



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

DECEMBER 25/26 , 2021 | THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

CONTACT US

ST. TERESA CHURCH / RECTORY

1634 Victory Boulevard

Castleton Corners

Staten Island, NY 10314

PHONE 718 442 5412

FAX 718 442 9041

EMAIL rectory@stteresasi.org

WEBSITE www.saintteresasi.org

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

*LOYAL PARISHIONERS ARE APPRECIATED,
AND NEW PARISHIONERS ARE WELCOME.
PLEASE REGISTER SO THAT WE CAN
SERVE YOU AND KEEP IN TOUCH.*

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*

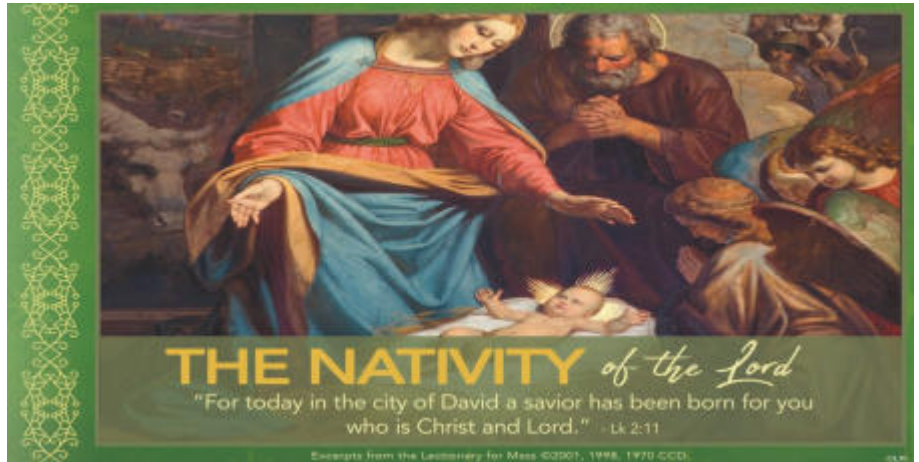
WEEKDAY MASSES

MONDAY TO SATURDAY 8:30AM

TUESDAY TO FRIDAY 12 Noon

SACRAMENT OF
RECONCILIATION

SATURDAYS, NOON TO 1:00PM



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
sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy
Communion, and Confirmation. Students
are taught on Tuesdays 4pm to 5:30.
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ccd@saintteresasi.org.

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school instruction. Please call the office
at 718 448 9650 or visit
stsrstreamacademy.com.

THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26	DO WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU!	NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 2
7:30AM Rosemary Cusimano 9:00AM Vincent Piteo 10:30AM Josephine Tanzosh 12:30AM Marie and Fred Sapienza 5:00PM Marie Sapienza		4:00PM For the People of Our Parish 7:30AM Joseph and Theresa Capobianco 9:00AM Vincenzo J. Grimaldi 10:30AM Albert Witt 12:30PM Frances Kennedy 5:00PM Teresita Carreon
MONDAY, DECEMBER 27	TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28	WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29
8:30AM Macrina Reyes (Birthday)	8:30AM Jerry Eick 12NOON Frank DeStefano	8:30AM Maria Julia Diaz 12NOON Patrick Thomas Williams
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30	FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31	SATURDAY, JANUARY 1
8:30AM Jose Caban 12NOON Burton Cohen	8:30AM 12NOON 4:00PM Deacon Phillip Maroon	8:30AM Gregorio Agalo-os 12NOON FOR A BLESSED YEAR FOR THE PEOPLE OF OUR PARISH 4pm For the People of our Parish

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

Director of Music

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 Guarino, 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 Prestigiacomio, Edwin Rodriguez, Ronald Rothmund, Jerry Scattaglia, Cheryl Spinelli, Joseph Tirone, Alex Valenti, David Valle, Margaret White, William Wisnieski.**

NEXT SUNDAY'S SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR PRIESTS

7:30am, 12:30pm Monsignor Belford
 9:00am, 10:30am, Clove Lakes Home Father Kallattil
 5pm Father Challman

Dear Parishioners and Friends of Saint Teresa Church,

On the day of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, we received the answer to the ultimate desire of all human beings. For more than happiness, health, prosperity, or peace, wise people want eternal life. Any gift you have given or received pales in comparison with this tremendous fact: that the gates of heaven have been opened again because of Jesus Christ.

Our longing for such a future is driven home when death deprives us of someone we loved or knew—as it did this week with word of the going home to God of our parish's first ordained deacon, Deacon Phillip Maroon. Deacon Phillip died on Friday December 17, at age 75, after many physical challenges. These led him several years ago to gradually withdraw from his favorite ministries – Sunday Masses at St. Nicholas Chapel, and Monday Night Novena – and then to ask Cardinal Dolan to accept his retirement for health reasons from being an active Deacon.

A Funeral Mass was scheduled for Wednesday December 22, at Saint Rita Church on Bradley Avenue, with Bishop John O'Hara as the main celebrant. Phil, his wife Kathy and two sons lived near St. Rita's. He began his first years as a Deacon there. We will have more about him in another bulletin. For now, please keep him and his family in your prayers.

Speaking of prayers, Father John Kallattill, Deacon Jonathan Reyes and I are all praying for you to have a happy and healthy Christmas Day and Christmas Season as we celebrate the Nativity of the Lord. Which leads me to ask a challenging question: How many days are there in our Church's Christmas Season this year? (Be very cautious about any song title that links days and presents – although you get extra credit if you remember what those gifts are supposed to be.)

You could find the answer by consulting a new Catholic calendar and/or looking in a missalette at church and counting the days from December 25 to when we go back to what is called "Ordinary Time". But here are a few hints to help you get a preview of the whole liturgical season of Christmas:

- Christmas Masses begin on Christmas Eve, like Vigil Masses do on Saturday for Sunday. This is because we are faithful to our Jewish tradition, that a new day begins at sunset. To repeat: Christmas Masses are Friday at 4pm in Church and Chapel, 5:30pm, 9pm, and at 7:30am, 9am in Chapel, 10:30am and 12:30pm. There are no 4pm or 5pm Masses on December 25.
- The next day -- Sunday, the 26th— we are celebrating THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH. The Masses on Sunday December 26 are: 7:30, 9, 10:30, 12:30, 5pm.
- Saturday January 1 is THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD. This is usually a holyday of obligation, but not when it falls on a Saturday or Monday. Even though there is no obligation, people want to honor Mary as Mother of God - and also to pray for a much much much better New Year! Therefore we will offer three Masses: December 31 at 4pm, and January 1 at 8:30am and 12 Noon (in place of confessions.)
- Sunday January 2 is the celebration of THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD. On this feastday commemorating the homage of the Three Kings, we are back to the usual Sunday schedule, beginning with a 4pm Mass on Saturday January 1.
- Sunday January 9 is the celebration of THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD. This event completes the quiet part of Jesus' life on earth. By going with his disciples to the Jordan River for a ritual baptism in water for the forgiveness of sins, to be done by his better-known cousin the prophet John, who is called "The Baptist", Jesus begins his public life. At his baptism, there is divine identification given by God's voice speaking from heaven: **"You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."** This marks the beginning of the public ministry of Jesus, and therefore makes January 9 the final day of the Christmas Season. (And if you want another clue that January 9 is the final day of the Christmas Season—our beautifully decorated Christmas trees are scheduled to be removed by our Holy Name men on January 8, in perfect coordination with the liturgical calendar.)

So make use of every day in this Christmas season! Spend time in prayer, including at your home nativity scene, placed in a position of honor and respect for contemplation and prayer. I invite you—by yourself or with others, at least once and as often as you desire—to pray aloud these beautiful words from our Church's Book of Blessings. This is the prayer which we used to bless the Christmas Nativity scenes inside and outside our church:

"God of every nation and people, when our need for a Savior was great, you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love. And so, Lord, bless all of us who look upon this manger. May it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise up our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen."

Merry Christmas to all! And a much, much, much better New Year!

Msgr. William Belford

NEWS ABOUT OUR SISTER MARGARET MARY FOOD PANTRY

MANY THANKS TO ALL OUR PARISHIONERS WHO SEND A MONTHLY DONATION BY MAIL TO OUR FOOD PANTRY, OR WHO CONTRIBUTE PERSONALLY AFTER MASSES ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH, TO KEEP ALIVE OUR PARISH'S MINISTRY OF FEEDING THE HUNGRY THROUGH OUR SISTER MARGARET MARY FOOD PANTRY.

(WHAT A COINCIDENCE! NEXT SUNDAY IS JANUARY 2—FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION SUNDAY!) WE DON'T HAVE MUCH MONEY LEFT AFTER MAILING 70 INVITATIONS AT CHRISTMAS TO OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED SO THAT THEY COULD GO TO MET FOOD STORE AND USE A \$100 CREDIT WE PROVIDED FOR THEIR SHOPPING FOR THEIR FOOD NEEDS.

WE WERE ABLE TO AFFORD THAT LEVEL OF GIVING IN PART BECAUSE OF AN EXTRAORDINARY \$5,000 CONTRIBUTION IN DECEMBER FROM THE RICHMOND COUNTY SAVINGS FOUNDATION. WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR THEIR SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION.

WELCOME TO NEWCOMERS

If you are a visitor, we welcome you to the Church of St. Teresa and hope that you will come back often. If you are ready to join our parish, please talk to a priest or send a note or call the rectory at 718 442 5412.

You are most welcome here!

BEREAVEMENT GROUP

Our St. Teresa's Bereavement Group has resumed meetings in person at the Parish House on Windsor Road every other Saturday morning beginning at 10:45am. Anyone interested in joining the group is welcome. Please call Michael Schiffler at (347) 466-0603 for meeting dates and before your first meeting so he can welcome you.

A PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

For God's graces and blessings to come upon our new Mayor as he begins his term of office, and also especially for his Schools Chancellor and Police Commissioner, that they may all succeed in bringing many improvements for the people of our City, let us pray to the Lord...

GOLDEN AGERS STAYING ALIVE AND ACTIVE

Our Golden Age members and their friends have not been able to get back to their enjoyable and important weekly meetings since March of 2020.

Every part of our school building, including the gym where they have their noontime Monday meetings, is unavailable because of Covid protocols. To protect the students and faculty, no outsiders are allowed while students are present. And we have no other large space with easy access and some parking.

But thanks to the energy and leadership of Golden Age President Lorraine Sellers, at least some activities, like a recent Christmas luncheon at The Staaten, have brought our people together and given them a chance to visit with one another.

In the fall, this group sponsored a sold-out bus trip to the Sight and Sound Theater in Pennsylvania to see an awesome live-on-stage production about a great heroine of the Bible: Queen Esther. Then right after Thanksgiving, a full bus went on an overnight trip to Philadelphia and to see the fabulous night lights of Longwood Gardens.

There is a healthy desire and need to get out and - with safe practices against Covid sickness - to enjoy an active life.

If you want more proof: Lorraine has planned three long trips for 2022. They are going to Vermont in May, Cape Cod in July, and Nashville in October. Sorry to say if you would like to go: all of them have been sold out for weeks. The waiting list to get a seat, if someone changes his/her mind, is 5 for Vermont, 35 for Cape Cod, and 25 for Nashville.

But better days will eventually come for us! There are many day trips in the planning stages for 2022: Atlantic City, Peddlers Village, Sight and Sound Theatre to name a few. Contact Lorraine to be part of this positive future. Call her at 917-292-6737 to talk with her and get on her contact list.

Thank you for your Sunday donations!

WeShare online amount was \$2,953.

Parishioners brought envelopes with contributions of \$9,696.



HOW TO WATCH SUNDAY MASS CELEBRATED AT ST. TERESA CHURCH

Being at Mass with other people and receiving Holy Communion is our ideal. But for the benefit of people who cannot come to Mass in church at this time, we livestream our 4pm Mass on Saturdays as it happens.

Many people watch Mass then or on Sundays or weekdays at a time convenient for them. Go to our website www.saintteresasi.org. See ECATHOLICLIVE. Click on the date to find the Mass, and then raise your heart.

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.

ARE YOU READY TO SAVE TIME, TROUBLE, AND MONEY?

This way of giving saves you preparing envelopes. It saves us money printing and distributing them!

We recommend you do this by using **WeShare**. Follow these steps: 1. Go to our parish website: www.saintteresasi.org. 2. Look for the cute church and see "Give Online." 3. Go to Primary Church Collection and then Recurring Church Collection. 4. Enter the amount you want to give. Your donation is deducted safely from bank accounts or credit cards, under your control as you decide.

This is important for our parish future.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Most of us think too little about the Ten Commandments or know where to find them in the Bible. (Look in Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5 in the Old Testament).

Those who take the time to study the Ten Commandments find that they are God's guide to a life full of blessings.

There's much more to these Ten Commandments than meets the eye. They are not God's way of preventing us from having a good time. They are God's ten keys to a successful and happy life.

Every Commandment of God is for our good. The Ten Commandments are designed to protect us, our families and our communities. They are a guide to improving the way we think, what we do, and how we live.

These are the traditional formulas you can study in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, introducing #2052ff.

*I am the Lord your God:
you shall not have strange gods before me.*

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

Remember to keep holy the Lord's day.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not kill.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.

You shall not covet your neighbor's goods or anything else that belongs to him.

PLEASE SIGN UP FOR FLOCKNOTE

From your home computer or cell phone...

1. *Go to our website stteresasi.org*
2. *Scroll down to FLOCKNOTE*
3. *Fill in name, email and mobile phone number*
4. *Click Sign Me Up*

OR

Text stteresasi to 84576 to receive link to register.

GROWING+
WITH THE **Gospel**
CYCLE C

COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.

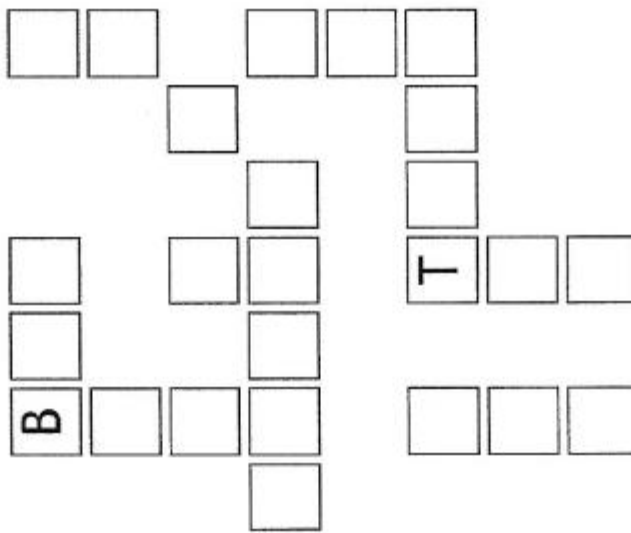


Christmas Morning • Luke 2:15-20

PUZZLE

Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:

They saw the baby lying on a bed of hay.



MISSION

Ask your parents to light candles and join you in singing songs about Jesus.

BECAUSE VIBRANT CHURCHES MATTER





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