



Our Lady of Lourdes
Lourdes, IA



Saint Bernard
Alta Vista, IA



Immaculate Conception
Elma, IA



Immaculate Conception
Riceville, IA



Saint Peter
New Haven, IA

Holy Rosary Cluster

Holy Rosary Cluster Office

Address: 203 7th Street Elma, IA 50628-8391

Phone: 641-393-2520

Website: <http://holyroarycluster.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HolyRosaryCluster>

Staff

Rev. Jerry F. Kopacek, Pastor: dbq075@dbqarch.org

Nancy Theis, Business Manager: dbq075sec@dbqarch.org

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Office Hours

The office this week: Closed - Monday

Staffed: Tuesday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Reconciliation

Any time by appointment

15 minutes before weekday Mass in Elma

First Friday 3:00 - 3:40 p.m. at St. Peter, New Haven

First Friday 4:00 - 4:40 p.m. at Immaculate Conception, Riceville

Lourdes - Saturday, 3:00 - 3:45 PM

Alta Vista - Saturday, 5:00 - 5:45 PM; when Lourdes has 4 PM Mass Alta Vista confessions will be 5:15 - 5:45 PM.

Elma - Sunday, 6:30 - 7:00 AM

Riceville - Sunday, 8:15 - 8:45 AM; when there is no 7:15 AM Mass at Elma.

No confession time at the parish that does not have weekend Mass.

Bulletin Deadline - Please have bulletin items to the office by Friday before Noon the week before you would like the item in the bulletin. Thank you.



THE ASSUMPTION OF THE
Blessed Virgin Mary

Marriage

Please contact the priest at least six months in advance.

Baptism

Baptism Class is required. Make baptism arrangements by phoning the Cluster Office (393-2520) during office hours.

August 16, 2020

Holy Rosary Cluster

To the Members of Holy Rosary Cluster:

1. In the last couple of weeks I used the weekend homily time to review Anthony Digmann's talks for our cluster mission last March on why it makes sense to believe in God and why it makes sense to be Christian. There are a lot of excellent books and other resources that go into these issues in much more depth; I especially recommend the following:

A. **Lee Strobel** was a Yale Law School graduate and legal editor of the Chicago Tribune who was a religious skeptic and decided to investigate the claims of Christianity. The result of his studies was his conversion to the Christian faith. He is not Catholic, but the following books are all very good in demonstrating why it makes good sense to believe in God and in Jesus as his Son who truly rose from the dead:

"The Case for Christ: A Journalist's Personal Investigation of the Evidence for Jesus" (Zondervan, 1998)

"The Case for Faith: A Journalist Investigates the Toughest Objections to Christianity" (Zondervan, 2000)

"The Case for a Creator: A Journalist Investigates Scientific Evidence That Points Toward God" (Zondervan, 2004)

B. **Peter Kreeft** is one of my very favorite authors. He grew up in the Calvinist/Reformed tradition and became Catholic in his college years; he is currently a philosophy professor at Boston College. Kreeft has a very special gift for writing with reason and clarity as well as a genuine love for Jesus and for the Church. Two of his many books are especially helpful in these areas:

"Yes or No: Straight Answers to Tough Questions about Christianity" (Ignatius Press, 1991). This is written in the form of a dialogue between "Sal", who is interested but skeptical about God and religion, and "Chris", a Christian who responds to Sal's questions and doubts. The dialogue feature makes this an especially engaging treatment of these important issues.

"Forty Reasons I Am A Catholic" (Sophia Institute Press, 2018). This is actually a good book to read in connection with Anthony Digmann's last cluster mission talk from this past Monday on why it makes sense to be Catholic. As the title indicates, Kreeft briefly (no more than 2-3 pages each) gives forty reasons why he is Catholic--his personal testimony makes this an especially interesting book.

2. Archbishop Jackels recently informed us priests about a Zoom meeting he had on August 6 with the other three bishops of Iowa; among their discussion items was the ongoing pandemic. He said they discussed different 'what-if' scenarios--the pandemic getting under control or getting worse, what might allow for a full 're-opening'--i.e. safety measures no longer in force and reinstating the obligation to take part in Sunday Mass (we most certainly are not yet at that point!).

The archbishop then said: "Until then, we will continue to make public health a priority, and to be guided by the numbers: positive tests, hospitalizations, available ICU beds, and COVID deaths. We have been monitoring those numbers for the 30 counties of the Archdiocese, and so far, the numbers have not indicated the need to do something different. And I believe that the numbers will not get so bad as to force us to change course as long as we continue to observe those familiar safety measures" (emphasis added).

The bottom line: continue to be cautious and prudent, but not afraid. Pray for those afflicted with the virus and for their loved ones and caregivers, pray for the containment of the virus and for the quick development and dissemination of an effective vaccine, and pray above all for the grace and peace of God to sustain and strengthen us all.

3. Sad news from the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center last week: as of October 4, the Witness, the archdiocesan newspaper, will cease publication. From the notice: "The Witness has not been immune to the strains and hardships experienced by the greater newsprint industry in recent years. The declining number of subscribers...is in stark contrast to the amount of resources needed to continue publishing. This is true even after reducing the number of issues by half during the last fiscal year."

I am saddened by this, but not overly surprised. I will miss the Witness--it has been an excellent resource for news and other stories about the Church on the national and international level as well as in our own archdiocese. May the Holy Spirit guide the Church to new ways to spread the good news of Jesus Christ and of our Catholic faith.

4. Finally, I'm writing this column on Tuesday, August 11--the day after the destructive storms that hit central and eastern Iowa, and caused damage to a number of our archdiocesan church, school and parish buildings. Archbishop Jackels emailed us priests this morning about this and said that if anyone would like to help financially, donations can be sent to Catholic Charities Disaster Assistance (attention: Stacy Sherman)--1229 Mt. Loretta Ave., Box 1309, Dubuque IA 52004-1309.

~Fr. Kopacek

Cluster News

Daily Reflections with Fr. Kopacek

Fr. Kopacek's daily reflections, he shares on Facebook, can be accessed on the Holy Rosary Cluster website under 'Parish Happenings'.



Mass Intentions Week of August 17

Weekday Mass at 8:00 AM

Mon., Aug. 17 (Elma) + Deceased Members of the Paul & Rosella Reiss Family

Tues., Aug. 18 (Elma) + Charles & Gert Lentz

Wed., Aug. 19 (Elma) + James Smith

Thurs., Aug. 20 (Elma) + Stan Duffy

Fri., Aug. 21 (Elma) + Leroy & Luva Mae Mohrfeld

Saturday, August 22

4:00 PM (Lourdes) + NO MASS

6:00 PM (Alta Vista) + Helen Geerts

Sunday, August 23

7:15 AM (Elma) + For the People

9:00 AM (Riceville) + Michael & Delphine Mitchell

10:45 AM (New Haven) + June Jahnel

Readings for the Week of August 17

Monday: Ez 24:15-24/Dt 32:18-21/Mt 19:16-22

Tuesday: Ez 28:1-10/Dt 32:26-28, 30, 35-36/Mt 19:23-30

Wednesday: Ez 34:1-11/Ps 23:1-6 /Mt 20:1-16

Thursday: Ez 36:23-28/Ps 51:12-15, 18-19/Mt 22:1-14

Friday: Ez 37:1-14/Ps 107:2-9/Mt 22:34-40

Saturday: Ez 43:1-7ab/Ps 85:9-14/Mt 23:1-12

Next Sunday: Is 22:19-23/Ps 138:1-3, 6, 8/Rom 11:33-36/Mt 16:13-20

Pray For Those in Need

Jean Cerwinske, Michelle Cerwinske, Therese Collins, Ed Durman, Sara Folkers, Mary Jane Foxen, Eleanore Gansen, Ken Gebel, Joann Heying, Rose Heying, James Jennison, Diane Kovarik, Arlene Kuennen, Geraldine Lenehan, Joe Ludwig, Ann Foxen Maas, Gladys McGrane, Fran Palmer-sheim, Shirley Ptacek, Abbey Sculley, Rosemary Schwickerath, Pat Smith, William 'Bill' Smith, Joan Wegman, Linda Zeimetz, Carol Zobeck

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Early Bulletin Deadline - Items for the September 13 bulletin need to be to the cluster office by Tuesday, August 25.



Continue to contact the cluster office if you would like to volunteer as lector, sacristan or altar server.

+ Lourdes +

First Holy Communion

Congratulations to our students, James Boyle, Addison Ptacek and Braxton Ruggeberg, who made their First Holy Communion on Sat., August 15 at the 4:00 PM Mass. May God bless them on this very special day.

Steeple Day Thank You

Thank you to everyone who lined up, set up, worked at and cleaned up for Steeple Day. Your dedication and hard work are very much appreciated!

+ St. Bernard +

Vocation Crucifix

August 15 - Lyle & Lynn Ries (NO MASS)

August 22 - Keith & Suezen Glaser

+ Immaculate Conception-Elma +

Sympathy

We extend our deepest sympathy to the Bille Kobliska family. Bille's Funeral Mass was held on Monday, August 10 at Immaculate Conception, Elma. May he rest in peace.

+ Immaculate Conception-Riceville +

Religious Education News

1. The Riceville religious education program is in need of catechists for 5th grade(6 students) and combined grades 7th & 8th(9 students).
2. Religious Education will begin on Wednesday, September 9 and go from 6:30 - 8:00 PM.
3. Please call Debbie Oulman (641-985-2791) to register your first grader for religious ed. this fall.

+ St. Peter +

Thank You

Thank you to Phil, Peter and David Helfter for the memorial donation given to St. Peter Church in memory of their mother, Doris Helfter.

Religious Education News

Please call Meg Schutjer (641-713-3366) to register your first grader for religious ed. this fall.

+ Combined Religious Education +

Religious Education News

If you have a child entering first grade this fall who belongs to Alta Vista, Elma or Lourdes parishes please call Chad Buckley (515-290-5867) to get them registered for religious education.

GROWING WITH THE Gospel

CYCLE A

COLOR

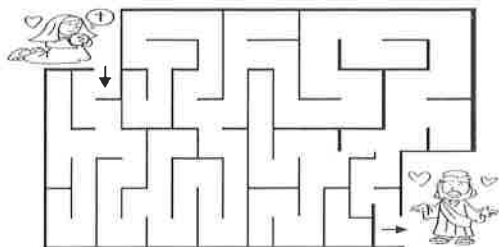
Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



20th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Matthew 15:21-28

PUZZLE

Help the woman find Jesus.



MISSION

If you know someone who is sick, let them see and pray about it. Jesus can do anything.

LEADER'S GUIDE

20th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Calendar Events

Annual Cluster Picnic - CANCELLED

Please note - if you missed this announcement in Fr. Kopacek's column, the Annual Cluster Picnic that was to be held on Sunday, August 23 is cancelled.

Little Turkey Picnic - Drive Thru

Saturday, August 15, Assumption Parish of Little Turkey will hold their annual church dinner with a Drive Thru meal of Reicks Fried Chicken with homemade sides and baked goods. Cost is \$11.00 from 4:00-8:00 PM.

Kolaches and Raffle Tickets will be sold in the drive thru.

Facebook Auction, go to Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Little Turkey, Iowa Facebook page to bid on items.

****Please remain in your vehicles.** Workers taking orders and delivering meals to vehicles will be wearing masks and gloves.

Christ Our Life Conference

Christ Our Life Conference is still planning on being held on September 26 & 27, 2020 at Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines. Social Distancing and many other precautions will be put in place for safety. The Conference will also be Live Streamed for those not comfortable going to the Conference. The cost is \$25 whether you attend in person or watch at home. Tickets can be purchased on-line beginning mid-July at www.ChristOurLife.com. Contact Jeanne Watts at 641-985-2031 with any questions.

Financial Stewardship

August 8/9

Our Lady of Lourdes

Budget Envelopes	\$175.00
Act of Kindness	62.00
On-Line Giving	65.00

St. Bernard - Alta Vista

Budget Envelopes	2,242.64
Act of Kindness	46.00
On-Line Giving	110.00

Immaculate Conception - Elma

Budget Envelopes	1,485.00
Act of Kindness	112.00
On-Line Giving	49.00

Immaculate Conception - Riceville

Budget Envelopes	1,210.00
Act of Kindness	112.00
On-Line Giving	.00

St. Peter - New Haven (NO MASS)

Budget Envelopes	960.00
On-Line Giving	80.00

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