



# ST. THERESA CATHOLIC

FAITH • SERVICE • COMMUNITY • EDUCATION

## November 9, 2023 News & Updates

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### Upcoming Important Dates

11/10/23 No School-Teacher Professional Development

11/27/23 No School - Teacher PD

11/17/23 End of First Trimester

11/30/23 Spirit Day

11/22/23 - 11/24/23 No School

[Girls Basketball Game Schedule](#)

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### Social Media - Follow us on Facebook

[St. Theresa Catholic School](#)

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

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### School News

#### Uniform/Spirit Wear

This is the final order date to get any screen printed spirit items for the remainder of the school year! Don't hesitate in ordering. Click [here](#) to be directed to the ordering website. We have extended the order deadline to Sunday, November 12. Items will arrive before Christmas break which make for great gifts.

#### Food Drive

In honor of Thanksgiving, the primary unit will be collecting items for our school's Backpack Buddies Program. Each week families in need within our building receive a backpack with food

to help supplement at home over the weekends. Any food not able to be used by our Backpack Buddies Program will be donated to our Parish Food Pantry.

Prayerfully consider your donation. Items can be sent to school from now until Thanksgiving break.

**Most needed items to bring are:**

- Peanut butter/Jelly
- Granola/cereal bars
- Cereal
- Pasta/Pasta sauce
- Soups
- Canned veggies (other than green beans)
- Canned fruits/fruit cups
- Macaroni and cheese boxes
- Fruit Snack
- Ramen
- Oatmeal Packets
- Saltines



**Angel Tree Out of Uniform Day**

Students and staff may be out of uniform if they bring in a **cash donation** for our Angel Tree on **November 16**. Our Angel Tree team provides Christmas gifts for STCS families who may not otherwise be able to have them.

**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.

### **Parish Mass**

We invite all school families to attend Mass on Sunday, November 19 at 10:30 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. Below is our fall schedule.

Greeting, ushering, taking up the gifts and serving coffee & donuts are terrific ways that families can serve together. Many 4th & 6th graders are trained altar servers. Check out the sign up list to see what your family can do to serve our parish community. Please sign up early so we can practice with the children. Here's the link: [Nov 19 Mass Sign UP](#)

Questions may be directed to Jane Ann Becicka at [jbecicka@stsdsm.com](mailto:jbecicka@stsdsm.com) or Gretchen Watznauer at [gwatznauer@stsdsm.com](mailto:gwatznauer@stsdsm.com)

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you on November 19th!"

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

### **5-8th Grade Cheerleading**

Calling all 5th-8th grade girls interested in cheerleading for our St. Theresa basketball teams. Sign up for cheerleading now! Register by Friday, 12/8/2023

5 weeks of regular season games and a season ending tournament on Saturday 1/27/24-3/3/2024. Practices can start mid-December (after girls season is over) but typically do not start until January. Cost: \$50 billed to your FACTS Tuition Account

WE NEED COACHES! Ideally we would like a coach from each grade represented even though we know grade levels will most likely be combined. If you are interested in helping please contact Erica Niggemeyer, athletic director at 319-470-4275.

If your daughter plans on participating in cheerleading, please complete the following:

- Online Registration Form, click [here](#)
- St. Theresa Sports Physical and Concussion Form need to be up to date and on file in the school office (within the last 12 months) to participate in practice or games. Click [here](#) for the health physical and concussion forms.

## **5-8th Grade Boys Basketball Registration**

Calling all 5th-8th grade boys interested in playing basketball for our St. Theresa basketball teams. Sign up for basketball now! Register by Friday, 12/8/2023.

5 weeks of regular season games and a season ending tournament on Saturday 1/27/24 - 3/3/2024. Practices can start mid-December (after girls season is over) but typically do not start until January. Cost: \$65 billed to your FACTS Tuition Account

WE NEED COACHES! Ideally we would like a coach from each grade represented even though we know grade levels will most likely be combined. If you are interested in helping please contact Erica Niggemeyer, athletic director at 319-470-4275.

If your son plans on playing basketball, please complete the following:

- Online Registration Form, click [here](#)
- St. Theresa Sports Physical and Concussion Form need to be up to date and on file in the school office (within the last 12 months) to participate in practice or games. Click [here](#) for the health physical and concussion forms.

If you have any questions please contact Erica Niggemeyer at 319-470-4275 or [ericaniggemeyer@gmail.com](mailto:ericaniggemeyer@gmail.com)

## **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.

## **Winter Concert - Save the Date**

Monday, December 11, 6-7 p.m. PK-4th Grade

Monday, December 18, 7-8 p.m. 5-8th Grade Choral & Band Concert

## Middle School Play Auditions

Save the date for middle school play auditions that will take place after Thanksgiving Break. Practices will run December, January, and February. Performances will take place the weekend of March 1-3.

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## Parish News

### Fall Clean Up Day

Join us this Saturday, November 11, at 8 a.m. We will be helping members of our parish who need a little help with yard clean up or minor home repair. If you are able to contribute to this project in any way, large or small please join us. Please bring your own rake and be ready to work. If you cannot come until later we still would love your help. Give Sergio Loch a call at 515-707-6172 and he will tell you where you can help.

### 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@stsdsm.com or 515-210-6649.

St. Theresa Annual Church Ladies  
**Bazaar and Bake Sale**

RAFFLE!  
VISIT WITH SANTA!  
MORE VENDORS!

- Gifts
- Jewelry
- Art
- Home Decor
- Crafts

BAKE SALE!  
LUNCH!

**Free Admission**

*Bring all your friends and have a great time!*

**Saturday  
December 2**

**9 am – 3 pm**  
1230 Merle Hay Road  
West Entrance  
Des Moines, Iowa

[www.sainttheresaiowa.org](http://www.sainttheresaiowa.org)

**Thank you for making the 2022 Togo Fundraising Event a success last year. Your donations funded key projects for 2023!** St. Theresa Parish has been providing financial and prayerful support to the children of Nyassivé, Togo, West Africa for over eighteen years. Your generosity provided scholarships for 250 impoverished and orphaned children as well as funding four additional teachers. Because of your continued support of the Togo fund, these children are receiving an education giving them hope for a better life.

Our annual fundraiser is scheduled for the third weekend in November. November 18th and 19th. Togo Committee members will speak at the masses that weekend. We shall have a booth at the STARS Bazaar on December 2nd. Please stop by to chat with us about this ongoing ministry and our trip to Togo last August!

Mailings to previous donors are scheduled to be mailed and envelopes will be placed in the pews during the fundraising weekend masses. If you would like the Committee to mail information to you, please contact Barb Loch at 515-321-0723. You may also contribute on the St. Theresa website by selecting the Giving tab, Fund, drop-down box, Togo. Contributions are welcomed year-round.

In this Christmas season of giving, it is our hope you will continue to share your treasure with the people of Nyassivé. Thank you for your past and continued generosity and support.

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## Community News



Registration for the 6th - 8th cheer camp on November 12, 1:30 -5:30 p.m. is open. The cheer is camp is FREE! Click here to [register](#).

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