

# Saint Cecilia

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

2900 Hoover Avenue • Ames, IA 50010

[www.stceciliaparish.org](http://www.stceciliaparish.org)

November 29, 2009

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



### Immaculate Conception

**Tuesday, December 8**

7AM,  
9AM (School Mass)  
7:30PM.

### Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve  
4:00PM, 6:30PM, Midnight

Christmas Day  
10:00AM

### Reconciliation

Sunday, December 6: 2PM

Communal Reconciliation (with private confessions)

Tuesday, December 15: 7:00PM

Communal Reconciliation (with private confessions)

Private Reconciliation

Saturday, December 12 & 19,  
3-4:30 PM

Monday, December 21, 6:30-7:30 PM

Tuesday, December 22, 11 AM-12 noon

Wednesday, December 23,  
11AM - 12 noon  
5-6 PM

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### Religious Education & Youth Ministry Registration

Registration for Religious Education and Youth Ministry programs is currently taking place in the Religious Education Office 8:00AM-4:00PM Monday—Friday.

**LIFE TEEN welcomes all High Schoolers  
Meets from 6:30-9PM each Sunday!**

**November 29:** So you Think You Can Dance? *Social*

**December 6:** On Loan: *Stewards of Creation*

**December 13:** Big Feet: *Charity & Justice*

[www.saintcecilielifeteen.net](http://www.saintcecilielifeteen.net)

*Discussion Questions for Families will be available each week at  
<http://www.saintcecilielifeteen.net/parents>*

**Ninth Grade Confirmation Calendar:**

**December 2:** *I Am/ The Existence of God*

**Tenth Grade Confirmation Calendar:**

**December 2:** *More Than Words/Personal Prayer*

**December 16:** *Theology of the Body/Chastity & Purity*

**\*\*MIDDLE SCHOOL R.E. meets from 7 to 8:30PM  
on the 1st, 3rd, & 4th Wednesdays!!\*\***

**December 2:** The Prodigal Son

**December 16:** Reconciliation

**YIKES:**

**December 9:** Ice Skating Party

**RCIA**

Call John Hayes for information about joining the Catholic Church at 232-3514.

### Baptism Class

Our next preparation session is **Thursday, December 3**, 6:30-8:30PM in the A/Y Room. **All parents seeking baptism for their child are expected to attend a preparation session even though they may have attended previously.** 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 North Social Hall.

**Bible Study in Spanish:** Meets Mondays, 6:00-7:00PM in the North Social Hall.

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

**At Home with the Word**, an aid to understanding the Sunday Scriptures is available for those who ordered it in the Religious Education office.



### Advent: Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Below is the schedule both for Communal Celebrations of the Sacrament of Reconciliation as well as Individual Celebrations.

With fewer priests available, please if at all possible, plan to participate in one of the Communal liturgies.

#### COMMUNAL CELEBRATIONS.

Tuesday, December 1, 7 p.m., St. Thomas Aquinas

Sunday, December 6, 2 p.m., St. Cecilia

Thursday, December 10, 7 p.m., St. Thomas Aquinas

Tuesday, December 15, 7 p.m., St. Cecilia

#### INDIVIDUAL CELEBRATIONS.

Saturday afternoons, December 12 & 19, 3-4:30 p.m.

(Please, no confessions after 4:30 p.m. to allow me time to prepare for 5 p.m. Mass. This is why I have added an extra half-hour on the front end of the schedule.)

Monday, December 21, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 22, 11 a.m.-12 noon

Wednesday, December 23, 11 a.m. - 12 noon

5-6 p.m.

Please plan to celebrate the sacrament early in the Advent season. Don't wait until the "last minute." The whole season is one of preparation, not just the days immediately preceding Christmas. We all decorate our houses early, why not prepare our hearts early as well?

### Proposed Garage Remodel

You are invited to attend an open house after all Masses December 5 & 6 at the Parish Office to better visualize the proposed remodel of the parish garage area into meeting rooms. Some members of the facilities committee will be available to address questions.

**BULLETIN DEADLINES:** Our printer has changed the deadlines for bulletins due to the Christmas holidays. The deadline for items for the combined **December 19/20** and **December 26/27** bulletin is **December 10**. The deadline for the **Jan. 2/3** bulletin is **December 18**. Please submit items as soon as possible; we will keep them on file. Our regular schedule, with deadline for items on Monday at noon, will resume after the January 2/3 bulletin. Thank you for your cooperation.

### Immaculate Conception Tuesday, December 8

Mass Times: Tuesday, December 8 at 7:00AM,  
9AM (All-School) and 7:30PM.

## SCHOOL NEWS

### School Calendar:

Wednesday, 12/2: Early Dismissal at 2:15PM

Tuesday, 12/8: All-School Mass at 9AM

Wednesday 12/9: Early dismissal at 2:25PM

### Preschool Teacher Wanted

Due to a resignation, St. Cecilia Preschool is in need of a full-time teacher to begin as soon as possible. Teacher must hold an Iowa PK-3 license, with preference given to Catholic applicants. Send letter of application and resume to Dr. Tom Budnik, Principal St. Cecilia School, 2900 Hoover Ave, Ames, IA 50010. Inquires may also be directed to 515-232-5290 or [tbudnik@stceciliaschoolames.org](mailto:tbudnik@stceciliaschoolames.org)

### It's All about Helping Families Afford the School of Their Choice

The *Our Faith, Our Children, Our Future School Tuition Organization* has provided tuition assistance to more than 5,000 students representing every Catholic school in the Archdiocese of Dubuque. You can help us continue to help families afford the school of their choice. With your donation you receive an Iowa tax credit equal to 65% of your donation. The entire amount you contribute also qualifies as a charitable donation on your federal tax return. All donations must be postmarked by December 31 in order to qualify for the tax credit in 2009. No student should be denied a Catholic education because of the inability to pay. Please consider using this incredible opportunity to make a difference in a child's future. Visit [www.OurFaithSTO.org](http://www.OurFaithSTO.org) or call 563-556-2580 ext. 256, for more information or to make your contribution.

### School Calendars

Saint Cecilia School will be selling calendars created by our own 3rd grade class once again this year. The calendar follows the school theme of "Think, Act, and Do the Right Thing!" Every day includes suggestions based on monthly themes. Calendars make great gifts this time of year, and the proceeds will go to a local charity to be chosen by the third grade. To order, contact Troy Staudt, [tstaudt@saintceciliaschoolames.org](mailto:tstaudt@saintceciliaschoolames.org) or the school office at 515-232-5290

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

### YIKES Leaders Needed!!

Adult leaders are needed to help with our monthly, middle school youth groups. Our only qualifications: you must love Christ & must love middle schoolers!!

### World Youth Day 2011

Please contact Anna by December 1st if you are interested in attending World Youth Day in August 2011 in Madrid, Spain, with a possible pre-trip to Rome & Assisi. Cost of the trip will be between \$3500 & \$4500. Deposits of \$200 needed ASAP to attend. Participants must be 16 by August 2011. Young adults encouraged to attend. Fund-raising will begin in 2010!

**Needed: Tutors for English as a Second Language (ESL)** No experience needed. Thursday 10:00-11:30 & 7:00-8:30. For additional information call Palmer Holden, Morning Coordinator -515-233-3707 or Karl Gwiasda, Evening Coordinator- 515-232-7582.

## MEETINGS & EVENTS

### Have you considered becoming a Deacon?

Jesus said, "Come and See." Jn 1:39 The office of the Permanent Diaconate is recruiting married or single men interested in becoming Permanent Deacons. The call to the diaconate is a call to a vocation. It requires prayer, commitment, and dedication. Interested men between the ages of 32 & 58, and their wives if married, are invited to attend an information meeting on **Thursday, Dec. 3** at Saint Cecilia Parish, Ames at 7:00 For more information call Deacon Tom Lang at 1-800-876-3546 ext 252.

**Saint Mary's Circle** will have a Christmas Salad Supper on December 3 at 6:30PM at Audrey Marley's home, 1502 Meadowlane Ave.

**Saint Gerard's Circle** will meet on Thursday, December 3 at 7:00PM for Christmas Caroling at The Abbington on Grand. After caroling, we will meet at Diana Weber's house, 1403 Top-O-Hollow Road. We will have a white elephant gift exchange for anyone who would like to join in—no more than \$10. If you would like a ride, or would like to come to the meeting, please call Janice Grove at 233-2510.

**Fellowship For Parents/Playgroup** meets every Wednesday from 10:00-11:30AM in the **South Social Hall**. Contact Jon Ryan at [sjryan2@isunet.net](mailto:sjryan2@isunet.net) or 232-2075 or Jenni Mortimer at [starkmortimer@yahoo.com](mailto:starkmortimer@yahoo.com) or 296-1858. All are welcome to attend.

**The Knights of Columbus** are sponsoring an *Immaculate Conception Novena* from November 30-December 8 at 7:00PM each evening in the Burke Chapel here at St. Cecilia Parish. Everyone is welcome.

**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 600 gifts are needed for distribution to the following: The Richmond Center, Abbington on Grand, Riverside Manor, Mary Greeley Behavioral Health, Lutheran Social Service, Youth and Shelter Services and Saint Cecilia Home Ministry. Remaining tag ornaments may be picked up in the Narthex this weekend. Please place your wrapped and tagged gift in the large gift boxes located in the Narthex **no later than noon, Sunday, December 6**, so the organizations can pick up their gifts in time for their holiday parties.



### Interfaith Dialogue Time Again

The Saint Cecilia Interfaith dialogue will be Sunday, December 13 from 2-4PM at Saint Cecilia's. Discussion of holiday traditions will be on the menu. For further information contact Sue Stanton at: [merton420@hotmail.com](mailto:merton420@hotmail.com)

### End of the 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 receive 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.

# Catechism of the Catholic Church

## PART ONE: SECTION TWO

### CHAPTER ONE - I BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER

#### Article 1— I Believe in God the Father, Creator of Heaven & Earth

##### Paragraph 4. The Creator

#### IV. The Mystery of Creation

*God Creates by Wisdom and Love*

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Scripture bears witness to faith in creation "out of nothing" as a truth full of promise and hope. Thus the mother of seven sons encourages them for martyrdom:

I do not know how you came into being in my womb. It was not I who gave you life and breath, nor I who set in order the elements within each of you. Therefore the Creator of the world, who shaped the beginning of man and devised the origin of all things, will in his mercy give life and breath back to you again, since you now forget yourselves for the sake of his laws. . . . Look at the heaven and the earth and see everything that is in them, and recognize that God did not make them out of things that existed. Thus also mankind comes into being.

### Archdiocesan Education Development Fund

During November, residents throughout the Archdiocese of Dubuque will receive in the mail the annual appeal brochure for the Archdiocesan Education Development Fund. Please take the time to read the enclosure and return the card with your tax-deductible donation.

The Educational Development Fund was developed for the purpose of supporting the educational programs in the Archdiocese of Dubuque. This is the twenty-third year that grants have been awarded. Over \$5.75 million has been distributed since the Education Development Fund was established. Grants are made possible through the generous donations of contributors and parishioners throughout the Archdiocese. During the 2008-09 program year the Educational Development Board distributed \$350,000 in tuition assistance and minority grants and an additional \$60,000 for catechists' formation resources and leadership development.

Please support the Educational Development program of the Archdiocese with your treasure and prayers.

Please consider donating to this fund that directly impacts the educational programs in the schools and parishes of the Archdiocese. For additional information concerning the Educational Development Fund or making a contribution toward Catholic Education, contact the Office of Educational Development, 1229 Mt. Loretta Avenue, P.O. Box 479, Dubuque, IA 52004-0479, or phone 563.556.2580, or email: dbqcDevDir@arch.pvt.k12.ia.us

**At Home With the Word 2010** is a guide to a deeper understanding of the Sunday readings. Cost is \$6, due when the book is picked up. To obtain a copy, call the Religious Education Office, 232-3514.

**Stewardship:** "Be on Guard," Jesus warns in today's Gospel, "lest your spirits become bloated with indulgence." Let us heed His warning and follow the advice of St. Paul, conducting ourselves in a way pleasing to God, overflowing with love for one another.

### 1st Sunday of Advent

Christians always end up with this cultural collision this time of year. While we begin a new liturgical year with the First Sunday of Advent, we find ourselves approaching the final month of the civil year. While we struggle to focus on the religious meaning of one of the central events of our salvation—the birth of the Savior—we are overwhelmed by the crass commercialism of the "holiday" season. Even the sacred names that originated the feasting get pushed to the side in favor of what is perceived to be less offensive nomenclature.

Maybe that's as it should be as we begin Advent. The Gospel readings provided for the final Sundays of the church year and the beginning of the new one invite us to consider what will happen at the end of time. This Advent in particular, for the first three Sundays, the focus is on justice—God's justice, which is brought to completion when the Lord returns in glory.

In the meantime, we wait, sometimes patiently, and sometimes impatiently, like shoppers ready to take advantage of the first "door-busters" of the season. We could bemoan the lack of religiosity in this run-up to Christmas. Or we could use it to our advantage. It doesn't take much to express our faith this time of year. A cheerful greeting of "Merry Christmas" in the check-out line; a teaching moment with children when passing a store display of manger scenes; including religious emblems in our lawn displays; singing a Christmas carol for meal prayer each night: these are all ways that we can easily express our faith in the midst of the culture. The Gospel commands, "Be vigilant at all times." In our vigilance we can look for ways to express faith at every opportunity.

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*November*



*Our Unseen Family Still Seated at the Table*

Please remember to pick up the photos of your loved ones *at the end of the month at the parish office.*

**Saint Cecilia Choir** rehearses on Saturday mornings from 9AM-10:30AM in the music room of the Education Center. The choir is currently preparing for the Advent/Christmas season. New members always welcome. Any questions, contact Bob Hauser at 233-3092.

### 2010 Census Information

With the U.S. Census process beginning, the Better Business Bureau (BBB) advises people to be cooperative, *but cautious*, so as not to become a victim of fraud or identity theft. The first phase of the 2010 U.S. Census is under way as workers have begun verifying the addresses of households across the country. Eventually, more than 140,000 U. S. Census workers will attempt to count every person in the United States and will gather information about every person living at each address, including name, age, gender, race, and other relevant data.

The big question is: How do you tell the difference between a U.S. Census worker and a con artist? The Better Business Bureau offers the following advice: If a U.S. Census worker knocks on your door, they will have the following: 1) Badge, 2) Hand-held device, 3) Census Bureau canvas bag and 4) Confidentiality notice.



# Mass Intentions for the Week

## Saturday, November 28

5:00PM: Rose & Al Trevelino †

## Sunday, November 29

8:30AM: Kathy Pelzer †

10:30AM: Parishioners of Saint Cecilia

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

## Tuesday, December 1

7:00 AM: Poor Souls

5:15PM: Germaine Mullenbach†

## Wednesday, December 2

7:00AM: Doris Neuroth †

5:15PM: Linus Putz †

## Thursday, December 3

7:00AM: Shirley Reece †

5:15PM: Ron Rasmussen †

## Friday, December 4

7:00AM: Henry Adams †

5:15PM: Frank Pershon †

## Saturday, December 5

5:00PM: Marty Bruckner

## Sunday, December 6

8:30AM: Parishioners of Saint Cecilia

10:30AM: Doug Conley †

5:00PM: Lillian Johnson †

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 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 or to sign up for an adoration hour.

## Prayer Chain

Send requests to Marge Sutter at 233-2622 or  
[stceciliapraychain@gmail.com](mailto:stceciliapraychain@gmail.com).

## Readings for the Week of November 29, 2009

Sunday: Jer 33:14-16/1 Thes 3:12---4:2/Lk 21:25-28,  
34-36

Monday: Rom 10:9-18/Mt 4:18-22

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: Bar 5:1-9/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6

## Mass Schedule

**Weekend:** Saturday 5:00 PM; Sunday 8:30, 10:30 AM & 5:00 PM (Misa en Español)

**Weekday:** Tuesday-Friday 7:00AM & 5:15 PM (Chapel)

## Reconciliation

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

## Parish Office

Hours.....Monday-Friday 8:00 AM-4:30 PM

Phone..... (515) 233-3092

Fax ..... (515) 233-6423

Rectory ..... (515) 233-9477

[www.stceciliaparish.org](http://www.stceciliaparish.org)

## Parish Staff

**Pastor** ..... Father James Secora  
jsecora@stceciliaparish.org

**Deacons** ..... Gary Aitchison, Alan Christy  
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** ..... Kathy Best  
kbest@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** ..... Patty Streit  
pstreit@stceciliaparish.org

## School

Phone ..... (515) 232-5290

**Principal** ..... Dr. Tom Budnik  
tbudnik@stceciliaschoolames.org

**Administrative Assistant** ..... Lois Vidimos  
lvidimos@stceciliaschoolames.org

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## I AM INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER OF SAINT CECILIA PARISH

Name and Address the way you would like it to appear.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return via mail or drop in collection basket.  
Someone will contact you. You will receive a registration  
packet with additional information.

Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish.