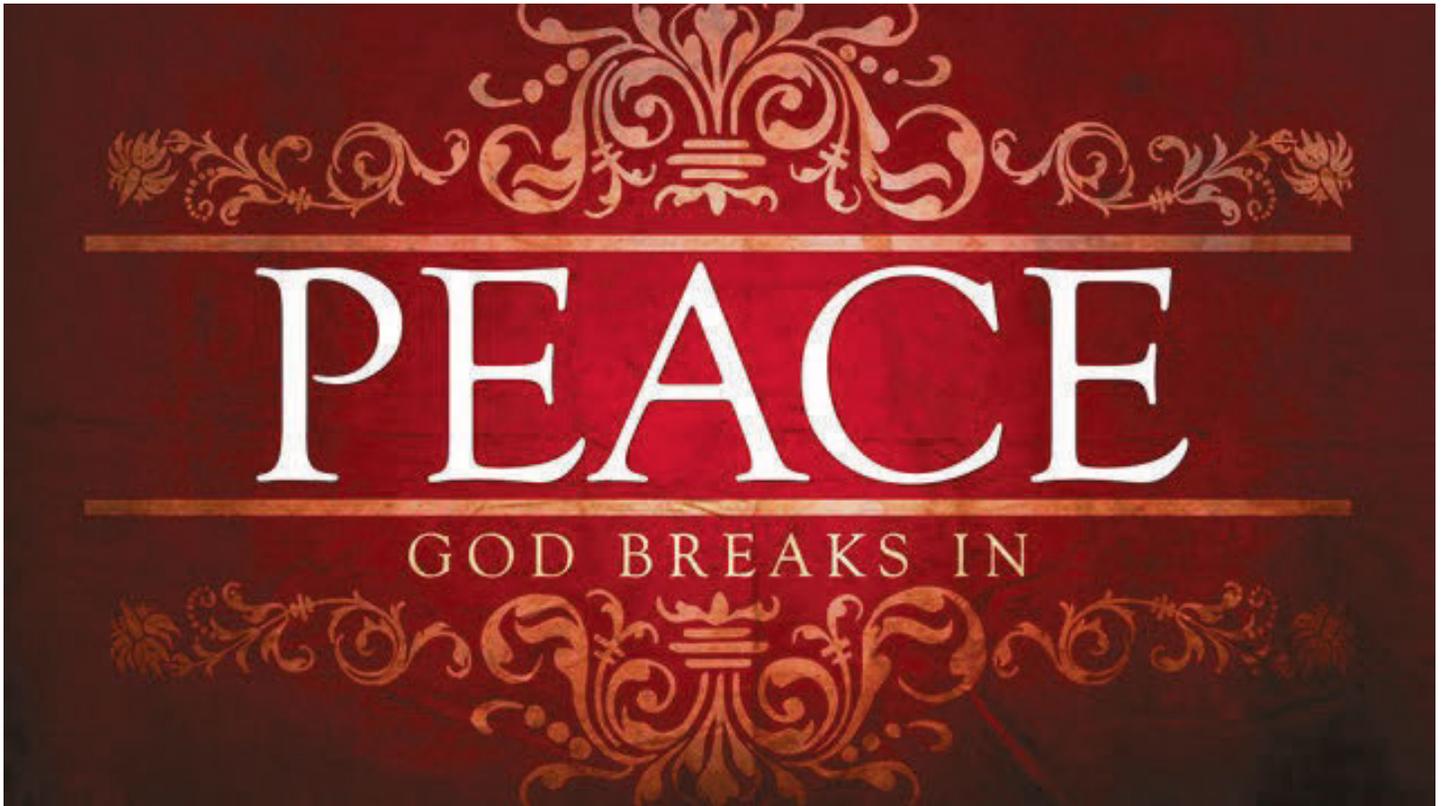




St. Therese of the Child Jesus Catholic Church and School

1260 N.E. 132nd Ave., Portland, OR 97230
503-256-5850
www.stthereseor.org

December 5, 2021 - Second Week of Advent



SACRAMENT OF THE EUCHARIST

Saturday Vigil Mass 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Mass 10:00 a.m.
Wednesdays 9:00 a.m.

RECONCILIATION

Please feel free to call the office to schedule an appointment for Reconciliation.

SCHOOL OFFICE INFORMATION

Phone (503) 253-9400
www.stthereseschool.org

PARISH OFFICE INFORMATION

Office Hours Monday to Thursday
9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Address 1260 N.E. 132nd Ave.
Portland, OR 97230
Phone (503) 256-5850
Website www.stthereseor.org

STAFF MEMBERS

Pastor Rev. Stephen Michael Geer
Business Manager Mrs. Penny Montani
School Principal Mrs. Rosemarie El Youssef
Liturgy Mrs. Stella Armstrong
Facilities Manager Mr. Matthew Shelton
Receptionist Mrs. Colleen Royle

Christmas Mass Schedule

SAINT THERESE OF THE CHILD JESUS CHURCH
1260 NE 132nd Ave., Portland, OR 97230
503-256-5850/stthereseor.org/info@stthereseor.org



December 24, 2021 (Friday)
Christmas at the Vigil Mass
4:00 p.m.



December 24, 2021 (Friday)
Christmas at the Mass During the Night
8:00 p.m.

December 25, 2021 (Saturday)
Christmas at the Mass During the Day
10:00 a.m.

**Note: There will be NO Saturday Vigil Mass
at 5:00 p.m. on December 25th.**

December 26, 2021 (Sunday)
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
10:00 a.m.

January 1, 2022 (Saturday)
Solemnity of Theotokos, Mary Mother of God
10:00 a.m.

**Note: There will be NO Saturday Vigil Mass
at 5:00 p.m. on January 1, 2022.**

ALL MASSES ARE IN ENGLISH



Pastors' Request Corner

From Fr. Tetzl at St. Rita:

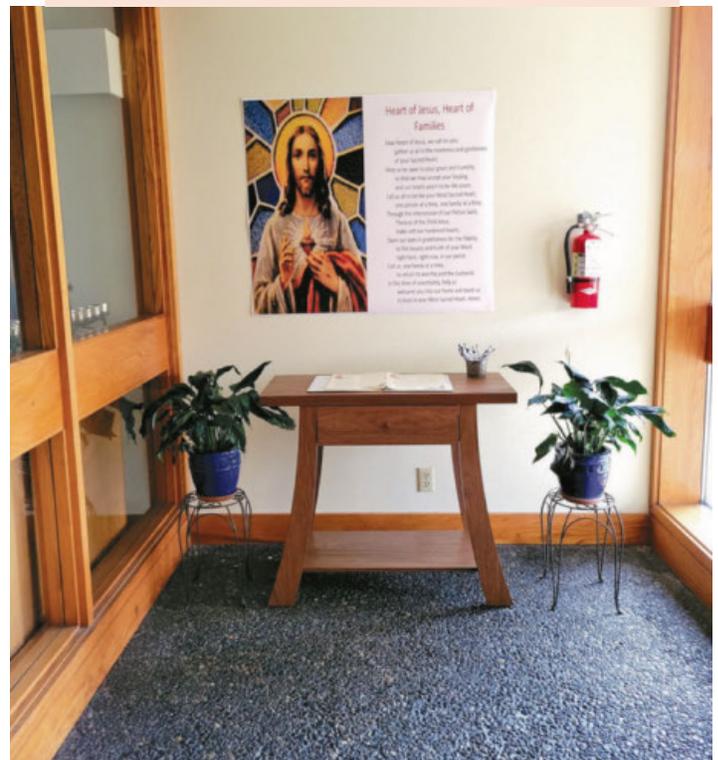
St. Rita Catholic Church in NE Portland is looking to hire a part-time Parish Secretary/ Admin Assistant. To apply, send your cover letter and resume to Fr. Tetzl Umingli at tumingli@archdpx.org. If you have a shoulder-pack vacuum cleaner in good condition that you are no longer using and plan to give away, please let Fr. Tetzl know.



From Fr. Jose at St. Anne:

St. Anne Catholic Church in Portland is looking to hire a part-time Liturgy Coordinator. To apply, call Fr. Jose at 503-665-4935. If you have a leaf blower in good condition that you are no longer using and plan to give away, please also let Fr. Jose know.

**Come visit our Prayer Book of Intentions Corner.
Copies of our Parish Prayer to the Sacred Heart of
Jesus are also there for you to take home and pray
with the family.**





Fr. Steve's Homily



A Conversation on a Friday Morning:
November 21, 2021

Pilate asks Jesus, *Are you the King of the Jews?* Pilate's perspective is parochial, limited. Consequently, he does not know who Jesus is. Accordingly, perhaps even hopefully, Jesus tries to move the Prefect in the direction of a personal commitment, replying *Do you say this on your own?* Alas, Pilate is set in his prejudice and but repeats what others have said about him. As a consequence, he remains blind to the nature of Jesus as the Christ and cannot recognize him as King.

Yet Jesus is indeed King, a fact revealed through his incarnation. This side of the Parousia however, it is a fact only accessible through faith. As Pilate chides Jesus for his un-kingly lack of power and military support, our Lord makes the nature of his reign clear: *My kingdom does not belong to this world. If [it did], my attendants would be fighting to keep me from being handed over*

to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not here. By 'not here' he means not readily observable in the same manner that Caesar was Emperor of Rome and as such backed up by his mighty legions.

Nonetheless, Jesus' reply is so unexpected that Pilate grows uneasy. No doubt with a more subdued voice he asks: *Then you are a king?* I suspect that it is at this point in their dialogue that Pilate comes closest to seeing things as they are. But the cost is too high and he acquiesces, handing Jesus over to be crucified. But not before the Son of God gives him one more chance to be saved: *You say I am a king. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.* Despite this plea, Pilate makes his condemnation complete, replying with worldly cynicism: *What is truth?* Jesus, he who is the Truth, makes no further response.

To belong to that truth which acknowledges Jesus as King is to be saved. But in a fallen world, no one can say with depth and conviction that Jesus is Lord unless they have received the gift of the Holy Spirit. Grace begets an open heart and such a heart is receptive to faith. Clearly Pilate's heart was oh-so-briefly touched. But to no avail, for in the presence of the world and its stresses, it quickly closes and he hands over the Son to death. At some point, we the baptized have said 'Yes' to Christ, but our hearts too are prone to ice over and bow down to the gods of this world. Aware of our all-too-quickly lukewarm spirits, Christ gifted to his faithful ones his very Body and Blood. As a result, the Eucharist is the remedy *par excellence* for a challenged faith. May our hearts this day open anew when the King himself comes to abide with us in the intimacy of holy communion.





Fr. Steve's Homily



THE LAST THINGS; NOVEMBER 28, 2021

Should you be concerned about divine judgment? About heaven and hell? About the ultimate fate of your souls? If your answer is yes, then you're probably somewhat prepared for these eschatological (or 'end times') realities. If no, then you should be far more worried than you are. In fact, people who aren't concerned about such matters are either ignorant or presumptuous. Your answer may hinge on just what you believe judgment to be. If you hold to a notion of judgment as a trial for clemency or mercy before a somewhat aloof or even wrathful God, then you would be justified in dismissing such an anthropomorphic idea. In fact, judgment is outside of time and hence revelatory rather than deliberative. There are no pleas for mercy, no

elaborate or heartfelt presentations of mitigating circumstances, only an instantaneous revealing of who and what we are in the Light of God. If our soul has been transformed by our relationship with Jesus Christ, then we will be saved. By contrast, if our heart is closed in self-absorption or narcissistic indulgence, then at our death we will flee God's presence, and seek refuge in the solitary confines of hell.

In our day, many choose not to worry about hell because in their minds they cannot conceive of a God who would condemn anyone to everlasting punishment. Yet to believe in such a non-judgmental and permissive deity ignores the fact that all humans have been created in the image of God and endowed with free will. Out of a profound respect for the creatures he has so created, God will not intervene in our choice to accept or reject his offer of Sonship. If we were not free but only robotic, instinct driven animals, then we would have no need of a Savior and Christ would not have had to die on the cross for our salvation.

But Christ did so die and it is for this reason that he implores us this Advent to remain vigilant for his presence at all times; to not become complacent or sleepy, presumptuous or dull of mind or hard of heart. Instead we are asked to humble ourselves before God by acknowledging our absolute need for him and for his presence in our lives. Advent is about waiting for what we have no reason to expect will come and yet where such expectation and anticipation is encouraged by the audacity of Christian faith and hope, virtues grounded not in our worthiness, but rather in God's mercy.

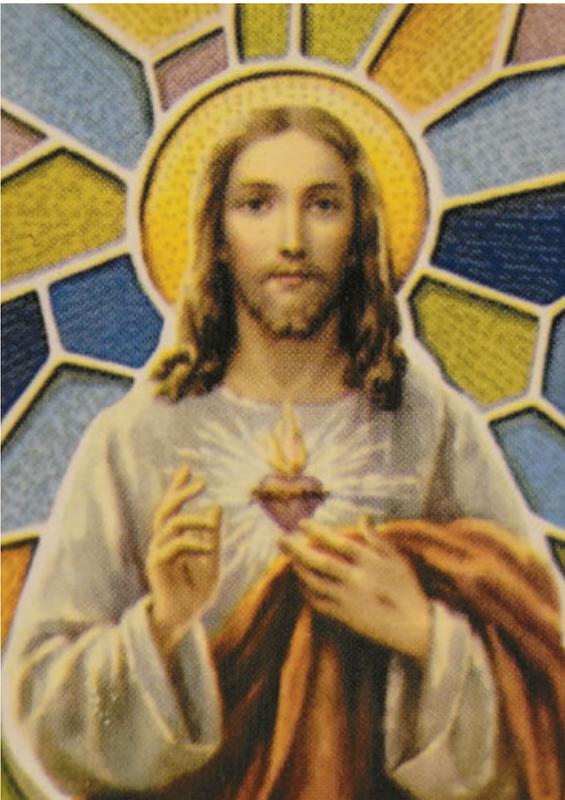


Gather as a Parish and Celebrate
Our Parish Year of Heart of Jesus, Heart of Families

One family, One Heart at a Time

We do not know what the future holds and the challenges of the past two years might lead us to wonder what lies ahead in the coming year. We may not know for sure what the future holds but giving to Jesus a minute of each day, a minute at a time gathered as a family, is the key to opening up our home to his gift of peace. We invite you to join this little devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus as we look forward to the coming new year. It is a confident reminder that, although we continue to live within the pandemic restrictions, we have the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus connecting us together as a family and as a parish.

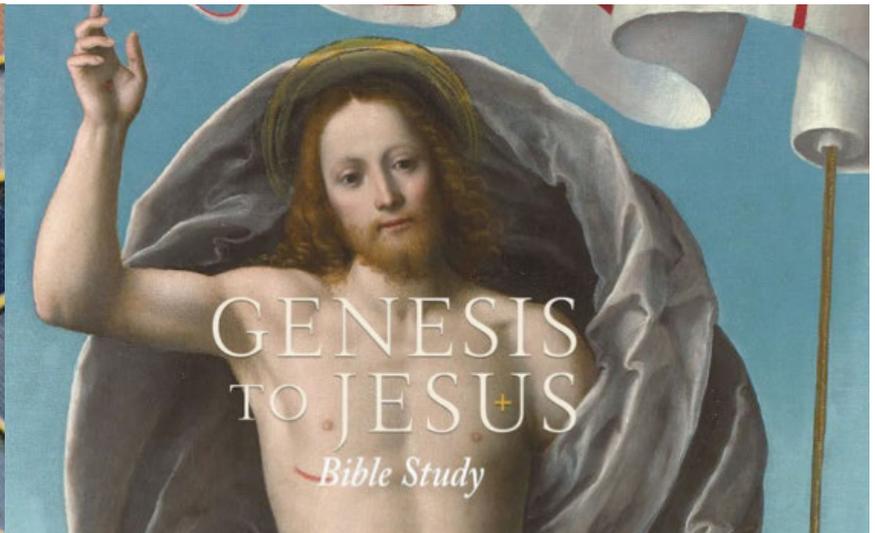
This Year, Celebrate Christmas the Right Way!



Gather Around the Heart of Jesus!

Let the Parish Office know that you are joining the **Heart of Jesus, Heart of Families** Devotion. We will have a special Book of Intentions for the Sacred Heart of Jesus Devotion. All families who pray together to the Sacred Heart of Jesus will be included in the Intentions Book. Please call 503-256-5850 or email

info@stthereseor.org if you have any questions. If you need the image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (above) printed, please swing by the Parish Office and we will print you one.



Call 503-256-5850 or email stella@stthereseor.org if you want to join the **Genesis to Jesus** Bible Study Program. You have the option to take it online, in person, or both! This is open to parishioners of other parishes as well. If you've always wanted to get a good grasp on how to read the Bible but need help in doing it please give this study a chance.

In-person Class Schedules

Every Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. (we start Dec. 14)

Every Friday at 11:00 a.m. (we start Dec. 10)

Fees: \$20.00

Study Pack includes:

Genesis to Jesus Bible Study Workbook

Book "A Father Who Keeps His Promises" by Dr. Scott Hahn

Four months of unlimited livestreaming access to St. Paul Center online resources

Certificate of Completion

If you are already enrolled, kindly attend the scheduled first meeting to get your materials, or call Stella to set an appointment to get your materials and instructions on how to log in. Please call before the first day of meeting. Your online access needs to be set up before the day you plan to attend. Thank you!

Blessings

November 25, 2021. Thanksgiving Day was a blast with an excellent congregation who came in person to worship and give thanks to God. After the Mass Fr. Steve blessed the bags of dinner rolls that were then given to parishioners to take home and share with family, along with a copy of our Parish Prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. It was difficult to take pictures while handing out prayer cards but when sisters Vanessa and Victoria came out with the bags of rolls, it is a picture that had to be taken, with their mom's permission of course. We thank Knights Jim and Steve for helping with the blessing of the rolls and then taking them to the entrance to hand out to parishioners. We needed to improvise and look for containers with wheels for those bags of rolls!





November 28th was twice joyful - it was the first week of Advent AND we also celebrated the Rite of Acceptance and Welcome for two catechumens and two candidates. After a period of long inquiry they have all decided to continue and formally receive instructions in the Catholic faith. We also have two adults who are continuing in their instruction for Adult Confirmation. Their Confirmation will be on May 11, 2022 at the Cathedral. Please continue to pray for them so that their journey will be faithful, joyful and rich!



Did you like our Advent Wreath?

Nancy putting on finishing touches on the Advent wreath that she made for us. She would like to know if you liked it, so kindly call the parish office to let her know!



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