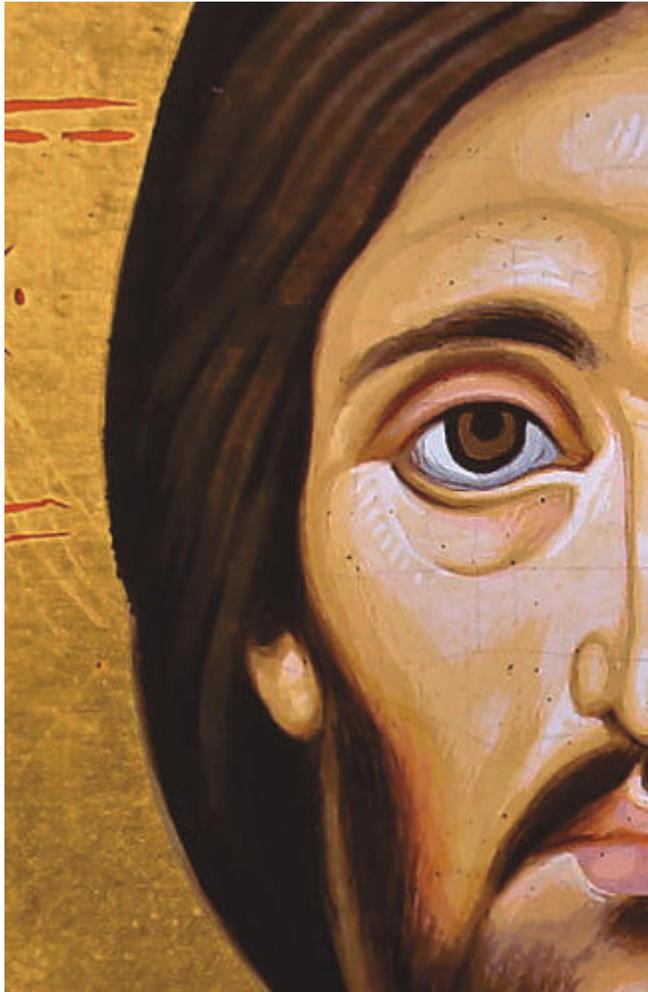


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CHRIST THE KING

Many of us are probably watching the latest season of *The Crown* on Netflix. Images of kings and queens are often centered on a story book understanding of who and what they are. We associate protocols, etiquette, and proper words and actions to how we approach members of a royal family. These tools serve the necessary purpose of keeping them isolated, enthroned, and at a distance. There is something attractive about being an observer of ritual, pomp, and circumstance. It's almost theatrical.

On this feast of **Christ The King** is this how we see Jesus Christ, too? We often behave as if Christ is an isolated, enthroned, royal, and even ineffective king. Jesus wants nothing to do with having the status of an earthly king. Jesus also does not want to be watched, observed, or set apart. He wants to get down and dirty with the very stuff of life especially the poor, marginalized, confused, hurting, lost, broken, imprisoned, and forgotten ones. Jesus is the king who turns the tables on us and wants not only our attention but our engagement and conversion. He wants us to get dirty too.

How we treat other people is at the heart of Christ's kingdom. *Whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me.* This is what Christ the King is asking us to do. Look deeply into the eyes and soul of your sisters and brothers, all of them, and see Christ himself.

Being a spectator and observing all of the pageantry isn't enough. Jesus wants us to inherit the kingdom and live the kingdom. It is built on the blocks of love, mercy, compassion, hope, faith, and blessing. It engages those who want it, changes and informs minds, inspires and transforms hearts, converts and renews souls, and sets things right. There is such a great need around us. Are you ready and willing to do whatever you can to serve in God's kingdom?

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Our Lord Jesus Christ,

November 22, 2020

King of the Universe



Pope Pius XI pointed out in his encyclical “Quas Primas,” in which he established the feast of Christ the King, that our Lord is the author of happiness. He wrote “Oh, what happiness would be ours if all, individuals, families, and nations, would but let themselves be governed by Christ!”

*Mass
Thanksgiving Day
9:00^{AM}*

Mass on Friday: Noon

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED THUR & FRI

**Building CLOSSES on Thu & Fri
at 1:00pm**



**Red Cross Blood Drive
@ STA**

**Tuesday, December 1
1:00pm - 6:00pm**

STA Lower Lounge

*Appointments preferred;
Walk-ins Welcome!*

Visit redcrossblood.org or call **1-800-RED CROSS** (1-800-773-2767) to make an appointment. For more information, please contact STA parishioner Mary Lynch, who is coordinating the drive. She can be reached at marylynch624@gmail.com.

e-BULLETIN

At this time the parish e-bulletin is our main source of written communication to parishioners. If you don't already receive the parish email each week you can view the current e-bulletin or subscribe on the homepage at:



Give more life. Donate blood.



**Christmas is Coming...
...Shop Fair Trade!**

On December 5 & 6 you will have the opportunity to shop for everyone on your Christmas list and benefit the STA Love Your Neighbor Fund at the same time. Due to the pandemic, the sale will be handled differently. On Saturday, December 5 you may shop in Worldly Goods downtown on Main St. On both December 5 and 6 you may shop online at worldlygoods.org. When shopping in-store, please mention STA and when shopping online, please enter STA at checkout. This will enable your purchase to count towards our total sales. Volunteers from STA will deliver in town purchases.

Worldly Goods is a local non-profit shop that sells products from over 50n countries in the Developing World. All the merchandise is Fair Trade, meaning the artisans and producers receive fair wages, work in safe conditions, and are not being exploited. There is no child labor. This sale enables people in Developing Countries to feed, house, clothe, and educate their children using their skills. People are able to live with dignity knowing they can provide a better life for their families. The profits of their cooperatives often help the whole village.

Please take time to shop at Worldly Goods December 5 or shop online December 5 & 6 to benefit the Love Your Neighbor Fund. Online and in-store purchases need to mention STA in order for it to count for a donation to the STA Love Your Neighbor ministry.



Donate today using your debit or credit card.

1 Visit www.staparish.net

ONLINE GIVING

- 2** Select the fund which you wish to donate to
- 3** if you have a WeShare account – login
- 4** if you are new to WeShare you will set up an account
- 5** Select your donation amount and frequency
- 6** Enter your account and payment information

If you wish to donate with a **savings or checking account** please contact the parish office – we have negotiated better fees than are available on WeShare.

Questions? Contact Net Larson, parish financial secretary

IT'S SAFE. IT'S SIMPLE. IT'S CONVENIENT.



Hopefully your Thanksgiving table overflowed with delicacies; your home was filled with laughter and love (although probably with fewer around the table this year!). The human heart hungers for ways to communicate love. Sharing a meal speaks to us of the deep mystery of our unity, of commitment, and the hope in each other.

As Catholics each week we say to each other: *Gather around this table, my sisters and brothers in the Lord. Gather around this table heavy with love unending. The Lamb of God calls us to his table - Be filled with joy and hope, Be filled as with a banquet beyond all telling.*



Ours is not a table covered end to end with delicious foods and drink, but rather a simple table set with bread and wine. We break bread; we pour out wine; to call to mind our struggle to be broken and poured out for one another as Jesus was for each of us. We gather to wonder at the mystery that when we are broken and poured out -- the Lord fills us as with a banquet.

Our simple meal reveals the Kingdom of God, so that Jesus' words can become real for this time and this place; for this hungry community, for the starving souls we meet on campus or at work this week, for whatever hunger we come face to face with this day.

We come to this table so that we might witness to our living the words of Jesus:

*I myself am the living bread come down from heaven.
If anyone eats of this bread he shall live forever.
The bread I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.*

Our table holds not Thanksgiving delicacies but a profound mystery more than words can express. Our table holds the person of God among us -- the Emmanuel.

There is no need to compliment the cooks. But we must sing out, joining angels and the saints in chorus:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord.
Hosanna in the Highest
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the Highest

MINISTRY STAFF

staparish.net/about/directory

Parish Office Phone: 515-292-3810

Pastor, Fr. Kyle Digmann.....x113
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Deacon, Frank Montabon
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Business Manager, Bobby LeBlanc.....x112
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Campus Ministry, Emily Klaus.....x114
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Marriage Preparation/RCIA, Brenda Neppel.....x125
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Kayla Greiner..... kgreiner@stceciaparish.org
Coordinator of Middle School Youth Ministry
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Don Alexander, Secretary.....x110
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Net Larson, Financial Secretary.....x122
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Bruce Dittmer.....Maintenance
Monica Kwat.....Custodial

Peer Ministers

peerministers@staparish.net

Keegan Sassaman-Clark
David Scaffidi
Alexander Vazquez
Ethan Westhoff

FOCUS Missionaries

Joel Bittner
Brenna Bittner
Noah Huber
Rachel Nurse
Kate Phelps

HELP WITH SNOW REMOVAL



As we get closer to when help will be needed in clearing sidewalks and entrances at the church, we want to begin preparing and enlisting parishioner help.

We ask that those who are willing to help with snow/ice removal, join our "snow team." To do so all you need to do is send an email to snow@staparish.net. We will add everyone willing to help to a group email.

Before a significant snow we will send an email to the group to see who can help.

Even if you don't want to be an active part of the parish snow team, you are MORE THAN WELCOME to show up at the Church during or after a snow, when you are able, to help clear sidewalks and entrances! Snow shovels will always be located at building entrances.



Year-End Giving

We are grateful that so many have chosen to support the mission of St. Thomas Aquinas during COVID and with special gifts at the end of the year.

Year-end giving may be in thanksgiving for blessings received during the year OR it may be to take advantage of tax deductions available for charitable gifts. Because IRS regulations are date sensitive, it is important to **make year-end gifts on or before December 31** if you plan to deduct your donation for the 2020 tax year. For more information or questions on making year-end gifts contact the parish office.



Dynamic Catholic

bestadventever.com

A free daily video program that will help you slow down and focus on what matters most during this busy season. You'll experience Advent in a whole new way—leading to the best Christmas of your life!

Creighton University

onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Advent/

The university's Online Ministries has a number of ways to get us in a state of mind and heart to get ready for Advent. It promises to help us have the best Advent experience ever.

Daily Gospel Reflection: Bishop Barron

adventreflections.com

Receive daily Gospel reflections from Bishop Robert Barron.

Advent Resources

www.ignatianspirituality.com/advent/

Ignatian contemplation and reflective prayer can encourage us in the season of Advent. Advent resources in the tradition of Ignatian spirituality are highlighted.

Loyola Press

www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/advent/

Various Advent resources from the publishing ministry of the Midwest Province of the Society of Jesus.



Note Cards with our Icon

Full color note cards (blank inside) featuring our icon "Mother of God of Tenderness" are available: 9 cards and envelopes for a donation of \$10.

Available in the parish office.



Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary

Monday, December 7

MASS: 5:15pm

Tuesday, December 8

MASS: 5:15pm

The Immaculate Conception is a teaching of the Church that Mary, the Mother of Jesus, was preserved from original sin from the moment of her conception. This is not a teaching found in the New Testament. It developed in the Middle Ages, as a way of better understanding Mary's special role as the Mother of God. It was finally declared to be a dogma of the Catholic Church by Pope Pius IX in 1854. In the early 19th century the bishops of the United States declared Mary to be patron of our country under the title of the Immaculate Conception.



Aging religious need your help. Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests spent years working in Catholic schools, hospitals, and agencies—often for little pay. Their sacrifices leave their religious communities without adequate savings for retirement and eldercare. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious collection helps provide prescription medications, nursing care, and more. Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

retiredreligious.org

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Parish Office OPEN
Check Parish Calendar
staparish.net

Sunday Masses

4:45 Saturday*

**also live streamed via YouTube*

Sunday: 8:30am & 10:30am

SIGN-UP FOR WEEKEND MASSES
staparish.net

7:00pm Mass resumes January 24

Noon Mass

Tuesday through Friday
Thanksgiving Day: 9am

Reconciliation

Saturday: 3-4pm
or by appointment

Evening Prayer

Mondays: 5:30pm

in person in Blessed Sacrament Chapel
or via Live Stream YouTube + posted on YouTube:
goSTA.link/evening-prayer

READINGS THIS WEEK

Sunday: Ez 34:11-12, 15-17/Ps 23:1-2, 2-3, 5-6 [1]/
1 Cor 15:20-26, 28/Mt 25:31-46

Monday: Rv 14:1-3, 4b-5/Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 6]/
Lk 21:1-4

Tuesday: Rv 14:14-19/Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13 [13b]/Lk 21:5-11

Wednesday: Rv 15:1-4/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 7-8, 9 [Rev 15:3b]/
Lk 21:12-19

Thursday: Rv 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9a/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5
[Rev 19:9a]/Lk 21:20-28

Friday: Rv 20:1-4, 11—21:2/Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6a and 8a [Rev
21:3b]/Lk 21:29-33

Saturday: Rv 22:1-7/Ps 95:1-2, 3-5, 6-7ab [1 Cor 16:22b]/
Lk 21:34-36

Sunday: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19
[4]/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-3

<http://usccb.org/bible/>



St. Thomas Aquinas...

YOUTH MINISTRY

...St. Cecilia

High schoolers are invited to Life Night on Sunday, Nov. 22 at 7pm at St. Cecilia. We're continuing our series called, Downside Up, to help in our process of discernment of our personal vocation. Our night is called, Day Before Tomorrow: Personal Vocation, where we will explore the array of vocations in the Church and how does this lead us to discipleship in our current state of life. Please join us and bring a friend and a mask!

This week's EDGE night is Restoration, and our big question is: How can a good God exist when there is evil and suffering? Join us from 2-3:30pm at St. Cecilia's to find out more. Hope to see you there!



The Ames Romero House

As the cold weather approaches, the new Catholic Worker house is preparing to house guests in as soon as a month or two, but we need your help! We recently found out one of our live-in residents, John, will be leaving us for a while to tend to family back in Ohio. This means that we are looking for others who feel called to live in at the house and help with efforts to open it for guest hospitality. What we are looking for in a live-in resident is a desire to live simply, intentionally, and hospitably alongside guests in the home and those who come to visit us. Typical duties of a live-in would include meal preparation, chicken 'tending', guest relations and a whole lot more. Please spread the word and email us at

amescatholicworkerhouse@gmail.com
for any questions or interests.

Every Saturday evening, the Romero House serves a warm meal out of our backyard to the public. Due to COVID-19, we have made this meal a grab-and-go option for people. As the awareness of the meal spreads, our food demands will also grow. We are asking for food donations going forward to continue to serve this Saturday meal as a critical part of our mission to Ames. We are in particular need of common cooking and baking ingredients, but will accept nearly any kind of food. Please email for any questions!

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