

Faith Formation Commission – The Candidates

These are the 4 candidates running for two (2) openings for the **Faith Formation Commission** election to be held at all masses next weekend. The people that are elected will serve for a three (3) year term and may then run for another term. You will be asked to vote for **NO MORE THAN** two (2) of the candidates.



Patty Willadsen

Reasons for running: I have always valued education, both as a teacher and as a parent. Over the past 14 years, my family has appreciated the variety of educational opportunities available through St. Cecilia's, and if elected to the Faith Formation Commission, I would look forward to helping to continue that strong tradition.

Length of time in parish: 14 years

Parish life involvement: I have been involved in parish life in a variety of ways. I was a catechist and the Director of Religious Education at Good Shepherd in Jewell for 5 years. I have been a member of the Parish Life Committee, in charge of the Children's Liturgy Ministry, the music director of the Early Childhood Sunday Religious Education classes, and was an ALPHA small group helper. Currently, I'm involved in teaching Baptism Preparation classes, mentoring couples preparing for marriage, and am a member of the Date Night planning team. I also enjoy greeting and being in the bell choir.

Faith formation experience in:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adults | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adolescents | <input type="checkbox"/> Persons with Disabilities |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Family | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Children of Catechetical Age | <input type="checkbox"/> Catholic Schools |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Young Adults | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Early Childhood | |

Personal Information: Dan and I have been married for 15 years and live in Jewell. We have two children, ages 11 and 13. I enjoy teaching first grade in Iowa Falls, spending time with my family, walking and reading.



Kari Ricke

Reasons for running: After experiencing RCIA in 2010, I was moved to become involved with Faith Formation here at St. Cecilia. I have witnessed and experienced strong programs within our parish that nurture and strengthen one's faith/relationship with God. My faith has seen me through so much during my life. This opportunity is another way I can share with others, work with others, and become more involved in continuing, enhancing, and striving for more ways to touch lives through Christ.

Length of time in parish: 3 years

Parish life involvement: Having been Catholic for only a few years now, I am excited to say my involvement at St. Cecilia Parish is only just beginning. I am currently in my 2nd year as a co-catechist and first year as a choir member. Although newly Catholic, I have always been quite active within my faith community. I was raised in the Lutheran Church, and as a member of my home town congregation, was very involved over the years. I served as Sunday school teacher, Bible school teacher, youth group sponsor, choir member, secretary for church council, board of education member, and on the call committee. I look forward to continuing my involvement here at St. Cecilia in the years to come.

Faith formation experience in:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adults | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adolescents | <input type="checkbox"/> Persons with Disabilities |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Family | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Children of Catechetical Age | <input type="checkbox"/> Catholic Schools |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Young Adults | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Early Childhood | |

Personal Information: I am blessed to be happily married to Ted Ricke, and we have been blessed with two children, Makiah (11) and Reece (7). We farm, and I have a background in in-home family counseling and special education. I am currently a stay at home mom. Interests include being creative, reading, horses, music, camping, running kids to various activities, helping others and sharing my faith.



Michelle Chasey

Reasons for running: We as Christians can deepen our faith in Jesus Christ every day. Faith Formation can give us educational opportunities to strengthen our lives and our relationship with Christ. As we gain a deeper understanding of the Catholic Church and scripture teachings, we are better equipped to answer God's calling in our lives. If we can learn how to allow God to work through us, we can strengthen our communities and families.

Length of time in parish: 2 years

Parish life involvement: My family and I moved to Ames and joined St. Cecilia Parish about 2 years ago. Prior to that, I was a member of Prince of Peace Catholic Church in Clinton, IA for 35 years. I served on fundraising committees, the annual Pork Dinner committee, member of MOMS group, and served on the school board for 3 years. Currently, I am enrolled in Bible Study, weekly Adorer for Eucharistic Adoration, and have assisted in the children's faith formation program.

Faith formation experience in:

- Adults
- Family
- Young Adults

- Adolescents
- Children of Catechetical Age
- Early Childhood

- Persons with Disabilities
- Catholic Schools

Personal Information: My husband, Mark, and I have been married for 21 years and have 3 children. I graduated from the University of South Florida with a BS in Nursing (BSN). I worked in cardiac care and emergency room nursing until our third child was born and then I chose to stay home with them. I currently sub for the school nurse in the Gilbert Community School District. Most of my hobbies revolve around my children's activities. They are all very involved in school activities and sports.



Paula Gallt

Reasons for running: I am pleased to accept the nomination for the St. Cecilia Faith Formation Commission. I believe I have a lot to offer the parish to help promote the growth of faith in our parishioners. Every person, regardless of age, should have opportunities available to learn more about his/her faith and St. Cecilia is in a great position to do this. I am an advocate for family involvement in the development of faith in our children and for families as a whole to be involved in the church. I hope to work with the Faith Formation Commission to promote many opportunities for St. Cecilia's parishioners to grow in their faith and be active in our church community.

Length of time in parish: 10 years

Parish life involvement: I have been involved in activities at St. Cecilia for several years. My husband, Chris and I became active in the parish through the Family Life Committee. My husband and I are also a sponsor couple for engaged couples and have enjoyed this role for about 7 years now. We have also been a part of a Christian Family Movement group and have promoted CFM to other young families in the Parish. We have also assisted with coffee and donuts after Mass with this group. I have assisted in Meals for New Mothers and also volunteered in the Faith Formation office.

Faith formation experience in:

- Adults
- Family
- Young Adults

- Adolescents
- Children of Catechetical Age
- Early Childhood

- Persons with Disabilities
- Catholic Schools

Personal Information: My husband and I are originally from Illinois and moved to Ames for school. While growing up in Illinois, I attended a Catholic school through 8th grade. We have three children who are 11, 10, and 7 and all of them attend faith formation programs at St. Cecilia. I have a Master's Degree from Iowa State in Marriage and Family Therapy and I am employed as a mental health therapist at Central Iowa Psychological Services where I work with individuals of all ages. In my spare time, I enjoy time with my family and cheering my children on at their sporting events.

St. Cecilia Catholic School Board – The Candidates

These are the 3 candidates running for 2 openings for the **Catholic School Board** election to be held at all masses next weekend. The people that are elected will serve for a three (3) year term and may then run for another term. You will be asked to vote for **NO MORE THAN TWO** (2) of the candidates.



SUSAN McNICHOLL

Reasons for running: I am truly honored to be nominated for our Catholic School Board. If elected, I hope to offer my 20 years of strategic communications experience to enhance the enrollment and outreach efforts of St. Cecilia's School. I would incorporate lessons learned from my previous work with other non-profit institutions such as Catholic Homeschoolers in Southeast Texas, Friends of Roosevelt Park, Lamar University, and Tulane School of Public Health. I look forward to exploring ways to continue spreading the word about our gem of a faith and educational community using public relations, marketing, advertising and social media.

Parish life involvement: At St. Cecilia's, I've been actively involved with the Gala, the FSA Fundraiser, and VBS. I've also assisted in developing marketing materials for the Alpha program and participated in St.

Mary's Circle and the Mom's Playgroup. At previous parishes, I've collaborated in a broad spectrum of service positions including Social Justice and Outreach Chair, Confirmation Catechist, Lector, Young Adult Steering Committee, First Friday Singles Coordinator, and VBS Co-Director. **Faith formation experience - Adults, Adolescents, Children of Catechetical Age, Catholic Schools, Young Adults, Early Childhood**

Personal Information: My husband, Tim, and I jumped at the opportunity to move to Ames when he was offered a faculty position in the Mathematics Department at ISU in 2012. After a wonderful sabbatical semester here in 2010, we were well acquainted with this vibrant faith community. I am a work-at-home mom of two sons who attend St. Cecilia's (Xavier, 7; Jack, 5). We love to hike, backpack and ride around town on our huge, orange bike. I work as an editor for 3Play Media, have been employed as a magazine editor and PR executive, and hold a BA from Grinnell College.



STACY RYAN

Reasons for running: I have 3 children currently attending St. Cecilia's School and another who will be attending in a couple of years. If elected, my goal would be to ensure that St. Cecilia's continues to provide a Catholic education as well as a well rounded academic education for those who attend.

Parish life involvement: Currently my husband and I are marriage preparation sponsors and our family belongs to a CFM group. Our family helps with coffee & donuts a few times a year and we can often be seen at Date Night. I volunteer at school when I can fit it in with work.

Faith formation experience - Catholic Schools, Family

Personal Information: I have been married to Jon (God Bless him) for 13 years and a member of St. Cecilia's for the same amount of time. We have 4 children who keep me busy outside my job at the Iowa Department of Transportation where I work as an engineer. My hobbies are anything that is creative which includes art, gardening, scrapbooking, and woodworking. I enjoy planning projects at work and at home.



MARIANA ROSSONI SERAO

Reasons for running: I am running for the Catholic School Board to be able to give back to this amazing community. I hope that my experience- both out of state and out of country – will help to bring some fresh ideas to the different committees.

Parish life involvement: I attend mass weekly and have helped with "Welcome Group", "Women's Group" and "Good Samaritans" in our old parish. I am excited that this might be the opportunity that I need to get more involved.

Faith formation experience - Adults, Adolescents, Family, Catholic Schools

Personal Information: Nick & I moved to Ames last year. We are so proud to be here. This is such a great place to be. We have 2 daughters and our oldest is a second grader at St. Cecilia School. We both work at the Animal Sciences Department at ISU. I got my PhD degree in Brazil and teaching undergrads is my passion! We love music, soccer, and anything that involves good family time.
