

December 25–Christmas & January 1–Solemnity of Mary



Saint Cecilia Catholic Church

2900 Hoover Avenue • Ames, IA 50010

Fr. James L. Secora, Pastor

www.stceciliaparish.org

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST



FORMED by the Word of God ...
UNITED by the Holy Eucharist ...
ENLIVENED by the Holy Spirit!



Christmas, 2016.

Sweet Child of Bethlehem, grant that we may share with all our hearts in this profound mystery of Christmas. Pour into the hearts of men the peace which they sometimes seek so desperately, and which you alone can give them. Help them to know one another better and to live as brothers, children of the same Father. Awaken in their hearts love and gratitude for your infinite goodness; join them together in your love; and give us all your heavenly peace. (St. Pope John XXIII, 1881-1963)

May this holy season and the New Year bring each of you and those you love the “peace of God which surpasses all understanding” (Phil. 4:7).

Thank you for your support, prayer and love for me. My prayers and love to all!

Fr. Jim Secora

YOUTH MINISTRY AND FAITH FORMATION

Elementary Faith Formation

December 21-January 8: Christmas Break-No Faith Formation or CGS classes. Classes resume January 9.

Merry Christmas! We celebrate the Nativity of the Lord when Jesus was born. Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem because a census was called. It was a really long trip, and Mary was expecting a baby. We can wonder how this journey must have felt for her. Jesus was born in a manger, a place where animals eat. Mary wrapped Jesus in swaddling clothes so he could feel warm and loved. God desires to be with us so much that he became a human-a small child.



Angels are messengers from God. An angel came to speak to shepherds, people who took care of sheep in the fields. The angel told them that Jesus had been born, the Savior of the world. When the shepherds heard this good news, they went to adore Jesus and give praise to God. This shows us that God does great

things in small places with common people. The good news is for all humankind. cgs.level.i.training

We also celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. This feast is a celebration of Mary’s motherhood of Jesus. On this day,

we are reminded of her role in the plan of our salvation. Through the Holy Spirit, God the Father prepared Mary to be the dwelling place where He could dwell among men. New Year’s Day is also designated as the “World Day of Peace,” further acknowledging Mary as Queen of Peace. holymfamily.org

Anchor Youth Ministry

December 19-January 4: Christmas Break- No YDisciple, Life Teen, EDGE, or 6-8th Grade Faith Formation Classes

January 8 2-4PM: EDGE

January 8 7-9PM: Life Teen

January 9 6:15-7:30PM: 6-8th Grade Faith Formation Classes resume

January 11th 7:15-8:45PM: YDisciple

January 15th 10:30AM: Mass at both St. Thomas and St. Cecilia: Act of Entrance

January 15th 3-5:30PM: Confirmation Class

Life Teen Leadership Conference Testimony:

“God works in mysterious ways. Mostly. But sometimes, he can be very overt in showing how someone’s life should change. I have realized how much I have been lacking in my relationship with God, and, through Adoration and truly praying for the first time in a long time, God fixed it. As one of the speakers told us this week, “Prayer does not help your relationship with God. Prayer is your relationship with God.” – Isaac

BECOMING CATHOLIC

Would you like to learn more about the Catholic Faith? Are you thinking about possibly becoming Catholic? If so, we would love to talk to you about this! The process of becoming Catholic is deeply personal and no two faith journeys are identical. We would really like to meet you and accompany you along your journey if you will allow us. Don’t travel alone! This process is open any time during the year for adults (or children older than 7) who are interested in becoming Catholic, or for Baptized Catholics who never received their First Communion or Confirmation. Please contact us at: RCIA@stceciliaparish.org, or 515-233-3092, or stop in the parish office 8:30AM–4PM on Monday-Thursday, 8:30AM–2:30PM on Friday. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Parishioners: Do you know anybody who is thinking about becoming Catholic? Please pray for them, walk with them on their journey, and encourage them to contact us! A great info resource is www.formed.org, code: a12562

FORMATION FOR ALL

"Formation for All" is an online program designed to help Catholics of all ages to learn and pray about Respect Life and Social Justice issues. The next session will address the topics of Abortion and Adoption, In addition to discussing the church's teaching on the dignity of the human person from conception it will also discuss the need to support women facing unexpected or difficult pregnancies and promoting a culture of life through adoption. This session coincides with the Feast of Holy Innocents on December 28th as well as the anniversary of the SCOTUS ruling of Roe v. Wade in January. Sessions are designed for all ages and various settings. To access these sessions go to: dbqarch.org/rlsj/formation.

Bible Study meets on Tuesdays from 10-11:30AM in the St. Louis Room.



Saint Cecilia SCHOOL

In Christ We: Live, Love, Learn.

Lord Jesus,
Master of both the light and the darkness, send your
Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.
We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear
your voice each day.
We who are anxious over many things look forward to
your coming among us.
We who are blessed in so many ways long for the
complete joy of your kingdom.
We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.
We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the
light.
To you we say, "Come, Lord Jesus! Amen"
By Henri J.M. Nouwen

School Events:

Thursday, 12/22 through Tuesday, 1/3: Christmas Break
Wednesday, 1/4: School Resumes

For admissions information call:

515-232-5290

www.stceciliaparish.org/school

RIGHT TO LIFE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Social Justice Teaching - Adoption and Abortion

Everyone is invited on December 28 to an update on the teaching about adoption and abortion at 7PM in the South Social Hall. This is the next topic in the series by the Diocesan office of Right to Life and Social Justice. You may also use this in your own home (the Domestic Church). The website is <https://www.dbqarch.org/offices/respect-life/respect-life-and-social-justice-formation-for-all/>. For more information, please contact Deacon Ron at DeaconRon.Ames@gmail.com or 515-441-0480.

PLANNED GIVING

What do bequests, life insurance gifts, charitable gift annuities, life estate arrangements and lifetime giving have in common? These are ways you can pass on your Catholic heritage, faith, and love for St. Cecilia Parish. For more information, contact Frank Oppold at 515-290-1163.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Amidst the beautiful readings at the Christmas Masses is a reading from a small New Testament letter from Saint Paul to his protégé, Titus, read at Midnight Mass. Saint Paul reminds Titus that God has given us a gift in the person of Jesus Christ. This gift represents God's active presence in our lives and in our world. This gift redeems us from evil and death. This gift purifies us as God's people. This is a gift that also comes with an expectation: that we receive it with thanksgiving, allow it to transform us into Christ's image; and from it, learn how to live a life "eager to do what is good." Take time the next few days to reflect on the marvelous gift we celebrate at Christmas, and how we might become better stewards of this gift.

STEWARDSHIP: Dec. 25: For unto us is born this day a Savior! In response to so great a love, only the gift of my whole self will do. You have given us Yourself, dear Lord; in love and thanksgiving, I commit myself afresh to You.

Jan. 1: Today's second reading reminds us that through Christ we have been delivered from the old law and have become sons and daughters of God. New Year's Day provides a perfect opportunity to ask ourselves the question: Does my life reflect my gratitude for all that my loving Father has given me?

CONTRIBUTIONS

Month of December as of December 12, 2016

General Collection MTD	\$ 51,750
Budget December	\$ 298,934
YTD General Collections	\$ 482,828
YTD Budget	\$ 748,259
Annual Budget 2016-2017	\$1,318,500

May God Bless Your Generosity

Scan to Make Contributions: You may use this QRcode to make your contributions from your smart phone. Simply scan the QRcode and you will be directed to our website.



Contributions for 2016 must be postmarked by December 31 or hand delivered to the parish office by December 31. The last day to have a contribution included in 2016 is Saturday, December 31. Sunday, January 1 contributions will be counted as 2017. **Contribution statements** will be sent before January 31, 2017. If you would like to receive your statement via email to save on postage, and are not currently receiving emails from St. Cecilia, please provide your email address to parishbusiness@stceciliaparish.org by January 1. Thank you for your continued support of St. Cecilia Parish.

DID YOU KNOW?

You can make your on-line contribution to St. Cecilia on our website, or you can sign up in the parish office to have an automatic debit to your bank account, or you can place your contribution in the offertory basket at Mass. Thank you for your support of God's work in Ames.



Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, December 24
 4:00PM: Priest Intention
 6:30 PM: Priest Intention
 10:00PM: Priest Intention

Sunday, December 25
 10:00AM: Priest Intention

Tuesday, December 27
 No Mass

Wednesday, December 28
 No Mass

Thursday, December 29
 No Mass

Friday, December 30
 No Mass

Saturday, December 31
 5:00PM: Kay Naughton †

Sunday, January 1
 8:30AM: Parishioners of St. Cecilia
 10:30AM: Ndoutoume Family
 5:00PM: Special Intention
 Misa in Espanol

Tuesday, January 3
 8:00AM: Jack Gehm †

Wednesday, January 4
 9:00AM All-School Mass

Thursday, January 5
 8:00AM: Linus Putz †

Friday, January 6
 8:00AM: Mike Stahr †

Saturday, January 7
 5:00PM: Denise Brunia †

Sunday, January 1
 8:30AM: Parishioners of St. Cecilia
 10:30AM: Don, Brad, & Michelle Friedly †
 5:00PM: Kay Naughton †
 Misa in Espanol

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekend: Saturday 5PM; Sunday 8:30AM, 10:30AM
 & 5PM (Misa en Español)

Weekday: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8AM (Chapel)
 Wednesday 8AM (Chapel in Summer)

Wednesday 9AM All School Mass (Church During School Year)

Readings for the Week of December 25, 2016

Sunday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25
 or 1:18-25
 Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
 Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
 Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
 Monday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31/Mt 10:17-22
 Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:5-2:2/Ps 124/Mt 2:13-18
 Thursday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96/Lk 2:22-35
 Friday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Ps 128/Mt
 2:13-15, 19-23
 Saturday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96/Jn 1:1-18

Readings for the Week of January 1, 2017

Sunday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
 Monday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98/Jn 1:19-28
 Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:29-3:6/Ps 98/Jn 1:29-34
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98/Jn 1:35-42
 Thursday: 1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100/Jn 1:43-51
 Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147/Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-28 or 3:23,
 31-34, 36, 38
 Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149/Jn 2:1-11
 Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

St. Thomas Aquinas Mass Times

Weekend Masses

4:45PM Saturday
 8:30AM, 10:30AM & 7PM Sunday

Weekday Mass

12:00 Noon Monday-Friday
 9:15PM Thursday

Sts. Peter & Paul Mass Time

8:00AM Sunday in Gilbert (see below)

Saints Peter and Paul is celebrating Mass at 8:00AM at a temporary location, St. Petri Lutheran Church, 804 Grand Avenue in Story City. Renovations to the current church are expected to last through mid-January.

UPCOMING DEADLINES



January 14/15 bulletin announcements
 Due by Friday, noon, January 6

January 21/22 bulletin announcements
 Due by Friday, noon, January 13

Announcements can be sent to



Please Remember in Your Prayers: Marie Swenson

and Al Wagner. May the Lord grant peace and consolation to their families in their time of need. May they and all who sleep in Christ, find in God's presence, light, happiness and peace.

MARRIAGE CORNER

If you are a parent, take a moment today to ponder the awesome miracle of your child's birth. If you are not a parent, ponder a mysterious way that God has acted in your life. Look around. It's there.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

STEPHEN MINISTRY

"All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God."

Ps. 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6

With the arrival of the "Light of the World" in Jesus' birth, we rejoice in celebrating Christmas Day. God's power is within our reach to experience and pass on to others who are not able to see it. It is our hope that all children of God might find his light shining brightly in their lives. We wish all a Blessed Christmas and a holy and Happy New Year. From the members of Stephen Ministry at St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Cecilia's and Sts. Peter and Paul.

As a reminder: Parishioners who have prepared salads or deserts for funeral lunches may pick up their empty containers in the ushers' room. *Thank you to everyone who helps with these lunches.*

Save Your Stamps! St. Cecilia Council of Catholic Women would love to have your cancelled stamps. Please save all stamps except the flag stamps & trim around the stamp 1/4" if possible, put them in an envelope marked "stamps" and place them in the gold box in the narthex. Money raised from the sale of these stamps goes to help the missions. For questions, please call Carolyn Konechne at 232-3399.

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

Join us for

St. Thomas Aquinas' TOMS EVENT*

Largest Annual Celebration—January 28, 2017

This event brings students and resident parishioners together to raise funds for parish-wide immersion, as well as educational and faith formation-related events.

Tickets are available at tomsevent.com or at the STA Office.

***TOGETHER OUR MISSION IS SERVICE**

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Eucharistic Adoration is suspended from 8AM Wednesday, Dec. 21 until 8AM Tuesday, January 3.

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Meets 4th Tues. of each month at 7PM in the North Social Hall

Ric Nelson, **Chair** 451-8384

FAITH FORMATION COMMISSION

Meets 2nd Tues. of each month at 7PM in the St. Louis Room

Joe Baumgarten, **Chair** 337-1134

MEETINGS & EVENTS

All women and teens are invited to attend the Catholic Daughters meeting which begins with light refreshments at 6:00PM on Thursday, Jan. 12 in the South Social Hall. Speakers from Informed Choices will describe the impressive history of the sanctity of life efforts in Ames. Please RSVP to Marilyn Krocheski at 292-9207.

Iowa Right to Life has cancelled the Midwest March for Life that was to take place on January 13, 2017. The bishops of Iowa have rescheduled the annual Mass for Life for Sunday, Jan. 15 at 5PM at Saints John and Paul Church in Altoona. Registration is not required for the Mass.

THANK YOU

The family of Marie Swenson would like to thank the members of St. Cecilia's for their wonderful care of our mother who was a long time member. The church was very important to her, and she strived to live her life as God intended. She knew she was going to a better place when she had to leave us. So many people looked out for her and we cannot thank you enough. Particularly the members of the home bound ministry who kept her connected when she could no longer get to mass. Amanda with the Stephens Ministry for the extra time and comforting prayers together. Especially to Regina Rasmussen who visited often with mom for many years but was with her to guide her to heaven for our family. We also thank the wonderful bereavement group for all they do for us and other families at a difficult time of our lives. Thank you all for being the support system mom needed for her deep spiritual life.

BAPTISM PREPARATION

All parents seeking baptism for their child are expected to attend a preparation session.

Parents are recommended to attend a session prior to the birth of their child.

Baptism Preparation I for first born child -

Next session: Thurs., Feb. 23 at 6:15PM

Baptism Preparation II for second child -

Next session: Thurs., Jan. 19 at 7PM

Baptism Preparation III for third/late child -

By special arrangement

Please call the parish office at 233-3092 for reservation.

Godparents are also expected to attend.

All sessions take place in the St. Louis Room

CATHOLIC SCHOOL BOARD

Meets 1st Tues. of each month at 7PM in the St. Louis Room

Susan McNicholl, **Chair** 231-0585

FINANCE COUNCIL

Meets 3rd Tues. of each month at 7PM in the Oscar Romero Room

Mark Moore, **Chair** 337-1551

December 25—Christmas & January 1—Solemnity of Mary

Prayer opportunities held in the Chapel

Scripture Rosary.....Monday 7:00AM
Intercessory Prayer Group Sunday 8:00-9:00PM
RosaryMonday 7:30PM*, Tuesday-Friday before 8:00AM
Mass (*The rosary is said for Pro-life the first Mon. of each month.)
Prayer Group.....Tuesday 7:00PM-7:30PM Adoration
7:30PM-8:00PM Rosary

Chaplet of Divine Mercy.....Friday 3:00PM
Liturgy of the Hours.....Saturday 7:00AM
Women's Rosary.....Tuesday 9:00PM

For Peace and Health in our world
Eucharistic Adoration** The chapel is open daily, keypad
access only between 10:00PM & 6:00AM.

**Contact the Parish Office at 233-3092 to have your
information forwarded to the Coordinators to schedule a weekly holy
hour.

PRAYER CHAIN
Call requests to Melissa Bortle at 232-8354.

Like us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/stcames>

**I AM INTERESTED IN BECOMING A
MEMBER OF SAINT CECILIA PARISH**

Name and Address the way you would like it to appear.

Name:

Address:

City:

Zip:

Phone:

Email:

Please return via mail or drop in collection basket.
Someone will contact you. You will receive a registration
packet with additional information.

Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish.

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:15-4:30PM and by appointment.

PARISH OFFICE

HoursMon.-Thur. 8:30AM-4PM
Fri. 8:30AM-2:30PM
Phone.....(515) 233-3092
Fax Number.....(515) 233-6423
Priest Residence.....(515) 233-9477
St. Cecilia Website.....stceciliaparish.org

PARISH STAFF

Pastor.....Father James Secora
jsecora@stceciliaparish.org
Pastoral AssociateJarrett Wendt
jwendt@stceciliaparish.org
DeaconsGary Aitchison (515)296-2966
gaitchis@iastate.edu
Mark Bortle (515)291-4989
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Ron Smith (515)441-0480
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Director of Music & Liturgy...Robert Hauser
bhauser@stceciliaparish.org
Business Manager.....Char VanKerckvoorde
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Administrative Assistant....Mary Sue Derks
msderks@stceciliaparish.org
Administrative Assistant....Simone Donovan
sdonovan@stceciliaparish.org

FAITH FORMATION

Phone.....(515) 232-3514
Fax.....(515) 232-2875
Director of Faith Formation.....Katie Patrizio
kpatrizio@stceciliaparish.org
Assistant Director of Faith Formation...Elizabeth Stone
estone@stceciliaparish.org
Director of Youth Ministry.....Anna Steele
asteel@stceciliaparish.org
Coordinator of Middle School Youth Ministry...
Zekiel Mientkiewicz
zmientk@stceciliaparish.org
Administrative Assistant.....Anna Maher
amaher@stceciliaparish.org

SCHOOL

Phone.....(515) 232-5290
Fax.....(515) 232-2875
Principal.....Ervin Rowlands
erowlands@stceciliaschoolames.org
Administrative Assistant....Lois Vidimos
lvidimos@stceciliaschoolames.org