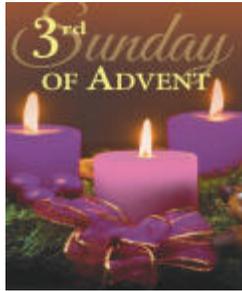


ST. THERESE PARISH

MISSION STATEMENT

“We the people of St. Therese Parish, are disciples of Jesus, led by the Holy Spirit and made one in our celebration of the Eucharist. Nourished by our faith and with a desire to serve others, we are to hear the word of God, keep it, and share the Good News.”

December 13, 2020 • Third Sunday of Advent



MASS SCHEDULE

Monday: Recitation of the Holy Rosary at 6:10 p.m. followed by Miraculous Medal Novena & Mass at 6:30 p.m.

Thursday: 8:30 a.m.

Vigil Saturday: 5:30 p.m. • **Sunday:** 10:30 a.m.

Holy Days: Check bulletin prior to Holy Day

Holidays: Check bulletin

Confessions: Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

STAFF

Rev. John J. Schneider, Pastor

john.j.schneider@icloud.com

Rev. Norman Gajdzinski, Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Mr. Robert Bugaj, Deacon

Mr. Frank Kozuch, Music Director

Mr. Kevin McManamon, Office Manager

Mrs. Joanna Parsons, PSR Coordinator

Mrs. Tracy Johnson, Youth Minister

SICK CALLS: Please call the Parish Office.

WEDDINGS: Please contact the Parish Office 6 months prior to the date of the wedding. Time is necessary for instructions, paperwork and sacramental preparation.

BAPTISMS: Please call the Parish Office to make arrangements in advance. Pre-Baptismal instructions are required for parents.

NEW PARISHIONERS: Please call or stop in the Parish Office.

BULLETIN DEADLINE...MONDAY AT NOON

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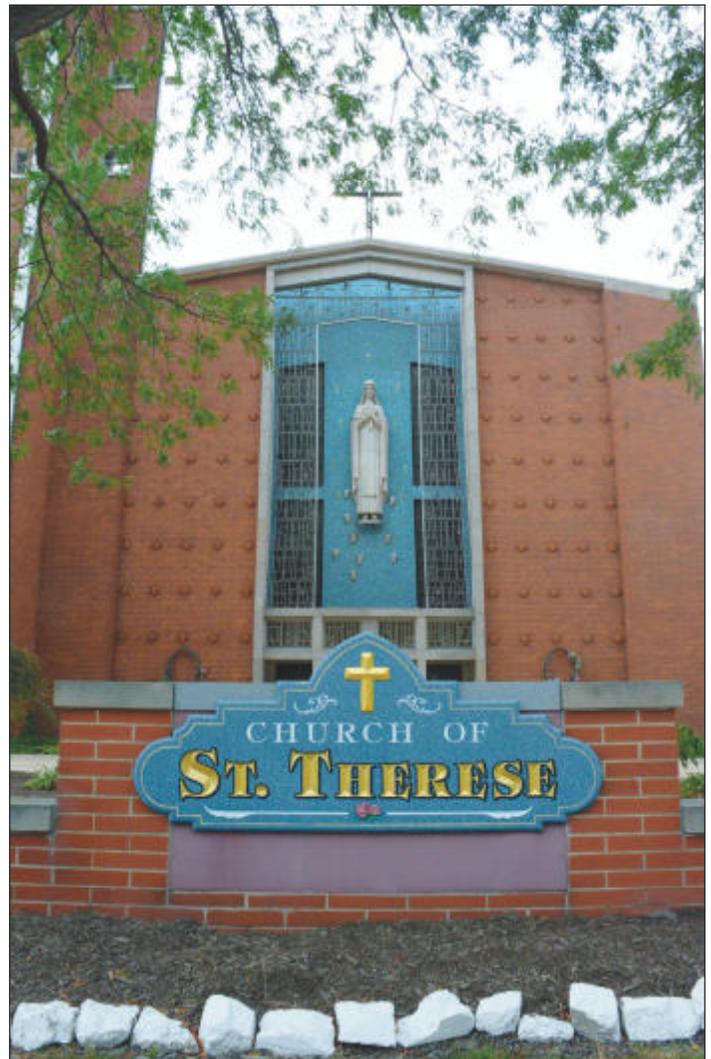
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Email: st.therese@roadrunner.com

Church Website: www.sttheresegarfield.org

All Saints Federal Credit Union: 216-587-0631

Credit Union Website: www.allsaintsfcu.com



DECEMBER 13, 2020

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 12-Our Lady of Guadalupe Vigil

SS. P&P 4:00 PM Charles Krupa
St. T 5:30 PM Don Kuczumarski
Sr. Mary Ann Zakrajsek (AM)

Sunday, December 13-Third Sunday of Advent

SS. P&P 8:30 AM Michael Minarczyk
St. T 10:30 AM The People of the Parishes

Monday, December 14-St. John of the Cross

St. T 6:30 PM Johanna Regel

Tuesday, December 15

No Mass

Wednesday, December 16

St. P&P 8:30 AM Steve & Stella Wojcik

Thursday, December 17

St. T 8:30 AM The Kocab & Cermak Families

Friday, December 18

SS. P&P 8:30 AM Fr. Ronald Rutkowski

Saturday, December 19

Vigil

SS. P&P 4:00 PM Frank Petrancek (AM)
St. T 5:30 PM Warren & Ruth Wilkes

Sunday, December 20-Fourth Sunday of Advent

SS. P&P 8:30 AM The People of the Parishes
St. T 10:30 AM Pamela Kolar

Readings for the Week

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25; Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17

Friday: Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25

Saturday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25

ADVENT

December 6

Collection: \$8,665.00* Envelopes Used: 131
St. Vincent de Paul: \$119 Holy Name: \$5
Retirement Fund for Religious: \$110

*Figure includes the following:

Parish Only: \$880 Restoration: \$95
Altar & Flower: \$87 Various Holy Days: \$390
Bequest from the estate of Mildred Salupo: \$1,100.00
November We Share: \$2,417.00

Thank you for your continued generosity! If you would like information about automatic giving through We Share, please contact the rectory.

Due to the upcoming holidays and early bulletin deadlines from our bulletin publisher, we must have articles for the St. Therese bulletin turned in as follows:

Articles for Bulletin

December 20
December 27

Turn in by noon on

Friday, December 11
Thursday, December 17

Thank you for your cooperation.

Pray for the Sick :

Shirley Zwilling, Dori Herout, Sophie Tessmer, Nancy Kolecki, Joyce Kedzierski, Josephine Mathews, Anthony Amato, Daria Melnyc, David Bob, Charlie Dunlap, Kenny Krawczyk, Ann Duhanich, Janet Carrol, Sandy Skul, Robin Buckley, Beverly Briggs, Dolores DiBaggio, Stanley Faiken, Greg Skuta, Joe Suster, John & Pat Kipfstuhl, Jim Khol, Dick Fisher, Mary Decker, Paula Dragunas, Carol Hardon, Barbara Sever, Joseph Juby, Rick Pokorny, Jim & Karen Kipfstuhl

If you know of any names that should be removed or added, please contact the rectory at 216-581-2852.



Please pray for the recently deceased:
Deacon Lindley W. Pennypacker (retired)
Stephanie Lakota

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Ask Father

Q. "Bishop Joseph Brennan from the Diocese of Fresno is urging Catholics to not get the COVID vaccine unless we know it falls in line with our Catholic teaching. How would we honestly know if the vaccine doesn't contain or originate from fetal stem cells from aborted babies?"

A. The above question brings up a number of very important points. At its root, this question is raising the issue of *when* it is moral to cooperate with an evil act. As a rule we are not allowed to utilize anything that directly comes from the slaughter of innocents because that would make us guilty of their slaughter. Unfortunately, many pharmaceutical companies utilize stem cells harvested from aborted babies because they are relatively inexpensive. This practice has become so widespread that the Vatican issued guidelines about it called *Dignitas Personae* in 2008.

Fortunately, the Covid 19 vaccines being developed by Pfizer/Biontech and Moderna do not appear to be produced directly from such stem cells. Instead, these vaccines were tested using cells from aborted babies, which has led to all sorts of confusion. Most theologians have declared that our using the vaccines that were tested on the remains of aborted babies for constitutes remote, mediated, and material cooperation on our part, which is morally permissible in this case. (NB The actual testing on aborted fetuses remains gravely evil) Had the vaccines been developed using aborted babies' cells, then the use of these vaccines would be proximate, immediate, and material and thus gravely immoral for us.

What's the difference? Let's go through the different ways you can cooperate in an evil act using my favorite example: bank robbery. In our scenario, we have three bank robbers, a get away driver, a bank clerk, a car thief, and a hot dog vendor. The three bank robbers are obviously guilty of robbing the bank. Their getaway driver, who did not go in, is equally guilty as the bank robbers through formal cooperation because he consented to the act itself and assisted in its commission. The bank clerk sold the bank robbers the code for the bank vault a week earlier. He would be guilty of material and immediate cooperation. It is material because he did not consent to the robbery itself but gave them something needed for the act. It is immediate because without the vault code they could not rob the bank. The car thief sold the robbers their get away vehicle making him guilty of material, proximate, and mediated cooperation. Like the bank clerk, he did not intend them to rob the bank but gave them something they needed. Since the robbers could have used another vehicle, it was not immediate but mediated material cooperation; the car thief is still guilty. Lastly, the hot dog vendor sold the criminals their lunch, which they ate to have the energy they needed to rob the bank. Is the hot dog vendor guilty? No. He cooperated in material, mediated, and remote because the hot dogs did not directly assist the robbers in their crime.

As long as the vaccines for Covid 19 were only tested (and not developed) on aborted human remains then, their use is morally permissible. We would be like the hot dog vendor. We do not consent to the crime so that it cannot be formal cooperation. We are providing materials (money) that is not necessary for the evil act, so it is mediated. Lastly, getting the vaccine does not lead to testing such that it is a remote cooperation.

The above is fairly complicated, which is why it is important to look to the Catholic authorities on these matters. All Bishop Brennan was doing was calling on his flock to do their moral duty of investigating these vaccines. Luckily, the Catholic authorities like the USCCB Bioethics committee and the Catholic Medical Association have investigated these matters for us. Lastly, it is important that we voice our condemnation of utilizing aborted embryos for any medical research. Their remains - like the corpses of anyone who has died - ought to be buried with respect. It is certainly laudable to allow science to utilize your corpse, but that wish must be manifested by the deceased.



Oplatki

Oplatki (Christmas wafers) are available at the rectory office for purchase. The cost is \$2 for a package of 4.

Penance Service Today (Sunday)!

The St. Therese and SS. Peter & Paul Advent Penance Service will be on Sunday, December 13, at 3 p.m. at St. Therese Church.

PSR Family Advent Challenges

December 16th: Celebrate the Feast Day of St. Lucy (December 13th) by driving around looking at Christmas lights!

Focus: Christ will always be the light of your life. He will brighten up your darkest nights.

Mass Times for Christmas

Thursday, December 24, SS. Peter & Paul	4:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 24, St. Therese	5:30 p.m.
Thursday, December 24, St. Therese	10:00 p.m.
Friday, December 25, SS. Peter & Paul	8:30 a.m.
Friday, December 25, St. Therese	10:30 a.m.

DECEMBER 13, 2020

Weekend Drawing

The \$100.00 winners of our December 6 drawing were Marty Lehman and Jim McGrath.

Retirement Fund for Religious

"Every dollar makes a difference in covering our expenses," says a Trappist abbot. Hundreds of US religious communities struggle to provide for aging members because most senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for little pay. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps these communities bridge the gap, offering support for medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please be generous.

Knights of Columbus #4130

Wednesday Night Dinners

ALL DINNERS REQUIRE RESERVATIONS -

Adults \$10 ... Children Under 12 - \$8

December 16 Pork Cutlet Dinner -

Reservations by Sunday December 13 8PM

Prepared by Lori's Custom Catering

Dinner consists of 1 Boneless Pork Cutlet, Scalloped Potatoes, Corn, Garden Salad, & Roll

EVERYTHING IS PACKAGED - PRE-ORDER ONLY - TAKEOUT - Curbside Pickup

NO BAKERY. SERVING TIME 4 - 6 PM

TO PLACE RESERVATIONS, PLEASE CALL 216

-662-2277 Option #2

Please leave your complete name, phone number and number of dinners you will be picking up. We will need your phone number in case we need to contact you due to an unfortunate situation that we may need to cancel due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Please no changes day of. Thank you for your continued patronage. If someone else is picking up - leave their name also.

Catholic Cemeteries Association Christmas Ornaments:

Christmas ornaments that we normally distribute at our November Cemetery Sunday Mass are still available for pickup at any cemetery office through December 31.

St. Joseph Cemetery, Avon; Holy Cross Cemetery, Akron; Holy Cross Cemetery, Brook Park; Calvary Cemetery, Cleveland; All Saints Cemetery, Northfield; All Souls Cemetery, Chardon

There will be a **Divine Mercy Holy Hour** on Sunday, December 13, at 2:30 PM in Saint Monica Church and on Sunday, December 27, at 2:30 PM in St. Therese Church. Please bring a mask. All are welcome!

SHOPPING ONLINE

Due to COVID-19 many people are turning to online shopping. Smile.amazon.com is one way to shop from the convenience of your home. Why not help St. Therese Parish earn 0.5% of your purchase price with no fees and no extra cost to you? Use our link <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/34-0714753> for easy access to Amazon and share the link with your children, other family members and friends.

All Saints FCU Holiday Hours

All three branches of All Saints Federal Credit Union will be **closed on Thursday, December 24, 2020, and Friday, December 25, 2020**, for the Christmas Holiday. All branches will be **open normal hours (9 a.m. to 12 p.m.) on Saturday, December 26, 2020.**

All three branches of All Saints Federal Credit Union will be **closed on Thursday, December 31, 2020, and Friday, January 1, 2021**, for the New Year's Holiday. All branches will be **open normal hours (9 a.m. to 12 p.m.) on Saturday, January 2, 2021.**

Please visit our website at www.allsaintsfcu.com for hours and branch locations or call 216-524-0414, 216-587-0631, or 440-888-3663.

The Week Ahead

Sunday, December 13

Communal Penance Service 3 p.m., church

Tuesday, December 15

St. Vincent de Paul meeting 1 p.m., rectory

Bible Study 6:30 p.m., rectory

AA 7:30 pm, church hall

Wednesday, December 16

Youth Ministry 5:30 p.m., church hall

PSR 6 p.m., church hall

Thursday, December 17

Liturgy Commission Meeting 6 p.m., rectory

Pastoral Council Meeting 7 p.m., rectory

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Lord be with you!

Turning now to the marks of the Church in detail, we are examining this week and next how the Church is one. More particularly, we are looking at how the *Baltimore Catechism* presents our unity of government and worship.

Question 549. How is the Church One?

Answer. The Church is One because all its members agree in one faith, are all in one communion, and are all under one head.

Question 550. How is it evident that the Church is one in government?

Answer. It is evident that the Church is one in government, for the faithful in a parish are subject to their pastors, the pastors are subject to the bishops of their dioceses, and the bishops of the world are subject to the Pope.

Question 551. What is meant by the Hierarchy of the Church?

Answer. By the Hierarchy of the Church is meant the sacred body of clerical rules who govern the Church.

Question 552. How is it evident that the Church is one in worship?

Answer. It is evident that the Church is one in worship because all its members make use of the same sacrifice and receive the same Sacraments.

My commentary.

Question 549 does a good job of laying out the major ways that the Church is one. It should be fairly self-evident that a group that has the same leadership, the same beliefs, and the same practices is strongly united. Nevertheless, the unity of the Church should not be understood as an exactness down to every detail. An organic and natural differentiation will exist among members of the Church.

Question 550 provides a great example of the Catholic understanding of subsidiarity. Subsidiarity is the practice that the lowest order capable of handling a problem has the primacy in solving it. For example, last week's snow storm damaged some of the bushes at Ss. Peter and Paul. Should I be calling the bishop to ask him what to do? No. Mr. Bill Novak, our maintenance man, is handling that. Conversely, the bishops of our state came together to dispense all the faithful of Ohio from the Sunday obligation during the pandemic. In both cases, the lowest level that could solve a problem engaged it. Each level of governance, however, respects and relies upon the others to do their job so that the whole Church is governed in a fitting way. Of course, this ideal will not always be the case, but it is what we are aiming for.

I think that Question 551 has a spelling mistake: "rules" should be "rulers." After all, laws do not govern, but lawgivers do. Deacons, priests, and bishops belong to the hierarchy of the Church through the sacrament of Holy Orders. Religious brothers and sisters, single people, and married families exist outside of the hierarchy, which is why they are called the laity. That's right, the religious are in the same category as married people! Obviously, how a monastery works differs greatly from how a household of five does. What defines the laity is their freedom to associate. When my parents married, they decided to create their own community, called a family. Likewise, both those entering into religious community and those accepting them do so freely and without the hierarchy's direct supervision. All too often, we confuse the special nature of a religious vocation with their role in the Church. Nevertheless, just as each family has its own roles of government (my parents ruled with an iron fist), each religious community has its own way of life.

Although Question 552 is utterly correct, it also has a relatively naive view of worship. Certainly, all Catholics affirm that the Sacraments are by definition the same no matter how they are celebrated. Nevertheless, legitimate differences in how they are celebrated have, do, and will exist. Anyone who has been to a Latin Mass would never confuse it with a typical vernacular Mass on Sundays. Yet, in their essence the two are the same. The accidents of the two are very different: what prayers are said, when the priest is speaking only to God and when he is addressing the people, etc. What makes them one is that the same action of Christ is occurring. The naivety of Question 552 happens when people imagine that the exterior of the sacraments is what makes them one. Still, they are boundaries that should not be trespassed, but that is a matter for another time.

Ultimately, it is the bond of love that makes the Church one: the love of God for man, and our response to that love. Imperfect as we may express it, this love changes us from being mere individuals to the Body of Christ. The more we love like God, the more we will discover that our differences pale in comparison to our unity.

In Christ,
Fr. John

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