



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](mailto:dbq075@dbqarch.org)

Nancy Theis, Business Manager: [dbq075sec@dbqarch.org](mailto:dbq075sec@dbqarch.org)

Renee Burke, Secretary: [dbq075sec2@dbqarch.org](mailto:dbq075sec2@dbqarch.org)

## Office Hours

The office this week: Closed - Monday

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

## 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

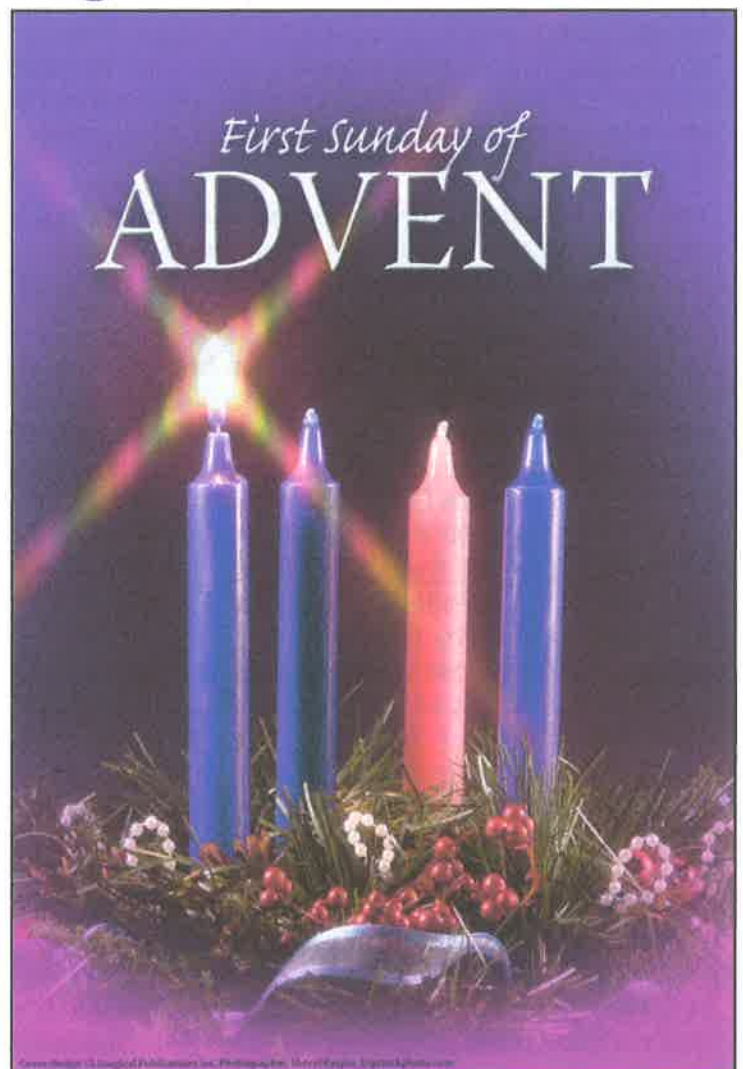
**Alta Vista** - Saturday, 5:00 - 5:45 PM; when Lourdes has 4 PM  
Mass Alta Vista confessions will be 5:15 - 5:45 PM.

**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.**

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



## Marriage

Please contact the priest at least six months in advance.

## Baptism

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

# Holy Rosary Cluster

To the Members of Holy Rosary Cluster:

1. In case you missed the insert in last week's bulletin, Archbishop Jackels announced the beginning of a process of pastoral planning for the Archdiocese of Dubuque. This process, similar to those used in many other dioceses around the country and here in the midwest, is meant to determine how best to provide pastoral care to the Catholics in the thirty counties of our archdiocese--especially in light of declining population and the decreasing number of priests as well. When I was ordained in 1988, there were about 225 active priests (not including those retired) in our archdiocese; we now have 75 active priests (1/3 of that 225 number from 1988). There are fourteen other priests from other countries currently serving in our archdiocese, but they remain formally affiliated with their home dioceses and are serving here for only a limited time. And while we have some very fine seminarians in the priestly formation process, their numbers--at least in the next several years--will not be enough to replace the decline in our active priest numbers through retirement and death.

The archbishop also announced that Jeff Henderson, in our archdiocesan Office of Pastoral Planning, will oversee the process of gathering information and responses from online surveys and in-person meetings around the archdiocese. Everyone will be invited to give input. From that gathered information, recommendations will be made to the archbishop regarding the status of our parishes--whether leaving as is, merging with other parishes, or closures. I know Jeff Henderson well; I've had occasion to work with him in many areas of archdiocesan ministry over the years. I'm certain that he will oversee this process with genuine integrity and pastoral sensitivity. In any event, however, he will not be making any final decisions--that responsibility will belong only to Archbishop Jackels.

The process for soliciting responses and input from all of us will begin next February. As I learn more about this process, I will certainly keep you informed. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will direct this process and help us to discern and follow the path God desires for us in our parishes, our clusters, and in the Archdiocese of Dubuque in general.

2. With this new Advent season, we begin the new liturgical year and this holy season that first prepares us to welcome Christ when he comes again at the end of time, and then prepares us more immediately to celebrate the great feast of his birth at Christmas. One of the best ways to do so is through the sacrament of confession or reconciliation. There are many different times this sacrament is regularly available here in Holy Rosary Cluster:

- 15 minutes before the weekday Masses in Elma
- at least 30 minutes before the weekend Masses in Lourdes, Alta Vista, and Elma; and also in Riceville when there is no Sunday Mass in Elma
- on First Fridays of the month: 3 p.m. at New Haven, and 4 p.m. at Riceville
- any time by appointment

In addition, note these extra confession times available this Advent season:

**Wed., Dec. 1, at 6:30 p.m. in Riceville** (another priest will be present to help)

**Tues., Dec. 7 at 4:30 - 5:15 p.m. in Riceville** (before the 5:30 p.m. vigil Mass for the feast of the Immaculate Conception--a holy day of obligation)

**Wed., Dec. 8 at 5:00 - 5:45 p.m. in Lourdes** (before the 6 p.m. Mass for the Immaculate Conception--a holy day of obligation)

**Thurs., Dec. 16 at 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. in Alta Vista**

**Tues., Dec. 21 at 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. in New Haven**

**Wed., Dec. 22 at 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. in Elma**

**Thurs., Dec. 23 at 11 a.m. - noon in Elma**

I'll have more information about this sacrament in the next few bulletins; for now, I strongly recommend that you make a good confession during this holy season--especially if it has been a long time since you have done so.

~Fr. Kopacek

## Pray For Those in Need

Jean Cerwinske, Michelle Cerwinske, Kenny Chihak, Ed Durnan, Sara Folkers, Ken Gebel, Joann Heying, Rose Heying, Jimmy Holmen, Diane Kovarik, Arlene Kuennen, Joe Ludwig, Ann Foxen Maas, Lois McAvoy, Gladys McGrane, LaVern McGrane, Roger Nibaur, Laurie Mohrfeld Nock, Fran Palmersheim, Ida Roe, Abbey Sculley, Rosemary Schwickerath, Pat Smith, William 'Bill' Smith, Linda Zeimet

# Cluster News

## Live Streaming & Daily Reflections

Watch Mass or Daily Reflections live with Fr. Kopacek. Mass is Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM in Riceville. Reflections are posted after daily Mass. Find them on the cluster website under 'Parish Happenings' or on the cluster Facebook page.



## Mass Intentions Week of November 29

### Monday, November 29

Advent Weekday - Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-9/Mt 8:5-11

8:00 AM (Elma) + Stephanie Wallen

### Tuesday, November 30

St. Andrew, Apostle - Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8-11/Mt 4:18-22

8:00 AM (Elma) + David Allen Block

### Wednesday, December 1

Advent Weekday - Is 25:6-10/Ps 23:1-6/Mt 15:29-37

8:00 AM (Elma) + Ed & Peggy Beecher

### Thursday, December 2

Advent Weekday - Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1,8-9, 19-21,25-27/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Care Center + Elsie Ludwig

### Friday, December 3

First Friday/St. Francis Xavier-Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1,4,13-14/Mt 9:27-31

8:00 AM (Elma) + Msgr. John Hemann

### Saturday, December 4

Vigil of Second Sunday of Advent - Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-6/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6

4:00 PM (Lourdes) + Roger Lepa

6:00 PM (Alta Vista) + Kathleen Meirick

### Sunday, December 5

Second Sunday of Advent-Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-6/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6

3:1-6

7:15 AM (Elma) + Michael Odle

9:00 AM (Riceville-Live Streamed) + **NO MASS**

10:45 AM (New Haven) + For the People

## The Chosen - DVD Series on the Life of Jesus

The last showing of The Chosen for this year will be on the **Sunday, December 12 at 2:00 PM** in the Elma Church Basement. Each episode runs 40-50 minutes. Light refreshments will be served.



## Christmas Flowers

We are currently accepting donations and memorial contributions for Christmas flowers in our cluster for the Advent season. If you would like to make a donation in memory of a loved one, please put your donation in an envelope by Sunday, December 12 and mark it "Christmas Flower Memorial Donation" and include the name(s) of your loved one(s) as well as your parish. **If paying by check make it payable to your parish.** Loved ones names will be included in the bulletin at Christmas. Suggested donation toward a plant is \$10.00.



## Early Bulletin Deadlines

- November 30 - items due for Dec. 12 bulletin
- December 6 - items due for Dec. 19 bulletin
- December 10 - items due for Dec. 26 bulletin
- December 16 - items due for January 2 bulletin
- December 22 - items due for January 9 bulletin

**Please know the earlier you get items to the church office for the bulletin over the next two months the better the chances the items will get in the bulletin on time.**



**Thanks for your help and understanding!**

**> YOUR YEAR-END**

**GIVING**

**MAKES A DIFFERENCE <**

## Year End Contributions

IRS regulations require that any 2021 contributions must be given or post-marked by December 31, 2021. The parish books close on December 31, 2021.

**+ Lourdes +**

## Congratulations

We congratulate Garrett and Whitney Dvorak on the occasion of the baptism of their daughters Sutton Mae and Naomi Jo. Sutton and Naomi were baptized on November 13. Please welcome and pray for Sutton Mae and Naomi Jo as they begin their new life in the Church.

## Thank You

Thank you to the Geraldine Lenehan Family for the memorial donation given to Our Lady of Lourdes Church in memory of Geraldine.

**+ St. Bernard +**

## Vocation Crucifix

November 27 - Suezen & Keith Glaser

December 4 - Julie & Gary Swehla

## Congratulations

We congratulate James and Ashley Geerts on the occasion of the baptism of their daughter Hailey Grace. Hailey was baptized on November 13. Please welcome and pray for Hailey Grace as she begins her new life in the Church.

## Save the Date

St. Bernard will be celebrating their 125th birthday celebration next year. Mark your calendars for Saturday, July 23, 2022. A 4:00 PM Mass will be celebrated with Archbishop Jackels with a meal to follow. Please share with family members and past parishioners. More details to come at a later date.

**+ Immaculate Conception-Elma +**

**Elma Rosary Society News**

1. *The Elma Rosary Society is looking for volunteers for all four officer positions for next year, 2022.* The president and treasurer would be a 1 year term and the vice president and secretary would be a 2 year term. If we do not have any volunteers we will hold an election.
2. We will also be updating the Rosary Society Booklet for next year. **If your phone number has changed** or you would like to be put on the retired list **please let us know.**
3. If you are willing to volunteer for any of the officer positions or need to update your information for the booklet, please contact Samantha Burke at 319-240-9497.

**Calendar Events**

**The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

(Holy Day of Obligation)

**Mass Schedule**

**Tuesday, December 7**

**5:30 PM - Immaculate Conception, Riceville**

**Wednesday, December 8**

**8:00 AM - Immaculate Conception, Elma**

**6:00 PM - Our Lady of Lourdes.**



**Save the Date**

Religious Ed. Christmas Programs

**Riceville - Sunday, Dec. 12**

**Combined Religious Ed. (Lourdes)**

**Wed., Dec. 15, Soup Supper & Program**



**Christmas Mass Schedule**

**Christmas Eve**

Friday, December 24 - 4:00 PM (Alta Vista)

- 6:00 PM (Lourdes)

- 8:00 PM (Elma)

**Christmas Day**

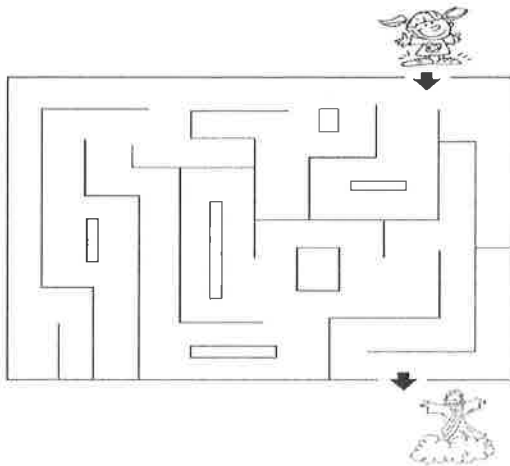
Saturday, December 25 - 9:00 AM (Riceville)

- No Mass (New Haven)



**PUZZLE**

Help this child find the path to God.



**MISSION**

Write down one thing that scares you. Tell God about it, and ask him to help you to be brave.



**Weekly Collection**

Due to bulletin deadlines November 21 bulletin had to be submitted early, the financial stewardship for November 21/22 will be in the next bulletin.

**Financial Stewardship**

November 13/14

**Our Lady of Lourdes**

Budget Envelopes \$1,075.00

Act of Kindness 116.00

On-Line Giving 75.00

**St. Bernard - Alta Vista (NO MASS)**

Budget Envelopes 740.00

On-Line Giving 10.00

**Immaculate Conception - Elma**

Budget Envelopes 3,784.82

Act of Kindness 59.00

On-Line Giving 575.00

**Immaculate Conception - Riceville**

Budget Envelopes 805.00

Act of Kindness 141.51

On-Line Giving 110.00

**St. Peter - New Haven**

Budget 445.00

Act of Kindness 73.00

On-Line Giving 80.00

If we were really patient, we'd wait 'til Jesus' birthday to light his candles, right?



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