



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)

**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!



## 24<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Peter approached Jesus and asked him, "Lord, if my brother  
sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven  
times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times  
but seventy-seven times." - Mt 18:21-22

Excerpt from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1995, 1970 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.

# Holy Rosary Cluster

## To the Members of Holy Rosary Cluster:

### 1. Two scheduling items:

- please note that there will be **no 8 a.m. Mass on Monday, Sept. 18, in Elma**. I have a meeting in Cedar Rapids Sunday evening (the 17th) and commitments in Waterloo the next day. I'll be back Monday evening.
- all are invited to the Elma church hall next **Sunday, Sept. 24**, to watch "**Mother Teresa: No Greater Love**". This is an excellent film, produced with the support of the Knights of Columbus, about one of the most remarkable saints in the whole history of the Church and who lived in our own time (she died in 1997). We will begin at **2:30 p.m.** (not 2 p.m. as originally scheduled).

2. In the homily two weeks ago I spoke about how we don't always understand or even see God's plan for us in the messiness of life--but that is because we can't see the whole picture. I also shared with you a reflection titled "The Embroidery" (by an unknown author) that I think illustrates this point very well. Here is that reflection:

"When I was a little boy, my mother used to embroider a great deal. I would sit at her knee and look up from the floor and ask what she was doing. She said she was embroidering. From the underside I saw her work within the boundaries of the little round hoop she held in her hand, and I complained that it sure looked messy from where I sat. I also wondered why she was using some dark threads along with the bright ones. She would smile, look down and gently say, 'My son, you go about your playing, and when I'm finished, I'll put you on my knee and let you see it from my side.'

"A few minutes would pass and then Mother said, 'Son, come and sit on my knee.' This I did, only to be surprised and thrilled to see a beautiful flower or a sunset. I couldn't believe it, because from underneath it looked so messy. Then Mother would say, 'My son, from underneath it did look messy and jumbled, but you did not realize that there was a pre-drawn plan on the top. It was a design; I was only following it. Now, look at it from my side and you will see what I was doing.'

"Many times through the years I have looked up to my Heavenly Father and said, 'Father, what are you doing?' He answered, 'I am embroidering your life.' I would say, 'But it looks like a mess to me; it seems so jumbled; the threads seem so dark. Why can't they all be bright?' The Father seems to tell me, 'My child, you go about your business of doing my business, and one day I will bring you to Heaven and put you on my knee and you will see the plan from my side.'

I really like this image! As I told you two weeks ago, I don't embroider--but I've seen many examples of such work over the years. And when looking at the bottom side, it seems like nothing other than a meaningless, random bunch of threads. But, of course, on the other side you see the beautiful pattern and how all the threads and colors work together so harmoniously and beautifully. God grant that we continue to grow in faith and trust so that one day we will all be able to see the glorious completion of God's 'embroidery' of our lives.

3. "Don't Forget to Laugh!" One of the many books on my humor shelf is "1000 Unforgettable Senior Moments" by Tom Friedman--a collection of true stories of real absent-mindedness on the part of some famous people. Having more and more of those moments myself as the years roll by, I find comfort in knowing I'm not the only one! A couple of examples:

- 'When Albert Einstein [one of the greatest scientific geniuses of all time] received a \$1500 check from the Rockefeller Foundation as an honorarium, he used it as a bookmark for months, then lost the book. Trying to keep its records in order, the Foundation sent a duplicate check, and Einstein, having forgotten the first one, wrote back, 'What's this for?'
- 'When Sir John Gielgud told Elizabeth Taylor that Richard Burton's acting had gone downhill 'since he married that terrible woman,' he had clearly forgotten that the woman Burton had married in 1964 was Taylor herself.'

It can happen to anyone...

~ Fr. Kopacek

### Eucharistic Holy Hour

Tuesday, October 10 at Elma from 5 - 6 PM.

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



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### Pray For Those in Need

Pat Arnold, Jean Cerwinske, Michelle Cerwinske, Eileen A. Chihak, Roger Dunn, Ed Durnan, Sara Folkers, Sharon Friedhoff, Ken Gebel, Joann Heying, John Heying, Rose Heying, Jimmy Holmen, Cindy Kirst, Diane Kovarik, Arlene Kuennen, Elsie Lentz, Eula Ludwig, Joe Ludwig, Ann Foxen Maas, Gladys McGrane, LaVern McGrane, Roger Nibaur, Fran Palmersheim, Randy Rodriguez, Tom Rouchka, Abbey Sculley, Rosemary Schwickerath, Kenneth Shatek, 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 on the cluster website under 'Parish Happenings' or the cluster Facebook page.



## Mass Intentions Week of September 18

### Monday, September 18

Weekday - 1 Tm 2:1-8/Ps 28:2, 7-9/Lk 7:1-10  
NO MASS (Elma) - Please Pray for Vocations

### Tuesday, September 19

St. Januarius - 1 Tm 3:1-13/Ps 101:1-3, 5, 6/Lk 7:11-17  
8:00 AM (Elma) - Pat Fitzgerald

### Wednesday, September 20

St. Andrew Kim Tae-gon - 1 Tm 3:14-16/Ps 111:1-6/Lk 7:31-35  
8:00 AM (Elma) - Russ O'Donnell

### Thursday, September 21

St. Matthew - Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Ps 19:2-5/Mt 9:9-13  
Care Center - William & Lillian Chihak

### Friday, September 22

Weekday - 1 Tm 6:2-12/Ps 49:6-10, 17-20/Lk 8:1-3  
8:00 AM (Elma) - Norbert Burke

### Saturday, September 23

Vigil of Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Is55:6-9/Ps145:2-3,8-9,17-18/Phil1:20-24,27/Mt 20:1-16

4:00 PM (Lourdes) + Deceased Members of the Chihak & Lenehan Families

6:00 PM (Alta Vista) + Joyce Kramer

### Sunday, September 24

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Is55:6-9/Ps145:2-3,8-9,17-18/Phil1:20-24,27/Mt 20:1-16

7:15 AM (Elma) + NO MASS

9:00 AM (Riceville) Live Streamed + For the People

10:45 AM (New Haven) + Peter & Evelyn Brandt

## MEETINGS

Thurs., October 19 - Parish Life at 6:00 PM

Meeting will be held in the Elma I.C. church basement.

## + Combined Religious Education +



Combined Religious Ed. for Alta Vista, Elma and Lourdes is still in need of one teacher for the upcoming year (grade level is flexible).

Please contact the cluster office if you or someone you know is interested.

## 2023-2024 Cluster Religious Education News

Chad Buckley (515-290-5867) - Elma, Alta Vista, Lourdes

Debbie Oulman (641-985-2791) - Riceville

New Haven call the Cluster Office (641-393-2520)

## Religious Education Starting Dates

Combined Rel. Ed. & Riceville Begin: Wed., Sept. 20

## Cluster Movie Day

Sunday, September 24 at 2:30 PM

(not 2:00 PM) in the Elma I.C. church basement. All Cluster members are invited to join us for the movie, "Mother Teresa, No Greater Love".



A soaring tribute to a spiritual icon, a powerful witness of authentic Christian charity, and a guidepost for all who seek hope in our turbulent times. Please join us. Snacks will be provided.

## I.C. Riceville Fall Festival

### Beef & Ham Dinner (Drive Thru Only)

Sunday, October 1st

Serving: Beef, Ham, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Sweet Corn, Bun, Fruit and Homemade Pie

Cost: \$15 a meal

Raffles: Quilt, 2-\$100 cash, 4-\$50 cash, 2-\$50 gift certificates to the 10th Hole.



## Volunteers Needed at the Riceville Food Pantry



Holy Rosary Cluster members are asked to help volunteer at the Riceville Food Pantry in the months of October and November. If you are available or a youth needs volunteer hours here is the perfect opportunity. You can work part of a shift or a whole shift. Call Ellen Grady-Mans (641-985-2254) or Diane Setka. You may also just show up to help.

October Dates: Wed., Oct. 4th & 18th (4-6 PM)

Tues., Oct. 10th & 24th (6-7 PM)

November Dates: Wed., Nov. 1st & 15th (4-6 PM)

Tues., Nov. 14th & 28th (6-7 PM)

## + St. Bernard +

### Vocation Crucifix

September 16 - LeRoy Geerts

September 23 - Lynn & Lyle Ries

## + Lourdes +

### Congratulations

We congratulate Sean & Sarah Brophy on the occasion of the baptism of their daughter Myla Kaye. Myla was baptized on September 9. Please welcome and pray for Myla Kaye as she begins her new life in the Church.

### Help Needed with Liturgical Ministries



We are asking for parishioners to sign up for liturgical ministries: gift bearers, ushers, lectors, Mass servers, etc. We thank those who are already helping but we can use more volunteers. If you can help or have questions contact Doris Anderson at 641-330-0011.



**+ Immaculate Conception-Elma +**

**Sympathy**

We extend our deepest sympathy to the Ashley Dockendorf family. Ashley's Funeral was held on Thursday, September 7. May she rest in peace.

**+ Immaculate Conception-Riceville +**

**Congratulations**

We congratulate Zachary Lee and Brandy Watenphul on the occasion of the baptism of their daughter Kennedy Marie. Kennedy was baptized on September 3. Please welcome and pray for Kennedy Marie as she begins her new life in the Church.

**Coffee & Rolls**

Everyone is welcome to join us for Coffee & Rolls after Mass on Sunday, September 24.

**+ St. Peter +**

**Needed – Director of Religious Education**

We are looking for someone to fill the position of DRE for the St. Peter Religious Education program. Anyone interested in this part-time position is asked to contact the cluster office for more details.

**Church Cleaner Needed**

We are in need of someone to clean St. Peter Church once a month and do some additional cleaning during the year. If interested contact the Holy Rosary Cluster Office (641-393-2520).

**September is Suicide Preventions Month**

**Call or Text 988** or **Chat [988lifeline.org](http://988lifeline.org)** to reach the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.

**Calendar Events**



**Drive-Thru Pork Loin Sandwich Supper  
Visitation Catholic Church - Stacyville  
604 N. Broad St.**

**Sunday, Sept. 17**, serving from 4:00-6:00 PM

**Menu:** Pork Loin Sandwich, BBQ Baked Beans, Chips, Cookie, Water or Milk Games, Raffle Baskets and the Mitchell County Dairy Trailer from 2:00 - 6:00 PM  
Free Will Offering

**St. John's Parish, Fort Atkinson**

**Rendezvous Days, September 22, 23, & 24**

\*Kolaches and Homemade Pies for sale and the meals are at the Fort Atkinson Community Center  
**Friday, Sept. 22** - 4:30-7 PM, Chicken Dinner  
**Saturday, Sept. 23** - 5K Run/Walk; Registration at 7 AM, cost is \$25, starts at 8:30 AM.

**Sunday, Sept. 24** - Breakfast from 8:00 AM - Noon; Menu: Scrambled Eggs & Toppings, Ham, Sausage, Breakfast Potatoes, Fruit, Cinnamon Rolls, Toast, Juice, Milk & Coffee

**Holy Rosary Cluster Confirmation**

The 4:00 PM Mass will be held at I.C. Elma on Saturday, October 14 to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation with students from all five parishes.

**Financial Stewardship**

September 2/3

**Our Lady of Lourdes**

Budget Envelopes	365.00
Offertory	136.50
On-Line Giving	75.00

**St. Bernard - Alta Vista**

Budget Envelopes	580.00
Offertory	75.00
On-Line Giving	210.00

**Immaculate Conception - Elma**

Budget Envelopes	630.00
Offertory	113.00
On-Line Giving	202.00

**Immaculate Conception - Riceville**

Budget Envelopes	1,075.00
Offertory	129.75
On-Line Giving	100.00

**St. Peter - New Haven (NO MASS)**

Budget Envelopes	150.00
On-Line Giving	95.00

September 9/10

**Our Lady of Lourdes**

Budget Envelopes	770.00
Act of Kindness	168.00
On-Line Giving	75.00

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

Budget Envelopes	150.00
On-Line Giving	60.00

**Immaculate Conception - Elma**

Budget Envelopes	597.00
Act of Kindness	64.00
On-Line Giving	60.00

**Immaculate Conception - Riceville**

Budget Envelopes	440.00
Act of Kindness	177.00
On-Line Giving	325.00

**St. Peter - New Haven**

Budget Envelopes	890.00
Act of Kindness	139.50
On-Line Giving	95.00

24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME





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