

## 2021 Faith Formation Commission—The Candidates

These are the candidates running for three (3) openings for the **Faith Formation Commission** to be held at all Masses next weekend. The people that are elected will served for a three (3) year term. You will be asked to vote for NO MORE THAN three (3) of the candidates.

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### **MARCIE NIEGSCH (pronounced 'Nicks')**

**Reason for Running:** As a Catholic for nearly 49 years, I worry that our church is shrinking, and participation is lower than years past. I am passionate about creatively adapting faith opportunities to appeal to more people. I believe my personal experiences coupled with my strengths would help broaden faith enrichment for all ages. My goals are to (1) help provide new and improved opportunities parishioners want and (2) grow our parish.

I am a product of a Catholic family, public grade school (attending evening Faith Formation) and Catholic junior high/high school. I know the benefits of a strong Catholic foundation. I want Catholicism and St. Cecilia to thrive for future generations. My education and work experiences are in marketing communications. I believe I can contribute to creating new ways for our parishioners to grow closer to God and find even greater fulfillment at St. Cecilia.

**Length Of Time In Parish:** 17 years

#### **Parish Life Involvement:**

Adults                                       Adolescents                                       Persons with Disabilities  
 Family     Children of Catechetical Age                                       Catholic Schools  
 Young Adults                                       Early Childhood

My husband, Jason, and I have been parishioners for 17 years since preparing to be married at St. Cecilia Church June 25, 2004. My first involvement was with the School Expansion Committee 2004-2005. This led me into the Gala committee for which I volunteered for about 4 years. I moved on to teach Faith Formation 2nd grade (2013-2014) and just returned to 3rd grade Faith Formation (2020-2021). Before moving to Ames, I taught 6th grade Faith Formation at St. Francis in West Des Moines. I have also had experience working with kids of all ages while volunteering at Vacation Bible School sessions.

**Personal Information:** My husband, Jason, and I have been parishioners for 17 years and were married at St. Cecilia in 2004. We have four children (grades 3-9). Our kids have been involved in the faith formation program for 10 years; I have taught two years. Three of our four kids attended St. Cecilia preschool. Our son, Ben, has Down syndrome, so we switched to public school in 2009. I grew up in Carroll, IA and am a 1991 graduate of Kuemper Catholic High School. In 1995 I received BAs from ISU in Advertising and Art & Design. My husband and I own and operate Dentistry At Somerset.



**SHARON J. JENKINS**

**Reason for Running:** Ongoing faith formation is an important aspect of our personal responsibility as Catholics. I've struggled over the years to accomplish this on my own and have been helped with various programs provided by the parish or permitted by the parish. This is an important job and one size doesn't fit all parishioners since we are each on our particular journey, with different backgrounds and experiences of life. The parish needs a variety of formation avenues, at different times, and from different people to fill all our needs.

**Length Of Time In Parish:** 30 years

**Parish Life Involvement:**

- Adults
- Adolescents
- Persons with Disabilities
- Family
- Children of Catechetical Age
- Catholic Schools
- Young Adults
- Early Childhood

**Personal Information:** I came to Iowa from Pennsylvania to earn my masters in biology/biochemistry and worked for the USDA in diagnostics for 40 years. My husband, Peter, and I have 2 girls and 1 boy who live in the area and have 7 grandchildren. Gardening is my hobby as we live on 15 acres. In the past I have worked on the St. Cecilia front gardens adding lilies and daffodils.



**KENDRA KRUSE**

**Reason for Running:** I'm running for Faith Formation Commission because I'm passionate about religious education in all phases of life. I am blessed to have had a Catholic education as my backbone and I am constantly discovering new ways to deepen my own relationship with God on my own, with my family, and with friends for Bible Study. I love working with my own children to establish habits of faith, and sharing with them what they're learning from

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. I'd love to be a part of helping programming run smoothly and supporting new initiatives to help people, in all ages and stages, grow in their faith!

**Length Of Time In Parish:** 6years

**Parish Life Involvement:**

- Adults
- Adolescents
- Persons with Disabilities
- Family
- Children of Catechetical Age
- Catholic Schools
- Young Adults
- Early Childhood

My husband, Matthew, and I had the pleasure of taking the Financial Peace University course at St. Cecilia in 2015, and then leading it twice since then, ensuring that childcare was provided so that families of all ages could attend. Two of our children (the ones of age) also attend Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.

**Personal Information:** My husband Matthew and I have 3 children (and soon to be 4). As a secondary school teacher for the past ten years, I'm excited to apply elements of my professional life to benefit the parish!



**PAMELA KROGH**

**Reason for Running:** I was very involved in the protestant church I grew up in. I was confirmed in the Catholic Church over 10 years ago and now that I have children I would like to be more involved. My daughter currently attends CGS and is celebrating her first communion this year; as an educator and a convert, I've really enjoyed seeing the curriculum and would like to join the Faith Formation Commission so that I can be a part of the amazing work that is done here at St. Cecilia's.

**Length Of Time In Parish:** 1.5 years

**Parish Life Involvement:**

- Adults
- Family
- Young Adults
- Adolescents
- Children of Catechetical Age
- Early Childhood
- Persons with Disabilities
- Catholic Schools

My daughter attends CGS and will be receiving first communion on May 2nd. We've also attended a family night celebrating the year of St. Joseph.

**Personal Information:** My husband and I moved to Ames in 2017 and have three children: Eleanore (7), Mick (3), and Chip (1). I taught high school math for 9 years before becoming an instructional coach at Boone High School. I enjoy gardening, though I'm far from having a green thumb, and spending the evening with my husband painting.



**JAYNE MISRA**

**Reason for Running:** I want to support a loving family of God who cares about each person and serves with an eagerness and joy. I have had 8 children here and sent them to St. Cecilia's School and then to religious education and continue learning so much. I love making the rosaries that the first communicants design and have such wonder for the beauty I see in each rosary and each person. My background is in journalism and I have a BJ degree from the University of Missouri in broadcast journalism. I love kind laughter, prayer in the trenches of life and earnest listening.

**Length Of Time In Parish:** 40 years

**Parish Life Involvement:**

- Adults
- Family
- Young Adults
- Adolescents
- Children of Catechetical Age
- Early Childhood
- Persons with Disabilities
- Catholic Schools

**Personal Information:** I am an Eucharistic Minister and was a program leader for 6-11pm Eucharistic Adoration. Our own family was raised here and we participated in many days of recollection and faith building. My children are young adults and I pray with joy and love for each of them and help out when needed.

## ROSE TONDRA



**Reason for Running:** I have very much liked being part of the faith Formation team every time I have worked with them. The parish library, which was started in 1999, is under Faith Formation. So that has been twenty-two years of working on the team. And now I have time for a closer association with them. I love our focus on the Eucharist and the way the young families work together to live the faith. We keep growing in the faith intensively and extensively, through Exodus 90 for the men this past year, and in the tremendous outreach the Knights have made in the whole area for immigrants suffering under Covid19 restrictions. It is amazing to me how moving the liturgies have been under so many restrictions and circumstances.

**Length Of Time In Parish:** 53 years

### **Parish Life Involvement:**

\_X\_ Adults

\_X\_ Adolescents

\_X\_ Persons with Disabilities

\_X\_ Family

\_X\_ Children of Catechetical Age

\_X\_ Catholic Schools

\_X\_ Young Adults

\_ -\_ Early Childhood

Dick and I were part of the Christian Family Movement since 1968 until he passed away last year. We were a diaconal couple from 1982 till last year. I worked in the catechetical area since 1968 until I began teaching in the school in 1974. Then I coordinated children's Sunday liturgies for about four years. I began working as a supervising teacher for homeschoolers in the early 1980's. I brought the new rite of the Sacrament of Reconciliation to our parish, and wrote for all the teachers of the parish tying each month's Sunday children's liturgy to a report that included related doctrine from the provisional catechisms until the official one was printed in English. I helped start the campus court of Catholic Daughters at St. Thomas.

**Personal Information:** Have been writing a book on American education from the perspective of faith and reason and taking communion to the shut-ins.

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