

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

First Eucharist required parent/guardian/child meeting:

Monday, January 3, 6:10-7:30PM, Church **OR**

Wednesday, January 5, 4-5:30PM, Church

Grades 7 & 8

Wednesday, 7-8:20PM

January dates: 5, 12, 19

Youth Ministry

Grades 9-12

Sunday, 7-8:30PM

January dates: 9, 16, 23, 30

★ **Teen Mass: January 8, 5:00PM**. We need a good representation of youth to make this special for the guests from the Methodist Youth Group. Refreshments served following Mass.

Youth 2000 Rally Scheduled for January 14-16.

Sign-up deadline is January 3. Contact Joe for details

Appalachia Trip: July 30-August 6

Sign-up deadline and first planning meeting is **January 31, 7:00PM**, in the Social Hall.

R.U.S.S.H.

January 5: Cook at the homeless shelter; call Joe to sign-up.

January 12: Card tournament, 7:00PM, A/Y room. Snacks provided.

January 19: Movie night at North Grand 5. Meet 6:30PM, A/Y room.

January 26: Bowling at Memorial Union. Meet 6:00PM in the A/Y room. Call Joe to sign-up for lane reservation.

Adult Education

Scripture Study: Meets Mondays, 7:30-9:00PM in the Adult/Youth room. Scripture study will not meet December 27. Next Session: January 3.

Sunday Scripture Study Group: Meets 10:15-11:15AM, St. Francis Library. This group discusses the historical and social context of the readings for the following Sunday and shares personal implications of the readings for those present. Will not meet December 28. Next Session: January 4.

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

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.



NEW YEAR 'S DAY

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.

TEEN MASS SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, 5:00PM

MEETINGS/EVENTS

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 salad or dessert to share.

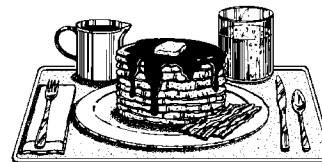


Sanctity of Life Committee will meet Sunday, January 2, 9:00AM in the Parlors.

St. Gerard Circle will meet Thursday, January 6, 7:00PM at Briardale Square Clubhouse, 1414 Truman Place. Guest speaker, Jessica Reidl, will talk about Habitat for Humanity. If you are not a circle member but would be interested in attending this presentation please contact Melissa Bortle at 232-8354.

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

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.



Parish Breakfast

January 9

After 8:00 & 9:30AM Masses

Fundraiser for Growing Families Mission
Trip to Mexico
in June of 2005

YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST

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

Jesus will give you ALL THE GRACES YOU NEED to be happy in life. "The Lamb on the Throne will shepherd them. He will lead them to springs of life-giving water" (Rev 7:17)

OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

Catechist Needed for Wednesday afternoon classes. Fifth grade class meets from 4-5:20PM. Please call John at 232-3514 if interested. Additional substitute catechists for Monday evenings, Wednesday afternoons and evenings are also needed.

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.

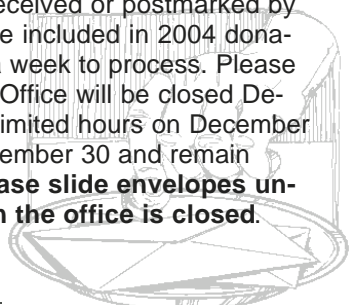


Removing of the Greens

Volunteers Needed to remove the decorations and poinsettias following 11:15AM Mass, Sunday, January 9.

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 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.**



Feast of the Holy Family, December 26, 2004



It was an ordinary wedding, yet the local TV and newspaper were both there to cover it. The bride walked down the aisle to the sounds of camera clicking, and the hushed voices of reporters. What captured their attention was the wedding gown. Worn by scores of women, it has been in the family for over 100 years, each wedding meticulously recorded in the family Bible. The women shared a special bond with the new bride, joined

together by the common thread of marriage and family.

The picture of family life that Scripture portrays focuses on unity. Each member has a role to play, and that role contributes to the overall goodness and happiness of the family. Love for each other is measured by virtues that foster unity. Both the book of Sirach and St. Paul describe relationships that are in harmony and balance.

As we struggle with the political business of redefining marriage, we need to remember that the wisdom of the ages will not be undone by so-called civil rights. Closeness is a poor substitute for the unity God intended. The love of husband and wife, living in harmony with their children, best imitates the loving and creating power of God. It takes more than a politician or a change of law to equal that.

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Fundraiser The Youth Ministry department has a "Perpetual Can Redemption Fund". YOU CAN HELP by taking your cans to the Redemption Center on E. Lincoln Way and telling them to give credit to the Youth Ministry Account. Drop boxes are available by the Pop Machine near the St. Francis Library.



Visit us on the web — www.stceciliaparish.org



Parish Office Hours

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

Parish Office Phone: 233-3092; fax: 233-6423

School Office: 232-5290

Religious Education Office: 233-3514



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.

January 2, 2005

Prior to a game, many sportscasters talk about what strategy one team needs in order to win the game. They focus on one particularly good player, or they will highlight something that one team does exceptionally well, and then explain what the opposing team must do to stop them from succeeding. Sometimes the announcers are correct and other times they are surprised. That's what keeps sports interesting.



Epiphany

The Epiphany reminds us that God has a plan that even takes into account the stubborn and cruel Herod. The Magi are led by the star, guided safely by Divine Providence. We follow in their footsteps as we walk the journey of faith, following our star which is Jesus himself. The opposition of sin has already been defeated and our strategy is to remain faithful, alert and willing to heed the call of the Lord.

God has a strategy of His own and there is nothing that can stop Him. His plan will not be foiled by sin, or failure, or the lack of virtue on the part of we who follow Him. Once set in motion, God's plan unfolds as He sees fit. His grace will always succeed, even if we are stubborn, or distracted by other things. If we follow God's plan, we will always succeed!

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STILL TRYING TO DECIDE ON A NEW YEAR RESOLUTION?

How about working on your relationship with God? Here's a wonderful opportunity!! Christian Experience Weekends (CEW) are being held at Our Lady's Immaculate Heart in Ankeny 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.

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.

RETRouvaille

Does your marriage cause you stress? Do you want a chance to eliminate the pain: If both of you want a meaningful relationship, please consider participating in a Retrouvaille (Rediscovery) weekend. The next session will start on Friday evening, January 14 in Waverly and end on Sunday afternoon, January 16. A Retrouvaille weekend will also be held in Dubuque, April 15-17. Please call Dick & Joyce Smith at 800-470-2230 or 563-875-8791 for confidential information.

Mass Intentions for the Week

- Sunday, December 26**
 - 8:00AM: Saint Cecilia Parishioners
 - 9:30AM: Deceased members of Knights of Columbus
 - 11:15AM: Blair C. Johnson
- Tuesday, December 28**
 - 7:00AM: Jim & Penny Sullivan
- Wednesday, December 29**
 - 7:00AM: Roger Newburn
- Thursday, December 30**
 - 7:00AM: Raymond & Marie Frank
- Friday, December 31**
 - 7:00AM: Gene Kasper
- Saturday, January 1**
 - 9:00AM: Ralph Judge
- Sunday, January 2**
 - 8:00AM: Saint Cecilia Parishioners
 - 9:30AM: Youth of the area
 - 11:15AM: Ronald Laws
- Tuesday, January 4**
 - 7:00AM: Jack Gehm
- Wednesday, January 5**
 - 7:00AM: Linus Putz
- Thursday, January 6**
 - 7:00AM: Lois Richert
- Friday, January 7**
 - 4:00PM: Rose Marie Hadaway
- Saturday, January 8, Teen Mass**
 - 5:00PM: Susan Mullaly
- Sunday, January 9**
 - 8:00AM: Rose Banford
 - 9:30AM: Richard Lang
 - 11:15AM: Saint Cecilia Parishioners

Prayer Opportunities

- 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

Readings for the Week of December 26, 2004

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

Monday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/ Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:5-2:2/ Mt 2:13-18

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/ Lk 2:22-35

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/ Lk 2:36-40

Friday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/ Jn 1:1-18

Saturday: Nm 6:22-27/ Gal 4:4-7/ Lk 2:16-21

Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/ Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/ Mt 2:1-12

Readings for the Week of January 2, 2005

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/ Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/ Mt 2:1-12

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22-4:6/ Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/ Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/ Mk 6:45-52

Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19-5:4/ Lk 4:14-22a

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/ Lk 5:12-16

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/ Jn 3:22-30

Next Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/ Acts 10:34-38/ Mt 3:13-17