



November 16, 2023 News & Updates

Upcoming Important Dates

11/16/23 Out of Uniform for donation to Angel Tree Fund

11/17/23 End of First Trimester

11/17/23 8:30 a.m. School Mass - 4th

11/21/23 8:30 a.m. School Mass - 3rd

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

11/27/23 No School - Teacher PD

11/30/23 Spirit Day

12/1/23 8:30 a.m. School Mass - Staff

12/8/23 8:30 a.m. Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass - 2nd

12/11/23 6-7 p.m. PK-4th Grade

12/18/23 7-8 p.m. 5-8th Grade Choral & Band Concert

12/22/23 Early Dismissal, 12 p.m.

[Girls Basketball Game Schedule](#)

Social Media - Follow us on Facebook

[St. Theresa Catholic School](#)

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

School News

Thank you to the parents who attended our Family Fall Clean Up on Thursday, November 9. We were able to clean up leaves, pull weeds, trim plants and have some fun. We were rewarded with cookies. The students and staff enjoy the time outdoors and our campus looks much better. It was a great way to give back to our school and church community. We look forward to this becoming an annual event.

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

Enrollment for 2024-2025 School Year---**Enroll Today!!!**

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 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 or Gretchen Watznauer at 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

Poinsettia Sale

Support St. Theresa Catholic
in raising funds to support our school.



Three different sizes of red, white and pink poinsettias are available for order. All plants are wrapped in a colored plastic protective sleeve. Plants are grown at Goode Greenhouse locally in Des Moines.

Plants must be pre ordered. Orders are due Monday, 11/27/23
Pick up at St. Theresa on December 4th, 2-5 p.m.

Questions? Contact Erica Ries, erica.ries1@gmail.com or
Vicki Nolan, vmccarthy76@yahoo.com

Scan the QR code to place
your order



Poinsettia Sale

We are selling poinsettia plants this year to raise funds to support our school. Order your Christmas poinsettia plant and support St. Theresa Catholic School. Red, white and pink poinsettias are available for order. All plants are wrapped in a colored plastic protective sleeve. The poinsettia plants are grown locally at Goode Greenhouse in Des Moines. Plants must be pre ordered. Orders are due Monday, 11/27/23, with pick up at St. Theresa on December 4th, 2-5 p.m. Payment is due at the time of order. Exact cash, Venmo @StTheresaoftheChildJesus-Catho, checks payable to St. Theresa Catholic or through the parish online giving portal "parent teacher club"

<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/stgiving>.

Questions contact Erica Ries, erica.ries1@gmail.com or Vicki Nolan, vmccarthy76@yahoo.com

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

Middle School Play Auditions

Middle School Play Auditions will take place after school 3:30-4:15 p.m. on Tuesday, November, 28 and Friday, December, 1 in the middle school classrooms.

Practices will run after school in December, January, and February. Performances will take place March 1st and 3rd.

An audition form (for cast and crew) and a SignUpGenius link will be sent out next week.

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

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.

6-12th Grade Social/Game Friendsgiving

Wednesday, November 29 , 6:30 -7 :30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Join us for snacks, fun, food, games and door prizes. Open to all youth of the parish! Bring a snack to share.



Eucharistic Adoration

This coming Friday, December 1, is Eucharistic Adoration from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., except for the school Mass at 8:35 a.m. The Divine Mercy Chaplet will be recited at 3 p.m. and confessions will be available starting at 3:30 p.m.

As Christ asked, “Can you not spend one hour with me?” Eucharistic Adoration is a prayer that is made before the Blessed Sacrament. Place yourself in the presence of Christ. Take time to be thankful for all the blessings you have received. Then present your prayer intentions. Sit in silence and try to listen to the voice of God. Express your sorrow for your sins and ask for forgiveness. Then leave with renewed spirit. Sign-up sare available at the east entrance and back entrances of the church or contact Barb Woods. God requests company throughout the day.



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

All Parishioners Invited
St. Theresa Advent Festival
Wednesday, December 6
 6:15 PM Dinner: Chili & hot dogs
 7-8 PM Visit & Pray with St. Nicholas
 Stories & Conversation with Des Moines Refugee Services
 *Please bring a personal care item or clothing for the
 refugee services

Location: Parish Hall

Contact Barb Woods bwoods@stsdsm.com
 Jane Ann Becicka jbecicka@stsdsm.com
 Megs Howes mhowes@stsdsm.com



Parish Advent Festival

If you had to leave your home with short notice, what would you take? Mark your calendar for the Parish Advent Festival on December 6 at 6:15 p.m. Everyone is welcome!!! We will have dinner beginning at 6:15 p.m. Then around 7 p.m. we will meet some of the refugees in the area supported by the diocese. They will share their stories and have you reflect on your story. Then we will have a session with a “jolly old man”. It is his feast day you know! We ask you to bring a personal care item or two, or some toys or clothes that are in good condition. You will go home with a packet of materials of fun activities and prayers to help you celebrate Advent and Christmas.

Advent Mini Retreat

Join us for an Advent mini retreat with Father Tim Fitzgerald on December 7, 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. in the east meeting room with lunch and Reconciliation to follow. The theme is “This is always how the Word of God becomes flesh.” The Scriptures of Advent present four people who struggle to respond to God’s action in their lives: Zechariah, Elizabeth, Joseph, Mary. Their story is our story too—faith and fear, joy and sorrow, words of rejoicing and no words at all, God’s invitation and our response. Together we will visit with these four ancestors in faith, to consider how the Word of God becomes flesh in our lives. RSVP to Barb Woods (515-210-6649 or bwoods@stsdsm.com)

St. Theresa Women’s Christmas Tea

Reserve your seat for the second annual St. Theresa Women’s Fellowship Christmas Tea on Saturday December 9 at 2:30 p.m. in the parish hall. Friends and family are welcome. Email stsdsmSTARS@gmail.com or contact Joan Ferguson, call/text 515-321-4386 to reserve your seat. If you are able to be a hostess, decorate a holiday table or provide a dessert please use the same contact information.



St. Theresa Catholic School
515-277-0178 stcs@stsdsm.com