



ST. THERESA CATHOLIC

FAITH • SERVICE • COMMUNITY • EDUCATION

1230 Merle Hay Rd., Des Moines, IA 50311

515-279-4654

November 27 & 28, 2021



1st Sunday OF ADVENT

“Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.” - Lk 21:27

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 November 7
\$ 28,750.00

Weekly November Budget
\$ 21, 443.36

Difference
\$ 7,307.14

YTD Cumulative Difference
\$ (4,442.30)

Weekly Contributors
218

Building Fund - \$190.00

First Fruits - \$770.00

CISS Meals - \$515.00

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



Cycle C -- Reflections on the First Sunday of Advent

Theme: Jesus is coming: Prepare!

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

"I can't wait" is an expression parents hear often from their young children before Christmas. Yet waiting patiently is a lesson everybody should learn as early as possible. But there's no reason that developing patience need be unpleasant. Every adult as well as every child knows the joy as well as the pains of waiting. We wait at terminals for loved ones, on street corners to meet friends, and in our homes to entertain. The expectant mother waits for the birth of her baby. In each case, as the time draws near, we become more anxious. Will the mother safely have a healthy baby?

The period of waiting

On this First Sunday of Advent, the beginning of the Church's year, we begin a period of waiting for the Lord's other comings as we remember with joy his First Coming as the baby of Bethlehem.

Advent commemorates a joyful kind of waiting, a waiting for Jesus that contains *promise, love, preparation, alertness, reflectiveness, prayer, new beginnings, and fulfillment*. It is a special kind of waiting for the God who has come, does come, and will come. It is a waiting for Jesus the savior. It has both penitential and a hopeful, expectant character.

Beloved, Life is filled with in-between situations. We work toward success but haven't yet achieve it. We plan for a home but haven't yet built it. We train to win a championship but haven't yet won it. These in-between times are crucial. Today's readings talk about life where there is beginning but not yet completion, hope but not fulfillment, expectation without realization.

The journey to follow Christ

At the start of her liturgical year the Church invites us to embark on a great journey to follow the footsteps of Christ in all his mysteries, his birth, his life, death, resurrection, ascension into heaven, and his sending of the Holy Spirit. So that we may live as he lived. Now if you want people to embark on a journey you must give them some idea of the goal of that journey. It must be real, concrete, and desirable. This is the reason why on this day the Church directs our eyes towards the end, not just of our individual journeys, but of the entire human family. The end is the coming of God's kingdom in all its glory. God has a goal for the world. The goal will be attained.

The Parousia (second coming of Christ) is not imminent for Luke. When the Parousia does occur, it will be a day of redemption for the oppressed and a day of vengeance on the oppressors of God's people. Constant prayer and vigilance will remove all fear about the return of the Son of Man. The Second Coming will make salvation complete.

Let our preparation for this Christmas be a test. Are we willing to forget what we've done for other people, and to remember what other people have done for us; to ignore what the world owes us and to think of what we owe the world; to put our rights in the background, our duties in the middle distance, and our chances to do a little more than our duty in the foreground; to look behind the faces of our fellow human beings to their hearts, hungry for joy; to admit that probably the only good reason for our existence is not what we're going to get out of life, but what we are going to give in life. Are we ready and willing to do these things even for a day? If so, we're ready to keep Christmas. If not, let's do something about it, starting with this Advent period of waiting. **Shalom!**

GOD IS GOOD SLOGAN

GOD IS GOOD – ALL THE TIME

ALL THE TIME – GOD IS GOOD

AND THAT IS HIS NATURE



CATHOLIC SCHOOL



WITH SINCERE GRATITUDE...

In the spirit of thanksgiving, we want to thank you for your support of Saint Theresa Catholic School. As an active member of our parish community, you not only make our school possible, but successful.

Because of you, our students discover...

- **FAITH:** Daily exposure to our faith-based mission and a caring culture enables our students to learn about the divine teachings of Jesus Christ.
- **EXCELLENCE:** Excellence is relentlessly pursued in academics by instilling a culture of continuous improvement. As a result, our school challenges all students to aim higher academically, spiritually and personally.
- **COMMUNITY:** We partner with our parish and parents to create a welcoming community that helps students feel more secure, allowing them to focus on their education.
- **VALUE:** Nearly 40 percent of our students receive tuition assistance. Because of your support, we are able to offer a quality Catholic education to all families who desire it.

We invite all parishioners to pray for Saint Theresa Catholic School and the success of Catholic education throughout our community. Thank you for your prayers and ongoing support. To learn more about Catholic education at Saint Theresa, please visit www.sainttheresaiowa.org.

Classes will resume on Monday, November 29.

PRO-LIFE HOLY HOUR

Please join fellow St. Theresa parishioners for a holy hour on Tuesday, November 30th, from 7:00-8:00 pm to pray especially for pro-life intentions! Come and visit Jesus to 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. Hope to see you there!



STARS Christmas Bazaar

STARS Bazaar and Bake Sale is almost here!
Saturday, 12/4 from 9 am - 3:30 pm in Parish Hall
Wonderful Vendors - Bake Sale - Raffle Drawing at 3:15 pm.
Plan to be there.



November 28 - First Sunday of Advent:

As we begin Advent we are called to "wait" in joyful anticipation for the grace of Christmas to once again bless our lives. Wherever you live in our parish, there are poor families within walking distance of your home. When in need, they ring the rectory bell. They are, in effect, ringing your doorbell.

Your gift in the St. Vincent de Paul poor box will help the poor celebrate the grace of God's love this Christmas.



THANK YOU!

The Togo Committee and the children of Nyassive' want to send a BIG Thank You to the St Theresa Girl Scouts for organizing and executing a very successful backpack drive and cash donations. This little boy will be thrilled to receive a backpack so he can pass the old red purse onto a younger sibling!

BISHOP JOENSEN ON THE RADIO

Hear Bishop William Joensen's weekly radio show on Fridays at 9 a.m. on Iowa Catholic Radio and the Spirit Catholic Radio Network. Tune in to hear "Making it Personal With Bishop Joensen ."



YOUTH MINISTRY



Megs Howes, Youth Minister

Cell (515) -720-4060

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

SAVE THE DATE

C1 & C2 Confirmation Retreat

Saturday, February 5 2022

10:00 am –5:30pm in St. Theresa Parish Hall

The sponsor or a proxy will need to attend this retreat with the candidate. Let Megs know by Saturday, January 29, who will be attending.



SPIRITUAL ADOPTION PROGRAM

MONTH 3 – Developing Baby -- “I can suck my thumb!” Spiritual Adoption Program

Your baby is quite active in the womb now - - although his mother won't feel him for another couple of months. If his mother's womb had a window, you could watch your spiritually adopted baby squint, swallow and move his tongue. He can make a tight fist if you touch his palm. He is breathing amniotic fluid which continues until birth, although he obtains the oxygen his body needs through the umbilical cord. The baby you are praying for weighs one ounce. Early this month – at just 9 weeks – he began to suck his thumb



ANGEL TREE

Again this year, *Angel Tree* will be a “hybrid”! The Tree itself will be virtual and can be accessed from this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c49aaa629a7f58-angel> or those without internet access, contact Kay Cross at 515-279-8023 (home) or 515-494-1079 (cell) or Megs Howes 515-720-4060 and we will help you find an Angel.

This year, we will be providing gifts for more than 80 children in 36 families that have a parent in prison. Each child will receive two gifts – one of necessity (clothes) and one for fun (games, toys, books, etc.)

Many care givers have opted for gift cards and plan to take the children shopping. It has been suggested that in fairness, all gift cards should be for \$25. All other gifts should be in the \$20 - \$25 price range.

There is also a link on the SignupGenius site for donations for those who want to support the project, but do not feel comfortable going shopping. As always, donations may be placed in an envelope marked “Angel Tree” and dropped in the Angel Tree baskets at the entrances of the Church or mailed to the church office. These baskets will be available the first 2 weekends in December (12-4/5 and 12-11/12) Checks should be made out to St. Theresa's with Angel Tree indicated on the “for” line.

All gifts will have a CODE after Angel Tree, example 27A1. Each gift should be wrapped and tagged with this code. Please note the codes that you choose and tag your gifts accordingly.

This year, the gifts WILL be returned & placed at the foot of the Altar on the weekend of December 11th and 12th.

The Signup Genius site is now open. The list of Angels will continue to be updated as new requests arrive. There are plenty of choices, so “Happy Shopping”



PARISH HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

Wednesday, November 24 - Close at Noon

Thursday, November 25 - Closed

Friday, November 26 - Closed

Thursday, December 23 - Close at Noon

Friday, December 24 - Closed

Monday, December 27 - Closed

Thursday, December 30 - Close at Noon

Friday, December 31 - Closed





ADULT FAITH FORMATION



Upcoming Events:

RCIA is still looking for hosts after the 8:30 Mass, prayer partners for Aubrianna and Terin, as well as sponsors for the women. If anyone is interested, please call Barb Woods.

The Christmas Cantor choir for the 11pm Eve Mass began meeting this weekend on Saturdays from 9- 10:30am in the East Meeting Room. If you would like to join this group, please contact Barb Woods.

Morning Retreat with Fr. John Ludwig

Looking for a way to refresh your Advent experience? On December 2, join with other parishioners and friends for a morning of reflection and prayer with Fr. John Ludwig. He'll be sharing with us a way to delve into the Sunday scripture readings, a way to reflect on the moments of each day, and a way to deepen our spirituality through Centering Prayer.

The morning will begin at 9:30 am in the Parish Hall. Lunch will be provided. Then from 12:30 - 2pm we will have priests available for Reconciliation. Make this a special way to celebrate Advent and prepare for Christmas. RSVP to Barb Woods at 515-210-6649.

Any older parishioners who have difficulty driving at night are welcome to attend Reconciliation during this time.

The Crèche awaits your gift!

If you picked up an Advent/Christmas packet, you were invited to take a selfie of your family and place it in the basket in front of the crèche sometime during the Advent Season. On the back of the picture place the family name. Also on the back, let us know if we may post this picture on poster board after Christmas for others to see. If you have any questions, call the Faith Formation Team in the Parish Office.



CHILDREN'S MASS

We will be having another Children's Mass in the East Meeting Room on December 5, for children in Kindergarten through 4th grade. The Mass will be during the 10:30 Mass this time. Parents may drop their children off where a few adults, high school students, and middle school students will be present to supervise.

Lunch with Bishop William Joensen

Bishop Joensen will join Man-Up West for the 1st time. He will cover topics such as:

- His background,
- Life as a college professor and dean of campus spiritual life,
- Life as a Bishop,
- Eucharistic Renewal and Revival,

The Ignite Capital Campaign.

Friday, December 10th, Noon/St. Francis of Assisi Parish, West Des Moines

A Lunch from Chick-fil-A will be available for a free-will offering.

Program: High Noon, December 10th, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church- 7075 Ashworth Rd, West Des Moines, IA 50266 **Register** for this event at <https://www.iowacatholicradio.com/events>

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Remember our smallest clients. Catholic Charities is always in need of diapers (size 3-6) and baby wipes at the Outreach Center. Donations can be dropped off between Monday-Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. at 1815 Hubbell Ave. in Des Moines. Financial gifts can be made online at CatholicCharitiesDM.org. Call 515-262-7290 if you have questions.

Mass Intentions



Monday, November 29
6:30 am Communion Service

Tuesday, November 30
6:30 am † Family of Ryan Dang - Living

Wednesday, December 1
6:30 am † Do Family - Living

Thursday, December 2
6:30 am † Cindy Green

Friday, December 3
6:30 am † Matt Meyer
8:35 am † Bobby Cuillo

Saturday, December 4
4:30 pm † Jim & Bette Lensing
4:30 pm † Pat McManus

Sunday, December 5
8:30 am † Judy Chase
8:30 am † Elroy Wingers
10:30 am † Dr. James Lavia
10:30 am † Cindy Green
4:30 pm † People of the Parish

CONGRATULATIONS FIRST RECONCILIATION STUDENTS

Rachel Mercedes Boal
Kennedy Grace Castellano
Charlotte Bo Cohan
Andrew Lee Alan Dellaca
Jammer Doty
Anna-Palma Drazi
Gabriel Gerstenberger
Dominic Antonio Hernandez
Charlotte Grace Hogan
Riley Jones
Dominic Francis Klier
Romey Ann Knipp
Ella Chechumba Koech
Kennedy Grace Kramer
Connor Walter La Mar
Lucy Kathleen Mauro
Miren G. McConville
Chelsea Lynn Mohrfeld
Landry Neuman
Kael Walter Niggemeyer
Bridget O'Connell
Margaret Anne Papian
William Alexander Reising
Reya Lee Sims
Avery Lynn Smith
Emily Rose Thraikill
Leticia Trinidad



COUNSELING AVAILABLE

Catholic Charities has licensed, professional therapists working with clients of all faiths and backgrounds who are addressing depression, anxiety, stress, marital issues, relationship problems, child behavior problems, trauma, abuse and more. Therapy is available in Council Bluffs, Des Moines, and Ankeny. Set up an appointment by emailing sfister@catholiccharitiesdm.org or calling 515-237-5045 or 712-328-3086.



Readings for the week of November 28, 2021

Sunday: Jer 33:14-16/1 Thes 3:12-4:2/Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14 [1b]/Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

Monday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [10]/Mt 4:18-22

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a [26a]/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. Is 30:18d]/Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

Next Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6

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