

ST. THERESA CATHOLIC

FAITH • SERVICE • COMMUNITY • EDUCATION

1230 Merle Hay Rd., Des Moines, IA 50311

515-279-4654

December 4 & 5, 2021



2nd Sunday OF ADVENT

A voice of one crying out in the desert:

*“Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths.”*

- Lk 3:4

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
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Director of Youth Ministry

Megs Howes.....279-4654 x306
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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

Tatia Eischeid.....279-4654 x300
Email.....teischeid@stsdsm.com
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 14
\$ 10,747.00

Weekly November Budget
\$ 21, 443.36

Difference
\$ (10,696.36)

YTD Cumulative Difference
\$ (15,138.66)

Weekly Contributors
111

Building Fund - \$260.00

First Fruits - \$427.00

CISS Meals - \$225.00

Food Pantry - \$195.00

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

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

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



Cycle C -- Reflections on the Second Sunday of Advent

Theme: Restoration in Christ

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

The just ended Youth Congress in Indianapolis was very impressive and spirit-filled. The venue was electrified with the Holy Spirit setting our hearts Ablaze on Fire. It was indeed a time of renewal and transformation. It is my prayer and hope that we set our community and church ablaze with the same Spirit.

Today's readings describe God's compassionate intervention in favor of humankind.

It seems forgotten but not abandoned

None of us like to be forgotten. Yet all of us have had some experience of what it is like, even if it was only on an occasion. It may be that we were not invited to some event, or our contribution to some work was not recognized. When people forget all about us and we feel we have been not just forgotten but abandoned. This is how God's people felt at the time when their holy city, Jerusalem, had been destroyed, their sons and daughters had been taken into exile. From all these travails, they concluded that God had forgotten them. But the prophet assured them that God had not forgotten them and that their sorrow would soon end. The people to their great joy heard him say: "Take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever...Arise Jerusalem, and see your sons reassembled from west to east at the command of the Holy one" (Bar 5:1-5).

When it feels like God is absent

As we look around the world today, one may wonder whether the vision of the prophet was fulfilled in Christ. We have examples of terrorist attacks on innocent lives, war and insurrections, people being afflicted with diseases and natural disaster. In the midst of all these, we naturally wonder whether the coming of Christ, as the prophet foretold, has brought peace and joy to the human race. But we must realize that in the very midst of anarchy and chaos, Christ is working through his dedicated men and women to restore our world to a state of perfect peace and happiness. Otherwise, how do we account for scores of injured victims being taken to hospitals and doctors and nurses nursing them back to health?

God is still in control

God has not abandoned us or forgotten us. In his love he has sent us a savior, the Christ, to restore us however broken we may be as individuals and as a human family to unity and peace. But this restoration demands from us that we first recognize our brokenness and the need to return to God. John the Baptist's lonely voice crying out, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand" (Lk. 33:3) really means this: our realization of our brokenness and the need of God in Christ Jesus. We firmly believe that in Christ, God will one day restore our humanity to perfect peace, gradually liberating it from culture of violence. And what is now happening is that through Christ, God's scattered children are being gathered into a single family. Therefore, our task is, as Thomas Merton wrote, 'to seek and find Christ in our world as it is, and not as it might be.' God's surprise will be this gift of victory. By accepting a God of surprise, we make hope possible for all people. Stay awake!

Financial Support for St. Mary's Church - Hamburg

I would like to appeal to all of you to support Hamburg's religious education project. This was a project dear to my heart before the flooding and now the pandemic. The adage "Man proposes but God disposes" resonates me and the community. Since I cannot physically be present due to my transfer, I wish to encourage you all to support one of our own churches in southwest Iowa. Please send your contribution to St. Theresa Church with notation – Hamburg Support, etc. Thanks in advance. **Fr. Raphael Assamah**

St. Mary Hamburg Parish Solidarity - Special Collection

In response to a need of a sister parish, St. Mary of Hamburg, Bishop William Joensen is requesting financial help for the St. Mary Hamburg Religious Education Center by way of the newly created Parish Solidarity Fund. Your gift will support and further the mission of the Diocese of Des Moines to serve the people of God in southwest Iowa, specifically our brothers and sisters in Hamburg, Iowa who are seeking to build a religious education center. Please send your contribution to St. Theresa, 1230 Merle Hay Rd., Des Moines, IA 50311 and mark "St. Mary Hamburg" on the envelope. Thank you!



CATHOLIC SCHOOL



The sounds of Christmas music are upon us! Our band students will hold their Christmas concert at St. Joseph Catholic School on Tuesday, December 7. Our vocal Christmas concert is Thursday, December 9, with the following times:
 PreK, Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd - 6pm
 3,4,5 - 6:45pm
 6,7,8 - 7:30pm

We are holding an Advent Open House on Monday, December 13, from 5:00-6:15pm. Parents will be able to visit classrooms and meet with teachers for the first time this school year. We are very excited!

Expect More. Explore Catholic Education.

When it comes to your child's education you should expect the best.

- Expect smaller class sizes.
- Expect dedicated teachers.
- Expect a sense of community and a caring environment.

Catholic schools in the Diocese of Des Moines deliver the best value in education and we offer tuition assistance to help you afford it. Our schools are now enrolling. Visit www.dmdiocese.org/visit to schedule your virtual visit or personal school tour today.

Why I Teach at St. Theresa Catholic School - Jane Ann Becicka
 My WHY

There is no place like home and that is St. Theresa Catholic School! Three elements drive the decision to teach Faith Formation to middle schoolers at St. Theresa Catholic School. The first reason is the subject itself: Faith. No other subject impacts lives as much as our faith. Faith motivates us to become our best; it motivates us to help others become their best. For all eternity, we will see the profound effects of living our faith well. What a reward! My second reason for teaching Faith Formation is that I am privileged to teach middle schoolers. During this period of students' lives, they are diving deep into the questions of their existence, their purpose, their worth. It is a profound privilege to accompany each student on his or her path of self-discovery, a discovery of each one's unique and irreplaceable spot in God's heart & the world. The last reason I teach middle school Faith Formation is because I am blessed to do so at St. Theresa Catholic School. St. Theresa School is unlike any other-it is welcoming, down-to-earth, intellectually stimulating and it cultivates a rich, living faith for students and staff. Indeed, St. Theresa Catholic School is a home for the mind, heart and soul.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The Parish Office will be closed Thursday, December 9, from 8:30 am – 3pm as the Parish Staff goes on retreat together.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASSES

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is Wednesday, December 8. It is a holyday of obligation. Masses will be on Wednesday at 6:30 & 8:35 am as well as 6:00 pm. Take time to pray with Mary, Our Mother.

YCDM Catholic Singles Group Christmas Party and Service Event

'Tis the season for making spirits bright, so join the Catholic Singles group for our Christmas party while also helping out a local family in need. During the party, we will be wrapping gifts for our adopted family from InnerVisions. For details about our service project, please email YCDMCatholicSingles@gmail.com. Drinks & appetizers provided, including a hot cocoa bar. Ugly Christmas sweaters encouraged but not required. For Catholic singles in their 20s and 30s.

Fri, Dec. 10, 2021, 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm, St Augustin Parish Hall, 545 42nd St, Des Moines, IA 50312

December 5 - Second Sunday of Advent:

In today's Gospel John the Baptist urges us to "Prepare the way of the Lord," and this is what Advent is all about. We are called to help prepare the way of the Lord by making the real meaning of Christmas come alive in our own hearts, in our family and to reach out to those in need.

Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can help the suffering and poor to celebrate Christmas.





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.

Annual Youth Ministry Chili Cook-Off:

Date: Saturday, January 15 2022

Time: 5:30 pm-7:30 pm

Location: Parish Hall

Cost: Free will offering

Check out the Youth Ministry website for more information and contact Megs with questions.



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 two 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”

GOD IS GOOD SLOGAN

GOD IS GOOD – ALL THE TIME

ALL THE TIME – GOD IS GOOD

AND THAT IS HIS NATURE



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.

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.

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, 7075 Ashworth Rd, West Des Moines

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

Register for this event at <https://www.iowacatholicradio.com/events>

FALL CLEAN-UP DAY THANK YOU

Thank you to the team leaders and hardworking volunteers for helping with this year's Fall Clean-up. The team leaders, who have been working hard for the last few weeks in preparation for the day deserve special recognition. They put in hours of work prior to the work day, and led a team of volunteers last Saturday to clean up 45 yards in our parish community. This year we had a lot less volunteers than years past, which made for a very long day. Based on this year's turnout, we will assess if we can continue to provide this service going forward. Many of the team leaders are the same people who started volunteering 16 years ago when we were much younger and physically capable. We are aging and without new members of the parish joining us, we can't continue. Please consider giving six hours of your time to make the day of the senior members of our parish by mowing and raking their lawns. Call or text us ASAP to sign up for next year. If we know there are enough young/new volunteers to step up we can continue this much appreciated service to our elderly members of the parish.

Acts 20:35 "I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

THANK YOU!

Thanks to Ed Schiller and his crew for the great job they did at my home on Fall Clean-up day. We are truly blessed to have such caring people as members of our St. Theresa family. Ed Pagliai.

TOGO SISTER PARISH OFFERS UNIQUE GIFT OPPORTUNITIES

Honor your family and friends this Christmas with donations in their names for our sister parish in Togo, West Africa. You can be a part of this wonderful opportunity to help provide scholarship assistance and school supplies for the orphaned and disadvantaged children in Nyass[vé, Togo. Gift cards will be provided for you to give to your family and friends. Watch for more details Dec. 11-12.

Mass Intentions



Monday, December 6
6:30 am Communion Service

Tuesday, December 7
6:30 am † Maria Hanlan
† Ryan Dang

Wednesday, December 8
6:30 am † Loren Roiger
8:35 am † Judy Chase

Thursday, December 9
6:30 am † Deceased Members of the Loch & Wright Families

Friday, December 10
6:30 am † Matt Meyer

Saturday, December 11
4:30 pm † Chuck & Livie Werner
4:30 pm † Robert Henneberry

Sunday, December 12
8:30 am † Cathy Leo
8:30 am † Rose Koenigsfeld
10:30 am † Kim Manship
10:30 am † Robert Henneberry
4:30 pm † People of the Parish

Advent Communal Penance Services

Dec 5 All Saints, Des Moines 2 pm

Dec 5 St. Mary of Nazareth, Des Moines 3 pm

Dec 7 St. Boniface, Waukee 6 pm

Dec 9 St. Pius X, Urbandale 7-8:30 pm

Dec 11 OLIH, Ankeny 9:00 am

Dec 12 St. Mary's, Elkhart 2 pm

Dec 13 St. Theresa, Des Moines 7 pm

Dec 14 St. Joseph, Des Moines 6 pm

Dec 16 Ss John and Paul, Altoona 7 pm

Dec 18 St. Anthony, Des Moines 9 am

Dec 19 St. John the Apostle, Norwalk 1 pm



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 December 5, 2021

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
Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [cf. Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13 [cf. Is 40:10ab]/Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/Mt 11:11-15
Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/Mt 11:16-19
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Next Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

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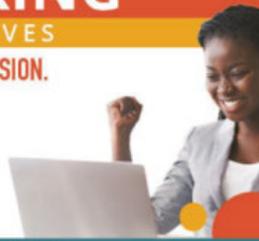
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