



ST. THERESA CATHOLIC

FAITH • SERVICE • COMMUNITY • EDUCATION

1230 Merle Hay Rd., Des Moines, IA 50311

515-279-4654

September 18 & 19, 2021



25th Sunday IN ORDINARY TIME

“Whoever receives one child such as this in my name,
receives me.” - Mk 9:37a

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.....jmcmmichael@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 29
\$ 10,215.00

Weekly August Budget
\$ 16,740.99

Difference
\$ (6,525.99)

YTD Cumulative Difference
\$ (13,382.65)

Weekly Contributors
104

Building Fund - \$380.00

First Fruits - \$80.00

Church in Africa - \$60.00

Food Pantry - \$230.00

Haiti Relief - \$3,505.00

PARISH COMMITTEES

Finance Council

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

School Board

Laura Sarcone
Email.....lauracsarcone@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 stsmedia@stsdsm.com.



Bulletins



A MESSAGE FROM FR. RAPHAEL



Dearly Beloved in Christ,

With summer cruising to a halt, many of us are looking to the football season with enthusiasm. There is that desire of expecting more from our role models. As we look forward to a cooler weather, we also pray for safe environments.

In the light of this, our readings offer alternative models of wisdom. These biblical heroes see fidelity and service, though sometimes difficult, as a truly rewarding lifestyle.

Being content and fulfilled in what you have

A wealthy tourist, complete with dark glasses and cameras, went strolling along a tropical beach and found a fisherman dozing alongside a canoe. "Why aren't you out catching fish?" began the tourist. 'I have caught enough for today,' answered the villager. 'But why don't you go out and catch more and make some more money and then buy a net, so you catch even more?' 'What for?' 'Then you could buy a motor for your canoe and go out farther where there are still more fish to catch.' But why catch more fish?' 'So that you can earn more money and buy a whole fleet of fishing boats.' Then what? Then you would become rich and could spend your time taking it easy. "That's what I'm already doing." This villager was a very wise man who had learnt that *contentment is not in what we possess in material terms or what we achieve in earthly terms, but that contentment is in the heart.* It is people who are unwise who crave for more and more, ambitious for power and position, as if the substance of fulfillment lies in them.

False ambition

Crazy for power and position is harmful for oneself and for peace in success and harmony in society. Ambition can get out of hand. It can cause us to forget everything else in the pursuit of success in business and in a career. In our greedy pursuit of our earthly goals, we may be sacrificing family life, justice, kindness, even life itself. Ambition can cause one to treat others in a cruel or unjust way.

Jesus' condition of greatness

Jesus repeatedly tried to instill in his disciples the spirit of service. In the Gospel we see the apostles fighting over who would be first in Jesus' kingdom. The scene is not an edifying one. That they were driven by selfishness and false ambition shows how little they had learned from Jesus. It shows how poor was their understanding of his mission. So, he called them together and gave them a lecture on the meaning of true greatness, saying: "if anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all." (Mk 9:35)

Jesus did not abolish ambition. Rather, he redefined it. For the ambition to rule others he substituted the ambition to do things for others. So, it is not ambition itself that is being condemned, but false ambition. We Christians are not to shy away from the true form of ambition that seeks to become great by serving others. True greatness is not to be found in being masters of others, but rather in being the servants of others, especially the weaker members of our society. Let us exemplify the character of children in their innocence and sincerity of life. Children depend totally on God and so must we also. Shalom!

THE STARS FALL POTLUCK, SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 14TH, HAS BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO THE INCREASE IN COVID CASES.

50th ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

Fr. Bob Aubrey will be celebrating his 50th anniversary this Sunday, September 19th, at St. Joseph. There will be a wine and cheese open house from 2pm to 4pm. He will be celebrating the 4:15pm evening prayer as well.

September 19 - Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time:



In today's Gospel Jesus called the Twelve, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all." Taking a child, he placed it in their midst, and putting his arms around it, he said to them, "Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me." **Your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will help hungry children feel the arms of Jesus around them.**



CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Congratulations to our August Little Flower award winners who received their certificates after Mass on September 10: Ruby Dawood, Maverick Doty, Adam Nedved, Connor Nolan, Lola Harper, William Reising, Benjamin Podojil, Quinn McTaggart, Madilynn Niggemeyer, Kaitlin Wisniewski, Ella May, Norah Hogan, Nathan Jones, Faith Duong, and Eleanor Niggemeyer!!

Teachers Ronda McCarthy and Ashley Mitchell received certificates of appreciation for their work during their STEM externships this past summer.

We invite you to attend our State of the School presentation on Tuesday, September 21, from 6-6:45 in the Parish Hall to learn about the great things going on in our parish school. We will share student growth data, financials, introduce staff and all of our new STEM initiatives. Please join us.

The St. Theresa School Board will meet from 7-8pm on Tuesday, September 21, in the Parish Hall.

To learn more about our parish school please call the office at 277-0178 or check out our newly redesigned website at www.sainttheresaiaowa.org.

HELP WANTED

St. Theresa Early Childhood Learning Center is hiring 2-3 high school part-time students (must be 16yo) for help in the childcare for afterschool hours. Job would be to help other adult teachers to monitor and supervise children enrolled in the pre-school programs after school. Hours are 3:30pm-5:30pm, 2-3 afternoons/week. Flexible scheduling around school activities and no weekends or holidays. Great job while attending high school. Please contact Maria Calhoun for more information or interested in applying @ 515-277-3788, opt. #1, or email @ mcalhoun@stsdsm.com

St. Joseph by Marta Timar (Carmelite Sister)

While the Gospels do not record any words Saint Joseph might have spoken, the eloquent silence nonetheless allows us a glimpse into his character. Righteous. Obedient. Pure. Humble. Silent (contemplative). Husband. Protector and guardian of the Savior and the Blessed Virgin. Saint Joseph experienced the same difficulties in life we all do, yet he lived an exemplary life. Saint Joseph was a man possessed of unwavering faith and utmost trust in God's providence. God was first and foremost, above all, in Saint Joseph's life. In short, he is an upright man of faith and outstanding virtues. As such, he serves as a wonderful role model for us in today's often unruly culture.

For Saint Joseph, doing God's will was paramount. Saint Joseph never questioned what God told him and carried out God's promptings without hesitation or delay – his response was immediate and he would carry out the task at hand the way God wanted it done. After the angel appeared to him in a dream, assuring him that Mary's child was conceived through the Holy Spirit, Joseph took Mary into his home as his wife. After the visit of the magi, upon receiving the angel's warning, Joseph wasted no time, immediately getting up and taking his little family and fleeing to Egypt in the middle of the night to escape King Herod's murderous wrath. Later, after Herod's death, the angel again instructed Joseph that it was time to return to the land of Israel, and while he probably intended to return to Bethlehem in Judea, chose rather to go to Nazareth in Galilee upon being warned by the angel that Herod's son ruled Judea in his place. When God told Joseph to get up and go, Joseph unhesitatingly got up and went.

Saint Joseph was a man of action, obeying God's will for him in the ordinary duties of daily life. He faithfully and tenderly loved, protected and provided for the Child Jesus and the Virgin Mary. He kept the Sabbath and went to the Temple in Jerusalem for the Passover. He did the ordinary things of everyday, ordinary life with love.

By following Saint Joseph's example, we can find considerable peace of mind in knowing we are faithfully doing the ordinary, little things that God wants us to do.

What ordinary things are you doing to follow in Christ's footsteps? What virtues do you share with St. Joseph?



YOUTH MINISTRY



Megs Howes, Youth Minister

Cell (515) -720-4060

mhowes@sainttheresaiowa.org Website: www.sainttheresaiowa.org/ (Under Faith Formation Tab)

Edge meets from 6:30-7:30 in the Community Center in the school

September date 22

October dates:6,13,16

Lifeteen meets from 6-8pm in the Parish Hall

September date 22

October dates:6,13

Confirmation Prep Sessions Starts September Oct 13!

Confirmation Prep Sessions for C1 (9th grade or older) and C2 (10th grade or older) will begin Wed. Sept. 12, 6:00-8:00pm in the parish hall. Contact Megs if you have questions or still need to register your student! Check out the Youth Ministry website for more Information.

Church Photo Directory



PARISH PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

Heads up and faces forward – St. Theresa Parish will be producing a new pictorial Parish Directory in 2022. This edition will allow absent families to submit their own family photos to include in the directory as well as an on-line version and a phone application with numerous enhancements available. In addition it will provide an excellent opportunity for our various religious and social programs to highlight their mission. The first photo “shoot” will be scheduled for the week of February 8th to the 12th with alternative dates to be set up in May and June. It may be early but mark your calendars NOW! If you’d like to be part of the planning group please let Mike Smith know at michaelsmith@stsdsm.com or by calling 515-279-4654.

ANNUAL LIFE CHAIN

Please join fellow St. Theresa parishioners at the annual Life Chain on **Sunday, October 3rd from 2:00 to 3:30 pm**. We will make a socially distanced human chain of prayer at St. Theresa's along Merle Hay Road.

Life Chain is a national effort and one of the largest peaceful, prayerful, pro-life witnesses in the world. It is a visual statement of solidarity that the Church supports the sanctity human life from the moment of conception to natural death. We quietly stand together to remember the more than 59 million lives lost to abortion, and we pray especially for vulnerable pregnant women and their babies, that they would have the support and protection they need.



Life Chain will happen rain or shine. Come and bring a friend! Hope to see you there!



SPIRITUAL ADOPTION PROGRAM

MONTH 1 – Developing Baby – “My heart is beating!” Spiritual Adoption Program

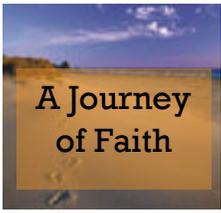
Your spiritually adopted baby has been quite active over the past month. Already your baby is 10,000 times bigger than at conception. Your baby has developed the foundations of his brain, spinal cord, and nervous system by the 20th day. His heart began to beat on the 21st day, pumping blood through its own circulatory system and the blood type can be different from his mother’s. Your baby is most vulnerable during the next month of being aborted. Pray that the Lord of Life might move the heart of his mother to give him the most precious gift of all - - the gift of life.



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. 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!

Remember: RCIA is a parish process. It doesn't work unless the parish is involved. We are now looking for hosts for Sunday morning at 9:30am, storytellers and sponsors. Is anyone in the parish ready? Call Barb

Adult Faith Formation

Study groups started on September 13-14. The group times are Monday 9:30 – 11:30 am as well as 6:30 – 8:30 pm and Tuesday evening from 6:30 – 8:30 pm in the East Meeting Room. Our topic will be Church History. We have added a Zoom group on Tuesday morning at 9:30am Please call Barb (515-210-6649) for more information.

Highway to Halos!

We invite you to start traveling with us. We will begin on the Highway to Halos in order to prepare for All Saints Day. Packets with activities, fun sheets and reading materials **for all ages** have been given to all school families, Wednesday Faith Formation families and homebound people. Other packets are at the entrances for families (single, couples, empty nesters) that do not have children to pick up. One special activity is designated for the celebration of All Saints Day in the parish. Then if you are on FACEBOOK or the website, we will be sending videos periodically. We will also have a few challenges at church so keep your eyes and ears open. Let's celebrate together as a parish family!



Saying Goodbye to summertime

Dear Summer,

Some few months ago you visited our household with your radiant sun rays and joy. You were kind to us on some occasions by enabling us to wear light pants and dresses. You made it easy for us to travel for vacation. Yes! We had fun at various ball games and festive activities. I thank you for making it possible for us to have our family gatherings around barbecue and grill despite covid. It's nice to have friends around us in your company.

But my dear summer, sometimes you were too mean and hard on us. You vented your anger by raising the temperature so high. Why? I remember the heat advisory days when the temperature was over 100 degrees; it was too hot. My young ladies and men cannot stand the heat so please be lenient with us next time. Nevertheless, we are grateful for moments of cool breeze and good weather.

I believe in the philosophy that whatever life throws at you handle it accordingly. Sometimes, we have no control of what nature gives us. We can probably manage with it. While it is certain that all the fingers are not equal, we should be grateful for what we have and be content with that. There are some whose second home became the doctor's office or hospital. This could be the effect of heat, or some problems associated with summer. Others were affected by hurricane or earthquake. Let us be grateful for what we have before losing it.

As I take a window shopping trip in town, I see people buying summer clearance for next year. That's a wise decision. It also reminds me how fast fall is creeping into our space. The footprint of fall is evident with beautiful colors, allergies, running nose, clearing dry leaves etc. You really put some of us to work with our trees and grass. This too shall pass away soon.

Please Fall, be fair to us and don't send us strong wind. We want to see your infectious smile and joy with fair weather.

As Summer gradually departs, kindly extend my regards to Autumn/Fall. Please tell Winter to wait for a while; we are just not ready.

Till then be good to us.
Fr. Raphael

Mass Intentions



Monday, 6:30 am	September 20 Communion Service
Tuesday, 6:30 am	September 21 † Delores Pagliai
Wednesday, 6:30 am	September 22 † Cathy Leo
Thursday, 6:30 am	September 23 † Judy Chase
Friday, 6:30 am 8:35 am	September 24 † Deceased Members of the Tigges & Gladfelder Families † Mary Lou Weuve
Saturday 4:30 pm 4:30 pm	September 25 † Cheryl Tingleff † Chuck & Livie Werner
Sunday, 8:30 am 8:30 am 10:30 am 10:30 am 4:30 pm	September 26 † Bob O'Neill † Joe Timmins † Kim Manship † Cindy Green † People of the Parish

Joseph, Protector of the Church

Brave Joseph, collaborator in God's project for humanity, your tenderness enfolds the newborn Church. Just as Mary and Jesus recognize in you the protection of the Father, so too does the community of faith place itself under your protection.

Strengthen us with the Spirit that filled the Nazarene home and guide our footsteps on the road to the Kingdom.

Accompany us in carrying out our mission. Help us to be lights in the world so that the family of God may spring forth from humanity transfigured in Christ.

Grant us the strength to imitate God's preference for the poor and weak. Guide us in our pastoral activities that our actions may be modeled on the Good News. Amen.



Readings for the week of September 19, 2021

Sunday:	Wis 2:12, 17-20/Ps 54:3-4, 5, 6-8 [6b]/Jas 3:16-4:3/Mk 9:30-37
Monday:	Ezr 1:1-6/Ps 126:1b-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Lk 8:16-18
Tuesday:	Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5 [5]/Mt 9:9-13
Wednesday:	Ezr 9:5-9/Tb 13:2, 3-4a, 4befghn, 7-8 [1b]/Lk 9:1-6
Thursday:	Hg 1:1-8/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Lk 9:7-9
Friday:	Hg 2:1-9/Ps 43:1, 2, 3, 4 [5]/Lk 9:18-22
Saturday:	Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a/Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13 [cf. 10d]/Lk 9:43b-45
Next Sunday:	Nm 11:25-29/Ps 19:8, 10, 12-13, 14 [9a]/Jas 5:1-6/Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

GOAL	\$124,979.00
GIFTS/PLEDGES	\$133,928.03
REMAINING ON GOAL	\$+8,949.03
PERCENTAGE OF GOAL MET	107.2%
NO. OF GIFTS/PLEDGES	315
AVERAGE GIFT	\$425.17



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