St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church and School

Fourth Sunday of Advent

PASTOR:
Fr. Chris Bugno, SDS

ASSOCIATE PASTOR:
Fr. Richard Zgorzelak

DEACON: Donald Boland

PASTORAL ASSOCIATES:
Sr. Yvonne, Roscoe, SND

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST:
Saturday Vigil:.....5:00 p.m.
Sunday:.....7:30 a.m., 9:30AM
& 11:30 am
Weekdays (Monday through Friday): 7:00 am. & 8:30 a.m.
Saturday:.....8:30 am

RECONCILIATION:
Daily (Mon.-Fri.):..... 7:45-8:15 a.m.
Saturdays:..... 3:45-4:45 p.m.
First Friday:..... 3:30-4:30 p.m.
And by Appointment

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Faith Formation
(Religious Education, Adults, RCIA, Sacramental Preparation)
Greg Clouser 268-0440

School Principal
Mrs. Jacqueline Zackel, 267-1643

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Ina Smith, 267-9256

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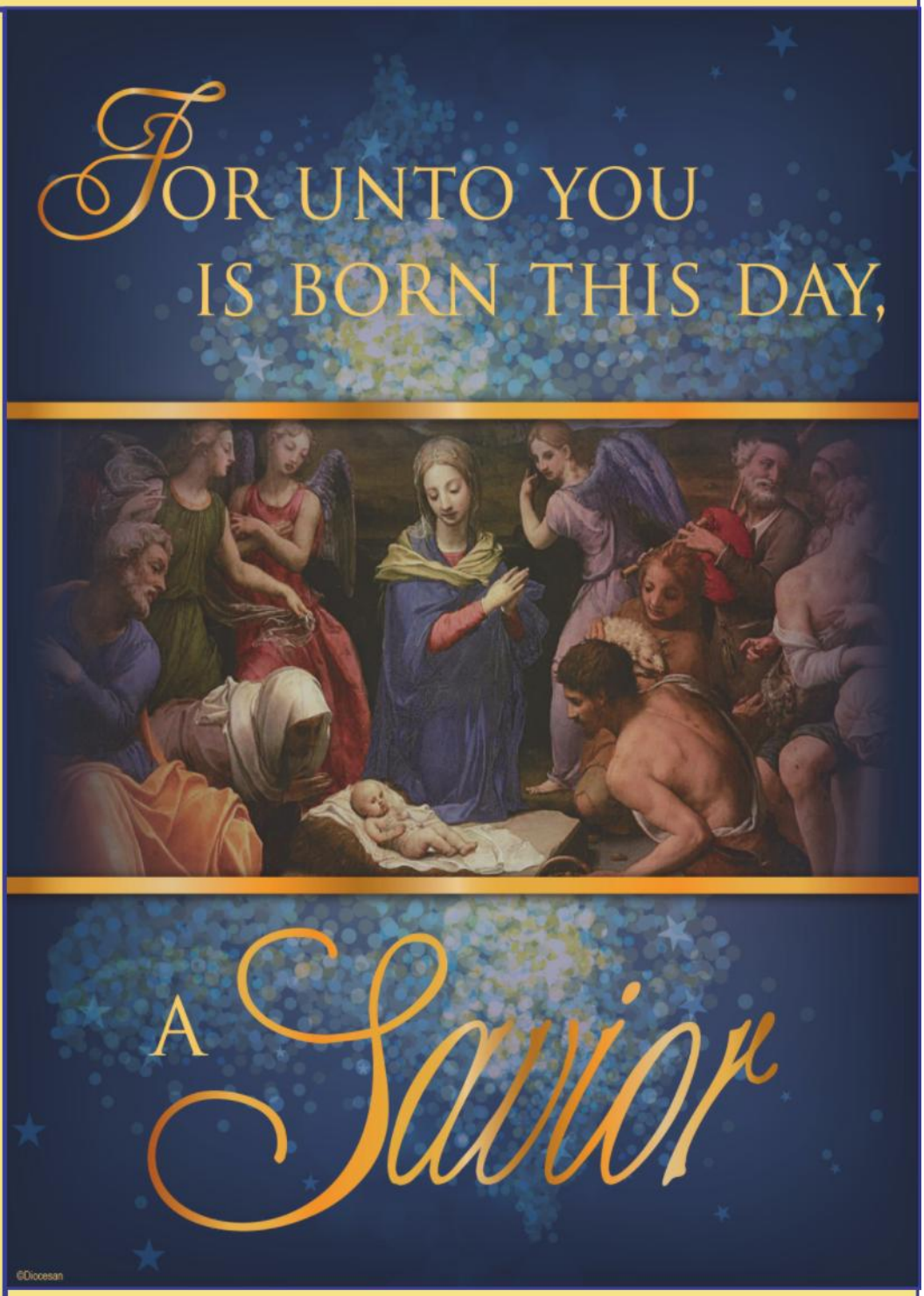


December 23, 2018

Mass Intentions for the week of December 23rd to December 30th

Sunday		Christmas Eve		Christmas		Wednesday	
7:30 AM	For the People of the Parish	**7:00 AM**	Special Intention for Bridget Holderman by Helen Maher	**9:30 AM**	C.P. & C.M. Durian † by the family	7:00 AM	Special Intention for Stefan & Rosalie Bugno (61st Wed. Anniv) by Father Chris
9:30 AM	Francisca de Alfonso & Rafael Arce † by Mirna Arce	**8:30 AM**	Miguel Olivella † by Olivella family	**11:30 AM**	Mickey Tutolo † by Edwina Tutolo	8:30 AM	Special Intention for Susan Harmon by Helen Maher
11:30 AM	O'Flanagan & Durian † family by the family	**4PM**	Sister Jean Margaret † by the Guerrero family				
		6PM	Special Intention for the Morin families by Kathleen Weldon				
		12MN	Martin Vera Cruz † by the Vera Cruz family				

"Jesus, open my eyes so that I can see your glory in the precious baby in the manger"

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Holy Family
Thinking about the Readings

1. What role did my mother play in my vocation?
2. How do I recognize the Holy Family?
3. How do I treat the elderly? Am I attracted to them or fearful of them?
4. What does it mean to me to be God's child?

Readings for the Feast of the Holy Family
December 30, 2018

First Reading: Sirach 3:2-6
Revere your father, comfort your mother.
Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-21
Clothe yourselves with heartfelt mercy.
Gospel: Luke 2:41-52
Mary and Joseph find Jesus teaching in the temple

DEVOTIONS

Liturgy of the Hours (Morning Prayer) at 8:10am (before the 8:30 mass), Mon.-Thu. (unless no school on Fri.)
Recitation of the Rosary: Mon. – Sat., 9am in the Chapel.
Novena – Our Lady of Perpetual Help Tuesday, after the 8:30am Mass.
Spanish Adoration & Prayer Group, Thursdays 6:00pm
Holy Hour 9-10 – Thurs. (except holidays) after the 8:30 Mass, Divine Mercy, Rosary, Silent Prayer, Benediction.
Holy Days — Same as Sundays (7:30am, 9:30am & 11:30am)
Holy Day Vigil — 7:00pm

For Reflection:

This Sunday, the Church invites us to focus our attention on Mary, round-wombed because of the God-child. As we say in the Litany of the Blessed Virgin: "Ark of the Covenant, pray for us."

Today's good news

The first reading is taken from the Prophecy of Micah 5:1-4. In today's reading we hear words of hope that focus on one who is to be born in Bethlehem and who will bring in the day of peace when all nations will look to Jerusalem.

The second reading is taken from Hebrews 10:5-10. The perfect offering of Christ restores us to oneness with God. Jesus came to do the will of God perfectly. He overcame the power of evil that separates us from God and became our bridge back to God when we fall into evil. David prefigures Christ's sacrifice. The Psalm is now seen from the perspective of Christ.

The Gospel of this Sunday, Luke 1:38-45 recounts the visit of Mary to St. Elizabeth. An ancient title of Mary is Ark of the Covenant. The Church Fathers saw the parallels between the Old Testament wooden chest containing the divine presence and the Virgin about to give birth to Jesus. This theme is developed in a tape series by Tim Staples. Tim brings out the similarities between today's Gospel and the ark to Jerusalem

1. As the ark is brought to Jerusalem, King David is overcome with awe saying, "How can the ark of the Lord come to me?"
2. The ark remains three months in the hill country near Jerusalem, bringing great blessings to the house of Obed-edom.
3. King David leaps for joy -- dancing before the ark.

In today's Gospel, Elizabeth says to Mary, "Who am I that the Mother of my Lord should come to me?" She tells how the babe (John the Baptist) leaped in her womb as she became filled with the Holy Spirit. Finally Mary remains three months with her kinswoman before returning to her home.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mass Intentions for the week of December 23rd to December 30th

Thursday		Friday		Saturday		Sunday	
7:00 AM	Special Intention Father Richard's Birthday by his friends	7:00 AM	For deceased members of the parish	8:30 AM	Leona Eriksen † by Jean Eriksen	7:30 AM	For the People of the Parish
8:30 AM	Norbert Grubka † by his wife Lucille (26th anniv)	8:30 AM	Mary Connolly † by Curt & Deirdre Jarvis	5:00 PM	Catherine Morin † by her daughter, Kathleen Weldon	9:30 AM	Alexandria Duda † by Bob & Bonnie Truett
						11:30 AM	Nolan Peters † by his wife, Theresa

Sanctuary lamp lit this week in memory of Norbert Grubka by his wife, Lucille

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship Thought: The Gospel today tells of the Virgin Mary, pregnant herself, hurrying off to help her cousin Elizabeth. The model of good stewardship, she who had given herself to bear the Savior gave her time and love to others as well.

Parish Sacrificial Giving (Regular Sunday Offering) In gratitude for the gifts we have received from God, the parishioners and visitors gave $11,550.00 for the ministries of St. Teresa. Thank you for your continued support and generosity. God bless.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK?

Do the parishioners see themselves as blessed by God?

Eucharistic Adoration
December 27, 2018

We will have an all day Eucharistic Adoration today from **10am to 6:00pm** in the Chapel. Please come and not leave our Lord in the Eucharist unattended during this time.

There will be the Spanish Holy Hour and Exposition from **6 – 7:15 PM** with week and all are invited.

If anyone would like to sign up for an hour, please call or email @:
Peggy Ricardo 321-269-4489—Peggyricardo77@gmail.com.
Thanks to Peggy for offering her assistance for Adoration.

SCHOOL NEWS

Please visit our website at www.stteresa-titusville.org for information regarding St. Teresa Catholic School.

Give Grow Go Annual Fund
Thank you to everyone who has supported our Give Grow Go Annual Fund. Our funds this year have been earmarked for facility improvements, technology upgrades and financial support. We appreciate the support of our parish community.

Car Drawing
Tickets for the School car drawing can be purchased in the Gift Shop or the School Office. $50 for one chance or $100 for 3 chances.

Greetings from
Sisters Kathleen and Hilda

We wish you all many graces and blessings during this holy season. May you all enjoy good health during 2019. Thank you all for your good wishes, cards and prayers.
We are taking it one day at a time from now on.

Love and prayers.
Sister Hilda and Sister Kathleen (In Ireland)

Plan Ahead Church Office Holiday Closure

The church office will be **closed Christmas Eve 12/24 through Friday 12/28.**

The office will be open till **12 noon on New Year's eve** and **closed** New Year's day. Office will return to normal schedule on **January 2nd.** For all emergencies you can call the church number and it will be answered by the Answering Service and relayed as needed.

Happy Birthday
Father Richard
December 27th
"Sto Lat"

FAITH FORMATION

Bible Study

Morning Bible Study will resume on Monday, January 7, 2019 after morning Mass. The book we will be using is Saved by Fr. Mitch Pacwa. Books can be purchased online at Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble, or Our Sunday Visitor. Question contact the Faith Formation office 321-268-0440 or Jeanine Zolfaghari at 321-529-4476.

Cor Jesu Food Pantry

Our Food Pantry, Cor Jesu, is in need of $10 gift cards to grocery stores for Christmas baskets. They could also use cereal, peanut butter and rice.

Thank you for your weekly donations. Often someone will come to the church looking for food assistance. We are able to refer them to the Food Pantry with your help.

Epiphany Blessing of Houses

Father Chris and Father Richard will again have the Epiphany Blessing of houses this year. The Epiphany is January 6th.

If you wish to have your house blessed please sign the chart in the Gift Shop with name, address and phone number so he can contact you when he plans to come to your home.

Mass Schedule for the Holidays

Christmas Eve
12/24 @ 4PM—Children's Christmas Mass
6PM— Mass
12MN— Midnight Mass

Christmas Day
12/25 @ 9:30AM—Mass
11:30AM– Mass

New Year's Eve
12/31 @ 7PM- Mass

New Year's Day
@ 7:30– 9:30– 11:30AM

The green sheet in your Christmas card from the church does not reflect the **7PM Mass on New year's Eve.**

Christmas Eve Baby Gifts

Cynthia Tomes is starting the planning for the BETA **Christmas Eve Mass at 4 PM** with the children. Children may bring baby gifts up to the creche.

For those that would like to donate a baby gift but won't be at the 4PM Mass, a box will be placed in the lobby starting the first week of December for baby items to be delivered to BETA.

Please start thinking about what baby items you may want to put in the box for them.

Thank you to all those that generously brought gifts from the tags off the Angel Giving Tree.

Your gift will make a difference to the person receiving your gift in the true spirit of Christmas. The amount left in the wagon on Sunday was huge.

Thank you!

Fourth Sunday of Advent

"The spirit of Advent largely consists in living close to Our Lady during this time when she is carrying Jesus in her womb. We can think of the whole of our life as a somewhat longer Advent, a time of waiting for that definitive moment when we will at last find ourselves with God forever.

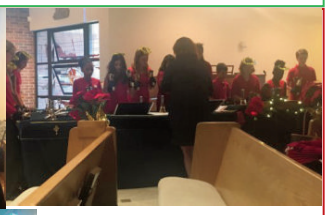
The Christian knows that he has to live this advent beside Our Lady every day of his life if he wants to be certain of attaining the only thing in the whole of his existence that is really important–finding Christ in his life, and afterwards being with him in eternity. There is no better way of preparing for Christmas, which is now so close, than by keeping Mary company, getting to know her and deepening our love and trust in her. Mary imparts a great joy to our souls, because when we turn to her she leads us to Christ. "

The Story of the Kneeling Santa

The sleigh was all packed,
the reindeer were fed,
But Santa still knelt by the side of his bed,
"Dear Father, " he prayed,
"Be with me tonight.

There's much function to do and my schedule is tight.
My sack will hold toys to grant all kids' wishes.
The supply will be endless like the loaves and the fishes.
I can do all these things, Lord, only through You.
I just need your blessing, then it's easy to do.

I do this only to honor the birth of the one,
That was sent to redeem us, Your most Holy Son.
So to all of my friends, lest Your glory I rob,
Please, Lord, remind them who gave me this job."



The School Bell Choir and Children's Choir participated

Thank you to all that attended the beautiful Candlelight presentation

Ina Smith, Choir Director was presented roses by the Choir for all her hard work and preparations.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mary Did You Know?

Mary did you know that your baby boy will some day walk on water?
Mary did you know that your baby boy will save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?
This child that you've delivered, will soon deliver you.

Mary, did you know
that your Baby Boy will give sight to a blind man?
Mary, did you know
that your Baby Boy will calm the storm with His hand?
Did you know
that your Baby Boy has walked where angels trod?
When you kiss your little Baby you kissed the face of God

Mary did you know..
The blind will see.
The deaf will hear.
The dead will live again.
The lame will leap.
The dumb will speak
The praises of The Lamb.

Mary, did you know
that your Baby Boy is Lord of all creation?
Mary, did you know
that your Baby Boy would one day rule the nations?
Did you know
that your Baby Boy is heaven's perfect Lamb?
The sleeping Child you're holding is the great "I am"

ONE SOLITARY LIFE

Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty. Then for three years He was an itinerant preacher.

He never owned a home. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put His foot inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place He was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself...

While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial.

He was nailed upon a cross between two thieves. While He was dying His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth – His coat. When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen long centuries have come and gone, and today He is a centerpiece of the human race and leader of the column of progress.

Nineteen centuries have come and gone
And today Jesus is the central figure of the human race
And the leader of mankind's progress
All the armies that have ever marched
All the navies that have ever sailed
All the parliaments that have ever sat
All the kings that ever reigned put together
Have not affected the life of mankind on earth
As powerfully as that **one solitary life.**

A Christmas Message from Our Pastor, Father Chris

As we come together at this time of year – a time for family and friends – it is good for us to also spend some time reflecting on the "reason for the season" – Jesus Christ, the Lord! It is important that we welcome Him to our homes and to our celebrations, remembering that, as Christians, we celebrate Christmas not as a secular holiday, but as a proclamation of our faith that God so loved the world He sent His only Son.....and that the Word became flesh of the Virgin Mary and dwells among us. In a world that wants to make Christmas only about presents, and food and Santa Claus and self-indulgence, we, as Catholics are not ashamed to profess our Faith: Christmas is about the Incarnation of the Lord and our salvation history. We are not ashamed to say "Merry Christmas." We are proud to be disciples of Jesus and we want all to rejoice with us as we celebrate His birth!

To all of you and your families, I extend the greetings of each of us here at St. Teresa. Be sure that each of you is in our prayers and thoughts in this holy season, and our wish is that your hearts may know the joy of the presence of the new Born King. May the Virgin Mary and her Infant Son, Jesus, the King of Peace, fill your hearts and lives and homes with the choicest of blessings at Christmas and throughout the New Year!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! May Christ abide in your hearts always!
Father Chris and Father Richard

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

CHRISTMAS Blessings

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Hebrews 10:5-10

Why Jesus Was Born

The Letter to the Hebrews explains why Jesus was born. It quotes two phrases from the Book of Psalms. In the first, the psalmist says that God is displeased with sacrifices. Some people had been offering sacrifices without much meaning. They went through the ritual, but they put no heart into the words and actions. The psalmist sings, "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire." Whatever they were doing to please God wasn't working.

In the second phrase, the psalmist has a new idea—a different offering that might please God. What is this new offering? The psalmist. "Behold, I come to do your will." If God was not pleased with the smoke of dead animals, perhaps God would be pleased with the obedience of a living psalmist.

Hebrews recalls these two phrases as they reflect on the birth of Jesus. Jesus came because whatever we were doing to please God was not working. He came and said, "Behold, I come to do your will." He has taken away the old sacrifice and replaced it with himself. The new sacrifice involves heart: having the intent to do God's will.

Because Jesus came into the world, Hebrews says, "We have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ." We celebrate the birth of Jesus this week, but we also celebrate our consecration as the people of God. In thanksgiving, let us resolve to do God's will.

Art by Gerard van Honthorst (1622)
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