

# St. Teresa of Avila Church Est. 1869

DECEMBER 23, 2018 • FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



**PASTOR**

Rev. David Baker

**RECTORY**

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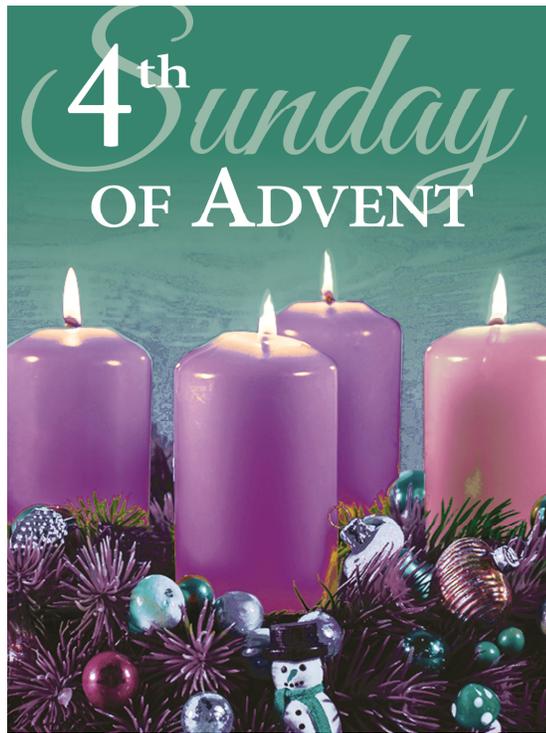
**PARISH HALL & OFFICE OF  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

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 24

8:00 am Departed Souls

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

8:00 Parishioners of St. Teresa's

Tuesday, December 25 - The Nativity of The Lord

9:00 John and Helen Capan *by daughter*

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

Wednesday, December 26 - St. Stephen

5:30 Intentions for Fathers

Thursday, December 27 - St. John

8:00 Stella Mattioli *by family*

Friday, December 28 - The Holy Innocents

8:00 Parishioners of St. Teresa's

Saturday, December 29 - St. Thomas Becket

9:00 Charles Raymond Groff *by Jean Haun*

4:30 John Trigilio *by The Fish Family*

Sunday, December 30 - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8:00 Nellie Malone *by Gary and Ann Lyon*

10:15 Connie Philips *by Ron and Sherry Shimmel*



### Scripture Readings For the Week

**Monday** - 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Luke 1:67-79

**Tuesday** - Isaiah 62:11-12; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:15-20

**Wednesday** - Acts of the Apostles 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22

**Thursday** - 1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a, 2-8

**Friday** - 1 John 1:5-2:2; Matthew 2:13-18

**Saturday** - 1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35

**Sunday** - 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28; 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24; Luke 2:41-52



### PASTORAL SHARINGS

I hope you are feeling blessed on this Third Sunday of Advent. One of a pastor's challenges at this time of year is to let Advent be Advent, to let the signs of the season speak for themselves. Pine boughs, candles, the color violet, the words of the prophets & John the Baptist - all these things point to something but don't yet reveal it. This is the spirituality of Advent.

Mixed with that is the practical consideration that a major feast occurs on Tuesday (Monday evening, in fact) and we have a lot of decorating to do. I try to take a moderate approach on this final weekend of Advent, trees without lights, a manger scene without a Babe.

The coming week is a lovely interval when time seems to stand still. The kids are home from school, many adults take vacation, and the busy pace of the past few weeks slows down. Try to capture this feeling. It's a little preview into the timelessness of God.

Before we enter into that timeless moment, let me look ahead to 2019, our 150th Anniversary Year! Some planning has been done to continue our ministries into next year:

- Bible Study will begin a brand new program, a ten-week overview of the Prophets. If you haven't tried it yet, this is a good time to jump in. Start date is yet to be determined.

- High school youth group will try to make the most of winter, with a snowy hike on January 20th and ice skating on February 17th.

- Middle school youth group will continue to "put on the full armor of God" (Ephesians 6:13) resuming on Sunday, January 13th.

- Fully Alive Adoration will continue each month. On January 11th, we will surround the Sacred Host with Christmas decor as we come to adore Him.

But first, let's make our final preparations, enjoy Christmas Mass and the feast that follows, revel in the excitement of the children, and rest in the renewed presence of Christ in our world. He makes all things new!

Blessed be God forever!

-Fr. Dave

**Our Prayer Request for the Week:** For peace on earth between nations and neighbors; we pray to the Lord...



Please pray for the sick of the parish and their family members particularly; Shirley Lantz, Lorraine Sylvester, Norma Hackbush, Lucas Lowe, Pat Hahn, Jim Creed, Liam Williams, Doug Schifferle, Jess Reger, Crystal Howard, Leah Howard, Karen Martin, Christopher Ginestre, Whitey Spoth, Arlene Scheeda, Gloria Rembas, Geraldine Benker, and Msgr. Robert Williamson. Please also continue to pray for our troops who are serving our country throughout the world.

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

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

**CHRISTMAS DAY -** Tuesday, December 25th

9:00 am and 11:00 am

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY**

Monday, December 31st - 4:30 pm

Tuesday, January 1st - 9:00 am and 11:00 am

**Religious Education:** Some families have adopted the custom of "adding to" the Nativity set at home during Advent. First comes the stable, then the animals, and so on until Jesus is added on Christmas Day. Another favorite custom is to visit the manger scene in the front of the Church, kneel there, and pray for each other.



The Religious men and women give thanks for your generous donations to the Annual Retirement Fund for Religious. Our parish raised over \$6000 from the collection a few weeks ago.

**Last chance to get your 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. The wafers are on the altar rail and a donation is suggested.

**May you have a blessed Christmas!** We rejoice with you in the birth of Jesus, signifying God's immeasurable love for us. In allowing His Son to descend to earth as man, He gave us the hope and promise of salvation and peace on earth to those of good will. **Catholic Charities**, in service to the eight counties of Western New York, wishes you a very Merry Christmas!

**28th Annual Festival of Lights** now through January 6 at Our Lady of Fatima Shrine, 1023 Swann Road (off Rt. 18) in Lewiston. This year's theme is "Let the Children Come to Me" and showcases St. Nicholas, patron of the little children. Lights are on daily from 5-9 pm.

**March for Life Pilgrimage in Washington, DC -** January 17-18, 2019. Registration is open. For more information including prices at bus locations, check out their website at [www.buffalodiocese.org/prolife-events](http://www.buffalodiocese.org/prolife-events).



When a father asked his little boy what he wanted for Christmas, the boy replied, "A baby sister." As it turned out, the wife was pregnant, and delivered on Christmas Eve. On Christmas day she brought home a brand new baby sister for their son. The next year, when the father asked his little boy what he wanted for Christmas, the boy said, "If it wouldn't make mommy too uncomfortable, I'd like a pony."



- Sunday, December 23 - No Religious Education Classes - Merry Christmas!
- Sunday, December 30 - No Religious Education Classes! Happy New Year!

**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.

Today we hear that Jesus' coming into our world and all the love He poured out for us, through much sacrifice, was done in obedience to the Father's will. Remember that it may be God's will that you be a priest, or a religious sister or brother. If so, will you follow Jesus' example of faithfulness? If God is calling you to a Church vocation, call Father Andrew Lauricella at 716-847-5535. You can also check out the "Priest of the Month" stories at [www.buffalovocations.org!](http://www.buffalovocations.org!)

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

"JOY TO

THE WORLD,

THE LORD

HAS COME"