



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

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

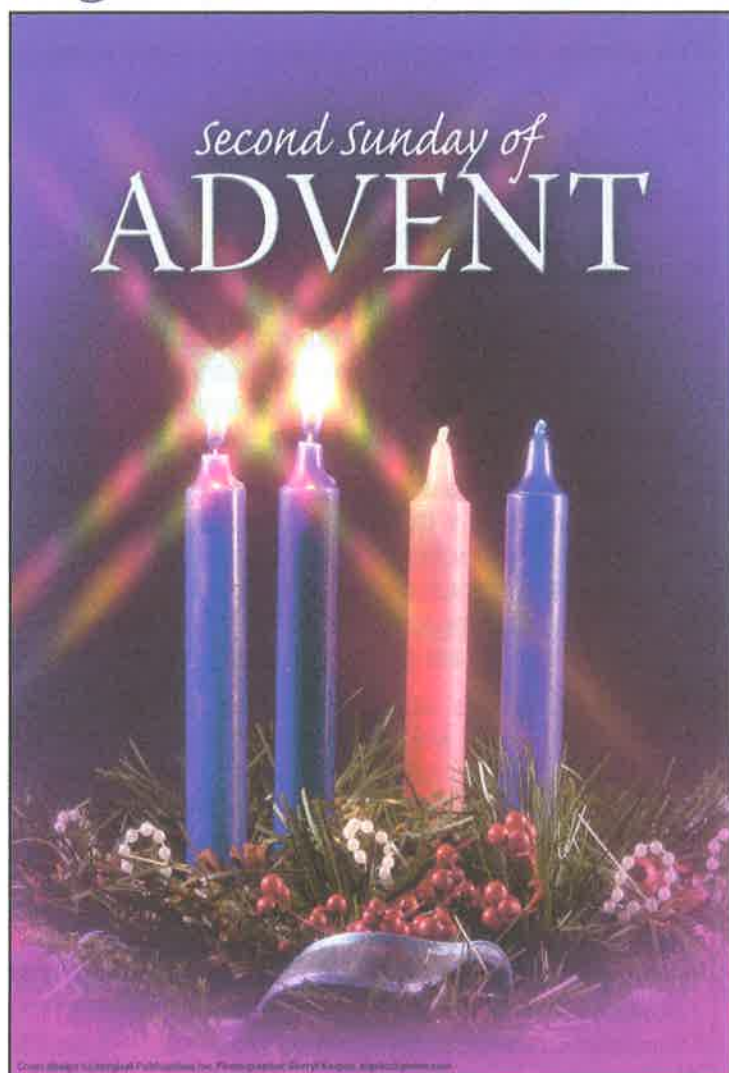
Alta Vista - Saturday, 5:00 - 5:45 PM; when Lourdes has 4 PM
Mass Alta Vista confessions will be 5:15 - 5:45 PM.

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.

Holy Rosary Cluster

To the Members of Holy Rosary Cluster:

1. Please note elsewhere in this bulletin the Mass schedule for the feast of the Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8)-a holy day of obligation. Note also the extra times I am available for the sacrament of confession during this Advent season. And for those of you who live fairly close to Charles City (or even not that close!), Immaculate Conception Church there will have a communal penance service with individual confessions this Sunday, December 5, at 2 p.m. A number of local priests will be there to help, including myself. You are certainly welcome to take part in that opportunity as well.

2. More about confession: a few years ago Archbishop Jackels published a brochure on this sacrament titled: "Going to Confession...God is Moved with Pity and Heaven Makes Merry". Copies of this have been available in the cluster parishes (I think they still are); I want to share here some of his insights. He reminds us that Jesus gave us this sacrament, and that the Church calls us to confess our mortal (serious) sins at least once a year. But he also says that "we could win a gold medal for the mental gymnastics we go through to excuse ourselves" from confession—for example, thinking that our sins aren't really that bad or that we can confess our sins directly to God...so why bother with the sacrament?

The archbishop then gives a number of good reasons for going to confession:

1. *Jesus gave priests the authority to continue his ministry of healing by forgiving sins in his name (see John 20:21-23).*
2. *By providing the sacrament of Confession, it's as if Jesus is preaching to us: repent, say sorry, ask pardon, and live differently.*
3. *The apostle James tells us we can find healing by confessing our sins to a priest (see James 5:16-20).*
4. *Every sin offends both Jesus and the members of the Church, and so we need to be reconciled to both, which can happen in Confession because there the priest stands in for both (see Matthew 16:19).*
5. *The words of absolution the priest says in Confession give assurance that God has forgiven our sins; there is no need for us to worry if we were sorry enough, if we confessed correctly, or if God heard us.*
6. *The priest isn't allowed to tell anyone what we confessed, and so Confession is a safe place to tell our sins, to talk about our struggles, and to receive spiritual counsel, not to mention the help of God's grace.*

A special note about that last item: this is what is called the seal of confession, and it is absolute. Canon (Church) law puts it this way: "The sacramental seal is inviolable; therefore, it is a crime for a confessor in any way to betray a penitent by word or in any other manner or for any reason" (Canon 983.1). Even if the civil law authorities would order a priest to testify in court to what someone told him in confession, he may not do so under any circumstances...even if he is threatened with imprisonment for not doing so. If a priest directly violates that sacramental seal of confidentiality, he is automatically excommunicated (Canon 1388.1).

The reason for this absolute seal? The Church strongly desires that all come to this sacrament of mercy and healing. For those who are afraid that what they confess may be revealed to someone else (and thus they are afraid of confession itself), the Church assures them that what they confess may not be revealed by the priest to anyone else at all—no exceptions. Archbishop Jackels lists further good reasons for going to confession; I'll have those for you in next week's bulletin. ~Fr. Kopacek

Confession Schedule for Advent

Tuesday, December 7 - (Riceville) 4:30 - 5:30 PM
Wednesday, December 8 - (Lourdes) 5:00 - 6:00 PM
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 at 6:00 PM.

Fr. Kopacek will be available for confessions 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 6

Monday, December 6

St. Nicholas - Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9-14/Lk 5:17-26

8:00 AM (Elma) + Stephanie Wallen

Tuesday, December 7

Vigil of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

5:30 PM (Riceville) + For the People

Wednesday, December 8

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

8:00 AM (Elma) + Tom Smith

6:00 PM (Lourdes) + Joe Praska

Thursday, December 9

St. Juan Diego - Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9-13/Mt 11:11-15

Care Center + Merlin Gunsallas

Friday, December 10

Our Lady of Loreto - Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-4, 6/Mt 11:16-19

8:00 AM (Elma) + Merlin & Norma Fortmann

Saturday, December 11

Vigil of Third Sunday of Advent - Zep 3:14-18/Is12:2-6/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

4:00 PM (Lourdes) + Donald Praska

6:00 PM (Alta Vista) + For the People

Sunday, December 12

Third Sunday of Advent - Zep 3:14-18/Is12:2-6/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

7:15 AM (Elma) + Nick & Regina Gansen

9:00 AM (Riceville-Live Streamed) + John Irvin

10:45 AM (New Haven) + **NO MASS**

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.



Act of Kindness

Act of Kindness collections will be taken the weekend of December 11/12. New Haven's collection will be taken on December 19. Designated charities this month are: St. Bernard & St. Peter-North Iowa Hospice, I.C. Elma-Marine Toys for Tots, Our Lady of Lourdes-Elma Public Library, I.C. Riceville - Riceville Food Pantry

Correction

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

Early Bulletin Deadlines

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 couple of weeks the better the chances the items will get in the bulletin on time. Thanks for your help and understanding!



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

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 Sun., December 12 and mark it "Christmas Flower Memorial Donation", 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.



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. 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.



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.



+ Immaculate Conception-Elma +

Sympathy

We extend our deepest sympathy to the Gerald McGee family. Gerald's private memorial Mass was held at I.C. Elma. A public Celebration of Life will be held April 30, 2022 at I.C., Elma. May he rest in peace.

Sympathy

We extend our deepest sympathy to the Larry Kovarik family. Larry's Funeral Mass was held on Monday, November 29 at I.C., Elma. May he rest in peace.

Elma Rosary Society News

- 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.
- 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.**
- Any willing volunteers for any of the officer positions or if you need to update your information for booklet, contact Samantha Burke at 319-240-9497.

+ St. Bernard +

Vocation Crucifix

December 4 - Julie & Gary Swehla

December 11 - Irene & Ed Huegel

Church Cleaners

Barb McAvoy, Becca Meirick, Charlene Meirick are church cleaners the week of December 5.

Rosary Society News

Officers for 2022 are: President-Colleen Marvin, Vice President-Pat Halvorson, Secretary-Dana Lentz, Treasurer-Paula Breitbach.

Next meeting is January 4 at Schucky's.

+ 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.

+ St. Peter +

Congratulations

Congratulations to Ross Cockrum & Hillary Schwemm who were married at St. Peter on Saturday, November 20. Also, congratulations to Sawyer Hulshizer & Holbrook Schutjer who were married on Saturday, November 27.

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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)

Financial Stewardship

November 20/21

Our Lady of Lourdes (NO MASS)

Budget Envelopes	\$725.00
On-Line Giving	195.00

St. Bernard - Alta Vista

Budget Envelopes	1,064.32
Act of Kindness	57.00
On-Line Giving	110.00

Immaculate Conception - Elma

Budget Envelopes	1,538.00
Offertory	79.00
On-Line Giving	50.00

Immaculate Conception - Riceville

Budget Envelopes	3,035.00
Offertory	170.00
On-Line Giving	.00

St. Peter - New Haven

Budget	295.00
Offertory	29.72
On-Line Giving	600.00

November 27/28

Our Lady of Lourdes

Budget Envelopes	\$1,725.00
Offertory	90.00
On-Line Giving	75.00

St. Bernard - Alta Vista

Budget Envelopes	690.00
Offertory	62.00
On-Line Giving	10.00

Immaculate Conception - Elma (NO MASS)

Budget Envelopes	1,012.00
On-Line Giving	50.00

Immaculate Conception - Riceville

Budget Envelopes	1,420.00
Offertory	86.00
On-Line Giving	.00

St. Peter - New Haven

Budget	435.00
Offertory	67.24
On-Line Giving	90.00

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