



Social Justice Newsletter November 2021

2021 Christmas Market
Saturday, November 20, 2021 (4:30-6:30)
Sunday, November 21, 2021 (9:00-12:30)
North and South Social Hall



Saint Cecilia Parish Christmas Market was started in 2008 as a way for parish groups to raise monies and an opportunity for organizations to create awareness for their causes.

Christmas Market has been held every year since, with the exception of last year due to the pandemic. Over the course of these 12 years there has been a variety of 42 different groups participating in the fundraiser.

Saint Cecilia Parish is a founding member of Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance, Inc. GNEA provides rent, utilities, food and gas assistance to those in need. GNEA was started by a group of area churches as a way to alleviate the time and stress put on church office staff when those in need reached out for help. In addition to rent, utilities, food and gas assistance, GNEA assists its clients with counseling and guidance.

Each member of GNEA is asked to hold one fundraiser per year with proceeds going to GNEA. To fulfill our obligation to GNEA, the Social Justice Committee has had a booth selling recycled Christmas decorations at the Christmas Market since 2008. Proceeds in those 12 years have netted \$10,236* for GNEA's programs. (*These dollars do not include the thousands of dollars raised by the 42 groups. At least half of these groups have been a part of Christmas Market since its beginning.)

It has taken many parishioners' and staff members' cooperation to make the Christmas Market a success the past 12 years.

A Committee of St. Cecilia's Catholic Church
2900 Hoover Avenue, Ames, Iowa 50010
(515) 233-3092 www.stceciliaparish.org

AMES ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET



The Ames Alternative Gift Market will have a table at the St. Cecilia Christmas Market, November 20 and 21. Shoppers can provide life changing gifts to people in need. Shoppers select projects and receive cards with descriptions of the projects purchased. The cards can then be mailed to persons on their gift lists or given personally.

Just like traditional gifts, alternative gifts express love and affection, celebrate occasions, and show you care. Unlike traditional gifts, alternative gifts do not contribute to the consumer stream, and they do not need to be dusted! Give presents that help the homeless, the sick, and the hungry and nourish the self-dignity and the well-being of individuals and families.

This year, you can purchase a leg brace for a child in the Democratic Republic of Congo, help restore indigenous land in the U.S., or purchase a front door for a new home at 618 10th St in Ames that is being built by Habitat for Humanity of Central Iowa. There are 29 international and national projects and six local agencies. Please stop by and purchase a real gift that produces real change. For more information or to purchase a gift after the Christmas Market, contact Cynthia Shriver at 515-451-4606 or email at shriverc@gmail.com. **Shopping lists** will be available on the Social Justice bulletin board at the entrance to the worship space. Catalogs are available on the table in the hallway close to the main office. There is more information on the international and national projects at the **Alternative Gifts International** website at alternativegifts.org. Purchases can be made through their website or by calling 800-842-2243.

Social Justice Contacts

ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET -
1-800-842-2243 - *STC Contact:*
Cynthia Shriver 515-451-4606

AMOS - STC Contact:
Doreen Berg 515-956-3414

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE
AMERICAS - STC Contact:
Rose Tondra 515-232-4598

CLIMATE ACTION TEAM -
STC Contact: John Wilson
515-232-1087

DAYS FOR GIRLS - STC Contact:
Mary Ross 515-232-5080

FOOD AT FIRST - 611 Clark Ave.,
Ames - 515-344-4357 - STC Contact:
Julie Haas 515-232-7138

GOOD NEIGHBOR EMERGENCY
ASSISTANCE, INC. - 613 Clark
Ave., Ames - 515-296-1449
STC Contact: Charlie Weber
515-460-3335

HOME FOR AWHILE -
STC Contact: Mary Ross
515-232-5080

OPERATION RICE BOWL - STC
Contact: Cynthia Shriver
515-292-6584

PRISON MINISTRY - STC Contact:
Barb Moore 515-337-1551

SAINT CECILIA SOCIAL JUSTICE
COMMITTEE - Contact:
Doreen Berg 515-956-3414

SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE -
STC Contact:
Garland Dahlke 515-460-0403

STORY COUNTY HUNGER
COLLABORATION - Contact:
Doreen Berg 515-956-3414

THE BRIDGE HOME - STC
Contact: Mary Ross 515-232-5080

The Social Justice Committee meets on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Oscar Romero Room. Everyone is welcome to attend.
CONSIDER BECOMING A MEMBER

ST. CECILIA PARISH GIVING TREE



Continuing the 43 year tradition of sharing the spirit and hope of the holiday season, the people of St. Cecilia Parish will celebrate Advent with a Giving Tree. The gift tags will be available for parishioners to pick up during the Christmas Market the weekend of November 20-21. They will also be available during all masses on November 27-28 and December 4-5.

The majority of the gift tags will be requesting gift cards from Walmart and Target. The gift cards will be given to the families identified as needing assistance. The families will then use the cards to purchase gifts for their own families. You have the option to purchase gift cards through the scrip program. These cards can be purchased at a table set up next to the Giving Tree table at all of the above weekend masses. The gift cards do not need to be wrapped. Please return your gifts to the table in the Narthex during the weekend masses on November 20-21, November 27-28 and December 4-5.

Thank you for your support in helping to make the holiday season, brighter for many area families.



Update to August 21st SJ Newsletter regarding changes to the Good Samaritan Black Bag

In the August 2021 Social Justice Newsletter, the Committee announced new changes to the way its funds are disbursed.

Those changes were implemented in July 2021. In the first quarter, it was determined that donations to Social Justice were more complicated than anticipated. A simple procedure was needed that accounts for the variety of donor intents and methods, including: ACH, LPI, Deposits, and Sunday Deposits. Possible solutions were brainstormed. After discussing the complexities involved, the following Policies were adopted:

1. Ensure that any donor special designations (i.e. memo line) are recorded and set aside to be disbursed as designated.
2. The committee will donate to the monthly scheduled agency, the other Sunday Social Justice collections, the LPI and ACH donations designated to Social Justice. In addition, they will receive the \$1,000 parish tithe for the month.
3. Deposits that are made directly to the office, as well as the Thanksgiving and Good Friday collections will be placed in Discretionary Funds.

Discretionary Funds are available for special requests as needed throughout the year and our smaller organizations yearly. In August, the committee will evaluate and disburse (all but \$1,000) of its Discretionary Funds available to agencies of its choice.

Because of your generosity, and the parish monthly tithe of \$1,000, the following monies have been collected and disbursed from July through September:

- . Individual Assistance (July) \$5,486
- . Ames Catholic Worker House (August) \$2,662
- . Mustard Seed Community Farm (August) \$2,512
- . September (Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance, Inc.) \$5,178