



**ST. THERESA CATHOLIC**

FAITH • SERVICE • COMMUNITY • EDUCATION

## October 19, 2023 News & Updates

---

### Upcoming Important Dates

10/20/23 8:30 a.m., School Mass - 8th grade

10/26/23 Spirit Day

10/27/23 8:30 a.m., School Mass - 7th grade

10/27/23 Picture retakes 10:00 a.m.

10/27/23 Trunk or Treat 6-8 p.m.

Winter Music Concert:

---

### Social Media - Follow us on Facebook

[St. Theresa Catholic School](#)

[St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Catholic Church](#)

---

### School News

The athletic department is in search of St Theresa basketball jerseys. If your athlete has a St. Theresa basketball jersey please return it to the office ASAP. Thank You.

## JMC Registration

Families - Thank you to those of you who have done your JMC registration! For those of you who have not done it yet, will not be able to have your child's picture taken for Facebook posts and your family will not be able to be in our directory. JMC is also where we notify you of important messages, and you can make sure your information is up to date. Here is the information again: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hVLENOXe8vP7g0Nyb5ZCZqWwvqE48N4fCgoo6He9UMI/edit> Please call Mrs. Jorgensen if you need help or to set up time to come to the office and do it.

## Enrollment for 2024-2025 School Year

**You are an important part of our school community. We want to save your spot for next year!**

Enrollment for 2024-25 is open now, and current families must enroll by November 15 to receive priority. After November 15, enrollment will be open to other families in our parish followed by new families in the broader community.

### Next Steps:

- Scan the QR code to complete the [enrollment form](#).
- After this form has been submitted, watch for an email within 2-3 weeks from Blackbaud Tuition Management to set up your account.
- Pay the \$100 per student enrollment fee when setting up your tuition account. (This replaces the registration fee typically due after the first of the year.)
- You will receive a confirmation email from Blackbaud when these steps are completed.



We recognize the revised enrollment process is taking place earlier than what you are accustomed to. We appreciate your assistance as we implement this new process.

If you need assistance with Blackbaud, please contact Joni Swedenhjelm at the Des Moines Regional Catholic Schools office - [jswedenhjelm@dowlingcatholic.org](mailto:jswedenhjelm@dowlingcatholic.org) or 515-222-1051.

## I Love U Guys!

St. Theresa has adopted the I Love U Guys! Standard Response Protocol for K12 beginning with the 2023-2024 school year. We will use these protocols for drills (fire, tornado) and practice exercises (building incident safety) throughout the school year. Drills and practice exercises are important for muscle memory, just like practicing math facts. Attached you will find a [Standard Response Protocol \(SRP\) Facts Sheet](#) for more information. You can also visit the I Love U Guys! website for more information at: <https://iloveuguy.org/> We held our first fire drill of the school year on Wednesday, October 18.

## Parish Mass

We invite all school families to attend Mass this Sunday at 8:30 a.m. and represent St. Theresa Catholic School.

We encourage you to wear your school uniform so you are easy to identify as a St. Theresa student. This is an opportunity for our school families to give back to the parish and for the parish to see our school families in action. This is the beginning of a ministry that school

families will provide to the church. Each month, different grades will be encouraged to sign up to participate in an assigned mass. Be thinking about how your family can help today. This is our fall schedule:

Date	Time	Classes
Sunday, Nov. 19	10:30 am Mass	K, 4th, 6th
Saturday, Dec.16	4:30 pm Mass	2nd, 3rd, 8th



Join us for our annual Trunk or Treat on October 27! We need volunteers, groups clubs, etc. to host trunks, sign up [here](#).

■ Parent Institute Newsletter October 2023 Elementary School English.pdf

## Nonpublic Transportation Reimbursement

Families of students in K-8th grades may be eligible for a nonpublic transportation reimbursement if they live more than two miles away, one-way from St. Theresa Catholic School. Forms must be submitted each semester (due Dec. 1 & May 1) according to the requirements of each district. Eligible families will receive one check following the end of the school year. See below for instructions.

**Please click below on the school district in which you reside for instructions:**

[Adel DeSoto Minburn](#)

[Ankeny](#)

Dallas Center-Grimes - please [email](#) your [form](#).

[Des Moines Public](#)

DMPS will NOT accept paper copies.

For all other districts, please submit the [reimbursement form](#) to the [public school address](#) in which you reside if you live more than two miles, one-way from STCS.

---

## Parish News

### **Meet Father George, our new associate pastor!**

In the words of St. Paul, “We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28).



My name is Fr. George Boachie Nyarko, from the DIOCESE OF TECHIMAN (Ghana). I am from a town called NSUTA of Techiman Municipality in the Bono East Region of Ghana in West Africa. I was born on April 14, 1968 to George Boachie Yiadom (deceased) and Martha Abena Yeboaa. My late father was a teacher and my mother was a simple farmer. I am the second of nine, six boys and three girls, and have 29 nephews and nieces who are all committed Catholics. I was fortunate to be born into a very strong Catholic family that sowed the seed of the faith in me right from infancy.

I was ordained into the Catholic Priesthood on December 7, 2002. Since then, I have served as an Associate Pastor, a Pastor Parish Priest, Chaplain for Hospitals and Diocesan Pious Associations, Diocesan Finance Administrator, a Member of the Diocesan CURIA, Priests Senate, Diocesan Health Service Board, Diocesan Committees and Commissions.

There was a Major Seminarian from my village who brought together young boys and girls to form “Bible Readers Association” for my village church. I was one of those who received the formation. He trained us so well that we could read at that tender age to the admiration of all during Mass and other liturgical celebrations. I felt very much drawn to his simple lifestyle and his approach to pastoral activities that nurtured the desire to become like him in the future.

I am grateful to His Lordship, Most Rev. William Joensen, for welcoming me into this great family of God, Catholic Diocese of Des Moines. I am equally indebted to Fr. Raphael Assamah, the Pastor of St. Theresa Church for his acceptance and readiness to work with me.

It's my prayerful wish that, together we're able to bring many souls to Christ and help build the Kingdom of God in the Diocese of Des Moines. God bless you!!!

### **Ushers & Greeters Needed**

We are looking for individuals, couples or families for this ministry. Responsibilities include arriving 15 minutes prior to Mass and to make people feel at home. We are all called to a ministry; perhaps this is YOUR ministry! We need to brush up on our hospitality skills. All ushers and greeters, old and new, are asked to attend a workshop on the basics of your ministry as well as have new directions on Thursday, November 16, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. or 6:30 p.m. in the church. RSVP to Barb Woods, [bwoods@stdsm.com](mailto:bwoods@stdsm.com) or 515-210-6649.

## Cards & Games

Join us for Cards and Games on Wednesday, October 25, from 1-3 p.m. in the East Meeting Room. Bring a treat to share, a friend to introduce, and an eagerness to have fun. Learning new games is exciting, but meeting new people is more exciting! RSVP to Tory Tyrrell, 319-217-9375 or Barb Woods, 515-210-6649.

## Faith Expressions

Join us for our final speaker on October 26th, 5:45 p.m. Mass, 6:15 p.m. Meal, 6:45 p.m. Speaker-Don Cameron. We will enjoy a chili dinner together. Please RSVP by clicking [here](#) or [jtwells57@gmail.com](mailto:jtwells57@gmail.com).



## Altar Server Training

The next round of training will be on Wednesday November 8th and Thursday the 9th, 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the church. Contact Josh Tyrell, [tyrrell.w.j@gmail.com](mailto:tyrrell.w.j@gmail.com), with questions.

## Fall Clean Up Day

SAVE THE DATE: SCHOOL FALL CLEAN UP-Thursday, November 9 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. We invite parents and grandparents to join our students and staff in being servants to our school by cleaning up the school and church grounds to help the parish mission Clean Up Project. More details coming soon.

FALL 2023 CLEAN UP...is upon us again...the CLEAN UP PROJECT is scheduled for Saturday, November 11 for members of our parish who need a little help with yard clean up or minor home repair. Our Fall Clean Up is now in its 19th year of service to the needs of our parishioners and we thank all those who have been involved in past years and welcome them back again this year! All volunteers - please be in the church parking lot on November 11, at 8:00 a.m. to begin our day. If you are able to contribute to this project in any way, large or small please call us. Please bring your own rake and be ready to work. Thank you! Questions: Sergio Loch at 515-707-6172, or 263-2922; [sloch@grandview.edu](mailto:sloch@grandview.edu); Paul Chicoine at 515-979-3822, [pcchicoine@gmail.com](mailto:pcchicoine@gmail.com)

---

## Community News

A colorful poster for the DCHS 2023 Trunk or Treat event. The background is purple with orange and white accents. At the top left, there's a starburst that says "Free Candy". Below it, text reads "Dowling Catholic Presents our 4th annual Trunk or Treat!". Further down, it says "Price of admission: Donation of canned good, peanut butter, cereal bars or personal hygiene items." The central illustration shows three children in costumes: a mummy, a ghost, and a dinosaur, each holding a pumpkin bucket. A large jack-o'-lantern is in the foreground. At the bottom, the text "DCHS 2023 Trunk or Treat!" is written in a large, stylized font. On the left, the event details are listed: "Sunday, October 22nd, 2:00 - 4:00 pm, DCCHS East Faculty Lot". On the right, there are two paragraphs of text: "All DCHS students, faculty, staff & their families are invited! All parochial school families are invited, also!" and "Come enjoy this special DCHS tradition and see decorated trunks, check out fun costumes, and interact with DCHS teams & clubs!"

**Free Candy**

Dowling Catholic Presents our 4th annual Trunk or Treat!

Price of admission: Donation of canned good, peanut butter, cereal bars or personal hygiene items.

**DCHS 2023**  
*Trunk or Treat!*

Sunday,  
October 22nd  
2:00 - 4:00 pm  
DCCHS East  
Faculty Lot

All DCHS students, faculty, staff & their families are invited! All parochial school families are invited, also!

Come enjoy this special DCHS tradition and see decorated trunks, check out fun costumes, and interact with DCHS teams & clubs!

### Theology of the Body

International speaker, author, and Theology of the Body Team President, Monica Ashour, will be in Des Moines for two events to share the good news of the Theology of the Body. On Friday, October 27, 6-8 p.m. Monica will be offering a parent presentation at St. Augustin Parish. Registration is not required for this event. On Saturday, October 28, 8:30 a.m. -3 p.m., Monica will be offering a Theology of the Body Seminar that is open to all at Ss. John and Paul Parish in Altoona. This event includes lunch and costs \$25 (scholarships are available upon request). In order to register, and for more information, visit [dmdiocese.org/TOB2023](http://dmdiocese.org/TOB2023).

### DCHS Pancake Breakfast

Please join us for the 62nd Annual Dowling Catholic Pancake Breakfast on October 29th from 7:30 AM - 12:00 PM in the Varied Industries Building at the Iowa State Fairgrounds. Proceeds from this great DCHS tradition support student clubs and activities. To purchase tickets, sign up to volunteer, or donate baked goods, please visit [www.dowlingcatholic.org/pancake-breakfast](http://www.dowlingcatholic.org/pancake-breakfast).



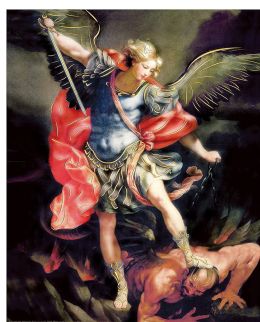
## Blood Drive Honoring Ava Vaske

Join us for a blood drive honoring Ava Vaske. Ava was a sweet, gentle and caring girl. She could always be found spending time with her family and friends. She was a graduate of STCS and DCHS(2021). In November 2021, while attending Iowa State, she was diagnosed with Small Cell Carcinoma of the Ovary. She had

to receive blood and platelets many times during her intensive treatment, oftentimes having to wait long periods while blood could be located for her. She was O negative and could only receive O negative blood. Sometimes blood would have to come from another hospital and a few times a different city. Ava planned to hold a blood drive when she recovered to pass forward the gift of blood that had been given to her. Ava passed on September 11, 2022, and we honor her memory through this Blood Drive. Sign up to schedule an appointment to donate blood [here](#).

## Dowling Catholic High School Fall Play

Support our STCS alumni in the DCHS Fall Play! The DCHS Performing Arts Department presents *Puffs, or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic* on Thursday, October 26 at 7:30 p.m., Friday, October 27 at 7:30 p.m., and Saturday, October 28 at 2 & 7:30 p.m. in the DCHS auditorium. Tickets are \$7 and must be purchased [online](#).



## St. Michael's Fall Retreat - 7 Virtues Focus

Open to all Catholic boys in the Diocese grades 3-8 - Fun activities, games and talks!

Where: St. Augustin School and School Chapel

When: Saturday, November 4, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. (Ending with 5 p.m. vigil Mass Let by high school boys and local priests)

Cost: \$50 day retreat (scholarships available)

Register by Monday, October 30, 2023. Registration is limited to 35 boys.

Contact [kmpierick@gmail.com](mailto:kmpierick@gmail.com) or 515-778-6087 with questions.



### Open House

Sunday, November 5 from 11 am - 2 pm

**Come see why Dowling Catholic is right for you!**

- Student-led tours
- Meet Dowling Catholic faculty, staff & coaches
- Student performances
- Learn about our tuition assistance programs

1400 Buffalo Rd. | West Des Moines, IA | 515.222.0448 | [www.dowlingcatholic.org/admissions](http://www.dowlingcatholic.org/admissions)

## Dowling Catholic High School Open House

Parents & students of all ages are invited to attend Dowling Catholic's Annual Open House on Sunday, November 5, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. The day includes student-led tours, interactive activities, the opportunity to meet faculty, coaches, staff and much more! Our tuition assistance representatives will also be available to answer your questions. Please visit our website to learn more: <https://www.dowlingcatholic.org/admissions>.

---

**St. Theresa Catholic School**  
515-277-0178 [stcs@stsdsm.com](mailto:stcs@stsdsm.com)