



ST. THERESA CATHOLIC

FAITH • SERVICE • COMMUNITY • EDUCATION

1230 Merle Hay Rd., Des Moines, IA 50311

515-279-4654

December 25 & 26, 2021

The Nativity OF THE LORD



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

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 December 12
 \$38,802.66

Weekly December Budget
 \$ 26,376.56

Difference
 \$ 12,426.10

YTD Cumulative Difference
 \$ (1,606.94)

Weekly Contributors
 196

Building Fund - \$1,294.00

First Fruits - \$375.00

TOGO - \$2,800.00

Religious Retirement \$3,630.75

St. Mary's Hamburg- to date
 \$5,060.00

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.....aaronkfriess@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

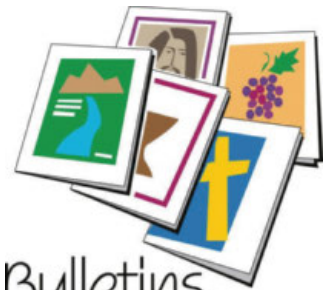
Reconciliation - Saturdays from 8:30am to 9:30am, by appointment or after any Mass

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 Tatia Eischeid at 515-279-4654 x300. Please send submissions to stsmmedia@stsdsm.com.



Bulletins



A MESSAGE FROM FR. RAPHAEL



Dear Parishioners,

Once again, we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ as the infant king in Bethlehem. Christ's birth brings joy, family gathering and blessings to us.

Our airwaves and churches are awash with Christmas carols characterizing the happiness of Christmas.

One of the songs that captures my attention is: "Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing..."

Yes! Joy has come to the world because the prince of Peace is in our midst. We prepared for his coming through our advent celebration. The joy of this celebration is that God sings with us, "Heaven and nature sing." This is the silent night that brought us immeasurable happiness of the Emmanuel, God with us.

As we celebrate this season of Love, let us remember those whose happiness have been taken away by circumstances beyond their control. Let us also stretch our hands to show love and affection to the poor and needy or those around us.

This is an occasion for us to forgive those who offended us and vice versa. Like St. Francis of Assis, may the "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy..."

May the radiant light of Christ shine through our hearts. May the peace of Christ that surpasses human understanding dwell in your family.

It is my prayer and fervent hope that the coming year will bring you fulfillment in all your undertakings. May God directs your steps and give success to the work of your hands.

May the festival of Christmas be a beautiful bundle of joy for you and may Jesus bless you with his choicest blessings and Santa bring you loads of gifts, candies, cakes, and cookies to make it the sweetest day of your life.

I pray that this beautiful season mark the beginning of joyful days full of opportunities and new hope. May Christ always protect you and bless you with the strength to face challenges and vigor to get your goals.

Thank you for the incredible strength, prayerful support, and love you have shown me since my arrival in July this year. I pray for a special Christmas for all of us this year and for all that this holy season can hold for us as Christians.

Feliz Navidad, 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. There will also be a second collection the weekend of January 8th & 9th. Thank you!



CATHOLIC SCHOOL



We wish you all of the peace, joys and blessings of Christmas all year round!

Looking for an outstanding PreK experience for your children or grandchildren? St. Theresa Catholic School offers an outstanding PreK program that is part of the state funded 4 Year Old Grant. Please join us on Thursday, January 13, for an informational meeting to learn more about our programming, our staff, our Childcare and the great experiences awaiting your family!

More Affordable than You May Think...

Catholic schools are an investment in your child's future and offer the best value in education. Plus, we offer flexible tuition options, scholarships and need-based tuition assistance. Visit www.dmdiocese.org/visit to schedule your virtual visit or personal school tour today.

Like to work with children? We are looking for qualified substitute teachers for our school. If you have a college degree you will just need to take a few classes to receive your substitute license. We will help you with this! For more information please call our school office at 515-277-0178.

Are you creative? Do you love kids? Our middle school art position is available for a qualified applicant. This is a one day per week assignment working with our amazing 6th - 8th grade students. Please call our parish school office for more information.



HOLY DAY MASS SCHEDULE

SOLEMNITY OF MARY VIGIL MASS:

Friday, December 31 at 5 p.m.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY HOLY DAY MASS:

January 1 at 9:30 a.m. - and no 4:30 p.m. Saturday Mass



PARISH HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

Monday, December 27 - Closed
Thursday, December 30 - Close at Noon
Friday, December 31 - Closed





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 4 -- Developing Baby -- "I had a dream!" Spiritual Adoption Program

Well, your little baby now weighs six ounces. She has fingernails and eyelashes. She has her own unique fingerprints, which will remain the same until she dies. Her taste buds are working. Her sense of hearing is developing and present at 14 weeks. There are no major developments anymore. At this month rapid eye movements (REMs) can be detected – a sign of dreaming. Your spiritually adopted baby is already well-formed, internally and externally. All she needs now is time to gain weight and grow strong. What a miracle she is!

JOB OPENING

Internal Control Specialist – The Diocese of Des Moines has an immediate opening in our Finance Department working with parishes and schools. More information can be found on the Employment page of our website under Diocesan openings. www.dmdiocese.org

THANK YOU FROM ST. VINCENT DEPAUL

The members of St. Theresa's St. Vincent DePaul Conference want to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We are so appreciative of the support you have given to help the poor and needy in our community. We would like to give our parishioners a **Christmas gift** again this year. You will find books located at the entrances of the church. The title is "Life is Messy" by Matthew Kelly. Please take one and enjoy the read. May God bless you and your families during this Holy Season.



December 26 - Holy Family:

Today is the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, and so we can celebrate that we all belong to the holy family of God, which makes us brothers and sisters to each other.

GOD IS GOOD SLOGAN

GOD IS GOOD – ALL THE TIME

ALL THE TIME – GOD IS GOOD

AND THAT IS HIS NATURE



ADULT FAITH FORMATION



Merry Christmas!

The story of Christmas is all about God sending His only Son down to earth to guide us and bring us eternal salvation. The Word Incarnate became flesh. What a magnificent event! Jesus Christ walked on this earth to show us how to live as beings created in the image and likeness of God.

Our faith challenge is to come to know Jesus Christ intimately, to see Christ in one another, and to be His eyes, ears, hands, and voice. The challenge is difficult because of our human weaknesses. Yet, the challenge is exciting and hope-filled. To believe Christ is present in every moment, in every person, and in every place fills us with wonder and awe as a child looking at the Christmas decorations for the first time.

In a week, the Magi will appear from the east. Through this Advent season, they have been traveling towards the "light." We, too, seek the "light" to break us out of the darkness of our own poverty of sin, depression, jealousy and greed. Isn't it amazing what a small child can do?! They bring out the best in you even as they demand attention and fulfillment of their needs. Babies bring out the child in you, the smiles and giggles, the simplicity and the love.

Epiphany is Christ's manifestation to the **whole** world. The three kings present gold to accentuate Christ's kingship, frankincense to accent Christ's divinity, and myrrh to acknowledge Christ's humanity. In Baptism, we enter the world of priest, prophet and king. As priest we are called to offer sacrifice and praise to our Creator and Redeemer. As prophets we spread the Good News. As kings we serve others. Therefore, what gifts do we bring to the Christ-Child? What gifts do we bring to the Eucharistic table? How do we bring the gift of Christ to others?

May the gifts you give this Christmas be special gifts of love, peace, hope, and joy. Give the gift of Christ to your family and friends and to those you meet on the street. May Christ bless you in many ways during the Christmas season. May He find a special place "in your mind, on your lips, and in your heart." May you find a special peace and joy that only Christ can give. Enjoy the season! Our prayers are with you and your families as you celebrate the "reason for the season."



Mass Intentions



Monday, 6:30 am	December 27 Communion Service
Tuesday, 6:30 am 6:30 am	December 28 † Dee Pagliai † Loren Roiger
Wednesday, 6:30 am 6:30 am	December 29 † Jimmy DePhillips † Matt Meyer
Thursday, 6:30 am	December 30 † Len Burch
Friday, 5:00 pm 5:00 pm	December 31 † Deceased members of Tigges & Gladfelder Families † Mike Sadler
Saturday 9:30 am 9:30 am	January 1 † Living & Deceased Members of the Jim Lavia Family † Marie Pihart
Sunday, 8:30 am 8:30 am 10:30 am 10:30 am 4:30 pm	January 2 † Catherine Portz † Joe Timmins † Craig Hand † Josephine Douglas - Living † People of the Parish



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 26, 2021

Sunday:	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/ Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52
Monday:	1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Tuesday:	1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18
Wednesday:	1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/ Lk 2:22-35
Thursday:	1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/ Lk 2:36-40
Friday:	1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/ Jn 1:1-18
Saturday:	Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4 -7/Lk 2:16-21
Next Sunday:	Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

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 Michael J. Versackas, M.D. • S. Ejaz Husain, M.D.
 Naveen A. Husain, M.D. • Chris T. Miller, O.D.
 Jeffrey M. Newland, O.D.
 1212 Pleasant St., Suite 202 • Des Moines, IA 50309
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