

# St. Therese Catholic Church

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## Pastoral Team:

**Rev. Donatus Mgbajuo, MSP**

Email: donachisneo@yahoo.com  
Contact information: cell (409) 454-3958  
Rectory: (409) 238-3001  
Deacon Julian Richard (409) 882-4302  
Deacon Hazen Kenney (512) 791-0847

Office Hours: Tuesday thru Thursday  
9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.



## Fourth Sunday in Advent December 18, 2016

“Joseph took his wife Mary  
into his home”

### Eucharistic Celebration

#### Weekends:

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 p.m.  
Sunday: 9:00 a.m.

#### Reconciliation

Saturdays: 3:20 p.m.-3:55 p.m.

#### Infant Baptism:

Please contact the pastor two  
(2) months in advance

#### Weekdays:

Tuesday-Friday 8:00 a.m.  
Thursday: Faith Program 5:30 p.m.

#### Adoration

Fridays: 6 p.m.

#### Adoration & Benediction

1st Friday each month 6p.m.-7p.m.

#### Marriage:

Please call Rectory six (6) months  
prior to proposed date

#### SECRETARY

Cindy Hampton (409) 882-0935

#### PARISH COUNCIL

Joe Ware, Chairman	886-5331
Adam Jacobs, Vice Chairman	883-9688
Dayna Smith, Secretary	988-6705
P.R.O., Leo Jackson	886-9692
Horace Broussard	883-7937
Shirley Ray	779-9922
Martin Feathers	882-4186
Albert Hebert, Jr.	746-2627
Freda Guillory	882-1768
Lanny DeLarue	330-0791
John King	920-2448

#### DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sanja Popillion (409) 670-0808

#### FINANCE COUNCIL

Andre Robertson	882-0012
Janice Semien	883-7126
Tina Kindle	238-4447
Robert Gobert	

READINGS FOR THE WEEK	
Sunday Dec. 18	Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6 Rom 1:1-7 Matt 1:18-24
Monday Dec. 19	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 Lk 1:5-25
Tuesday Dec. 20	Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday Dec. 21	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21Lk 1:39-45
Thursday Dec. 22	1 Sam 1:24-28; (Ps) 1 Sam 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd Lk 1:46-56
Friday Dec. 23	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10, 14 Lk 1:57-66
Saturday Dec. 24	Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or Mt 1:18-25

MINISTERIES FOR THE WEEKEND	
<u>HOSPITALITY</u>	
Saturday:	Shirley Allison, Rose Davis, Walter Davis & Richard Scott
Sunday:	Youth Sunday
<u>ANNOUNCER &amp; LECTORS:</u>	
Saturday:	A: Gary Mims L: Eva Platt & Leo Jackson
Sunday:	A: Youth L: Youth
<u>ALTAR SERVER:</u>	
Saturday:	Reagan Pitre & William Pitre
Sunday:	Reagan Pitre, William Pitre & D'Ana Williams
<u>MINISTERS OF COMMUNION:</u>	
Saturday	Russell Bottley & Freda Guillory
Sunday:	Mr. & Mrs. Adam Jacobs

Attendance	
Saturday	38
Sunday	54
<u>Weekend Collection</u>	
Saturday	\$ 473.00
Sunday	\$ 1,344.10
	<u>\$ 1,817.10</u>

**NOVENA PRAYER TO  
ST. THERESE—THE LITTLE FLOWER**

St. Therese, beloved friend, you promised to spend your time in heaven doing good upon the earth. WE come before you in our need. We believe that you listen to us and approach God for and with us. You are love in the heart of the God. Please accept these petitions, hopes, needs and dreams that I list below (pause). Please present them to our loving Father so that God may do what is best for us, for our loved ones, and for the fulfillment of God's Kingdom. Continue your shower of roses in our lives. We ask you, dear friend with the bold confidence and loving care. We make this prayerful petition in the name of Jesus and through the power of his Spirit. **AMEN.**

<u>PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND</u>	
Margaret Green	
John Judge	
Therese Ferguson	
Frances Freeman	
John Abram	
Da'Morrius Allison	
Julian Richard	
Ruby Milton	
Alma Thibodeaux	
Rena Jenkins	
Dorothy Broussard	
Myrtle Guillory	
Robert Simmons	
Stacy Johnson	
Leothus Jones	
Debra Glaude	
Mary Brown	
Sammie Williams	
John Richard, Sr.	
Peggy Green	
Elias Gobert	
Mary Feathers	
Clayona Pillette	
Alberta Fontenot	
Hollis Fain	
James Arceneaux	
John Milton	
Gloria Richard	
Ella Garrett	
Bettye Odom	
Fred Green	
James Mims	
Joe Ware, Sr.	
Celestine Johnson	
Mary Crossley	
Calvin Johnson	
Sanja Popillion	
Lester Popillion	
Joe B. Forward	
Theresa Garrett	
Andrew Hayes	
Mary Ware	
Courtney Chavis	
Lakeisha Guidry-Jones	
Brushelle Scott	
Eva Platt	
Mr. & Mrs. Mace	
Rose Lee Johnson	
David Jayce Carey	
Ms. Tricia Slaughter	
Raffelitta Jonea Lee	

\*\*\*ATTENTION\*\*\*

*If anyone has any announcements to be placed in the Church's Weekly Bulletin, upon the Pastor's approval please submit your information to the parish office by 12 noon each Wednesday.*

**THANK YOU**

<u>December Birthday List</u> Happy Birthday to:	
Draven Platt	1
Eva Platt	3
Sonja Popillion	4
Betty Odom	5
Courtney Chavis	6
Debra Henderson	11
Lawrence DeLarue	12
Jordan Richard	13
Shirley Cezar	14
Ashton Spearman	17
Zederick Cezar	19
Mary Crossley	21
Lucy Jones	22
Rosie Scott	23
Mary Rigsby	27
Brushelle Scott	28
Russell Bottley	29
Happy Anniversary	
Andre & Lanier Robertson	8th
Herman & Mona Richard	10th

Bishop Faith Appeal  
Goal: \$18,693. Pledged: \$16,773  
PAID: \$12,558

*Thank you ALL for your pledges, we look ahead to the continued growth of our Parish*

MASS INTENTIONS	
Sunday Dec. 18	9:00 a.m.
Monday Dec. 19	No Mass
Tuesday Dec. 20	8:00 a.m. The Kenney Family requested by The Kenney family
Wednesday Dec. 21	8:00 a.m., Mr & Mrs W. H. Kenney requested by The Kenney family
Thursday Dec. 22	8:00 a.m. The Kenney Family requested by The Kenney family
Friday Dec. 23	8:00 a.m., Roger Leblanc requested by The Kenney family
Saturday Dec. 24	4:00 p.m. + Charles Ware requested by Joe & Mary Ware family

(N.B. You can request Mass to be offered for you/your loves one, or the deceased.. Speak with the Pastor or call the office to schedule).

\*\*\*HOLLIDAY BAKE SALE\*\*\*

Pecan Praline \$20.	Red Velvet \$12.
Carrot Cake \$15.	Banana Nut \$15.
German Chocolate \$20.	Peach Cobble \$12
Pineapple Upside-down \$15.	

*Bake-sale fundraiser for the holidays, all orders must be in by Wednesday, Dec. 21, and pick-up by noon Dec. 23., Orders and pick-ups at Parish Office*

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## Final Preparations

Soon we will celebrate the end of our Advent waiting and watchfulness. We will find the fulfillment of our anticipation. For now, perhaps we need to quiet ourselves a bit. Let's set about doing those small things necessary to be someone who is welcoming, but even more importantly, to be someone who is not frazzled. Saint Joseph can be our model for these final days of Advent. His openness to God's will and his gentle acknowledgment of the great import of Jesus' coming can guide us to the Christmas celebration.

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10–14    RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 24:1–2, 3–4, 5–6**  
**SECOND READING: Romans 1:1–7    GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18–24**

## Comment

The first reading clearly was chosen for today because of its direct connection to the Gospel. The words of the favorite prophet of Advent—Isaiah—are brought forward and find a home in Matthew's story of Joseph's vision. The story of Joseph is brief and quiet. However, the setting for the reading from Isaiah is the opposite; one can hear the encroaching armies.

King Ahaz was in a panic. The might of the Assyrian army was massing on the borders of Judah. Grasping at any straw held out to him—any hope that might extricate him from an almost inevitable defeat at the hands of his enemies—Ahaz turned to the prophet Isaiah for a way out. For his part, Isaiah reminded Ahaz that his business as Judah's king was not to find strength in arms or in worldly alliances but in the ancient covenant with God. Ahaz needed to remember that he was a descendant of the great king David. Isaiah was faced with the stubborn refusal of King Ahaz, who did not want to know because to know meant he had to act. And Ahaz did not want to act. He would rather have pouted and turned his back on Isaiah. Nonetheless, Isaiah uttered the promise that we read in Matthew's Gospel today: "... the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel."

The second reading from Paul's letter to the Romans reads like a grave and graceful formal announcement. The reading is the opening of his letter to the Romans. Paul greets the Romans and then in a few breathtaking phrases makes it clear that he is an apostle and witness to the good news that was promised in the Scriptures. The risen Jesus, of the line of David, is none other than Son of God, Christ, and Lord. These titles add to the astounding title already given by Isaiah—Emmanuel.

These two readings introduce us to the story of Joseph's vision and his mission to care for Mary and her child, who is described as "God is with us." On hearing of Mary's pregnancy one can imagine a confused and stunned Joseph. One can also admire his determination to act in an honorable and responsible manner. In the midst of this inner struggle and puzzlement, Joseph learns that the child is the promised one, who will be named Jesus, meaning "the Lord is salvation."

After Matthew steps in to remind us of the prophecy of Isaiah—the virgin birth and the reality of God with us—the story continues. Without pause, Joseph changes the direction of his life. He seems to have slept the rest of the night through and in the morning awakened to a new life. For we read that when he awoke he did just as the angel in his dream directed. The marriage of Mary and Joseph is accomplished in the moment when Joseph received Mary into his home as his wife.

## Reflection

Christmas is fast approaching. Images of the infant Jesus abound in art, literature, and music. Most often those images include the infant and his mother, Mary. And that is only fitting. Still, one wonders: What about Joseph?

It's odd, but not one word of Joseph's has ever been recorded. Likewise, the Gospels contain very few words about him. Even so, Joseph's actions speak louder than words. That's why people have always found comfort in his example.

Like Mary, Joseph clearly understood God's will for him. Like Mary, he responded to God's vision for him and said, in effect, "yes." Today, on the brink of Christmas, Joseph's quiet acceptance is almost palpable. Joseph knew what mattered and what didn't. Joseph's awareness "speaks" volumes to us who seek to sort out what does or doesn't matter. Because of Joseph—the faithful, quiet, and just protector—salvation comes to settle on us all.

### \*\*\* **FOOD DRIVE** \*\*\*

St. Therese Youth will be hosting a food drive for the Christmas holiday and is asking for non-perishable food items such as beans, rice, mac & cheese. In addition we are asking for items to warm our elderly such as socks, gloves, etc.,

Also any hygiene items like toothpaste, deodorant etc.. All items collected is going to our home-bound and nursing home members. Collection will begin December 1, until December 21, please place your items in the two boxes at the rear of the church. **THANKING ALL OF YOU IN ADVANCE, ST. THERESE YOUTH MINISTRIES**

**Mrs. Felicia Richard-Coordinator**

### **\*THE MASS AND THE SCRIPTURES\***

#### **INTRODUCTION**

When people say that Mass is unscriptural and that Catholics are committing an abomination, I simply laugh in Japanese (don't ask me how that is done!). I laugh because it is not only wrong but even that statement does not anticipate the kind of response that any knowledgeable Catholic would give.

To put it nicely, the Mass is the only place where we read more passages at a Time! Call your best prayer warrior, ask Him (or Her) to pray for 24 hours and quote as many scripture passages as they can possibly remember and they still wouldn't have quoted more passages than a simple Catholic who "casually" goes for Mass on a weekday. The following is a simple structure of the Mass and the scriptural references to what the priest and the congregation says.

#### **Mass 2: INRODUCTORY RITES**

The Entrance procession occasioned by the Ringing of the Bell (Exod 28:33-35)

Sign of the Cross: "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." (Matt 28:19; cf. John 14:13-14; Acts 2:21)

Liturgical Greeting: "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all." (2 Cor 13:14) "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ" (Phil 1:; Eph 1:2) "The Lord be with you." (2 Tim 4:22; cf. Matt 1:23; 28:20)

People's Response: "And with your spirit" (cf. Gal 6:18; 2Tim 4:22)

Rite of Blessing and Sprinkling Holy Water (see Ezek 36:25; cf. Num 8:7a)

Penitential Act: Intro: "Let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries." cf. Ps 51:5) "I confess to almighty God..." (cf. Lev5:5; Neh 1:5-9; Dan 9:3-19; James 5:16) "Have mercy on us, O Lord. /For we have sinned against you. / Show us, O Lord, your mercy. /And grant us your salvation." (Ps 41:4) "Lord, Have Mercy" (Matt 15:22; 17:15; 20:30-31; cf. Ps 123:3)

Gloria: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will" (Luke 2:14; cf. Rev 4:11; 5:11-14) "We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you..." (Cf. Ps 148:13) "Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son" (cf. Ps 2:7; John 1:14) "Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world..." (cf. John 1:29) Prayers concluded by 'Amen' (Neh 8:6; Ps 41:13; Rom 16:27; Heb 13:20-21; Rev 7:16)

#### **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

Introductory/Concluding Dialogues "A reading from the book/letter of..." "The Word of the Lord" (Peter 1:25) "Thanks be to God" (Rom 6:17; 2 Cor 9:15)

Acclamations before the Gospel: "Alleluia" (many Psalms, esp. Ps 146-150; Rev 19:1-6) "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!" (cf. Ps 24:7-10; 1 Thess 2:12; 2 Tim 4:18) "Praise and honor to you, Lord Jesus Christ!" (cf. Dan 4:34, 37; Peter 1:7) "Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ" (cf. Phil 1:11) "A reading from the Gospel according to..."-Glory to you, O Lord" "The Gospel of the Lord" (Rom 16:25; Mark 1:1) - "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ"

Profession of Faith "I believe..." (Mark 9:24; John 11:27; cf. John 14:1; 1 John 5:10)

General Intercessions: "We pray to the Lord" (Exod 8:29-30; 10:17-18; Jer 42:2-4; Acts 8:22-24) "Lord, hear our prayer" (2 Kings 20:2-5; Isa 38:2-5) "Hail Mary" (Lk 1:28, 42)

#### **LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

Preparation of the Gifts "Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation..." (cf. Gen 14:20; Ps 66:20; 68:35)

Eucharistic Acclamations "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts..." (Isa 6:3; Rev 4:8) "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord." (Ps 118:26; Mark 11:9; Matt 21:9; Luke 19:38; John 12:13) "Hosanna in the Highest" (Mark 11:10; Matt 21:9; cf. Luke 19:38)

Words of Institution: (see Mark 14:22-24 Matt 26:26-28; cf. Luke 22:17-20; 1 Cor 11:23-25) "Take this, all of you, and eat of it, for this is my Body, which will be given up for you" (a combination of Mark 14:22; Matt 26:26; Luke 22:19; 1 Cor 11:24) "Take this, all of you, and drink from it, for this is the chalice of my Blood, the Blood of the new and eternal covenant, which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins." (a combination of Mark 14:24; Matt 26:27b-28; cf. Luke 22:17, 20; 1 Cor 11:25) "Do this in remembrance of me" (only Luke 22:19; 1Cor 22:24a, 25b)

Memorial Acclamations 1st Acclamation: "We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again." (cf. 1 Cor 16:22) 2nd Acclamation: "When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again." (cf. 1 Cor 11:26) 3rd acclamation: "Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free." (cf. Matt 8:25; Luke 4:42; Rom 8:21).

Lord's Prayer "Our father in heaven..." (Matt 6:9-13; cf. Luke 11:2-4; Mark 14:36; Gal 4:6)

Embolism: "Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil... as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13)

Doxology: "For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are your..." (found only in some biblical manuscripts after Matt 6:13; cf. Rev 4:11; 11:15; 1 Chron 29:11)

Greeting of Peace "Lord Jesus Christ, you said to apostles, 'I leave you peace, my peace I give you'" (John 14:27) "The peace of the Lord be with you always." (cf. John 16:33; 20:19, 21 26)

Breaking of the Bread: "Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world..." (cf. John 1:29, 36; Rev 5:6-13; 22:1-3)

Preparation before communion "Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb." (John 1:29, 36; Rev 19:9) "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed." (Matt 8:8; cf. Luke 7:1-10)

**Concluding Rite** Final Blessing (cf. Gen 28:3; Deut 14:29; Rev 6:23-27; Ps 29:11)

**Dismissal:** "Go forth, the Mass is ended." "Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord." "Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life." (cf. Ps 115:1; 1 Cor 10:31; 2 Thess 1:12) "Go in peace." (cf. Exod 4:18; Deut 10:11-13; Judg 18:6; 1 Sam 1:17; Mark 5:34; Luke 7:50; 8:48)

**Conclusion:** Many people either take the Mass for granted or condemn it outright from ignorance. If we take greater interest in knowing the truth, promoting it and cherishing it, we will treasure the Mass as God's greatest gift to humanity.

**HAPPY WEEKEND TO YOU MY DEAR PARISHIONERS. GOD BLESS YOU.**