Cornerstone parents will provide the desserts. Special Committee #2 will do the Women's Conference and #3 will do the Confirmation Retreat. Thank you notes were read. 2024 Circles of Faith Booklets will not be published but are available on the parish website. Chairpeople remain the same unless the office has been notified. A couple groups still need chair people. Please contact the parish office if you're interested. This would be greatly appreciated. St. Patrick and St. Andrew Circles will be collecting dues for 2024. Circles of Faith meeting dates and times will be in the bulletin. A possible Circle project was discussed. Please contact Connie or Janel Langreck if you'd be interested leading and/or helping with the pie stand at Brown Park the Sunday of Sweet Corn Days from 11 am to 5 pm. 27 plates of cookies were delivered to shut-ins. Christmas gifts were discussed and approved along with donation to the School Sisters of Notre Dame Religious Retirement Fund. Next meeting will be March 18, 2024. Holiday snacks and fellowship were enjoyed after the meeting.

Mary Larson reported on the Faith Formation Commission meetings held December 14 and January 25. Brian McGee reported 19 teens are enrolled in the Confirmation preparation program. Their retreat will be January 28th from 11 am to 3 pm in the parish hall led by Julie Schmidt from Bellevue. The next Confirmation Session will be January 31st and the topic will be "prayer." November Youth Group Sessions for middle and high school went well. The next Youth Group will be held January 22. Brian is meeting with youth leaders from Immanuel Lutheran and possibly other churches to host a joint Ecumenical large group youth session late spring/early summer. The Family Ministry Committee had the "Cookies with Santa" event on December 1st with over 150 people. Adult Winter Dance was held Saturday, January 13th at the Heritage Event Center. 138 people bought tickets and 113 were able to attend due to poor weather. Meal was catered by McAllister's, music provided by DJ Dean Lickteig and decorations by Family Ministry Committee. The event was well received and had positive feedback. Sunday, February 4th there will be a Mother/Son Superhero Bash in the Parish Hall from 1-3 pm. This is for all moms with sons 12 and under to have an afternoon of strength building snacks, super activities and games and heroic adventures! Brian is teaching religion to grades 3 (studying Kingdom of God), grade 4 (studying The Beatitudes) and grade 5 (studying the Sacrament of Baptism). Archdiocesan Protection of Children/Safe Environment Lesson was offered to students on January 17. The students will be doing service projects for Catholic School's Week. Melanie reported Cornerstone's theme for January is "Who is Jesus Christ" and the prayers are Fatima Prayer and the Glory Be. The Cornerstone Team (which includes catechists, aides, hospitality and prayer team) attended a retreat led by Melanie on December 10. The "Mass of Explanation" in November went well. As Melanie is on maternity leave, she has posted the Into the Deep videos at: <https://youtu.be/OCCRdzxmEA> and the Wee Families materials can be found at: <https://notredamecresco.com/wee-families>. First Eucharist parent/student meeting will be held January 31 in the parish hall. There are 4 participants in RCIA. The "Finding Light, Hope and Healing" program has been promoted. A Women's Conference will be held virtually on January 27 and is open to women of all ages. A virtual Men's Conference will be held March 16. Registration is on the parish website. During Lent (starting February 14) there will be "40 Days-40 Items" bags available in the back of church until they are gone. The theme for our Lent this year is "Almsgiving". These bags will allow people to give up gently used items in their homes to those more in need of them. These bags can be donated to whomever the family chooses. Melanie presented a year to date and a proposed budget. Katie Schmitt reported there will be a 9 am School Mass on Ash Wednesday (February 14). Reminder of Lasagna/Online Auction on January 26th.

Holly Manske reported on the November 8 and January 11 Catholic School Board Meetings. Alumni newsletters were mailed. Hoops Mania will run during March Madness. They will be due back around March 14. The Office of Catholic Schools will complete a data analysis at both the Archdiocesan and the school levels. Based on this analysis, Notre Dame is a Tier 1 school, meaning 80% or more of the students are meeting the benchmark. One Leadership Goal is to ensure ND has an active Multi-Tier Student System in place by the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year to help support staff and students. The security project is underway with all key fobs and doors now set up. One door is waiting a warranty part but is working great. Cameras are now installed. NICC is looking at doing another welding project for us again. They just need us to come up with another potential project. The Lasagna Supper is January 26 with the 5th graders helping. Scrip

was sold during the whole month of December and sales were very good. The SIAC/Wellness Committee met on November 15 and December 13 with the focus on Catholic Schools Week and going over testing data (Fast Data and ISASP). Katie Schmitt shared the happenings for Catholic Schools Week. Grade K-5 teachers are currently doing Winter Fast Testing. The Archdiocese now has a formula to calculate tuition. Tuition, wages and benefits were discussed. Currently ND needs 2.4 additional certified teachers for next year. Pre-registration for next year will go out January 29. Father Jacob reported he will be doing the Stations of the Cross with the students this year. This next semester he's going to commit more of his time in the classrooms, lunchrooms, etc. He will be starting weekly confessions as an option to students.

Janel Langreck and Patti Guyer reported the Stewardship Committee Meeting for November was canceled and their next meeting is February 19. Janel did report on the Reverse Collection for Food Pantry donations for December and January. 574 pounds were donated. The Food Pantry boxes at the entrances were decorated for the holidays.

The Pastoral Council reviewed the reports from the Finance Council. The Archdiocese has approved the new sound system and Sim Sound Company was chosen to do the work. A down payment was made to Window World to replace more windows in the rectory. The part-time maintenance help at the school are doing well and are a good addition to the team. The Finance Council approved the base wage for certified teachers. Financial reports were reviewed. With the church year at 50%, the parish income is at 52.61% and the expenses are at 45.51% of the budget. The school income is at 48.87% and the expenses are at 53.26%. An Alliant Energy cost and usage analysis was provided to the council and discussion of getting solar panels continues to move forward.

Brian McConnell reported on the Buildings and Grounds Committee November 2 and January 4 meetings. The repair work needed in the back area of the basement has been completed. The garage door repair will wait until spring when weather is warmer. A volunteer is looking at making a stand for the bells by the server's kneeler and also a stand or rack for the humeral veil in the sacristy. The stained glass company will come this spring to install storm windows/weather proofing on the remaining stained glass windows. North and south doors in the elevator lobby are now fixed. Railing on west steps is still in discussion due to a concern about stability and safety. Hopefully a solution will be reached soon although the installer is booked out a year. Skid loader will be fixed in the spring.

Fr. Jacob reported Sound System has been approved by the Archdiocese and he and the company rep will schedule installation date which will take 4 days. The Council approved the application for a grant from School Nutrition Programs for a walk-in freezer and stainless steel countertops. Father and Brian McGee will be training new altar servers. They will be incorporated into the school and weekend masses. Overall co-chairs and/or a committee is being sought for the Notre Dame Food Stand at the Howard County Fair. If you are willing to offer your time and talent as co-chairs or to serve on a committee for this worthwhile project, please call the parish office for more details and/or to volunteer.

The Council discussed getting candidates for the parish elections for Pastoral Council.

Mary Larson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Janel Langreck. Motion approved by consensus.

The next meeting will be April 25, 2024.

Respectfully submitted
Joye Meyer, Executive Secretary

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