

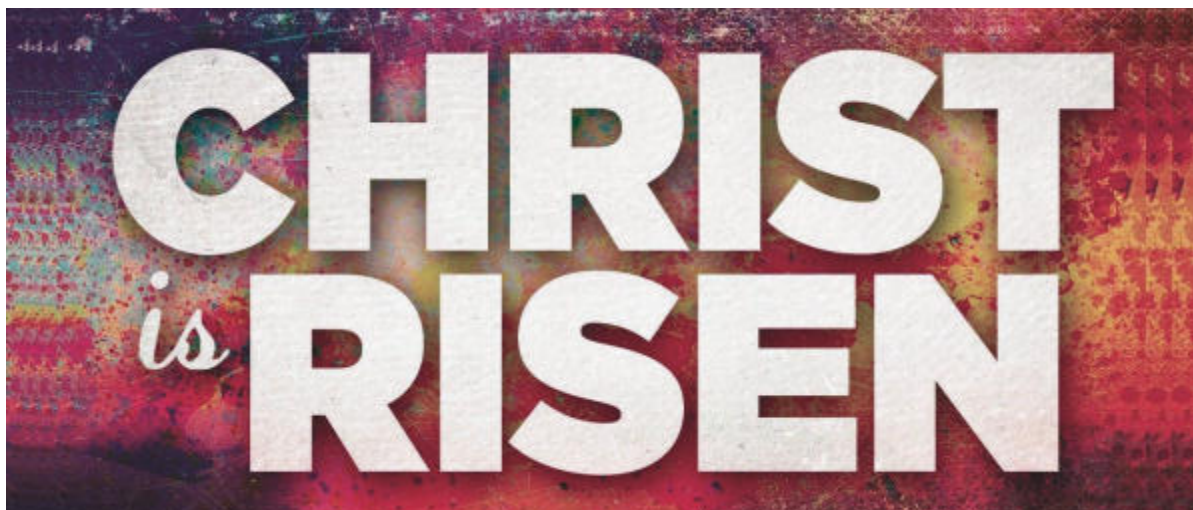
# ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

CHURCH & CATHOLIC STUDENT CENTER

SISTER PARISH OF DULCE NOMBRE DE MARIA, HONDURAS

@ IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

BLESSED ARE THOSE  
TO WHOM EASTER IS  
NOT A HUNT...  
BUT A FIND;  
NOT A GREETING...  
BUT A PROCLAMATION;  
NOT AN OUTWARD FASHION...  
BUT INWARD GRACE;  
NOT A DAY...  
BUT A JOURNEY OF FAITH.



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.



## Easter Message 2021

Expect the unexpected! In today's gospel for Easter Mary Magdalene seems startled by the empty tomb. She even thinks someone had stolen Jesus' body. She is not expecting Jesus who was dead to have come back to life. So, what has become dead and lifeless in our lives? Especially this past year it has been easy to become exhausted, worn-down or even dead in areas of our life. Often times we give up on these areas that have become dead and we do not expect them to change. But that's a bunch of horse cr... manure! The power of the resurrection of Jesus is the power that what has become dead in our lives can come back to life; that we can expect the unexpected if only we roll away the stone of our hearts and let God in.

This is the hope we live with as Christians. On Ash Wednesday (when it was the weather was frigid) I said that a spring time of hope is coming. Hope not just that the weather is getting warmer or that a vaccine is more widely distributed. A hope that, if our lives are more oriented to the risen Son (of God), we can soak in the power of his love which brings the dead to life. This Easter, may we orient our lives to Christ and expect the unexpected.

Father Kyle Digmann

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515-292-3810

WWW.STAPARISH.NET



**Welcome Guests & New Parishioners** Whether you're a first time guest, occasional visitor, thinking of becoming a registered parishioner or already a member of this community, we're glad you're here! Let us know how we can help you? If you would like more information about our parish community, please talk with one of our staff members, 515-292-3810, and check out our website at [staparish.net](http://staparish.net). Thanks for celebrating with us; your presence is both gift and grace. WELCOME!



**Mark Your  
Calendar**

**Annual  
Parish Meeting  
Sunday, April 18**

*Details Soon!*

**Sunday Mass**

**Saturday: 4:45\***

*\*also live streamed on YouTube*

**Sunday: 8:30am & 10:30am & 7:00pm**

**Daily Mass**

**Tuesday through Friday: NOON**

**Thursday (TNL): 9:15pm**

**Reconciliation**

**Tuesday & Wednesday: 2:30-3:30pm**

**Thursday: 6:00-7:30pm**

**Saturday: 3-4pm**

*or by appointment*

**Adoration**

**Tuesday & Wednesday: 12:30-3:00pm**

**Thursday: 5-8pm**

**Evening Prayer**

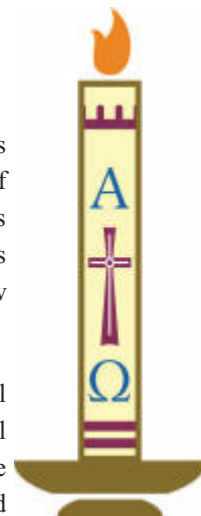
**Mondays: 5:30pm**

in person - Blessed Sacrament Chapel  
or via Live Stream YouTube  
[goSTA.link/evening-prayer](https://goSTA.link/evening-prayer)

**The Paschal Candle**

The flame of the Easter candle symbolizes Christ's light, and his presence in the midst of his people. The Easter candle is referred to as the Paschal candle. The term "paschal" comes from the word *pesach*, which in Hebrew means Passover.

This tall white candle will display several symbols: The cross is always a central symbol, most clearly identifying it as the paschal candle; The Greek letters alpha and omega signify that God is the beginning and the end; The current year represents God's presence here and now in the midst of the gathered worshipers; Five grains of incense are embedded in the candle (sometimes encased in wax "nails") during the Easter Vigil to represent the five wounds of Jesus.



At the start of the Easter Vigil, a "New Fire" is lit and blessed. The Easter candle is the first candle to be lit with a flame from this sacred fire, representing the light of Christ coming into the world. This represents the risen Christ, as a symbol of light (life) dispelling darkness (death). The Easter candle that leads the procession into the church at the Easter Vigil becomes a dominant symbol for the season. So big is this message of resurrection and redemption that it takes fifty days to celebrate it. The Easter candle burns in our churches during those seven weeks, proclaiming the Risen Christ, the Light of the world.

The Easter candle appears in our liturgy on two other very significant occasions: baptisms and funerals.

Whenever infants are baptized, we light the Easter candle. Baptism incorporates us into the body of Christ and gives us a share in his resurrection. Whenever the baptismal waters are poured, the Easter candle burns bright. Parents and godparents light a baptismal candle from the Easter candle. They accept the responsibility of keeping the flame of faith alive in the heart of the newly baptized.

We also light the Easter candle at funerals. Several images of baptism reappear at the funeral: the sprinkling with holy water, the placing of a white pall (like a white garment) over the casket and the lighting of the Easter candle. Christ rose from the dead so that we too might pass from death to life. Every death reminds us of Easter. And every Easter gives us hope that death is not the end, but the passage from darkness to eternal light.

***The Light of Christ!***

***Thanks be to God!***



# Easter Sunday-The Resurrection of the Lord

APRIL 4, 2021



Certty Images

## What is Easter?

The Easter Vigil is the "Mother of All Vigils." Easter Sunday, then, is the greatest of all Sundays, and Easter Time is the most important of all liturgical times. Easter is the celebration of the Lord's Resurrection from the dead, culminating in his Ascension to the Father and sending of the Holy Spirit upon the Church. There are 50 days of Easter from the first Sunday of Easter to Pentecost. It is characterized, above all, by the joy of glorified life and the victory over death, expressed most fully in the great resounding cry of the Christian, Alleluia! All faith flows from faith in the Resurrection: "If Christ has not been raised, then empty [too] is our preaching; empty, too, is your faith" (1 Cor 15:14).

"What you sow is not brought to life unless it dies. And what you sow is not the body that is to be but a bare kernel of wheat, perhaps, or of some other kind; . . . So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown corruptible; it is raised incorruptible. It is sown dishonorable; it is raised glorious. It is sown weak; it is raised powerful. It is sown a natural body; it "Easter is the celebration of the Lord's Resurrection from the dead, culminating his Ascension to the Father and sending of the Holy Spirit upon the Church." is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual one. So, too, it is written, 'The first man, Adam, became a living being,' the last Adam a life-giving spirit. But the spiritual was not first; rather the natural and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, earthly; the second man, from heaven. As was the earthly one, so also are the earthly, and as is the heavenly one, so also are the heavenly. Just as we have borne the image of the earthly one, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly one" (1 Cor 15:36-37, 42-49).

The Octave of Easter comprises the eight days, which stretch from the first Sunday of Easter to the Second Sunday of Easter. It is a way of prolonging the joy of the initial day. In a sense, every day of the Octave is like a little Sunday.

The word "Easter" comes from Old English, meaning simply the "east." The sun that rises in the east, bringing light, warmth, and hope, is a symbol for the Christian of the rising Christ, who is the true Light of the world. The Paschal Candle is a central symbol of this divine light, which is Christ. It is kept near the ambo throughout Easter Time and is lit for all liturgical celebrations.



Catholic  
Current

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Date Night will be **Saturday, April 10**, from 7-8pm at St. Cecilia in the church and will be live streamed at:

**<https://youtu.be/78IUiMMlrKo>**

Sam and Anne Rothstein will present on "Ecclesia Domestica - Domestic Church" and what they have found that strengthens their marriage. All adults from the area are invited to join us in-person or via livestream. For more information or questions, please email **[DateNight@StCeciliaParish.org](mailto:DateNight@StCeciliaParish.org)** or contact Deacon Ron at 515-441-0480.



**PLEASE** convert your coins into bills or check (made out to St. Thomas Aquinas Church, with "Rice Bowl" designated in the Memo line) and put in the collection box located at the Story Wall in the Gathering Space or bring to the parish office, **by next weekend please.**

## READINGS THIS WEEK

**Sunday:** Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 [24]/Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/Jn 20:1-9 or Mk 16:1-7 or Lk 24:13-35  
**Monday:** Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 [1]/Mt 28:8-15  
**Tuesday:** Acts 2:36-41/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22 [5b]/Jn 20:11-18  
**Wednesday:** Acts 3:1-10/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9 [3b]/Lk 24:13-35  
**Thursday:** Acts 3:11-26/Ps 8:2, 5, 6-7, 8-9 [2ab]/Lk 24:35-48  
**Friday:** Acts 4:1-12/Ps 118:1-2, 4, 22-24, 25-27 [22]/Jn 21:1-14  
**Saturday:** Acts 4:13-21/Ps 118:1, 14-15, 16-18, 19-21 [21a]/ Mk 16:9-15  
**Sunday:** Acts 4:32-35/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 [1]/1 Jn 5:1-6/ Jn 20:19-3

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

## Congratulations We Rejoice With...

**Helena Bridwell, Derek Gordon, Dylan Hoenig and Jack Ruhland** who were baptized, confirmed and received their first Holy Eucharist at the Easter Vigil.

**Moriah Conne, Anika Slowing and Tyler Markve** who were fully received into the Church, confirmed and joined us at the Eucharistic table for the first time at Easter.

Congregations to high school students **Michelle Osanya and Isabel Wolf** who celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation at the Easter Vigil.



May they continue to encounter  
the living Christ  
and respond to Christ's call of discipleship.



**Sat, April 24**  
**9-Noon**

**It's YOUR parish!**

*We provide all tools & supplies.*





In the year 2000, St. John Paul II established Divine Mercy Sunday, the Sunday following Easter. Even with nearly 2 decades of celebration, many of us still aren't quite sure what this celebration is all about. Here is a quick primer:

Divine Mercy Sunday is based on the revelations received by a Polish nun, Sr. Faustina Kowalska (now St. Faustina.) A devout nun, St. Faustina had very little formal education, but as Jesus revealed himself to her, He asked that she record His words. She dutifully kept journals.

At St. Faustina's canonization, St. John Paul said that she was meant to remind the world of the merciful love of God. He also said was called by Christ to spread devotion to the image of Divine Mercy (which was revealed to her), and she was meant to begin "the apostolic movement of the Divine Mercy which undertakes the task of proclaiming and entreating God's mercy for the world and strives for Christian perfection."

Jesus told St. Faustina: "My Heart overflows with great mercy for souls, and especially for poor sinners...[I]t is for them that the Blood and Water flowed from My Heart as from a fount overflowing with mercy. For them I dwell in the tabernacle as King of Mercy."

The image of Jesus, known as Divine Mercy, was revealed to St. Faustina. He appeared with rays radiating from His Sacred Heart, and then told Sr. Faustina (who had no art training!) to paint this image, including the words, "Jesus, I trust in you." He also promised that those who venerated the image would not perish. "By means of this image I shall grant many graces to souls. It is to be a reminder of the demands of My mercy, because even the strongest faith is of no avail without works."

It is fitting that as we continue to joyfully celebrate the Easter season, we take time to remember the merciful love that Jesus has for each of us. It is a wonderful reminder that there is no end to the mercy Christ has for each of us.

## Chaplet of Divine Mercy

The **Chaplet of Divine Mercy** (prayed with ordinary rosary beads) will be celebrated at St. Cecilia, in the church, on Sunday, April 11 starting at 2:00pm.



St. Thomas Aquinas...

**YOUTH MINISTRY**

...St. Cecilia

**No Life Teen & EDGE Sunday, April 4 due to Easter or Sunday, April 11 due to Sacrament of Confirmation Mass. Life Teen will resume April 18.**

**High school Confirmation rehearsal is Wednesday, April 7 at 7:15-8:45pm at St. Thomas Aquinas.** Candidates being Confirmed this year will not attend their small group at St. Cecilia. Candidates and sponsors (if sponsor is able to attend) will attend the rehearsal instead.

Please pray for the Confirmation Candidates, receiving the Sacrament next Sunday, April 11 at 2pm at St. Thomas Aquinas. This Mass is only for immediate family of the Candidate & their sponsor. Other family, friends, and parishioners may attend the Mass via the livestream link from St. Thomas Aquinas.



*Congratulations and Welcome!*

**Theodore James Gemski**, son of Ashley and Eric Gemski, recently baptized in our Christian Catholic community.



Story County is participating in a survey aimed at improving the availability and affordability of high speed internet access to rural communities. In today's world, reliable internet is quickly becoming a necessity to all and we want to help make sure all voices are heard in this survey. If you are unable to complete the survey yourself, please contact anyone on STA staff over the phone at 515-292-3810, and they can relay your answers the survey on your behalf. It should take less than 5 minutes. If you are able to complete the survey yourself, you may do so by typing: <https://bit.ly/39ipino> into your address bar.

## Building OPEN

Monday thru Friday

9am to 10pm

Saturday/Sunday

8am to 10pm

## Parish Office OPEN

Monday thru Thursday

9am to 3pm

Friday

9am to Noon



**SUMMER PARKING AT STA**

**Need a weekday parking space during the summer?**

STA provides Monday through Friday parking on the upper level from May 10 to August 13 for a small donation.

Contact **bobby@staparish.net** for details.

## 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**

## MINISTRY STAFF

[staparish.net/about/directory](http://staparish.net/about/directory)

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**Deacon, Frank Montabon**  
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**Business Manager, Bobby LeBlanc**.....x112  
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**Marriage Preparation/RCIA, Brenda Neppel**.....x125  
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**Development, Sue Winer**.....x123  
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*Coordinator of Middle School Youth Ministry*

Zeke Mientkiewicz.....[zmientk@stceciliaparish.org](mailto:zmientk@stceciliaparish.org)

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Net Larson, **Financial Secretary**.....x122  
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Bruce Dittmer.....Maintenance

Monica Kwat.....Custodial

### Peer Ministers

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Keegan Sassaman-Clark

David Scaffidi

Alexander Vazquez

Ethan Westhoff

### FOCUS Missionaries

Joel Bittner

Brenna Bittner

Noah Huber

Rachel Nurse

Kate Phelps



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