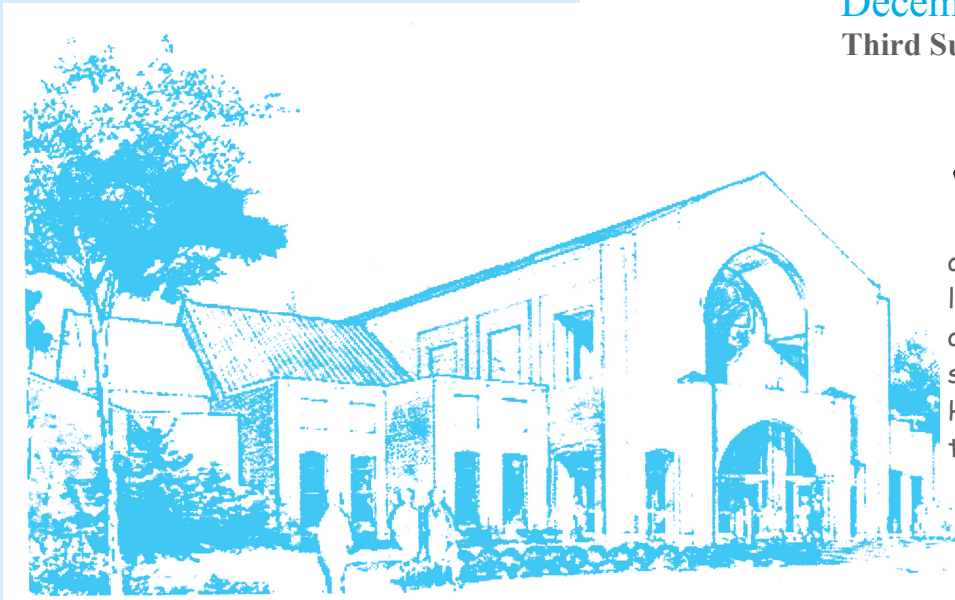


Saint Cecilia Catholic Community

December 16, 2007
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.

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@stcomes.com

Lois Vidimos, Administrative Assistant

Catholic Charities: 515-296-2759

Located at St. Thomas Aquinas

2900 Hoover Avenue, Ames, IA 50010

www.stceciliaparish.org

Fax Number 515-233-6423

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

**Third Sunday
in Advent**

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*



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 date: 16

Grades 1-5

Monday, 6:15-7:30PM— December class date: 17

First Reconciliation Rescheduled to January 12, 10:00AM

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

Middle School Youth Group - YIKES

Classes Wednesday, 7:00-8:30PM — December date: 19

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

Youth Ministry Grades 9-12

Glory: December 19, 7-9:00PM: High School Reconciliation

*Required for 10th graders.

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

RCIA

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

Baptism Class

Our next preparation session is Thursday, February , 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.

Adult Education

Scripture Study: Meets Mondays, 7:30-9:00PM in the Adult/Youth room. Next session: December 17

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: December 18.

Adult Education Series

January 16: *Marriage*, Gary & Kay Aitchison

January 30: *Lent*, Sr. Christine Feagan, O.P.

March 5: *Triduum*, Fr. Everett Hemann

April 16: *Vocations*, Fr. David Schatz



Hanging of the Greens

Decorating the church for Christmas will take place Sunday, December 23, following the 10:30AM Mass.

Mass Times

Christmas Eve

4:00PM, (Family Liturgy), 6:30PM and Midnight

Christmas Day, 10:00AM

New Year's Eve, 4:00PM

New Year's Day, 10:00AM

Communal Reconciliation

Sunday, December 16, 7:30PM

Thursday, December 20, 7:30PM

Individual Confessions*

Monday, December 17: Noon & 7:30PM

Tuesday, December 18: Noon & 7:30PM

Wednesday, December 19: Noon

Thursday, December 20: Noon

Friday, December 21: Noon & 7:30PM

Saturday, December 22, Noon, 3:30PM**, 7:30PM

*Confessions will be heard until the line ends.

**Confessions end by 4:30PM

MEETINGS/EVENTS

Eucharistic Adoration will be suspended from 7:00AM, Friday, December 21 until 7:00AM, **Thursday, January 3.**

Social Concerns Committee will meet Monday, December 17, 7:00PM in the South Social Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Our Lady's Rosary Makers will meet Tuesday, December 18, 9:30AM at the home of Dixie Lickteig. Anyone interested in making rosaries may call 233-1393.

St. Mary Circle will meet Thursday, December 20, 6:30PM 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).

Interfaith Discussion

Join in some post holiday conversation, Sunday, January 6, 2:00PM in the Social Hall when Saint Cecilia will host an Interfaith Dialogue. Anyone over the age of 16 is welcome. New members encouraged. Join with our Jewish and Muslim neighbors for an interesting discussion. Contact Sue Stanton at 515-233-4762 for more information.

Fellowship for Parents/Playgroup

meets Wednesdays, 10:00-11:30AM in the A/Y Room. Next session is December 19. They will not meet December 26 or January 2. 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.

Living With Grief, a community support where you find others who have experienced the death of someone they love will meet, Thursday, December 20, 6:30-8:00PM in the Rose Room at Northcrest Community, 1801, 20th Street.

School News

Christmas break begins December 20
Classes resume, January 3



The Saint Cecilia School would like to wish you a safe and blessed holiday season!

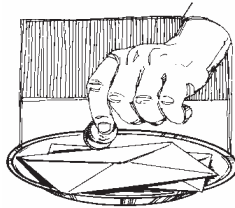
Opportunity to Support Our School

Did you know that you can contribute a portion of your state tax liability in support of Catholic education by giving a gift to the Our Faith, Our Children, Our Future School Tuition Organization? By designating a gift to Saint Cecilia School, you get an Iowa tax credit equal to 65% of the amount of your gift. Tax credits reduce the amount of the taxes you pay to the state by reducing your tax liability dollar for dollar equal to the tax credit you receive. A contribution may also reduce your federal income tax, if you itemize deductions. So, if you give \$1,000 you receive an Iowa tax credit equal to \$650 and if you itemize your federal income tax, you claim the full \$1,000 as a deduction! Download a donor application at 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.

Sing a Noel!! The Children's Choir for the 4:00PM Family Liturgy on Christmas Eve will rehearse Monday, December 17 and Thursday, December 20, 4:00-4:45PM in the Church. If you have any questions, contact Bob Hauser at 233-3092.

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. Because IRS regulations are strict and date sensitive, the church can only acknowledge year end 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.



Olive Wood: Inventory from the Olive Wood Sale is still available. Contact Jane Graham at 515-382-4186.

The Saint Frances Library - Older parishioners often give cherished religious articles to the library. During Advent these can be purchased. Free CD's of the rosary to help your loved ones know and love Jesus are also available.

Pope Benedict's book *Jesus of Nazareth*, which he wrote to correct misreading of the Gospels by some modern thinkers may be checked out.

If there is a book that you would like to donate to the library please contact Rose Tondra at 232-4598.



Parish Cook Books \$10
Pick up several copies for gifts

Available in the Parish Office

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?

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

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.

Bulletin Deadline

Due to early deadlines and office closings a bulletin will not be printed for December 30. The bulletin for December 23 will cover both weekends.

Please send items for the bulletin accordingly:

Deadline for January 6 bulletin—Thursday, December 20

Commission for Community Development & Communication

To meet the challenges and opportunities that come with growth, we have established the Office of Community Development and Communication. This office will work with a community driven commission to establish infrastructure and provide tools that leverage the stewardship of our time, talent, and treasure. At the request of the Board of Education, the Parish Council, and Father Nienhaus, Karen Kerns has been contracted to serve as Director; John Feyerer and Frank Oppold have volunteered to serve as Development and Communication Commission co-chairs. In the coming weeks, you will be hearing more about the activities that will help us to grow and sustain our Catholic community. Please feel free to contact Karen Kerns via e-mail kpiconi@msn.com or by phone at 515-231-8658 with ideas, questions, or information that would further our good work.

Your Financial Stewardship

December 9, contribution	\$ 24,434
Fiscal YTD	\$ 427,565
Budget YTD	\$ 437,208
December 9, Building Fund	\$ 11,051

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).

Third Sunday of Advent

A patient slowly regains consciousness in the recovery room of a hospital after major surgery. The doctor stands over him, monitoring his vital signs, reassuring him that although the procedure was difficult, she was able to save his life. Although he didn't see, hear, or even feel the operation, he knows that he was in good hands with this doctor. His faith in her skills was all that he needed, and because of it, he will have a new outlook on life.

John the Baptist, the last prophet of the covenant of the Old Testament and the first martyr of the new covenant, sits in a prison cell, his fate already determined by King Herod. His one last request is for his own disciples to assure him that Jesus Christ was indeed the Messiah he had long been promising would arrive. Although this may be perceived as a bit of doubt on John's part, it is merely a request for the calming hand of Christ on his shoulder in his hour of need.

Though John was imprisoned, in his faith he was completely free. Such is the example that when we believe in Jesus Christ and the One who sent him, we receive salvation and freedom. Our conversion to faith is a free act as well and must be maintained to the end (CCC 160-161). This Advent season, examine your faith and the room for it in your heart. With faith, you will find that there is not much room for any other earthly desires. But then, what else would you need?

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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 3 SACRED SCRIPTURE

I Christ—The Unique Word of Sacred Scripture, Paragraph 101/102: In order to reveal himself to men, in the condescension of his goodness God speaks to them in human words:

"Indeed the words of God, expressed in the words of men, are in every way like human language. Just as the Word of the eternal Father, when he took on himself the flesh of human weakness, became like men.

Through all the words of Sacred Scripture, God speaks only one single Word, his one Utterance in whom he express himself completely.

- You recall that one and the same Word of God extends throughout Scripture, that it is one and the same Utterance that resounds in the mouths of all the sacred writers, since he who was in the beginning God with God has no need of separate syllables;

Tickets Information for Papal Visit

Pope Benedict XVI plans to visit the U.S. in April of 2008 with stops in Washington D.C. and New York City. The Pope will celebrate Mass at the new Nationals Baseball Park, Thursday, April 17, 10:00AM and at Yankee Stadium in New York on April 20. All ticket requests for these Masses must go through the Archdiocese. The Archdiocese of Dubuque does not know how many tickets are available to these Masses but needs to provide names and addresses of those requesting tickets by January 1. If you are at all interested in applying for tickets to one or both of these Masses at please contact Fr. Nienhaus by Sunday, December 30.

Please remember in your prayers:

THERESA WILLIAMS, mother of Lucille O'Neill, 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 15

5:00PM: Sr. Gene Marie OSF

Sunday, December 16

8:30AM: Gregory & Mildred Gundrum

10:30AM: George Lemanczyk

5:00PM: Saint Cecilia Parishioners
(Misa en Español, Chapel)

Tuesday, December 18

7:00AM: Fred Swank

Wednesday, December 19

7:00AM: Rose Marie Amtower

9:00AM: Albert Siepker

Thursday, December 20

7:00AM: Dan & Barbara Maher

Friday, December 21

7:00AM: Mary O'Brien

Saturday, December 22

5:00PM: The Bonifacio Family

Sunday, December 23

8:30AM: Bob & Mary Myers

10:30AM: Catholic Daughters

5:00PM: Saint Cecilia Parishioners
(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

(The Chaplet takes about 10 minutes to recite)

Saint Cecilia Prayer Chain

Send requests to: stceciliaprayerchain@gmail.com

Birthright,

108 Hayward Avenue, 292-8414

Free Pregnancy tests & counseling

Readings for the Week of December 16, 2007

Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

Monday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17

Tuesday: Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25

Wednesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25

Thursday: Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38

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

Saturday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56

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

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