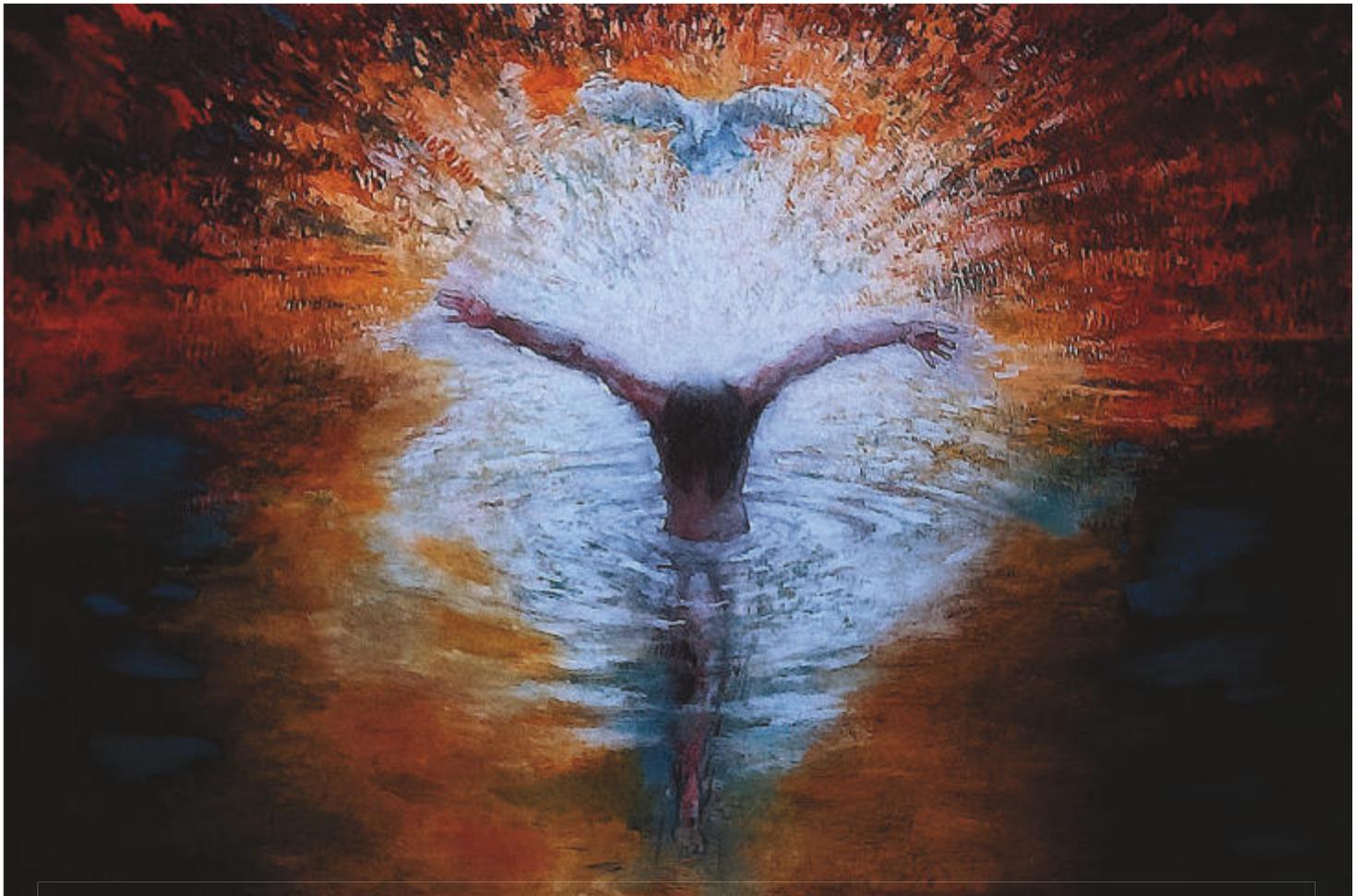


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CHURCH & CATHOLIC STUDENT CENTER

SISTER PARISH OF DULCE NOMBRE DE MARIA, HONDURAS

@ IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY



AND A VOICE CAME FROM THE HEAVENS,
“YOU ARE MY BELOVED SON;
WITH YOU I AM WELL PLEASED.”

Mark 1:11



AT SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS CHURCH AND CATHOLIC STUDENT CENTER, WE ARE:

GATHERED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT, A DIVERSE AND VIBRANT COMMUNITY

TRANSFORMED BY JESUS CHRIST IN THE CATHOLIC TRADITION, AND

SENT TO BE THE PRESENCE OF GOD IN AMES, IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY, AND THE WORLD.



as students begin returning for the spring semester

A Prayer for Our Students

Our prayer is for:

Strength - that God gives them the strength to do what they need to do each day.

Courage - that they will be brave as they face the challenges that are before them.

Peace - that their hearts will be calm and peaceful as they go through their day and in their sleep at night.

Provision - asking God to provide for all that they need - for stamina, spirit, and finances - for each day.

Direction - that they will be led to embrace what is good and right.

Protection - that God keeps them safe in this increasingly unsafe world and protects them from harm and wickedness.

Joy - that God fills them with the kind of bliss joy that can only come from the Divine.

Compassion - that they will show compassion on those in need and who have less than they do.

Justice - to give them a sense of justice to stand up for what is right and to defend the weak.

Wisdom - that they will grow in knowledge and understanding.

Hope - to give them the hope that comes from above - the kind that far exceeds what we have in the here and now.

Love - that our children are filled with the love of God. That they will know how deeply they are loved, and that love will overflow onto others.

Amen.

If you are **NEW** to STA...

WELCOME!

Please...

**REGISTER
IN THE
PARISH**

If you are **new** to the parish OR didn't register during the **fall** we ask that if you consider STA *your* church, *your* faith community, *your* place of worship while in Ames that you register as part of the parish community.

Let us know you are here!

staparish.net/registration

If you prefer a paper form, contact the parish office.



**Eucharistic
Adoration**

**Thursday
Jan: 14, 21**

4-7pm

**2210 Lincoln Way
Ames, Iowa 50014**

515-292-3810



www.STAparish.net

1 more for 2021

STA Stewardship Challenge

Happy New Year! Most of us could not flip the calendar from 2020 to 2021 fast enough. Adding a “1” to the end of year is a small change, but we all know it represents a large change in our hopes for the future. The stress of 2020 may have left you feeling spent, but the STA Stewardship Team wants to challenge you to expand your parish participation by doing 1 more thing for the year of 2021. Frequently when you look outward and beyond yourself, you find inner strength. So, as you start this year by adding “1” to the date, find a way to do “1” more thing with your time, talent, and treasure to help our parish community, the Ames and Iowa State community, and maybe, at the same time, yourself.

St. Thomas is blessed with many opportunities for faith development, including having live liturgy for most of 2020. Which one of these could you add to your prayer time this year...

- attend weekday Mass one day during the week
- stop by for Eucharistic Adoration
- come five minutes early or stay five minutes after Mass to say an extra prayer for those who cannot attend, especially those with health concerns related to COVID
- pray a decade of the rosary each day, focusing and reflecting on a certain mystery
- join in praying Evening Prayer on at least one Monday each month
- read a book on faith or spirituality this year

St. Thomas is blessed with the leadership of Father Kyle, a wonderful parish staff, and caring parishioners. This year could you...

- say a prayer for Father Kyle and the staff
- send a note, text or e-mail to Fr. Kyle about something positive you experienced at STA
- call a parish staff member to say *thank you* and ask what you could do to help out
- volunteer to serve on a parish committee (*Stewardship Team is looking for new members!*)
- offer your time and talent as a candidate for the Pastoral Council

St. Thomas’ mission is fed by donations of time and money from parishioners. We were blessed to meet our financial needs in 2020, but finances do affect what STA can do. In addition, many people in the STA and Ames community have been financially impacted by COVID. This year could you....

- increase your parish support by \$5.00 or 5% a week or a month
- make a donation to one of the parish’s endowments or special funds
- leave an extra \$1.00 tip to a food service worker
- donate food to our local food bank
- volunteer an hour a week making a positive difference in our community

Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love. —St. Teresa of Calcutta

What is the “1 more” thing you can do to make 2021 a year of grace?

ON FIRE
with the *Holy Spirit*
2021

www.archwomensconference.org

Connect with women
Spark your spirit
Fuel your faith

January 30, 2021



Most of us, upon entering church, walk up to the baptismal font, dip our fingers in it, and make the sign of the cross over ourselves. It is an action so common, so "culturally Catholic," that you may not have thought about it in awhile. Why do we do it? What does it mean?

Our use of "holy water" is an example of what the Church calls "sacramentals," which are symbolic actions, blessings and objects used as sacred signs, to "signify effects, particularly of a spiritual nature, which are obtained through the intercession of the Church" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1667). These are not to be confused with the seven sacraments, namely baptism, reconciliation, eucharist, confirmation, matrimony, holy orders, and anointing of the sick. But some sacramentals (such as water, oil, ritual books, and candles consecrated for sacred use) constitute part of the sacraments.

The traditional use of a holy water font combines all three aspects of sacramentals. It uses the object of blessed water, combined with the action of the sign of the cross, to bless ourselves. A priest has blessed the water for a specific, sacramental use. By blessing ourselves with holy water by the sign of the cross, we are symbolically recalling our own baptisms, using the very sacramental water of our baptism, and identifying ourselves as having been cleansed of our sins "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." On entering a church, this constitutes a ritual cleansing for what we intend to do at Mass. Upon leaving we are again reminding ourselves of our baptism, but now in its missionary aspect, as embodied in the Great Commission: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them...and teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (Matt. 28:19-20).

When we renovated the worship space in 2000, the plan was that all church entrances would lead to the gathering space and font, making it easy for everyone to bless themselves as they enter the church for worship. Our font's permanent presence serves as a reminder of our commitment to new life in Christ and our membership in God's family through baptism.

With all this in mind, the next time you walk up to the font and bless yourself with holy water, take a few seconds to reflect on what your baptism means to you.

READINGS THIS WEEK

- Sunday:** Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/Acts 10:34-38/
Mk 1:7-11 or Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [3]/1 Jn 5:1-9/
Mk 1:7-11
- Monday:** Heb 1:1-6/Ps 97:1 and 2b, 6 and 7c, 9 [cf. 7c]/Mk 1:14-20
- Tuesday:** Heb 2:5-12/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9 [cf. 7]/Mk 1:21-28
- Wednesday:** Heb 2:14-18/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9 [8a]/Mk 1:29-39
- Thursday:** Heb 3:7-14/Ps 95:6-7c, 8-9, 10-11 [8]/Mk 1:40-45
- Friday:** Heb 4:1-5, 11/Ps 78:3 and 4bc, 6c-7, 8 [cf. 7b]/Mk 2:1-12
- Saturday:** Heb 4:12-16/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15 [cf. Jn 6:63c]/Mk 2:13-17
- Sunday:** 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10 [8a, 9a]/
1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/ Jn 1:35-42

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



It's hard to find a job after the Death Star blew up.

e-BULLETIN

If you don't already receive the parish email each week you can **VIEW** the current e-bulletin OR **SUBSCRIBE** on the homepage at staparish.net

COVID-19 EMERGENCY FUND FOR STORY COUNTY IMMIGRANTS

“This pandemic has been really terrible. But it has brought humanity together. It has brought America together and many people are out there helping and spending their time asking about their neighbors.”

- Awein Majak, volunteer caseworker

A year-end update on the fund and ways to donate can be found:

staparish.net > MINISTRY > SOCIAL JUSTICE > Love Your Neighbor
(bottom of page)

we can use the
Help with snow & ice
& appreciate those who help
before Masses OR during the week

Snow shovels are available at the building entrances. Clear entrances, sidewalks and steps, north, east and south, to make it easier and safer for all to get in and out of the building. If icy & slippery, sprinkle ice melt (found in hospitality closet) at Lincoln Way entrance, Lincoln Way and Ash Ave. sidewalks and in Gathering Space parking area.

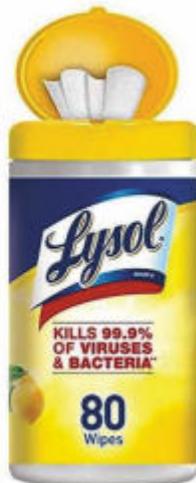
If you have any questions, check with a parish staff member, otherwise grab a snow shovel and help clear.

THANKS to those who can help!

Help with sanitizing pews & touched surfaces **AFTER MASS** is appreciated!

Cleaning cart in gathering space.

Let's keep everyone safe!

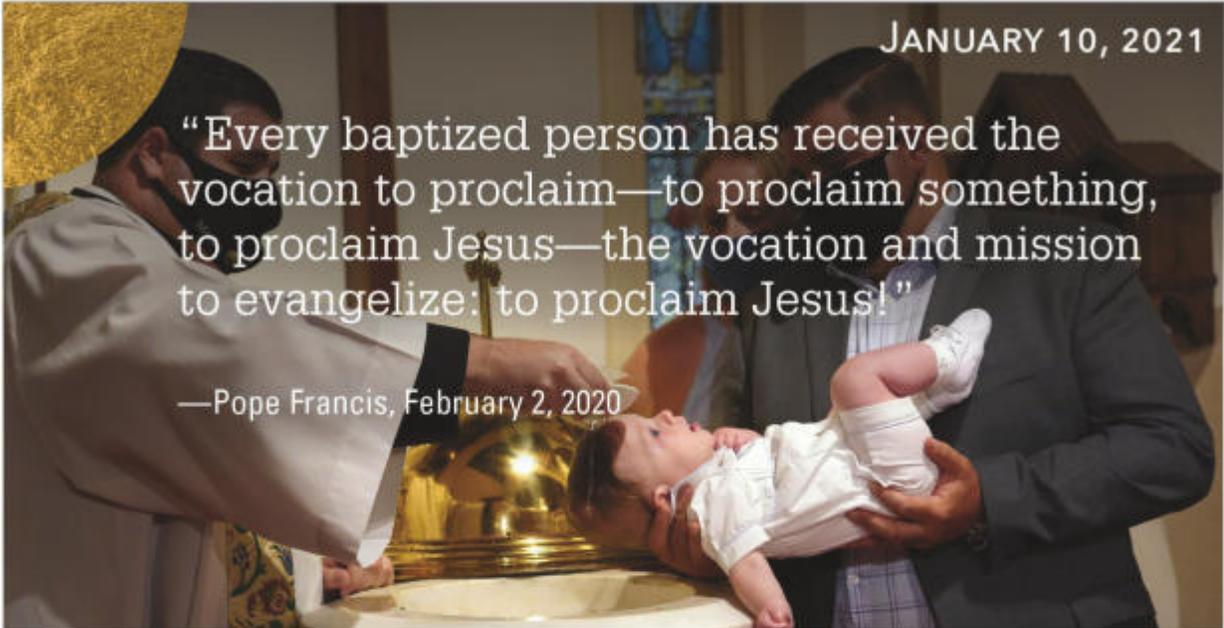


The Baptism of the Lord

JANUARY 10, 2021

“Every baptized person has received the vocation to proclaim—to proclaim something, to proclaim Jesus—the vocation and mission to evangelize: to proclaim Jesus!”

—Pope Francis, February 2, 2020



Cathy Images

Today, we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord!

The origin and foundation of Christian Baptism is Jesus. Before starting his public ministry, Jesus submitted himself to the baptism given by John the Baptist. The waters did not purify him; he cleansed the waters. “He comes to sanctify the Jordan for our sake . . . to begin a new creation through the Spirit and water” (St. Gregory Nazianzen, Liturgy of the Hours, I, 634).

Jesus’ immersion in the water is a sign for all human beings of the need to die to themselves to do God’s will. Jesus did not need to be baptized because he was totally faithful to the will of his Father and free from sin. However, he wanted to show his solidarity with human beings in order to reconcile them to the Father. By commanding his disciples to baptize all nations, he established the means by which people would die to sin—Original and actual—and begin to live a new life with God.



Join thousands of Catholics nationwide in the annual Respect Life novena, *9 Days for Life*, Thursday, January 21—Friday, January 29. Get daily intentions, brief reflections, and more. Sign up at 9daysforlife.com!

Building OPEN

during the ISU break

Monday thru Friday

10am to 7pm

Saturday/Sunday

8am to 7pm

Parish Office OPEN

Monday thru Friday

10am to 2pm

Sunday Masses

4:45 Saturday*

**also live streamed on YouTube*

Sunday: 8:30am & 10:30am

7:00pm Mass resumes on January 24

MASS SIGN-UP NO LONGER NEEDED

Parishioners may seat themselves, and if they are having trouble finding a spot with sufficient distance, hospitality ministers may help them find seats. If we end up with safe-distancing issues, we will consider other options at that time.

Noon Mass

Tuesday through Friday

Reconciliation

Saturday: 3-4pm

or by appointment

Adoration

Thursday, January 14, 21

4pm to 7pm

Evening Prayer

Mondays: 5:30pm

in person in Blessed Sacrament Chapel

or via Live Stream YouTube

+ posted on YouTube:

goSTA.link/evening-prayer

MINISTRY STAFF

staparish.net/about/directory

Parish Office Phone: 515-292-3810

Pastor, Fr. Kyle Digmann.....x113
frkyle@staparish.net

Deacon, Frank Montabon
DBQ004D@dbqarch.org.....(c) 515-203-9751

Business Manager, Bobby LeBlanc.....x112
bobby@staparish.net.....(c) 515-708-2861

Coordinator of Ministries, Tom Budnik.....x118
tom@staparish.net

Liturgy/Campus Ministry, Shari Reilly.....x117
shari@staparish.net.....(c) 515-509-6851

Campus Ministry, Emily Klaus.....x114
emily@staparish.net.....(c) 563-920-6672

Evangelization, Joe Weyersx116
joew@staparish.net.....(c) 224-622-9923

Faith Formation, Jen Weyers.....x130
jen@staparish.net.....(c) 815-757-9900

Marriage Preparation/RCIA, Brenda Neppel.....x125
brenda@staparish.net

Development, Sue Winer.....x123
sue@staparish.net

Youth Ministry (office at St. Cecilia: 515-233-3092)
Director of Youth Ministry
Kayla Greiner..... kgreiner@stceciliaparish.org
Coordinator of Middle School Youth Ministry
Zeke Mientkiewicz.....zmientk@stceciliaparish.org

Don Alexander, Secretary.....x110
don@staparish.net

Net Larson, Financial Secretary.....x122
net@staparish.net

Bruce Dittmer.....Maintenance
Monica Kwat.....Custodial

Peer Ministers

peerministers@staparish.net

Keegan Sassaman-Clark

David Scaffidi

Alexander Vazquez

Ethan Westhoff

FOCUS Missionaries

Joel Bittner

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Noah Huber

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