



The demand for food at the MICA (Mid-Iowa Community Action) Food Pantry has increased. As you may know, the St. Cecilia Social Justice Committee has a **Shop +1** program. When you shop, we ask you to buy **one more non-perishable item** to donate to the MICA Food Pantry. If you bring those items to church on the food collection weekends (see below), we will bring them to the food pantry for you. You may, of course, bring them to the food pantry yourself if you wish:

MICA Food Pantry: 515-956-3333; 230 SE 16th ST, #101, Ames

Items suggested for the food pantry include canned vegetables and fruit, peanut butter, tuna, canned meat, baby food, packaged shelf-stable main meals, pasta, spaghetti sauce and cereal. Also, non-food items such as laundry detergent, dish soap, disposable diapers, baby wipes, paper towels, Kleenex and toilet paper.

Good Samaritan food collection weekends at St. Cecilia Church are held on the third full weekend of the month:

March 15/16, 2014
April 19/20, 2014
May 17/18, 2014
June 21/22, 2014
July 19/20, 2014

August 16/17, 2014
September 20/21, 2014
October 18/19, 2014
November 15/16, 2014
December 20/21, 2014

Thank you for remembering those in need every time you shop!

- St. Cecilia Social Justice Committee

Initiation of Adults & Children of Catechetical Age

Easter Vigil, April 19, 2014



Kim Beach

"I enjoy the company of my father, Larry, sister Kristin and her husband Dave Huss. Their children, Madison and Mason are very important in my life also. I am the lead accounting coordinator at the West Ames Hy-Vee. I enjoy antiquing and shopping. I have been told that I have a very kind heart and enjoy helping others. I feel God is calling me to join in the fullness of his Holy Church."



The Bergesons

"We three adopted children of Karen and Jeff Bergeson are Ross (8), James (9), and Sara(12)." Ross likes sports and wants to play baseball. James likes any sports event. Football is his favorite and the Denver Broncos are his "special" team. Sara likes to bake, draw and write stories. "We are eagerly waiting the day of our baptism, confirmation and first holy communion. . . so that we can be closer to Jesus."



Kelcey DeGarmo

"I grew up in Grand Rapids, Minnesota. My sister and her family also live in Minnesota. My fiancé, who is also living in Minnesota, and I are planning to be married in August. Right now I am living with my Grandma in Nevada-next door to my Aunt's family. I have recently begun work at NewLink Genetics as an immunotherapeutics Production Associate. I enjoy reading, crocheting, skiing and cooking. I was baptized a Catholic, but never celebrated confirmation or received my first holy communion. Throughout my college years, I went to different Catholic Churches but, until now have not been able to join a parish and go through the RCIA process as a Candidate for Full Communion with the Catholic Church."

Graye Farnum



"I am the 21 year old daughter of David and Darci Farnum of Estherville, IA. I also have a 16 year old brother, Payton. I am currently a student at ISU studying Elementary Education. I enjoy reading, hanging out with friends and family, traveling, crafting, working with kids & baking. I spent my Freshman year of college as a live-in nanny in Hawaii while taking classes online and at the University of Hawaii. I became interested in joining the Catholic Church in January of 2013 after attending St. Cecilia for about a year. I can't wait to become more involved in the parish & meet more members of our community. Thank you for all of your support!"

Cards for Prayer and Support can be sent/delivered to the parish office

Photos courtesy of Darrell and Judy Spear



Courtney Kingland

"I have two sisters and am the happy mother of a daughter, Aliyah. I am an Account Manager with Kingland Systems in Ames. I enjoy reading, exercise and baking. I am a very talkative person and greatly enjoy caring for others. I am drawn to the Catholic Church because I am looking for my lifelong church home and looking forward to continued spiritual growth here."



Michael Mauton

"My Wife Andrea and I have two sons, Aleksandr and Krzystof. Krzystof was baptized just recently. I work as an Extension and Outreach systems' analyst at Iowa State University and enjoy hunting in my free time. I was baptized a Catholic and am now completing my initiation into full communion with the Catholic Church."



Ashley Nussbaum

"I am 18 years old, a senior at Ames High, and will be going to UNI to study Biology and Environmental Science next year. I have one brother. I enjoy hunting and fishing with my dad. When I can't go outside I love watching movies and reading. I also enjoy my three cats. Although I was baptized a Catholic it wasn't ever present in my everyday life. Then I met my friend and sponsor, Maddy Hunke. She dragged me along to lots of church events. It didn't take long for me to realize that I love Jesus and the Catholic Church. I wanted to learn more about Jesus and his word. I wanted to be a better person and follow in Jesus' steps. In November of 2013, I decided I was going to join the Catholic Church. This is the best decision that I have ever made in my life. I am so thankful for every single person who has helped me come to and through this journey. "



Michele Rogers

"Hi, my husband, Joel, and I have three children: Tierney (21), Claire (19) and Jack (14). Something special about me is I am the fourth person in my family to come into the Catholic Church in the last 5 years. I am an accountant at Iowa State University in the College of Agriculture & Life Sciences Budget and Finance Office. In my spare time I enjoy traveling with and spending time with my family. I also enjoy photography, scrapbooking and working out. I am interested in joining the Catholic Church because I want to celebrate the Eucharist with my family."



Kathleen Winters Frazier

"I have 3 children and am presently serving as a teach associate/trainee at St. Cecilia School in the 5th grade. I enjoy crafting, Christian clowning and writing. I seek out riddles and love to share jokes. I am a "visual" learner and when I see Christ on the cross in the Catholic Church I know He is there! The first time I attended St. Cecilia I was emotionally moved. I was so welcomed. As these RCIA sessions have continued my head knowledge is reconciling with my heart and spirit."

Cards for Prayer and Support can be sent/delivered to the parish office

Photos courtesy of Darrell and Judy Spear

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT



Prayer of Pilgrim People

Father, you call us to be pilgrim people
on a journey.

As Abram and Sarai answered your call
to go to a new land,
so we want to go willingly
where you send us.

Strengthen our trust in you, we pray.

As Peter, James, and John
climbed the mountain
to see the Lord transfigured
before their eyes,

so we with our mind's eye
try to glimpse his glory.

Help us to hear and heed your words:
"This is my Son, the Beloved; with him

I am well pleased;

Listen to him!"

Heavenly Father, give us perseverance
to reach the holy mountain of Easter,
where the splendor of Resurrection
is found.

We ask this through our Lord

Jesus Christ,

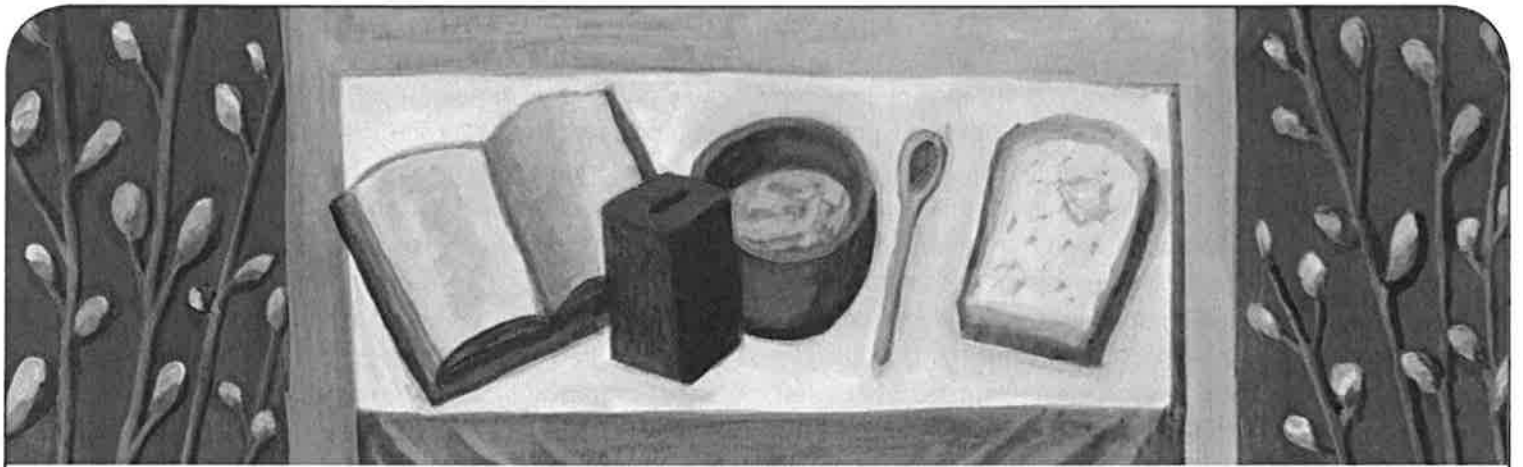
your Son, who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday, March 16, 2014
Christ on the Mountain Tops



Today's Readings: Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22 (22); 2 Timothy 1:8b-10; Matthew 17:1-9. Today we move from temptation in the desert to Transfiguration on the mountain. Along with Peter, James, and John, we stand basking in the light of Christ as he converses with Moses and Elijah. The vision in today's Gospel tells the three disciples, and us, who Jesus really is—the Son of God. Confronted with this wonder so unexpectedly, Peter, James, and John will need time to put the pieces together. We have the benefit of Matthew's description and centuries of Church reflection on the meaning of this event. God sent his divine Son to enter into conversation with us, to give us the courage and strength to follow him. In revealing this to us through the Transfiguration, God enables our own transformation.

Our destiny is written between two holy mountains: the mountain of Transfiguration, and the mountain of Calvary. Both suffering and glory accompany us on the holy road to Easter. During this season of Lent, as we try to lay aside distractions and focus on the most simple, essential truths, may the light of the Transfiguration guide our steps. Let us walk together with family, friends, strangers, the needy, and even enemies so that the journey may awaken in us a sense of solidarity with our neighbors, and spur us to work for the good and justice of all. May we have the courage to look into the face of the one who came to lead us out of sin and the shadow of death. May our acts of prayer, penance, and almsgiving be drawn together in a great song of praise.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 17

Saint Patrick

Patrick was born around the year 387 and courageously preached the Gospel to the people of Ireland. In a collection of prayers from the library, or through the Internet, find the words to the prayer known as St. Patrick's Breastplate (or Lorica). Pray this strong prayer for protection at the beginning of your day, or at any time. It is a powerful affirmation of faith and trust. Today's Readings: Daniel 9:4b-10; Psalm 79:8, 9, 11 and 13 (103:10a); Luke 6:36-38.

Tuesday, March 18

Saint Cyril of Jerusalem

Cyril of Jerusalem, born about the year 315, is one of the great doctors of the Church, and in his role as bishop, he gave catechesis to those preparing for Baptism at the Easter Vigil. At the Council of Constantinople, he played a crucial role in amending the Nicene Creed, so that the word "consubstantial" was used to describe the relationship between Christ and the Father. Since the 2011 revised translation of the *The Roman Missal*, we are using this word again. Today's Readings: Isaiah 1:10, 16-20; Psalm 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23 (23b); Matthew 23:1-12.

Wednesday, March 19

Solemnity of Saint Joseph

Joseph, the husband of Mary and father of Jesus, is described as a "righteous man," one who is completely open to all that God wants. Today's Gospel from Matthew reminds us of the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Holy Family. During this Lent, may we look to the Holy Spirit as the active, transforming agent at work in our lives, in the Church, and in the world. Today's Readings: 2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 (37); Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22; Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Luke 2:41-51a.

Thursday, March 20

Listen

In today's Gospel, the poor man, Lazarus, who ate the scraps that fell from the rich man's table, was carried to "to be with Abraham." The rich man, who had ignored the needs of Lazarus, was sent to Hades. When the rich man asks Abraham to send Lazarus to warn his brothers to repent so as to avoid torment, Abraham points out that they would understand how to behave if they simply listened to the prophets. We, too, must listen to know what God expects. Today's Readings: Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 (40:5a); Luke 16:19-31.

Friday, March 21

The Power of Envy

Today's Gospel, quoting Psalm 118, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone," foretells the suffering and Death of Jesus. It echoes the first reading, in which Joseph, the youngest and favored son of Jacob, had prophetic dreams. His jealous brothers planned to kill him, but after some soul-searching, they instead sold him into slavery. Read beyond today's lesson to find out what happens to Joseph. Consider what we can learn from the story so far about the power of envy that tempts us to scheme against others. Today's Readings: Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Psalm 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21 (5a); Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46.

Saturday, March 22

Rich in Mercy

Today's Gospel reading is the familiar story of the prodigal son, which always offers new insights. In ancient times, a child asking a parent for his inheritance was like wishing the parent were dead. Yet the father (God) is merciful. Most parents understand this in their hearts, because they are often called to forgive their children, no matter how deep the hurt. Today's Readings: Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12 (8a); Luke 15:1-3, 11-32.

