

# St. Theresa Catholic 2023 Annual Report



# Pastor Welcome

Dear Family of God,

“May the Grace and Peace of God the Father, in whom we live and move and have our being be with you.” I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to all for your continuous support for me, your pastor, and the parish. Without your Time, Talent, and Treasure, we would not be where we are now. Kudos! We are grateful to God for His Love and Mercy throughout the year 2023. As we take stock of our lives, we also remember with fond memories those called to eternity. May their souls rest in the bosom of God.



On October 11, 2023, we had Fr. George Boachie-Nyarko, A native of Ghana, join the pastoral team part-time for both St. Theresa and St. Boniface. I am grateful to Bishop Joensen and his Priests' Personnel Board for this pastoral initiative. In the same breath, I wish to register my sincerest thanks and appreciation to my staff, ministries, councils, committees, groups, and volunteers for your immense support OF our parish and school.

After two years of my pastoral presence, Strategic Pastoral Vision (SPV) was initiated to prioritize pastoral needs of the parish to serve you better. The core team has met several times to discern what God is calling us to do as members of St. Theresa. Proverbs 29:18 says that **“without vision, the people perish.”** Here vision implies God’s guidance and direction for his people. Furthermore, vision is where you want to go in the future. This takes time and may change over time. The fact is that, if you don’t know where you want to go, you drift. The reality is, people want to be a part of something that’s going somewhere, and if it appears you are simply “drifting” or in a perpetual maintenance mode, people will turn away. With vision, ideas are created to meet the signs and needs of the time. It is obvious that so many things are going on in the parish. However, we need to strategize and coordinate our efforts towards the same mission and vision. This is what the SPV has been doing so far.

Among the major issues to deal with as a Parish is to “create a welcoming culture.” There are few people doing most of the work. While we need others to volunteer and help, it is important to know that innovation is key in our modern world. Let us be receptive to new ideas and changes to get others, especially the youth and young adults on board. Ekaterina Walter said, "In the midst of change we often discover wings we never knew we had." Change can help us discover new strengths and abilities that we didn't know we had. It can be challenging, but it can also be an opportunity for growth and spiritual development. Therefore, we must be receptive and open to the prompting of the Holy Spirit. Some Pastoral initiatives were put in place to create the atmosphere of a Spirit-filled Community and Church.

Various pastoral initiatives:

- Evening Masses
- Basic/Small Christian Community Masses (Neighborhood Mass)
- Faith Expression
- Book Study on the Eucharist
- Speaker on the Eucharist
- Workshop for ministries
- Stewardship Committee

As one Family of God, let us put our shoulder to the wheel to help and volunteer where needed. Those of us on the fence, let us rise to become part of the team in building the kingdom of God through our active participation. Let us break away from our comfort zone by being welcoming and stretching a hand to those in the pew or parish hall you don’t know. May St. Theresa Parish become the beacon of Hope for those in despair and a welcoming home for the homeless and isolated. May our church become a pillar of strength for the weak and citadel of light for those in darkness.

Sincerely,  
Father Raphael Assamah, Pastor

# Financial Report

Dear Parishioners,

On behalf of Fr. Raphael, our finance council, and our trustees at St. Theresa Catholic Church I'm pleased to introduce this financial report for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, ending June 30, 2023.



Despite an uncertain economy, inflation, and various local, national, and worldwide challenges, you have stepped up once again as witnesses to the generous nature of our God. In the words of St. Ignatius of Loyola, you have given without counting the cost! Here are just a few highlights that stand out:

- **484 HOUSEHOLDS CONTRIBUTED FINANCIALLY**
- **49 HOUSEHOLDS ARE GIVING RECURRING GIFTS ONLINE**
- **TOTAL PLATE GIFTS HAVE INCREASED 28%**
- **SCHOOL TUITION HAD 100% COLLECTION**
- **FOUNDATIONS AND FOUNDATION FUNDS TOTAL VALUE, AS OF 9-30-2023 = \$2,300,535**
  - **TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED IN PAST 12-MONTHS = \$122,200**
  - **TOTAL DISTRIBUTIONS MADE IN PAST 12-MONTHS = \$45,500**

While we budgeted for a deficit of \$167,500, we had an actual deficit of \$191,522. We knew going in that being under the projected deficit was going to be tough. A few things stood out as anomalies. We spent nearly \$65,000 on unplanned upgrades in the school kitchen. Our buildings are aging and we had to fix a number of things in both the school and the church. We have a lot of parking and sidewalk to clear and that expense was a much unexpected increase in cost. Another big factor last fiscal year was the number we used to project tuition for the school was too high. This year we have adjusted that number closer to, or under enrollment.

While your gifts remain largely hidden, they are visible in what they allow – true ministerial freedom at our parish. We can evangelize, accompany, and disciple because of your faithfulness!

One way that you might consider maintaining this faithfulness is by setting up regular online giving. If you haven't already signed up for recurring online giving, please visit our giving page today at <https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/stgiving>

As we close out this year and look ahead to the next, I am forever grateful to each of you for your faithful witness. God is doing great things here at St. Theresa Catholic Church!

Gratefully in Christ,

Kenneth Seymour  
Parish Manager

# Parish Financials – Snapshot



Income	Source	Expenses	Impact
41%	Parish	75%	Ministries and parish activities
59%	School	20%	Operations, facilities, and maintenance
		5%	Assessments and other expenses

# Income Statement General Operations



## ORDINARY INCOME

<i>Account Name</i>	<i>FY Actual</i>	<i>FY Budget</i>	<i>FY Difference</i>
Tithing	\$1,042,847	\$1,100,000	(\$57,153)
Plate and Other Donation	\$149,765	\$121,200	\$28,565
Faith Formation Fees	\$6,296	\$11,500	(\$5,204)
School Tuition	\$1,087,228	\$1,158,261	(\$71,033)
Daycare	\$474,698	\$500,000	(\$25,302)
Lunchroom	\$166,514	\$128,405	\$38,109
Transportation	\$30,093	\$43,500	(\$13,407)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$2,957,441</b>	<b>\$3,062,866</b>	<b>(\$105,425)</b>

## ORDINARY EXPENSES

<i>Account Name</i>	<i>FY Actual</i>	<i>FY Budget</i>	<i>Difference</i>
Parish Administration	\$388,350	\$ 469,632	\$81,282
Parish Programming	\$122,987	\$124,097	\$1,110
Parish Building and Grounds	\$150,052	\$136,266	(\$13,786)
Faith Formation	\$99,865	\$100,120	\$255
School Administration	\$1,833,769	\$1,911,617	\$77,848
Daycare	\$379,405	\$370,005	(\$9,400)
School Building and Grounds	\$174,536	\$118,629	(\$55,907)
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$3,148,964</b>	<b>\$3,230,366</b>	<b>\$81,402</b>

<b>Actual Loss versus Budget Projected Loss</b>	<b>(\$191,522)</b>	<b>(\$167,500)</b>
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# Other Stewardship

## SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Our parish is dedicated to supporting the Church, both on a diocesan level and worldwide, as well as aiding the needs of our local charities.

*Annual Diocesan Appeal	\$128,270
*Ignite!	\$871,965
Holy Land Collection	\$2,793
Catholic Charities	\$871
Catholic Relief Services	\$3,183
Campaign For Human Development	\$889
World Mission	\$3,266
Peter's Pence	\$1,988
Rice Bowl	\$2,292
Religious Retirement	\$2,726
Church in Africa	\$605
St. Mary Hamburg	\$275
Seminarians	\$3,061
DMARC Food Pantry	\$20,473
Office Food Pantry	\$5,838
Personal Pantry	\$2,395
Building Fund	\$84,393
Togo	\$12,882
Pro-life	\$2,738
St. Vincent de Paul Society	\$4,553
Emergency Shelter	\$1,835
Peace & Justice	\$2,500
Refugee Assistance	\$1,025
Community Outreach	\$3,316
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$1,164,132</b>







### ADA—Annual Diocesan Appeal

Goal: \$143,270.00  
 Gifts/Pledges: \$130,903.52  
 Remaining on goal: \$12,366.48  
 # of reg. families: 940+  
 No. of Donors: 256

### IGNITE

GOAL: \$1,450,000  
 Gifts/Pledges: \$871,964.61  
 No. of Donors: 268

# Ministry Impact

	DESCRIPTION	DETAILS
	Celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass	Average Sunday Mass attendance: <b>245</b> Daily Mass attendance: <b>42 AM/20 PM</b> No. of Masses Celebrated: <b>573</b>
	Eucharistic Adoration	Hours committed: <b>170</b>
	Prayer Chain	Parishioners Participating: <b>123</b>
	Funerals	<b>28</b> individuals were laid to rest and their families were supported through funerals
	Other Sacraments	Weddings: <b>3</b> Baptisms: <b>20</b> First Eucharist: <b>39</b> Confirmations: <b>28</b>
	New Members	<b>21 households</b> were welcomed as new members of our parish in 2023.
	Meals Served	<b>3,082 meals</b> were served as part of funeral service and at local homeless shelters and soup kitchens
	Clean-Up Crew	<b>460 hours</b> were given by volunteers to help our parishioners and parish grounds clean and tidy
	Home Visits	<b>540 visits</b> were spent assisting our neighbors through evangelization, prayer, and outreach
	Youth Faith Formation	Grade School Participants: <b>58</b> Middle School Participants: <b>20</b> High School Participants: <b>45</b>

# Ministry Moments



## Baptized in 2023

Andrea Pohlpetter, Lucas Kruse, Aster McNulty Lecocq, Ryan Stephenson, Reagan Stephenson, Daphne Wyss, Luke Sheldon, Lauren Larson, Stanley Archambo, Walter Archambo, Monkan Flege, Robert Martinez, Aileen Guaman Espinoza, Geovany Guaman Espinoza, Hayes Halfpap, Penelope Pagliai, Catherine Downey, Ginnie Biddlecome, Aurora Brookhart, Calvin Casber, Hudson Miller

## 2023 First Eucharist

Stanley Archambo, Jackson Brown, Angelo Castillo, Knox Chicoine, Vincente Scatino-Clark, Elisabeth Cotran, Madison Dellaca, Andrew Dvorak, Antonio Guerrero, Lucy Havig, Marian Howard, Edward Howes, Alexandria Jarnagin, Catalina Jasso, Melanie Jimenez Bautista, Evelyn Johansen, Lauren Larson, Olive Lauck, Malina Maryniak, Aster McNulte-LeCocq, Adam Nedved, Connor Nolan, Sebastian Perez, Kalina Ries, Stella Rosenstiel, William Rosenstiel, Ethan Salazar, Nicolette Satterstrom, Isaiah Scott, Luke Sheldon, Alivia Shineflew, Thane Smith, D'Von Staley, Reagan Stephenson, Ryan Stephenson, Vaughn Sullivan, Owen Tyrrell, Jesus Valdez Pillado, Daphne Wyss



## Confirmed in 2023

Eva Aguero, Ajong Ajong, Sifa Apoline, Bryce Avise, Julia Baird, Mariel Becicka, Brandon Christiansen, Alma Drazi, Alaina Dunham, Piper Harrington, Will Hart, Johnathan Ingamells, Wyatt Jones, Benjamin Kladivo, Elisabeth Lai, Anna Long, Sophia Maher-Widen, Will Myers, Perry Neuman, Lucas Paoli, Delaney Platt, Gabriel Ruiz, Natalie Salazar, Keaton Schwager, Anne Simon, Kale Smith, Thomas Sweeny, Rachel Talley

## Married couples in 2023

Matthew Huntsman & Kristy Sastamoine, Robert Hallman & April Fox, Buti Kuku & Martha Beshey





# St. Theresa Catholic Councils

## Finance Council

The Finance Council has the responsibility for monitoring income and expenditures of the parish. It suggests accounting procedures and financial controls for adherence to parish objectives and goals. The council also assists in the preparation of the annual parish budget. The council generally meets monthly on the second Thursday of the month.

Events from the past year include preparation and approval of the 2023/2024 fiscal year parish budget, and working with the new parish manager to reinstate the building and grounds committee and establish a safety committee.

Goals for the upcoming year include recruitment of new members, alignment of operations of the council to the Diocesan Finance Council Guidelines, which may include establishment of additional subcommittees, and exploring new parish fundraising ideas.

## The St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Foundation

The St. Theresa Foundation (Foundation), formed in 1982, is an independent non-profit corporation, operated for the purpose of raising funds through private donations in support of St. Theresa Parish initiatives. Gifts may be in the form of cash, stocks, bonds or other assets of value and may be given directly to the Foundation or through a will or under trust. The Foundation supports the school budget and tuition assistance on an annual basis. In addition, the Foundation receives requests throughout the year in support of specific parish needs which may include religious training, programs, trips and other special events. The total maximum amount distributable funds, in a given year, is based on 4% of the prior year's ending value. In rare instances the Foundation is able to support emergency needs through short-term loans to the Parish.

Since its inception an additional foundation and two funds have been created (1) St. Theresa School Foundation (School Foundation); (2) Rev. Robert Hoefler Endow Memorial Fund (Fr. Bob Fund); and (3) Sr. Jude Tuition Assistance Fund (Sr. Jude Fund). This foundation and two funds have a total maximum amount distributable, in a given year, equal to 5% of the prior year's ending value for each.

- The School Foundation supports school needs such as repairs and maintenance, operating expenses, scholarship funds and financial assistance.
- The Fr. Bob supports school development activities for teachers. This support includes professional development, regional/national conferences, purchase of educational technology, expanding teacher skills, participation in diocesan-program with Creighton and holding onsite professional development.
- The Sr. Jude Fund is designed to supplement existing resources for tuition assistance. This support includes band fees/rentals, sports fees/uniforms, mock trial, girls on the run, STEM camps, Catholic Youth camp, Youth Day and service trips.

## Pastoral Council

As defined by the Diocese of Des Moines guidelines, the mission of a pastoral council is to be in consultation with the pastor. The pastoral council discerns plans, animates, and guides the active response of the local faith community to the mission of Jesus Christ. The pastoral council are consultative to the pastor who is the presider of the council.

The St. Theresa's Pastoral Council assists the pastor in making decisions concerning the spiritual and temporal well-being of the parish, studies the life and missions of the church, examines the needs, ideas, hopes and activities of the people of God, evaluates parish life as to its conformity with the Gospel, recommends guidelines and programs with a vision for the future and accomplishes its mission through its various standing committees: Faith Formation, Liturgical, Building and Grounds, etc.

2023 accomplishments include: Re-establishing the Pastoral Council under Father's leadership and guidance formed in August 2021, developing and executing our parish theme "Come Back to Me with All Your Heart," executing a brainstorming session asking participants the question "What is most important for us to do as a parish in the next year and a half to implement the theme?", and disseminated the information/suggestions shared with the various committees/groups to begin to implement within their own groups.

Plans for the year ahead include: Mentor new council membership, plan annual St. Theresa feast day celebration, implement and introduce the new parish theme Pray, Serve, Celebrate Together 2024, work with Visioning Committee in conjunction with parish theme and plan projects/events on a parish wide level as directed by Pastor, continue to work on previous brainstorming ideas with various groups within the parish and be open to the needs of the parish and its members.

## Strategic Visioning

In September, 2022, Father Raphael gathered a Strategic Visioning and Vibrancy Core Team to help him coordinate a parish wide discernment of this fundamental question: **To what is God calling the St. Theresa parish?** The answer(s) are coming through prayer, listening and working together to produce the St. Theresa Strategic Pastoral Plan by the end of 2023.

Events this past year: Surveyed parishioners about pastoral challenges in April, 2023, conducted listening sessions about results of survey in May, developed a starter set of strategies for the initial plan in August, included a weekly prayer practice in the SVC (Strategic Visioning Committee Corner) of the parish bulletin and began action planning in August.

Goals for upcoming year: Implement initial Strategic Pastoral Plan, do accountability checks in 2024, introduce year 2 plan in July 2024.

# St. Theresa Faith Formation

## Adult Faith Formation

Study groups were offered four different times, one being a ZOOM, with an average of 50 people in attendance. The studies were on *What We Believe as Catholics*, *History & Archaeology of the Bible*, *The Chosen III*, and *the Book of Romans*. This year the study groups will be using *Come, Follow Me* an overview of the various religious groups, *The Old Testament*, *No Greater Love: the Passion*, and *Follow Me, the Gospel of John*. Presently, there are seven new people joining the process.

Christian movies were offered twice on Mondays throughout the summer with approximately 26 people in attendance.

Two mini-retreats, Advent and Lent, were offered with Fr. Larry Hoffmann and Fr. Tim Fitzgerald as our presenters. Reconciliation followed. In 2024, two mini-retreats will be planned. Presenters have not yet been solidified.

Lunch and Learn met eight times. Topics requested by parishioners included; Pietra, recycling, Generation RX, Franklin Senior Center offerings, and cyber security. Group size varied with the topic with anywhere from 5-20 in attendance. Lunch and Learn will continue. Topics so far are types of prayer at Emmaus, art project, mini-retreat with Fr. Tim Fitzgerald, how to downsize your home, and much more.

Cards and Games meets the fourth Wednesday of the month. Each month we learn a new board or card game, share recipes, and build friendships. Group size is 7-15 people and never the same. It is a great time for new parishioners to feel at home with no pressure.

Advent and Lenten materials were made available to parishioners, some for free and others for a small donation. *Living with Christ* (35 copies) and *Living Faith* (140 copies) were made available to parishioners. These subscriptions and seasonal materials will continue.

Extra activities included a ten day display of the Eucharistic Banners which had a low attendance, Fr. Reed Flood as a speaker with about 60 people, and a reflection evening on *The Seven Last Words of Christ* attended by 73 people. This year *The Seven Last Words of Christ* will return with a different angle of reflection. Fr. Brian Welter from Omaha will speak on the Eucharistic Revival. An Advent festival has been planned for all parishioners to experience this Advent. Book studies concentrating on the Eucharist were set up for parishioners. Booklets and holy cards were made available for the Feast of St. Therese.

The Faith Formation Council continues to meet alternating months from the Pastoral Council. This council is an advisory board to the Faith Formation team. Last year 11 people sat on the council. This year we have 14 members to help us make decisions, evaluate what has been done and what needs to change, and give suggestions of new avenues to take. This council consists of school parents, Wednesday Faith Formation (WFF) parents, and parishioners interested in parish faith opportunities.

#### **Liturgical Ministries**

Deacons –1  
Eucharistic Ministers – 70  
Lectors – 35  
Altar Servers – 31  
Adult Choir – 15  
Musicians/Cantors – 22  
Ushers – 40  
Worship Committee – 10

#### **Education**

Baptismal Prep Program – 6  
RCIA – 24

#### **Prayer**

Prayer Chain – 122

#### **Participants**

Adult Faith Formation attendees - 52  
Lunch & Learn/ Cards & Games attendees - 18  
Mini-retreats attendees - 42  
Church Volunteers - 16  
Faith Formation Council - 15

### **Children’s Faith Formation**

**Vacation Bible School** is a summer week long, half-day faith experience for elementary school aged children to grow deeper in their faith through song, prayer, scripture, skits, snacks, play and crafts. Doubling our resources to offer a rich experience for the children, St. Theresa again partnered with St. Augustin Parish to sponsor two Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist to take an active role in our VBS program. This summer 95 children participated, approximately 1/3 from each parish and 1/3 from daycare.

This year’s theme was “Holy Angels”. Children and volunteers learned about angels- who they are, what is their mission, and how they help us. Over 30 volunteers and the children came together to learn about and celebrate the Catholic faith. In addition to daily time for prayer in front of the tabernacle, Fr. Raphael offered Holy Mass one day to which parents were invited.

Feedback included statements such as these: From a parent: “My daughter fell in love with the sisters!” From a volunteer: “I wish VBS was 2 weeks long!” From a participant: “The crafts were interesting, not just coloring pages!”

Next year’s goal is to continue to serve the children and families of St. Theresa, St. Augustin and the surrounding area in ways to deepen their faith. Also, in order to deepen a sense of community, we plan to have an event to draw families together, such as a meal or game night. Next summer’s VBS is slated for June 24-28. Our theme is: “We’re on a quest from God.”

**Children’s Faith Formation (CFF)** encompasses both general religious education and sacramental preparation for children of pre-school age through 5th grade. CFF involves Children’s Liturgy of the Word, Children’s Mass, Sacramental preparation & reception, Wednesday Faith Formation and Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.

**Children's Liturgy of the Word** is offered during the school year at the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass. Elementary students are called forth from the assembly to hear and discuss the readings at their own level. Typically 12-15 children accompany an adult catechist and teen helpers to the West Meeting Room for this 20 minute encounter with the Word of God. Children are given a children's bulletin and then rejoin the congregation after the homily. This program enjoys success through increased attendance and is marked by developing faith sharing of the children in discussion and intercessory prayer.

**Children's Masses** were offered in the East Meeting Room about once per month on Sunday mornings last school year. Families with young children attended together or a teen helper assisted those without a chaperone. Middle and High School youth filled the liturgical roles and the homily and songs were tailored for young children. Highlights include greater teen involvement with Holy Mass.

**Sacramental Preparation** may include Baptism, Reconciliation and Eucharist for children in 2nd grade or for those who have not yet received the sacraments in keeping with their peers. Second grade is typically the time that children receive First Reconciliation in the fall and First Eucharist in the spring. School children are instructed by Mrs. Lana Duff and Wednesday night students are instructed by Mrs. Jean Schares. This past year 38 children received the sacrament of First Reconciliation and Eucharist. Of these children, 6 were also baptized.

The Faith Formation Team (Barb Woods, Megs Howes and Jane Ann Becicka) partner with families to meet the preparation needs of those who are not in sync with their peers. The number of children who are in this situation has increased in recent years. Parents who complete their sacramental preparation alongside their children is a highlight.

**Wednesday Faith Formation (WFF)** provides weekly lessons in the Catholic faith for children in kindergarten through 5th grade. Classes meet for one hour on Wednesday evenings throughout the school year and are taught by 14 volunteer catechists. Last year 58 students registered. Throughout the year families participate in WFF events such as rosary stations, an Advent festival, communal penance, burning of the palms before Lent, Stations of the Cross and May Crowning. Other highlights include a special Easter Egg Hunt that's used to tell the Pascal Story and 5th grade serving a meal at Central Iowa Shelter and Services.

A goal for this coming year is to increase families' weekend Mass attendance by emphasizing parent involvement. To that end, WFF will host additional family and adult faith encounters. Families with children receiving sacraments will be expected to assist with at least one Mass in roles such as greeters, ushers and gift bearers.

**Catechesis of the Good Shepherd:** Jane Anne Becicka and Charlene Flood are training to begin a Level 1 Atrium by next fall to serve the faith needs of children aged 3-6 years old.

## **Youth Ministry**

There were 65 youth involved during the 2023 year. Four families participated in our new program Circle of Saints which is a fellowship group for children with a special needs.

Throughout the year we offered social opportunities for our youth and their families to experience faith and fun activities with youth from our parish and other parishes in our diocese. Activities included, dodgeball, swim night, bowling, beach blanket bingo, and parish middle school dances.

## **Retreat Experiences**

Seven youth attended the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC). NCYC is an exciting, biennial three-day experience of prayer, community, and empowerment for Catholic teenagers and their adult chaperones. The schedule includes general sessions and workshops addressing a wide variety of topics as well as opportunities for reconciliation, daily liturgy, and special activities such as concerts, a dance, and comedy club. The thematic park is a unique venue to experience many different Catholic colleges, activities and religious orders.

## Service Events

During our junior high summer service trip we served our local community. The youth earned service hours and made a difference in the lives of those around them. Our 10th graders and older participated as leaders and mentors to the younger students during this experience. Throughout the year we find opportunities to make tie blankets for various organizations in the community including Team Tough, local hospitals, InnerVisions HealthCare, and Mary's Helping Hands. Once a month on the third Tuesday of the month our parish and/or school youth serve a meal at a local church to help feed the homeless population of Des Moines. During the week of spring break local Catholic churches work together and take high school students to local organizations in Des Moines and the surrounding areas to give back to the community and learn about these organizations and who they help. Our youth also helped with the annual fall clean up.

# Parish Ministries

## Pastoral Care

Deacon David Schmidt, pastoral associate, oversees pastoral care ministry to all parish members with a primary focus on older or hospitalized parishioners. This includes ministry to the homebound and those in both long term and short term care facilities as well as hospice care. Emphasis is given to training and organizing pastoral care lay volunteers to assist in serving the needs of parishioners. Additional duties include assisting in funeral planning and leading vigil or graveside services as needed as well as maintaining a medical equipment lending library and organizing/overseeing a greeting card ministry to parishioners.

### Recap of major activities/accomplishments in 2023:

- Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 Masses of Anointing
- Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 Grieving with Great Hope grief support groups
- Trinity Heights Pilgrimage, October 2022
- Mass of Remembrance, October 2022
- Coordinated photo sessions for the photo directory for the homebound and those in care centers for parishioners. Sixteen photos submitted. One woman joined the parish due to this outreach.
- Ordered additional pyxes to meet increased demand for home bound parishioners requesting communion and assisted with extraordinary Eucharistic minister training.
- Took ashes and the Eucharist to approximately 25 homebound parishioners on Ash Wednesday 2023. Greatly assisted by 5 parish volunteers.
- Assisted with monthly Masses at Calvin Community Retirement Center.
- Began weekly rosary at Wesley on Grand Retirement Community, August 2023.
- Organized pilgrimage to the outdoor Mass at St. Anthony Grotto followed by a Eucharistic Procession to St. Ambrose Cathedral, August 2023.

### By the numbers:

- 300+ Taking Communion to homebound/care facility parishioners
- 35 Homebound/care facility parishioners

### Goals for 2024:

- Better organize medical equipment lending library (MELL), December 2024
- MELL equipment able to be viewed online, January 2024

- Ashes and Eucharist taken to homebound and care facility parishioners, February 2024
- Trial Evening Mass of Anointing, April 2024
- Join in National Eucharistic Pilgrimage, June 2024

### **St. Theresa Altar and Rosary Society (STARS)**

The STARS mission statement calls for us to unite all women of St. Theresa Parish through prayer, faith enhancement, hospitality and service. As stewards of God's love, we strive to share our gifts and talents for the service of God and His people. Prayer and faith enhancement focuses on honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary and serving the needs associated with the altar and liturgy. Service includes work to benefit the whole parish and hospitality involves activities to welcome and engage women. During the past year STARS supported our mission in the following ways and will continue in a similar manner next year: prayer and faith enhancement included the recitation of an outdoor Rosary every two weeks in the months of May-October, a monthly meeting November-April, leading the Rosary once a month at Holy Hour Adoration, holding the May Crowning celebration, the purchase and preparation of Baptismal Boxes and the maintenance of Altar clothes. Service included hosting coffee and donuts after Sunday Masses, serving funeral dinners, maintaining/updating pricing and meal selections for funeral dinners, the purchase and maintenance of tablecloths and centerpieces for funeral dinners and hosting the annual Christmas Bazaar for fundraising. Hospitality included an annual Christmas Tea, a Chocolate Lovers Breakfast near Valentine's Day and the Easter Vigil Reception. This next year will include encouraging all women of the parish to participate in STARS, additional gatherings to welcome new members and strengthening and reenergizing the current members by establishing Small Christian Communities for women.

### **St. Theresa Pro-life Committee**

Over the past year, the St. Theresa Pro-life Committee organized the annual St. Theresa Catholic School pro-life contest, helping each student learn about pro-life topics at an age-appropriate level. Top entries were chosen from the pro-life posters, bumper stickers, and prayers made by the students. Winners received certificates and statues, as well as a special Chick-fil-A lunch with Fr. Raphael and Principal Watznauer. The Pro-life Committee also led quarterly holy hours with pro-life prayers, a rosary, and snacks, and gave donations on behalf of St. Theresa Catholic to local pro-life nonprofits, like Ruth Harbor, a home for pregnant women where they and their babies are cared for and supported.

The Pro-life Committee's part of the St. Theresa Catholic website had a monthly update with pro-life events going on in the Des Moines area. We held a clothing drive at the school and the parish for Mary's Helping Hands, which provides free baby supplies to moms in need. The Pro-life Committee also continued the annual spiritual adoption program that started in August and culminated with a "baby shower" which collected money and supplies for local crisis pregnancy clinics.

Unfortunately, after 12 years, the leader of the committee is stepping down and another leader has not been found. It is hopeful that the annual pro-life school contest will continue as well as the monthly pro-life update will likely continue, though through another parish's pro-life group. We are hopeful that the Pro-life Committee will be able to start again in the future.

### **Knight of Columbus**

The Knights of Columbus Council 5389 has had a robust year in both activities and faith. We have a membership of 157 men. The Knights have demonstrated time and again the willingness to serve both in our parish and our community. We have four main areas we define for service, Faith, Family, Community and Life. In these areas there are numerous sub areas. In Faith we have served over 4,100 hours in areas of church facilities, religious vocations, sacramental gifts and other miscellaneous activities. In Family we have spent over 550 hours in food for families, family formation programs, family prayer night and other miscellaneous activities. In Community we have served over 2,800 hours of service in coats for kids, Habitat for Humanity, physical and intellectual disability, athletics and other various youth activities. In Life we have served over 280 hours in Special Olympics, pregnancy support, March for Life and other miscellaneous activities. Our members reach far and wide both here at our parish and in our community.

We have done an amazing job at raising money for causes both in our parish and our community, and our world. Our biggest fund raiser is our Lenten Fish Fry which our parish supports overwhelmingly. This year we raised \$6,700 at our Lenten Fish Fry. Our Second biggest fund raiser is our annual CIPD drive (tootsie rolls) which brought in \$3,700. We totaled \$14,650 in all this year through these events and a few others.

We strive to keep our balance low and send out all the money we take in from dues to donations. We supported five Seminarians with gifts this year. These are Seminarians from our Diocese with one, Adam Hanten, hailing from our parish. We again give money in the four areas we do service: Faith, Family, Community and Life. In Faith we donated \$3,375 to our seminarians, Christ our life, and African Religious Conference. In Family we donated \$4,525 to Meals from the Heartland, Keep Christ in Christmas and St. Theresa Catholic School tuition assistance. In Community we donated \$1,550 to Coats for Kids, Habitat for Humanity, K of C Global Wheelchair Program and Iowa K of C Helping Hands. In Life we donated \$5,200 to K of C Christian Refugee, InnerVisions, Mary's Helping Hands, Easter Seals and GiGi's Playhouse.

This coming year we will continue to raise funds to help many of the same programs. We will be answering the call from our Supreme Council to offer more faith based programs. We have started that with our "Into the Breach" video series and discussions. We will continue to look for ways to offer faith programming for all men of the parish to help reach our potential to answer God's call to be men of faith.

### **Togo Sister Parish Committee**

The Togo Committee was created by a number of parishioners from St. Theresa Catholic (Des Moines) almost 20 years ago to support the wellbeing of disadvantaged and orphaned children of Nyassivé, Togo, by providing scholarships to these children in need, by supporting their schools, providing funding for volunteer teachers in their schools, and supporting the medical clinic in Nyassivé. Our second objective is the support of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Catholic Church in Nyassivé. We believe our shared Christian faith in Jesus Christ will aid our mission. Our abundance and shared faith with Togo St. Theresa parish provides the valued gift of education to the children of Nyassivé and surrounding villages.

During our last fundraising event (December 2022), we raised \$12,897.00. We have begun our fundraising efforts for November 2023.

This past August seven members from the Togo committee: Lee Boisen, Kay Boisen, Elizabeth Youngwirth, Jack Youngwirth, Susan Malloy along with committee members not living in the Des Moines area; Louann Hausner and Amaya Romanski traveled once again to Togo.

Father Yves, the priest most recently assigned to St. Theresa Catholic Church in Nyassivé as well as 11 neighboring villages, lives in the priest's house in Gape Center seven kilometers from Nyassivé. Father Yves met with us on numerous occasions during the week, and we had meaningful discussions regarding the education of the village children as well as the condition of the Church. He would like to build a priest house so that a priest could be assigned full-time to Nyassivé. Chief Michael is also interested in expanding the Catholic Church in the village and supports building a priest house. Although he is a Jehovah's Witness, he maintains we all worship the same God and building up the Catholic Church benefits the whole community.

Another issue we have been discussing is childhood hunger in Nyassivé. Many of our students are too hungry, too tired, or too sick to return to the school's afternoon sessions. Directed by UNESCO the Togolese government instituted a school feeding program through a Grassroots Initiative Support Agency and the World Bank. During our August trip, we visited a neighboring school that has had the government feeding program for five years and we met with their program volunteers and several teachers who indicated the program has been successful as passing rates and attendance were significantly higher than before the program began. At this time there has been no school feeding program implemented in Nyassivé, however, we shall continue to work with a Grassroots Initiative Support Agency and Nyassivé to ensure a school feeding program will be brought about in the schools in Nyassivé.

## **Peace and Justice/Social Justice**

Peace and Justice (P&J) was established under the Social Concerns umbrella at St. Theresa Catholic based on Catholic Social Teaching from Vatican II. In that teaching we are called to reach out and to build relationships of love and justice.

In May of 2008 a small dedicated group met and formed the Peace and Justice committee. Its purpose was to provide ongoing awareness of education through prayer and reflection on P&J issues. We have evolved through the years in numbers and mission.

Currently we have 12 members and focus on four areas - Fair Trade, First Fruits, Justice Education, and support for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD).

FIRST FRUITS – P&J is responsible for distribution of funds donated from the purple First Fruits Envelope (except St. Vincent DePaul) as follows:

- P&J funds are allocated to works of Justice in the parish and community
- Refugee Assistance funds are sent to Fr. Ambrose to assist refugees in resettlement.
- Pro-Life funds are used in the community based on promotion of Pro-Life initiatives.
- Community Outreach funds support works of charity in the parish and community.
- Emergency Shelter funds go toward transportation costs at St. Joseph's shelter.

EDUCATION – whenever the opportunity arises, P&J will do education about Justice as defined by Catholic Social teaching in the parish and the community at large.

CCHD SUPPORT – The Catholic Campaign for Human Development's domestic and anti-poverty program helps low-income people participate in decisions that affect their lives, families and communities and nurtures solidarity between people living in poverty and their neighbors. This is a national program and 25% of what is collected comes back to the Diocese to support local organizations. P&J offers a match up to \$1000 annually in support of CCHD.

In the pursuit of Justice and Peace, Pope Paul the VI has taught that if you want peace, work for Justice. In that spirit our mission will continue in 2023-2024 fiscal year to promote Justice by focusing on the four pillars of our mission – Fair Trade, Justice Education, First Fruits, and promotion of CCHD. Our purpose is to take our faith into the community and the community into our faith.

If you have a heart for this work and would like further information, please contact Kathy O'Neill, 515-865-1590.

## **Fair Trade**

Your purchases make a difference! Through Fair Trade (FT) and farmer ownership, a cooperative of over 85,000 cocoa farmers in Ghana receive fair premiums for their cocoa beans and a dividend on sales. This allows them to fund projects like wells and schools in their communities. Farmers and workers in South Africa gain steady employment and skills through Fair Trade where other job opportunities are scarce. Rural women in Bangladesh receive fair wages, freedom from exploitation, access to healthcare and education for their children through Fair Trade. And the story goes on . . . .

Fair trade has been occurring at St. Theresa since 1995. This has been an ongoing, coordinated and committed labor of love and faith. Fair Trade at St. Theresa is administered by the Peace and Justice Committee. The kiosk in the back of the church is stocked with FT coffee, tea, nuts, chocolates, olive oil and other items as they are available. With the help of Father Raphael, our current sales have grown significantly. When available, we offer baskets from Ghana, soups, jellies, and other items. On occasion we promote special seasonal items as they become available.

We have a Work of Human Hands sale each December and sell a large variety of items purchased from farmers and artisans around the world who are working for a fair wage. You can find us at the St. Theresa Bazaar selling our products. This work of Justice is a hand up not a hand out.



Throughout the 27 years we have had Fair Trade at St. Theresa, we have regularly provided education awareness and promotion of fair trade through bulletins, newsletters, Friday e-updates, CRS speakers at masses, monthly coffee sales, table tents at coffee and donuts and special programs during school Social Justice week as well as faith formation programs.

Our goals and plans for FY 2023-2024 are to sell more products thereby assisting people in developing countries gain financial independence and make a better life. We plan to make the parish further aware of this work of justice – why we do this and what it accomplishes – together we can make an impact on this work of JUSTICE.

## **Emergency Shelter Outreach**

How does our parish feed those in shelter in our city? The P & J committee coordinates these three volunteer activities. Three local shelters:

### **Central Iowa Shelter and Services 2023**

St. Theresa P&J continues to coordinate the monthly meal to CISS on the 8th of the month. This year we have a growing list of volunteers. The P&J coordinates regularly with pastor, parish administrator, church secretary, school kitchen manager for times and location of intake. On a regular basis education, updates and follow-up is provided to the parish. Contact Celeste Egger, 515-480-8358, to volunteer.

- Intake workers total 14 volunteers that rotate monthly duties.
- Servers, 55 people have volunteered to be on a list to volunteer to serve. Eight volunteers are needed each month to serve the 225 people that eat nightly at the shelter.
- Side meal providers are called/texted/emailed each month by four volunteers to meet the need for side dishes to serve with the monthly meal.
- Donations: the entrée is purchased with donations provided to the “homeless meal” fund. Two volunteers remain in contact with Hy-Vee who delivers entrée to the shelter every month.

### **Catholic Charities Emergency Family Shelter**

Volunteer, Jo Downey, continues to coordinate the 12 monthly meals to the shelter on the 4th Friday of the month. Meal providers are asked to prepare a meal for 10 families of up to 34 people. The volunteers provide a balanced meal and coordinate with the shelter staff the week of the meal for the guests’ food allergies/dietary restrictions, meal count and dinner drop off time. The parish has provided this monthly meal for 30 years. Contact Jo Downey, 515-205-2178, to volunteer.

### **Family Promise Emergency Shelter**

Currently we contribute to this shelter financially. (Jim McWeeny 515-223-0044)

## **Monthly DMARC Food Pantry Collection**

The Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC) is made up of over 125 member congregations in the Des Moines area, to which St. Theresa belongs. DMARC’s Food Pantries distributes food through 14 pantry sites and 29 mobile sites in the greater Des Moines area.

As a DMARC member congregation, St. Theresa hosts a non-perishable food collection every 3rd Sunday. In the spirit of Catholic tradition, parishioners bring their food donations and place them on the altar steps. Baskets are set out on each side of the altar for monetary donations that will be used by DMARC to purchase fresh foods (meat, dairy, produce). This collection and cash all goes to DMARC to serve the greater Des Moines community. Volunteers count items after the 4:30 p.m. Sunday Mass. Other volunteers transport the items to DMARC for distribution to their umbrella of pantries and mobile sites, who distribute the food items to needy families in the Des Moines area.

St Theresa is a leading DMARC member congregation with our monthly collection average of 150 to 175 food items and \$1,200 in cash donations. Last September, St. Theresa Peace & Justice offered a matching challenge to our parish and

matched \$2,000 in donations. In November, we hosted a 'reverse collection' to help provide specific holiday foods. With the high level of parishioner participation for these two events this past year, St. Theresa Peace & Justice will again sponsor a matching challenge up to \$2,000 in September and hold another holiday 'reverse collection' in November.

For more information on the monthly food collection, call or text Joan Ferguson at 515-321-4386.

*\*St. Theresa Food Pantry (STFP) in the church office does not receive the 3rd Sunday Collection. The founding principles of the St. Theresa Food Pantry are: 1) it would not detract from our commitment to DMARC and 2) supplemental pantries are needed to provide additional food assistance. STFP is funded through private donations, grants, and is a member agency of the Food Bank of Iowa.*

## Angel Tree

Angel Tree is an annual program that is presented to the parish around Thanksgiving each year. Gifts are provided to children whose parents are in prison. Participation is open to all members of St. Theresa Catholic. A list of needed gifts is posted for parishioners to purchase. Selected gifts are wrapped and returned on a designated weekend. During this time, monetary donations are also collected to assist to purchasing gifts. Surplus funds are given to St. Theresa Catholic School and the prison ministries Angel Tree program. During this short project, there are many volunteer opportunities which include: callers, shoppers, sorters and delivery workers. The project will be completed the week before Christmas. If you would like to help with this ministry please contact Kay Cross, crossknd@msn.com or 515-494-1079.

## St. Theresa Food Pantry

The St. Theresa Food Pantry (STFP) has operated out of the church office since 2009. Our ongoing mission is to welcome the stranger and feed the hungry who come to our church needing help. Eligible families can come once a month for a 3-day food supply and personal care items. The STFP is funded through private donations and grants and is run entirely by volunteers. Below are numbers for the fiscal year ending 6/30/23. We are blessed by the parishioners who volunteer to work at the pantry and the parishioners who donate food, personal care items, and money. For more information about the STFP, contact Anita Holub at stdsmfoodpantry@gmail.com.

Food Pantry Projects completed in FY23: New rescue food pickup (Aldi's-Windsor Heights), two new cold storage units purchased with DNR grant, new pantry space expansion and operations redesign

Grants Received \$1,800

Donations from parishioners and organizations \$5,838

Food Bank of Iowa food purchases \$4,825

Food & personal care purchases \$1,004

Equipment & building materials \$2,881

Supplies & volunteer appreciation \$570

Number of volunteers 29

Families (households) served 2,378

Individuals served 7,709

School families served weekly 13

Pounds of food distributed\* 79,184

\*received from Food Bank of Iowa, Aldi's, Kum & Go, Hy Vee & parishioners

# St. Theresa Catholic School

St. Theresa Catholic School includes 30 staff members: a Principal, a counselor, teachers, teacher associates, office staff, kitchen staff, and maintenance director. These adults form our students in their education, faith and health each day. They empower our students to be faith-filled leaders in all they do. Our faith-filled staff serve 245 students in grades PK-8.

## **Students**

We have students from nine different school districts attending St. Theresa Catholic School. Our students and families of multiple different cultures speak eight different languages. Our average class size is 23 students. Fifty-five percent of our families receive Tuition Assistance.

## **Curriculum Resources**

This year we introduced new curriculums in our PK-5 classrooms to support literacy development. These programs include Really Great Reading (PK-2) and Wit & Wisdom (K-5). Wit & Wisdom will be added next year to our middle school English/Language Arts curriculum. Our goal with these additions is to provide more rigorous literacy curriculum resources for our students to promote increased academic growth.

We also introduced a Leader in Me curriculum in all grades, PK-8 grades. Our teachers are connecting our Catholic faith and values to the habits in Leader in Me. We look forward to seeing student's individual growth with instruction utilizing these resources. This year, we also began the I Love U Guys! Standard Response Protocols to respond to safety situations that may arise in our building.

In September we offered a Curriculum Resource Night for parents. Dinner was served and babysitting was provided. Parents rotated through four sessions about Wit & Wisdom, Really Great Reading, Leader in Me and I Love U Guys! to learn more about the new curriculum resources we would start using this year. Those who attended provided positive feedback.

As we transition to being part of the Des Moines Regional Catholic Schools, we are preparing for our future. The day care and Early Childhood programs are now part of school programming, making us one united program on the St. Theresa Catholic School campus.

## **Leadership Council**

We have also moved from a Parent Teacher Committee and School Board to a Leadership Council. Our Leadership Council is made up of chair, vice chair, secretary and treasurer on the Executive Board. The Executive Board is joined by four committee chairs representing fundraising, social/community, faith and academics. Our teachers have similar committees within our school committee meetings. Parents and teachers are working on similar, aligned outcomes. Our focus is on creating opportunities for students to grow academically and become faith-filled disciples of Christ as we prepare them for the next phase of their life.

## **Glow Gala**

The St. Theresa Gala is Saturday, April 13, 2024. All are invited to attend. Funds raised as this Glow Gala will be used for increasing the safety of our students and all on campus. Examples of this may range from entry systems, reinforcing glass, making classrooms more secure and creating safer spaces around the church and school. Please join us for the fun and support this safety cause.

## **Extra Curricular Opportunities**

In the Fall 2023, we awarded our first round of Sister Jude Fitzpatrick scholarship funds to help support students participating in extracurricular activities. These scholarships will allow students to participate in activities their families may have otherwise not been able to afford. Scholarships will be given out each trimester to allow the opportunity for students participating in different activities to apply for scholarship help.

St. Theresa Catholic School students have the opportunity to participate in the Catholic Football League, Mock Trial, Cross Country, Volleyball, Basketball, Band, and Track.

## **Service**

In November, staff, students and parents helped clean up the school and church grounds as part of fall clean-up. It was a great way for our students to give back to the church and school. This also allowed parishioners to focus on homes of

parishioners in need of clean up help. In April of 2023, teachers did a spring clean-up of school grounds as part of our day of service and truly enjoyed the work and the outcome.

Our school finds many ways to support our community in light of food scarcity. Middle School students provide meals for Connection Cafe monthly. This is a great opportunity for our students to not only prepare food, but serve those in need. We also hold multiple food drives throughout the year to support our backpack buddy program and the St. Theresa Food Bank. Students get excited about bringing in food, knowing it will go to someone in need.

### **St. Theresa Early Childhood Learning Center 2023**

St. Theresa Early Childhood Center (ECLC) is a fully licensed childcare (Iowa DHHS) located in the lower level of St. Theresa Catholic parish offices in Des Moines. Established over 35 years ago, we offer full-time programs starting with two year olds/three year olds and a Pre-K through 12 years of age program. We offer a secure, safe and fun-loving environment at a reasonable rate for families of the parish, school and surrounding communities needing care for these ages while working full-time, year round.

In 2020 we opened the only 2 year old program in the Diocese of Des Moines and have had great success with the program. Currently all of our programs are full with a waiting list. A few of our continued safety/operational and educational things we have continued addressing this year:

- We implemented the Frog Street curriculum in all of our programs in the fall of 2023. Frog Street offers developmental and social-emotional development and learning continuums that allow children to build on previously mastered skills to more readily achieve new skills in a seamless and continuous way.
- We have also addressed safety concerns with the safety committee in combination with school and parish. New exterior doors will be added this fall with additional safety features for intruder safety.
- New bathroom updates will continue through the 2023/2024 school year to allow safer and more user-friendly bathrooms for the early childhood children.
- Survey results have continued to be extremely high with a 90% or greater satisfaction in all areas of care/safety/curriculum/communication and administration concerns.  
We have maintained an independent budget responsibly for the childcare within the limits set forth by the childcare director/finance council/school and parish office administration.
- Licensing by the state continues with no restrictions or citations noted.
- We have maintained an independent budget responsibly for the childcare within the limits set forth by the childcare director/finance council/school and parish office administration.

We continue to strive to be the very best at what we do and to maintain excellence in all the care we deliver to our families. We look forward to a successful 2023/2024 year.

### **Welcome to our New Parishioners in 2023**

Jennifer Mann, Vu & Dawn Nguyen, Stephen and Debra Loew, Jamie Schechinger, Andrew Garcia, Emily Pollpeter, Ezequiel Trinidad, Brendi Garcia, Christian and Janine Lopez, James Onesimo, Irene Akot, Jeff & Deborah Thomas, Oumar & Aminata Bermone, Gregory & Ercia Clark, Jean Mullen & Derek Nicholson, Emily Smith, Mark Kramer, Elizabeth Hart, Christopher Marks, Nicholas & Madeline Hernandez, William & Linda Novotny, Dick & Tammra Hogan, Sarah Richardson, Mary Clark, Adam & Lizzy Ullerich, Natalie & Dylan Reed, Angela Bohnenkamp, Steven Songa & Brigitte Otanjo, Karim Stone

### **Faithfully Departed in 2023**

Bob Miller, Janet McMichael, Karen Smith, Mike Montufar, Jean Keiter, Nancy Doyle, Frank DeBartolo, Frank Tamse, Joe Malloy, Rae Dolores Francis, Jody McCarthy, Pat Duff, Judie Crowley, Katie Olsen, Marilyn Bradley, Lorna Figge Klisart, Lorraine Rokitnicki, William Harlan Strait, John Murano, Jack Peter, Jim Kane, Linda Jehring, Tom Biller, Deb McMahon

For more information on our ministries and events follow our website, Facebook page, bulletin, and Friday email notifications.

# Take Action – Upcoming Events!

We are all called to be part of the community of faith. One way to answer this call is through ministries and events— and our parish provides these opportunities throughout the year. We invite you to take part in our ministries and events – make sure to save these dates!

<b>Event</b>	<b>Mark Your Calendar</b>
Communal Penance & Reconciliation	December 13, 6:30 p.m.
Advent Evening of Reflection with Fr. PJ McManus	December 17, 6 p.m.
Christmas Vigil Mass	December 24, 4:30 p.m. & 11 p.m.
Christmas Day Mass	December 25, 9:30 a.m.
Mary Mother of God	January 1
Mardi Gras Gathering	February 13
Ash Wednesday	February 14
Knights of Columbus Fish Fry	Every Friday, February 16-March 22
5-8 <sup>th</sup> Welcome Brunch	March 3
Faith in Action – Youth spring break service retreat	March 10-13
Easter Egg Hunt	March 30
Confirmation	April 10, 6 p.m.
School Gala	April 13
Guest Speaker on Eucharist	April 25
Senior Brunch	April 28
First Communion	May 5, 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

# Father Raphael's Wish List

Father Raphael has a wish list too! If you would like to donate towards any of these wish list items please write a check to St. Theresa Catholic with a memo "Father's wish list" and mail to St. Theresa Catholic Church or drop off in the parish office.



Cope and Humeral Veil set: White, Green and Purple \$128 each



Two Candelabra: \$3,650



Altar Crucifix: \$ 745.00



**St. Theresa Catholic Church**  
1230 Merle Hay Road, Des Moines, Iowa, 50311  
515-279-4654

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

<https://www.facebook.com/StTheresaCatholicDesMoines>