

Saint Cecilia

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

2900 Hoover Avenue • Ames, IA 50010

www.stceciliaparish.org

December 6, 2009

Second 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



Reconciliation

Sunday, December 6: 2PM

Communal Reconciliation
(with private confessions)

Thursday, December 10, 7PM

Communal Reconciliation
at St. Thomas Aquinas
(with private confessions)

Tuesday, December 15: 7PM

Communal Reconciliation
(with private confessions)

Private Reconciliation

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

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

Tuesday, December 22, 11 AM-12 Noon

Wednesday, December 23,
11AM - 12 Noon
5-6:00PM

Immaculate Conception

Tuesday, December 8

7AM,

9AM (School Mass)

7:30PM

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve

4:00PM, 6:30PM, Midnight

Christmas Day

10AM

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!**

December 6: On Loan: *Stewards of Creation*

December 13: Big Feet: *Charity & Justice*

www.saintcecilielifeteen.net

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

Ninth Grade Confirmation Calendar:

January 6: The Plan/God's Plan of Salvation

Tenth Grade Confirmation Calendar:

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

January 6: Truth Be Told/*Making Moral Decisions*

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

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 **next date February 4, 2010**, 6:30-8:00PM 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.



**Church Chat & Chow is cancelled for December 9th.
Next program will be January 13.**



Next weekend, Sr. Connie Howe, RSM will speak briefly at all masses urging our support of the annual Retirement Fund for Religious appeal. The Sisters of Mercy of which Sister Connie is a member staffed St. Cecilia School for many years.

This annual appeal is our collective way of saying a profound "thank you" to so many religious order priests, brothers and sisters who gave their lives in service to us especially through the staffing of Catholic grade and high schools as well as staffing Catholic hospitals and (in their day) orphanages and other forms of social outreach. Because they served a largely immigrant community and the first couple of generations of descendants of our immigrant ancestors who, in many cases were quite poor, these religious women and men were paid little, or in some cases, nothing at all for their work. Like our present population because of better health care, members of religious orders find themselves having to meet the daily expenses of caring for a large population of elderly and infirm members. Since many communities were, and are not, able to adequately fund their retirement needs, the bishops of our nation over the last twenty or so years have asked that on the second weekend in December each year a special appeal be made to the faithful in our nation to reach out in justice and charity to our brothers and sisters who gave us so much. In tough economic times such as these I realize that asking for still more by way of a financial gift from you is asking a lot. However, please bring the persons of our retired and infirm religious order priests, brothers and sisters to prayer this coming week and then give a gift you believe God is asking you to give. Thank you. God bless you for your love.

Fr. Jim

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Please check the schedule for the Sacrament of Reconciliation elsewhere in the bulletin. A plea by way of reminder: please, if at all possible, participate in one of the communal celebrations here or at St. Thomas. Also, please consider celebrating the sacrament early in the Advent season rather than waiting until the last days before Christmas. Thank you.



OPEN HOUSE

Come see how underutilized space in the former parish residence and garage can be transformed into much needed meeting rooms for the entire parish. Members of the facilities committee will host tours after all Masses this weekend. They welcome your questions and input.

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.

SCHOOL NEWS

School Calendar:

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@stceciliashoolames.org

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@saintceciliashoolames.org or the school office at 515-232-5290.

Scrip for the Holidays

There are only 2 more Mondays to order scrip for your holiday shopping and gift giving. We will order scrip on the following Mondays: Dec. 7 and Dec. 14. Save time and gas by ordering scrip gift cards through Saint Cecilia School and help raise needed funds for all the Saint Cecilia education programs. Order forms are in the narthex, school office, parish office and on the school website. Just drop off (or call in) your order to the school or parish office by 9:00am Monday, and your order will be ready to pick up by 9:00 am Friday. For more information about scrip visit the school website or contact Connie Vaclav (232-8343, vaclav@iastate.edu, scrip@stceciliashoolames.org). Thank you to all who support Saint Cecilia education by using scrip!

Want to Help Thousands of Families While Saving Money?

Would you be willing to assist a current or potential Catholic school student with their educational expenses, while significantly reducing your 2008 Iowa income taxes? If you file an Iowa state income tax return, you can contribute to the *Our Faith, Our Children, Our Future School Tuition Organization* and receive a 65% tax credit. That means for every \$100 you donate, you receive an Iowa income tax credit of \$65, plus the entire amount of the gift is eligible for federal deductibility. 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 or call 563-556-2580, ext. 256, for more information or to make your contribution. Make a difference for you and the families who wish a Catholic education for their children.

The Christmas Family Liturgy Choir will sing at the 4:00pm Mass on Christmas Eve. The choir practices on Thursday, Dec. 17 and Tuesday, Dec. 22 from 4:00-4:45pm in the Church. Any questions, contact Bob Hauser at 233-3092.

MEETINGS & EVENTS



The Giving Tree: Thanks to everyone who picked up an ornament tag for the "Giving Tree." Please remember to return your wrapped and tagged gift in the large gift boxes located in the Narthex **no later than noon, this Sunday, December 6**, so the organizations can pick up their gifts in time for their holiday parties.

Saint Anne Circle meets at 9:00AM on Tuesday, December 8 in the South Social Hall. Program is a Sing-Along of Christmas Songs. Hostesses are Ingrid Brady and Jeanne Gehm.

Saint Gertrude Circle will meet Tuesday, December 8 at 1:30PM in the Saint Clare Room.

Fellowship For Parents/Playgroup meets every Wednesday from 10:00-11:30AM in the **South Social Hall**. Contact Jon Ryan at siry-an2@isunet.net or 232-2075 or Jenni Mortimer at 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.

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



For 50 years, the **Christian Family Movement** has been making a difference in the Ames community. CFM will celebrate its 50 anniversary on **January 16**. If you are a member of CFM, have ever been a member, or are a friend of CFM, you are invited to attend.

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!!

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.

Office Help Needed: We are seeking volunteers to work on an as-needed basis to put bulletin inserts (fliers) into the parish bulletin. This work would usually be done on Friday mornings. Please call Kathy at the parish office (233-3092) if you can help.

Visit www.usccb.org

The US Council of Catholic Bishops website contains the entire Catechism of the Catholic Church. Use it to select the information that you need. The Bible, daily readings (also in audio), the latest news on Catholic Issues, and many, many other topics can be found on this website. Check it out!!

ST. THOMAS PARISH

Lean Into the Wind: Divorced & Separated Support Group

The St. Thomas Aquinas divorced & separated support group will meet Thursday, Dec. 10, with dinner at 5 p.m. at The Cafe, 2616 Northridge Parkway, in Ames, followed by a video entitled Nothing is Permanent Except Change, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the church, 2210 Lincoln Way, in Ames. The Rev. Deanna Pullen, Director of Pastoral Care at First United Methodist Church in downtown Ames, will lead a discussion about the stages of transition that change brings, and how to grow through them. Free childcare is available. Men and women of all faiths are welcome. To RSVP for dinner or to request childcare, call Carol at (515)296-2250 or email breathe2relax@msn.com.

COORDINATOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY: St. Thomas Aquinas Church and Catholic student Center seeks part-time Youth Minister (15 hrs./week) to organize and coordinate one social and one service activity per month (Jan.-Apr.) for each of the middle school and high school youth groups. Position is for Spring Semester only. For more information or to send your resume please contact Ann Gansemer-Toft, Board of Education Chairperson at 515-292-2601 or Kathy@staparish.net.

Deadline to Apply: December 10, 2009.

COMMUNITY

Good Company: A Women's Choral Ensemble

The Good Company 2009 December program, titled "I Sing of a Maiden" will be presented at 7:00PM on Sunday, December 6, at St. Andrews Lutheran Church, 209 Colorado, Ames. Tickets are \$10 at Gallery 319 (310 Main Street), from members or at the door.

Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance, Inc. will join in the spirit of the season by wrapping gifts purchased at Borders (1200 So. Duff) on December 6 (10AM-8PM), December 11 (10AM-9PM) and December 18 (10AM-9PM). Save some time this holiday season and contribute to a great cause by letting Good Neighbor volunteers wrap your gifts (we wrap for tips!). Good Neighbor provides emergency rent, utility and food assistance to our neighbors in need in Story County. Saint Cecilia Parish is a member of Good Neighbor.

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

Please Remember in Your Prayers:

Debra Noll and Patricia Anderson, mother of Stephanie Imhoff

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.



Stewardship: Good Stewards believe that God, who has begun this good work in them, will carry it through to completion. In words and deeds, they can sing with the Psalmist, "The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy!"

2nd Sunday of Advent

The very music swells and lifts at the beginning of George Frederick Handel's Messiah as the tenor sings, "Every valley shall be exalted." The staccato of "ev-ry va-al-ley" jumps up the scale as though the music itself is lifting up the valleys making a level path and a smooth highway. Performances of the Messiah around this time of year in concert halls, churches, and on television. Listen closely, and you may even hear selections punctuate the piped in music of malls and department stores.

What is fascinating is that most people associate one of the most famous selections from the Messiah with Christmas. But the renowned "Hallelujah" chorus is not part of the Christmas section of Messiah. It comes at the end of part two, the section devoted to Christ's passion, death, and (hallelujah!) resurrection. There is a certain wisdom in associating this Easter message with the Advent-Christmas season. It is Christ's resurrection from the dead that is the origin of our faith. And while we prepare to celebrate his birth, what we are ultimately called to do is to be ready for when he comes again.

The prophet's message that "all flesh shall see the salvation of God," is a reminder in this Advent season of where we are really headed. It's likely that we're getting into our cars a little more often these days heading to stores and parties and Christmas events. We hope that the road we travel will be smooth. But the prophet's vision isn't about highway projects. It is about eternal salvation. Maybe when we get behind the wheel each day this month we can just say a little prayer asking God to keep us on the right path.

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Looking for a meaningful gift idea for Christmas? Ask for or give a Christian Experience Weekend (CEW). The CEW is an adult renewal experience offering participants a better understanding of old and new aspects of their Christian faith. The 2010 weekends will be held January 15-17 for women and January 29-31 for men at Our Lady's Immaculate Heart in Ankeny. Brochures are available at St. Cecilia and at www.olih.org/cew. If you have questions, call Debbie Landuyt at 597-2263.

Your Financial Stewardship

	Nov.	FYTD
Contributions (general)	\$ 95,213	\$404,965
Needed to meet expenses	\$98,435	\$433,114
Contributions (building)	\$ 6,306	\$ 30,368

Contact Business Manager, Jerry Greving, for more detailed information or to set up the convenience of automatic withdrawal from your account.

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.



Mass Intentions for the Week

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)

Tuesday, December 8

7:00AM: Helen Neppel

9:00AM: Madonna Harrington

7:30PM: Mary Lou Mee

Wednesday, December 9

7:00AM: Brian Winslow

5:15PM: Karyn Rutter

Thursday, December 10

7:00AM: Jack Gehm †

5:15PM: Teri Ferguson †

Friday, December 11

7:00AM: George White †

5:15PM: Jim Kearney †

Saturday, December 12

5:00PM: Parishioners of Saint Cecilia

Sunday, December 13

8:30AM: Parishioners of Saint Cecilia

10:30AM: Edward & Paul Shevokas †

5:00PM: Ethel & Pete Griset

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.

Readings for the Week of December 6, 2009

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

Monday: Is 35:1-10/Lk 5:17-26

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

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30

Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15

Friday: Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Lk 1:26-38 or 1:39-47

Next Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

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

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.