

HIGH SCHOOL

2015 SUMMER EVENTS GRADES 9-12

**All events listed with sign up links at
AMESLIFETEEN.WEEBLY.COM**

MAY 31: Incoming 9th Grade Parent Meeting
orientation for parents new to youth ministry from both St. Cecilia and St. Thomas Aquinas
7-8:15pm, St. Cecilia Church (note location change)

small group

June 3-aug 12 EVERY WEDNESDAY 7-9pm
Girls | Jill & John's 1308 kinyon: ames
Guys | Mindy & Pat's: 3120 stagecoach rd; ames
Teens 14+ of all faiths welcome. Join us once or come every week!

JUNE

June 20 WALK FOR LIFE, ada hayden 9am
June 22-26 LTLC (full)
June 28 SENIOR NIGHT, st. thomas aquinas 7pm

JULY

July 6-27 EVERY Monday SPORTS MINISTRY, 4:45 pm locations tba
teens entering 6th-12th grade welcome! \$5 donation for food
July 12-17 CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE, for incoming 10th-12th grade
July 19-23 TOTUS TUUS grades 7-12 sign up
July 27-31 Vacation Bible School - Teen Volunteers Needed!

***Save the Date!* AUGUST**

16 : Life Teen Kick Off
19 : YDisciple Begins
28-30 : Fall Retreat for Parents and Teens

MAY 31: Incoming 6th Grade Parent Meeting

orientation for parents new to youth ministry from both St. Cecilia and St. Thomas

7-8:15pm, St. Cecilia Church (note location change)

special events

JULY

july 6-27 EVERY Monday SPORTS MINISTRY, 4:45 pm locations tba
teens entering 6th-12th grade welcome! \$5 donation for food

Sign up at: <http://tinyurl.com/k2orowd>

july 19-23 grades 7 & 8 TOTUS TUUS <http://goo.gl/Q1Gzvd>
St. Thomas Aquinas 7-9:15pm

july 20-24 6th grade TOTUS TUUS <http://goo.gl/ZJwLmq>
St. Thomas Aquinas 8:30-2:30pm

Totus Tuus is a summer program dedicated to sharing the Gospel and promoting the Catholic Faith to children and youth through evangelization, catechesis, Christian witness, and Eucharistic worship.

july 27-31 Vacation Bible School - Teen Volunteers Needed!

Sign up at St. Cecilia homepage under VBS tab

SEPTEMBER

September 13 EDGE Kick Off 6-9pm

Faith Formation begins week of Sept 14

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope and joy** in the Catholic faith.

June 2015

St. Cecilia Church

Rev. James L. Secora, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

St. Thomas More

Called a "man for all seasons," Thomas was a scholar,

lawyer, gentleman, father, and chancellor of England. He was grounded in classics and religion before entering Oxford to study law. King Henry VIII appointed him Lord Chancellor but Thomas resigned three years later when Henry defied the pope. Thomas then spent the rest of his life defending the Catholic Church. In 1534, Thomas' refusal to recognize the King as the Head of the Church of England cost him his life.



Holy sinners

It is said that as St. Francis of Assisi lay dying, he claimed to be the greatest of sinners. The holier we become, the more aware we are of our sinfulness.

"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things"

(Philippians 4:8).



Drive out demons and heal, too

Jesus demonstrated his power through signs to prove the truth of his words. He also said that certain signs will accompany his true followers (Mark 16:17-18). As members of the Church, we, too, can:

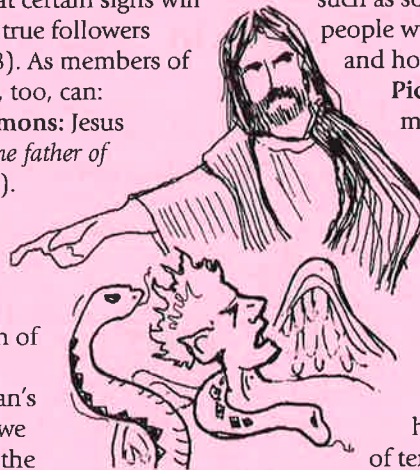
Drive out demons: Jesus called Satan, "the father of lies" (John 8:44). Satan spreads deceit and despair throughout the world. The truth of the Gospel overpowers Satan's lies. Whenever we bear witness to the Gospel, we help to drive out demonic forces.

Speak new languages: The Gospel truth never changes but making sure it is heard may mean changing methods to suit the time, culture, and place.

Sometimes this entails learning new vocabulary or ways of communicating, such as social media, to reach more people with God's message of love and hope.

Pick up serpents. Nothing is more poisonous to our relationship with God than yielding to temptation. Temptation, depicted by a serpent, was Satan's weapon against our first parents. When we use the Church's tools, including the Gospel and the Sacraments, we can safely handle the poisonous serpent of temptation.

Heal the ill. Physical illness can be devastating, but so is the great spiritual sickness, ignorance of God. We don't all have the gift of physical healing but when we proclaim the Gospel, we can bring healing to those who don't know God.

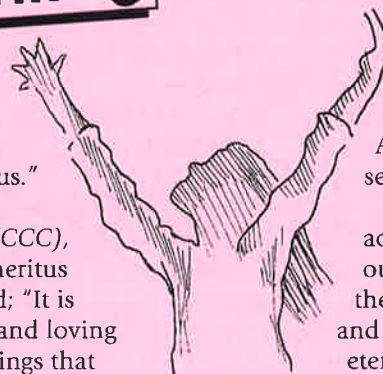


Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do we adore God?

"Adoration exalts the greatness of the Lord who made us." (Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC), #2628). Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI said; "It is only by adoring and loving God above all things that

human beings can totally fulfill themselves." Adoration of God makes sense because of who he is. When we adore God, we acknowledge that we owe our existence to him. He is the purpose of our existence and joining him in Heaven for eternity is our ultimate goal.



Even nice people gossip

"Guess what I heard?" While this invitation to share may seem like innocent fun, it can precede the harmful habit of gossip. The Church has different names for this sin, including calumny and detraction.

Gossip comes in different forms. Every person has the right to a good name and reputation. Calumny occurs when another's reputation is damaged through lies, while detraction is someone revealing the hidden faults of another without an objectively good reason.

Gossiping doesn't just hurt the victim. Pope

Francis recently said "...At the beginning, (Gossip) seems to be something enjoyable and fun, like a piece of candy. But at the end, it fills the heart with bitterness and also poisons us." Spreading negativity about others drags us down as well as those about whom we snipe.

Fight the Good Fight. While the damage gossip causes can't be undone, we can curb the habit by asking one simple question before we speak: "What will I accomplish by sharing this information?" If the answer is "no good," don't.



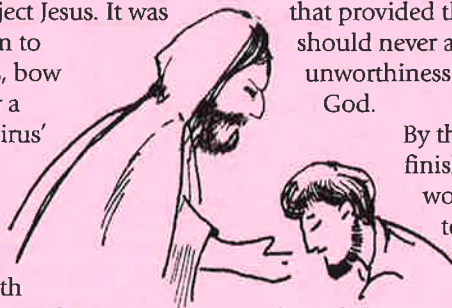
from Scripture

Mark 5:21-43, Faith in action.

As the leader of the local synagogue, Jairus was probably pressured by the Pharisees to avoid or reject Jesus. It was a courageous act for him to publicly approach Jesus, bow before him, and beg for a cure for his daughter. Jairus' faith in Jesus was that strong.

On the way to Jairus' home, Jesus was delayed by a woman with a serious hemorrhage. According to Jewish law, her constant bleeding would have excluded her from most social contact. She thought Jesus wouldn't want to touch her and secretly grabbed his cloak believing that any contact would

cure her. In fact, she was cured, but Jesus told her that it was her faith that provided the cure. We should never allow fear of our unworthiness to keep us from God.



By the time Jesus finished with the woman, Jairus was told of his daughter's death. Jesus

simply said, "Do not be afraid; just have faith" (Mark 5:36), and Jairus' great faith was rewarded. No matter how desperate your situation may appear, trust Jesus to help. Even death is under his control.

Q & A

Is it possible to accidentally commit a mortal sin?

No. For a sin to be considered mortal, three conditions must be met: "Mortal sin is sin whose object is grave matter and which is also committed with full knowledge and deliberate consent" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC), #1857).



Grave matter means that it must directly conflict with the Ten Commandments. While all forms of sin are bad, the severity of the misdeeds committed, as well as how strongly they harm ourselves and others, decide whether the sin is mortal or not.

If the offense being committed is indeed grave, the perpetrator must be fully aware that the actions involved are sinful. Finally, knowing that the action is grave, the person must willingly choose to commit the sin of his or her own free will. These last two conditions make it impossible to sin by accident.

By using this knowledge, we can avoid actions that separate us from God.

Feasts & Celebrations

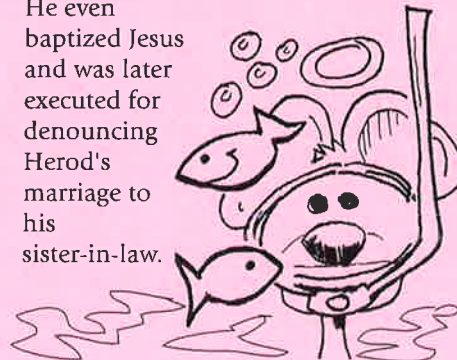
June 12 - Sacred Heart of Jesus. The image of Jesus with his heart exposed in unquenchable flame is a reminder of his intense and eternal love for us.

June 13 - Immaculate Heart of Mary. In response to a request by Our Lady of Fatima, Pope Pius XII consecrated the world to Mary's gentle and devout Immaculate Heart in 1942, and initiated this feast in 1945.

June 21 - St. Aloysius Gonzaga (1591). St. Aloysius prayed vigorously and fasted from age 7. Upon joining the Society of Jesus, he was ordered to cut back in order to study and spend

time with the other students. He died while nursing the sick.

June 24 - Nativity of St. John the Baptist. The only saint whose birth and death we observe, St. John was Jesus' cousin. He baptized and prepared the people for Jesus' coming. He even baptized Jesus and was later executed for denouncing Herod's marriage to his sister-in-law.



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To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)

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