

Please consider using these announcements in your parish bulletin.

Sarah Hart is coming!

Energetic, insightful and nationally known composer and musician Sarah Hart will be in concert on Sunday, Jan. 15 at 6:30 at St. Francis Church in West Des Moines. She weaves stories throughout her concert as she shares her love for songwriting. All are welcome. Childcare is available. Free-will donations accepted. Questions? Contact Emily Schmid at eschmid@saintfrancischurch.org.

Nourish for Caregivers

The next gathering for the faith-based support group Nourish for Caregivers will be Jan. 25 at 6 p.m. at Holy Trinity Parish in Des Moines. Questions? Email Deacon Dan Maxcy at danm@holytrinitydm.org.

How to Make Health Care Decisions

Do you need help making health care decisions that are in alignment with Catholic moral teaching? The Iowa Catholic Conference can help. They released a new webinar for its project called Supportive Care Iowa. You can find it at the Iowa Catholic Conference YouTube channel. To be connected with a trained person who can assist in completing advance care directive documents, email Tom Chapman at tom@iowacatholicconference.org.

Sign language interpretation available

St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Student Center (on the Drake Campus) is the home of the Catholic deaf community. Sign language is available every Sunday at the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Sign language is also offered at St. Francis of Assisi Parish on Sunday at the 9:30 a.m. Mass. Visitors are welcome and appreciated at each parish community to continue building this community and make the Gospel accessible to our sisters and brothers in Christ. For more information, contact [Patty Origer at poriger@dm-diocese.org](mailto:Patty.Origer@dm-diocese.org) regarding St. Catherine Masses or [Emily Schmid](mailto:eschmid@saintfrancischurch.org) at eschmid@saintfrancischurch.org for St. Francis of Assisi Masses.

Is God calling you to be a deacon?

Bishop William Joensen announced the 'Call' to Inquiry for the Permanent Diaconate. This begins the application and inquiry phase of a five-year formation process that will lead to ordination to the permanent diaconate in the summer of 2028. The church invites the faithful to ask themselves if they are being called by God to serve the Church through this commitment to holy orders.

During the months of January and February there will be information meetings at locations throughout the Diocese. Dates and times will be communicated soon.

The meetings, will include information about the requirements for admission into the deacon formation program and an explanation of the ongoing process of discernment to the diaconate.

Men interested in learning about the role of deacons in the Diocese are invited to attend one of upcoming information meetings.

Please note: both the man and (if married) his spouse are required to attend an information meeting before requesting an application to formation.

Questions, please contact vocations@dmdiocese.org or jhouston@dmdiocese.org

World Day for Consecrated Life

This will be celebrated in the Church on Thursday, Feb. 2 and in parishes over the weekend of Feb. 4-5. Please pray for all those who have made commitments in the consecrated life, and be sure to thank them on their special day. May they continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ and respond generously to God's gift of their vocation.