

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CHURCH & CATHOLIC STUDENT CENTER

SISTER PARISH OF DULCE NOMBRE DE MARIA, HONDURAS

@ IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY



***“Advent is not about a sentimental
waiting for the Baby Jesus”***

—Father Richard Rohr, OFM

Each Advent we repeat the refrain “Come, Lord Jesus” which may lead us to imagine that God is somewhere else and needs to come down from there to be with us.

Our Advent hope is not that God will come to somewhere God is presently not, because God is always deeply present in our world. The possibility of Advent is that we will open our eyes and see where God is already present and gathering us; that we will open our hearts and be transformed into disciples; that we will “*get up*” and find the courage to be sent in to the world to live what we believe.

Meister Eckhart put it this way: “We are all meant to be mothers of God, for God is always needing to be born.” To be a mother of God — a calling for men as much as for women — is to allow ourselves to be open to the life-changing grace of God finding a dwelling in us. It is to put ourselves at the service of God in a life which becomes fruitful and procreative. Each Advent we are called to cooperate with God’s grace already active in our world and in our life. We are the ones experiencing a *rebirth* each Advent, until he comes again in Glory!



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.

First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021

Advent Begins

Beginning the Church's liturgical year, Advent ("ad-venire" in Latin or "to come to") is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas.

The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. From the earliest days of the Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus' promise to come back. But the scripture readings during Advent tell us not to waste our time with predictions. Advent is not about speculation. Our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighted down and distracted by the cares of this world (Lk 21:34-36). Like Lent, the liturgical color for Advent is purple since both are seasons that prepare us for great feast days. Advent also includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas.



Red Cross Blood Drive Monday, November 29

1:00pm - 6:00pm

STA Lower Lounge

Schedule an appointment:

1-800-RED CROSS

(1-800-733-2767) or visit

redcrossblood.org

*Appointments preferred;
Walk-ins Welcome!*



Give more life. Donate blood.

WORLDLY GOODS



On December 4 & 5 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. The sale will be handled in the same way as last year. On Saturday, December 4, you may shop in Worldly Goods downtown on Main St. during regular business hours. On Sunday, the store will be open from 12-3 for shopping.

On Dec. 4 & 5 you may shop online at www.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. Check the website to see the many items available.

Worldly Goods is a local non-profit shop that sells products from over 50 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. This sale also enables our parish to support people in need right here in Story County.

Please remember to take time to shop at Worldly Goods December 4 during regular business hours or Sunday, December 5 from 12-3; or shop online December 4 & 5 to benefit the Love Your Neighbor Fund.

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WWW.STAPARISH.NET





Wednesday, **December 1** at 7pm
St. Thomas Aquinas

Sunday, **December 5** at 2pm
St. Cecilia

The communal celebration of the sacrament of Reconciliation is an opportunity to seek God’s infinite love and mercy in a communal setting with other members of the faith community. It is **not general absolution** which should only be given in grave emergency situations (on the battlefield, in case of imminent death when there is neither time nor available priests for individual confessions, etc.).

At our communal celebration of Reconciliation **we will begin with Adoration and an Examination of Conscience, followed by individual confessions with a priest.** Our communal reconciliation reminds us that our sin affects our whole parish and human family and that others will forgive the wrong we’ve done and support us in our journey. Please join us in prayer as we celebrate the gift of God’s forgiveness and love.



Remember
STA
when considering
a year end gift

Thank you for being a part of what God is doing through our parish community and the ministries of STA. Your support of our parish this year, during a pandemic, truly has made a difference! Campus Ministry is reaching more students, we have a strong and dedicated staff, outreach on campus and in the community is strong, our efforts at growing discipleship has produced much good. We are forming people, young and older, in the Catholic faith. Sacraments, liturgy, worship, and music all continue to enliven our faith life. STA is blessed!

As we come into these last few days of the 2021, would you be willing to make an end-of-the-year gift to the mission of STA? We rely on faithful giving from parishioners, and your gift now would help us start next year off strong. It would be a blessing if you could give a gift as we ring in the New Year!

REMINDER:

Gifts must be POSTMARKED or RECEIVED in the parish office by December 31, 2021 to qualify for tax deductibility and to be credited by STA for tax year 2021.



Feast of the
Immaculate Conception
of Mary

Tuesday, December 7
MASS: 5:15pm

Wednesday, December 8
MASS: Noon & 6:00pm

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.



Our annual Advent MICA Food & Supply Collection continues till the Fourth Weekend of Advent, December 18/19. **Donations may left in the baskets under the “Head of Christ” in the gathering space.**

Essentials: Condensed soups, canned fruit, canned vegetables & beans, jelly, peanut butter, canned stews, applesauce, pasta, pasta sauce, tuna, crackers, cereal and other non-perishable foods. **Personal supplies** that are in demand: dish soap, cleaning products, shampoo and conditioner, shower gel, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, women’s hygiene articles, toilet paper, laundry soap, as are diapers from size 3 to pull ups, baby formula, bottles, lotion, soap, shampoo, and baby wipes.



HELP WITH SNOW REMOVAL



Winter is Coming !

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.

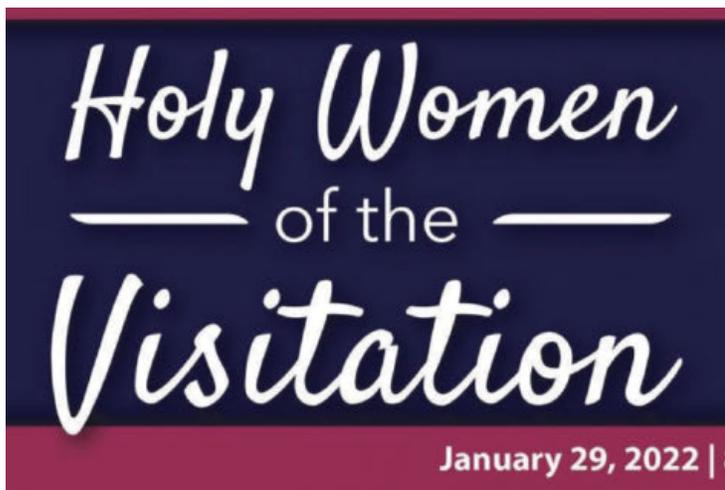
Even if you don't want to be an active part of the parish snow team, you are MORE THAN WELCOME to show up at the Church during or after a snow, when you are able, to help clear sidewalks and entrances! Snow shovels will always be located at building entrances and salt/ice melt in the hospitality closet.

THANKS to those who can help!

Giving envelopes are available at the tables in the prayer garden pathway and across from the elevator.

Make checks payable to “STA”

place in the Sunday collection basket or parish office,



2022 Beauty in Christ Archdiocesan Women’s Conference: **Saturday, January 29!** This virtual conference features two national speakers (Emily Jaminet and Liz Kelly), prayer opportunities, music, blessed conversation with other holy women, and more! We hope to offer a local gathering for STA women to virtually participate as a group. If interested see Phil Stone.

Save the Date: Details coming.



What is your favorite or special Advent or Christmas tradition?



Keaton Rheingans (senior in aerospace engineering)

Keaton's favorite Advent/Christmas tradition is spending Christmas eve at his grandmother's. There are over 20 cousins and relatives who all attend mass together and when they return, Santa joins the party. It embraces the best of Christmas: family, faith and fun.



Katelyn Kuhlman (8 years old)

Katelyn's favorite Advent/Christmas tradition is being part of the nativity play at St. Cecilia. She was an angel last year and looks forward to being a part of it again this year. She says it is her favorite tradition because it is fun and reminds everyone what Christmas is all about.



Tom & Cindy Stark

"I like to retell the powerful story that my dad, Maurie Stark always told on Christmas Eve when we were growing up. Dad would reverently describe his Christmas Eve long ago, as an Army Infantry Officer stationed in occupied France during World War II. Dad missed the troop carrier taking Catholic soldiers into a little French village for Midnight Mass. He knew the general direction of the village, saw a bright star overhead, said a prayer, set out across the fields, and followed that star, just like the Wise Men did, which led him safely to that little village just as the church bells started playing 'Silent Night.' I miss hearing my dad tell that story."



Kate Phelps (FOCUS missionary)

"One of my favorite family traditions for Advent is having an Advent wreath on our kitchen table and lighting the candle each night at dinner. This tradition helped my family slow down, prioritize family dinner time, and have intentional Christ centered conversations to prepare for the coming of Jesus. My mom would even prepare specific questions or goals to help us intentionally enter into the liturgical season. Happy Advent!"

A BULLETIN FEATURE OF THE STA STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM



Sacristans, Lectors & Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

met after Mass a few weeks ago and received the updated guideline sheet for their ministry. Lector Workbooks for this new liturgical year were also handed out at that time. **Please see or contact Michael (michael@staparish.net) if you were unable to attend that gathering.**



Congratulations and Welcome!

Benjamin Steven, son of Katie and Luke Roling, who was recently baptized into the Catholic Christian community.



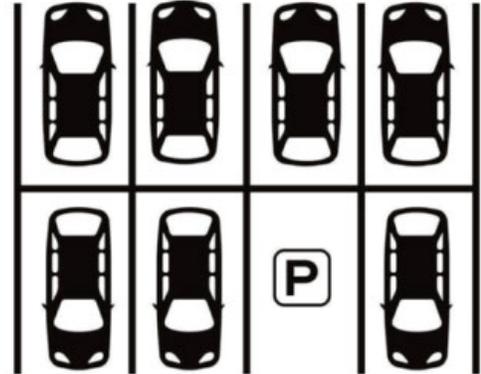
Capital Improvements Fund

A capital improvement is any addition or alteration to the parish's property that meets both of the following conditions:

1. It substantially adds to the value of the real property or appreciably prolongs the useful life of the real property
2. It is intended to become a permanent installation

The fund is invested with the Archdiocese and any expenditure from the Capital Improvement Fund is suggested by the Buildings & Grounds committee and must be approved by the Finance Council (over \$10,000 also requires approval of the Pastoral Council).

You can contribute by check in the collection, just indicate "Capital Improvements" on the memo line. It is also one of the giving opportunities in our ONLINE GIVING (through Realm & link at staparish.net).



For everyone's safety, ease of traffic flow and for code required emergency & fire lanes...

**PLEASE PARK IN
DESIGNATED
PARKING SPACES
ONLY
THANK YOU!**

READINGS THIS WEEK

- Sunday:** Jer 33:14-16/1 Thes 3:12—4:2/Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14 [1b]/ Lk 21:25-28, 34-36
- Monday:** Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11
- Tuesday:** Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [10]/Mt 4:18-22
- Wednesday:** Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/Mt 15:29-37
- Thursday:** Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a [26a]/ Mt 7:21, 24-27
- Friday:** Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/Mt 9:27-31
- Saturday:** Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. Is 30:18d]/ Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8
- Sunday:** Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/ Lk 3:1-6



You are invited to send your prayer requests to prayers@staparish.net will be included in the prayer of the 178 members of the network!

We ask that the person who is being prayed for has given their permission for the information to be shared.

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

Director of Worship, Michael Steimel.....x117
michael@staparish.net.....(c) 816-500-6131

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

Campus Ministry, Logan Davis.....x115
logan@staparish.net

**Director of Evangelization
and Faith Formation, Phil Stone**.....x116
phil@staparish.net

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

Elizabeth Engelken, **Administrative Assistant**...x110
elizabeth@staparish.net

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

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

PEER MINISTERS
peerministers@staparish.net

Stella Leuer
Maggie Lynott
Hope Petersen
Karen Vandervort

FOCUS MISSIONARIES

Sophie Albert
Joseph Heyrman
Noah Huber
Rachel Nurse
Kate Phelps

Sunday Mass

Saturday: 4:45pm (*live streamed: YouTube*)

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

Daily Mass

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: NOON

Thursday (TNL): 9:15pm

Reconciliation

Tuesday: 10:00-11:00am

Wednesday: 2:30-3:30pm

Thursday: 6:00-7:30pm

Saturday: 3:00-4:00pm

or by appointment

Adoration

Tuesday: 9-Noon

Wednesday: 12:35-3:30pm

Thursday: 5-8pm

Evening Prayer

Mondays: 5:30pm

Blessed Sacrament Chapel

Building OPEN

7-Days a Week

8am to 11pm

Parish Office OPEN

Monday thru Friday

8am to 5pm



Weekend Masses @ St. Cecilia

Saturday at 5:00pm (*livestreamed*)

Sunday at 8:30am and 10:30am

Misa en Espanol el domingo a las 5:00pm (*livestreamed*)

Weekday Masses at St. Cecilia

Monday: 5:30pm

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 7:30am

Wednesday: 9:00am—School Mass

Limited seating for public (chairs in narthex)

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