

# St. Therese Catholic Church

1409 6th Street 77630 Phone: (409) 883-3783 Fax: (409) 883-4918  
 Email: sttherese1350@att.net Website: stthereseorangetx.org



## Pastoral Team:

**Rev. Donatus Mgbajuo, MSP**

Email: donachisneo@yahoo.com

Contact information: cell (409) 454-3958

Rectory: (409) 238-3001

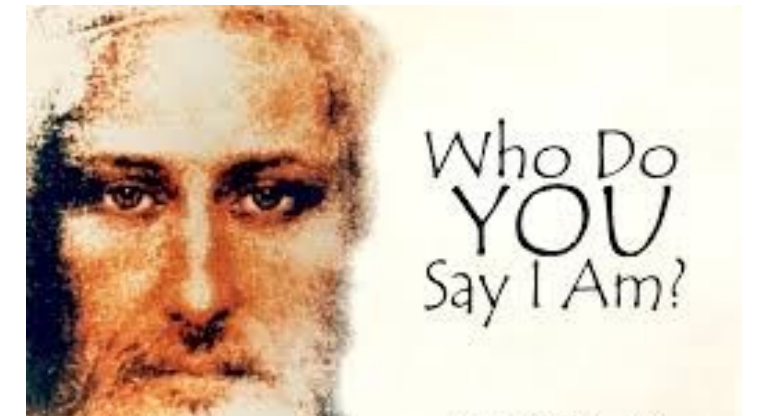
Deacon Julian Richard (409) 882-4302

Deacon Hazen Kenney (512) 791-0847

Office Hours: Tuesday thru Thursday

## December 11, 2016 3rd Sunday in Advent

*“John heard in prison of the works  
of the Christ and sent his disciples  
to Jesus”*



### 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 & 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

### 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

### 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

**December Birthday List**  
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

Richard & Brushelle Scott	8th
Andre & Lanier Robertson	8th
Herman & Mona Richard	10th

**Bishop Faith Appeal**  
Goal : \$18,693. Pledged : \$15,423  
PAID: \$10,883

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

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Sunday Dec. 11	9:00 a.m.
Monday Dec. 12	No Mass
Tuesday Dec. 13	8:00 a.m. + Elsie Jackson requested by sisters Rose Bottley & Shirley Ray
Wednesday Dec. 14	8:00 a.m.. Marvin Hampton requested by wife Cindy Hampton
Thursday Dec. 15	8:00 a.m. + Leo Jackson requested by daughter Mary Crossley
Friday Dec. 16	8:00 a.m. + Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Jeanes requested by the Kenney family
Saturday Dec. 17	4:00 p.m. The Kenney Family requested by the Kenney 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).

**PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND**

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

**\*\*\*Team Counters\*\*\***

<b>Week One:</b> Gary Mims Janice Semien Lucy Jones	<b>Week Two:</b> Mrs. Broussard Leo Jackson Shirley Ray	<b>Week Three:</b> Rose Bottley Cliff Richard Peggy Green	<b>Week Four:</b> Dorothy Jacobs Dayna Smith John Judge	<b>Week Five:</b> Gary Mims Shirley Ray Peggy Green
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**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Sunday Dec. 11	Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-10 Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11
Monday Dec. 12	Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jth 13:18-19 Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Tuesday Dec. 13	Zep 3:1-2, 9-13 Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19, 23 Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday Dec. 14	Is 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25 Ps 85:9ab,10-14 Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday Dec. 15	Is 54:1-10 Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b Lk 7:24-30
Friday Dec. 16	Is 56:1-3a, 6-8 Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8 Jn 5:33-36
Saturday Dec. 17	Gn 49:2, 8-10 Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17 Mt 1:1-17

**MINISTRIES FOR THE WEEKEND**  
HOSPITALITY

Saturday: Walter Davis, Rose Davis, Shirley Allison & Patrick Mims  
 Sunday: Staci Powers, Lucy Jones, Fred Green & Phyllis Thibodeaux

ANNOUNCER & LECTORS:

Saturday: A: Mona Richard L: Gary Mims & Freda Guillory  
 Sunday: A: Horace Broussard L: Josie Curtis & Eva Platt

ALTAR SERVER:

Saturday: Reagan Pitre & William Pitre  
 Sunday: D'Ana Williams

MINISTERS OF COMMUNION:

Saturday: Emma Nelson & Cecilia Davis  
 Sunday: Shirley Ray & Dorothy Broussard

Attendance

Saturday	29
Sunday	

Weekend Collection

Saturday	\$ 627.00
Sunday	\$ 2,170.00
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	\$ 2,797.00

If anyone is not available to count on your assigned week please inform Mr. Gary Mims or Fr. Dontaus. If anyone is interested in becoming a part of the count team please contact Fr. Donatus. Anyone involved with the handling of any parish money must sign a confidentiality disclosure form.

# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## Looking Forward

Children look forward to Christmas, teens look forward to the winter break, adults look forward to a time of relaxation—a weekend, a quiet evening. By this time in Advent, Christmas looms even closer and anticipation intensifies as we count off the days. Christmas is at most two weeks away. On this *Gaudete* Sunday we rejoice. We can hardly wait, and the joy spills over. *Gaudete!*

*FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1–6a, 10    RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 146:6–7, 8–9, 9–10*  
*SECOND READING: James 5:7–10    GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2–11*

## Comment

This day the church rejoices in the coming of the Lord, which is assured, yet we need to be reminded of how it looks and what it requires of us. The coming of the Lord is filled with abundance and looks most inviting; yet the coming of the Lord costs something as well.

Just ask Isaiah. He continues to speak of the wonders of the Lord's coming, but he speaks this to a weary people who must face the daunting task of rebuilding a new life together in a ravaged and war-torn land. The cost of the coming of the Lord is the work we are called to do to build up God's reign. Nevertheless, Isaiah speaks of a healing time for body and spirit.

Isaiah's description of healing and fullness finds its way into today's Gospel. The Lord who was to come has now appeared, and the miracles of wholeness and health and renewed life are signs of a new order. With the arrival of Jesus, the "Messianic Kingdom" of which Isaiah spoke with such passion has come to pass.

## Reflection

In Jesus, the work of John the Baptist and all of Israel's prophets before him has come to fulfillment. The reign of God is ushered in by this last prophet. John's vocation as prophet, though great, is dwarfed by his membership in the new dispensation, the new order, the reign of God. This membership, says Jesus, is available to each and every one who recognizes it.

We will know the reign of God is fully here when the human spirit breathes free, the shackles of fear are broken, the shadows of sin are dispersed, the weak are strengthened, hearts are healed, and the desert of the human spirit blooms. This reign of God does not happen *to* us; it happens *in* us and in the world, and it comes slowly and surely.

The second reading today counsels patience, the kind of patience the farmers exercise as they await the fall and spring rains. One season of rain must provide subsoil moisture—it must run deep. The other rains provide the top dressing, the moisture for germinating the planted seed. Farmers cannot hurry the rains. They can only await them in hope. So it is for us now. We wait in hope. But today our joy runs deep and it spills over. *Gaudete!*

### \*\*\* 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 18, 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*

## RIGHTEOUS IDOL WORSHIPPER?

I wondered why I was in the queue of accused at all. I am intelligent, aggressive, young, totally committed to God. What am I doing here with this sheet of supposed sins in my hand I wondered?

I don't drink, I don't smoke, I don't fornicate, I don't steal, I am righteous. Others should be here not me. It was finally my turn to face the Man.

I placed my sheet before Him, He glanced at it and sighed softly. He looked at me and calmly said, "Guilty of idol worship."

Imagine my anger, my fury, my indignation. I jumped out of the chair and said "Of course not! Check the sheet again, check the name, It can't be mine."

He sighed again and mentioned one of my names that no one knows. I would not be stopped. It's impossible I yelled. I worship only God, the Most High, Maker of heaven and earth, the king of kings and Lord of lords. I bow down to none, I have no talisman, no amulet, no pot underneath my bed "You are guilty of idol worship" He repeated calmly.

He looked at me, I looked at Him. It seemed like forever. The room was silent. I could hear the clock ticking. Then I slowly understood.

I am never late for bus/train station or air flight but I am always late to church-I blinked My payments to services I enjoy eg:Dstv, phone bills, gas bills, council tax, road tax, etc., are never late but I haven't given offerings/tithes in three months— I looked down.

When meeting one of our local chiefs last week I would not even pick a call in the presence of earthly royalty, but I WhatsupApp in church.

I wouldn't interrupt my performance appraisal with my boss for anything but I missed church last week because of a series on TV

I wouldn't let a day end without talking to my spouse but today I just said "Hi God, Bye God."

I would never miss going to the bank because of the weather but I missed fellowship on Tuesday and Thursday because it was cloudy.

I would wear my football team's colors to meetings and not care what anyone thought of me but I hate to talk to my workmates about God because of what they will think of me.

I always have the latest tech gadget you can think of but my bible is so worn out. I can't even find the book of Jude in my bible anymore.

The last thing I touch before going to bed is my phone and the first thing in morning....chatting on whatsupApp or replying to online messages. And never bordering to talk with God or reading His word.

I felt so hot in the room, a nervous sweat on my forehead, I felt so ill and weak, all of my anger and self-righteousness was gone, leaving immense guilt in its wake.

I slowly got off the chair and knelt by his feet and said "I am sorry, I am guilty as charged, Guilty of idol worship, guilty of placing others; humans, technology before You. "I am guilty of idol worship."

He smiled gently, looked at me with those passionate eyes of His, full of love and He gave me a fresh sheet! And said! Deliver souls!!

Now I want you to share or inform others to alert them as I know they are not aware of what they are doing.

God bless you as you share to deliver souls with me. **Amen.**

### 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.**