



ST. THERESA CATHOLIC

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1230 Merle Hay Rd., Des Moines, IA 50311

515-279-4654

January 8 & 9, 2022



The Baptism OF THE LORD

“I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” - Lk 3:16bc

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.....jmcmichael@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 26
\$27,812.41

Weekly December Budget
\$ 26,376.56

Difference
\$ 1,435.85

YTD Cumulative Difference
\$ 2,898.15

Weekly Contributors
144

Christmas - \$8,430.83
TOGO - \$2,570.00
Building Fund - \$739.00

St. Mary's Hamburg- to date
\$17,190.00

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.....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

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



Reflections on the Readings Theme: Baptism of the Lord

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

A minister was baptizing some new church members. As the first woman came up out of the water, she joyously exclaimed to the congregation, "Bless the Lord, O my Soul." The next new member after his baptism said, "The Lord is my Shepherd." A third one quoted, "Who can separate me from the love of Christ?" And the fourth one, too quoted the Bible and said, "I can do all things through Jesus who strengthens me." The fifth to be baptized was a timid one with little knowledge of the Bible. He was very nervous before the group. As he came out of the water, he gave a wide grin to the congregation and exclaimed, "Merry Christmas, everybody."

Today, we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. This feast ends the Christmas season. Jesus emerged from His thirty years of hidden life, and before beginning His public ministry, he got baptized from John the Baptist. Although Jesus is superior to John the Baptist in many ways, He still got baptized from John.

Decision that involves renunciation

A time of decision had arrived for Jesus. Like him, all of us must make decisions, and we never have all the information we need to make them. All decisions involve renunciation. If we choose one thing, we thereby reject another. As a result of Jesus' decision to leave home, Mary will be left behind, Jesus will have nowhere to lay his head, the shadow of Calvary will haunt him, and he will have experiences of defeat and outright hostility.

For thirty years, Jesus had faithfully performed his duties to his home and family at Nazareth. There must have been times when he thought about his future ministry and waited for the right moments to begin it.

The event of Baptism by the River Jordan at the hands of John the Baptist was for Jesus Christ his official commissioning. At this event the three persons of the Trinity were present to approve the public ministry of Christ.

In the Gospel account, Luke describes the wonder of the people as they experience John's baptism. Jesus does not need Baptism; in his Baptism he takes upon himself our sins.

Our baptism is a prophetic and royal anointing. We receive the life of the Church and are called to sustain that life. We are special in the sight of God. In fact, his beloved in whom his favor rests.

Do you remember the date of your Baptism?

Today's readings reflect on the transforming power of the Spirit and challenge us to release that power for those who are most in need.

Beloved, Baptism brings us together, so let us not allow other sentiments to divide us. May we surrender our soul to Christ, so that the Father may be well pleased with us in Jesus. Shalom!

This and that

Appreciation: I wish to express my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to you for your unceasing support, care, Christmas cards and gifts. I am appreciative for all you do for me to feel at home and discharge my pastoral work. God bless you abundantly.

Theme for 2022: The pastoral council will take time to explain to you our theme for 2022. Programs aimed at building us together as a family of God will be explained to you. Let us make our family the sanctuary of prayer radiating the "domestic church."

Gratitude: I wish to register my sincerest gratitude to all whose sacrifices, talents and commitment led to our successful Christmas celebration. Thanks to the choir/ cantors, altar servers, lectors, linen washers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, ushers, decorators, janitor, et al. Your role is very much appreciated.

Vacation: Hopefully, I will be traveling on January 9th after the 8:30am mass to Ghana. I will be back on February 24th. Please keep me and my family in prayer.



CATHOLIC SCHOOL



PreK/Kindergarten STEM Adventure Night is coming soon. Please join us on Thursday, January 13, at 6pm for some fun STEM activities for your children as you learn more about the great education and faith formation available at St. Theresa Catholic School. Please join us in our PreK and Kindergarten classrooms for some STEMtastic fun. For more information please contact our school office at 515-277-0178 or check our website at www.sainttheresaiowa.org. PreK students must be 4 by September 15, 2022, and most of our children will qualify for the State Grant. Kindergarten students must be 5 by September 15, 2022. Come and learn more about our great school!

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.

St. Mary Hamburg Parish Solidarity - Special Collection

In response to a need of a sister parish, St. Mary of Hamburg, your gift will support and further the mission of the Diocese of Des Moines to serve the people of God in southwest Iowa, who are seeking to build a religious education center. **There will be a second collection this weekend** . Thank you!

JOPPA IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Joppa is looking for Volunteers to work 2-4 hour shifts at the NEW Joppa Resource Center located at 2326 Euclid Ave. in Des Moines. Please go to www.joppa.org and click on Volunteer. This is a great opportunity for those who are retired, service hours for kids, youth groups or businesses.

CONSIDER TEAMS OF OUR LADY FOR A BETTER MARRIAGE

If you are interested in enriching your marriage, come and meet couples that are already involved with doing just that! TEAMS is a group of 5-7 couples that meet monthly to share a potluck meal, prayer, and discuss topics reflecting on faith and marriage. There are couples of all ages in Teams, with and without children. Join us Monday, January 17, at 7pm at St. John's Basilica(1915 University Ave, Des Moines) to learn more. Childcare provided. Please email Maria & Mark Campbell at maria.campbell@msn.com or Ann & Brian Moylan at ammoyot@yahoo.com with questions and childcare needs.

VOLUNTEER JOB OPPORTUNITY

Mary's Helping Hands is a newly-approved 501c3 nonprofit, founded in February 2021 to support women and babies in need of basic necessities. We have grown rapidly and are in need of an Accountant/CPA with nonprofit experience. We are specifically looking for someone to work with our Treasurer and assist us with tax accounting, in-kind gifts tracking and monthly budgeting. This role can be 100% remote and would be less than 5 -10 hrs. per week. Please email us @ maryshelpinghandssh@gmail.com if you feel prayerfully called to help.

January 9: The Baptism of the Lord



After Jesus was baptized, he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and a voice was heard "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." As we give to the poor, we also can hear these same words.

As you help those who are suffering, know in your heart the truth of the words "you are my beloved with whom I am well pleased."



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 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. 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 p.m.—7:30 p.m.

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!

Man-Up West, January 2022:

Join Us for Our 2022 Kickoff! Our January meeting will be a two-part meeting. First, Matt Willkom, Iowa Catholic Radio's Executive Director, will join us to launch our 4th year of ManUp West Power Lunch. Agenda: an update on Iowa Catholic Radio's Plans for 2022, a description of the "Eucharistic Miracles Display" and the stories behind it as well as an explanation of the process to schedule it for your parish, an update on "Exodus 90", updates on other "Men's Small Group" offerings in the Des Moines Area, and a preview of some of the presentations scheduled for the Power Lunch in 2022.

Friday, January 14th, Noon

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

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church- 7075 Ashworth Rd, West Des Moines, IA 50266

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

THANK YOU!

The Knights of Columbus would like to thank everyone who brought Christmas cookies for the St. Joseph Parish Christmas Meal. It was a great success and much appreciated!

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

GOD IS GOOD SLOGAN

GOD IS GOOD – ALL THE TIME

ALL THE TIME – GOD IS GOOD

AND THAT IS HIS NATURE



ADULT FAITH FORMATION



R - C - I - A... we're
going to R - C - I - A...



RCIA is in the Catechumenate phase where we talk about the main beliefs of the Church. Time is going fast and is quite enjoyable.

This is a parish event. Therefore, we are in need of two sponsors for Terin and Aubrianna to walk the rest of the journey with them. We are also in need of hosts to bring a treat on Sunday morning after the 8:30 Mass. If you can help us out, call Barb in the Parish Office.

Liturgical Ministers: Don't forget to go into Ministry Pro to sign up for the weekends between now and March 27. We need your presence. If you forgot your password, let me know and I will send the link to change it.

We will restart the ministry of Sacristan by the end of January. This ministry sets up and cleans up the items necessary for Mass as well as opens/closes doors, turns on/off lights and returns things to their proper places. If you are willing to help out or have questions, please let Barb Woods know (515-210-6649 or bwoods@stdsm.com).

Various gifts

As various reflections came to me this season, I thought it very interesting about the various gifts that were in Nativity scenes.

The Nativity scene in Nepal is a reminder of the often overlooked nomads of history, many of whom traveled in this part of the world. The figures themselves represent beautiful Nepali symbolism. Joseph is depicted with his hands facing outwards towards the Christ-Child—a cultural sign of respect. Three shepherds each hold a different object: a feather, a sword, and a staff. These objects exemplify learning, protection, and hard work, respectively.

In the crèche from Taiwan, the wise men are interpreted to be bearing a ring, a flute, and a piece of fruit to symbolize the marriage (ring) between heaven (flute) and earth (fruit) driven by the Incarnation of Jesus Christ.

What gifts are you offering and what do they symbolize?



THE BISHOP WANTS TO HEAR FROM US

Bishop William Joensen invites us to take part in a brief survey that will assist our visioning process for the Diocese of Des Moines. We want to hear of your joys and disappointments, your hopes and priorities for our diocesan future. To complete the survey in English, go here: <https://forms.gle/1mp721t5b8TFcAid8> or scan the QR code. The Bishop also invites us to pray that God will grace us with clear vision of His will for the way forward.

Young Catholic Network

All young adult professionals in their 20s and 30s are invited to join the Young Catholic Network Speaker Series on Tuesday, January 25th! Join us at 6 PM for an evening of networking and fellowship at the Catholic Pastoral Center in downtown Des Moines. Enjoy complimentary drinks and appetizers while meeting other young Catholics committed to professional and spiritual growth. Sharon Krause of Krause Group (parent company of Kum & Go) and Dalla Terra Ranch will be our featured speaker. She will talk about the alignment of one's personal and faith-based mission in the workplace and beyond! Free childcare is provided if you register by Jan 17. Register today at www.dmdiocese.org/ycn!

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."

Mass Intentions



| | |
|---|---|
| Monday, 6:30 am | January 10 Communion Service |
| Tuesday, 6:30 am | January 11 † Gus Pfaff |
| Wednesday, 6:30 am | January 12 † Nguyen Grandparents & Ancestors |
| Thursday, 6:30 am | January 13 † Mary Lou Weuve |
| Friday, 6:30 am 8:35 am | January 14 † Eileen Hesselmann † Art & Benny Peters |
| Saturday 4:30 pm 4:30 pm | January 15 † Frank DePhillips † Kim Manship |
| Sunday, 8:30 am 8:30 am 10:30 am 10:30 am 4:30 pm | January 16 † Bob O'Neill † John & Marilyn Caffrey † Bob Miethke † Evie Olson † People of the Parish |



Readings for the week of January 9, 2022

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Sunday: | Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/Acts 10:34-38/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22 or, Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 [1]/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/ Lk 3:15-16, 21-22 |
| Monday: | 1 Sm 1:1-8/Ps 116:12-13, 14-17, 18-19/ Mk 1:14-20 |
| Tuesday: | 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Mk 1:21-28 |
| Wednesday: | 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39 |
| Thursday: | 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/ Mk 1:40-45 |
| Friday: | 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/ Mk 2:1-12 |
| Saturday: | 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 2:13-17 |
| Next Sunday: | Is 62:1-5/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10 [3]/1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11 |



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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