



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

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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!



5th SUNDAY OF EASTER

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and everyone that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit." - Jn 15:1-2

Excerpt from the Lectionary for Mass ©2000, 1978, 1970, CCD

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

Love in Deed

It's a Wonderful Life is one of my favorite Christmas movies. It only occurred to me recently, though, that this film, for all its yuletide aesthetic, is actually more of an Easter story.



I love this movie because it's a very Catholic film — not overtly, although we do see the main character, George Bailey, going to Mass. No, it's the themes that are Catholic, not the set dressing. It's a story about the choices we make — to love, or not to love? To sacrifice, or not to sacrifice? To put oneself first, or to put oneself last? It's a story about what the consequences of those choices look like here in the world, and what they look like in heaven.

In the film, we meet a young George Bailey who dreams of growing up to do amazing, impressive things. Over the years, he makes a choice here and he makes a choice there ... and when all is said and done, the adult George Bailey is a tired, overworked husband and father with no worldly attributes that anyone would envy.

But he's a man who has loved in deed, not just in word, and who has reaped the spiritual rewards of those choices.

The season of Easter is about rejoicing in true redemption, not in worldly triumph. The Word of God is not a bedtime story. It's a pruning shear. To hear it is to be changed, to be shaped. To live it is to lose some things, so that you might bloom in unexpected ways. To welcome the Word is to be willing to look different, to feel different.

Anyone can say, "I love you, I accept you, I want to help you." But what does it actually look like, to love in deed and not just in word? It looks like giving something up: free time, wealth, comfort, worldly approval. It looks, to the casual observer, like pain.

To someone who has no concept of how plants grow and thrive, a gardener's pruning shears look like an executioner's sword. To someone who has no concept of how souls grow and thrive, a tomb barred by a stone looks like the end of a story, when in fact it's just the beginning.



"Children, let us love not in word or speech, but in deed and truth." — 1 John 3:18

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April 28, 2024 - 5th Sunday of Easter - Gospel Meditation

My friend and fellow pastor, Father Paul, noticed unsightly, overgrown trees near his parish church. He asked the maintenance crew to cut back the growth, which they happily did, telling him the trees would be much healthier and even fuller after a good pruning. A few days later, Father Paul received a letter from an irate man in the neighborhood who wrote, "Jesus would never prune trees like that. He loves trees, unlike you."



I suspect that the neighbor was not familiar with this week's Gospel in which Jesus says of his Father, "**He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit**" (John 15:2) I don't mean to pick too much on that fellow. He was perhaps ignorant of arboriculture. But I'd wager his main confusion was the pruning and removing quality of God's love. That confusion afflicts us all to some degree, doesn't it? It is just so darn easy to react negatively when God cuts something out of our lives and assume it's not his work at all. In the moment, all we see is the loss, and not the loving desire for future flourishing.

The cross is the great pruning of Christ's body. Jesus' rising is the brand-new growth. It is God's promise to us that all the painful pruning in life is leading us somewhere beautiful. What has been cut back or out in your life? A friend, an opportunity, a sense of certainty, a job, health, a relationship? This week, offer those dry branches to the one who lovingly prunes us in order to make our lives burst with verdant growth. — *Father John Muir* ©LPi



NO Eucharistic Holy Hour in May

There will not be a Eucharistic Holy Hour in Alta Vista on May 14.



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AND LIFE REIGNS!

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Cluster News

Live Streaming & Daily Reflections

Watch Mass live on Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM in Riceville. Mass will be posted on the cluster website under 'Parish Happenings' or the cluster Facebook page.



Mass Intentions Week of April 29

Monday, April 29

St. Catherine of Siena - Acts 14:5-18/Ps 115:1-4, 15-16/Jn 14:21-26
NO Word & Communion - Please Pray for Vocations

Tuesday, April 30

St. Pius V - Acts 14:19-28/Ps 145:10-13, 21/Jn 14:27-31
8:00 AM (Elma) Word & Communion

Wednesday, May 1

St. Joseph the Worker - Acts 15:1-6/Ps 122: 1-5/Jn 15:1-8
8:00 AM (Elma) Word & Communion

Thursday, May 2

St. Athanasius - Acts 15:7-21/Ps 96:1-3, 10/Jn 15:9-11
Care Center - Word & Communion

First Friday, May 3

St. Philip & St. James - 1 Cor 15:1-8/Ps 19:2-5/Jn 14:6-14
8:00 AM (Elma) Word & Communion

Saturday, May 4

Vigil of the Six Sunday of Easter- Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48/Ps 98:1-4/1 Jn 4:7-10/Jn 15:9-17

4:00 PM (Lourdes) + Fay & Bernice Freidhof

6:00 PM (Alta Vista) + Roger Meirick

Sunday, May 5

Sixth Sunday of Easter- Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48/Ps 98:1-4/1 Jn 4:7-10/Jn 15:9-17

7:15 AM (Elma) + Marcella & Ed Haskovec

9:00 AM (Riceville) + For the People

10:45 AM (New Haven) + NO MASS

Jesus: The Way, the Truth, and the Life

Our seminarian, Jacob Francois will be leading the parish study. You can contact him with questions via email: j.francois@dbqarch.org

10 Week Session Schedule:

8. 2:00PM Wednesday, May 1 (Riceville)

9 & 10. 2:00PM Wednesday, May 8 (Elma)

There is no cost to attend the study, a free will offering can be given to off-set the cost of the study. Please bring a bible with you!

Thank you! Jacob Francois



Cemetery Clean Up

Holy Rosary Cluster is getting ready for the mowing season. Please help out by removing **ALL** decorations that are not attached to the monuments or would interfere with mowing. Thank You!



May Crowning

Holy Rosary Cluster Parishes will have May Crowning at their Mass on the following days:

Sat., May 4 - St. Bernard, 6:00 PM Mass

Sun., May 5 - I.C. Elma, 7:15 AM Mass

Sun., May 5 - I.C. Riceville, 9:00 AM Mass

Sat., May 11 - OLL, Lourdes, 4:00 PM Mass

Sun., May 12 - St. Peter, 10:45 AM Mass



+ Combined Religious Education +

First Communion

First Communion for the Combined Religious Ed. Program will take place at the 4:00 PM Mass on Sat., May 11. This includes students from St. Bernard, I.C. Elma and Lourdes. A reception will follow in the church hall.



Donate Gently Worn, Used and New Shoes Today!

The I.C. Riceville Youth Group is hosting a shoe drive. All donated shoes will then be redistributed throughout the Funds2Orgs network of micro-enterprise (small business) partners.

Funds2Orgs works with micro-entrepreneurs in helping them create, maintain and grow small businesses in developing countries where economic opportunity and jobs are limited.

Proceeds from the sales of the shoes collected in shoe drive fundraisers are used to feed, clothe and house their families.

One budding entrepreneur in Haiti even earned enough to send her son to law school.

Our goal is to collect 2,500 pairs of shoes!! Anything worn on your feet is accepted **EXCEPT** ice skates, roller skates, and roller blades.

Please reach out to JoLynn Eastman (641-430-3052) for large shoe donations or for any questions.



Save the Date for Totus Tuus

Holy Rosary Cluster will again have Totus Tuus this summer. Dates for Totus Tuus will be July 14-19. Totus Tuus is a week-long parish mission to promote Catholic faith while having fun. For children entering grades 1st - 12th this fall 2024.

Please watch the bulletin for further information.



+ St. Bernard +

Vocation Crucifix

April 27 - Charlene & Larry Meirick
May 4 - Jane & Bernie Huegel

Thank You

Thank you to the St. Bernard Rosary Society for the donation to the church for energy expenses.

Congratulations

Congratulations to graduating high school seniors from St. Bernard's. They are Emily Geerts, Megan Pickar and Ethan Swehla.

+ Lourdes +

Farewell for Jacob Francois

A Farewell Reception will be held on Sat., May 11 after the 4:00 PM Mass in the church hall. Everyone is invited to attend. Refreshments will be served.

Blessing of the Platform Lift

There will be a blessing of the new Platform Lift following the 4:00 PM Mass on Sat., May 11.

Help Needed for Doing Outside Flowers

If anyone is interested in helping do the outside flowers at the church for this year only, please contact Pat Sir (641-393-2193). Thank You!

+ Immaculate Conception-Elma +

Senior Recognition

Elma I.C. will have Senior Recognition on Sunday, May 12 at the 7:15 AM Mass.

Farewell for Jacob Francois

Elma I.C. will have a Farewell for our seminarian, Jacob Francois, on Sunday, May 12 following the 7:15 AM Mass.

Coffee & Rolls

The Rosary Society will be serving coffee and rolls May 12 following the 7:15 AM Mass. Everyone is invited.

Rosary Society News

The Elma I.C. Rosary Society will hold a planning meeting on **Tuesday, May 7** at 6:00 PM in the church basement. We are planning a church dinner for Sunday, June 23. Band Hostesses should plan to attend.

+ Immaculate Conception-Riceville +

Rosary Society Meeting

St. Anne's Rosary Society will hold a meeting on Sunday, April 28 at 7:00 PM in the church basement.

Senior Recognition & Breakfast

I.C. Riceville will have Senior Recognition on Sunday, May 5th with a breakfast following Mass.

Farewell for Jacob Francois

Riceville will also have a Farewell for our seminarian, Jacob Francois on May 5th after the Mass. Everyone is invited.

+ St. Peter +

Farewell for Jacob Francois

New Haven will host a Farewell for Jacob Francois on Sunday, May 12. Refreshments will be served on the steps of the church.

May & June Liturgical Schedules Available

May and June Liturgical Schedules are now available to pick up in the church entrance for anyone who helps with these ministries.

+ Knights of Columbus +

Knights of Columbus Council #4144

Invitation to Participate



God gifts every person with skills that provide the clearest path in sanctity. I invite you to consider your skills and the fruits they have produced and use these gifts in our council. One way to support your brother knights is by serving as Deputy Grand Knight, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, or Trustee. If you are interested in any of these officer positions please reach out to me, Jayden Burke-Grand Knight, by phone at 641-257-8335 or email at burkejayden45@gmail.com. Thank you for your consideration and all you do for our communities.

Financial Stewardship

April 20/21

Our Lady of Lourdes

Budget Envelopes	\$795.00
Act of Kindness	198.00
On-Line Giving	85.00

St. Bernard - Alta Vista

Budget Envelopes	380.00
Offertory	89.00
On-Line Giving	110.00

Immaculate Conception - Elma (NO MASS)

Budget Envelopes	112.00
On-Line Giving	50.00

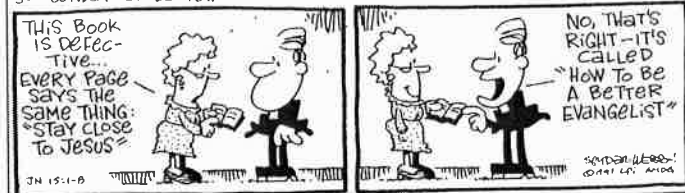
Immaculate Conception - Riceville

Budget Envelopes	1,340.00
Offertory	156.00
On-Line Giving	300.00

St. Peter - New Haven

Budget Envelopes	790.00
Offertory	93.00
On-Line Giving	100.00

5th SUNDAY OF EASTER



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