

# Saint Cecilia Catholic Community

December 19, 2004

Fourth Sunday of Advent



**W**e 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

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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.

**S**tewardship: When he discovered that Mary was with child, Joseph resolved to end their engagement with as little disgrace as possible. But obedient to the voice of God, he changed those plans and became instead the protector of the child Jesus and his mother, Mary. God grant that I may be as open to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

## 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.

January dates: 2, 16

#### Grades 1-6

**Monday, 6:10-7:30PM**

January dates: 3, 10, 17

**Wednesday, 4-5:20PM**

January dates: 5, 12, 19

#### Grades 7 & 8

**Wednesday, 7-8:20PM**

January dates: 5, 12, 19

### Youth Ministry

#### Grades 9-12

**Sunday, 7-8:30PM**

December date: 19

January dates: 9, 16, 23, 30

#### R.U.S.S.H.

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. Scripture study will not meet December 21 or 28. Next Session: January 4.

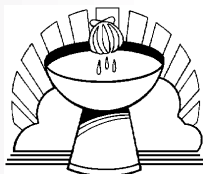
**Sunday Scripture Study Group:** Meets 10:15-11:15AM, St. Francis Library. Will not meet December 20 or 27.

Next Session : January 4.

### RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation is the process through which people learn about the Catholic

**Congratulations and Welcome** to Huong Tran, who celebrated the Rites of Initiation: Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation on December 14. Huong is a visiting graduate student at Iowa State University who will soon be returning to the Netherlands to finish her studies. She and her fiancé, Huy Nguyen will be joined in matrimony next summer in Viet Nam.



### November Baptisms

**Tristan Nathaniel**, son of Hector & Carrie Angus  
**John Thomas "Jack"**, son of Dan & Cheryl Carlile  
**Ian Michael**, son of Michael & Seana Godbold  
**Nora Alice**, daughter of Andrew and Leah McCormick

The next Baptism Class will be held, Thursday, February 3, 6:30PM in the Adult/Youth Room. Call the parish office at 233-3092 to sign-up.

## 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.

### Private Reconciliation Schedule

Monday, December 20

7:00-8:00PM

Tuesday, December 21

11:30AM-12:30PM

## 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 22.



**Sixty Plus Group** will **NOT** meet in December. The next meeting will be January 25, 2005.

**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 e-mail [tdwied@worldnet.att.net](mailto: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.

**A Parish Potluck** will be held Tuesday, January 4, 6:00PM in the Social Hall. Fried chicken, beverage and table service provided. Please bring a large casserole or dessert to share.

**Regularly scheduled Eucharistic Adoration** will **NOT** be held beginning at 7:00AM Thursday, December 23, until Monday, January 3. The Chapel will be open for prayer throughout the break.



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I have spent the weeks before Advent in the Holy Land, with the community of faithful families, children, teachers and men and women who serve and make up the living stones of the Mother Church. I have witnessed dire economic conditions, houses that cannot qualify as homes for children and children who were very, very afraid. The continued violence, home demolitions, closures, the Separation Wall, and a devastated economy threaten to further reduce an already diminished Christian population.

Our message to the beloved Christians of the Holy Land is: "Brothers and Sisters in Christ, we are one with you. When you suffer, we are pained. When you are abused, we too are ill-used. Until you can live in peace, we will not rest. Through the ecumenical and interfaith witness for peace both in the Holy Land and here in the United States, we are spreading a clearer sense of the oneness of the human family. In faith we believe that, like the seed growing secretly by night, our ecumenism for peace will by God's Grace bear fruit with the dawning of a new day." His Eminence Cardinal McCarrick.

This Advent season, take a moment to support the living stones of our faith. They are surviving in dire conditions and maintaining the Christian faith in the Holy Land against all odds. Daily, they endure the Cross; let us allow them to celebrate Christmas, the Good News of the birth of our Lord, in His birthplace, by your gift of financial support.

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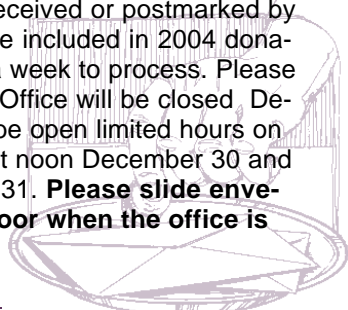
Holy Land Ecumenical Foundation

We, the members of Connectus of Saint Cecilia, ask that you consider a contribution in support of the Christians in the Holy Land through "The Jerusalem Fund". Donations may be placed in an envelope labeled "Jerusalem Fund" and dropped into the collection basket or taken to the parish office. A contribution to this fund is most appreciated during the Advent season and throughout the year.

Thanks for your generosity,  
Connectus

### End of Year Giving

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 be closed, December 24, and 27, and 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.**



## YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST

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

Each hour you spend with Jesus will DEEPEN HIS DIVINE PEACE within your heart. "Come to Me all of you who are weary and find life burdensome and I will refresh you..." "Cast all of your anxieties upon the Lord, who cares for you." (Mt 11:28; 1 Pt 5:7; Jn 14:17)

## 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.



**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.

**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.

## SAINT CECILIA PARISH COOKBOOK

**Wanted: Your favorite recipes for a parish wide cookbook.** The more recipes the better!

Please type recipes or print clearly, giving clear, concise instructions. Recipes may be placed in drop boxes by the school or parish offices. Proceeds will go toward the Building Fund.



## 4th Sunday of Advent

As a professional uncle and amateur baby-sitter, I can tell you with absolute authority that it is almost impossible to distract a 4-year old from a favorite TV show or a good snack with promises of something better in a little while. Their intensity and concentration is amazing, and nothing short of a lightning bolt or power failure will keep them from completing what they want to do!

The readings this week really help focus our attention on the final days of Advent.



The prophecies and details of the birth of Jesus remind us that this is a long-awaited event. The promise of a Messiah has been the focus of hope for many years, and despite the distractions of war, persecution, false prophets and infidelity. God promised, the people believed and then, they waited.

Staying focused on the here and now, or on the task at hand, can be difficult, requiring concentration and determination, especially if you add a few distractions. In these last few days of Advent, we walk with those who waited

for so long for the coming of the Messiah. Don't be distracted by the preparations, and the busyness of the season. Use it to remind yourself often of the reason for the wait. God promised. He will do as He says.

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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.

## SEARCHING FOR A NEW YEAR RESOLUTION?

How about a spiritual renewal retreat: Christian Experience Weekends (CEW) consisting of presentations, reflection, liturgies and other activities are scheduled at Our Lady's Immaculate Heart in Ankeny. The weekends will be held February 4-6 & March 4-6 for women and February 18-20 for men. Brochures are available in the Social Hall Hallway literature rack. Call Debbie at 515-597-2263 if you have questions.

*Please be  
Praying for...*

Those in our parish and the community who are ill.

## NOTICE

### Holiday Parish Office Hours

December 24: closed  
December 27: closed  
December 28: limited hours  
December 29: limited hours  
December 30: close at noon  
December 31: closed

Please remember in your prayers:  
**MARGARET LANG**, who recently passed away. May the Lord grant peace and consolation to her family in their time of need. May she, and all who sleep in Christ, find in God's presence, light, happiness and peace.



## Mass Intentions for the Week

### Saturday, December 18

5:00PM: Saint Cecilia Parishioners

### Sunday, December 19

8:00AM: George Rickerl

9:30AM: Camilla Frame

11:15AM: Jack Carr

### Tuesday, December 21

7:00AM: Ernest M. Schadffer

### Wednesday, December 22

7:00AM: St. Rita Circle

### Thursday, December 23

7:00AM: Germaine Mullenbach

### Friday, December 24

4:00PM: Ed Wasel

6:30PM: Marcia Cox

11:30PM: John & Theresa Hudak

### Saturday, December 25

10:00AM: Jack Gehm

### Sunday, December 26

8:00AM: Saint Cecilia Parishioners

9:30AM: Deceased members of  
Knights of Columbus

11:15AM: Blair C. Johnson

## 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

### Readings for the Week of December 19, 2004

**Sunday:** Is 7:10-14/ Rom 1:1-7/ Mt 1:18-24

**Monday:** Is 7:10-14/ Lk 1:26-38

**Tuesday:** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/ Lk 1:39-45

**Wednesday:** 1 Sm 1:24-28/ Lk 1:46-56

**Thursday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/ Lk 1:57-66

**Friday:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/ Lk 1:67-79

**Saturday:** Vigil: Is 62:1-5/ Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/  
Mt 1:1-25

Midnight: Is 9:1-6/ Ti 2:11-14/ Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12/ Ti 3:4-7/ Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10/ Heb 1:1-6/ Jn 1:1-18

**Next Sunday:** Sir 3:2-7, 12-14 / Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/  
Mt 2:13-15, 19-23