

# The Lighthouse

Our Lady  
of the River  
Catholic Church  
Le Claire, Iowa

*"Be Not Afraid,  
I will be with you..."*



**Our Lady of the River Catholic Church.....563-289-5736**

**E-mail address...leclaircolor@diodav.org**

**Web site.....www.olotr.org**

**Follow the happenings of OLOR on Facebook.**

**Pastor .... Fr. Apo Mpanda.... 319-371-5088**

# Mass Times

## OUR LADY OF THE RIVER—LeClaire

28200-226th Street Place

### Masses:

**Saturday 5:30 p.m. — Sunday 8:30 a.m.**

**Weekday 8:00 a.m.—Wednesday and Friday**

**Immaculate Conception—Monday (December 8) - 6:00 p.m.**

**Christmas Eve—Wednesday (December 24) - 6:00 p.m.**

**Christmas Day—Thursday (December 25) - 8:30 a.m.**

**Solemnity of Mary—Wednesday (December 31) - 6:00 p.m.**

### **Second Friday of the month...**

8:00 a.m. Mass, Followed by 8:30 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Immediately following the Saturday 5:30 p.m. Mass  
or anytime by appointment

### **Open Bible Study**

Church Hall—every Tuesday - 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

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## CHURCH OF THE VISITATION—Camanche

1028 Middle Road

**Saturday 4:00 p.m.—Sunday 10:30 a.m.**

**Christmas Eve Mass—Wednesday (December 24) - 4:00 p.m.**

**Christmas Day—Thursday (December 25) - 10:30 a.m.**

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Saturday 3:30 p.m.—or by appointment

# Pastors Corner



Dear People of God,

Greetings from your pastor's desk!

Another Thanksgiving and another Christmas! I remain eternally grateful to God for all the blessings, especially for the gifts of life, family, faith, community and friends. I take this opportunity to thank you most sincerely as you have been such a blessing to our parish by being active and supporting us with your gifts of time, talents and timely financial help. My special gratitude goes to all the volunteers in our different ministries who do such a wonderful job in serving the various needs of our parish with much enthusiasm and commitment.

There are so many details that surround the celebration of Christmas that it is too easy to miss the meaning. Christmas is not about parties, the presents or poinsettias. It is not about the food, the festivities, or even about family. It's not about carols or Christmas cards. The real meaning of Christmas is often lost in the secular world of consumerism, commercialism and materialism. Don't take me wrong. All the things above make Christmas beautiful but Christmas is solely about God. Christmas is about God fulfilling his promises, saving his people, coming to us- as one of us -in Jesus. The Truth can be so easily missed: Christmas is nothing but Jesus, and if Jesus is not in Christmas, then Christmas is nothing at all.

*(Continued on page 4)*

*(Continued from page 3)*

Let us celebrate the Christ of Christmas with all our hearts. It's my hope and prayer that we will focus upon Christ not only in this year's celebration but also in the New Year to come. I hope we will look back and reflect upon the prophecy of Christ.

May we, too, join in the work of proclamation just as the angels on that night of celebration. Let us pray we cling to the experience of the promise and presence of our Savior each and every day remaining in 2025 and throughout the new year. My prayer is that we experience afresh and anew a celebration of Christ in our lives.

On behalf of my entire staff and myself, we wish you Merry Christmas and Happy New year!  
Fr. Apo



# OLOR News

## Baptisms:



10/19/25—Millie Mae Adams  
daughter of Justin and Alyssa Adams  
11/08/25—Hayes John Miller  
son of Anthony and Emily Miller

## Deaths:

8/30/25—Joe Kleiss  
11/17/25—Patricia Zaerr



## New Parishioners:

Michael and Christine Kessel



*Come join us for the Fish Fry on March 20.  
Watch the bulletin for more information*



## Want to see a movie?

Saturday, December 6, 6:30 in the  
Our Lady of the River Parish Hall.

Wear your pajamas, bring a blanket, and have  
some pizza while watching “The Star”.

Mom and Dad are invited too!



## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Share your holiday spirit with those who could use the good cheer! Below are addresses of parishioners, friends, and family members of OLOR. Take the time to send them a cheerful greeting!



Ruth Viktora  
Silvercrest Garner  
1531 W. 53rd—Apt. #208  
Davenport, IA 52806

John and Kay Schmitz  
Silvercrest Garner  
1545 W. 53rd—Apt #101  
Davenport, IA 52806

Linda Yulga  
3525 Marquette St, Apt. #113  
Davenport, IA 52806

Carolyn Graham  
526 May St  
Le Claire, IA 52753

Bob & Sheila Boyd  
1536 11th Ave  
DeWitt, IA 52742

Marv and Rita McRoberts  
The Summit  
4699-53rd Ave, Apt. #108  
Bettendorf, IA 52722



Celeste Roth  
28046-230th St.  
Le Claire, IA 52753

Dick Wales  
Senior Star Independent Living,  
4502 Elmore Ave, Rm #127  
Davenport, Iowa 52807

Violet Miller  
Ridgecrest Assisted Living  
4126 Northwest Blvd, Apt #217  
Davenport, IA 52806

Betty Hamilton  
The Summit  
4699 53rd Ave, Apt, 228  
Bettendorf, IA 52722

Cheryl Allbee  
P.O. Box 367  
Le Claire, IA 5275

Tom Kamp  
833 Canal Shore Dr. S.W.  
Le Claire, IA 52753



# Christmas Angel Tree



*News from the Social Action Commission for the three winter months focuses on helping area families with Angel Tree gifts and gift cards for Christmas. Dates that pertain to these are:*

**Angel Tree tags available ... Nov. 29/30 and Dec. 6/7**

**Angel gifts returned ... Dec. 13/14**

**Angel Tree gifts given out ... Dec. 19**

*If we have the funds, we will purchase Walmart gift cards for these families to help with Christmas (or holiday) expenses. If you wish to contribute, please see people at the Angel Tree table.*

Bob Schiffke  
1531 W. 53rd St, Apt 116  
Davenport, Iowa 52806

Sheryn West  
21446-277th Ave.  
Le Claire, IA 52753

Bill and Jacquie Moore  
700 Hartz Court  
Le Claire, IA 52753

John Miller  
1430 Wisconsin St.  
Le Claire, IA 52753

Joyce Long  
P.O. Box 346  
LeClaire, IA 52753

Sharon Mazak  
5605 Jersey Ridge Rd, Apt. 110  
Davenport, Iowa 5280



Denice De Anda  
36 Oak Ln  
Davenport, IA 52803

Ann Waldon  
28042 230th St  
LeClaire, IA 52753

Barb and Dick Voss  
29133 Great River Rd  
LeClaire, IA 52753

**OLOR's Annual Christmas Pageant**  
***"The Journey to Christmas"***  
***December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 9:45 a.m.***



***Please join us!***

*Our annual Christmas Pageant is scheduled for 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. The religious education students will be filling the roles of Mary, Joseph, Angel Gabriel, Elizabeth, Wise Men, First Innkeeper, Second Innkeeper, Third Innkeeper, a Chorus of Angels, Shepherds, and many Sheep. All the religious education classes will be taking an active role in the Christmas Pageant. Please join us for the pageant, Christmas carols with fellowship following in the parish hall.*

## **Café On Vine Schedule**

*Our Café on Vine schedule for the upcoming year is:*

December 6, 2025 – Parish Council

February 7, 2026 – Faith Formation Commission and  
Confirmation Class

April 4, 2026 – Social Action Commission

June 6, 2026 – Health Cabinet

August 1, 2026 – Liturgy Commission and Choir

October 3, 2026 – Family Life/Church Life Commissions

December 5, 2026 – Parish Council





**Music Ministry...** As the start of a new liturgical year begins, I would like to give a very special thank you to all of the dedicated Music Ministry members here at Our Lady Of The River.

*Barb Arland-Fye*

*Chris Kessel*

*Molly Sichterman*

*Chris Barber*

*Mike Kessel*

*Dom Stutenberg*

*Kateeya Brown*

*Sean Mahrt*

*Loran Stutenberg*

*Cheryl Costello*

*Tom Resig*

*Dave Donovan*

*Joanne Rumpza*

All of us would like to invite anyone who is interested to become part of our ministry.

**Choir** – If you enjoy being part of a group, like to sing and want to become more involved with our parish, please consider joining the choir. You just have to enjoy singing, no other musical skills needed.

**Cantor** – To be a cantor, you need to feel comfortable singing solo on the Responsorial Psalm and the Gospel Acclamation. You will be scheduled to cantor at the Mass you prefer, either Saturday evening or Sunday morning. We will meet 30 minutes immediately before your scheduled Mass and review the music for that service.

**Accompanist** – If you have musical skills on the piano/organ and would be willing to play on occasion, we would welcome your assistance. You should possess the ability to sight read music of medium difficulty and be able to set a tempo for congregational singing. All the hymns for Mass are preselected and you would have several weeks' time to become familiar with the music. This position has a stipend attached to it.

**Instrumentalist** – During special occasions we would like to add some instrumental musicians. If you have this talent, please consider sharing your talent with our congregation.

Please let me know if you would be interested in participating in the Music Ministry program.

Ladonna Czachowski, Director of Music Ministry  
563-209-2176 or lmczach@gmail.com





**Our Lady of the River Youth Group**

For all youth in 5th - 8th grade  
 Students are welcome to bring a friend

December 10 - Christmas  
 The fun starts at 7:30 pm



**Keep in your prayers our family members and friends who are soldiers**

who may be spending this Christmas season far away from their families and possibly in harms way.

May God watch over them all...

Jenna Harrison—daughter of Teresa Harrison  
 Richard Brumage  
 Chelse (Barber) Wilson

**The Christ Child of the Quad Cities**

is asking for new or gently used baby clothes, sizes newborn to 6 months, for their Layette Program for new mothers. These layettes are given to moms who cannot afford the essentials that every newborn needs.



Please see Lisa Levy or Pam Hughes if you can help.



**Who's going home with the Golden Ladle this year? The battle's on again for the best chili at Our Lady of the River. Bring a crockpot of chili and see who goes home with the bragging rights!**

**Mark your calendars for  
Saturday, January 24, 2026, 6:30 p.m.  
Sign-up sheets will be in the vestibule  
January 3-18.**

**Family Life will provide cornbread, grilled cheese sandwiches, and desert.**



## **Power of Prayer—OLOR Prayer Chain**



*We would like to remind parishioners of our e-mail prayer chain. If you have a prayer concern, or would like to be added to our prayer chain, please e-mail*

**Teresa Anderson** at: [jite2@mchsi.com](mailto:jite2@mchsi.com) - or -  
call Ph #563-340-9470



# Our Lady of the River HEALTH CABINET NEWS

**Health Cabinet Members:** Rita McRoberts, Brian Dugan, Barb Arland-Fye, Josh Lawlor, Janis Smith, Terese Harrison, Jim Walsh, Jennifer Hildebrand, Mary Tyrrel, Allyson Lineburg, Roxanne Schmertmann, Jordyn Werderitch, Sara Gravert, and Fr. Apo.

*\*\*We are always looking for more members, you don't have to have a health background. If you would like to serve on the Health Cabinet, please contact Fr. Apo.*

**MISSION STATEMENT:** To enrich those we serve, with the healing blessings of faith; to be present and promote the wellness of body, mind and spirit.

## **Caregiver Support Group Here at Our Lady of The River**

We meet the first Monday of every month from 10:30-11:30 am unless it falls on a holiday. IN DECEMBER THE MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THE SECOND MONDAY (December 8th). The caregivers meet in the lower level of the church with a Caregiver Specialist from Milestone's Area Agency on Aging and the loved ones who attend meet in the parish hall with Jennifer Hildebrand. There are a variety of topics and activities for both groups. ALL ARE WELCOME and there is no charge. Please contact Jennifer with any questions.

(563) 370-4412 or kjhildebrand@windstream.net.

## **Blood Drive**

We are hosting a blood drive on Monday, March 3, 2026 from 3:30pm - 6pm. Look for a sign up sheet in the vestibule towards the end of January. There has been a change in blood donation requirements for those that are on blood thinners, you can now donate! Please discuss with your physician before donating.

## **Blood Pressure Screenings**

Are held the 2nd full weekend of each month. A list of 2026 blood pressure screening dates will be posted in the vestibule.

December 13th and 14th 2025

January 10th and 11th 2026

February 7th and 8th 2026

## **Winter Safety Tips**

- Wear appropriate footwear: Use shoes with good traction and non-slip soles. Take smaller steps.
- Clear pathways: keep driveways, sidewalks, and steps clear of snow and ice.
- Use handrails and other assistive devices when available.
- Stay hydrated: Drink plenty of fluids throughout the day, even if you don't feel thirsty.
- Stay active: Move around and exercise indoors to improve circulation and maintain body temperature.
- Get vaccinated: Schedule annual flu shot and other recommended vaccines.
- Install/Check CO detectors: Make sure you have a working carbon monoxide detector on every level of your home.
- Check your car: Ensure your car is in good winter condition. Get tune up, check wipers and tires. Be sure to have an emergency bag with: a blanket, flashlight, charger, first-aid kit, water, snacks, and an ice scrapper.

## **Our Lady of the River Weather Notification**

If inclement weather causes cancellations there will be notifications on KWQC 6 and WQAD 8. Your safety matters, please stay home if questionable.

**Reminder:** If you or a family member would like us to know and/or visit while in the hospital, independent care, assisted care, memory care or home please reach out to Sara Gravert, sgravert12@gmail.com or OLOR office. Due to HIPAA regulations we need you to notify us.

*Sara Gravert, Health Coordinator*





## Look at the Candy Cane, what do you see?

Stripes that are Red,  
like the blood shed for me.

White is for my Savior,  
who's sinless and pure!

"J" is for Jesus, my Lord,  
that's for sure!

Turn it around,  
and a staff you will see.

Jesus, my shepherd,  
was born for me!

### Did You Know...

- The palms that we receive on Palm Sunday are blessed and therefore should not be put into the trash. They should be burned, buried, or left at the church.
- The ashes that we use on Ash Wednesday are made from burning blessed palms from the previous year(s).



Our Lady of the River will be collecting your used palms to be burned for our use at the Ash Wednesday Mass in February. There will be baskets in the vestibule starting November 1 and will be there through January 1. If you have blessed palms from previous Masses, please leave them in the basket.

Thank You! Family Life

## 2025 Christmas Mass Schedule

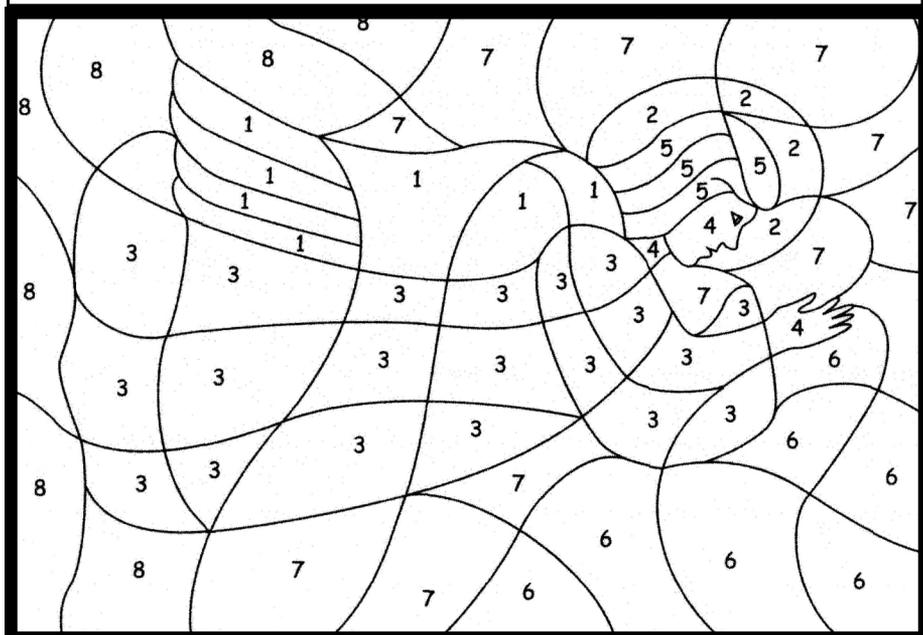
- \* **Wednesday, 12/24: Christmas Eve Mass - 6:00 p.m.**
- \* **Thursday, 12/25: Christmas Morning Mass - 8:30 a.m.**
- \* **Wednesday, 12/31: Solemnity of Mary - 6:00 p.m.**



An Angel appeared to Mary to tell her she would have a very special baby—Jesus, and he would be God’s own son.

Using pencil, crayons or markers, color by number to reveal the hidden picture...

1=white      2=orange      3=yellow      4=light brown  
5=black      6=light blue      7=blue      8=dark blue





## **Attention! High School Seniors and their Moms and Dads!**

Thinking of continuing your education via college or a trade school? Are you aware that the Katie Dlouhy family along with the Altar and Rosary Society provide a scholarship each year just waiting for your application? Requirements include being an **ACTIVE** member of the church and a graduating senior. How can you be an active member? Here are a few suggestions:

Serve at Mass as an altar server, lector, choir member or music accompanist

Help with Faith Formation classes or youth group activities

Assist Men of the River with breakfasts, chili cook off, the hog roast, elderly parishioner yard clean up and parish grounds clean up

Serve at Café on Vine

Assist with Vacation Bible School

Assist with minor church maintenance, i.e., changing missals yearly, cleaning of church and Faith Formation classrooms, decorating the church and removal of church decorations

Youth representative of the Parish Council

Visiting homebound parishioners

Assisting at Night to Shine

Prayer chain

Helping assemble and deliver food baskets at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter

Be sure to read the weekly Mass bulletin for notices of upcoming activities and contact someone to volunteer. Keep track of your service dates and times so you can refer to it on your scholarship application. Applications are available beginning January 1 and are in a labeled folder on the table in the church vestibule.

If you are interested in financial help with your post high school education expenses, complete your application and turn it in before the April 15, 2025 deadline. The deadline is FIRM! Remember, this money can be used for anything associated with your college or trade school education.

If you have additional questions, please contact Joanne Rumpza at 563-289-3521.

## *Altar & Rosary Christmas Luncheon*



*Wednesday, December 10*

*11:30 a.m.*

*Duck Creek Pancake House*

*4405 State Street*

*Riverdale, IA*

*All women of the parish are welcome!!*

*Please join us!!*

## *Altar and Rosary*

Every OLOR lady is invited and encouraged to attend.

**December 10**—*The Altar and Rosary Society Christmas Luncheon is scheduled for December 10, 2025, at 11:30 a.m. at Duck Creek Pancake House, Riverdale, IA*

### **2026 Prospective Schedule**—

*Meetings: May 13, August 12, November 11 - noon in church hall.*

*Activities planned:*

*Basket Raffle-October 2026*

*Christmas Luncheon.-December 2026*

**Men of the River...** Please Watch the weekly Church Bulletin and listen for any announcements from the pulpit for any upcoming activities planned by the Men of the River.



***If your committee needs any assistance carrying out an activity, please contact The Men of The River through the church office and we will be happy to provide any help that we are able to.***

# Serve HAITI / St. Pierre

Every time Joanne emails to say it's time for an update for the next edition of the Lighthouse, I am blown away by how quickly time is passing. I'm sure my (advancing) age plays a big part in that perception, but in this rapidly changing world we live in, it becomes difficult to keep up!

If you had told me when we evacuated out of Grand-Bois by helicopter in February of 2019, that it might be the last time I would be there, I would have laughed. Almost 7 years later, there still doesn't seem to be an end in sight to the travel restrictions and I am beginning to wonder – and worry.

Our relationship with St. Pierre and the people of Grand-Bois began for OLOR back in 2002. Monsignor Feeney and so many parishioners (some long gone) encouraged the parish twinning and welcomed Pere Boniface, Pere Reginal, Archbishop Miot and Dr. Leo into our church and their homes many times over the years. Through OLOR's prayerful and financial support we have been witness to amazing changes in the region for the people there. Joanne Rumpza did a beautiful carving of the Haitian proverb, "Health is Hope and Hope is Everything", which Monsignor Feeney presented to the brand new St Vincent DePaul clinic on his 2<sup>nd</sup> trip there. So many parishioners have travelled there through the years, and even during these long years when we have not been able to visit in person, the love, friendship and long distance relationships remain strong. My fears now are rooted in the inability to continue to make new introductions for people



Monsignor Feeney with Dr. Leo

here or give them the opportunity to witness the beauty, strength and faith of these amazing people first hand. If I have ever shared emails with any of you, you know that my signature is followed by the following saying, "I hear and forget, I see and remember, I do and understand".

As with so many things in this life, it is difficult to truly comprehend life in Grand-Bois unless you are immersed into it. The impact ripples when the return home finds you trying to relate what you have experienced, and it touches so many who have been unable to travel themselves. The kindness, compassion and generosity found back here at home has been moving, motivating and at times even, euphoric!

Lately, my fear has been this: What happens when time passes, those of us who have been fortunate to travel Haiti and those who have been impacted by our stories grow older, and there are no young spirits to continue the ripples? I worry about all of my friends and family in Haiti and their children and grandchildren.

I ask you to join me in prayer for an end to the gang violence and political chaos that threatens the lives of so many innocent people in Haiti in this immediate moment, and also threatens the lives and livelihood of so many future adults and children in Grand-Bois, if we are strategically and financially unable to continue our work there. Lastly, I humbly ask you, if you are able, to consider an end of year donation to ServeHAITI.

A Merry Christmas and warm New Year wishes for you all.

Love *Liz McDermott*

"I hear and forget, I see and remember,  
I do and understand" ~Confucius



## Coming Soon! CEW 2026

Women's Weekend—February 20-22  
Men's Weekend - February 27-March 1



2 Corinthians 5-7  
We Walk By Faith  
Not By Sight



Contact:

Women's Weekend

Kelly Cole

563-340-5008

colefamof5@gmail.com

Men's Weekend

Kevin Rochholz

563-343-0585

krochholz@msn.com

### Prayer Shawls are Available...

Prayer shawls and quilts are available for those in need. Prayer shawl/quilt recipients do not have to be a member of OLOR.

Brochures are available in the vestibule if you would like more information. To request a prayer shawl, or create them, please contact Roberta Pegorick, or Jennifer Hidlebrand.



### *Church Mission*



Our Lady of the River Catholic Church is both a quiet oasis of serenity and an energetic center for worship. We are a community of Christians guided by the Holy Spirit, associated with the diocese and served by a pastor. Our mission is to promote the kingdom of God through prayer (primarily our Eucharistic celebration), education and service, and to exemplify Christian life in seeking holiness and the promise of salvation through Christ Jesus.

# Calendar of Events

## December

*(Bible Study in church hall... every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m./6:30 p.m.)*

- 2—5:15 p.m. - Building and Grounds Meeting
- 3—4:30 p.m. - Family Life Meeting
  - 7:00-8:15 p.m. - Confirmation Class
- 4—6:15 p.m. - Mom's Bible Book Study
- 5—6:00 p.m. - Adoration
- 6—Café on Vine (Parish Council)
  - 6:30 p.m. - Family Movie Night with Pizza
- 7—9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. - Religious Education Classes
- 8—10:30 a.m. - Caregiver Support Group
  - 6:00 p.m. - Immaculate Conception Mass
- 10—9:00 a.m. - Staff Meeting
  - 11:30 a.m. - A&R Christmas Luncheon (see p. 15)
  - 6:00 p.m. - Communal Penance
  - 7:00-8:15 p.m. - Confirmation Class
  - 7:30 p.m. - Youth Group—Christmas
- 11—5:30 p.m. - Finance Council Meeting
  - 6:15 p.m. - Mom's Bible Book Study
- 12—8:00 a.m. - Friday Mass and Fellowship
  - 9:00 a.m. - "The Chosen" Viewing and Discussion
- 13—6:30 p.m. - Blood Pressure Screening
- 14—9:30 a.m. - Blood Pressure Screening
  - 9:45 a.m. - Religious Ed Christmas Pageant
  - Fellowship by Family Life following Pageant
- 17—7:00-8:15 p.m. - Confirmation Class
- 18—6:15 p.m. - Mom's Bible Book Study
  - 7:00 p.m. - Parish Council Meeting
- 21—NO - Religious Education Classes
- 24—6:00 p.m. - Christmas Vigil Mass at OLOR
  - NO - Confirmation Class



**(December, 2025 continued)**

25—8:30 a.m. - Christmas Day Mass at OLOR

28—NO - Religious Education Classes

31—6:00 p.m. - Solemnity of Mary Mass

—NO - Confirmation Class



**January, 2026**

*(**Bible Study** in church hall... every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m./6:30 p.m.)*

1—Happy New Year! **Office Closed**

4—9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. - Religious Education Classes

5—10:30 a.m. - Caregiver Support Group

6—5:15 p.m. - Building and Grounds

7—4:30 p.m. - Family Life Meeting

—7:00-8:15 p.m. - Confirmation Classes

8—6:15 p.m. - Mom's Bible Book Study

9—8:30 a.m. - Friday Morning Fellowship

9:00 a.m. - "The Chosen" Viewing & Discussion

10—6:30 p.m. - Blood Pressure Screening

11—9:30 a.m. - Blood Pressure Screening

—9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. - Religious Education Classes

14—9:00 a.m. - Staff Meeting

—7:00-8:15 p.m. - Confirmation Class

15—5:30 p.m. - Finance Council Meeting

—6:15 p.m. - Mom's Bible Book Study

—7:00 p.m. - Parish Council Meeting

18—8:30 a.m. - 7th & 6th Grade Class Mass

—9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. - Religious Education Classes

21—7:00-8:15 p.m. - Confirmation Class

22—6:15 p.m. - Mom's Bible Book Study

24—6:30 p.m. - Chili Cook Off

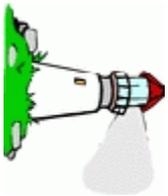
25—NO - Religious Education Classes

28—7:00-8:15 p.m. - Confirmation Classes

29—6:15 p.m. - Mom's Bible Book Study







Our Lady of the River Catholic Church  
28200 226th Street Place  
P.O. Box 32  
LeClaire, Iowa 52753

