

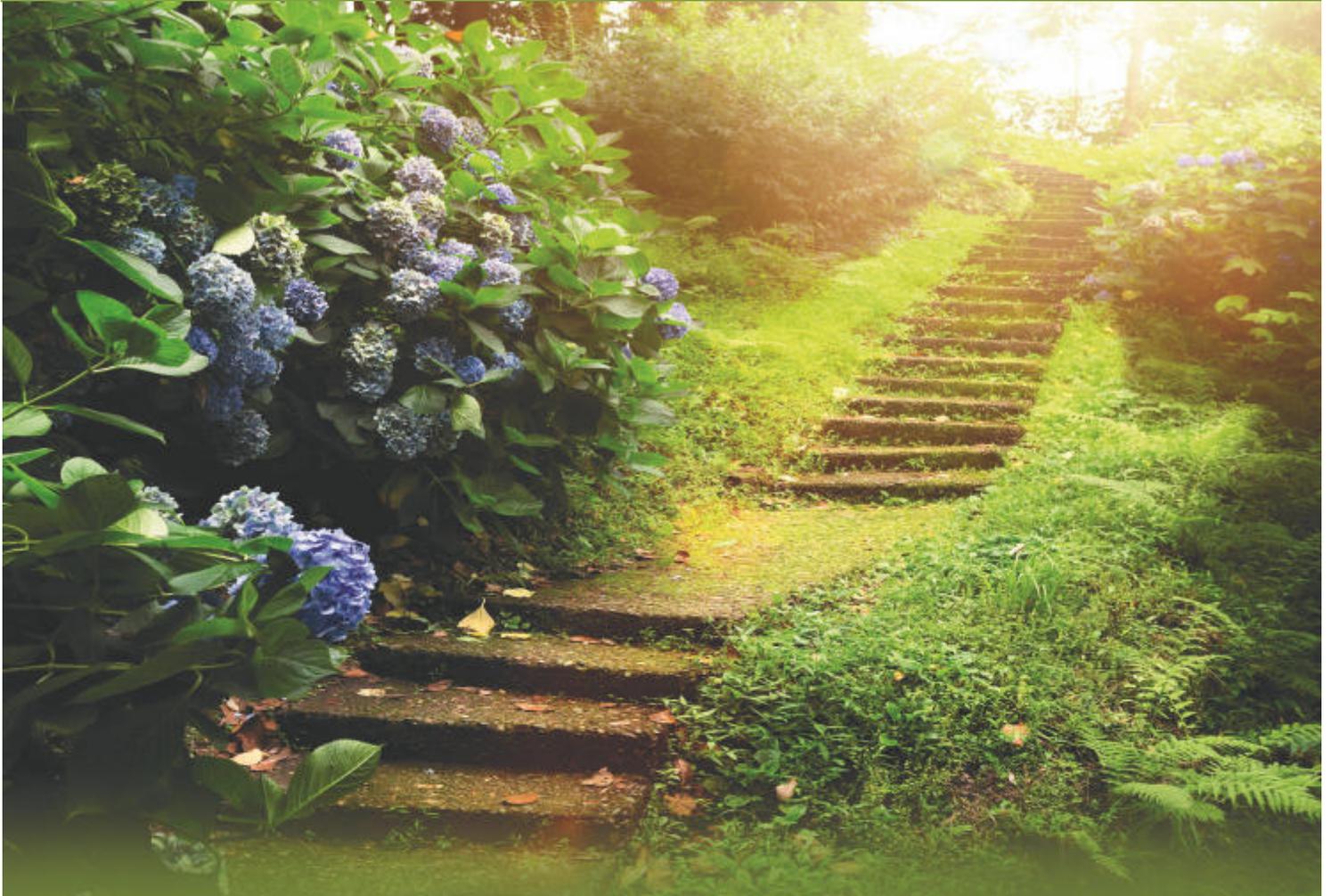
ST. THERESA CATHOLIC

FAITH • SERVICE • COMMUNITY • EDUCATION

1230 Merle Hay Rd., Des Moines, IA 50311

515-279-4654

August 21 & 22, 2021



21st Sunday IN ORDINARY TIME

Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life." - Jn 6:68

PARISH STAFF

Pastor

Fr. Raphael Assamah.....279-4654 x301
Rectory.....279-4654 x501
Email.....rassamah@stsdsm.com

Weekend Assistant

Rev. Robert Chamberlain
Email.....bobbikecham@gmail.com

Pastoral Associate

Deacon David Schmidt..279-4654 x308
Email.....dschmidt@stsdsm.com

Deacons

Deacon Michael Huntsman...537-5382
michael.huntsman@hotmail.com
Deacon Rick Condon.....314-0108
rnjcondon@yahoo.com

Parish Manager

Mike Smith.....279-4654 x303
Email.....michaelsmith@stsdsm.com

Coordinator of Pre-K-5th Faith Formation

Jane Ann Becicka.....279-4654 x304
Email.....jbecicka@stsdsm.com

Director of Youth Ministry

Megs Howes.....279-4654 x306
Email.....mhowes@stsdsm.com

RCIA Director, Adult Faith Formation

Barb Woods.....515-210-6649
Email.....bwoods@stsdsm.com

Parish Accountant

John McMichael.....279-4654 x305
Email.....jmc michael@stsdsm.com

Communication Coordinator

Emily Melcher
Email.....emelcher1@stsdsm.com

St. Theresa School.....515-277-0178

Fax.....515-255-2415

Principal, Ellen Stemler....277-0178 x207

Email.....estemler@stsdsm.com

St. Theresa Child Care....277-3788 x401

Director, Maria Calhoun
Email.....mcalhoun@stsdsm.com

Office Hours: 9:00am - 3:30pm (M-F)

Parish Secretary

Sue Fitzpatrick.....279-4654 x300
Email.....sfitzpatrick@stsdsm.com

Food Pantry

Anita Holub.....515-216-0908
Food Pantry Hours - M - W - 10am-1:45pm

STEWARDSHIP GIFTS PRAY FAST GIVE

Week Ending August 8
\$ 24,652.50

Weekly August Budget
\$ 16,740.99

Difference
\$ 7,911.51

YTD Cumulative Difference
\$ 2,180.33

Weekly Contributors
171

Building Fund - \$385.00

First Fruits - \$270.00

CISS Meals - \$740.00

Church in Africa - \$45.00

PARISH COMMITTEES

Finance Council

Judy Kendzora.....515-276-4139
Email.....tkendzora@mchsi.com

School Board

Laura Sarcone
Email.....laurasarcone@gmail.com

Peace & Justice

Kathy O'Neill.....515-865-1590
Email.....don.kathy.oneill@gmail.com

St. Vincent de Paul

Barb Chicoine.....515-979-5172
Email.....barbchicoine@msn.com

Pro-Life

Rachel Egan.....515-822-4884

St. Theresa K of C Grand Knight

Aaron Friess.....620-755-1291
Email.....aaronfriess@gmail.com

St. Theresa Altar & Rosary (STARS)

Alisha Friess.....785-408-9452
Email.....stars@stsdsm.com

TOGO Committee

Kay Boisen.....515-720-0923
Susan Malloy515-321-5826

Baptism

Baptisms are scheduled for parishioners after the pre-baptism requirements are fulfilled. Baptism classes are held every other month. Call the church office to register.

Marriage

Please call the church office at least nine months prior to the desired wedding date.

WEEKEND MASS TIMES & RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation - Saturdays from 8:30am to 9:30am, by appointment or after any Mass

Saturday Mass - 4:30pm

Sunday Mass - 8:30am, 10:30am, 4:30pm

BULLETIN ARTICLES

Bulletin submissions should be sent to the parish office by Friday, the week before you want it in the bulletin. You will need to write your own copy. If you have any questions, please call Sue Fitzpatrick at 515-279-4654 x300. Please send submissions to stsmmedia@stsdsm.com.



Bulletins



A MESSAGE FROM FR. RAPHAEL



Reflection for the Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Theme: "Do you want to leave me too?"

Dear People of God,

Today, we come to the crux of the discourse on the *Bread of life* in John chapter 6. The question Jesus asked has always been the turning point in my crisis moment as a priest.

A few years ago, the wounds of the church were open regarding the clergy sex scandal. Some families left the church despite all the explanations I gave on the human and divine face of the church. I was humiliated while in a clerical shirt in Omaha. Many Catholics felt the shame and disgrace. In such a moment, the question was whether to leave the church or not. However, we all stood firmly to embrace the *eternal word* of Christ.

Dearly Beloved, it is an undeniable fact that husbands and wives also test their vows of fidelity in moments of tension; the best of friends are tempted to gossip in moments of jealousy; members of the parish are committed to unity yet fall into division over issues of trivial importance. Today's reflections demonstrate how fidelity is a virtue that cannot be taken for granted.

The final chapter of Joshua bespeaks the hero's farewell speech to his people. It describes covenant-making and how the Israelites must decide to whom they will pledge their fidelity. To re-awaken the audience's sense of fidelity, Joshua recounted God's sincere concern for Israel during the Exodus, the journey in the desert, and the conquest. God is the only choice; to be Israelite is to be faithful.

Our Gospel reading from John records the mixed reactions of Jesus' audience to the Bread of Life discourse. Because they are unwilling to believe that he is the bread come down from heaven, they revoke their fidelity. The second reaction is that of the Twelve. Peter calls Jesus both Lord and God's holy one. This answer in faith is the apostles' response to Jesus' poignant question: **"Do you want to leave me too?"** Peter made these assertions.

There is No one Else to Go to

What are we looking for in life? Are we looking for forgiveness? Behold! Jesus forgives. Are we looking for guidance? Look! Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. Are we looking for rest? Jesus lovingly invites us, "Come to me all who labor and are heavily burdened. I will give you rest. Whatever your sickness is, Jesus is the panacea. Seek first Jesus and all the other things in life will be added unto you.

Jesus has the words of Eternal life

Jesus broke His body and shed His blood to give eternal life to us. Anyone who partakes of His body and blood will have eternal life. He said, "whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day (Jn 6:54)." Anyone who believes in Jesus and partakes worthily in the Eucharist will have eternal life.

As we end our discussion of John 6, we are left with the choice to either follow Jesus or abandon Him. Let us all confess and assert with Peter and say, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we believe, and we know that You are the Holy One of God." Shalom!

GOD IS GOOD SLOGAN

GOD IS GOOD – ALL THE TIME

ALL THE TIME – GOD IS GOOD

AND THAT IS HIS NATURE



SUNDAY MORNING PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Elizabeth Ann Seton Council 5389 - August 29, 2021, after 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Masses.
In the St. Theresa Parish Hall. Menu: Pancakes, sausage, eggs, fresh fruit, drinks
Freewill offering accepted.



CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Our parish school begins classes on Monday, August 23. We ask for your continued prayers as we begin another great year at STCS. We cannot wait to have our children! We welcome Jennie Gervais as our new band director and Ashley Ver Schuer as a new 2nd grade teacher. God bless you always!

Classes will dismiss at 1:30 on Monday, August 23.

SAVE THE BACKPACKS!

Do you have good used backpacks around the house? STCS Girl Scout Troop 363 is now accepting new and used backpack donations to benefit our sister parish and school in Togo. Donations may be dropped off at Back To School Night Thursday, Aug 18th, and after all Masses Aug 21 & 22. The troop will also be accepting free will donations to benefit Togo tuition scholarships. Have extra school supplies? We'll take those, too, and distribute them to STCS students in need. Questions? Need Girl Scout Cookies? Contact Angela Thrailkill 971-0674

YCDM Catholic Singles Group

Bonfire Social

Are you a Catholic single, aged 21-39, looking to meet other local Catholic singles? Join us for a summer bonfire. S'mores & snacks provided. BYOB.

Thur. August 26

St. Mary of Nazareth Parish, 4600 Meredith Drive, Des Moines, Iowa 50310

7pm to 9:30pm

Questions? YCDMCatholicSingles@gmail.com

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WITH CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Food Pantry – Wednesdays from noon – 3:45 pm to help distribute food and or pack food items for clients.

Emergency Family Shelter – Tuesday or Thursday afternoon 1:00 – 5:00 pm to help answer phones, light admin work and aid with afternoon snack. **To volunteer** or for additional information, please contact Holly Ackermann hackermann@catholiccharitiesdm.org or 515-237-5027



An Invitation to Join St. Theresa's Grief Support Group forming this Fall

Are you or someone you know experiencing the emptiness and sadness from the loss of a loved one? Please consider joining our support group starting this Fall. We will be using the Seasons of Hope series as a guide to assist us in providing empathy and support for each other. There will be six weekly Seasons of Hope sessions scheduled. If interested, please contact Deacon David, 279-4654, ext 308 for more details.



Excess garden veggies? The St Theresa Food Pantry would love to have your extra veggies that you can't use! Our pantry guests are thrilled whenever we have fresh produce. It gives our pantry a farmer's market feel that they enjoy. Fresh is always best!

Fresh produce donations can be dropped off during pantry hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday 10-2. Call/text Anita at 515-216-0908 with any questions. Many thanks to the parishioners who are already donating. Know that your gardening efforts are putting smiles on faces whose lives give them little to smile about.



YOUTH MINISTRY



MS/HS Faith Formation Training/Planning Session

Date: Wednesday, September 8, 6pm-8:00pm

Location: East Meeting Room

Join us for a night of training and reflection as we prepare for the upcoming faith formation year. This is intended for adults and high school students who will be helping with Edge, Life Teen & Confirmation, including small group leaders. There will be a meal, snacks and beverages provided. Contact Megs with any questions or concerns.

Parish Faith Formation Registration for 2021-22 School Year

It's time to register for faith formation session for PK-12th grade for the upcoming school year. If you have any questions regarding Sunday School, Wednesday Faith (K-5th) , please contact Jane Ann Becicka at jbeckica@stsdsm.com. If you have any question regarding Edge (6 -8th), Life Teen (9-12th) and Confirmation Prep (9th and older), please contact Megs Howes at mhowes@stsdsm.com . Please see the link on the Home Page of the Website to register.

PASTORAL COUNCIL INVITE

Everybody is welcome to come to the first Pastoral Council meeting. Join us on Wednesday, August 25th, at 6 pm. You can contribute as we plan programs and important celebrations. The meeting will be in the church hall unless designated otherwise. For questions, you can e-mail Angela Wolfe at ahudyma@yahoo.com.

PRO-LIFE HOLY HOUR

Please join fellow St. Theresa parishioners for a holy hour on Tuesday, August 31st, from 7:00-8:00 pm to pray especially for pro-life intentions! Come and visit Jesus and pray for vulnerable pregnant women and their unborn babies and the vulnerable sick and elderly. All ages are welcome! There will be snacks available afterward.

Invitation to Personal Prayer: Conversation for the Spiritual Life, an Online Course

Deepen your prayer life with some of the great tools of St. Ignatius. Learn basic building blocks of praying with Scripture and put them into practice. Groups meet online for 90 minutes (maximum) each week for 9 weeks and participants commit to at least 15 minutes of daily prayer. Groups are limited in size and led by trained facilitators.

All are invited. **Pre-registration is required.** The fee is \$40 (plus shipping if required), materials included. Groups will begin the week of September 19th. Register as soon as possible to avoid delays in receiving materials. Registration deadline is Friday, 9/3/21

To select your group and register, go <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CG3N7T9>

Questions or more information:

Volunteers Needed!! St. Theresa Homeless Meal Intake and Transport

Our parish continues to use donated funds along with monthly meal providers to serve 175 people at Central Iowa Shelter and Services. We coordinate with HyVee, who provides entrée and dessert with donated funds. *Two volunteers are needed on the 8th of the month from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm for intake at the parish kitchen.* Meal providers drop off sides at the church car port entrance. Then intake workers use carts to transport the sides to the kitchen to store until transport arrives at 5:15 pm. Intake and transport volunteers load up vehicles to deliver to the shelter by 5:45 pm.

Two volunteers arrive at the parish kitchen by 5:15 to transport food/supplies to CISS shelter. Shelter staff provides assistance to carry food into the shelter with St. Theresa transport volunteers.

If you can spare the time to help out with *intake or transport on a rotating basis* with other parishioners, please call or text Celeste Egger at 480-8358 or email celeste.egger@gmail.com. For over 25 years, a dedicated core group of St. Theresa volunteers this monthly ministry to feed the homeless in our city. Please consider joining our team.

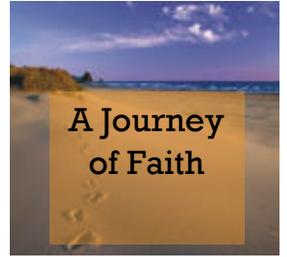


ADULT FAITH FORMATION



Welcome to RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

RCIA is a process, rooted in Church history designed to form people in the Catholic faith and prepare adults to receive the sacraments of the Church. Becoming Catholic involves entering into relationship with Jesus Christ and His community of God's people. Hopefully, you will enjoy a deeper relationship with God as you become acquainted with members of St. Theresa Parish. Your RCIA journey will be a unique time for you. At the same time, members of the parish are praying for you, attending sessions with you, and sharing their own life stories as followers of Christ in His Church.



Perhaps you should extend an invitation to someone you know who might want to join the faith!

If you just want to know more about the process, please contact Barb Woods at 515-210-6649 or bwoods@stsdsm.com. No decisions have to be made right away. You might want to just come and see what it's all about!



Adult Faith Formation MOVIES!!!

During the summer the adult study groups watch Christian movies. We will continue our four group times: Monday 9:30 - 11:30am, 6:30 - 8:30pm and Tuesday 6:30 - 8:30 pm. Our next movie on August 16-17 is *Abel's Field*. Join us for educational, but fun formation! Call Barb for info. (515-210-6649)

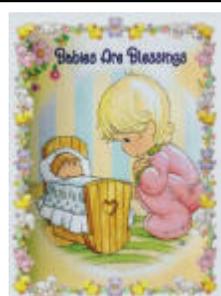
As we begin a new year, we want to remember those loved ones who quietly passed away from COVID. Their lives were celebrated by family members, but not with the parish family. Please send us the names of your loved ones and we will place their names in the sanctuary from August 28 through September 10. If you do not want to name them, then say "a friend of _____" or "a relative of _____". Send the names to bwoods@stsdsm.com, call Barb (515-210-6649) or call Sue (515-279-4654 ext 300) at the Parish Office. We will remind you each weekend. If by chance you forget, we will have paper available the weekend of August 21-22 and August 28-29.



News for You, the parish newsletter is being prepared. Any organization that has news to share, please send a word document, no PDF, to bwoods@stsdsm.com by September 1. Keep it to a half page with one or two pictures/graphics. The second newsletter deadline is November 11. People want to know what you are doing.

August 22 - Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time:

In today's Gospel, Jesus asks "Do you also want to leave?" We must ask ourselves if we really want to hear the good news of his love for us and for others. Is the word of God able to break into our consciousness, change us and call us to hear the cries of the poor? By giving to St. Vincent DePaul through the first fruits envelope or the poor box, you are helping the Society bring hope to the poor.



SPIRITUAL ADOPTION PROGRAM

St. Theresa's pro-life team would like to invite you to participate in a special Spiritual Adoption program. Join us in "spiritually adopting" a child who is newly conceived this month. Not all newly conceived babies are allowed to be born. In fact, more than 3000 babies lose their lives to abortion each day in America. These babies at risk for abortion are the ones we are asking you to "adopt."

As you spiritually adopt a child, we suggest that you name the baby for whom you are praying, thereby acknowledging the baby's humanity. Pray for your spiritually adopted baby

Mass Intentions



Monday, 6:30 am	August 23 † People of the Parish (Fr. Raphael's Anniversary Mass)
Tuesday, 6:30 am	August 24 † Rosetta Pfaff
Wednesday, 6:30 am	August 25 † Bob O'Neill
Thursday, 6:30 am	August 26 † Joe Timmins
Friday, 6:30 am	August 27 † Deceased Members of the Tigges & Gladfelder Families
8:35 am	† Students & Staff of St. Theresa
Saturday 4:30 pm	August 28 † Delores Pagliai
4:30 pm	† Mike & Linda Faber - 50th Anniversary
Sunday, 8:30 am	August 29 † Rosetta Pfaff
8:30 am	† Judy Chase
10:30 am	† Janet Harris
10:30 am	† Mark Hesselmann
4:30 pm	† People of the Parish

St. Joseph, Protector of Homes

St. Joseph, protect our home. Pour forth from heaven blessings on our family. Remain in our midst. Help us to live in love and harmony, in peace and joy. May the wholesome fear of God strengthen us that virtue may adorn what we do and our way may lead to heaven.

To you this day I give the key to our dwelling place. Lock out all things that could do us harm. Lock my home and my loved ones with me in the hearts of Jesus and Mary. This I beg of you, that our days may be like your days in the holy home at Nazareth. Amen.



Readings for the week of August 22, 2021

Sunday:	Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b/Ps 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21, 22-23 [9a]/ Eph 5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32/Jn 6:60-69
Monday:	1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Mt 23:13-22
Tuesday:	Rv 21:9b-14/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18 [12]/Jn 1:45-51
Wednesday:	1 Thes 2:9-13/Ps 139:7-8, 9-10, 11-12ab [1]/Mt 23:27-32
Thursday:	1 Thes 3:7-13/Ps 90:3-5a, 12-13, 14 and 17 [14]/Mt 24:42-51
Friday:	1 Thes 4:1-8/Ps 97:1 and 2b, 5-6, 10, 11-12 [12a]/Mt 25:1-13
Saturday:	1 Thes 4:9-11/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9 [9]/Mt 25:14-30
Next Sunday:	Dt 4:1-2, 6-8/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5 [1a]/Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27/Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

GOAL	\$124,979.00
GIFTS/PLEDGES	\$129,805.00
REMAINING ON GOAL	\$+4,826.00
PERCENTAGE OF GOAL MET	103.9%
NO. OF GIFTS/PLEDGES	297
AVERAGE GIFT	\$437.05



515-222-2300 | Member FDIC
westbankstrong.com

Des Moines' only Catholic-owned and operated funeral home.



CALDWELL PARRISH

8201 Hickman • 515-276-0551
www.CaldwellParrish.com



Matt Kneif, AAMS®, CFP®
Financial Advisor

1100 73rd Street
Windsor Heights, IA 50324
515-279-2219

Looking for rising income strategies in retirement? Let's talk!

Member SPIC

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



Look no further for the quality eye care you deserve.

Dr. Barbara A. Scheetz Ph: 515-440-4610
Dr. Greg D. Harper 5970 Ashworth Rd
Doctors of Optometry West Des Moines, IA

MEMBER *Windsor* SOURCE NETWORK



6842 University Ave. Windsor Heights 274-3011

LOUIE'S FLOOR COVERING

Low Prices on Name Brands

243-8608

2709 Ingersoll Ave. Des Moines



McCartan Insurance Group



Joel McCartan
West Des Moines, IA
515-633-2273
joel@mccartaninsurance.com

Diocesan Parishioner & Brother Knight
Auto | Home | Life | Business



Jim Talley, CFP®, AAMS®
Financial Advisor, Parishioner
2703 Beaver Ave., Des Moines, IA
Phone: 515-279-4179
Providing Personalized Financial Solutions

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



William T. Grask, D.D.S.

Mercy West Dental Clinic

1601 NW 114th St., #351, Clive
(515) 221-0381

MICHAEL J. VERSACKAS, MD

Associated Ophthalmologists, PC
Dr. Ejaz Husain, M.D.
Dr. Naveen Husain, M.D.
Dr. Chris Miller, O.D.
1212 Pleasant St., Suite 202 • Des Moines, IA 50309
(515) 244-3937 (EYES) www.dmeyemd.com

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!



Iles Funeral Homes
Celebrate Life the Way You Live It
IlesCares.com

John Wild

ADT-Monitored Home Security

Get 24-Hour Protection From a Name You Can Trust

- Burglary
- Fire Safety
- Flood Detection
- Carbon Monoxide



SafeStreets

1-855-225-4251



PROTECTING SENIORS NATIONWIDE
MEDICAL ALERT SYSTEM

\$29.95/MO PLUS SPECIAL OFFER
BILLED QUARTERLY

CALL NOW! 1.877.801.7772
WWW.24-7MEDALARM.COM

WE'RE HIRING

AD SALES EXECUTIVES

BE YOURSELF. BRING YOUR PASSION.
WORK WITH PURPOSE.

- Paid Training
- Some Travel
- Work-Life Balance
- Full-Time with Benefits
- Serve Your Community

Contact us at careers@4lpi.com
www.4lpi.com/careers



MERCYONE

We are proud to be central Iowa's Catholic health care provider.
Find a physician or clinic near you at
mercyone.org/desmoines

Alphabet Academy

Montessori Inspired Childcare and Preschool

515.223.1387

6355 Beechtree Drive
West Des Moines

Transportation provided to STCS

Berry & Angela Thraikill Parishioners

AlphabetAcademyWDM.com

AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME!
ADVERTISE HERE NOW!

Contact **Rob Witte** to place an ad today!
rwwitte@4LPi.com or
(800) 950-9952 x2501

255-0022



MICHAEL P. HOLZWORTH
Attorney At Law
General Practice
5835 Grand
274-0279

i-wire electric

I wire, so you don't have to.

(515) 229-5981

TOM YOUNGWIRTH, OWNER,
PARISHIONER

ST THERESA OF THE CHILD JESUS foundation

Give the Gift that will Last Forever

Have you considered a charitable gift or future bequest to St. Theresa Foundation? Your donations help build the Foundation's permanent endowment fund, which will provide perpetual financial support to St. Theresa Parish.

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE • 515-279-4654

O'Donnell ACE Hardware

277-0062 255-2240
4808 University 5715 Hickman Rd.
279-4245 • 2727 Beaver Ave.



Stay connected to our faith community no matter where you are by signing up to get our bulletin delivered straight to your email!

www.ParishesOnline.com



For ad info. call 1-800-950-9952 • www.4lpi.com

St. Theresa, Des Moines, IA

A 4C 02-0264