

St. Teresa of Avila Church Est. 1869

DECEMBER 3, 2017 • FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PASTOR

Rev. David Baker

RECTORY

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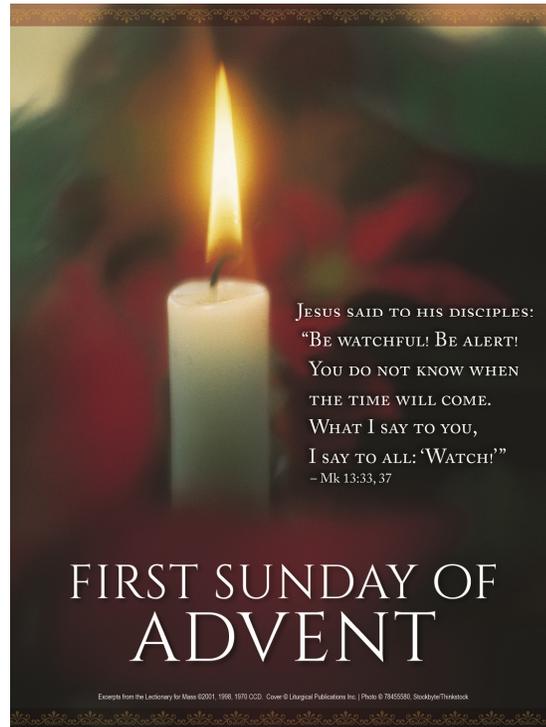
PARISH HALL & OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

5775 Buell Street

(716) 542-5777

MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Catholic faith community of St. Teresa of Avila parish, guided by the Holy Spirit, commit ourselves to proclaim and follow the Good News of Jesus Christ. Basing our lives on faith, hope and love, we seek to meet our needs and the spiritual and corporal needs of those around us. It is our humble prayer that our lives will be visible signs of His presence in the world as we celebrate Christ in His Word and Sacraments.



MASS SCHEDULE

<i>Sunday Liturgies</i>	8:00 AM, 10:15 AM
<i>Saturday Vigil</i>	4:30 PM
<i>Weekday Liturgies</i>	
<i>Daily</i>	8:00 AM, except Wednesday 5:30 PM
<i>Saturday</i>	9:00 AM
<i>Vigil of Holy Days</i>	5:30 PM
<i>Holy Days</i>	8:00 AM; 7:30 PM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 3:45 to 4:15 p.m.

First Saturday 8:15 to 8:45 a.m.

Vigil of Holy Days 3:45 to 4:15 p.m.

or anytime by request.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

As preparation for Baptism, parents are asked to contact the parish office to make an appointment with the Pastor.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Arrangements to be made at the Rectory 6 months in advance.

NEW PARISHIONERS

Please register at the Rectory as soon as you move within the parish.

Note: If you are moving out of the parish, please notify the Rectory.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

These letters needed for Baptismal and Confirmation sponsors are issued gladly to those who have been registered for 6 months, attend Mass regularly, have been confirmed, if married, have done so in conformity with the Church laws, and children attend Religious Education.



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, December 4 - St. John of Damascus

8:00 Rev. David Baker -
Birthday Blessings by St.
Teresa's Women's Guild

Tuesday, December 5

8:00 Departed Souls

Wednesday, December 6 - St. Nicholas

5:30 Dolores Totaro by St.
Teresa's Women's Guild

Thursday, December 7 - St. Ambrose

8:00 Albert Konieczny -
Birthday Remembrance by
Ron Konieczny

5:30 Connie Caprio by Bill and
Nancy O'Donnell

Friday, December 8 - The
Immaculate Conception of
The Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00 am Intentions for Mothers
7:30 pm Intentions for Fathers

Saturday, December 9

9:00 Parishioners of St. Teresa's
2:00 Nuptial Mass of Brian
Wetzler and Ashley
Swaidner

4:30 Betty Bergman - Birthday
Blessings by Tom and Amy
Bergman and family

Sunday, December 10 - Second
Sunday of Advent

8:00 Irene Swift by Bernadette
Connolly

10:15 Adolph Bassanello by Ed
and Barb Burke

Scripture Readings For the Week

Monday - Isaiah 2:1-5;
Matthew 8:5-11; **Tuesday** -
Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24;
Wednesday - Isaiah 25:6-10a;
Matthew 15:29-37; **Thursday** -
Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21, 24-
27; **Friday** - Genesis 3:9-15, 20;
Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-
38; **Saturday** - Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-
26; Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8;
Sunday - Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; 2
Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8



PASTORAL SHARINGS

O Come Divine Messiah! Advent begins and we look to the future when Christ will come to renew all things. Today at Mass we light the first candle of the Advent Wreath. Candles are such great symbols of the hope that our faith gives us. It isn't always a powerful bright light. Sometimes amid the darker parts of our society, our faith seems small and flickering -- but it still keeps burning and gives us comfort. Imagine facing this troubled world without your faith! For me, it would be impossible. Only in Jesus Christ is there any hope for the future. The great news is: this promise is guaranteed. Come Divine Messiah!

Last week, the Church year concluded by looking ahead to that time when Jesus will come to put all things right. The Gospel told us that, while we wait, we should do kind things for the poor. "You did it for me," Jesus said.

I'm pleased to see how much we are doing for the poor (and thus for Jesus) here at St. Teresa's. Our Thanksgiving baskets brought a hearty meal to those in need, and we are constantly supporting the Newstead Food Pantry. Several of our parishioners are very involved in running the food pantry.

We are currently working with Response to Love Center on the Totes & Towels project, and our Mitten Trees are up and waiting to be covered with your donations of warm winter items.

You may have seen a newspaper photo of the inside of St. Luke's Church, every pew covered with bags of food ready for delivery to the poorest of the poor on the East Side of Buffalo. I'm glad to say that our high school youth group was involved in that project. The photo doesn't show it, but there were hundreds of teenagers in the church, all packing and loading bags like an assembly line. Eight of our high school teens were a part of it.

I'm very proud of these teens who tell me that their two favorite events are October's Live Action Clue game and this Service Project in November. How wonderful that they understand the fulfillment that comes from helping the poor.

Note that this Friday is a Holy Day of Obligation -- the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Please refer to the Mass schedule in this bulletin. On Friday, after the 7:30 p.m. Mass, we will have an abbreviated session of our monthly Fully Alive Adoration. I invite you to stay for a short time of quiet prayer after Mass.

Four weeks of Advent lie before us. They are busy weeks, but let us make some time - even ten minutes - to prepare the way with prayer. O Come, Divine Messiah...

-Father Dave

Our Prayer Request for the Week: That broken families may reach out to each other and heal divisions; we pray to the Lord...



Please pray for the sick of the parish and their family members particularly; David Hahn, Shirley Lantz, Lorraine Sylvester, Norma Hackbush, Pat Hahn, Jim Creed, Ron Konieczny, Sister Bea Leising, Phil Wittman, Tracy Lotz, Liam Williams, Faith Bassanello, Arlene Scheeda, Bernard Thoma, Mary Lou Bummer, Mike Charles, Doug Schifferle and for the happy repose of the soul of Gertrude Bartels. Please also continue to pray for our troops who are serving in the military around the world.



Advent invites us to pause, reflect and prepare for the coming of Christmas. The readings at Mass welcome us to a new church year, and help us to focus our hearts on the Christ Child. Visit Loyola Press Curriculum for family oriented activities, calendars and inspirations. Please note that the traditional Christmas pageant will take place on Sunday, December 31st at the 10:15 am Mass, the Feast of the Holy Family.

Friday, December 8th is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary and is a Holy Day of Obligation. There will be a vigil Mass on Thursday at 5:30 pm and Mass on Friday will be at 8:00 am and 7:30 pm. We are in need of Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers and Ushers for the special Masses. Please sign up on the sheets in the Vestibule!

Mark your Calendar: Advent Penance Service at Sacred Heart Church in Bowmansville - Tuesday, December 12th at 7:00 pm



The Mitten Tree has arrived! Donations of handmade or store bought mittens, scarves and hats are sincerely appreciated and will be given to the Akron/Newstead Food Pantry. The tree will remain until next Sunday, December 10th.

“Towels and Totes” for Response to Love Center. Just a reminder to return the totes with a bath towel, wash cloth and bar of soap and place the tote bag underneath one of the mitten trees.

Retirement Fund for Religious - Elderly Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests need your help. Many served for years in Catholic schools, hospitals, and parishes - often for little or no pay. Now there is a shortage in retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides funding for medications, nursing care, and more. Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

Altar Server Training - We will be offering a training for all interested new altar servers on Sunday, December 10th, immediately following the 10:15 am Mass. Any boy or girl who is at least in grade 4 is invited to attend. Forms were passed out in religious education classes. If you are interested and didn't get a form, please call Melissa at the rectory at 542-9103.

How can you focus on celebrating when you've gone through so much lately? When you are in the midst of grief, the last thing you want to think about is the holidays. The Office of Family Life Ministries would like to help support you during the holiday season! They provide a packet of prayers, articles, thoughts and ideas to try to help you through the holidays after losing a loved one. Contact the Office of Family Life Ministries at 716-847-2210.

☺ A bent-over elderly woman hobbled into a doctor's office. Within minutes, she came out again but miraculously, she was standing up as straight as could be. A man in the waiting room who had been watching her said in amazement; "My goodness, what did the doctor do to you?" The woman replied, "He gave me a longer cane!"

Wedding Banns III:

Brian Wetzler and Ashley Swaidner of St. Teresa's Parish



- Sunday, December 3 - Religious Education Classes - 9:00 - 10:00 am and 11:15 am - 12:30 pm
- Tuesday, December 5 - Women's Guild Christmas Party - 6:00 pm at Orazios
- Friday, December 8 - Fully Alive Adoration - immediately following the 7:30 pm Mass
- Sunday, December 10 - Religious Education Classes - 9:00 - 10:00 am and 11:15 am - 12:30 pm
- Sunday, December 10 - Altar Server Training - 11:15 am In the Church



Prayer For Priests and Religious

Good and gracious God, we come before you this day asking that your call to priesthood and consecrated life fall upon open minds and generous hearts. You never cease calling workers to your vineyard. We pray for the grace to be your voice in encouraging others to risk the response that is called forth. May we never falter in our desire to respond generously to your call, in supporting those who are called to serve as priests and religious, in encouraging others to be open to your call in their lives. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

“May the God of hope fill you with all the joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

~Romans 15:13