



# St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church and School

*Third Sunday of Advent Gaudete Sunday*

**PASTOR:**

Fr. Chris Bugno, SDS

**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

**Faith Formation**

(Religious Education, Adults, RCIA,  
Sacramental Preparation)

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*December 14, 2025*

**Mass Intentions for the week of December 14th to December 21st**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>
7:30 AM Tinh-Pham (Teresa) † by the family	7:00 AM For the sick of the parish	7:00 AM Tinh-Pham (Teresa) † by the family	7:00 AM Charles Ashley Bielling † by the family
9:30 AM Vernon Jansen † by the family	8:30 AM Joseph Santosuosso † by his friends	8:30 AM Frank Fierro † by the Mazlin family	8:30 AM Happy Birthday, Sarah Miller † by her little Sissy
11:30 AM Antonietta Cardillo † by Emilia Angione	<i>In prison, John received word of the coming of Christ</i>		

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**Fourth Sunday in Advent  
Thinking about the Readings**

1. How do I know that God is with me ? What evidence do I have of God's presence and care for me?
2. When have I been surprised by God's presence because it came in an unexpected way?
3. How faithful am I to the people I love?
4. How strong is my yes to God? How much am I willing to risk?

**Readings for the Fourth Sunday in Advent  
December 21, 2025**

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

*The virgin shall be with child.*

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

*Jesus is the son of David and the Son of God.*

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

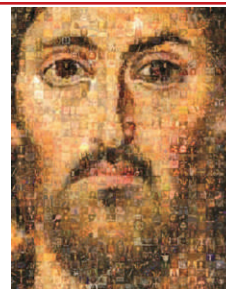
*Joseph, son of David, have no fear about taking Mary as your wife.*

**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  
 Fatima Sundays—Every 3rd Sunday of the Month from May through October, 3-4:30pm.  
 Litanies—After the 8:30am Mass

**For Reflection:**

Be patient brothers  
and  
sisters, until the  
coming of the Lord.”  
.....James



**Are you the  
one who  
is to come,  
or must  
we wait for  
someone  
else?**

**Today's good news**

In the **First Reading** from the Prophet Isaiah (35:1 – 6a, 10), the prophet is describing the joy that will come over the people of Israel who have been patient and didn't give up hope while waiting for deliverance from captivity in Babylon. In the same way the faithful, who are waiting for deliverance from this life on earth in order to enter heaven, "we shall enter singing, crowned with everlasting joy."

In the **Second Reading** from the Letter of St. James (5:7-10), we hear the apostle encourage his flock by advising them to be patient. This letter was written during a period of severe persecution when all seemed doomed; but James suggests that the people look to the prophets of old who were despised by their own people, yet never gave up hope. Or consider Job, who lost everything; yet because of his faith and hope in God, he regained everything and more.

In the Gospel Reading from the **Gospel of Matthew (11:2-11)**, we hear the familiar story of John the Baptist, the last of the Old Testament prophets, who was in prison at this time. He must have been very discouraged knowing that his end was near. He sends friends to Jesus to learn if He, Jesus, is the "One who is to come?" This is another phrase meaning "Messiah." Jesus, rather than answering with a subjective or abstract "Yes," points out the things that He has accomplished--the blind recover their sight, cripples walk, deaf hear, etc. This must have encouraged John the Baptist because it was for just this very reason that he had worked so hard at preaching a baptism of repentance. Now he can rest in peace. But listen to the last sentence! It should cause one to sit up and take notice. Jesus says "...the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he" (John the Baptist). How can that be?

Advent is a time of soul-searching and preparing, of waiting and hoping; but we should not let this be the only time we think about the "coming of the Lord." Each time we approach the altar to receive the Blessed Eucharist, we are approaching Jesus Christ. A prayer beforehand to prepare our mind and heart is very much in order and then, when we do receive Him, we will be greater than John the Baptist who never had the opportunity to receive the Body and Blood of Christ. Something to think about during your Prayer Time this week!

# Third Sunday of Advent Gaudete Sunday

## Mass Intentions for the week of December 14th to December 21st

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
7:00 AM In special thanks to Ina and the Choir	7:00 AM For the people of the parish	8:30 AM Mercedes Vivent † by Sharon & Bill Solt	7:30 AM Lois & Ilah Grefig † by her son, Daniel
8:30 AM Wendy Marie Lussier † by her parents	8:30 AM Special Intentions for Father Chris on his birthday by his friends	5:00 PM Carol Yates † by the family	9:30 AM Special Intention for Ronnie & Jenny Collins, Happy 17th Anniversary
The Sanctuary Lamp is lit for all the loved ones we have lost. They may be gone but live in our holiday memories			11:30 AM Thomas Beecher Companion † Beverly Nitti

## STEWARDSHIP

**Stewardship Thought:** Each of us has his or her own role to play in the coming of the kingdom of God. John the Baptist was called to be the herald of the Messiah, preparing the way of the Lord. To what is the Lord calling me?

**Parish Sacrificial Giving** (Regular Sunday Offering) In gratitude for the gifts we have received from God, the parishioners and visitors gave (will be noted next week) for the ministries of St. Teresa. Thank you for your continued support and generosity. God bless.

## SCHOOL NEWS



Make the Annual School Christmas Pageant part of your Christmas preparation. The students and teachers work to make it a spiritual way to prepare for the **BIRTH of CHRIST**. The teachers and students provide a spiritual entry into this beautiful season.



Thursday  
December  
**18th** At  
**10AM** and  
**6:30PM.**  
In the  
church



The teachers and students take great joy in the presentation of the story of Birth of Jesus

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK?

Do any prophets belong to the parish?  
Does the parish appreciate and nourish them ?

*Happy Birthday Father Chris  
December 19th*



We appreciate all you do, especially now as you handle all our spiritual needs by yourself. We wish you a Happy day and a Happy & Healthy year

### Eucharistic Adoration

There will be a **NO** Adoration this week as the School children are providing the beautiful Nativity story and play.

There will be **NO Spanish Holy Hour and Exposition from 5:30-6:30pm.**

If anyone would like to sign up for an hour, please call Cheryl Kassack at: 321-383-1312 (H) 321-795-1456 (c)

### Give, Go, Grow Annual Campaign

The St. Teresa School community would like to thank our previous donors to our annual Give, Go, Grow Campaign. Your never ending generosity does not go without notice nor appreciation. Your continued generosity will benefit every child in the school. Thanks, in advance, for your donations



# St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church and School

December 14, 2025

## FAITH FORMATION

Religious Education (CCD)  
Religious Education Classes (CCD) this  
**Wednesday in the school at 6:15 pm.**



OCIA  
OCIA meeting this **Sunday, 1:30pm** in the Faith Formation Room. If you would like further information please contact the Faith Formation office at 321-349-5445 (voice or text) or by email at faithformation@stteresa-titusville.org

“O”ur Catholic Nugget  
A Quote from St. Teresa of Calcutta “At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving the others with God’s own love and concern.”

Adult Bible Study  
Winter Bible study will begin January 2026.  
**Monday morning and Tuesday evening** classes will be:  
The Prophets: Messengers of God’s Mercy. Join us as Thomas Smith & Sarah Christmyer reveal how the words of the prophets speak to us even today, as they draw us closer to our heavenly Bridegroom, and show us how to share him with others. The program includes a 10-session video study from Ascension Press. Classes will begin **Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup> or Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>.**

**Wednesday** mornings class will be:  
The Chosen Season 5. Join us as we continue our Chosen journey with The Chosen: Last Supper. This season focuses on Holy Week, the Last Supper, and Jesus’ final days. Classes will begin **Wednesday January 21<sup>st</sup>.**  
If you have any questions or would like to register contact the Faith Formation office at 321-349-5445 (voice or text) or by email at faithformation@stteresa-titusville.org. Space is limited.

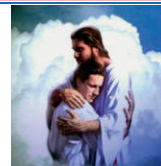
Breakfast Buffet  
Save the Date for our next Breakfast Buffet **January 18, 2026** after each Mass in the Parish Center. Omelets made to order, pancakes, as well as Sausage, Bacon, Scrambled Eggs, Biscuits and Gravy! Suggested donation: Adults: \$12, Children 5-12 \$6. Proceeds will be used to reduce the cost of the Youth Travelers on our Italy Youth Pilgrimage 2026.

### Italy Pilgrimage 2026, Fund Raisers

Fund Raiser	Dates
50/50 Raffles	Monthly, ticket sale after each Mass, Drawing at the end of each month.
Breakfast Buffet	Monthly, see announcements and Bulletin for dates.
Gift Wrapping	December 20 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup> During/After Masses in Parish Center
Tamales and Kabobs	December 21 <sup>st</sup> following the 11:30 Mass in the Parish Center
Restaurant Spirit Nights	Culvers 5:00pm – 8:00pm ; January 5 <sup>th</sup> , February 2 <sup>nd</sup> , April 20 <sup>th</sup> , June 1 <sup>st</sup>
Tacos	January 10 <sup>th</sup> and 24 <sup>th</sup> Parish Center
Italian Dinner Night	TBD

## Bereavement /Grief Support Group

A Grief, Prayer, Support Group has been organized for anyone that has lost a loved one or is interested in participating. You do not need to be a member of the Parish to participate. Meetings will be held on **Thursdays from 4:30-6:30PM.** All are welcome. For additional information, please contact the Parish Office @321-268-3441



## Blue Army Rosary

Blue Army Rosary and Chaplets  
The St. Teresa Chapter of the Blue Army is hosting, in the Chapel, a **weekly:** Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy on **Monday** nights at **6pm**  
There will be a Pot Luck dinner



## Choir Rehearsal

Contemporary choir rehearses every **Tuesday at 7pm** in the church.  
Traditional choir rehearses every **Wednesday at 7pm** in the church



## Food Pantry Cor Jesu

As Christmas approaches we often are asked to assist those less fortunate or have had hard times. A way to make sure that you can help someone in need is to help with a food donation and or a gift card that can be used for perishables.



Please remember to bring some food that can make someone’s day special. All donations are taken to our Food Pantry, Cor Jesu. This way you know exactly where your donation will be used. They plan to feed about 70 families

Soon they will need **Gift cards** to use for turkeys for the Christmas holiday. They can be placed in the box outside the gift shop. So good for meat or perishable items.

If you chose to send a check please make out to Cor Jesu. Grocery store gift cards are always welcome for perishables. They can be placed in the box outside the gift shop. Thank you for your weekly generosity.



## Moms of Tiny Saints

A Catholic ministry where moms can find community in the messiness and joy of raising tiny saints. Join us at one of our upcoming events. Contact Kasey at (321) 289-6399 for any questions.



**Dec. 18 7PM** Text Kasey for address  
Just-for-moms night



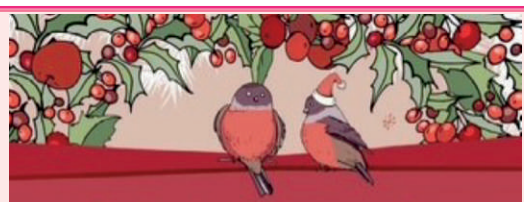
# Third Sunday of Advent Gaudete Sunday

## Christ Even Now on the Way to Bethlehem

Evidently, in the mind of holy Church, neither the prophecy concerning Bethlehem Ephrata nor its fulfillment in the day of Caesar Augustus is to be considered merely a glorious divine disposition and achievement. No, the prophecy of Micheus is still being verified every day, but predominantly during the annual Advent season; for the selfsame incarnate eternal Son of God who journeyed to Bethlehem to be born there physically, now to the end of time comes to human souls as to spiritual Bethlehems, there to be born anew, again and again.

But be sure to picture these merciful spiritual journeyings of Christ to the Bethlehem of souls as all too often sadly realistic spiritual repetitions of His first long journey over the rugged road from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Pray very honestly, therefore, that you may begin to see the practical reasons for the Church's crying out in the desert world, and even into your own interior soul and heart:

*"Prepare ye the way of the Lord: Make straight in the wilderness His paths; Every valley shall be exalted; Every mountain and hill shall be made low; And the crooked shall be made straight; And the rough ways plain" (Is. 40:3, 4). Then shall you see the salvation of God!*



Sending love to anyone whose greatest wish this holiday season is that someone they've lost could be here to share it. May your heart find a little joy to hold alongside the pain.



The Theme for the Third Sunday of Advent is **Joy**.

The third Sunday in Advent (Advent III) shifts from a tone of expectation of Christ's coming to one of rejoicing at the arrival of God's kingdom with the coming of Jesus.

### The Advent Wreath

A third candle—a pink one—is lit on the Advent Wreath for the third Sunday of Advent. This candle, often called the Shepherd's Candle or the Joy Candle, represents joy, such as the joy the shepherds experienced when the angel told them that Christ was to be born.

The Advent season is now half over, and Jesus' coming—both his first coming, liturgically, and his second coming, historically—is nearer now than it was two weeks ago.

## Advent Giving Project

On the evergreen trees on either side of the doors in the Narthex will be trees with tags with the sex and ages of children from 3 months to teen years.

Please take a tag or two and purchase a toy for the children that come to our Food Pantry.

Do NOT wrap the gifts, but attach the tag to it and put it in the wagon by the Chapel.

Thank you for your generosity in meeting the needs of our brothers and sisters who are less fortunate.



## CHILDRENS MASS CHRISTMAS EVE

The B.E.T.A. Center (Birth, Education, Training and Support) will be accepting baby item donations at the Children's Christmas Eve Mass held at **4PM**.

Items in need are diapers up to size 2T, baby wipes, baby body wash, pacifiers and onesies. Children may bring the gifts up to the manger at the Mass.

If more convenient, a box will be placed in the church foyer throughout December for your donations.

Thank you to all for your continued support to B.E.T.A.



## A Perfect Way to Honor the Season



Thank you to the Adult Choir and the Children's choir in their musical presentation for the birth of Baby Jesus



Under the direction of Ina Smith and Ms Mawn



A beautiful meal followed the Musical created by Joe & Delisa Zippilli and their great assistants





“This is the one about whom it is written:  
‘Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;  
he will prepare your way before you.’”

Matthew 11:10

Third Sunday of Advent

*Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10*

If Only...

We all have our own “if onlys.” If only my hands didn’t shake. If only my knees were stronger. If only I weren’t afraid. If only we had enough rain. If only I could see more clearly. If only I could hear as I used to. If only I didn’t feel trapped.

God understands. Even though life is not perfect, and even though our property and bodies deteriorate, God promises a restoration of all that is beautiful. The struggles of this life cause us to yearn for another, more glorious life.

Isaiah prophesies a day when God’s glory will come. “Here is your God,” Isaiah says. “God comes to save you.” These words brought hope to those in exile, a people powerless and poor.

When Christians hear this text, we hear a promise that echoed all the way to the birth of Jesus. Jesus, whose name means “savior,” is coming, and all will be made new in him.

Every time we strengthen the weak, help the needy, water the plants, or shovel the snow, we remove someone’s “if only.” We help them witness the coming of Christ.

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# Third Sunday of Advent Gaudete Sunday

Gaudete Sunday December 11th



Today is known as Gaudete Sunday. The term Gaudete refers to the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, "Rejoice".

On Gaudete Sunday **rose**-colored vestments may be worn instead of violet (or instead of Sarum blue, in the Anglican and some Lutheran and other Protestant traditions), which is otherwise prescribed for every day in the season of Advent. Gaudete Sunday was also known as "**Rose** Sunday".

In churches that have an Advent wreath, the **rose** colored candle is lit in addition to two of the violet (or blue) colored candles, which represent the first two Sundays of Advent. Despite the otherwise somber readings of the season of Advent, which has as a secondary theme the need for penitence, the readings on the third Sunday emphasize the joyous anticipation of the Lord's coming.

The season of Advent originated as a fast of forty days in preparation for Christmas, commencing on the day after the feast of St. Martin (11 November), whence it was often called "St. Martin's Lent"—a name by which it was known as early as the fifth century. In the ninth century, the duration of Advent was reduced to four weeks, and Advent preserved most of the characteristics of a penitential season which made it a kind of counterpart to Lent. Gaudete Sunday is a counterpart to Laetare Sunday, and provides a similar break about midway through a season which is otherwise of a penitential character, and signifies the nearness of the Lord's coming.

The spirit of the Liturgy all through Advent is one of expectation and preparation for the feast of Christmas as well as for the second coming of Christ, and the penitential exercises suitable to that spirit are thus on Gaudete Sunday suspended, as were, for a while in order to symbolize that joy and gladness in the promised Redemption

In his 2014 Gaudete Sunday homily, Pope Francis said that Gaudete Sunday is known as the "**Sunday of Joy**," and that instead of fretting about "all they still haven't" done to prepare for Christmas, people should "think of all the good things life has given you."

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