

St. Teresa of Avila Church Est. 1868

DECEMBER 18, 2016 • FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PASTOR

Rev. David Baker

RECTORY

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8:30 AM–12:30 PM

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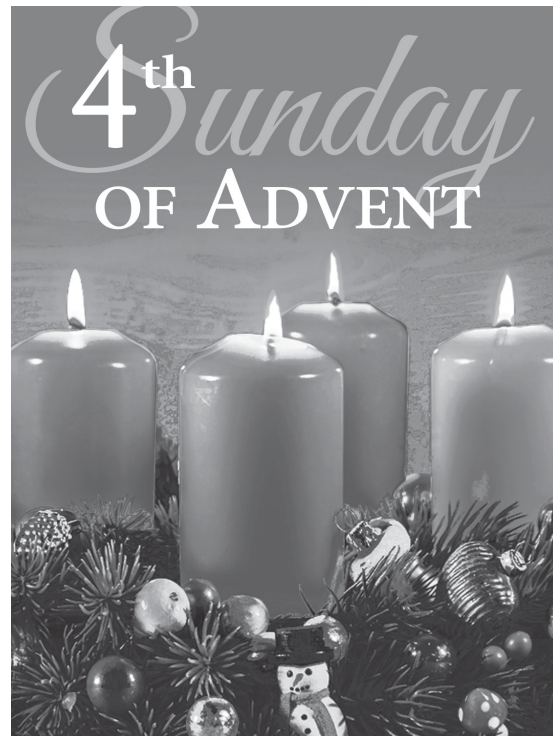
PARISH HALL & OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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>	4:30 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 19

8:00 Intentions for Mothers

Tuesday, December 20

8:00 Departed Souls

Wednesday, December 21 - St.
Peter Canisius

5:30 Ed Buekers *by family*

Thursday, December 22

8:00 Alfred Strollo *by family*

Friday, December 23 - St. John of
Kanty

8:00 Intentions for Fathers

Saturday, December 24

4:30 Henry, Adeline and
Michael Raykowski *by son
and brother*

8:00 Parishioners of St. Teresa's

Sunday, December 25 - The
Nativity of the Lord

8:00 John and Helen Capan *by
daughter*

10:15 Deceased Family and
Friends of the Shimmel
Family *by Ron and Sherry
Shimmel*



Scripture Readings for the Week

Monday - Judges 13:2-7, 24-
25a; Luke 1:5-25

Tuesday - Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke
1:26-38

Wednesday - Song of Songs 2:8-
14; Luke 1:39-45

Thursday - 1 Samuel 1:24-28;
Luke 1:46-56

Friday - Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24;
Luke 1:57-66

Saturday - Isaiah 62:1-5; Acts of
the Apostles 13:16-17, 22-25;
Matthew 1:1-25

Next Sunday - Isaiah 62:11-12;
Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:15-20

Masses for 2017 are
available now! Call the
Rectory any weekday
morning to get your
preferred dates!



PASTORAL SHARINGS

Snow has arrived! Let the children begin their hopes for a snowday! I don't mind the snow myself. It will look nice for Christmas and it will give me a chance to take the snowshoes out. I hardly used them at all last year.

Writing this on Monday morning, I've just returned from the Response to Love Center with our Women's Guild. There we delivered your pillows & prayers, 212 pillows in all! This is a tremendous response, and Sister Johnice herself met us at the door to offer her thanks. She then took us through the entire Center to show us the wide variety of services they provide. Sr. Johnice's strategy is not just to give handouts, but rather to change lives. Your kindness is part of that mission this Christmas.

Your kindness is also constantly being shared at the Akron-Newstead Food Pantry, where the items from the Mitten Tree were delivered. There were some very large bags going out the church doors on Sunday, containing your warm woolen gifts.

Your response to both of these charitable projects was outstanding. Things like this make me very proud to be your pastor.

Here at home, this is the weekend of decoration. The church will look much different the next time you enter it. I look forward to seeing our lovely Nativity Scene return. I only got to see our creche briefly when I arrived last January. I intend to spend much more time with it this year. I like to sit in front of the manger while praying and let it visually enhance my prayer. There will be plenty of time for this, as Christmas is a lengthy season of its own. We'll leave the decorations up for quite some time, and I encourage you to do the same in your home. Letting Jesus abide with us will bring great peace.

Many people found a pocket of peace by visiting our Fully Alive Adoration last Friday. If you enjoyed it, I invite you to join us again on January 13th. We'll still be singing Christmas songs as we adore our Eucharistic Lord.

Meanwhile, we wait for His coming like the farmer awaiting the produce of the earth. This image from the Letter of James, chapter 5, is such an appropriate one for our rural community. We know that good things come to those who work hard and wait patiently. Come, Lord Jesus!

~ Fr. Dave

Our Special Prayer Request for the Week: That all believers will find more room in their lives for Christ to come this Christmas; let us pray to the Lord...



Please pray for the sick of the parish and their family members particularly; David Hahn, Shirley Lantz, Lucas Lowe, Noah Schubbe, Michael Nanni, Jim Schmatz, June Hoffman, Keith Bergman, Lorraine Sylvester, Rosemary Haberer, Madisyn Ross, Norma Hackbush, Arlene Scheeda and Adolph Bassanello. Please also continue to pray for our troops who are serving our country throughout the world.

Additional Times for Sacramental Confession:
Wednesday, December 21st - 6:00 - 7:00 pm
Christmas Eve - Noon till 1 pm (No Confessions at 3:45)

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

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

(Christmas music by St. Teresa's choir,
directed by Laurie Bordonaro Mozee')**CHRISTMAS DAY -** Sunday, December 25th

8:00 am and 10:15 am

SOLEMNITY OF MARY - HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Saturday, December 31st - 4:30 pm

Sunday, January 1st - 8:00 am and 10:15 am

Religious Education: Today's Gospel draws our attention to Joseph. The mystery surrounding Mary's pregnancy bewilders Joseph. He is confronted with making a very significant decision. His faith and trust are tested. And like many decisions that will still come in their family life, Joseph meets the challenge and it was not easy. Our young people look for guidance also. Let us listen to them and pray with them to grow in faith, in trust of God's presence and action in our everyday lives.

High School Youth Ministry:

- December 18th: Caroling and Cocoa - 3-5 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.

Camp Turner's Winter Camp 2016 - Boys and Girls ages 7-16 are invited to sign up for this 3-day overnight camp that runs from Wednesday, December 28 at 10 am through Friday, December 30 at 6 pm. The schedule is jam packed with all kinds of great activities including wood working, nature, OLS, low ropes, games-in-the-woods, indoor gaming club, bonfires, dances, Lego club, winter crafting and unique sports. Visit www.campturner.com for online registration. For more information email CampTurner@gmail.com or call 354-4555.



One Christmas eve, Pete and Jane were driving their Russian friend Rudolph back to his house. The weather outside was frightful. Jane asked Pete, "Do you think that's sleet or rain out there?" "It's rain, Jane" said Pete. "I think it's sleet, Pete," said Jane. Rudolph chimed in, "It's definitely rain, Jane." "No, I really think it's sleet, Rudolph" said Jane. "Don't argue with the expert, Jane," said Pete. "What do you mean, Pete?" asked Jane. Pete replied, "Rudolph the Red knows rain, Dear."



- Sunday, December 18 - Religious Education Classes - 9:00 - 10:00 am and 11:15 am - 12:30 pm
- Sunday, December 18 - High School Youth Ministry - Caroling and Cocoa from 3-5 pm; meet in the Parish Hall
- Sunday, December 25 - No Religious Education Classes - Merry Christmas!

**Bible Study Class #5**

January 23/26

Reading: Joshua, Judges,
1 & 2 Samuel

Christmas Mass:

For those who are unable to physically attend Mass, the Diocese of Buffalo provides a televised Mass from the Our Lady Chapel at St. Joseph Cathedral that airs on Sundays on WUTV-Fox at 7:30 am.

The December 25th celebrant will be Bishop Edward Grosz.

It may be God's will that you be a priest or religious sister. If God is calling you to a Church vocation, call Father Andrew Lauricella at 716-847-5535.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**

"You are destined, it is written, in time to come to put an end to wrath before the day of the Lord, to turn back the hearts of fathers toward their sons."

~Canticle of Zechariah (Sir 48:10)