



# *St. Therese of the Child Jesus Catholic Church and School*

1260 N.E. 132nd Ave., Portland, OR 97230

503-256-5850

[www.stthereseor.org](http://www.stthereseor.org)



*If today you hear his voice, harden not your heart.*

**September 6, 2020 - 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

## *Sacraments of the Eucharist*

Saturday Vigil Mass . . . . . 5:00 pm

Sunday Mass . . . . . 9:00 am and 11:30 am

### **Important:**

You need to call the Office to sign up for Masses. Walk-ins will not be allowed.

## *Reconciliation*

By Appointment

## **School Office Information**

Phone . . . . . (503) 253-9400

Website . . . . [www.stthereseschool.org](http://www.stthereseschool.org)

## *Parish Office Information*

Office Hours . . . . . Monday to Friday

9:00 am to 1:00 pm

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Portland, OR 97230

Phone. . . . . (503) 256-5850

Website . . . . . [www.stthereseor.org](http://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. Angie Barnett

Fraternal Correction; September 6, 2020



What is described in the Gospel pericope is an ancient ecclesial process of conflict resolution known as 'fraternal correction'. If a member discerns that one of his fellow Christians is in a state of sin, he then had the duty of approaching him and offering his help, prayers and discipline that the sin might be averted or ceased and that due reparation might be made to the community. Refusal at the one-on-one level caused the matter to escalate upwards and could eventually involve the local Church herself. Times, of course, are different. Having heard this process outlined, I hope you were all as surprised as I was! I think you would agree that an interaction of this type in a modern American parish would undoubtedly not typically be looked upon kindly. This is because you and I no longer live in a Catholic community anywhere near as coherent or integrated as then. Not just here at St. Therese and not just among Christians but throughout the entirety of the modern world.



This cultural breakdown has led to many dysfunctions. Of note are the following. First, religion has become for many people a superficial identity rather than as a way of living that permeates one's entire life. This substitution of an identity marker for a personal spiritual integration results in a religious existence which becomes increasingly isolated and compartmentalized and which offers fewer and fewer communal supports. The outplay of this isolation manifests itself in ever more expansive privacy concerns. Such concerns mitigate against the kind of character needed to fraternally insert oneself in someone else's life. As isolation within the faith community increases, as it does throughout the culture as well, so too does dissent from the authority and teachings of the Church. Authority structures begin to break down or are considered only optional since more and more cultural membership devolves into higher degrees of individualism and autonomy.

How far, one might ask, has this process gone? Consider that our culture, with almost universal silence from Christians, has already redefined marriage and is well on the way to redefining what it means to be male or female. In almost all matters of this type, the individual alone is increasingly seen as the sole definer and arbiter of moral truth. What place fraternal correction if I and I alone decide what is right or not for me? And who are you to dare tell me otherwise?

So does this mean that we are now silent in our judgments of one another? Far from it! Replacing a loving and fraternal correction of one's fellow there has arisen a shrill tattle and gossip tendency empowered and promulgated by social media. Now shrouded in near anonymity we can blast indiscriminately outwards, spewing forth our hatred and criticism. In this way in demonic triumph is our ego greatly enhanced and our hope of Christian charity and community further eviscerated.





Call Shasta Hatter for more information or to volunteer.  
503-253-7566.

**WEEKLY DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN ENTRIES IS EVERY  
MONDAY AT 1:00 PM. EMAIL [stella@stthereseor.org](mailto:stella@stthereseor.org).**



*Please Pray For*

Living: Vilma Anker, Antoinette Barker, Mary Basaraba, Maria Rosa Brekke, Bobbi Brown, Patty Burtner, Fr. Rob Bustamante, Arlene Cabal-lero, Marie Carter, Jenni Clark, Mary Cox, Melanie Davantes, Joanne Gargano, Julie Ho, William Keller, Gregorio Manalo, Arden Manning, Margie Nelson, Edna Orello, Liz Parker, Fred Pelzer, Jim and Ava Riopelle, Margaret Routledge, Frances Ryland, Rosa Santos, Karen Saso, Joanne Scabery, Vera Saxton, Anne Schmidt, Kiersten and Elsa Schneider, Thelma Striplin, Marcie Farlow Taylor, Joe Van Buren, Bernadine West, Fr. Dave Wilkins, Robert Yukutake, Sr., Rosemarie Zenger, and Becky

## We Need Your Help to Grow Our Masses!

Since in May, 2020 when we first opened the Mass to limited public attendance we saw a slow but encouraging return of our parishioners to attending Mass in church. From the 15 or less who attended our Masses in May, we now see an average total of about 120 parishioners who come to church and participate in the three weekend Masses that we offer. We feel encouraged that many will continue to respond to the call and attend correct worship in church. With that, we need your help to make sure that we remain able to provide the stringent safety protocol that we follow. Please help us build back our community of worship by the following:

1. Pray very hard for all of us to remain faithful to the Eucharist and long for the reception of Holy Communion.
2. Encourage others to come to Mass by sharing your own experience, your confidence, that our stringent safety protocol works!
3. Volunteer to help with the Mass Ministry. We have 20 volunteers who have continued to serve every weekend so that each of the three Masses can be offered. Please help them! More volunteers mean that we will be able to alternate our volunteers and give them some weekends to worship in the pew.

With so many challenges that ALL parishes continue to face because of the ongoing pandemic, there is no better time to step forward than now to help our small parish remain strengthened, renewed and anchored firmly on the Holy Eucharist. Remember that as we step up to help, we also give ourselves the opportunity to share in the strength of community. Please call the Parish Office or email [stella@stthereseor.org](mailto:stella@stthereseor.org). Be part of this amazing ministry!



## *Thank you, Volunteer Ministers!*

Please remember to thank our volunteer Ministers who make it possible for our weekend Masses to be offered. Although our attendance is still restricted to 25 people, our ministers commit 100% of their efforts and dedication in maintaining our standard of safety protocol so that everyone who attends Mass will be safe and protected.

Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:00 pm

Sunday Mass at 9:00 am

Sunday Mass at 11:30 am

Janice Levesque  
Sue Buhr  
Greg Buhr  
Tom Byington  
Titay Schommer  
Steve Schommer

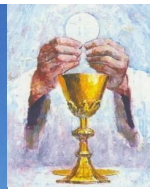


John Crouch  
Pam LaFerte  
Mary Haney  
Hazel Philbrook  
Margaret Oliphant  
Ken Oliphant  
Joan Galles



Angie Jauregui  
Barb Wilwers  
Thang Nguyen  
Sue Anker  
Barb Miller  
Kathy Hobbs  
Gabriella Maertens





*The Bread of Life is the foundation of all  
- Come eat!*

With fear and so many information flying about on how to live in this world that seems to be dominated by the COVID Virus, never lose sight of the foundational rock of our Faith, which is the Holy Eucharist, "the crux and summit of our Christian life" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*). Participating in the work of God (liturgy), being in the Holy presence of His Son and receiving His Body and Blood is the very antidote that we all need. There may be a "new normal" in how we live our lives, but we must all pray that we never lose sight of the foundational truth of our Faith. We need to receive His Body because by doing so, we reap the full benefit of His saving grace. By being open to receiving His precious Body we open ourselves to His perfect love, and perfect love drives out fear. (1 John 4:18) Please remember in your prayers our courageous Ministers who are all committed to work together not just to help in Mass, but also to keep our church sanitized and safe for all those who so hunger to participate in Mass and receive Jesus Christ.

### *Jean Olson came to visit St. Therese*

September 6, 2020 at the 11:30 am Mass. It was a fine, sunny morning, made even better when Jean Olson and her daughter Kathy came to attend Mass. It was a happy reunion with some of her friends - the face covering might not show much of how big our smiles were but the eyes certainly did show how much we missed you, Jean!



Weekly Schedule of Masses and Intentions

Ordinary Time				
<i>Please note that both the school and parish offices remain closed due to the Pandemic</i>				
Day	Date	Time	Observance	Mass Intention
VIGIL	Sept 5	5:00 pm	Vigil Mass	STWA Young Ja Kim + Jakie Kim + Julie Kwon +
SUNDAY	Sept 6	9:00 am	Sunday Mass	Joanna Kong + Moon Chun Lee + Thomas Choi +
		11:30 am	Sunday Mass	Missa pro populo
Monday	Sept 7		No service (Labor Day; offices closed)	
Tuesday	Sept 8		No service (School begins)	
Wednesday	Sept 9		No service	
Thursday	Sept 10		No service	
Friday	Sept 11		No service	
VIGIL	Sept 12	5:00 pm	Vigil Mass	Clara Behrend + Teresa Bae +
SUNDAY	Sept 13	9:00 am	Sunday Mass	Teresa Bae + Sebastian & Sophia Whang
		11:30 am	Sunday Mass	Missa pro populo







# **Food Drive Appeal**

## **St. Vincent de Paul Needs Your Help!**

**We are having a drive-in food drive on Sept 26th (Saturday) from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. We are especially needing canned corn, canned green beans, and kids' snacks. Please call 503-253-7566 if you have any questions.**

**Thank you for any help you can give.**

**Shasta Hatter  
St Vincent de Paul**



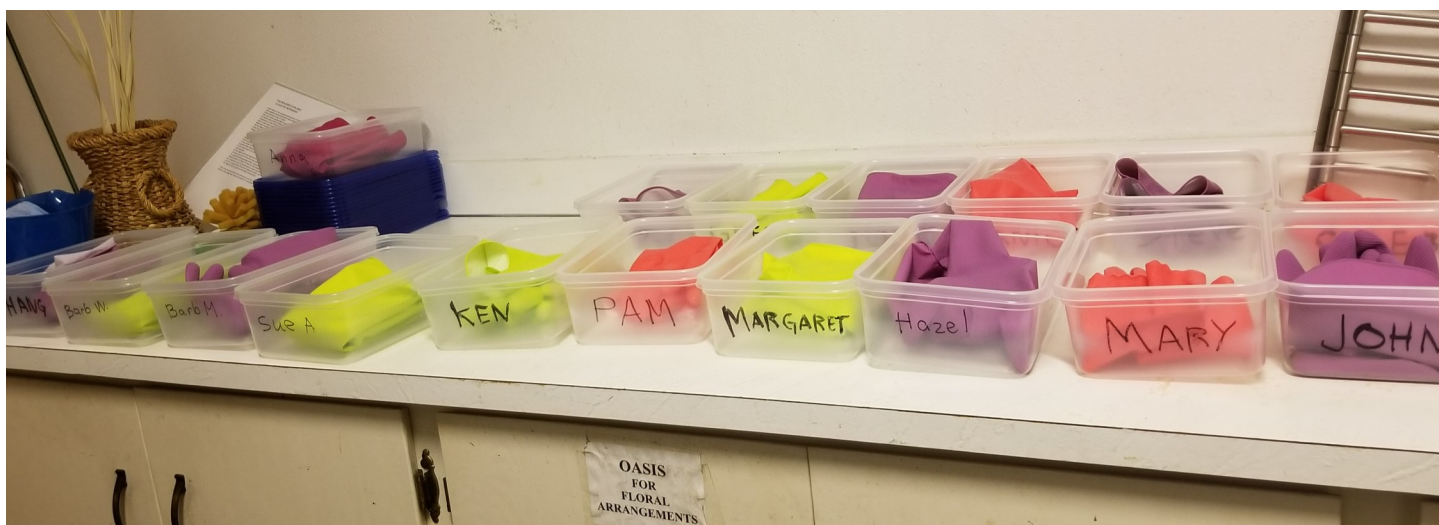
## The Why's of our Safety Protocol

The safety protocol adopted by our Parish is derived from the safety checklist provided by the Archdiocese - what we have in place ensures that we provide, to the best of our ability, a safe environment that radically minimizes contact with surfaces, maximizes physical distance among those who attend a Mass and provides multiple opportunities to sanitize our hands before, during and after Mass. It could be a tedious process from one point of view; but on the other hand, it gets easier when our community takes this opportunity to **act** like a community. We already have a really amazing team of volunteers who not only help with the celebration of the Mass but have taken on additional roles as door keepers, ushers and sanitizers. And, with a few exceptions, all of those who have attended our Masses have been very patient, understanding and supportive as we work through some changes in our routines. If you have family members or friends who have questions, please continue to share with them the following information:

**Why do we need to wear face masks:** it is now required by the State to wear face masks indoors, and the mask should be covering **both** your **nose and mouth**. It is undoubtedly inconvenient for sure, but think of it as a thoughtful gesture and a proactive measure that lessens the spread of the virus through droplets in the air. Although our church appears to be "large" with plenty of space, our Mass is an "indoor" gathering. Additionally, most of those who attend Mass and those who serve as Ministers in the Mass belong to the high-risk group. Another thought to think about is that the priest **cannot** wear a face mask (he may wear a mask only when he is distributing Holy Communion). By wearing our masks we help show our collective effort in doing the best we can to provide Fr. Steve that safety "bubble." We are also getting ready for that time when the number of individuals allowed to attend Mass increases to 50 and more - having more people attending actually means we need all the more to be consistent with the safety standard that we have, and even make it better.

We try our best to explain why the wearing of a mask is required, so please feel free to call the Parish Office if you have more questions. Ultimately though, the door keeper will not let you in if you are not wearing a mask, **and** the usher will ask you to leave if your mask is not covering both your nose and your mouth.

**Why can't we use the kneelers, while other churches allow the use of kneelers:** our kneelers are cloth-covered (in emerald green), and the cleaning/sanitizing solution that we use is bleach and water. Besides that, if we wiped down the kneelers with the bleach and water solution they will not dry in time for the next Mass - think of Sunday when we have the 9:00 am Mass and the 11:30 am Mass, and we have to completely sanitize after the 9:00 am Mass. Some churches' kneelers have vinyl or plastic cover that of course will not discolor if wiped down with a bleach solution, and will dry quicker. And so, to another question - why wipe down pews and surfaces with bleach and water? It is the best sanitizing solution and manner of cleaning as recommended by our cleaning company. We do "double" sanitize as pews and surfaces are also sprayed with alcohol after the first cleaning. If you have any more questions, please feel free to call 503-256-5850!



## PASTOR'S CORNER

### Plague Journal X

*From week to week, as the Spirit moves me, I will share with you certain theological reflections concerning the liturgy and its relation to the times we're in.*

As we move back into Ordinary Time this week, I would like to ask you all to pray the following prayer each night before you retire. It comes from the monks of Mount Angel Abbey and is sung each night at the conclusion of Compline (Night Prayer). It is called the *Stella Caeli* (Star of Heaven) and was originally composed and sung during the 14<sup>th</sup> Century as a response to the Black Death (the Bubonic Plague). Covid 19 is not nearly as dangerous (thank God) as the Plague of that time; nonetheless people are fear ridden and over 108,000 have died in our country of the current pestilence:

**Star of Heaven,  
who nourished the Lord  
and uprooted the plague of death  
which our first parents planted:**

**May that star now deign  
to hold in check the constellations  
whose strife causes in people  
the sores of a terrible death.**

**O glorious star of the sea,  
save us from infections.**

**Hear us:  
for your Son, who honors you,  
denies you nothing.**

**Jesus, save us,  
for whom the Virgin Mother prays  
to you.**

**Amen.**





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