



# ST. THERESA CATHOLIC

FAITH • SERVICE • COMMUNITY • EDUCATION

## December 14, 2023 News & Updates

### Upcoming Important Dates

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 a.m. - 7th grade  
Mass uniforms required for the day

12/22/23 Early Dismissal, 12 p.m.  
Out of Uniform Day-Pick your favorite school appropriate clothes to wear to school

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

1/4/24 Thursday-Classes resume (note correct date)

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

#### Blessing of the Baby Jesuses

Please bring your baby Jesus from your nativity scene for the blessing at Friday morning Mass December 15.

#### Time for Winter Coats

Now that the weather is getting colder, students must wear coats outside to recess, so please send their coats to school every day.

ST THERESA MIDDLE SCHOOL  
**UGLY SWEATER**  
Christmas Dance  
ST THERESA 6 - 8TH GRADE PARISHIONERS AND STUDENTS ONLY  
15 DECEMBER | 6:30 PM - 9:00  
ST THERESA GYMNASIUM  
All proceeds go to STCS 8th grade class.  
Entry: \$10 per student  
Concessions will be available.  
Cash only.

#### 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 a raffle ticket for a prize drawing. Concessions are available for purchase.



## 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](mailto:kaka-mary@hotmail.com) or Megs Howes, [mhowes@stdsm.com](mailto:mhowes@stdsm.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](#).

## 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](#).



## Pancake Breakfast

Join us for a delicious pancake breakfast and bake sale on Sunday, December 17 at 9:30 a.m. in the parish hall. Proceeds will benefit Project 2024. Our parish St. Vincent DePaul high school group along with our 8th grade class at St. Theresa Catholic School have come together to raise \$2,024 to support our sister school in Togo in raising money to hire two new teacher aids for their kindergarten class. As you may know our St. Theresa's Togo committee has been

providing assistance to our sister parish for over 18 years, but right now they especially need our help. Right now in the village of Nyassivé they have a kindergarten class of over 70 children, and for these 70 children there is only one teacher. Although the number of children in kindergarten is great, they desperately need another teacher's help.

## 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@stdsm.com](mailto:mhowes@stdsm.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](mailto: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!

## 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](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 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 POSITIONS TO CHOOSE FROM**
- SUBSTITUTE TEACHING AUTHORIZATION**
- PARADEGATOR CERTIFICATION**
- SUBSTITUTE TEACHING SCHEME**
- CATHOLIC PATHOLOGICAL FOUNDATION BUT WE WELCOME FACULTY FROM ALL RELIGIOUS BELIEFS FOR OUR FACULTY AND STAFF POSITIONS!**
- BENEFITS**
- WE OFFER MORE THAN A GREAT SALARY!**
- WE OFFER SMALL CLASS SIZES WITH AN AVERAGE STUDENT TO TEACHER RATIO OF 13:1**
- WANT TO BECOME A CERTIFIED TEACHER?**

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**

**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.

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

**3 FEBRUARY, 2024 - 6:30 - 8:30 PM**

**DADDY DAUGHTER ERA**



**ST. THERESA DADDY DAUGHTER DANCE**

**ST. THERESA PARISH HALL**  
**\$20 per adult and \$10 per child**  
**Games and snacks provided**



You're invited to an  
*all-star*

**MOTHER & SON NIGHT**

On February 3rd at 6:30 - 8:30pm  
 St. Theresa School Gym

\$20 for adult/\$10 per child  
 Games and snacks provided



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## Parish News



Join us this Sunday, December 17 at 6 p.m. for our final Advent activity. Father P.J. McManus grew up in St. Theresa Parish. Everyone knows he loves to talk. He is full of energy and stories, but especially full of love of God and His Church. On Sunday, December 17, Father McManus will be sharing his story, his love of the Eucharist, and his Advent challenge for you. His presentation will begin at 6 p.m. in the church. Come and renew your spirit as you continue the journey toward the Christmas Incarnation!

### Christmas Desserts Needed

Our Knights of Columbus help St. Joseph Parish prepare and deliver Christmas meals for shut-ins. They need pies, cakes and bars for dessert to add to the traditional turkey dinners they serve. Desserts can be dropped off at the St. Theresa west meeting room across from the kitchen, Saturday, December 23, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Call Tim Dempsey at 515-306-4972 with any questions.



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## Community News

# LIGHT IT UP BASKETBALL CLINICS

**3 CLINIC OPTIONS**

| DATE   | LOCATION        | TIME  | AGES            | COST                                |
|--------|-----------------|---|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| DEC 27 | INDIANOLA       | 1:00-3:00PM<br><small>GIRLS SESSION</small> | 5TH - 8TH GRADE | COST<br><b>\$25</b><br>PER ATTENDEE |
| DEC 28 | DES MOINES      | 3:30-5:30PM<br><small>BOYS SESSION</small>  |                 |                                     |
| DEC 30 | WEST DES MOINES |   |                 |                                     |

**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](mailto: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](mailto:dchscheercoaches@gmail.com) or [dowlingcatholicdanceteam@gmail.com](mailto:dowlingcatholicdanceteam@gmail.com) with questions

**REGISTER BY JANUARY 3, 2024**



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