Daily Readings for the Week of January 7 for Study, Reflection and Prayer

**Sunday:** Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 56-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

**Monday:** Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11 or Acts 10:34-38 or 1 Jn 5:1-9/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [3]/Mk 1:7-11

**Tuesday:** 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1]/Mk 1:21-28 or 1 Sm 1:1-8 and 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1]/Mk 1:14-20 and 1:21-28

**Wednesday:** 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [8a and 9a]/Mk 1:29-39

**Thursday:** 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25 [27b]/Mk 1:40-45

**Friday:** 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19 [2]/Mk 2:1-12

**Saturday:** 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [2a]/Mk 2:13-17

**Next 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
This weekend we bring this year’s liturgical celebration of the Christmas mystery of the Incarnation of Jesus to a close with the Epiphany feast. Originating in the Eastern Church and older than our Western Church celebration of the birth of Jesus on December 25th, Epiphany (which means “manifestation” or “showing forth”) is a single liturgical feast which celebrates the three manifestations of the presence of God among us in Jesus: the visit of the Magi to the Christ Child; Jesus’ Baptism by John in the Jordan River by John the Baptist; the first miracle of changing water into wine at the Wedding Feast in Cana in the Gospel of John.

For us “westerners” we associate Epiphany primarily with the visit of the Magi (the Three Kings) and their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to all of you who shared the gifts of your greetings, support and other remembrances with me this Christmas Season. Each of them is deeply appreciated. As is my practice, the cards and letters go into my “prayer basket” and a couple are drawn out daily and specifically remembered by me in prayer. It’s my gift to you.

Also, a very Blessed New Year to everyone. As mentioned last weekend I am in Richmond, Virginia for the wedding celebration in my “East Coast Family.” A very special thank you to Fr. Tom Braak for covering for me so that I could be part of this special celebration in Virginia.

Fr. Jim

Travel with Father Jim in 2018 & 2020

Father Jim has scheduled not one—but TWO trips. In 2018, travel to Israel with a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. In 2020, the adventure will take you to the Imperial Cities with Oberammergau Passion Play.

An informational meeting is scheduled on Thursday, January 25 at 7pm in the Social Hall. Itineraries for both trips will be discussed. We hope to see you there.

Clothing Drive for St. Vincent de Paul Society, January 27 & 28

At the request of the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Waterloo, we are conducting a Clothing Drive to help stock the Society’s Thrift Store. They are in dire need due to high demand coupled with a drop in local funding and the deaths of some generous donors. Parishioners are requested to bring donations to Masses the weekend of January 27-28, 2018. Please take a hard look at your closets and help others who are in need of your donations.

The Society will accept clean clothing, outerwear, sheets blankets and bed linens in almost any condition, provided they haven’t been compromised by odors, liquids or other contaminates. The Society also can use fabric scraps, quilting materials and garments that have been cut up for use as rags in their recycling program. Shoes are also accepted but should be in a separate box/bag.
A written will is a way of saying “I Love You” to your family and friends by preventing squabbles and hurt feelings after you are gone. A will ensures your wishes are carried out, as you want, not as a court would decide. If you would like more information about leaving a legacy gift to St. Cecilia parish, contact Frank Oppold at 111-290-1123. If you would like information about estate planning or giving to other Catholic programs please visit www.ourcatholicfoundation.org, www.catholiccharitiesdubque.org or contact your attorney or financial professional.

With the close of one year and the start of another, let us take a thoughtful look at how we can be of help to others in our world.

THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS
When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:  
To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among brothers,  
To make music from the heart.

Howard Thurman (1899-1981)

Blessings to you for the New Year —  
Ames Catholic Community Stephen Ministry

During the week if school has a late start, 8am Mass will be canceled. If school is canceled or dismissed early, all evening activities are suspended. St. Cecilia School follows the Ames Community School District regarding late starts, early dismissals, or school closings as the result of inclement weather during the winter months. Please listen to the area TV and radio stations for school announcements. Weekend Mass Schedule: If it is hazardous—icy or a blizzard—please use your best judgment.

**Catholic School Board**
Meets 1st Tues. of each month at 7pm — Oscar Romero Rm  
Kelly Grandgenett, Chair

**Finance Council**
Meets 3rd Tues. of each month at 7pm — Oscar Romero Room  
Mark Moore, Chair

**Pastoral Council**
Meets 4th Tues. of each month at 7pm — North Social Hall  
Ric Nelson, Chair

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Mass Location</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, January 6</td>
<td>5:00pm</td>
<td>Carl Benson †</td>
<td>Sunday, January 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, January 7</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>Parishioners of St. Cecilia</td>
<td>10:30am: Nate Brunia †</td>
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<td>5:00pm</td>
<td>Brad, Michelle &amp; Don Friedly †</td>
<td>(Misa en Español)</td>
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<td>Tuesday, January 9</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>Mass Canceled</td>
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<td>Wednesday, January 10</td>
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<td>All-School Mass</td>
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<td>8:30am: Parishioners of St. Cecilia</td>
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**St. Thomas Aquinas Mass Times Weekend Masses**
4:45pm Saturday; 8:30am, 10:30am, 7pm Sunday  
No Sunday 7pm Mass on Dec. 31

**Weekday Mass**: 12pm Monday-Friday; 9:15pm Thursday

**Sts. Peter & Paul Mass Time**: 8:30am Sunday in Gilbert

**Planned Giving**
Make a lasting investment in our future

**Mass Intentions**
Saturday, January 6  
5:00pm: Carl Benson †  
Sunday, January 7  
8:30am: Parishioners of St. Cecilia  
10:30am: Nate Brunia †  
5:00pm: Brad, Michelle & Don Friedly †  
(Misa en Español)

**Tuesday, January 9**  
8:00am: Mass Canceled

**Wednesday, January 10**  
9:00am: All-School Mass

**Thursday, January 11**  
8:00am: Carl Benson †

**Friday, January 12**  
8:00am: Bernita Mae Arneson †

**Saturday, January 13**  
5:00pm Rita Voss †

**Sunday, January 14**  
8:30am: Parishioners of St. Cecilia  
10:30am: Kim Frantzen †  
5:00pm: Bernice Block †  
(Misa en Español)
They're here! If you had an 8” x 10 photograph taken at church, please pick up your directory. On the weekends of Dec. 30 & 31 and Jan. 6 & 7, directories will be available in the narthex. All other times the directories will be available in the parish office.

New to the area? If you are interested in helping your child grow in their Catholic faith please give us a call! We'd love to help your child get plugged into an Elementary, Middle School, or High School program.

STAY ANCHORED
Anchor Youth Ministry just launched a new website: AnchorAmes.com

On it you will find Anchor’s 5 Things You Need to Know: a brief list of five, quick announcements answer, "What do I need to know that is going on for 6-12th graders this week?" Follow us to Stay Anchored!

Instagram @AnchorYM
Twitter @LT_50010
Facebook Anchor YM

Why are Youth Ministry Trips So Important?
“I was able to see God in so many ways this weekend. I saw Him in our amazing small group discussions and in the thousands of joyful teens gathered in Lucas Oil Stadium, but I saw Him most in the quiet moments during XLT, Adoration, and Mass. It was in these moments that I could feel Jesus’ love and was inspired to bring His love to the world. I’m so glad I went!”

-Emily Willadsen, NCYC Testimony

Elementary website: http://www.stceciliaparish.org/registration/
Middle & High School website: https://ameslifeteen.weenbly.com/

Student Tuition Organization & FACTS
The Our Faith, Our Children, Our Future School Tuition Organization (STO) and St. Cecilia School are pleased to once again provide tuition assistance to qualifying families. The STO program will be utilizing FACTS Management in Lincoln, NE to assist in determining the level of assistance to be awarded. FACTS Management has an application that all families need to complete to be considered for assistance. Your personal information will be held in the strictest confidence at all times. The application is available online in both English and Spanish.

In addition to your completed application, you must include a copy of current wage and tax information. Tax and wage documents can be scanned, faxed, or sent via U.S. mail postmarked no later than March 30th. We urge you to complete the materials early to allow time for notification of any missing/incomplete materials.

At St. Cecilia School, we are happy to assist you with the application process, please call to make an appointment. Thank you.

School Events:
Wednesday, 1/10: 9am All School Mass followed by 3rd Grade Reception
Friday, 1/12: 'Spirit Day' and End of 2nd Quarter

Photo: Stations of the Nativity held on December 20:
The 14th Station: The Wise Men Come from the East

St. Cecilia Faith Formation
(515)232-3514
www.stceciliaparish.org/registration/

St. Cecilia Catholic School
(515)232-5290
www.stceciliaparish.org/school

St. Cecilia—Faith Formation
(515)232-3514
www.stceciliaparish.org/registration/

Sunday, January 7
8:30am, 10:30am: Mass (coffee & donuts)
10am: CGS Level 1
Training (St. Louis Room, St. Mother Teresa Room)
5pm: Spanish Mass
7:30pm: Anchor Mission Prayer Team/Journey Retreat (St. Louis Room)

Monday, January 8
6pm: Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (St. Mother Teresa Room)
7pm: Stewardship Meeting (St. Louis Room)
7:15pm: YDisciple (Rm. 535)

Tuesday, January 9
6:30am: Men’s Bible Study (St. Clare Room)
8am: Mass (Canceled)
9am, 4:30pm: Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (St. Mother Teresa Rm)
10am: Bible Study (St. Louis Rm)
7pm: Days For Girls (Oscar Romero Room)
7pm: Faith Formation Commission (St. Louis Room)
7pm: Welcome Committee (St. Clare Room)

Wednesday, January 10
9am: All School Mass (Church)
9am 2:30, 4:30: Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (St. Mother Teresa Room)
1:30pm: Library Committee (St. Francis Library)
4:30pm: Faith Formation In-Service (Oscar Romero)
5:15pm: Stewardship Committee (St. Clare Room)
7pm: Facilities (Parish Office)
7:30pm: XLT Faith Formation
Stewardship Moment: Today’s Gospel reading reveals the story of the magi who come from the east to pay homage to Jesus, the newborn king. The story of the magi teaches Christian stewards three Christmas truths: God, in the person of Jesus Christ, is present and active in the world, and good stewards strive daily to follow his star. Second, each of us, no matter our circumstances or station in life, has a gift to bring to the Lord. And finally, our life’s journey always leads to Christ, even when at times we do not know where the road is taking us.

Stewardship: The three wise men who came from the East to pay homage to the infant Jesus brought Him rich gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh as part of their works. What gifts have I brought to this celebration to offer to the newborn Savior?

Marriage Corner: “Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” (Mt 2:11) Do you and your family support the church or any charities financially? If you are not in a position to donate money, offer gifts to the Lord through your service to others.

The Christian Experience Weekend (CEW) is a renewal weekend in early 2018 for adults, designed to enable them to more deeply “experience” themselves and their relationship to God and the Christian community. For more information, contact Maria Schweers via email (maschweers@mchsi.com) and/or phone (515-419-2198). You can also visit http://olih.org/cew-retreats/

The Honduran Coffee Sale will resume January 27 and 28

Please check the parish website for all scheduled activities.
I am interested in becoming a member at St. Cecilia Parish

Name and Address the way you would like it to appear on correspondence
Name: ___________________________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________________________
City: _____________________________________________________________
Zip: _______________________________________________________________
Phone: ____________________________________________________________
Email: _____________________________________________________________

Please return via mail or drop in collection basket. Someone will contact you. You will receive a registration packet with additional information. You may also register online at: http://www.stceciliaparish.org/become-member/

Prayer Intentions
Call requests to Melissa Bortle at 232-8354

Like us on Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/stcames