

Notre Dame Parish

Cresco, Iowa

St. Agnes Oratory, Plymouth Rock and St. Bridget Oratory, Bluffton

*"My soul proclaims
the greatness of
the Lord;*

*my spirit rejoices
in God my savior."*

Luke 1.46-47



Rev. Jacob Rouse Pastor

Notre Dame Church
223 2nd Ave. E.

Parish Office:
9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday
116 East Third Street
Phone: 563 547-3565
Fax: 563 547-3835
Hall: 563 547-4652

Parish Website:
notredamecresco.com

Jodi Dull, Business Manager
Connie Frana, Office Manager
Melanie Vobr,
Coordinator of Faith Formation
LeRoy Webb, Pastoral Minister
Katie Schmitt, Principal
563 547-4513

School Website:
www.ndcschool.weebly.com

Celebration of Sacraments

Baptism Please contact the parish office to register for the required Baptism class, to schedule a Baptism or for more information. Next Baptism preparation class is scheduled for **Aug. 2, 2021**, 7:00 p.m. (Note date is subject to change).

Reconciliation Saturday 3:15—3:50 p.m.; Sunday 9:15—9:50 a.m. or contact the parish office or email Fr. Jacob at: dbqrouse@dbqarch.org to schedule an appointment to celebrate this Sacrament of God's forgiveness.

Marriage Contact the parish office at least six months before intended wedding date.

May 16, 2021

Feast of the Ascension

Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11; Ephesians 4:1-13; Mark 16:15-20

We're all familiar with departures: a son or daughter goes off to college; or gets married; or goes into the military and gets sent abroad. We all know of that final departure when a loved one dies and we pray for a ready entrance into heaven.

There is sadness, pain, loss involved in leave taking. The immediate and ready access to that person's presence and conversation is gone. Even in this day of e-mail, etc., it's not the same as having them standing right before us.

Yet there is always a hope that the departure is a good thing for the one leaving and a good thing for the ones remaining. A college education bring greater opportunities; a marriage can bring much richness and joy to the whole family; military duty is done for the good of the nation.

We know when Jesus finally departed in a physical leave taking from the disciples and his followers, they were immediately saddened. But soon they were filled with the Holy Spirit. And, of course, Jesus could pour out that Spirit from His exalted place at the right hand of the Father. Jesus' departure in a mysterious way makes Him closer than ever to us. For He can fill us with the fullness of His power and glory through the Holy Spirit. St. Paul says it well: "And he put all things beneath his feet and gave him as head over all things for the church, which is His body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way." Jesus' ascension is cause for celebration indeed!

Next week's readings:

Vigil: Genesis 11:1-9; Romans 8:22-27; John 7:37-39
Pentecost: Acts 2:1-11; Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13; John 15:26-27; 16:12-15

Alleluia! Prayer makes your heart bigger, until it is capable of containing the gift of God himself. Alleluia!

Fr. Jacob will continue to live stream all weekday and weekend masses on his YouTube. You can access it by logging into our parish website: notredamecresco.com scroll down on the home page and click on the YouTube icon Please keep in mind that the Archbishop has continued the dispensation from attendance at mass until further notice so if you have any concern (including age, health, etc.) about attending mass in church, please stay home!

Monday, May 17 No Mass

Pray for everyone affected by Covid.

Tuesday, May 18 Mass in church and livestreamed

Rosary at 4:55 p.m.

5:15 p.m. +Tillie DeWalle

Wednesday, May 19 Mass in church and livestreamed

8:00 a.m. +James and Pat Fisher; Larry Conway

Thursday, May 20—Not a School Mass

Mass in church and livestreamed

9:00 a.m. +Elaine Brysaas

2:00 p.m. Mass at Accura +Gerald Rincken

Friday, May 21-Last Day of School Mass

School personnel; students and 6th grade families welcome

Public is invited to watch the livestream

10:00 a.m. (Note time) +Norbert Kuennen

Saturday, May 22 - Mass in church and livestreamed

4:00 p.m. +Lowell Scholbrock; Sharon Eckerman

EMs: Becky McGee, Jill McConnell, Lisa Kimball

Lectors: Ethan Rice, Marlene Quinn

Servers: Cody Sobolik, Awnan Skoda

Music: Pam Daley, Polly Jones

Greeters: Galen and Lavon Fye

Ushers: Dave and Robin Sobolik, Adam and Aidan Skoda

Sunday, May 23- Mass in church and livestreamed

8:00 a.m. +Syl and Janette Opat

EMs: Wayne and Kelly Mashek, Patti Guyer

Lectors: Carol Foley, Julie Wilson

Servers: Jordyn and Julianne Fisk

Music: Katie Ferrie, Jamie Fisk

Greeters: Wayne and Kelly Mashek

Ushers: Jordan Guyer, Bart and Julie Wilson, Tony Roberts

10:00 a.m. Mass in church and livestreamed

+Dec'd members of J.B. "Bud" and Phyllis Mullen Family

EMs: Steve and Sheila Slifka, Tracy Hart

Lectors: Tracy Hart, Sue Runyan

Servers: Hadley Riehle, Addison Bohr

Music: Joe Wacha, Wendy Schatz

Greeters: John Schatz and JoAnne White

Ushers: Steve Slifka, Jerry Wilson, Jerry and Wanda Reicks

Your true character is most accurately measured by how you treat those who can do nothing for you.

Custodial positions available at Notre Dame. Anyone 16 yrs. of age or older looking for full time or part-time position, please contact the parish office, 563 547-3565.

Year of St. Joseph and the Year of the Family To celebrate these two occasions, please find children's activity booklets in the front entrance of the church for your child(ren) to enjoy.

In Memory

Don Gooder	Sanctuary Candle
Dale Webb	Altar Bread
John Gosch	Altar Wine
Stan and Kathleen Humpal	Missalettes (May)

Stewardship of Prayer

Please pray for the sick of our parish, including the following and those listed in the Book of Petitions.

Parker Byrnes	Dianne Kovarik
Makiah Pierce	Dean Dietzenbach
Dorothy Barnes	Debra Winsell
Steve McCarville	Bill Rink
Arlene Kuennen	Al Reicks
Marian Wiltgen	Lori Schmitt
Don Neubauer	Bill Smith
Pat Smith	Randy Smith
Paula Growden	Cole Christopher
Bob Stoker	Nancy Pecinovsky
Monica McGee Newman	Liz Yount
Lavon Hyberger	Jim Dietzenbach
David Gosch	Craig Church
Debbie Wolf Wilkins	

We clear the prayer list quarterly. Please contact the office at that time to have a name put on again if desired.

We are pleased to pray for the sick, if you would like to add a name, please call the parish office after receiving permission from the person to have their name published; however, to preserve space if a person has sufficiently recovered and can be removed from the prayer list, also please contact the parish office.

Ministry of Prayer Network: *If you would like to serve on this Prayer Network, please email the office at: DBQ047S@dbqarch.org. When a request is received, you will receive an email asking for your prayers for the immediate need. If you have an urgent need for prayer, call the office at 563 547-3565 to activate the prayer network.*

Stewardship of Offering

May 9, 2021

Total Stewardship Contributions/Offertory Income	
Needed each week:	\$10,923.00
Last week's Envelope Contribution Income:	\$ 4,552.00
Last week's ACH Contribution Income:	\$ 666.00
Last week's offertory income:	\$ 334.00

Jesus is the perfect steward—watching carefully over all who had been entrusted to Him by the Father and then sending them all out into the world in service. May I similarly protect and wisely use the gifts entrusted to me!

Liturgical Ministry Schedule: There is a liturgical schedule for the months of May, June and July available on the parish website. *If you are willing to serve as an EM, Usher, Lector, Server, Greeter or Musician, please contact the parish office, 563 547-3565. New ministers are always welcome.*

Thank You to everyone who was willing to share their time and talent with Notre Dame by running for either Notre Dame Catholic School Board or Notre Dame Pastoral Council. Congratulations to the following elected to the Pastoral Council: Brian McConnell and Joe Wacha.

Congratulations to the following elected to the Catholic School Board: Erin Daley, Alanda Meyer and Kyle Teeling.

Blessing of Seeds The Feast of St. Isidore, patron saint of farmers, is May 15. In honor of St. Isidore, please bring a packet of seeds to mass this weekend as a symbol of all the seeds planted to receive a special blessing and pray for good crops this year.

Circles of Faith will meet on Monday, May 17, 5:30 p.m., Notre Dame Church Hall.

Knights of Columbus will meet on Tuesday, May 18, 7:00 p.m., KC Room.

Faith Formation Commission will meet on Thursday, May 20, 5:30 p.m., Joseph Room.

Altar Servers If you have received your First Communion and would like to become an altar server, please contact the parish office

Rejoice; For He is Risen! An Easter Season Bible Study running from now until Pentecost. Each week we'll be reviewing the readings for the upcoming weekend. Attend either of two sessions held weekly, 7 pm Wed or 1 pm Fri in the meeting room at A&W/Long John Silvers. Choose the time and day that works best for you. Study questions for discussion will be available for those interested who want to go the extra step and get more out of the study. Optional study guides available for purchase. Open to anyone interested in hearing more about the weekend readings. No need to pre-register, No fees, just show up. For info contact Duane Heit at 563-419-2385 or duaneheit@yahoo.com

Totus Tuus 2021 will be held July 25-30. Join us for a week long Catholic summer camp for just \$5/per student or \$15/family! Grades 1-6 July 26—30th 9:00 a.m.—2:30 p.m.; Grades 7-12 July 25-29 7:00—9:15 p.m. More information and registration at <https://notredamecresco.com/totus-tuus>. T-shirts available for additional \$15—must order by June 20.

Scrip Program includes Dollar Fresh, HyVee, Pinter's, Ruppert's Ace Hardware, Fareway, Fisk's, Subway, Casey's, A & W, Long John Silvers, Sue-Z-Q, Atomic Pizza and Kwik Star. Gift cards are available for purchase at the parish office. Please call to order, 563 547-3565. *Scrip will be available in church the weekend of June 5-6.*

Knights of Columbus: Every knight joins for a reason whether to grow in faith, to serve our communities or to protect those most in need. Faith and Service are the reasons Knights of Columbus exists. We invite you to join us putting our Faith in Action. Visit www.kofc.org/joinus now till June 30th for free online. Use promo code McGivney2020

Notre Dame Parish has a photo display of family members of parishioners who are actively serving our country in the military. If you have a family member who is actively serving in the military at this time and have not already given us a picture and you would like us to include them in our prayers, please drop off a small (3x5 or less) photo of them at the parish office along with their name and your relationship to them.

Thank You

We are grateful for all the volunteers who offer their time and talent as good stewards for the betterment of the parish. This week we thank the Greeters.

Congratulations to all the graduates of 2021.

Notre Dame Food Stand at the Howard County Fair Sign-Up Sheets were mailed last week. Please take a minute and fill out when you will be able to help with this worthwhile and fun parish project! Returning the sign-up sheet by May 30 will save a phone call. Thanks!

Rolicky will be made for the Food Stand at the Fair on Monday, May 24, 8:00 a.m., Notre Dame Church Hall. Your help will be appreciated!

Ministry Workshops will be held in June. If you would like to serve as an EM, Lector, Host Family, Greeter, Server, Usher, Sacristan, and/or musician, please contact the parish office.

For Sale: 32" stove from the Fair Stand. Contact the parish office for more information.

How does the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women (ACCW) carry out their mission? Priority #1 is strengthening programs for the on-going education in the faith. The council held a one day retreat in 2020 at St. Mary's in Waverly entitled: Fearless, Faithful, Feminine. Over 50 women attended, of all ages. This year, the event is virtual, and can be done at any time. It is the Gifts of the Visitation, and is found under the Archdiocesan Website (<https://dbqarch.org>), click on Departments; click Related Organizations; click Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women; scroll down to Gifts of the Visitation. You will find the welcome, background, and the listed gifts. Gather your friends and find YOUR gift of the visitation! This project consists of twelve faith formation sessions on the different gifts outlined in the book, Gifts of the Visitation, by Denise Bossert. These sessions incorporate prayer, reflection, video witness from different women of the Archdiocese of Dubuque, discussions questions, and a challenge. They can be used for small group studies or personal reflection. Next month a look at priority #2: Enhancing the Sunday assembly for Holy Mass. Submitted by Julie Vulk, Pres. Of Decorah Deanery ACCW javulk@yahoo.com 563.380.8412

Tuition Assistance Are you looking for a way to help our Notre Dame students afford a Catholic education either at Notre Dame School or through our Religious Education program? Donations to our Adopt-A-Student Fund are always welcome and appreciated. For more information, contact the parish office.

Parish Ministers of Care are happy to take communion to anyone who is unable to go to mass and/or to visit our parishioners. If you or someone you know, would like a visitor or communion brought to their home, please call the parish office. If you would like to become a minister of care and help with this ministry, please call the parish office.

Tonight as you fold back your blankets

and lay your head upon your pillow,

fold your hands in prayer

and lay this day at the feet of your Heavenly Father.

*Wrap your failures and regrets in a prayer of forgiveness,
your blessings, joys and successes in a prayer of thanksgiving*

and your cares for tomorrow in a prayer of surrender

and give them all to God.

Then, with a smile on your face and peace in your heart,

wrap up in the warm embrace of your Heavenly Father

and enjoy sweet sleep. Amen.

My Dear Parishioners of Notre Dame Parish,

We've been through a lot together this past 15 months...lots of prayer...lots of missing out on things...lots of differing opinions...

But no matter what we've been through, I believe we are an even stronger Catholic Community of Notre Dame that can overcome anything with the love and strength of the Lord Jesus.

In recognition of how the spiritual and emotional needs of the Catholic faithful are met in great part by the parish community gathering for Sunday Mass in church...

And in view of the ever-increasing number of parishioners who are vaccinated, and who have a holy desire to worship at Sunday Mass with others in church...

But aware that social distancing in church greatly reduces the number of parishioners that can be accommodated...

Therefore, starting on 5-6 June 2021, the proverbial buck will stop with the Pastor about which COVID safety measures to practice, in consultation with staff, and in keeping with local ordinances.

Also on 5-6 June 2021, the dispensation will expire that excused Catholics in the Archdiocese of Dubuque from participating at Sunday Mass in church.

So...

What does this mean?

It means that on the Feast of Corpus Christi, on June 5th and 6th, you will come to mass and be able to sit wherever you like, in whatever pew you like, with respect to those that would still like to social distance.

It means that we will once again be able to have our choir to make beautiful music to aid in our worship and at funerals.

It means that we will be able to enter, visit, and minister to our brothers and sisters in senior care centers.

It means that we are free to choose what is the best way to care for our bodies, minds, and spirits, and that of our neighbors.

That being said, it also means the pandemic isn't over. We are still called to practice care to avoid spreading the virus to our neighbor. To take precautions like getting the vaccine or wearing a mask if you are sick.

We also have to talk about the dispensation.

Since March 19th, 2020 you have been "dispensed" from the "obligation" to attend mass. In short, that means "you don't hafta go."

This dispensation will be lifted on the Feast of Corpus Christ, which means the obligation to attend Sunday Mass every week will be back in place.

But as I myself and many other priests, and even our Archbishop puts it, this should be seen as an "opportunity." Besides, you are just as obligated to attend Sunday mass as you are obligated to wake up on Christmas morning with your family and joyfully open presents, or gather with your relatives on Thanksgiving.

We are "obliged" to attend mass because it is the greatest celebration we have as Catholics and the opportunity to receive Jesus in the Eucharist.

Even without a dispensation, Catholics can still legitimately excuse themselves from Sunday Mass if they're frail from age or illness, or caring for someone sick, homebound, or an infant, or weather makes driving hazardous, or work and Mass schedules conflict. This is the case all year round, pandemic or not.

In short, there is no sin in missing the Sunday obligation if you would go if you could go, but you can't for reasons outside your control.

I will continue to live stream masses until school starts at least, just to help with the transition.

Please know that I am very excited to be able to open wide the doors of the Church and welcome all of us who are hungry for community, the Bread of Life, and holiness. Amen.

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