



December 7, 2023 News & Updates

Upcoming Important Dates

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

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

12/17/23 9:30 a.m. Project 2024 Pancake Breakfast - parish hall

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

12/21/23 Mass 8:35 -7th grade

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

12/23/23 - 1/3/24 Christmas Break

1/3/24 Classes resume

[Children's Advent and Christmas Activity Book](#)

Christmas Movie Night

Parents, enjoy a child-free evening while your child enjoys an evening of fun! School and parish children, potty trained - 5th grade, join us for our annual Christmas Movie Night on December 16, 6 - 9 p.m. in the school gym. Pizza and popcorn will be served along with Christmas movies. Come in your pjs and bring a blanket and pillow. The cost for the evening is a free will donation. [Please RSVP here](#). Questions: Contact, Mary Drazi, kaka-mary@hotmail.com or Megs Howes, mhowes@stsdsm.com

We are looking for help with the movie night on Saturday, December 16, 5:30 pm-9:30 pm in the School Gym. We need middle & high school youth and adults to help serve pizza, play games and watch movies with our younger youth so parents get a night out! If interested [please sign up here](#).

Parish Wide Ugly Sweater Middle School Dance

Join us for a Middle School Parish Wide Dance on Friday, December 15, 6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m. in the school gym! All youth in 6th through 8th grade, who attend the parish school or who are members of the parish are invited. Cost is \$10 cash, which includes admission to the dance with DJ providing music and two tickets for pop.

Project2024

Our 8th grade students have teamed up with some of our alumni and St. Vincent De Paul to raise money for our sister school in Togo to hire some additional teachers. The goal is \$2200. We raised some during October with our Candygrams, but still have ways to go. In December students in all grades will be able to participate in festive Christmas activities with their change donations.

On December 11-15 students can dress up in fun Christmas themed clothing with that day's dollar or coin donation. [Click here for a flier that details the fundraiser more thoroughly.](#)

On December 17th there will be a Pancake Breakfast and Bake Sale to end the fun week and the fundraiser. Our middle school students and alumni will work with the Knights of Columbus to provide the breakfast. Look for more details to come on this in the near future. We hope our students will have fun next week as we gather our change and enjoy the fun dress up days. Please contact Ms. Custer, mcuster@stsdsm.com, if you have any questions.

Knights Of Columbus Poster Contest for K-8th grade

All St. Theresa parish youth ages 5-14 are invited to participate in the "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster contest. Posters need to be completed by December 18. Prizes will be awarded to the top three entries in each age group (5-7, 8-10, 11-14). Winning entries will advance to district, state, national and international levels. By engaging the creative talents and imaginations of our young people, we hope they will come to a deeper understanding of the true, spiritual meaning of Christmas. Contact Megs Howes, mhowes@stsdsm.com with any questions. [Click here for an entry form for the poster contest.](#)

Calling All Grandparents

Hello parents, would your child's grandparents help our amazing school? We began as a small group of grandparents, "Grandparents with Gratitude," with the intent of supporting our St. Theresa kids, teachers, and school. We have taken lunch for teachers and currently are gifting classrooms with a book to enhance their library. If you know of a grandparent that would like to be part of our grandparent group please let us know. We have no membership fees and participation is totally voluntary. Contact Barb Loch at barbloch@msn.com or 515-321-0723 if interested.

GALA GIFT CARDS

While you are giving and receiving gifts this holiday season, would you consider donating gift cards to the 2024 Gala? Any gift cards, any type or amount, can be taken to the office. Label envelope: Gala Gift Card. We appreciate your donations!

Angel Tree Donations

Thank you for your generous support of our school Angel Tree donations with our out of uniform day the week before Thanksgiving. Your generosity will allow us to provide multiple students at St. Theresa to have a Merry Christmas.

Bishop's Celebration of Catholic Schools - Nomination Form

It's time to nominate an administrator, educator, and/or volunteer to receive special recognition during the Bishop's Celebration of Catholic Education on Saturday, August 24, 2024. Nominations

are due January 22, 2024 and the winners will be announced during Catholic Schools Week, January 29-February 2. [Click here for the nomination form.](#)

Parish Mass

We invite all school families to attend Mass on Saturday, December 16 at 4:30 p.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. 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.

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 December 16th!"

Here is the link to sign up your family to help with the 2nd, 3rd, 8th grade mass. [Mass Ministries 12-16-23](#)

Date	Time	Classes
Saturday, Dec. 16	4:30 pm Mass	2nd, 3rd, 8th

JOIN OUR TEAM

BECOME A SUBSTITUTE TEACHER FOR THE DIOCESE OF DES MOINES CATHOLIC SCHOOLS!

- MULTIPLE OPPORTUNITIES TO CHOOSE FROM**
- SUBSTITUTE TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES**
- PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**
- ADDITIONAL BENEFITS**
- WANT TO BECOME A CERTIFIED TEACHER?**



Substitute Teaching

Would you like to earn some extra money while helping our great school? Read through the [attached flier](#) to learn more about becoming a substitute teacher and helping our school.

5-8th Grade Cheerleading

Calling all 5th-8th grade girls interested in cheerleading for our St. Theresa basketball teams. Register by Friday, 12/8/2023. Online Registration Form, click [here](#).

5-8th Grade Boys Basketball Registration

Calling all 5th-8th grade boys interested in playing basketball for our St. Theresa basketball teams. Register by Friday, 12/8/2023. Online Registration Form, click [here](#)

If you have any questions regarding cheerleading or basketball contact Erica Niggemeyer at 319-470-4275 or ericaniggemeyer@gmail.com

2024 Parochial Track Schedule

Monday, April 1 - 7/8 Meet #1

Monday, April 8th - 5/6 Meet #1

Monday, April 15th - 7/8 Meet #2

Thursday, April 18th - 5/6 Meet #2

Tuesday, April 30th - 7/8 Meet #3

Monday May 6th - 5/6 Meet #3

Monday, May 13th - Championship Meet (all grades 5-8)

*Meets will begin at the same time as they have for the past few years (4:45 p.m. for field events and 5:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. for running events)

8th Grade Parents - [DCHS Placement Test Information](#)

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Parish News

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 stdsmSTARS@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.

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Community News

Dowling Catholic would like to invite all K - 8th grade students to the DCHS gym for a night of Girls/Boys Basketball games! Please see the attached [flier](#) for the dates for your grade level, one free student ticket, and one free popcorn coupon. You may show this on your phone for admissions but in order to receive the free popcorn, the ticket must be printed out!

The flier also has the link to purchase additional tickets for anyone else that would like to come cheer on the Maroons.

Here are the dates:

3rd - 5th Grade: Friday, December 8th

6th - 8th Grade: Friday, December 15th

Here are the game times for our basketball games:

4:45 p.m. - 10th Boys & JV1 Girls

6:15 p.m. - Varsity Girls & 9th Boys

7:45 p.m. - Varsity Boys & JV2 Girls

Class of 2028: All 8th Graders invited again on Friday, January 19th

We are so excited to have our K - 8th grade fans in the crowd!

DCHS Middle School Winter Weight Lifting (Current 7th & 8th Graders)

Dowling Catholic High School will again offer our weight training readiness program this winter. Our readiness program is designed to teach safety, spotting and appropriate lifting technique. We move slowly through the program in order to emphasize technique and safety. It is very important that future Dowling Catholic athletes learn our way of teaching and techniques. All students are required to graduate from our readiness program before they are allowed to participate in our regular training program that many of our high school athletes participate in.

Registration Link: <https://www.gobound.com/ia/schools/dowling/camps>

Dates: Monday + Thursdays from January 8th to March 7th (Note - there will be lifting even on no school days)

Times: (Please note that flexibility is offered with what session you attend if you have scheduling conflicts)

6:15 - 7:00 p.m. - 7th and 8th Grade Girls

7:00 - 7:45 p.m. - 7th Grade Boys

7:45 to 8:45 p.m. 8th grade boys

Location: Dowling Catholic High School Weight Room (enter through the south gym lobby)

Cost: \$80

Questions: Contact Adam Jack - ajack@dowlingcatholic.org

K - 5 CHEER & DANCE CLINIC

Join Dowling Catholic Cheer & Dance for our Winter K-5th Cheer & Dance Clinic! Learn the fundamentals of cheerleading and dance, sideline cheers, a dance routine, and basic stunting. Participants will perform at halftime of the Dowling Catholic Girls Basketball game!

Clinic participants will wear t-shirt provided when they arrive, black shorts or pants, white socks, and tennis shoes. Please bring a water bottle!

📅 Friday, January 19th @ 4pm

📍 Dowling Cafeteria

💰 \$50 - includes t-shirt & pizza!

📧 Email dchscheercoaches@gmail.com or dowlingcatholicdanceteam@gmail.com with questions

REGISTER BY JANUARY 3, 2024



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