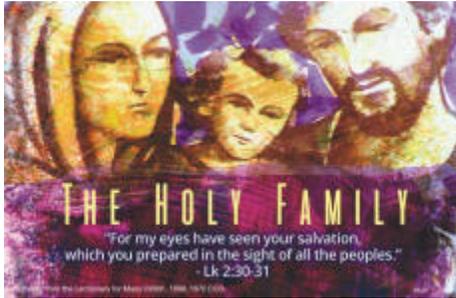


# ST. THERESE PARISH

## 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 27, 2020 • The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**



## 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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Garfield Hts., OH, 44125

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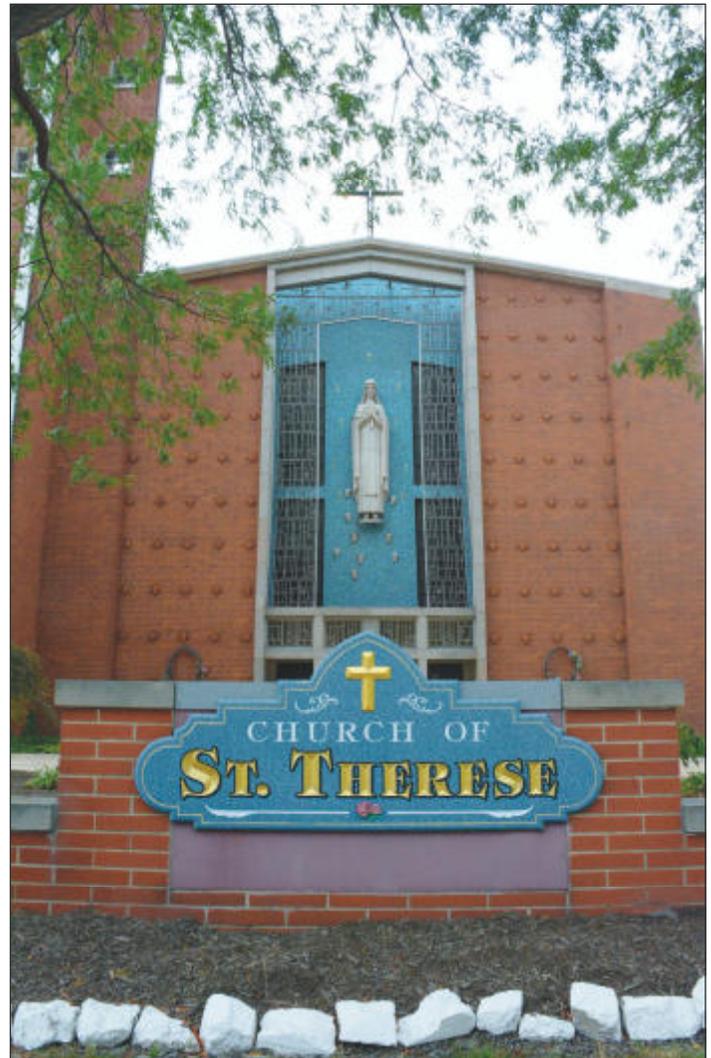
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Email: [st.therese@roadrunner.com](mailto:st.therese@roadrunner.com)

Church Website: [www.sttheresegarfield.org](http://www.sttheresegarfield.org)

All Saints Federal Credit Union: 216-587-0631

Credit Union Website: [www.allsaintsfcu.com](http://www.allsaintsfcu.com)



# DECEMBER 27, 2020

## MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

### Saturday, December 26

#### Vigil

SS. P&P 4:00 PM Frank Minarczyk  
St. T 5:30 PM The People of the Parishes

### Sunday, December 27-The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

SS. P&P 8:30 AM Staff and Volunteers of  
SS. Peter & Paul and St. Therese  
St. T 10:30 AM Leonard (AM) & Mildred Divoky  
Divine Mercy Holy Hour at 2:30 PM at St. Therese

### Monday, December 28-The Holy Innocents

St. T 6:30 PM Clarice Kett

### Tuesday, December 29-St. Thomas Becket

#### No Mass

### Wednesday, December 30

St. P&P 8:30 AM Maddelena Tota (AM)

### Thursday, December 31

SS. P&P 4:00 PM Intention of Celebrant

### Friday, January 1-Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

St. T 10:30 AM The People of the Parishes

### Saturday, January 2-SS. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen

#### Vigil

SS. P&P 4:00 PM The Petrancek, Kubek, Zurwell &  
Sans Families  
St. T 5:30 PM Al DiBaggio

### Sunday, January 3-Epiphany of the Lord

SS. P&P 8:00 AM Adoration  
SS. P&P 8:30 AM The People of the Parishes  
St. T 10:00 AM Adoration  
St. T 10:30 AM In memory of the Niemczura,  
Blazey, McSweeney and  
Wilkes Families

## Readings for the Week

**Sunday:** Gn 15:1-6, 21:1-3; Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19;  
Lk 2:22-40

**Monday:** 1Jn 1:5—2:2; Mt 2:13-18

**Tuesday:** 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35

**Wednesday:** 1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40

**Thursday:** 1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18

**Friday:** Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

**Saturday:** 1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28

Please note the parish office will be closed on Friday, January 1 and will reopen on Monday, January 4.



*Wishing Everyone a Blessed  
And Happy New Year!  
Fr. John Schneider &  
The Parish Staffs*

The collection figures for December 20 and Christmas were not available at the time this bulletin was submitted for publication. Please check the bulletin next weekend for the figures. Thank you!

## 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:  
**Virginia Kovach**  
**Deacon Gary R. Tomazic**  
**Beverly Nickovich**

# THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

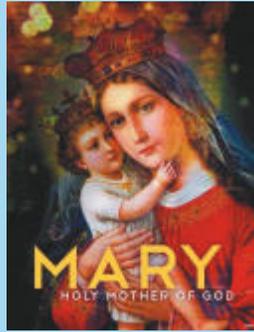
## Weekend Drawing

The \$100.00 winners of our December 20 drawing were Bernadette Traz and Dennis Dominik.

## Our Mass times for The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God:

Thursday, December 31  
4 p.m. at SS. Peter & Paul

Friday, January 1  
10:30 a.m. at St. Therese



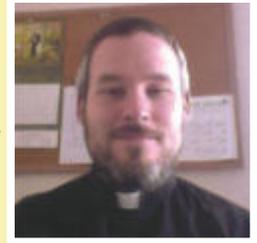
**Knights of Columbus Council 4130** extends heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to our annual Coats for Kids Campaign. The Council was able to present a check to this fine organization in the amount of \$1,360.00. Your generosity during these difficult times enabled us to continue this worthwhile charitable endeavor. Merry Christmas and God Bless.

## The FEST Internship

**Calling all college students looking for a paid summer internship!** The FEST ([www.theFEST.us](http://www.theFEST.us)) is looking for summer interns to make this year's event the best FEST yet! We are looking for students with interests in theology, business marketing & communications, event planning, or logistics management to join the team that puts together our annual Diocesan Family Festival. Interns will be a part of a fast-paced team and will play a critical role in the marketing, planning and coordination of annual event for thousands of people. Interns will provide support and have responsibilities including public speaking, marketing, mailings, digital and social media, press releases, logistics, event planning, and more. Interns must have strong people skills, work ethic, critical thinking, organizational skills, and reliable transportation. For more information or to apply, please send your resume to [Caitlin@theFEST.us](mailto:Caitlin@theFEST.us) by January 10<sup>th</sup>.

## Ask Father

**Q.** "What are your duties to your parents (in regards to the Commandment, Honor Thy Father & Thy Mother) if your parent has been abusive since your childhood?"



**A.** Before answering this question, we should note that we should never make excuses for child abuse in any form. Nevertheless, the question raises an important topic of what we should do for those who have harmed us. First, we should pray for them as much as we are able. Sometimes even bringing up our enemies in prayer can cause us anguish and distress; in such cases, we should not mention them by name but just tell God that it is for a special intention. Second, we should establish as peaceful a relationship with them as possible in the present. If the parents are contrite, perhaps that means that we can be on friendly terms with them. If they continue to be abusive, however, less contact is warranted. We are not under any obligation to become human punching bags although we should suffer voluntarily when we can. Better to err on the side of caution here though. Each relationship will be different so I cannot give any concrete advice about the amount of contact except that the rule needs to be peace: both internal and external. Third, we should not mention their abuse to people who do not need to know. Priests and therapists should know but not our coworkers. Fourth, we should give them the material support they need in times of distress. Lastly and most importantly, we should forgive them and ask God for the grace to forget their evil. The grace of holy forgetfulness is a healing balm for our own well being. The less we think of the evil we have suffered, the less that evil has power over us. Such forgetfulness is not where forgiveness begins, however, but where it ends.

## Catholic Cemeteries Association

Catholic Cemeteries Association continues with our free monthly in-office grief support groups on January 17 with limited seating for social distancing. We offer a comfortable, private, and safe environment where you are free to talk about your grief. Meetings do not build off each other so you can stop in any month and fit right in. You do not even have to talk, but come and listen and be in the presence of those who understand. The January topic is "Facing the New Year with Hope and Love" but discussions follow whatever is on your heart. We meet the 3rd Sunday of every month from 3-4 p.m. at the following locations:

St. Joseph Cemetery, Avon (NEW office)

Holy Cross Cemetery, Akron (office)

Holy Cross Cemetery, Brook Park (office)

Calvary Cemetery, Cleveland (office)

All Saints Cemetery, Northfield (office)

All Souls Cemetery, Chardon (office)

Meeting sites are sanitized and seating is arranged so everyone is at a safe distance. Participants are requested to RSVP so we can plan appropriate social distancing at each location. It is required that participants wear protective facial coverings. To RSVP or for questions, please contact **Rhonda** at 216-930-4866. Please visit [www.clecem.org](http://www.clecem.org) for the most updated schedule of events.

Don't forget to subscribe to the Catholic Cemeteries Association's monthly grief support e-newsletter, "A Closer Walk with Thee". This e-newsletter is emailed the first Tuesday of each month to any family/individual who has expressed an interest in our bereavement programs. To subscribe to this valued grief support resource, visit the Bereavement page on our website, [www.clecem.org](http://www.clecem.org) and click the brown signup box on the right side.

## All Saints FCU Holiday Hours

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.**

**All Saints Federal Credit Union** is running a Debt Consolidation Loan Promotion! **Borrow up to \$3000.00 with a rate as low as 7.99% for 12 months.** This promotion runs from **January 1, 2021 through March 31, 2021.** Visit or call any of our three branch locations; for hours, addresses, phone numbers, and additional information, please visit our website at [www.allsaintsfcu.com](http://www.allsaintsfcu.com) or call 216-524-0414, 216-587-0631, or 440-888-3663.



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

## The Week Ahead

### Sunday, December 27

Divine Mercy Holy Hour 2:30 p.m.

### Tuesday, December 29

AA 7:30 pm, church hall

### Wednesday, December 30

No PSR

The Lord be with you!

We return to the *Baltimore Catechism* and its investigation into the marks of the Church. In particular we are looking at how the Church is one in her faith.

### Question 553. How is it evident that the Church is one in faith?

Answer. It is evident the Church is one in faith because all Catholics throughout the world believe each and every article of faith proposed by the Church.

### Question 554. Could a person who denies only one article of our faith be a Catholic?

Answer. A person who denies even one article of our faith could not be a Catholic; for truth is one and we must accept it whole and entire or not at all.

### Question 555. Are there any pious beliefs and practices in the Church that are not articles of faith?

Answer. There are many pious beliefs and practices in the Church that are not articles of faith; that is, we are not bound under pain of sin to believe in them; yet we will often find them useful aids to holiness, and hence they are recommended by our pastors.

### Question 556. Of what sin are persons guilty who put firm belief in religious or other practices that are either forbidden or useless?

Answer. Persons who put a firm belief in religious or other practices that are forbidden or useless are guilty of the sin of superstition.

Continued on next page.

## THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Continued from previous page.

My commentary.

Before we look at each of these questions - and they all deserve our attention - we need to talk about degrees of belief and assent. Our thinking and willing have degrees of certitude and commitment respectively. The classic degrees of certitude of knowledge are scientific, probabilistic, opinion, and not knowing. I know something scientifically when I know all the causes and can predict it, like the earth's rotation. Probabilistic knowledge is where we know a lot of information but cannot know all the causes of something or that knowledge of causes cannot be complete. We have probabilistic knowledge of weather. Opinion is where our minds tend to think a certain way based on an incomplete apprehension of causes, such as who we think will win the Super Bowl. We can also be in a state of not knowing either because we have knowledge for or against an opinion in equal measure or because we lack even a hint of knowledge. For example, at the time of this writing, I do not know how many people will come to Mass on Christmas because I have conflicting pieces of information. I know more people will come to church on Christmas, but I also know that people have been told to stay at home as much as possible. From the above, we can see that it is not necessarily the case that the more we know about something, the more certain we are of a truth.

How much we assent to a truth through belief also has degrees. The term "fair weather fan" aptly describes how someone believes more in a team the more they win. To oversimplify things a little, we can speak of strong, moderate, and weak beliefs. A strong belief is one that is resilient or almost immune to doubts; a moderate belief struggles against doubts but usually overcomes them. A weak belief is often overcome by doubts but returns to belief. For example, last year all of us had a strong belief in the Browns until halftime of their first game. By the end of the game, some of us had a moderate belief, but many had already returned to the Cleveland standard weak belief in the Browns (or more properly, the strong belief against their success ;). When the Church talks about a religious assent to truth, she is encouraging us to have a strong and resilient assent to Revelation. Such belief does not mean that we never doubt but that we do not allow our doubts to dominate.

Going out of order, let us take Question 554 first. We deny a truth when we publicly announce that an article of faith is false. Conversely, we have a weak belief when we privately doubt an article of faith. Private doubt does not remove us from the Church, but public denial certainly does. From time to time we will encounter doubts or confusion about the Faith; that is normal. In those moments, God is asking us to look into the matter more closely and understand what and how the Church is teaching. However, when we take it upon ourselves to tell the Church what to believe in, we have sinned grievously.

I love Question 555. The Church is full of devotions and aids to prayer, but not all of these are meant for everyone. Let's take the Stations of the Cross for a moment. I love praying this devotion in Lent, but I know plenty of good Catholics who do not use it. Although we should always be open to new ways of prayer, we should never demand that others pray the way we do. As your pastor, it is my duty to foster public and private prayer in our parishes.

When Question 556 mentions "firm belief" it means what I have called "strong belief." Reading your horoscope to have a chuckle in the morning is not a sin; reading your horoscope in the morning and expecting it to happen is the mortal sin of superstition. Superstitious practices like fortune tellers and tarot cards are forbidden to us for a grave reason: they can be conduits of the Devil. Luckily, most of them are just scam artists, but some of them are in fact in league with Hell.

Returning to Question 553, we can see that indeed the Church teaches and believes in one faith across the earth. We do not see Catholics in South America professing Christ as merely Man and Catholics in Europe professing Him only as God: we all believe that Jesus Christ is true God and true Man. Individual Catholics might encounter particular doubts or troubles, but we see the Church proclaiming the One Faith of Jesus Christ.

During this Christmas Season, it is good for us to celebrate the Faith we share with all Christians. The Nativity of the Lord reminds us that Christ came to free all men and women from the powers of darkness. Enlightening first our hearts and minds with the fullness of His Revelation, it is our solemn duty to bring that gift of grace to all we meet.

Merry Christmas and have a happy New Year!

In Christ,  
Fr. John

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