

Saint Cecilia Catholic Community

December 12, 2004

Third Sunday of Advent



We are called one by one and as a community to become part of the living presence of Jesus Christ. We are united with the Father and strengthened and enlivened by the Holy Spirit. We are committed daily to love and serve others as Jesus did.

“Building for our Future”

PARISH STAFF

Pastor

Father Terry Rassmussen, OFM Conv.
TRassmussen@aol.com

Deacons

Gary Aitchison, John McCully, Richard Tondra

Office..... 233-3092

Arlene Stacy, FCBA, Business Manager
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Robert Hauser, Music & Liturgy Director
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Joan Jones, Secretary
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Religious Education.....232-3514

John Hayes, Director
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Joe Lawlor, Coordinator of Youth Ministry
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Annette Ahmann, Secretary
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School.....232-5290

Duane Siepker, Principal
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Lois Vidimos, Secretary
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2900 Hoover Avenue, Ames, IA 50010

Fax: 515-233-6423

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Mass Schedule

Weekend: Saturday 5:00 PM
Sunday 8:00, 9:30 & 11:15 AM

Weekday: Tuesday thru Friday, 7:00 AM

Holyday: Consult the bulletin

Sacramental Life

Reconciliation

Saturday 4:00-4:30 PM
Anytime by appointment.

Marriage

Contact the Parish Office at least six months prior to wedding date.

Baptism

To participate in the Baptismal Program please call the Parish Office. Instruction for parents is required.

Sick Calls

Call the Parish Office to make arrangements to receive the sacraments.

Stewardship: Each of us has his or her own role to play in the coming of the Kingdom of God. John the Baptist was called to be the herald of the Messiah, preparing the way of the Lord. To what is the Lord calling me?

Religious Education

for the whole parish family

Religious Education Classes

Pre-School & Kindergarten meet during 9:30AM Mass the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month.

December dates: 19

Grades 1-6

Monday, 6:10-7:30PM

December date: 13

Wednesday, 4-5:20PM

December date: 15

Grades 7 & 8

Wednesday, 7-8:20PM

December dates 15

Youth Ministry

Grades 9-12

Sunday, 7-8:30PM

December dates: 12, 19

R.U.S.S.H.

Dec. 15: Contact Joe at 232-3514

Dec. 18: Special Saturday activity—Christmas Caroling at Green Hills. Meet at Saint Cecilia, 9:00AM.

Dec. 22: Christmas Caroling. Meet at Saint Cecilia, 6:00PM.

Adult Education

Scripture Study: Meets Mondays, 7:30-9:00PM in the Adult/Youth room. Next Session: December 13

Sunday Scripture Study Group: Meets 10:15-11:15AM, St. Francis Library. Next Session : December 14. Class will not meet December 21 or 28.

RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation is the process through which people learn about the Catholic faith and are welcomed into the Church. Inquirers are welcome to join the process at any time. For information call John at 232-3514.



MEETINGS/EVENTS

Calming the Spirit

Do yourself a favor and come to a relaxing and prayerful half hour of quieting your soul. Invite a friend and come to the Social Hall at 9:00PM Wednesday, December 15 and 22.

Next Weekend is our Good Samaritan/ Food Shelf Collection Weekend. Suggested items include pasta, spaghetti sauce, canned fruit, shelf stable main meals, peanut butter, hamburger helper, cereal, canned meat products, baby foods, disposable diapers, and toiletries,

The Giving Tree

Please remember to leave your gift under the tree in the entry **BY NOON, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12.** Attach the tag ornament to the wrapped gift with contents marked. The gifts will be sorted Sunday afternoon.



St. Anne Circle will meet Tuesday, December 14, 9:00AM in Parlor A. Please bring Christmas cards.

St. Gertrude Circle will meet Tuesday, December 14, **12:00 noon** in the Parlors. Bea Gibbons and Doris Kleinschmidt will host a soup luncheon. Please note change in meeting time.

Wednesday Morning Playgroup meets from 10:00-11:30AM in the A/Y room. All are welcome. Playgroup will not meet December 22, or 29. For information, contact Dawn at 233-6157 or tdwied@worldnet.att.net

The Christmas Family Liturgy Choir will rehearse Monday, December 20 and Thursday, December 23 from 4-4:45PM in the Church. This choir will sing at the 4:00PM Mass on Christmas Eve. Please contact Bob Hauser at 233-3092 if you would like to participate.

RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE

Communal Penance

Thursday, December 16, 7:30PM

Private Reconciliation

Monday, December 20

7:00-8:00PM:

Tuesday, December 21

11:30AM-12:30PM

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR SCHEDULE

December 24: Christmas Eve

4:00PM Family Liturgy Mass

6:30PM Christmas Eve Mass

11:00PM (Caroling begins at 10:30)

December 25: Christmas Day

10:00AM

There will be no 5:00PM Mass or confessions.

December 26: Feast of the Holy Family

8:00AM, 9:30AM, 11:15AM

January 1: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

9:00AM

(Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year)

There will be no 5:00PM Mass or confessions.



Saint Cecilia School Christmas Program
Tuesday, December 14, 7:00PM
Ames City Auditorium—All are welcome.

December 17: final day of class before Christmas Break

YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST

Biblical reasons for wanting to spend one hour each week with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Each moment that you spend in His Eucharistic Presence will INCREASE HIS DIVINE LIFE WITHIN YOU and deepen your personal relationship and friendship with Him. *"I have come that you may have life, and have it more abundantly." "I am the Vine and you are the branches. Whoever remains in union with Me shall bear much fruit for without Me, you can do nothing."* (Jn 10: 10; 15:5)

OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

The Hanging of the Greens Sunday, December 19, 1:00PM

Come join in the fun. Help decorate the Church with boughs of holly! Refreshments will be served after the decorating is finished. If you cannot participate at 1:00PM you may choose to be part of the clean-up crew starting at approximately 3:15PM. Call Bob Hauser at 233-3092 for more information.



A New Daytime Bible Study Group begins Tuesday, January 4, 9:30-11:00AM in the A/Y room. Child care will be provided. All are welcome. Please call Lorna Sellberg (382-6558) or Nannet Horton (292-5486) if you have questions.

Babysitter Desperately Needed for Tuesday mornings, 9:15-11:15AM while parents attend Bible Study. Some compensation provided. Must be at least 18 and have attended VIRTUS training or be willing to attend a class in January 2005. Please contact Lorna Sellberg (382-6558).

Ushers Needed for the following Mass times: 5:00PM, Saturday, 11:15AM Sunday. Please call Bernie Beaudry (232-0982) or the Parish Office (233-3092) if you can help.

Toys for Appalachia: A truck filled with donations will leave for Appalachia on December 16. New or gently used toy donations are still needed and can be taken to the Johanns' home at **320 Ash Avenue** between the hours of **8:00AM and 7:00PM, Wednesday, December 15.**

Six people are needed to Teach English as a Foreign Language—no experience needed but some knowledge of Spanish helpful. Sessions will be at Saint Cecilia Parish on Thursdays 10:00-11:30AM or 7:00-8:30PM. Call Deacon John McCully at 232-6755 if you can help.

Spanish speaking baby-sitter needed at the above times. Contact Deacon John or the parish office to volunteer.

SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE Quarterly Report—December 2004

The Social Concerns Committee is active in the area of **Peace, Justice and Charity** in our community and worldwide. We try to serve those in need—the hungry, homeless, sick and in prison, as our Lord directed us. Financially we are able to help due to the generosity of our parishioners' donations to the Good Samaritan fund. The non-perishable food and supplies collected each month are delivered to MICA (Mid Iowa Community Action) by members of Saint Cecilia School 6th grade class and a staff member during the school year and by Social Concerns Committee members during summer months. The Advent/Giving Tree project donates over 700 gifts to persons in our county. The Lenten Rice Bowl collection is sent to Catholic Relief Services to help in different countries throughout the world.

We are very grateful for the generosity of our parishioners. The Social Concerns Committee determines how the funds will be allocated. Every penny/dollar is given to charity in the name of Saint Cecilia Catholic Church parishioners.

Charities we support are:

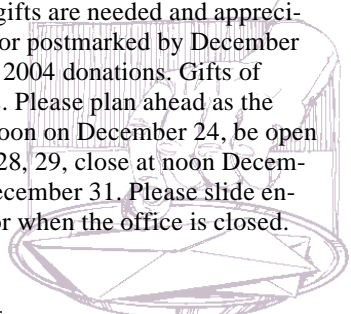
LOCAL—Parishioners in need, Emergency Residence Project, Good Neighbor Assistance, ACCESS, Beyond Welfare, Birthright, Hospice, Catholic Charities, Friendship Ark, Free Medical and Dental Clinics, Bethesda Food Pantry.

NATIONAL—American Red Cross (for Troops), Appalachia

WORLD-WIDE—Holy Land, Honduras Medical Project, Mother Teresa's Missionary Sisters, Alternative Gift Market.

We welcome suggestions from any parishioner. Please call the Parish Office, leave a message, and a member of our Committee will contact you. **WE ARE TRULY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR GENEROSITY.**

Thank you to those who support Saint Cecilia Parish with gifts of treasure. Your gifts are needed and appreciated. Gifts that are received or postmarked by December 31, 2004 will be included in 2004 donations. Gifts of stock take a week to process. Please plan ahead as the Parish Office will close at noon on December 24, be open limited hours on December 28, 29, close at noon December 30 and remain closed December 31. Please slide envelopes under the office door when the office is closed.



3rd Sunday of Advent

Gifts are given for many different reasons. One gift might be a thank you for a job well done, another says congratulations, still another is a house warming gift. Gifts can mean we're proud of you, or good luck, or will you be mine? The right gift at the right time is memorable and life changing.



God's gifts are life changing for both the giver and the community. They are meant to be used for the good of all, demonstrating God's power, providence and love. God's gifts bring about change, look for a response and call everyone to holiness. Isaiah describes in vivid terms how powerful God's gifts are: the blind see, the deaf hear, the lame leap, the desert blooms. God comes in power and glory, yet gently lifts His people and sets them free.

At Christmas time we give gifts, but we are the ones who are gifted with the Presence of Jesus. This gift brings about a change of heart, looks for a response of love, and calls us all to holiness. He will be lifted up to set us free from sin and death, free to love and be happy. Prepare well to receive the Gift that will change your life!

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MASS OF HOPE AND HEALING

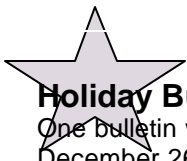
The annual Mass of Hope and Healing with Archbishop Jerome Hanus, will be December 28, 6:00PM at St. Ludmila Church in Cedar Rapids. Parents, families, and friends are welcome to pray and remember the loss of a child of any age. On December 28, the Feast of the Holy Innocents, parents will be invited to write the name of their child(ren) who have died in the Book of Remembrance. Since this is the Year of the Eucharist, the homily will integrate the sacrament of the Eucharist in bringing hope and healing to families. A reception will follow the Mass. All are warmly invited.

POSITION AT ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

St. Thomas Aquinas Church and Catholic Student Center seeks a college graduate to work with a team of volunteers in planning, executing, and evaluating development activities; and tracking gifts. Send resume and references to: Rev. Everett Hemann, 2210 Lincoln Way, Ames, IA 50014-7184.

LOOKING FOR A MEANINGFUL GIFT IDEA FOR CHRISTMAS?

Ask for or give a Christian Experience Weekend. The theme for the 2005 weekends is **JESUS, You are the Way**. Weekends at Our Lady's Immaculate Heart in Ankeny are: **Women**- Feb. 4-6 & March 4-6; **Men** - Feb. 18-20. Brochures are available in the Social Hall Hallway literature rack. Call Debbie at 515-597-22263 if you have questions.



Holiday Bulletin Deadline:

One bulletin will be printed for the Sundays of December 26/January 2. **Deadline for inclusion in this bulletin is Thursday, December 16.** Plan ahead for announcements for the first week in January.



Many Thanks to the People of Saint Cecilia who remembered me with calls and greetings on my 90th birthday. God love you all.
Helen Michaud



Those in our parish and the community who are ill.

Please remember in your prayers:
ROBERT BLESSINGTON, brother of Mary Jo Talkington, who recently passed away. May the Lord grant peace and consolation to his family in their time of need. May he, and all who sleep in Christ, find in God's presence, light, happiness and peace.



Readings for the Week of December 12, 2004
Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/ Jas 5:7-10/ Mt 11:2-11
Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/ Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/ Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25/ Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday: Is 54:1-10/ Lk 7:24-30
Friday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/ Mt 1:1-17
Saturday: Jer 23:5-8/ Mt 1:18-25
Next Sunday: Is 7:10-14/ Rom 1:1-7/ Mt 1:18-24

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, December 11

5:00PM: Kornady/Daniels deceased

Sunday, December 12

8:00AM: Ralph Besch

9:30AM: Wayne & Rosemary Roepke

11:15AM: Saint Cecilia Parishioners

Tuesday, December 14

7:00AM: Marvin Rader

Wednesday, December 15

7:00AM: Jim Gorman

9:00AM: The Gibbons Family

Thursday, December 16

7:00AM: All Souls

Friday, December 17

7:00AM: Rose Marie Hadaway

Saturday, December 18

5:00PM: Saint Cecilia Parishioners

Sunday, December 19

8:00AM: George Rickerl

9:30AM: Camilla Frame

11:15AM: Jack Carr

Prayer Opportunities

Calming the Spirit

December 15, 22, 9:00PM, Social Hall

Evening Prayer: Monday through Friday, 5:00PM in the Chapel

Eucharistic Adoration: The Chapel is always open for prayer. Call 233-3092 if you wish to sign up for a scheduled adoration hour.

Intercessory Prayer Group: Sunday, 9-10:00PM in the Chapel

Rosary: Monday, 7:00AM & 7:30PM, Chapel

Christians in the Spirit: Tuesday, 7-9:00PM, Chapel

Saturday Morning Prayer: 7:00AM, Chapel