

ST. CECILIA QUARTER NOTES

(July 2014)

St Cecilia—Patron Saint of Musicians



Each morning,
July 28-August 1,
children 4-10 will
gather for music,
Bible stories,

games, crafts, snacks, skits, science projects and
CRAZY FUN as they ponder the Bible story and
message of the day.

Vacation Bible School casts its net wide, welcoming participants and volunteers from all branches of the parish family each year. Young people from all faith formation programs participate as well as visiting grandchildren, nieces and nephews of parishioners, and friends eager to hear our message. Our volunteer ranks include many middle and high school youth, students home from college, mothers and fathers, retired parishioners, and young adults. The goal is to provide an open door to further growth and learning by creating a welcoming, positive experience where young people can fully engage in lessons about the Bible, Church teachings, and how to be Christ to one another.



The week of VBS includes a service project involving the entire parish in supporting our brothers and sisters around the world. In years past, mosquito nets have been purchased to combat malaria, care packages assembled for displaced young adults in our own community, and chickens purchased for families throughout Africa. Children, volunteers, and the entire parish family have donated generously to these efforts. This year our 5th graders will be actively involved in daily service projects to give back to their own St. Cecilia community. Registration is open for this year's adventure. Everyone 11 and up is invited to volunteer.



Quarter Notes—a quarterly publication of St. Cecilia's that helps keep parishioners aware of some of the stewardship opportunities and activities available to them.

Help Meet and Greet

Last summer a group of parishioners met to discuss Parish Life concerns and with a gentle nudge from the Holy Spirit formed a Parish Life Welcoming Committee whose mission is to "make all who enter St. Cecilia Church feel welcomed, valued and at home."

Their first goal was to welcome newly registered parishioners. Since setting this goal, over 160 households have received personal phone calls or personal notes. Committee members worked with parish staff to update and simplify registration materials and have begun holding registrations after Masses. The next registration weekend will be held July 26-27.



They held a reception and facilities tour for our Hispanic Community; coordinated a facilities/history tour during the St. Cecilia Feast Day Celebration; with

the Knights of Columbus hosted a meal and movie night, including a facilities tour for the newly registered; sponsored Sundaes on Sunday for the newly registered; volunteered to coordinate Coffee and Donuts; held the first of several Veterans Coffees, and plan to work with existing groups to implement the Pastoral Council's

hospitality plan. Please take every opportunity to introduce yourself to those at church whom you do not know. The Committee reminds you of Jesus' words,

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me."



St Cecilia School and Outreach to Others

St. Cecilia School is dedicated to providing quality, Catholic Christian education that stimulates life-long learning and nurtures responsible, productive citizens. One of the ways we do this is with our service projects throughout the school year. Here is a list of some of the projects we've done this past school year:

- Food at First
- Autism Speaks
- Blankets for Birthright
- Donation of books to Mary Greeley Pediatrics
- Ames Animal Shelter
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Rang bells for Salvation Army
- Retired Religious Organization
- Gabriel Project
- Youth Ministry Nicaragua trip
- Iowa Freedom Flight
- Bethesda Food Pantry
- Mary Greeley Medical Center Oncology Center
- Coins 4 Kids
- Lenten Rice Bowls

Over the course of the school year, over \$5,000 was raised and donated to these various organizations. Along with money, food was donated to food pantries, blankets were made for Birthright, we rang bells for Salvation Army, etc. Some of the service projects were funded by jeans day, in which we ask for a \$1 donation from anyone who wants to wear jeans that day. During Catholic Schools Week, we do a service project every day with classroom challenges. These service projects really show the students with just a little effort, how much can be accomplished! Especially if they are student run, like the can drive, their faces just beam with pride!



A Look at St. Cecilia's Finances -

Thank you for your continued support of St. Cecilia's Parish Mission.

Contributions for Period July 2013 to June 2014 -

Contributions	\$1,165,328
Budget	\$1,100,000
Good Sam (Black Bag)	\$ 48,725
Three In One	\$ 11,918
Rice Bowl	\$ 4,706

"Do good and share what you have: God is pleased by sacrifices of that kind. Hebrews 13:16"

