

# St. Teresa of Avila Church Est. 1869

DECEMBER 17, 2017 • THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



**PASTOR**

Rev. David Baker

**RECTORY**

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**PARISH HALL & OFFICE OF  
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**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 18

8:00 Intentions for Mothers

Tuesday, December 19

8:00 Departed Souls

Wednesday, December 20

5:30 Francis Dahill *by The Kleparek Family*

Thursday, December 21 - St. Peter Canisius

8:00 Jean Golpl *by Jim and Mary Lou Freiheit*

Friday, December 22

8:00 Alfred Strollo *by family*

Saturday, December 23 - St. John of Kanty

9:00 Parishioners of St. Teresa's

4:30 Joseph Nicosia *by mom*

Sunday, December 24 - Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 John and Helen Capan *by daughter*

10:15 Albert, Helen and Joseph Konieczny *by Ron Konieczny*

Vigil Of Christmas Masses:

4:30 Henry, Adeline and Michael Raykowski *by family*

8:00 Deceased Family and Friends of the Sanford and Zurlo Family

Monday, December 25 - Christmas

9:00 Parishioners of St. Teresa's

11:00 Deceased Family and Friends of the Shimmel Family *by Ron and Sherry Shimmel*



### Scripture Readings For the Week

**Monday** - Jeremiah 23:5-8; Matthew 1:18-25; **Tuesday** - Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25; **Wednesday** - Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38; **Thursday** - Song of Songs 2:8-14; Luke 1:39-45; **Friday** - 1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56; **Saturday** - Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Luke 1:57-66; **Sunday** - 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38



### PASTORAL SHARINGS

It's humpday, everyone! At least as far as Advent is concerned. We light the 3rd candle, and it's different from the others. The rose color is a signal to rejoice because our waiting is now halfway over. In other words, this is humpday, and now we start the downhill run toward Christmas.

It sure is a run isn't it? In these two remaining weeks there's so much to do, but maybe we can find ways to sneak spiritual things into our busy rushing. Anytime you drive by a manger scene on someone's lawn, say a "Glory Be" or a line from a Christmas song. "Come O long expected Jesus, born to set Your people free."

While you decorate, bake, or lick envelopes, you can pray a decade of the Rosary thinking about the events that led up to Christmas - the angel Gabriel's message, the donkey trip to Bethlehem, the scramble to find a place to stay. Hmm, I guess the Holy Family was a lot like us. They had to rush and worry too. Jesus will come through all of this if we let Him.

Last call on the radio! For several years I've been co-hosting the Friday call-in show on the local Catholic station 101.7FM. Now, with internet streaming our humble station has attracted an audience all over the country. So, the station directors want to take the show to the next level and strive for national airplay. Part of the plan is to invite priests from all over the country to appear on the show. So, I'll be making way for these new priests and ending my time on the program at the end of this year.

My last show will be Friday, December 22nd. Call in and ask a question, before the sun sets on my career! I've enjoyed doing the show, but it will be good to have extra time on Fridays to finalize my weekend homily and lead prayer services like Fully Alive Adoration. Wake services are often on Friday nights also, because Saturday is the most common day for funerals. There'll be lots of ways to make use of this time.

We'll be seeing a lot of each other over the next couple weeks. The Mass schedule is in this bulletin and on the website. Please note that New Year's Day, the Solemnity of the Mother of God, is NOT a day of obligation this year, because it falls on a Monday. We will have the usual holy day Masses, but you are not required to attend. However, what better thing to do before stepping out to a new year's party than receive Holy Communion.

What a great time of year! May God bless your preparations,

-Father Dave

**Our Prayer Request for the Week:** That all believers in Jesus will have their hope renewed; 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, Mary Lou Bummer, Mike Charles, Karen Sowinski, Doug Schifferle, Dan Springer and for the happy repose of the soul of Bonnie Cescon and Eugene Martino. Please also continue to pray for our troops who are serving in the military around the world.

**MASS SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS...****CHRISTMAS VIGIL -**

Sunday, December 24th - 4:30 pm, 8:00 pm

**CHRISTMAS DAY -** Monday, December 25th  
9:00 am and 11:00 am**SOLEMNITY OF MARY**Sunday, December 31st - 5:30 pm  
Monday, January 1st - 9:00 am and 11:00 am

- Sunday, December 17 - Religious Education Classes - 9:00 - 10:00 am and 11:15 am - 12:30 pm
- Sunday, December 24 - No Religious Education Classes - Merry Christmas!

**Prayer For Priests and Religious**

Heavenly Father, please grant to Your faithful servants, the grace and strength to carry out Your mission for the church each day. Keep our priests close to You and continue to inspire them to serve others in Your holy name. Please help to inspire men who are called to a priestly vocation to answer Your call and participate in the fullness that You have planned for them. Amen.

John the Baptist urged his followers to turn from their sins and renounce anything that was keeping them from doing God's will. If God is calling you to priesthood or religious life, what can you turn from in order to hear the call more clearly and answer more readily? If God is calling you to a Church vocation, call Father Andrew Lauricella at 716-847-5535.

**The 2018 Calendars are here!**

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

"This Christmas season let us reflect on the sublime mystery of the Incarnation and the sacred birth of the Christ child, true God and true man, Savior of the world."

-Deacon Fred Bartels,  
Diocese of Pueblo, Colorado



Treat yourself to some time before or after Mass today to read the responsorial psalm. With Mary, the Mother of Jesus, repeat the verse of her Magnificat. To remain focused while we await the coming of the Lord is very difficult. The season of Advent is inundated with commercialism and anything but Christ. And remember to display the manger with Mary, Joseph, Jesus, the angels and shepherds in your home.

**Extended Time for Sacramental Confession:  
Saturday, December 23 - 3:00 - 4:15 pm**

The sharing and love and peace is at the heart of the Slavic tradition of "Oplatki". At the Christmas Eve meal, each person has a wafer. A parent offers a piece of wafer to another exchanging words of blessing, of love, perhaps telling what they admire or respect about the other. The ritual continues as each person eats the piece of wafer they have been given and offers their own wafer to others. Oplatki (Christmas Wafers) are available until Christmas. The wafers are on the altar rail and a donation is suggested.

**Christmas shopping is a pleasure at The Catholic Store** on the campus of St. Gregory the Great Parish, 1600 Maple Road in Amherst. Browse thousands of religious items to help your family and friends remember the reason for the season. The store is open Tuesday thru Friday from 9 am -3pm, Saturday 9am -noon, Sunday 9am - 2pm and Wednesday evenings from 5:30 - 7:30 pm.

**Looking for a last minute gift idea for your mom or your sister?** How about a ticket to February's Buffalo Catholic Women's Conference? On Saturday, February 24th at Cardinal O'Hara High School, join hundreds of Catholic women for a faith boost. Speakers feature Sister Tatum McWhirter, Kate Wicker and Dr. Janet Smith. The conference runs from 8 am-3 pm. Tickets are \$35 which includes continental breakfast and lunch, and can be purchased at the rectory. For further information/questions, call Lisa Reigle, our parish liaison, at 955-9625.

☺ One Christmas, a mother asked her young daughter if she could name two of Santa's reindeer. "Rudolph and Olive," replied the young girl confidently. "Rudolph and Olive?" said the mother, quizzically. "Are you sure?" "Yes, mommy, Rudolph and Olive. Like in the song." "The song?" asked the mother. "What song?" The girl sang, "Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer, had a very shiny nose. And if you ever saw it, you would even say it glows. Olive the other reindeer...."