



CHURCH OF SAINT TERESA OF THE INFANT JESUS & ST. NICHOLAS CHAPEL

DECEMBER 19 , 2021 | 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CONTACT US

ST. TERESA CHURCH / RECTORY
1634 Victory Boulevard
Castleton Corners
Staten Island, NY 10314
PHONE 718 442 5412
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EMAIL rectory@stteresasi.org
WEBSITE www.saintteresasi.org

OFFICE HOURS: 9:00am to 4:30pm

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MASS SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MASSES

SATURDAY 4:00PM

**SUNDAY 7:30AM, 9:00AM,
10:30AM, 12:30PM, 5:00PM**

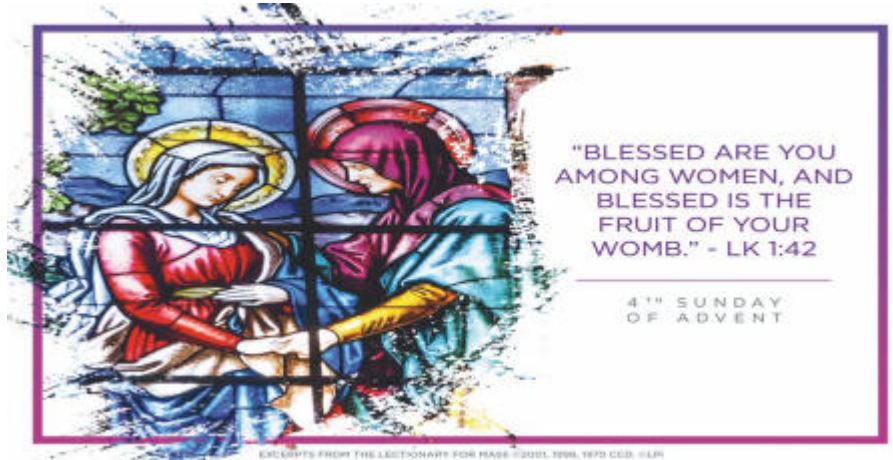
*ALL THESE MASSES ARE IN ST. TERESA
CHURCH ON VICTORY BLVD., EXCEPT THE
9AM MASS WHICH IS IN ST. NICHOLAS
CHAPEL, ON NORTHERN BLVD. AT LA BAU
AVE., ONE BLOCK IN FROM VICTORY BLVD*

WEEKDAY MASSES

**MONDAY TO SATURDAY 8:30AM
TUESDAY TO FRIDAY 12 Noon**

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

SATURDAYS, NOON TO 1:00PM



"BLESSED ARE YOU
AMONG WOMEN, AND
BLESSED IS THE
FRUIT OF YOUR
WOMB." - LK 1:42

4TH SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISMS

Designated Sundays at 1:30
Please call the rectory to check
dates and to meet with a priest or
deacon.

CONFESSIONS

Every Saturday, Noon to 1pm,
in the sacristy near the altar

WEDDINGS

Please call and speak to a priest
to begin planning your wedding

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Anytime

NOVENA SERVICES

Mondays after 8:30 Mass

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

First Fridays from 9am to 3pm

RELIGION/ SCHOOL

St. Teresa Religious Education

Program for public school students
begins with first grade and leads to
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THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19	DO WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU!	NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26
4:00PM Robert S. Cavallone 7:30PM Edward and John Lewis 9:00AM Rob Cavallone 10:30AM Albert Witt 12:30PM For the People of Our Parish 5:00PM Arielle Newman		7:30PM Rosemary Cusimano 9:00AM Vincent Piteo 10:30AM Josephine Tanosh 12:30PM Marie and Fred Sapienza 5:00PM Marie Sapienza
MONDAY, DECEMBER 20	TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21	WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22
8:30AM Vincenza (Jennie) Granello	8:30AM For recent Tornado Victims living and deceased in the Midwest 12NOON Mike Romano	8:30AM Jerry Eick 12NOON Rev. Salvatore Pierro and Rev. Giuseppe Manfredi
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23	FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24	SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25
8:30AM Renato Serrano 12NOON Sophie Savron	8:30 AM 4:00PM Church Irene Sturges 4:00PM Chapel 5:30PM Andrew Esposito 9:00PM For the People of our Parish	7:30AM 9:00AM Chapel 10:30AM Ralph R. Olivia 12:30PM Salvatore DiMarco

SERVED BY

MSGR. WILLIAM BELFORD

Pastor

FATHER JOHN KALLATTIL, VC

Parochial Vicar

FATHER STEVEN CHALLMAN

Sunday Associate

DEACON JONATHAN REYES

Deacon

MRS. NICOLE C. FRESCA

St. Teresa-St. Rita Principal

MRS. LISA RAMETTA

Religious Education Coordinator

MRS. LISA NAUGHTON

Parish Manager

MR. EDWARD MORAND

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

Your prayers are requested for all who are sick in our parish and community, especially: **Grace Agalo-os, Karen Bertuzzi, Michael Borik, Vincent Borzumato, Nicholas Crispiano, Nicholas Ciricirillo, Carina DeGulio, Ed Diaz, Rachel Diaz, Kevin Dunne, Patricia Dunne, Joanie Edwards, Augustine Ferrer, Mark & Arlene Fileccia, Michael G., Josephine Greco, Elaine Guarlino, David Hall, Vincent Hicks, Barbara Hicks, Buddy Jarrel, Pat Jarrell, Jennifer Johnson, Fred Kabat, Donnalyn Lawton, Catherine Leone, Edward Lewis, Genevieve Lewis, Josephine Linton, Linda Mahoney, Paul Mahoney, Emma Jane Mannix, Mikia James Martin, Judy C. Mc., Raymond and Maureen McLaughlin, Bill McMillen, Susan Morris, Josephine Nastasi, Ryan Pizzaro, Joanny Pizzuti, Sal Prestigiaco, Edwin Rodriguez, Ronald Rothmund, Jerry Scattaglia, Cheryl Spinelli, Joseph Tirone, Alex Valenti, David Valle, Margaret White, William Wisnieski.**

CHRISTMAS EVE AND DAY SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR PRIESTS

4PM CHURCH, 5:30PM, 9PM, 10:30AM, 12:30PM Monsignor Belford
 4PM CHAPEL, 7:30AM, 9AM CHAPEL, CLOVE LAKES HOME Father Kallattil
 No 5pm Mass on Christmas Day

Dear Parishioners and Friends of Saint Teresa Church,

On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, with Christ Mass Day later this week, I have some ideas to help us focus on what will make our celebration of the Lord's Nativity more satisfying and happy.

The first thing to motivate us is that some years, after Christmas is over, people feel a certain sadness, as if after the big build-up, there was something that we missed. There could be a lot of reasons for that, but the real problem might have been that while we were busy about many things and giving gifts and opening gifts, we did not expect to get any gifts from God. What we did not ask for, we did not get—especially Important things like wisdom and satisfaction and trust in a divine plan for our salvation and for our eternal life in heaven.

Or maybe, like the inner child in every adult, we didn't even open what was there in front of us! You thought you knew what others were supposed to give you. You were thinking about tangible presents from family and friends, but you were not expecting new life, new enthusiasm, new joy from your Christmas prayers and Mass.

So here is what we can do now to get ready for a better Christmas this year. It is not too late. First; focus on Jesus. Talk in prayer and read about Him in the Bible. The Gospels of Matthew and Luke, chapters one and two, are called the Infancy Narratives. The list of names are not as important as the messages and dreams by which God the Father prepared Mary and Joseph for their role in salvation history.

Like cleaning for guests at a party, clean up this week to welcome the Christ Child. This starts with repentance for your sins. Sins can be personal or collective, things that you did or that you failed to do. At a minimum, say an Act of Contrition. [Act of Contrition](#) is a prayer to use daily and know by heart. (Check the back cover of the missalette, or Google.) Here: I'll even give you a present - one that is traditional, short, and easy to remember: ***Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, have mercy on me, a sinner.***

Going to the Sacrament of Reconciliation – also known as Penance and Confession – is another tool in your toolbox for repairing your life. This Monday is being called **RECONCILIATION MONDAY**. Priests will be in every Catholic Church in our NY area to hear confessions from 11am to 1pm, and from 6pm to 8pm. Fr. John and I will be here, but you have choices. Confess in any Catholic Church that is convenient for you.

St. Luke tells us that the great announcer of the Messiah – Saint John the Baptist—preached a gospel of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Preparing for the celebration of Jesus' birthday includes cleaning our soul and getting rid of the dirt and debris from bad habits and laziness. The word *Gospel* means good news. The way to accept good news and happiness is by repentance for bad behaviors, and a renewed try to be good.

How can imperfect people like us really welcome the Son of God this week if we are not trying to be at least a little bit holier? If we have been careless of the needs of others, or not praying at home or coming to Mass, or if we are the cause of scandal or anger that keeps others away from Jesus – we really need to change! This Christmas is our next best chance. Open yourself to the experience of forgiveness and reconciliation, and discover that forgiving and healing is the path to both happiness and holiness.

Your Christmas present from God is waiting for you. As the Romans said: Carpe Diem – Seize the Day! Make this Christmas the best it can be, especially spiritually. Jesus said that He came so that we may have life and have it to the full. He wants you to accept his His love. Get ready by reconciling with family and friends as needed. Make your commitment to be with Christ, to learn from Him as you go, and to appreciate his Christmas gifts of life and love, of mercy and peace. Pray at home, read the Bible. Receive Holy Communion and other Sacraments that Jesus entrusted to His Church to show His care for you.

Wishing you many joys this week and on Christmas Day,
Msgr. William Belford

PLEASE WEAR A FACE MASK IN CHURCH

Please wear a face covering or mask when you are in church. As decided by the NYS Department of Health to protect people against Covid-19: "All persons over age two and able to medically tolerate a face covering/mask, regardless of vaccination status, shall wear an appropriate face covering/mask while in any indoor public place." This took effect last Monday, December 13, and will continue until at least January 15.

THIS MONDAY IS RECONCILIATION MONDAY

We have time for Confession every Saturday from 12 to 1 in church, including this week. But **RECONCILIATION MONDAY IS THIS MONDAY Dec. 20. Come for peace and mercy from 11am to 1pm, and from 6pm to 8pm.** We even offer Confessions Dec. 24, 12 to 1pm.

CHRISTMAS MASSES SCHEDULE**Friday December 24 / Christmas Eve**

We will have a 4pm Mass in St. Teresa Church

- We will also have 4pm Mass in St. Nicholas Chapel
- We will have a 5:30 Mass in St. Teresa Church
 - We will have 9pm Mass in St. Teresa Church, with Christmas hymns from 8:30pm to 9pm

Saturday December 25 / Christmas Day

We will have a 7:30am Mass in St. Teresa Church

- We will have a 9am Mass in St. Nicholas Chapel
- We will have a 10:30 Mass in St. Teresa Church
- We will have a 12:30pm Mass in St. Teresa Church

There is no Mass at 4pm or 5pm on Christmas Day.

Sunday December 26

Masses will be at 7:30am, 9am in Chapel,

10:30, 12:30, and 5pm

(See the bottom of page 2 for names of celebrants.)

A PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

For protection from all the distractions that can spoil our focus on the joyful true meaning of God coming to be with us, and for everyone's Christmas Day to be holy and happy, let us pray to the Lord...

DO YOU NEED SOMEONE**WHO CAN LISTEN TO YOU?**

Everyone goes through crises sometimes. When that is happening, you can benefit from a conversation with a professional counselor who shares our Catholic perspective.

Our parish can make a connection for you with the **Archdiocese of New York's**

PARISH COUNSELING NETWORK

Our parishioners can make an appointment to meet with a professional counselor on Staten Island for up to six meetings, with only a \$10 co-pay per session.

This can be arranged easily. Tell one of our priests that you want to talk with a counselor. He will contact the **PARISH COUNSELING NETWORK** on your behalf, and then you can call and arrange your first visit with someone who knows how to listen.

As they do on every third Sunday of the month, members of the **Legion of Mary** are receiving Holy Communion together at the 12:30 pm Mass today. If you would like to know more about the Legion of Mary, visit their pamphlet rack in the vestibule, or speak to one of the Legion members after Mass.

Thank you for your donations!

WeShare online amount was \$4,188. Parishioners brought envelopes with contributions of \$9,506.

*Wise
Men
Still
Seek Him*

Develop an Advent frame of mind

The holiday season can seem more like a test of endurance than preparation for a celebration. In the midst of the seasonal stress, we are asked to reach into ourselves and bring out only what is kind, generous, and loving. It may help to remember that the real reason for the season is the celebration of unimaginable Love.

Try to see with a Father's eye. Our Heavenly Father delights in our creation and loves us for exactly who we are. During Advent, try to see yourself through His eyes. Not the flawed human visible to



humanity, but the spectacular product of God's divine love and the reflection of His glory.

Prepare your gift. Make your gift to Jesus an open heart, ready to receive the love He has for you. *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life"* (John 3:16).

Anticipating an eternity of unimaginable love is absolutely the right Advent frame of mind.

from Scripture

Luke 2:41-52, Finding in the Temple

The Feast of the Holy Family (December 26) includes the story of finding Jesus in the Temple, a story of love and obedience. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover, as was the custom for Jews of that time. They traveled in a large group for protection against bandits who infested the hill country. So it wasn't surprising that His parents didn't miss Jesus as they started the return trip. Upon discovering Him missing, they hurried back to Jerusalem.

On the third day of searching, they found Jesus in the Temple. He was

questioning the priests and amazing them with his understanding. However, Mary asked how He could have caused



His parents so much worry and Jesus replied, "Did you not know I must be in my Father's house?"

Though they were puzzled by His answer, Mary and Joseph took Jesus back to Nazareth. He

remained there in obedience to His parents until it was time for his public ministry. We learn from this story to obey not only God but also those in authority over us.

Feasts & Celebrations

December 2 - St. Bibiana (363). Virgin and martyr, St. Bibiana was the daughter of a Roman official who converted to Christianity and was martyred for his faith. Bibiana was tortured and executed for her Christianity, as well.

December 8 - Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. On this day we commemorate that Mary was conceived in St. Anne's womb without Original Sin. In addition to attending Mass for this Holy Day of Obligation, praying a joyful Rosary is a wonderful way

to celebrate.

December 12 - Gaudete Sunday. This Sunday marks the halfway point of Advent. We light the rose candle in the Advent wreath for joy. During the last two weeks of Advent, the Church prepares to celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas.

December 29 - St. Thomas Becket (1170). As Archbishop of Canterbury, King Henry II tried to pressure him and the other bishops into agreeing to unjust laws, but St. Thomas refused to sign his approval for them. He was eventually martyred for his faith.



Q & A Do we have to return to Mass in person?

When we love someone, we don't want to just call or send an email. We want to be together in person, growing in love and friendship. Then, too, when we love Jesus, we want to be with Him



in body, blood, soul and divinity in the Eucharist. "It is a substantial presence by which Christ...makes

himself wholly and entirely present" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #1374).

The Eucharist is a gift we can only fully receive in person. It is spiritual food for the journey. In it we receive not just graces, but Jesus, Himself. Nowhere else on Earth and in no other way can we be so closely united to Him who loves us most.

It is possible - and required - to attend Mass in person unless there is a grave reason to stay away. Still, let nothing keep you from Jesus in the Eucharist. Go to Confession regularly and never miss Mass. Do whatever you can to receive Jesus in the Eucharist. Remember, God is never outdone in generosity.

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GROWING + WITH THE Gospel CYCLE C

COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.

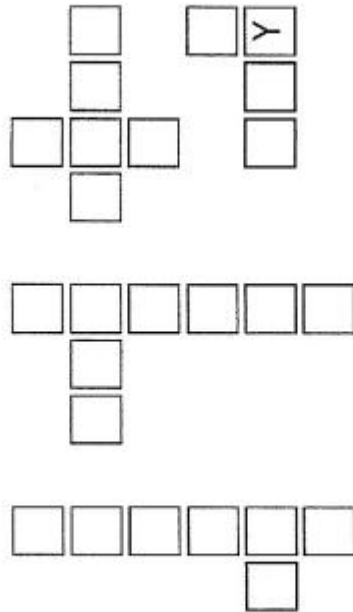


4th Sunday of Advent • Luke 1:39-45

PUZZLE

Fit the following words from today's Gospel into the empty squares below.

The infant in my womb leaped for joy.



MISSION

You belong to a larger family than just the people in your home. See how many of your relatives you can name before you visit them at Christmas. When you do see them, wish them "Merry Christmas!"





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