



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://holyrosarycluster.org>

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

Staff

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

Nancy Theis, Business Manager: dbq075sec@dbqarch.org

Renee Burke, Secretary: 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

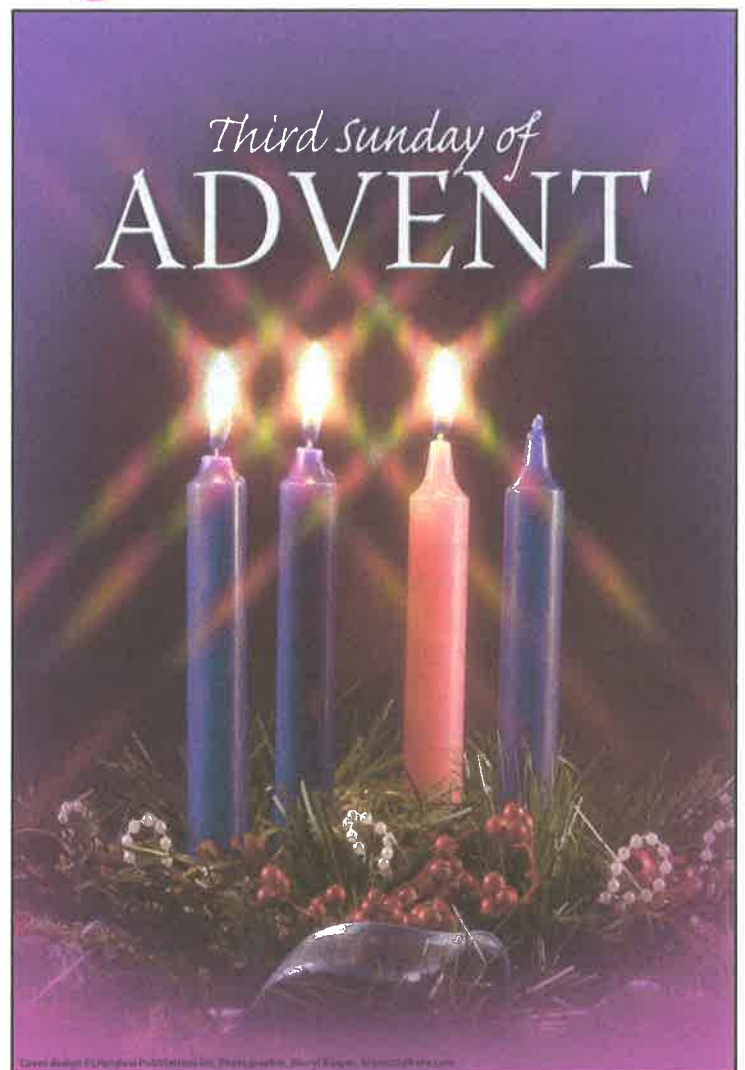
Alta Vista - Saturday, 5:00 - 5:45 PM; when Lourdes has 4 PM
Mass Alta Vista confessions will be 5:15 - 5:45 PM.

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.

December 12, 2021

Holy Rosary Cluster

To the Members of Holy Rosary Cluster:

1. Just another reminder that we will be viewing our monthly episode of "The Chosen" on Sunday (2 p.m. in the Elma church hall), December 12, instead of the usual third Sunday of the month. We will return to that third-Sunday schedule in January. This month we will watch what is probably my favorite episode of all that have been released thus far--Jesus changing the water into wine at the wedding of Cana. As usual, I'll do a brief review of what we've seen so far before we watch this episode. Free popcorn and refreshments; come and join us for a great episode and discussion afterward.
2. In last weekend's column I gave you the first six "good reasons" for going to confession from Archbishop Jackel's little brochure on the subject; the rest of his reasons are as follows:
 7. *The priest has heard it all before, and is a sinner like us, so we needn't feel embarrassed. Besides, shame is normal when we recognize we've hurt God or another; that we've fallen short of the person we want to be.*
 8. *Going to Confession reminds us that, no matter what sins we confess, or how often we sin, we are loved by God with a love that can't be earned or lost, that is beyond reason and limit, and that has no strings attached.*
 9. *Going to Confession helps us to be realistic about ourselves, like not being surprised by sin, for we are human, and therefore weak, and easily tempted to sin, and so we don't judge or condemn others, or even ourselves.*
 10. *Going to Confession challenges us to live better, characterized by daily prayers, Sunday Mass, obeying God's Commandments, forgiving others, works of mercy and penance, and being active in the parish.*
 11. *The saints confessed their sins with great benefit: 'Those who go to Confession frequently, and do so with the desire to make progress, will notice the strides that they make in their spiritual lives' (St. John Paul II).*
 12. *Going to Confession makes the angels and saints rejoice (see Luke 15:7).*
 13. *We might dread the thought of confessing our sins to a priest, but we feel great afterwards, like a heavy weight is lifted off our shoulders.*

I can personally vouch for that last reason in particular, both as a priest/confessor and as a penitent (when I go to confession). It has happened so many times over the years that when I am giving absolution to someone after their confession, that person begins to smile; I can almost see that 'heavy weight' being lifted from their shoulders. And when I hear the prayer of absolution offered for me after my confession, there is always a real sense of peace and the cleansing and healing mercy of God.

There is no good reason for staying away from this sacrament. If you are still unsure about how to go to confession or perhaps a bit frightened, simply begin by saying so--any priest worth his salt will be more than happy to help you every step of the way. As the archbishop also says: "Those are just a few reasons why it is good, healthy, and holy to go to Confessions...Don't be afraid. You'll be glad you did." Indeed you will!

~Fr. Kopacek

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Confession Schedule for Advent

- Thursday, December 16 -**
(Alta Vista) 4:30 - 5:30 PM
Tuesday, December 21 -
(New Haven) 4:30-5:30 PM
Wednesday, December 22 -
(Elma) 4:30 - 5:30 PM
Thursday, December 23 -
(Elma) 11:00 AM - Noon



Eucharistic Holy Hour

**Tuesday, December 14
at Riceville from 5 - 6 PM**
Exposition of the Blessed
Sacrament is at 5:00 PM;
Benediction is at 6:00 PM.
Fr. Kopacek will be
available for confes-
sions during this time.
All are welcome.



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, Peggy Vogt, Linda Zeimetz

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 December 13

Monday, December 13

St. Lucy - Nm 24:2-7, 15-17/Ps 25:4-9/Mt 21:23-27
8:00 AM (Elma) + Willie & Lillian Chihak

Tuesday, December 14

St. John-Zep3:1-2,9-13/Ps34:2-3,6-7,17-19,23/Mt21:28-32
8:00 AM (Elma) + Tom Huegel

Wednesday, December 15

Advent Weekday - Is 45:6-8,18,21-25/Ps 85:9-14/Lk7:18-23
8:00 AM (Elma) + Stephanie Wallen

Thursday, December 16

Advent Weekday - Is 54:1-10/Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13/Lk 7:24-30
Care Center + Ray Maravetz

Friday, December 17

Advent Weekday - Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-4,7-8,17/Mt 1:1-17
8:00 AM (Elma) + Russ O'Donnell

Saturday, December 18

Vigil of Fourth Sunday of Advent - Mi 5:1-4/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16,
18-19/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

4:00 PM (Lourdes) + Kristy Shultz

6:00 PM (Alta Vista) + **NO MASS**

Sunday, December 19

Fourth Sunday of Advent -Mi 5:1-4/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19/
Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

7:15 AM (Elma) + For the People

9:00 AM (Riceville-Live Streamed) + Norma Armstrong

10:45 AM (New Haven) + Ken, Irene & Ron Michels

Religious Education Christmas Programs

Riceville - Sunday, Dec. 12 - Christmas Program following 9:00 AM Mass.



Combined Religious Ed.-Wednesday, Dec. 15 from 6:00-8:00 PM at Our Lady of Lourdes church hall for the soup supper and auction with the Christmas Program at 7:15 PM in the church.

New Haven - Sunday, Dec. 19 -Christmas Program and meal following the 10:45 AM Mass.

The Chosen - DVD Series on the Life of Jesus

The next showing of *The Chosen* 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.



Correction

The 'Our Call To Share' Collection will **NOT** be taken up this Fall.

Early Bulletin Deadlines

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 the better the chances the items will get in the bulletin on time.



Thanks for your help and understanding!



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 Dec. 31, 2021.

Update Your Address, Phone, and Email

PLEASE call the Cluster Office if you have changed address, phone number or email, especially with the end of year contribution letters going out. This helps us to contact you and keep our records current. Thank you.



Parish Annual Reports

The 2020-2021 Parish Annual Reports are available in the entryways of your church. They include information of parish leadership, financial stewardship, and religious education.

Budget Envelopes

The 2022 budget envelopes are available to be picked up in the church entrances.

Please help out the office by:

1. **discarding your old 2021 envelopes and using the new 2022 envelopes.**
2. **writing your Name on your Budget Envelopes** If using a *plain envelope please write your Name, Parish and Envelope Number* on it. This is a great help and saves a lot of time in the office. Thank You!

Retirement Fund for Religious

Give in thanksgiving. Please join in thanking the thousands of senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who worked tirelessly to educate the young and serve those in need. The Retirement Fund for Religious, helps hundreds of religious communities care for aging members. **Please make checks payable to your parish and put in memo 'Retirement Fund for Religious'.** Donations are due by February 1, 2022.

+ Lourdes +

Christmas Decorating

Our Lady of Lourdes will be decorating the church for the Christmas season following Mass on Saturday, December 18. Many hands make light work!



Auction Donations for Religious Education

Anyone wishing to donate items or baskets for the Religious Education Soup Supper and Auction will be accepted any time leading up to the event. Supper, Auction, and Program are Wednesday, December 15 from 6-8 PM at Our Lady of Lourdes Hall and Church.

Calendar Events

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)

+ St. Bernard +

Vocation Crucifix

December 11 - Irene & Ed Huegel
December 18 - Deann & Tony Meirick

Rosary Society News

- Officers for 2022 are: President-Colleen Marvin, Vice President-Pat Halvorson, Secretary-Dana Lentz, Treasurer-Paula Breitbart.
- Members who no longer have a home phone, please call Lynn (364-5201) and let her know your cell number.
- Next meeting is January 4 at Schucky's.



+ Immaculate Conception-Elma +

Christmas Decorating

I.C. Elma will be decorating the church after Mass on Sunday, December 19. All help is very much appreciated.

Rosary Society News

- Since no one has stepped forward to volunteer for Rosary Society officers for 2022, we will be holding officer elections.** This is a worthwhile opportunity for you to help out your parish.
- 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 call Samantha Burke at 319-240-9497 by December 30, 2021.**



Beauty In Christ Women's Conference

Archdiocesan Women's Conference Livestream!
Saturday, January 29, 2022; 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

The livestream will be hosted by St. John's School of Religion at 823 W. Main St., New Hampton (across the street from New Hampton High School). Doors open at 8:00 AM and livestream begins at 9:00 AM.

Contact Brian McGee, Director of Faith Formation at DBQ141FF@dbqarch.org or **call 641-394-2105** for more information on how to sign up.

Admission price will depend on number of enrolled participants. Deadline to enroll is Friday, January 7, 2022 by 4:30 PM.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends

Consider attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter experience. This is a catholic faith based marriage enrichment program and has been providing couples with better communication skills and tools for over 50 years. Upcoming dates are February 11-13, Ankeny and April 23-24, Epworth. Register at Iowa-wwme.org or call Jeff & Janet Francois at 563-608-3305.

Weekly Collection

Due to bulletin deadlines December 12 bulletin had to be submitted early, the financial stewardship for December 4/5 will be in the next bulletin.

+ Immaculate Conception-Riceville +

Thank You

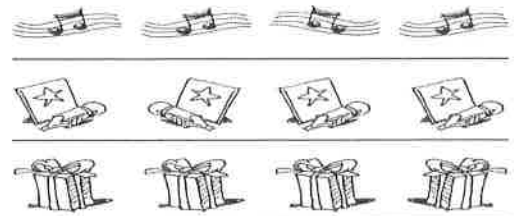
Thank you to St. Anne's Rosary Society for the donation given to I.C., Riceville Church to be used for liturgy expenses.

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



PUZZLE

Circle the pictures that are facing the same way. How many did you get right?



MISSION

This week I will give money, trained staff, and/or clothing to the poor.

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