



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](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 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

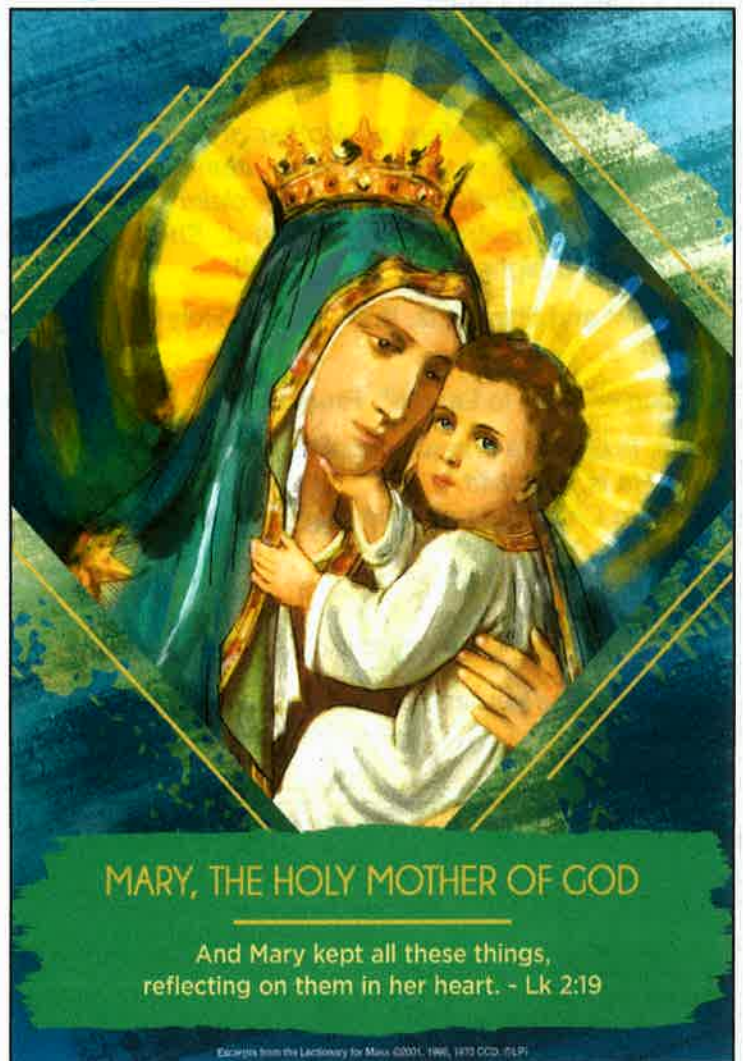
**Alta Vista** - Saturday, 5:00 - 5:45 PM; when Lourdes has 4 PM  
Mass Alta Vista confessions will be 5:15 - 5:45 PM.

**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.**

**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. Once again I find myself struggling to put into word my gratitude and appreciation for all your Christmas generosity and kindness--you folks are way too good to me! All the tasty treats, all the gifts, cards and kind words--they mean more to me than I can ever express. I've told you before, and I'll tell you again: I thank the good Lord every day for the great joy and privilege of serving here in Holy Rosary Cluster as your pastor; not only because of your generous kindness, but even more because of your goodness and your genuine love for Jesus and for the Church he has given us. May God continue to bless you and all your loved ones in this new year and always!

2. On this January 1, the first day of the new year, the Church celebrates the feast of Mary the Mother of God. We are still very much in the Christmas season, and so it is fitting to reflect more deeply on the woman who said 'yes' to God's desire for her to bring His Son into the world. We call Mary the Mother of God because she gave birth to Jesus--God the Son. If Jesus is God (and he is), and Mary is Jesus' mother (and she is), then it follows very logically that we can call Mary the Mother of God--it's a title that says a whole lot more about Jesus than it does about Mary.

In his book "Catholicism" (Image Books, 2011), Fr. (now Bishop) Robert Barron has this to say about this special Marian title:

*"The declaration of Mary as Mother of God is an instance of the general principle that whatever is said about Mary is meant not so much to draw attention to her as to throw light on Christ. To say that Mary is the Mother of God is to insist on the density of the claim that God truly became human, one of us, bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh. As Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen commented, 'Mary is like the moon, for her light is always the reflection of a higher light' (pp. 97-98).*

How right and fitting it is, then, to ask "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death"!

3. "Don't Forget to Laugh!" From another Reader's Digest collection:

"Mom, is God the one who puts food on our table?"

"Yes, He is, my child."

"Is Santa Claus the one who brings us gifts at Christmas?"

"Of course."

"Did the stork bring me?"

"Yes, it did, sweetheart."

"Then what good is Daddy??" Good luck answering that one, Mom!

May God bless you and all your loved ones with an abundance of his grace, peace and joy as we begin this new year of 2023. ~Fr. Kopacek



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## Pray For Those in Need

Jean Cerwinske, Michelle Cerwinske, Roger Dunn, Ed Durnan, Sara Folkers, Sharon Friedhoff, Ken Gebel, Joann Heying, John Heying, Rose Heying, Jimmy Holmen, Diane Kovarik, Arlene Kuennen, Joe Ludwig, Ann Foxen Maas, Gladys McGrane, LaVern McGrane, Roger Nibaur, Virginia McBride, Fran Palmersheim, Randy Rodriguez, Tom Rouchka, Abbey Sculley, Rosemary Schwickerath, Pat Smith, William 'Bill' Smith



# 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 January 2, 2023

### Monday, January 2

St. Basil - 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:2-4/Jn 1:19-28

8:00 AM (Elma) + Grant Saul

### Tuesday, January 3

Christmas Weekday - 1 Jn 2:29-3:6/Ps 98:1, 3-6/Jn 1:29-34

8:00 AM (Elma) + Bill Youngblut

### Wednesday, January 4

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton - 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-9/Jn 1:35-42

8:00 AM (Elma) + Janet Fair

### Thursday, January 5

St. John Neumann - 1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1-5/Jn 1:43-51

Care Center + Alan Shane

### Friday, January 6

Christmas Weekday - 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-15, 19-20/Mk 1:7-11

8:00 AM (Elma) + William & Lillian Chihak

### Saturday, January 7

Vigil of The Epiphany of the Lord - Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13/Eph 3:2-3, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

4:00 PM (Lourdes) + Clarence Shatek

6:00 PM (Alta Vista) + NO MASS

### Sunday, January 8

The Epiphany of the Lord - Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13/Eph 3:2-3, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

7:15 AM (Elma) + Jim Marik

9:00 AM (Riceville) + Merlin Gunsallus

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

## **MEETINGS**

Tues., January 3, 2023 - Liturgy Comm. at 6:30 PM

Thurs., January 12, 2023 - Parish Life at 6:00 PM

Meetings are in the I.C., Elma Church basement.

## Year End Contributions

IRS regulations require that any 2022 contributions must be given or post-marked by December 31. The parish books close on December 31, 2022.

## Act of Kindness

Act of Kindness collections will be taken the weekend of January 7&8. Alta Vista's collection will be taken on January 14. Designated charity this month is: St. Bernard, Our Lady of Lourdes, Elma I.C., Riceville I.C., and St. Peter - Catholic Student Center at Iowa State University.

## **+ St. Bernard +**

### Vocation Crucifix

December 31 - Bev & Dick White

January 7, 2023 - Donna & Joe Zweibohmer

### Rosary Society News

St. Bernard Rosary Society meeting will be on Tuesday, January 3 at 6:00 PM at Schucky's. Officers for 2023 will be President-Amy Boehmer, Vice-Pres.-Deann Meirick, Sec.-Dana Lentz, Treas.-Paula Breitbart.

## **+ Immaculate Conception-Elma +**

### Sympathy

We extend our deepest sympathy to the Marjorie Gansen family. Marge's Funeral Mass was held on Monday, December 19. May she rest in peace.

### Retired Fund for Religious

**2022 Religious Retirement Collection:** The annual collection for Religious Retirement was the weekend of **December 10-11 2022** nationwide, including in the Archdiocese of Dubuque, but the Cluster Office will continue to take donations until January 29, 2023. Thank you for your support in the care of our retired women and men religious. Your gift provides medications, nursing care and other necessities to Senior Catholic sisters, brothers and priests. **Checks should be made payable to your parish and write in the memo 'RFR'.**

### Totus Tuus Missionaries Needed

Do you know any college age men and women from your parishes who would be great role models for younger Catholics? The Archdiocese is looking for college-aged disciples of Jesus to serve on teams with other men and women like them during the summer of 2023.

Totus Tuus missionaries serve parishes across the Archdiocese throughout the summer leading songs, teaching, performing skits, and sharing witness talks with the children and youth of the Archdiocese.

This is a paid position with training and most expenses provided for during the summer. Please encourage anyone who would be excellent at this to apply.

Application information can be found at [www.dbqarch.org/Totus-Tuus](http://www.dbqarch.org/Totus-Tuus). Please contact Joanne Pohland ([j.pohland@dbqarch.org](mailto:j.pohland@dbqarch.org)) with any questions.



## Happy New Year!!



## Pilgrimage to Poland

Join Father Ivan Nienhaus, pastor of St. Patrick's Church, Cedar Falls on a pilgrimage to Poland and several major cities throughout Eastern Europe. The trip is scheduled for July 3 – 19, 2023. Cost out of Cedar Rapids is \$6,124.00 which includes all meals, transportation, & many other sites. 206 Tours. On this journey, we will walk in the footsteps of three great Polish saints - St. John Paul, St. Maximilian Kolbe and St. Faustina, the Apostle of Divine Mercy – along with embracing the culture of the Polish people. The trip to Poland will also include a stop at the famous Auschwitz Concentration Camp. We will also visit the Shrine of the Infant of Prague in Prague, the Czech Republic and Salzburg – the home of the movie, The Sound of Music. The trip will include additional stops in the beautiful cities of Vienna and Budapest. This trip will invigorate your Catholic Faith in ways that will last you a lifetime. For a flyer or more information contact Mary Johnston at 319-560-5138 or email at [blessu45@gmail.com](mailto:blessu45@gmail.com).

## PUZZLE

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

MARY JOSEPH BABY	SHEPHERDS JESUS ANGEL	LISTENED WONDERFUL NAMED
B N J D N B M A W G C	F A N U E O R I O K T	S M Y L I S T E N E D
L E H A M H F J D V O	P D A N G E L P E S F	I L R B V P Y A R U C
J O S E P H A G F N B	D H Y W T E K W U J M	W G K O T R C S L H A
E I M R C D U P E D R Y	A J E S U S L B A B Y	

## MISSION

Ask your parents what they enjoyed about you as a little baby. You might also want to look at some baby pictures together.



## Calendar Events

### Beauty In Christ Women's Conference

(Virtual Conference) - "Fiat! Saying Yes to God!"  
Saturday, January 28, 2023

8:00 AM - 1:30 PM (Time is Tentative)

Keynote presentations by national speaker and author Marcia Lane-McGee and local women's health educator, Jamie Rathjen.

For more information go to: <https://www.archwomensconference.org> or contact Joanne Pohland at [j.pohland@dbqarch.org](mailto:j.pohland@dbqarch.org).

### World Wide Marriage Encounter Weekend

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend can help you enrich your marriage and put a breath of fresh air into your relationship. For more information call Denise at (563)920-9419 or register at [wwme.org](http://wwme.org).

**Upcoming dates:** April 22-23, 2023 in Epworth, Iowa and September 22-24, 2023 in Dubuque, Iowa.

## Weekly Collection

Due to an early bulletin deadline the bulletin was submitted on December 22. The financial stewardship for December 24/25 will be in the next bulletin.

## Financial Stewardship

December 17/18

### Our Lady of Lourdes

Budget Envelopes	\$2,445.00
Christmas	750.00
Act of Kindness	62.00
On-Line Giving	75.00

### St. Bernard - Alta Vista

Budget Envelopes	1,205.00
Christmas	460.00
Offertory	30.15
On-Line Giving	760.00

### Immaculate Conception - Elma (NO MASS)

Budget Envelopes	2,847.00
Christmas	300.00
On-Line Giving	75.00

### Immaculate Conception - Riceville

Budget Envelopes	5,111.00
Christmas	445.00
Offertory	52.00
On-Line Giving	100.00

### St. Peter - New Haven

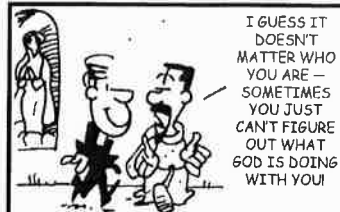
Budget Envelopes	3,905.00
Christmas	100.00
Offertory	145.00
On-Line Giving	995.00

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

"MARY KEPT ALL THESE THINGS, REFLECTING ON THEM IN HER HEART."



WYNDER  
WYNDER  
WYNDER



I GUESS IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO YOU ARE – SOMETIMES YOU JUST CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHAT GOD IS DOING WITH YOU!

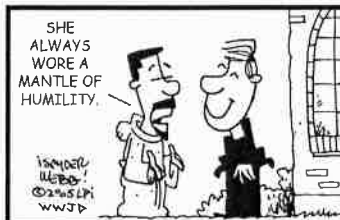
WYNDER  
WYNDER  
WYNDER

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

YOU HAVE TO HAND IT TO THE BLESSED MOTHER: SHE KNEW HOW TO DRESS FOR SUCCESS.



WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?



SHE ALWAYS WORE A MANTLE OF HUMILITY.

WYNDER  
WYNDER  
WYNDER





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