



ST. THERESA CATHOLIC

FAITH • SERVICE • COMMUNITY • EDUCATION
1230 Merle Hay Rd., Des Moines, IA 50311
515-279-4654

December 11 & 12, 2021



3rd Sunday OF ADVENT

John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water,
but one mightier than I is coming." - Lk 3:16a

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

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 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

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RCIA Director, Adult Faith Formation

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Parish Accountant

John McMichael.....279-4654 x305
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Communication Coordinator

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St. Theresa School.....515-277-0178
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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 21
 \$ 22,349.90

Weekly November Budget
 \$ 21, 443.36

Difference
 \$ 906.54

YTD Cumulative Difference
 \$ (14,232.12)

Weekly Contributors
 164

Building Fund - \$20.00

First Fruits - \$159.00

Food Pantry - \$552.00

TOGO - \$2,000.00

Human Development - \$1,040.00

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
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St. Vincent de Paul

Barb Chicoine.....515-979-5172
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Pro-Life

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

St. Theresa K of C Grand Knight

Aaron Friess.....620-755-1291
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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 Tatia Eischeid at 515-279-4654 x300. Please send submissions to stsmmedia@stsdsm.com.



Bulletins



A MESSAGE FROM FR. RAPHAEL



Cycle C -- Reflections on the Third Sunday of Advent
Theme: "Rejoice in the Lord"

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

The third Sunday of Advent is called "Joyful Sunday". As Christmas approaches, we must turn our thoughts and lives to Jesus.

Corruption at it peaks and God's Blessing

Our first reading is an invitation to sing aloud and rejoice with our heart. Zephaniah is living during one of the most difficult periods in the history of Israel. Corruption is rampant in Jerusalem. The king, the priests, the prophets, and the judges are all corrupt; the people have abandoned their faith.

Zephaniah says, the day of reckoning is coming, "a day of distress and tribulation. But suddenly comes the prophecy we read today, an invitation to joy, to dance and feast.

The prophet condemned the people but also offered hope. The first reading continues by saying, "The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies." The presence of God in the midst of his people will banish fear.

Luke presents two dimensions of John the Baptist's preaching: **ethical and messianic**. On the ethical side, John addresses the crowds, the tax collectors, and the soldiers. His message is one of concern for others. Under the messianic dimension, Luke offers a theology of presence -- Jesus is the bearer of the Spirit. *The people asked, "what we should do."*

There are three outstanding things about John's message:

- It began by demanding that we should share with one another. It was a social gospel in which it lay down that God will never absolve the one who is content to have too much while others have too little. What will you share with others at Christmas?
- It ordered us to work out our own salvation by doing the right thing. Let the tax-collector be a good tax-collector; let the soldier be a good soldier. It is our duty to serve God wherever God had set us.
- The winnowing fan was a great flat wooden shovel; with it the grain was tossed into the air; the heavy grain fell to the ground and the chaff was blown away. And just as the chaff was separated from the grain so the King would separate the good from the bad. So, John painted a picture of judgment.

Our response to God's invitation

We have been given the gift of compassion because there are some out there who are hurt and need our compassionate touch. None of these gifts is meant to be hoarded. They are meant to be shared, for as they say, *"love is big, it is never enough until you start to give it away!"*

Does the Lord consider us as wheat or the chaff? That is the question that you must answer. That is the question that will make the big difference at His coming.

In this season of Advent, let us ask in our hearts, "Am I ready for the coming of the Lord Jesus?" "Am I ready to commemorate Christmas with a true spirit of holiness?" "Am I ready to appear before the Lord if I die tonight?" "Am I ready for the final coming of the Lord in His full glory if He was to come in five minutes from now?"
Shalom!

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



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Parents, you can expect more from your child's school. Expect an engaging curriculum, expect individualized attention, and expect dedicated teachers and staff. Learn more at www.dmdiocese.org/visit.

Our Advent Open House is Monday, December 13 from 5-6:15 for parents and students. We are so excited to begin to welcome parents back into the building!

The Dowling Catholic Jazz Band and Jazz Choir are going to perform for STCS students on Wednesday, December 15.

My Why for Teaching at St. Theresa - Angie DeMoss, Reading Resource and English Learner Teacher: Ever since I was a little girl, I chose to play school instead of house. I admired my teachers and wanted to be at school every day. I have always enjoyed kids and have had the desire to guide and assist them. I am passionate about helping people to be successful in their learning and feel accomplished when I see growth and achievement. Being an educator at St. Theresa's has allowed me to find my true love of teaching reading and building relationships with many students from year to year. My kindergartners are now sixth graders and it will be hard to see them leave my nest in a couple of years. I also appreciate that my faith and family come first and am allowed to incorporate them into my day as needed. Overall, when I leave each day knowing I have a purpose for tomorrow, God has put me right where He needed me and has given me a natural love to teach and serve children.



Our Mock Trial team is competing in the semifinals of the State Mock Trial Competition.



St. Nicholas visited St. Theresa on Friday, December 3. Students learned about the differences between St. Nicholas and St. Nick. Thank you, St. Nicholas for visiting!



PARISH HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS
Thursday, December 23 - Close at Noon
Friday, December 24 - Closed
Monday, December 27 - Closed
Thursday, December 30 - Close at Noon
Friday, December 31 - Closed



December 12 - Third Sunday of Advent:



In today's Gospel John the Baptist says, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise..."

Christmas is a time of love and gift giving...please share your abundance by giving a gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that those who do not have clothes and food can share in the blessings of 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

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.’”

God Bless, Sergio Loch 515.707.6172 & Paul Chicoine 515.979.3822

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.

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

GROW: Although spontaneous outbursts of joy are not part of our liturgy, today's readings alert us that we have much reason to rejoice. Even in times of anxiety, we can rely on the words of St. Paul, who writes that we can rest assured that "the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard [our] hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." As we prepare for his coming during this Advent season, we don't need to leap out of our pews and make a show of our praise (but go for it, if that's your style!). However, in our hearts and in our prayer, we can follow the psalmist's lead and "cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel." We can praise God in many ways, through fervent prayer, simple acts of kindness and, as John the Baptist did so well, sharing the Good News.

GO EVANGELIZE | PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

GO: "What should we do?" The crowds asked John the Baptist a deceptively simple question many of us wrestle with today. How do we prepare for Christ's coming? How should we spend the next hour, the day, the next year, the next five? John the Baptist answers without reservation: Share what you have. Don't be greedy. Do not falsely accuse others. In other words, get it together! The Lord is coming. Advent is a wonderful time to do just that, and St. Paul reminds us that we don't have to know all the answers. "The Lord is near," he writes, "Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God." Last week, the readings encouraged us to discern what is truly valuable in our lives as Christians. Today's readings encourage us to ask the Lord: "What should we do?" Just as John the Baptist showed the people how to prepare for Christ's coming, the Lord shows us how to live out and share our faith through the Scriptures and in the silence of prayer.

ACTIONS: Remember the last time you felt unadulterated joy? For me it was when my son smacked a game-winning goal at a hockey game. As we move through Advent, we can reawaken a sense of childlike joy as we prepare to celebrate Christ among us. As you light the Advent candle, take time to share with one another something that gave you joy within the past week.

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.

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, 6:30 am | December 13 Communion Service |
| Tuesday, 6:30 am | December 14 † Larry Smith † Living & Deceased Members of the Jim Lavia Family |
| Wednesday, 6:30 am | December 15 † Dee Pagliai † Mary Lou Weuve |
| Thursday, 6:30 am | December 16 † Betty Pittman † Evie Olson |
| Friday, 6:30 am 8:35 am | December 17 † Maria Hanlan † Teachers & Staff of St. Theresa |
| Saturday 4:30 pm 4:30 pm | December 18 † Frank DePhillips † Taylor & Blake Whitman |
| Sunday, 8:30 am 8:30 am 10:30 am 10:30 am 4:30 pm | December 19 † Mary Helen Wagner † Joe Timmins † Deceased Members of Barclay Family † Don Green † People of the Parish |

Advent Communal Penance Services

- 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**



Third Sunday of Advent

Readings *of the Week*

Readings for the week of December 12, 2021

- Sunday:** Zep 3:14-18a/Is12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18
- Monday:** Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Mt 21:23-27
- Tuesday:** Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23 [7a]/Mt 21:28-32
- Wednesday:** Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 45:8]/Lk 7:18b-23
- Thursday:** Is 54:1-10/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a, and 13b [2a]/Lk 7:24-30
- Friday:** Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17
- Saturday:** Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25
- Next Sunday:** Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45



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.

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

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