



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 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

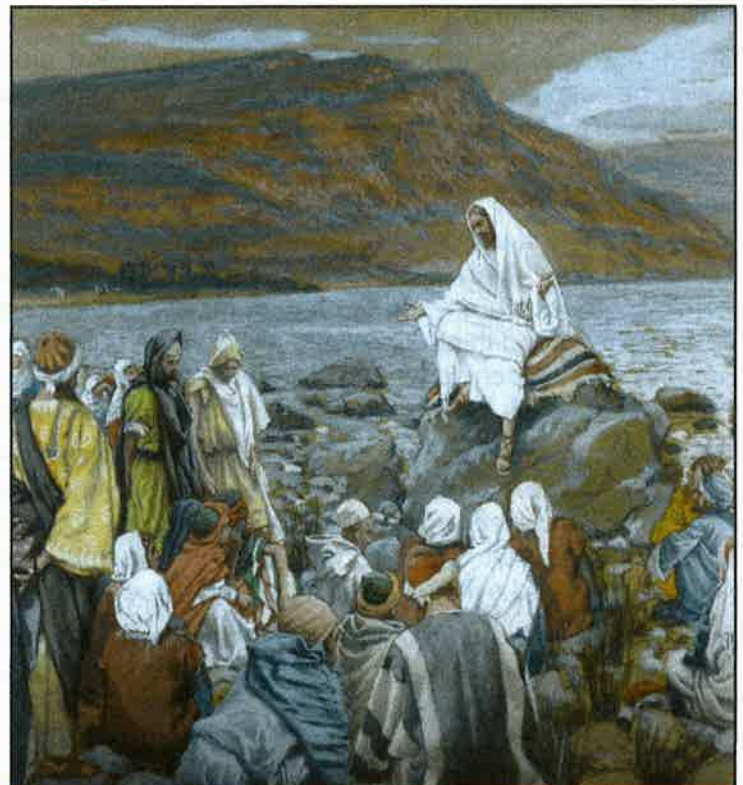
Alta Vista - Saturday, 5:00 - 5:45 PM; when Lourdes has 4 PM
Mass Alta Vista confessions will be 5:15 - 5:45 PM.

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!



7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those
who persecute you." - Mt 5:44

Images from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1976 CCC

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.

February 19, 2023

Holy Rosary Cluster

To the Members of Holy Rosary Cluster:

1. We recently planned to show the video "Fatal Flaws"--a documentary about euthanasia and so-called 'physician-assisted suicide' after two weekend Masses. It worked well in Elma on Jan.29, but unfortunately there was a technical glitch in Riceville on Feb. 5. In any event, it is a powerful statement on the wrongfulness of euthanasia and the threats we face as its proponents continue their advocacy. This video (about an hour in length) is available at the cluster office for anyone to borrow--call the office if you'd like to see it. I highly recommend it.

2. This coming Wednesday, February 22, is **Ash Wednesday**, the beginning of the holy season of Lent. Please note elsewhere in this bulletin the Mass schedule for that day; although Ash Wednesday is not a holy day of obligation, it is a powerful reminder of our need for the mercy of God because of the reality of sin that we sometimes choose. Lent also gives us an added reason or incentive to say 'no' to ourselves and our own desires--to discipline ourselves in some concrete way--so that we can say a deeper and more genuine 'yes' to Jesus and his call to holiness and ongoing conversion. So yes, it still does make sense for us to 'give up something for Lent'--whether that means a favorite treat or a tendency to gossip or judging others or whatever else we may allow to have too much control over us.

3. In last weekend's homily I mentioned a recent article by Bishop Robert Barron (Winona-Rochester MN) in which he responds to those who say that "God loves and accepts me just the way I am"--the implication being that I don't need to change anything about myself or how I act. Bishop Barron of course confirms the unconditional love God has for every one of us, but with that love also comes the call to ongoing conversion. In the bishop's words:

"Indeed, the first word out of Jesus' mouth in his inaugural address in the Gospel of Mark is not 'Welcome!' but rather 'Repent!' [Mark 1:15]. To the woman caught in adultery, he said, 'Go and sin no more'; after meeting the Lord, Zacchaeus promised to change his sinful ways and compensate lavishly for his misdeeds; in the presence of Jesus the good thief acknowledged his own guilt; and the risen Christ compelled the chief of the Apostles, who had three times denied him, three times to affirm his love. In a word, there is a remarkable balance in the pastoral outreach of Jesus between welcome and challenge, between outreach and a call to change."

Because parents love their children, they sometimes need to teach them to do what is right and not do what is wrong. Precisely because Jesus loves us so much, he challenges us to continued conversion and growth in holiness. Archbishop Samuel Aquila (Denver CO), in a similar recent statement, reminds us of the very important truth that "Through conversion, a disciple discovers that he or she is not god. God alone determines what is good and evil and, like Christ, the disciple seeks only the will of the Father."

May this Lent be a time of genuine growth in our love for God and in our desire to become ever more like Jesus who lays it on the line in today's gospel: "So be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matt. 5:48).

~ Fr. Kopacek



Each year, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent and is always 46 days before Easter Sunday. Lent is a

40-day season (not counting Sundays) marked by repentance, fasting, reflection, and ultimately celebration. The 40-day period represents Christ's time of temptation in the wilderness, where he fasted and where Satan tempted him. Lent asks believers to set aside a time each year for similar fasting, marking an intentional season of focus on Christ's life, ministry, sacrifice, and resurrection.



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that you are
dust and into
dust you shall
return.

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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 February 20

Monday, February 20

Weekday - Sir 1:1-10/Ps 93:1-2, 5/Mk 9:14-29

8:00 AM (Elma) - Keith & Avis Roethler

Tuesday, February 21

St. Peter Damian - Sir 2:1-11/Ps37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40/Mk9:30-37

8:00 AM (Elma) - John & Eleanor Burke

Ash Wednesday, February 22

Ash Wednesday - J12:12-18/Ps51:3-6, 12-14/2Cor5:20-6:2/Mt6:1-6, 18

7:00 AM (Elma) - For the People

6:00 PM (Lourdes) - Deceased Members of the Chihak & Lenehan Families

8:00 PM (Riceville) - Charles, Daryl, Ted & Kim McPhail

Thursday, February 23

Thursday After Ash Wednesday - Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-4, 6/Lk 9:22-25

Care Center - Elsie Ludwig

Friday, February 24

Friday After Ash Wednesday - Is 58:1-9/Ps 51:3-6, 18-19/Mt 9:14-15

8:00 AM (Elma) - Bob Voves

Saturday, February 25

Vigil of First Sunday of Lent - Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Ps 51:3-6, 12-13, 17/Rom 5:12-19

4:00 PM (Lourdes) + Deceased Members of Our Lady Of Lourdes Parish

6:00 PM (Alta Vista) + Mary Lee Geerts

Sunday, February 26

First Sunday of Lent - Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Ps51:3-6, 12-13, 17/Rom5:12-19

7:15 AM (Elma) + NO MASS

9:00 AM (Riceville) + For the People

10:45 AM (New Haven) + John Sullivan & Maddie Kruse

MEETINGS

Tues., March 7 - Faith Formation at 6:30 PM

Thurs., March 9 - Social Justice at 6:30 PM

Thurs. March 30 - Liturgy Comm. At 6:30 PM

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

Eucharistic Holy Hour - Tuesday, March 14

at Riceville from 5 - 6 PM. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is at 5:00 PM, closing with Benediction at 6:00 PM. Fr. Kopacek will be available for confessions.



Cluster Game Day - Holy Rosary Cluster will host a Game Day on Sun., Feb. 19 at 2:00 PM, Elma Church Hall. Games and snacks will be provided. Elevator available to get to the basement.



Lenten Regulations (Fasting & Abstinence)

- Everyone 14 years of age or over is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of Lent.
- Everyone 18 years of age and under 59 years of age is bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
- On these two days of fast and abstinence, only one full meatless meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted on these two days, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices, are allowed. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not apply.
- Catholics should not lightly excuse themselves from the fast and abstinence prescribed by the Church.**
- Lent is the principal season of penance in the Christian year. **Priests, religious and laity are strongly urged to develop and follow a program of voluntary self-denial, serious prayer, and a performance of works of charity and mercy.**



Catholic Charities Helps the Most Vulnerable

As the Social Arm of the Catholic Church contributions to Catholic Charities make up nearly 50% of their annual operating budget. **Please send your contributions directly to: Catholic Charities, 1229 Mt. Loretta Ave, Dubuque 52003.**

+ Lourdes +

Thank You

Thank you to the Kathleen (Ptacek) Anderson Family for the donation to Our Lady of Lourdes Church in memory of Kathy.

+ St. Bernard +

Vocation Crucifix

February 18 - Suezen & Keith Glaser

February 25 - Julie & Gary Swehla

Pork Chop Dinner

Sunday, March 12 (Snow Date - March 19)

Drive-Thru only from 3 - 6 PM

The Raffle is sponsored by Catholic Order of Foresters, St. Joseph Court #878.

Rosary Society News

Rosary Society dues for 2023 are \$30. Please mail your dues to **Paula Breitbach, 1294 LaSalle Ave, New Hampton 50659.**

+ Immaculate Conception-Elma +

Rosary Society News

Rosary Society booklets are available in the entrance of the church. Please pick one up. If your phone number is incorrect contact Mary Jo Friedrich with the correct number.

Sign Up for Liturgical Ministers

Sign up Sheets are available in the entrance of the church if you would like to sign up for any of the following: Eucharistic Minister, Lector, Greeter, Sacristan, Server, Gifts Bearers, Help with flowers or Altar Prep throughout the year or Washing server robes. Your time and talent are appreciated!



Volunteers for Communion at Colonial Manor

We have resumed taking communion to Colonial Manor and Afton Oaks on the first Sunday of the month. If you would like to help out please contact Renee Burke at 319-240-9192.

+ Immaculate Conception-Riceville +

Sympathy

We extend our deepest sympathy to the Eugenia Wagner family. Eugenia's Funeral Mass was held on Wednesday, February 8 at I.C. Riceville Church. May she rest in peace.

Coffee & Rolls

Coffee and Rolls will be served following the 9:00 AM Mass on Sunday, February 26th. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Rosary Society News

St. Anne's Rosary Society will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 5 at 6:00 PM in the church basement. All I.C. parish women are invited to attend.

+ St. Peter +

Liturgy Schedules Available

March and April Liturgy Schedules are available in the back of church.



Iowa Catholic Youth Conference (ICYC)

Registration is now open for ICYC. This event is targeted toward middle school youth in grades 6-8, and their parents. This day-long event will take place on **Sunday, March 26 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM** at Mount Mercy University in Cedar Rapids. The day will feature national artist Dana Catherine, breakout sessions, hands-on activities, lunch, and a closing Mass. Parishes that are not able to coordinate a group can still encourage their families to attend on their own. Promotional materials, registration, and more information can be found at www.lowaCYC.org.

Calendar Events

I. C. Charles City Parish Revival

February 26th, 27th and 28th I.C. Church in Charles City will be hosting a Parish Revival with Joe Farris. Our Catholic Heart Work Camp (CHWC) kids will be hosting a dinner each evening at 6 PM, and Joe will speak from 7-8 PM. Joe Farris was our speaker at CHWC last year, and he is coming to us by popular demand from the students and chaperones who were spiritually moved by his messages! All parishes are invited. Please join us.

Online Giving

When you give online, your gift is transferred conveniently and securely from your bank account or credit card directly to the church. Visit Holy Rosary Cluster website at <http://holyrosarycluster.org>.

1. Click on your Parish Giving link
2. Create your account
3. Schedule recurring or one-time donations
4. Call the office 641-393-2520 if you need help.

Financial Stewardship

February 11/12

Our Lady of Lourdes (NO MASS)

Budget Envelopes \$50.00
On-Line Giving 75.00

St. Bernard - Alta Vista (NO MASS)

Budget Envelopes 125.00
On-Line Giving 60.00

Immaculate Conception - Elma

Budget Envelopes 310.00
Act of Kindness 71.00
On-Line Giving 60.00

Immaculate Conception - Riceville

Budget Envelopes 640.00
Act of Kindness 163.00
On-Line Giving 150.00

St. Peter - New Haven (NO MASS)

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7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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