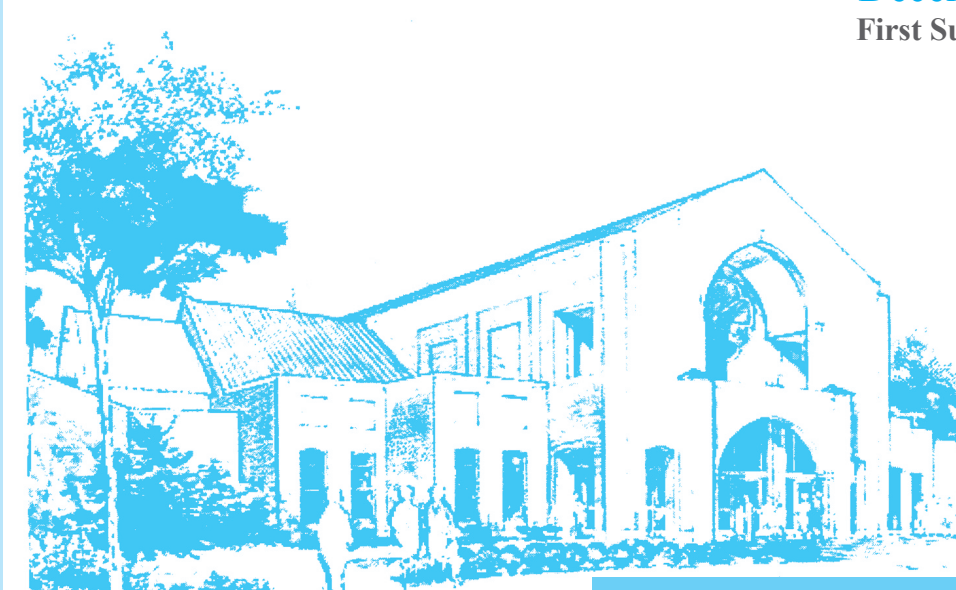


Saint Cecilia Catholic Community

December 1, 2007
First Sunday of Advent



“Building for our Future”

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.

PARISH STAFF

Pastor

Father Ivan Nienhaus
nienhaus@stceciliaparish.org

Deacons

Gary Aitchison, John McCully,
Ron Smith, Richard Tondra

Office..... 233-3092

Jerry Greving, Business Manager
jgreving@stceciliaparish.org

Robert Hauser, Director of Music & Liturgy
bhauser@stceciliaparish.org

Joan Jones, Administrative Assistant
jjones@stceciliaparish.org

Therese Baker, Community Life Coordinator
tbaker@stceciliaparish.org

Rectory.....233-9477

Religious Education.....232-3514

John Hayes, Director
jhayes@stceciliaparish.org

Anna Steele, Coordinator of Youth Ministry
asteel@stceciliaparish.org

Annette Kelch, Secretary
akelch@stceciliaparish.org

School.....232-5290

Duane Siepker, Principal
dsiepker@stcames.com

Lois Vidimos, Administrative Assistant
lvidimos@stcames.com

2900 Hoover Avenue, Ames, IA 50010

www.stceciliaparish.org

Mass Schedule

Weekend: Saturday, 5:00PM

Sunday, 8:30AM & 10:30AM

Sunday: 5:00PM Misa en Español, Chapel

Weekday: Tuesday thru Friday, 7:00AM, Chapel

Reconciliation (Reconciliación) English & Español

Saturday 3:30-4:30 PM or Anytime by appointment

Prayer for Advent

Dear God,
As an Advent candle is lit in joyous anticipation of your Son's nativity, remind us always of the reason for our joy. As the purple of the candles stand for both penance and atonement for sin, give us the grace to do penance for our wrongs and to love Christ, whose sacrifice atoned for the sins of the whole

world. But just as the rose candle stands for joy in the midst of suffering and expectation, give us the joy of your Son, Jesus Christ, who came into a world that had so longed for its Savior, and made the angels themselves sing with joy at his birth. *Amen*

First Sunday in Advent



Religious Education

for the whole parish family

Preschool & Kindergarten

Classes are held the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month during the 10:30AM Mass. December dates: 3, 17

Grades 1-5

Monday, 6:15-7:30PM— December class dates: 3, 10, 17
December 1: First Reconciliation (grade 2)

Wednesday, 4:00-5:15PM — December class dates: 5, 12, 19

Middle School Youth Group - YIKES

Classes Wednesday, 7:00-8:30PM — December dates: 5, 12, 19
Wednesday, December 12: Regular YIKES night. 7:00PM, Multi-purpose room. Join us for some Christmas Cheer. Bring your friends!!!

Visit the Webpage at www.stceciliaparish.org, go to "Middle School Youth Group" for a schedule of activities.

Youth Ministry Grades 9-12

Confirmation Class: Sunday, December 2, 5-7:30PM, A/Y Room
Wednesday, December 19, 7:00-9:00PM High School Confessions (Required for grade 10).

Advent Mini-Retreat: December 8. Come decorate for Christmas and celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception! Cost: \$15 (includes Purity Ring!) 5 Worship Hours for Freshmen & Sophomores. Sign up this week in the R.E. office!

For Youth Ministry information please visit the new website www.freewebs.com/stceciliayouth

Summer Trips Information Meeting

Parents, do you want to send your high schooler on a summer trip? An informational/registration meeting on the 3 summer trips (**Appalachia, Catholic Heart Work Camp and Steubenville of the Rockies**) will be held **Wednesday, December 5, 6:30-7:00PM** in the **Social Hall**. Parents, incoming freshman and out-going seniors are welcome. You may also sign up for the mini-retreat at this meeting.

Adult Education

Scripture Study: Meets Mondays, 7:30-9:00PM in the Adult/Youth room. Next session: November 26

Tuesday Morning Bible Study: Meets in the A/Y Room, 9:30-10:00AM for open discussion and 10-11:00AM for Bible Study. Next session: November 27.

RCIA

For information on joining the Catholic Church, call John at 232-3514.

Baptism Class

Our next preparation session is Thursday, December 6, 6:30-9:00PM in the Adult/Youth Room. **All parents seeking baptism for their child are expected to attend a preparation session.** To register for the class or schedule a baptism, please call the parish office at 233-3092.

Saint Cecilia Choir will practice Saturday, December 8, 9:00-10:30AM in the Music Room. The choir is currently preparing for the Advent/Christmas season. New members always welcome. Your time and talent are greatly appreciated. Call Bob at 233-3092 if interested.

Immaculate Conception

Holy Day Mass Times

Friday, December 7, 5:30PM
Saturday, December 8, 8:30AM

Communal Reconciliation

Sunday, December 16, 7:30PM
Thursday, December 20, 7:30PM

Reconciliation Times at St. Thomas Aquinas

Thursday, December 6, 7:00PM
Tuesday, December 11, 7:00PM

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve

4:00PM, (Children's Liturgy), 6:30PM and Midnight
Christmas Day, 10:00AM

MEETINGS/EVENTS

St. Gerard Circle will meet Thursday, December 6, 7:00PM at Abbington on Grand to sing Christmas Carols. The meeting will follow at the home of Melissa Bortle, 1923 Bel Air Drive. Please bring a white elephant gift to exchange (no more than \$10 value). If you would like to attend the meeting or need a ride, call Janice Grove at 233-2510.

St. Mary Circle will meet Thursday, December 6, 6:30PM for a salad supper at the home of Audrey Marley. Please bring a salad to share. If you need a ride please call Beverly Finnegan (232-4188), Helen Mullenbach (232-9237), or Mary Wirth (232-9462).

Fellowship for Parents/Playgroup meets Wednesdays, 10:00-11:30AM in the A/Y Room. Next session is December 5. Contact Jenni Mortimer at 296-1858 or starkmortimer@yahoo.com or Jon Ryan at 232-2075 or sjryan2@isunet.net. All are welcome to attend.

Sanctity of Life Committee will meet Sunday, December 2, 9:30AM in the St. Francis Library.

Saint Cecilia Widows, Widowers, and Single Seniors will meet for brunch at Café Shi, on Sunday, December 16, 11:45AM. Call Pat Rood at 232-3594 to make a reservation.

Memory Ornaments

The Saint Cecilia 5th Grade Class is selling Memory Tree ornaments to help raise money for the class trip. Ornaments will have a white feather in memory of a deceased individual or a red feather in honor of a living individual. Please be sure to indicate the color of the feather you need. Orders will be taken this weekend and December 8/9. Ornaments will be hung on the Giving Tree until Christmas and can then be picked up. Thank you for your support.



Parish Cook Books \$10

Available in the Parish Office

School News

Friday, December 7: 9:00AM, All School Mass

Thursday, December 13: 7:00PM, Christmas program at Ames City Auditorium (doors open 6:30).



Be Part of the Success

Catholic school students contribute to the future of our communities. Graduates become future parish leaders, members of our parishes and citizens of faith. All families, regardless of their financial situation, deserve the opportunity to choose a Catholic education in one of our Archdiocesan Schools. You can contribute to the *Our Faith, Our Children, Our Future* School Tuition Organization that gives at least 90% of all money raised directly to families whose annual income is at or below 300% of the poverty level and who wish to send their children to Catholic school. You will receive the satisfaction of knowing you have directly helped families, plus an Iowa tax credit equal to 65% of your donation, as well as the ability to claim the gift when you itemize your federal taxes. Everyone wins. For more information or to contribute, go to www.arch.pvt.k12.ia.us, scroll to the bottom of the cover page and click on the link for the School Tuition Organization. Deadline is December 31.

National Night of Prayer for Life

Priests for Life have requested that all churches have Eucharistic Adoration for 4 hours between 9:00PM and 1:00AM in conjunction with the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on December 8. The focus of this prayer night is the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death and includes exposition, adoration, and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, the rosary prayer to St. Michael, other specified prayers and silent meditation. Please join us in the Burke Chapel for any or all hours of this 18th annual National Night of Prayer for Life. Please remember, God is pro-life.

The Giving Tree

Please remember to bring your wrapped and tagged gift with the contents marked and place it under the tree by **NOON ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9**. Organizations will be picking up their gifts on December 10 in time for their holiday parties.



End of Year Giving

Many of our parishioners re-evaluate their giving to Saint Cecilia Parish at year end. For some families, it may be in thanksgiving for the many blessings they received during the year. For others, it is to take advantage of tax incentives. Whatever the case, and because IRS regulations are strict and date sensitive, it is important for you to give your monetary donations on or before December 31. The church can only acknowledge gifts received or postmarked on or before December 31. This is also true of stock donations. Thank you to all those who support Saint Cecilia in time, talent and treasure.

Directory Pictures

Portraits will be taken **December 3 & 4** in the North Social Hall. There are still a few openings before 3:15PM on the 4th. Not enough people signed up for December 10 so that date has been cancelled. If you have not had your picture taken you are welcome to call the office on December 3 & 4 to see if there are cancellations.

Stewardship: "At an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come," says today's Gospel. Good stewards know that they are accountable to God for all they have and are strive to live in readiness for His coming.

The Stewardship Committee will meet Thursday, December 6, 7:00PM in the St. Francis Room as part of an effort to improve their understanding, appreciation and practice of stewardship.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Service Opportunity for Students & Families

Appalachia Committee needs help to load its Christmas truck with toys, clothing and other items Saturday, December 8, 9:30AM at 2019 Pullman St. Young children can help box toys and clothing and older individuals load the truck. New and quality used toys are being collected to be sent to SE Kentucky for distribution to low income families. Appalachia Committee is a non profit organization and has been sending items to Appalachia since 1996. Your donations are tax deductible. Call Dan Bahr if you have questions or visit www.appalachiacommittee.org

Donations Wanted for Birthright

Birthright of Ames offers free infant and maternity clothing to women and children in need. Right now donations are needed to help us stock our clothing room. Especially needed are winter infant clothing up to size 2T (new or used), and maternity clothes for winter. All donations can be dropped off at the Birthright Office at 108 Hayward in campustown Ames. Please help us provide for those in need and make a difference in a child's life. Your gift is tax deductible; just ask for a tax receipt form.

English as a Second Language

Classes are held on Thursday, 10:00AM to 11:30AM and 7:00PM to 8:30PM. Volunteers are needed to dialogue with students learning English. Knowledge of other languages is not necessary. All materials are provided. Contact Deacon John McCully at 232-6755 or call the Parish Office to volunteer.

COMMUNITY

"Music For the Spirit"

by Good Company, Women's Choral Society—Tickets \$8
December 2, 7:00PM, St. Andrews Lutheran Church

"Joy at the Manger"

Ames Choral Society—Tickets \$10
December 9, 3:00PM, St. Andrews Lutheran Church

VOICE

Informational meeting on Voter Owned Iowa Clean Elections
Tuesday, December 4, 7:00PM
Lower Lounge, St. Thomas Aquinas Church

Your Financial Stewardship

November 25, contribution	\$ 13,901
Fiscal YTD	\$ 381,154
Budget YTD	\$ 400,774
November 25, Building Fund	\$ 3,087

An estimated average weekly offering of \$18,217 to the general operating fund is required to balance the Saint Cecilia Budget for fiscal year 2007-2008 (\$965,500).

First Sunday of Advent

A friend recently returned from a visit to Times Square in New York City. He hadn't been there since the early 1980s, and couldn't believe the transformation. What was once a dirty, seedy area of a large city had been transformed into a clean, welcoming environment. "It was almost as if someone had completely flooded the place, washing away the filth," he told me.

On this first Sunday of Advent, Jesus relates his second coming to the flooding of Noah's time. No one knew the flood was coming; likewise, Jesus' second coming will be without warning. But as we prepare for Christmas, let's remember that no one knew when Christ would come for the first time, either. As they waited patiently, they prayed that this Savior would deliver them from the sins of the world around them and offer them hope of life in God's grace.

Each year as the season of Advent begins, we are reminded that this long celebration is but a small representation of the time spent awaiting the first coming of the Messiah. And in doing so, we unite that covenant of hope with our covenant, that Jesus Christ will one day return in glory to judge the living and the dead (CCC 524). Advent is a time of renewal, a time of celebration, but also, in many ways, a time to cleanse ourselves of the world and give thanks for the promise that is the coming of Jesus Christ.

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Catechism of the Catholic Church

PART ONE: THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

SECTION ONE "I BELIEVE"—"WE BELIEVE"

CHAPTER TWO: GOD COMES TO MEET MAN, ARTICLE 2

THE TRANSMISSION OF DIVINE REVELATION. III THE INTERPRETATION OF THE HERITAGE OF FAITH

Growth in understanding the faith paragraph 94/95: Thanks to the assistance of the Holy Spirit, the understanding of both the realities and the words of the heritage of faith is able to grow in the life of the Church:

- "through the contemplation and study of believers who ponder these things in their hearts", it is in particular "theological research [which] deepens knowledge of revealed truth."
- "from the intimate sense of spiritual realities which [believers] experience," the sacred Scriptures "grow with the one who reads them."
- "from the preaching of those who have received, along with their right of succession in the episcopate, the sure charism of truth."
- "It is clear therefore that, in the supremely wise arrangement of God, sacred Tradition, Sacred Scripture and the Magisterium of the Church are so connected and associated that one of them cannot stand without the others. Working together, each in its own way, under the action of the one Holy Spirit, they all contribute effectively to the salvation of souls."



Thank You to our relatives, neighbors, friends, children and grandchildren for making our 40th Wedding Anniversary so special with cards and gifts. We will treasure this day forever in our hearts. God Bless you all.

Paul & Marlene Weigel

Hans Peterson, husband of Ardyce Weigel Petersen and father of Treva, Dale and Rosalie Petersen celebrated his 95th birthday on November 29.



Please remember in your prayers: ELEANOR ELBERT, & SHARON PORTIS BASCH, brother of Jerry Portis, who recently passed away. May the Lord grant peace and consolation to their families in their time of need. May they and all who sleep in Christ, find in God's presence, light, happiness and peace.



Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, December 1

5:00PM: Saint Cecilia Parishioners

Sunday, December 2

8:30AM: Kathy Pelzer

10:30AM: Mary Oberg

5:00PM: All the Poor Souls
(Misa en Español, Chapel)

Tuesday, December 4

7:00AM: Charlie Walsh

Wednesday, December 5

7:00AM: Magdalen Walsh

Thursday, December 6

7:00AM: Leanore Voss

Friday, December 7

7:00AM: Mike Fishenich

9:00AM: Christopher Sillman

5:30PM: Gloria Piconi

Saturday, December 8

8:30AM: Rosemary Beaty

5:00PM: Manuel Joaquin & Niño Gonzales

Sunday, December 9

8:30AM: Saint Cecilia Parishioners

10:30AM: Paul Dougherty

5:00PM: Ann Wiltgen
(Misa en Español, Chapel)

Prayer Opportunities (Held in the Chapel)

Scriptural Rosary: Monday, 7:00AM

Evening Prayer: Monday—Friday, 5:00PM

Eucharistic Adoration: The chapel is open for adoration.

Intercessory Prayer Group: Sunday, 9-10:00PM

Rosary: Monday, 7:30PM, and Tuesday-Friday before 7:00AM Mass. The rosary is said for Pro-life the first Monday of each month.

Christians in the Spirit: Tuesday, 7:15-9:00PM

Saturday Morning Prayer: 7:00AM

Chaplet of Divine Mercy: Friday, 3:00PM

Saint Cecilia Prayer Chain

Send requests to: steciliapayerchain@gmail.com

Readings for the Week of December 2, 2007

Sunday: Is 2:1-5/Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44

Monday: Is 4:2-6/Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24/Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Next Sunday: Is 11:1-10/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

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