

## **Parish Nominations and Elections**

For Pastoral Council, Faith Formation Commission, and Catholic School Board.

- Nominations will open on Saturday, March 15 and will be accepted until 5pm on Monday April 7 in the Parish Office.
- Parish Elections will be held on the weekend of May 17-18.

Please take time to think of fellow parishioners who would provide good leadership for the Parish. You may also nominate yourself.

Nomination forms will be available in the narthex next to the Gold Box beginning Saturday, March 15. Place completed form in the Gold Box.

### **Pastoral Council- 11 Elected members (includes two youth)**

The Pastoral Council is the vehicle for dialog about the life and activities of the parish, a forum for planning and evaluation. The role of the Pastoral Council is, through ongoing pastoral planning, to maintain the integrity of the parish mission and the goals and objectives related to it. The pastor seeks a collaborative relationship with the Pastoral Council, considering its guidance and active involvement in reaching consensus. The council meets monthly and members are elected to serve a 3-year term, with three positions being filled each year.

There are also two youth positions on the Pastoral Council. Each year, the Youth Ministry Team will nominate at least two newly confirmed young people to fill one of the positions during the election.

### **Saint Cecilia Catholic School Board- 6 Elected Members**

The St. Cecilia Catholic School Board is a permanent standing committee of the Faith Formation Commission specifically charged with governance of Saint Cecilia School subject to the policies and regulations that proceed from the Archdiocesan Catholic School Board, the Archdiocesan office of Faith Formation and Education, and in conformity with verification standards of the State of Iowa. Members are elected to serve a 3-year term, with two positions being filled each year.

### **Faith Formation Commission- 6 Elected Members**

The Faith Formation Commission determines goals and objectives to meet the educational & faith formation needs of the total parish community, which include: the religious education program, youth and child ministry, spiritual growth opportunities, adult and family education, and sacramental preparation. Members are elected to serve a 3-year term, with two positions being filled each year.

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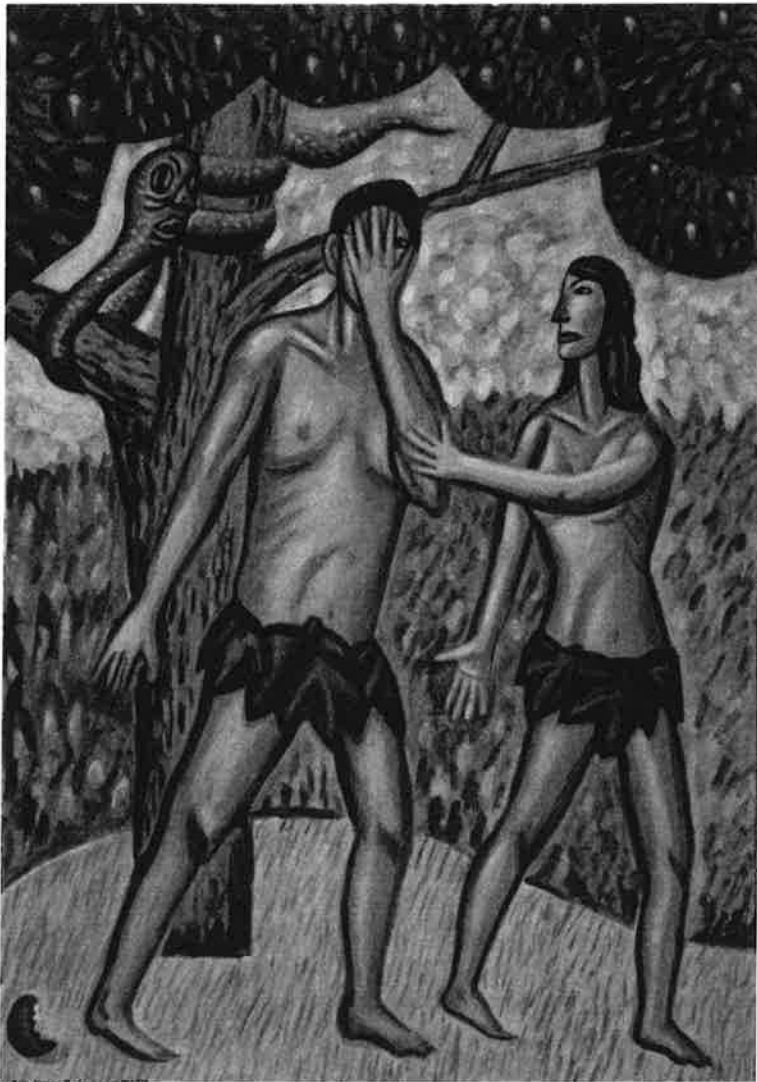
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# FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



## Mercy and Preparation

Father of all creation,  
even when the serpent tricked our  
first parents,  
when they disobeyed you and lost  
your friendship,  
even when we are tricked by the many  
serpents of our time,  
and commit sin before you and our brothers  
and sisters,  
you never abandon us.  
You have sent us your Son, our Lord  
Jesus Christ.  
Through his sacrifice, you continue  
to offer mercy,  
so that all your people may be made  
righteous.  
In these Forty Days of prayer, fasting,  
and almsgiving,  
may we walk with our sisters and brothers  
who are preparing to enter the baptismal  
waters of Easter,  
and earnestly prepare ourselves to renew  
our own baptismal promises.  
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
your Son, who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God for ever and ever. Amen.

## Sunday, March 9, 2014 Wholehearted Faithfulness

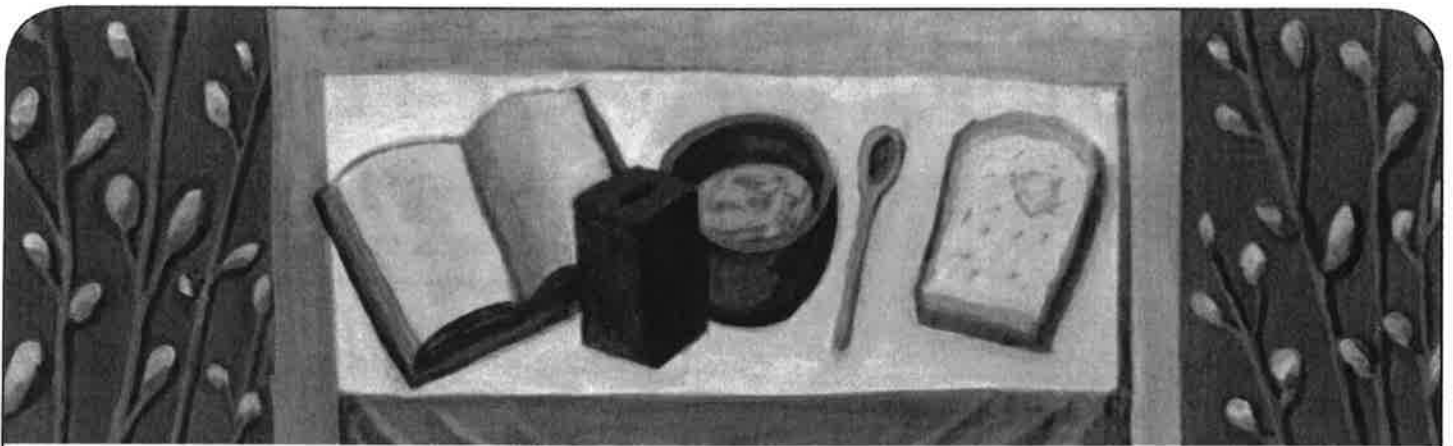


Today's Readings: Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Psalm 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17 (3a); Romans 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19; Matthew 4:1-11. In today's Gospel, we go into the desert to witness Jesus's temptations. We pray for those preparing for initiation, for struggles they may be encountering, and also we ponder our own temptations. In contrast to Adam and Eve, Jesus models an honest and wholehearted faithfulness to God alone; he challenges us to set aside the gods of money, power, prestige, and addictions of all kinds.

In today's readings, we hear the first mention of the number forty. Think of all the times you've heard that number in Scripture. Work with the number forty during this season: take forty minutes for prayer daily, take forty minutes a week to write a letter to someone who needs your

attention. Take forty minutes each week to pick up trash in your neighborhood. Use forty minutes each week to prepare a simple meal for a homebound person. Spend forty minutes with your family to read and discuss the Scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday Eucharist. Help children earn forty pennies, nickels, dimes, or quarters, which they place, day by day, in the Rice Bowl to offer at the Holy Thursday liturgy.

The readings help us find our way back to God as we endure our temptations. Christ is our teacher, and also our Savior who redeems us from sin and strengthens us in our struggle against evil. He feeds us at the table of plenty with the Eucharistic food that sustains us on the Lenten journey of forty days.



## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, March 10

#### Strive for Holiness

In today's readings, we find a familiar theme: love of neighbor and of self. Consider the challenge of today's Gospel: to offer food, drink, clothing, care, and comfort to the least of our sisters and brothers. We can take the easy way out and ignore the needs we see, but Jesus reminds us that when we do not care for the least ones, we do not care for him. How will you do this? How will you choose eternal life? Today's Readings: Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18; Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 15 (John 6:63b); Matthew 25:31-46.

### Tuesday, March 11

#### How We Are to Pray

One of the key disciplines of Lent is prayer, and, in today's Gospel, Jesus tells us how we are to pray—how to address his Father, who is also our Father. Don't let these words be so automatic that you fail to hear and really mean them. Do the words of this prayer fall like the gentle rain described in Isaiah, and fertilize your heart? What other prayers could you add to your daily conversation with our Lord? Today's Readings: Isaiah 55:10-11; Psalm 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19 (18b); Matthew 6:7-15.

### Wednesday, March 12

#### Create in Us Clean Hearts

In today's first reading, the prophet Jonah calls all the people of Nineveh, great and small, to show their sorrow for their sin by putting on sack cloth and ashes and by fasting. In the first reading on Ash Wednesday, a fast was announced to the entire Church with the sound of a trumpet. Like Jonah who became a sign to the Ninevites, Jesus, the Son of Man, is the sign of mercy and forgiveness. How will you open your heart and return to the Lord? Today's Readings: Jonah 3:1-10; Psalm 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19 (19b); Luke 11:29-32.

### Thursday, March 13

#### The Law and the Prophets

Throughout the readings of the liturgical year, we often hear about keeping God's Commandments. Today's Gospel ends with one of those Commandments: "Do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets." The Law and the Prophets also urge us to trust in God completely. In today's first reading, Esther does just that, crying out to God for help. During these days of Lent, how are you learning to keep the Commandments and trust more fully in God? Today's Readings: Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Psalm 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8 (3a); Matthew 7:7-12.

### Friday, March 14

#### Turn Away from Sin

Today's Gospel reading urges us to be reconciled with our brothers and sisters before bringing our gift to the altar. The Sign of Peace in the Sunday liturgy is one way we carry out this command ritually. Do you find yourself sharing the peace of Christ with the same people each week? Consider sitting in different places in church during Lent so that you can give and receive the Sign of Peace with others. Today's Readings: Ezekiel 18:21-28; Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8 (3); Matthew 5:20-26.

### Saturday, March 15

#### Seeking Perfection

In today's Gospel, Jesus urges his disciples to go beyond the usual expectations. He calls us to strive with our whole hearts—to be perfect just as the "heavenly Father is perfect." That may sound impossible, but if we do only the average, we fall short of mature discipleship and have failed to truly love our neighbor. We grow into perfection gradually by experiencing it and practicing it through community and interaction with others. As Deuteronomy suggests, we pray to be people "holy to the Lord [our] God, as he promised." Today's Readings: Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Psalm 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8 (1b); Matthew 5:43-48.



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 Keeping the Seasons

Reproducibles for Lent-Triduum-Easter 2014





## SIMPLICITY

*This article is part five in a series of 12 reflections on stewardship virtues by ICSC member, Dan Potvin, Director of Stewardship for the Archdiocese of Winnipeg, Canada.*



It seems that busyness, complexity, and the relentless pursuit of pleasure and possessions are sadly, for many in North America, a way of life. People are getting overburdened with consumerism and busyness, and are in a desperate need of an alternative, although they may not yet be aware of it. To find balance in all of this, we do well to recognize that ***we are overwhelmingly blessed***, and to always and everywhere give thanks to our good and gracious God. The truth is, when we slow down and take the time to be grateful for all that we have, and who we are, we come to appreciate what an abundant gift life is. It is gratitude that will naturally lead us to simplicity.

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Simplicity is all about contentment;  
to want what we have, rather than always  
having what we want.

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A lifestyle of simplicity affords us the opportunity to take a much more relaxing and stress-free walk in and around the materialism and consumerism that is such a big part of our society. A simple lifestyle does not require that we remove ourselves from consumerism, as we all need to consume. The beauty of simplicity is that in discerning between needs and wants, we are then able to consume sensibly, and that's good stewardship. Simplicity is all about contentment; to want what we have, rather than always having what we want. It feels good when we have the discipline to shake off some of the excess and live simply.

How might we practically embrace simplicity in our day-to-day living? A good place to start is to develop the habit of making our choices (especially purchasing decisions) based on needs not wants. Learning to say no to activities that do not align with our priorities is another good simplicity habit.

Living simply is one sure way to greater stewardship, as it allows us to do our part to help those in the world who are less fortunate than we are. It is so rewarding to know that those who struggle just to live can be the beneficiaries of our simplicity. By sharing the fruits of the sacrifices we make in living a simpler life, those of us who have been given much can offer hope to those who have little or nothing.

You are cordially invited to join us on  
 April 26th, 2014 for the 9th Annual  
**Saint Cecilia Gala**  
 "Celebrating God's Masterpieces"  
 Gateway Hotel & Conference Center



Please join us for an evening of fellowship and festivities while experiencing the exciting and highly anticipated live auction. You'll also enjoy the silent auction, which boasts a growing number of amazing items.

The Saint Cecilia Gala 2014 will be a night to remember and all serving to contribute toward the goal of growing our Education Endowment Fund.

The generosity of the families and friends of the Saint Cecilia Catholic Community has created the beginnings of a growing fund and wonderful legacy. This ensures a bright future for Saint Cecilia's educational ministry, including the school, faith formation, and youth ministry.

5:00-7:00 p.m.  
 Social hour & Silent Auction

7:00 p.m.  
 Opening prayer & introductions

7:30 p.m.  
 Dinner & Live Auction

Please join us for social time following the auction!

Tickets: \$75 per person

2 0 1 4

# NEW CAR RAFFLE

Winner's choice of one of the following



**2014 Ford Fusion**  
 Ames Ford



**2014 Toyota Camry**  
 Wilson Toyota



**2014 Chrysler 200**  
 Deery Brothers of Ames



**2014 Honda Accord**  
 Lithia of Ames

**ONLY 2000 TICKETS  
 BEING SOLD  
 1 TICKET:\$50  
 3 TICKETS:\$100**

**\*\*Actual prize may differ  
 in color or appearance.**

**For more information,  
 call Jessica: 515-451-8126**

The Saint Cecilia community thanks the participating businesses for their generous contributions in support of our educational programs.

**Ames Ford • Wilson Toyota • Deery Brothers of Ames • Lithia of Ames**

*Prize:* Winners may not contribute the prize back to the Saint Cecilia Gala. Winners are responsible for all applicable taxes and fees, including title and license. Must be at least 18 years of age.

**\*Please visit [www.stcamesgala.org](http://www.stcamesgala.org) for complete details.**

**Proceeds to support Saint Cecilia Educational Programs**

Time/Place Of Drawing: Saturday, April 26, 2014 at the Saint Cecilia Gala, Gateway Hotel & Conference Center, Ames. Need not be present to win.

**2014 Saint Cecilia Gala Co-Chairs:**

Nate & Lezli Pelzer • 515-232-8744 • [pelzer@q.com](mailto:pelzer@q.com)

Matt & Diana Thatcher • 515-292-9511 • [thatchmd@yahoo.com](mailto:thatchmd@yahoo.com)

Pat & Mindy Stahr • 515-268-0782 • [patandmindy@hotmail.com](mailto:patandmindy@hotmail.com)

Please return R.S.V.P. to "Saint Cecilia Gala" by **Sunday, April 6th, 2014**. Tickets are limited! See your tax advisor for deductibility. Auction catalogs will be distributed approximately 3 weeks prior to the event.

**Name(s) For Listing in the Gala Catalog**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address (For Gala updates) \_\_\_\_\_

Go to [www.StCamesGala.org](http://www.StCamesGala.org) to register or donate online.

Please help us update our alumni addresses.

If your child(ren) is a Saint Cecilia graduate and resides at a different address, please e-mail the information to: [stceciiliagala@stceciiliaschoolames.org](mailto:stceciiliagala@stceciiliaschoolames.org)

**STEP ONE: Contribution To Saint Cecilia**

I would like to make a tax deductible contribution to the Saint Cecilia Education Endowment Fund

- Friend of Saint Cecilia (\$299 and Below)  Supporter (\$300+) \*  Patron (\$500+)\*
- Partner (\$1000+)\*  Advocate (\$2500+)\*  Champion of Education (\$5000+)\*
- Benevolent Philanthropist (\$10,000+)\*  My employer has a matching gift program

Name of employer \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Please include a completed matching gift form)

**TOTAL of Step One** \_\_\_\_\_

\*Contributors of \$300 level or more receive two (2) complimentary tickets to the 2014 Saint Cecilia Gala.

If you do not wish to use the tickets, please indicate below.

- I plan to attend the Gala and will use the two complimentary tickets.
- I cannot attend the Gala, but would like to donate my two complimentary tickets for a teacher or staff member of Saint Cecilia to use.
- I cannot attend the Gala and will not be using the complimentary tickets.

**STEP TWO: Gala Tickets**

Number of Gala Tickets at \$75.00 per ticket \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Includes meal, admission to the Silent and Live Auction, and a direct donation to Gala Fund.)

Please reserve a table of ten (10) for our group at \$750 per table.

**TOTAL of Step Two** \_\_\_\_\_

**STEP THREE: Teachers, Raffle & Wine Donations**

Number of tickets I'd like to purchase for teachers or staff at \$75 ea. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of raffle tickets I'd like to purchase at:  1 for \$50.00  3 for \$100.00

I would like to help offset costs of complimentary dinner wine by contributing

\$10  \$20  \$30 or  \$\_\_\_\_ (indicate specific amount)

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

**STEP FOUR: Menu, Meal Selections and Seating Preferences**

**Entrees:**

**Prime Rib**  
 Slow-roasted Prime Rib with au-jus and horseradish

**Chardonnay Chicken**  
 Chicken laced with Chardonnay cream and red onion confit

**Vegetarian**  
 Vegetarian Portabella Stack

**Special Requests:**

(gluten free meal, sight or hearing impairment)

**Meal Selection:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of meals reserved (includes all complimentary and purchased Gala tickets)

**Names of Guests attending the Gala**  
 (please include yourself and all people you have purchased tickets for)

	Name	Prime Rib	Meal Preference Chicken	Vegetarian
1.	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9.	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10.	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Seating Preference:**

If you have purchased individual tickets, please list below the names of other attendees/couples you would like to be seated with.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**STEP FIVE: Payment**

**Total Step One** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Step Two** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Step Three** \_\_\_\_\_

**Final Total:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Credit Card number** \_\_\_\_\_

\*If paying by check, please make payable to **Saint Cecilia Gala**.

**Paying for Raffle Tickets:**

Raffle tickets purchased cannot be included in credit card payments. Please enclose a check or money order for raffle tickets. All raffle tickets purchased with your reservation will be included in your bidder packet to be picked up at the registration table on the night of the event.

exp. \_\_\_\_\_ 3 Digit Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail R.S.V.P. and payment to:**

Saint Cecilia Gala  
 809 Wheeler St., Suite 110-240  
 Ames, IA 50010

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

