

Saint Cecilia

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

2900 Hoover Avenue • Ames, IA 50010

www.stceciliaparish.org

November 30, 2008

First Sunday of Advent

Advent

It can be difficult to prepare our lives for Christ amidst the busy preparations of a material Christmas.

The four weeks before Christmas are a time to prepare our families to celebrate Christ's birth:

To prepare our minds to accept that God's Son became a baby and lived and died for us;

to prepare our hearts to accept

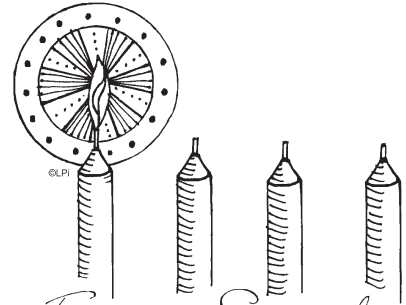
God's forgiveness, and to change our ways;

to prepare our souls to receive

God's healing grace through the celebration of Mass;

to take part in not only the work of preparation

but also the hope and joy in the midst of our work.



*First Sunday
of Advent*

The Journeys of St. Paul

An Adult Education Presentation

Joel Rogers R.C.

Wednesday, December 3, 7:00PM Social Hall

Soup Supper 6:15PM

"Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I passed a night and a day on the deep; on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my own race, dangers from Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers at sea, dangers among false brothers; in toil and hardship, through many sleepless nights through hunger and thirst, through frequent fastings, through cold and exposure." 2 Cor 11: 25-27

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

PreSchool & Kindergarten

Meets First & Third Sundays of the Month during the 10:30AM Mass

Grades 1-5

Monday classes meet 6:15-7:30PM. December dates: 1, 8, 15
Wednesday classes meet 4:00-5:15PM. December dates: 3, 10, 17

Middle School Youth (Grades 6-8)

Classes meet Wednesdays 7:00-8:15PM, December dates: 3, 10, 17
Meet in the Church December 3, for the Sacrament of Reconciliation

YIKES! December 10, 7:00-9:00PM

Youth Ministry Grades 9-12

Classes meet Wednesdays 7:00-8:15PM,
December dates: 3 (attend the Church, Chat & Chow), 10, 17

Teen Mass: December 7, 7:00PM


Glory will not meet November 30

T3 (The Teen Timeline) Scripture Retreat: Saturday, December 6, 1:00-9:00PM. Location to be announced. \$30 for materials and snacks. 5 worship hours. Perfect Advent Kick-off for all high schoolers.

RCIA

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

Baptism Class

 Our next preparation session is **Thursday, December 4**, 6:30-8:30PM in the A/Y 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 A/Y room.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study: Meets 10:00-11:00AM in the A/Y Room. Social time begins at 9:30AM.

Adult Education Presentations are held the 1st Wednesday of each month, 7:00PM in the Social Hall. December 3, **The Journeys of St. Paul** presented by Joel Rogers R.C.

Radical Hospitality

In keeping with the Radical Hospitality presentation given by Fr. Haugen, we will be offering coffee in the Narthex on Sunday mornings. You may drink the coffee in the Narthex or take it with you as you leave. The coffee maker, cups and lids will be situated near the Welcome Table. Please help yourself.



Immaculate Conception Monday, December 8

Mass Times: Sunday, December 7, 4:00PM
Monday, December 8: 7:00AM & 9:00AM

MEETINGS/EVENTS


Eucharistic Adoration

Will resume
7:00AM, Tuesday, December 2.

St. Gerard Circle will meet Thursday, December 4, 7:00PM at Abbingdon on Grand, 3440 Grand Avenue for Christmas Caroling. A meeting will follow at the home of Diana Weber, 1403 Top-O-Hollow. Bring a White Elephant gift (value up to \$10) if you wish to participate in the gift exchange. If you need a ride, or would like to attend, please call Janice Grove at 233-2510.

St. Mary Circle will meet Thursday, December 4, 6:30PM at the home of Audrey Marley for a salad supper. Please bring a salad to share.

Sanctity of Life will meet Sunday, December 7, 9:30AM in the sun Room.

Saint Cecilia Choir will rehearse this upcoming Saturday, December 6, 9:00-10:30AM. The choir is preparing music for the Advent/Christmas season.  New members are always welcome. If you would like more information, please contact Bob Hauser at the parish office (233-3092) or bhauser@stceciaparish.org.

Fellowship for Parents/Playgroup every Wednesday of the month, 10:00-11:30AM in the A/Y room. Contact Jon Ryan at 232-2075 or sjryan2@isunet.net or Jenni Mortimer at starkmortimer@yahoo.com or 296-1858. All are welcome to attend.



Looking for recipe ideas for the Holidays?
Need an inexpensive gift?
Saint Cecilia Parish Cookbook - \$10
Available in the Parish Office

SCHOOL NEWS

Wednesday, December 3: Early dismissal at 2:15PM
Monday, December 8: 9:00AM, All School Mass
Tuesday, December 16: 7:00PM School Christmas concert at Ames, City Auditorium

Look for the school link on the parish website: www.stceciliaparish.org

2009 Kindness Calendar

Saint Cecilia School is currently selling Kindness Calendars for 2009, with the profits going toward charity. The calendars were created by students in the 3rd grade, and give suggestions for an act of kindness for everyday of the year. The calendars will be in time for Christmas and would make great gifts. For more information or to order contact Troy Staudt or the school office

The Giving Tree



Continuing the long tradition of sharing the spirit and hope of the holiday season, the people of Saint Cecilia Parish will celebrate with a "Giving Tree". Over 500 gifts are needed for distribution to the following: The Richmond Center, The Abington on Grand, Mary Greeley Behavioral Health, Riverside Manor, Youth and Shelter Services, Lutheran Social Services and Saint Cecilia Home Ministry. Gift tags are available at the Christmas Market after all Masses this

weekend and remaining tags may be picked up next weekend in the Narthex. A list of suggested items may be picked up along with the tags. Please place your wrapped and tagged gift in the gift boxes in the Narthex no later than 1:00PM, **Sunday, December 7**, so the organizations can pick up their gifts in time for their holiday parties.

Alternative Gift Market

If you are looking for a way to give more meaningful gifts to your family and friends the Alternative Gift Market offers gifts with a conscience. Purchase the necessary supplies to help an African woman have a healthy baby or a wheelchair that gives mobility to people with disabilities in Ecuador. Your recipient will receive an attractive card informing them about the gift given in their honor. You can also provide gifts for those in need in the Ames community by supporting local projects such as FOOD AT FIRST, the EMERGENCY RESIDENCE PROJECT and GLOBAL BUILDERS. All donations purchased through the Alternative Market are tax deductible. If you missed the Christmas Market last weekend, look the Alternative Gift Market display on the bulletin board in the east corridor of the Social Hall. Contact information is on the list and cards and inserts will be delivered to your home or can be made available for pick up at the Parish Office.

Stewardship: We are servants of God, each with his own task. We will be judged good stewards if, at His coming, He finds us ready and conscientiously pursuing the tasks to which we have been called.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Youth Ministry

Volunteers are needed to help with the many activities on a regular or occasional basis. Please contact Anna Steele, Youth Minister.

Birthright of Ames offers free infant and maternity clothing to women and children in need. Right now donations are needed to help stock the clothing room. New or used winter clothing for infants up to size 2T and winter maternity clothes are especially needed. All donations can be dropped off at the Birthright office at 108 Hayward in campustown. Please help 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. Call 292-8414 to arrange a drop-off time.

Restorative Justice

NEEDED: mentors and Circle of Support and Accountability members!! This invitation meeting will be held in the South Social Hall, Tuesday, December 9, 7:00PM. Contact Deacon Ron Smith at 515-441-0480 for more information.

ESL Tutors

Tutors are needed in the English as a Second Language program especially for the **Thursday, 7:00PM session**. Call Karl Gwiasda at 232-7582 to volunteer, or for more information. Most activity is one or two students per tutor and involves visiting and helping with reading. Knowledge of a second language is NOT needed. If you can help with the Thursday 10:00AM session contact Palmer Holden at 231-5543. Those interested may visit one of the sessions to see how easy it is and how much the students appreciate the tutors.

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 money on or before December 31. This is especially true of stock donations. Please call the Parish Office, 233-3092, if you have any questions. Thank you to all who support Saint Cecilia in time, talent and treasure.

Your Financial Stewardship

November 10-November 16

Weekly Contributions (general)	\$21,629
Needed weekly to meet expenses.....	\$19,648
Weekly Contributions (building).....	\$52,549

More detailed information can be shared by contacting Jerry Greiving at the Parish Office. Remember automatic contributions can be made directly from your bank account on the 1st or 15th of each month.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

PART ONE: THE PROFESSION OF FAITH
SECTION TWO, THE CREEDS

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Such syntheses are called "professions of faith" since they summarize the faith that Christians profess. They are called "creeds" on account of what is usually their first word in Latin: *credo* ("I believe"). They are also called "symbols of faith."

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The Greek word *symbolon* meant half of a broken object, for example, a seal presented as a token of recognition. The broken parts were placed together to verify the bearer's identity. The symbol of faith, then, is a sign of recognition and communion between believers. *Symbolon* also means a gathering, collection, or summary. A symbol of faith is a summary of the principal truths of the faith and therefore serves as the first and fundamental point of reference for catechesis.

1st Sunday of Advent

One of my favorite sayings is, "Be the kind of person your dog thinks you are!" Our family has a history of saving dogs from shelters and other certain fates; every single one of them has been the most loyal, friendly, and loving pet. Our latest, Oreo, was found in a barn on a freezing January morning. Only a pup and suffering from frostbite and injuries from other animals, she wasn't given much chance of survival. But twelve years later, she sits and waits by the front door every afternoon for her master to come home.

"Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come." Jesus' seemingly stern warning in today's Gospel reading from Mark is really some very prudent advice. Remember that this was not a sermon to a mass of people; Jesus was speaking privately to Peter, James, John, and Andrew and had just finished describing how humankind will recognize the beginning of the end of times. But his final words tell us not to wait until such signs are apparent; today, and every day, we are to live our lives in great expectation. Be the kind of person our heavenly Father thinks we are!

This is the first Sunday of the season of Advent. During this season, we remember God's first covenant, the centuries of time in which he promised a Messiah, a Savior for the world. And despite the centuries and passing of time, those who believed and waited never lost faith. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that in Advent we share the expectations of those who first waited, and renew our expectation for his second coming (CCC 524). Today and for the rest of our lives, let us live forever in a season of Advent, awaiting the coming of Jesus Christ.

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The Good Samaritan Service provides assistance to parishioners needing help with indoor care, personal services, transportation and outdoor care. If you or your family is in need of one of these services, please fill out a Good Samaritan Service Card and drop it off in the gold box next the parish office. Thanks to all who have volunteered to help with this service. Your efforts are truly appreciated.

Book & Gift Shop

Located in the East Corridor of the Social Center

Prepare for Advent

- Advent wreaths & Candles 20% off
- Pick up Advent Edition of the Magnificat
- Pick up Christmas Cards and Holy Cards to tuck into mailings

Weekly Specials

November 29/30: Pictures & Plaques 20% off

OPEN EACH WEEKEND UNTIL DEC. 21

Saturday: 4-6PM; Sunday: 9:30-Noon
Thursday & Friday: Noon-1:00PM
or Call for appointment (233-3092)

Welcome to Saint Cecilia Catholic Community

Please use this form to request a registration packet or to change personal information.
Name and address the way you would like it to appear on a mailing label.

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone (Day) _____ (Eve) _____ Cell) _____ E-Mail _____

Other Changes _____

Please return via mail or drop in the collection basket.

Send registration packet

Update information



Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, November 29

5:00 PM: Edward & Paul Shevokas

Sunday, November 30

8:30 AM: Kathy Pelzer

10:30 AM: Saint Cecilia Parishioners

5:00 PM: For an End to Abortion
Misa en Español (Chapel)

Tuesday, December 2

7:00 AM: James F. Lowery

5:15 PM: George Thorington

Wednesday, December 3

7:00 AM: Shirley Sibley

5:15 PM: Ron Rassmussen

Thursday, December 4

7:00 AM: Angelita Bonifacio

5:15PM: George Brcka

Friday, December 5

7:00 AM: Edith Oxford

5:15 PM: Msgr. William Schulte & Family

Saturday, December 6

5:00 PM: Edward & Beulha Lukes

Sunday, December 7

8:30 AM: Mr & Mrs Robert Bonifacio & Children (in Thanksgiving)

10:30 AM: Doug Conley

4:00PM: Msgr. Bernard Collins (Holy Day)

5:00 PM: For an Increase in Vocations
Misa en Español (Chapel)

Prayer Opportunities

Prayer opportunities held in the Chapel.

Scriptural Rosary Monday 7:00 AM

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

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

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

Chaplet of Divine Mercy Friday 3:00 PM

Liturgy of the Hours Saturday 7:00 AM

Eucharistic Adoration The chapel is open daily.

Keypad access only between 10:00PM & 6:00AM. Call the parish office (233-3092) for access information.

Prayer Chain

Send requests to Marge Sutter at 233-2622 or
stceciliaprayerchain@gmail.com.

Readings for the Week of November 30, 2008

Sunday: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37

Monday: Is 2:1-5/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: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Mt 9:35---10:1, 5a, 6-8

Next Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

Mass Schedule

Weekend: Saturday 5:00 pm; Sunday 8:30, 10:30 am & 5:00 pm (Misa en Español)

Weekday: Tuesday-Friday 7:00 am & 5:15 pm (Chapel)

Reconciliation

Saturday 3:30-4:30 pm and by appointment.

Parish Office

HoursMonday-Friday 8:00 am-5:00 pm

Phone (515) 233-3092

Fax (515) 233-6423

Rectory (515) 233-9477

Parish Staff

Pastor Father Ivan Nienhaus
nienhaus@stceciliaparish.org

Deacons Gary Aitchison, John McCully,
Ron Smith & Richard Tondra

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

Business Manager..... Jerry Greving
jgreving@stceciliaparish.org

Bookkeeper..... Char VanKerckvoorde
cvankerc@stceciliaparish.org

Administrative Assistant Joan Jones
jjones@stceciliaparish.org

Religious Education

Phone (515) 232-3514

Director of Religious Education John Hayes
jhayes@stceciliaparish.org

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

Secretary Annette Kelch
akelch@stceciliaparish.org

School

Phone (515) 232-5290

PrincipalDr. Tom Budnik
tbudnik@stceciliaparish.org

Administrative Assistant Lois Vidimos
lvidimos@stceciliaparish.org

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www.birtright.org

Parish Registration

If you attend Saint Cecilia Parish and have not registered, please contact the parish office or visit the website and download a registration form at: www.stceciliaparish.org. Completed forms may be dropped in the collection basket, returned in person or by mail.

Parish Hall Rental

Rent our facilities for parties, weddings, birthdays, etc. Contact the Reception Coordinator, Judy Trumpy at 233-3092 (parish office) or jmtrumpy@gmail.com.

www.stceciliaparish.org

Saint Cecilia Catholic Church, 2900 Hoover Avenue, Ames, IA 50010