

# St. Therese Catholic Church

1409 6th Street 77630  
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## Pastoral Team:

**Rev. Donatus Mgbajuo, MSP**

Email: donachrisneo@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.



## The Nativity of the Lord "Christmas" December 25, 2016

"The word is made flesh"

### 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

#### 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. 25	Is 52:7-10 Ps 98:-16 Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18 or Jn1:1-5, 9-14
Monday Dec. 26	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 & 8ab, 16bc & 17 Mt 10:17-22
Tuesday Dec. 27	1 Jn 1:1-4 Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Wednesday Dec. 28	1 Jn 1:5-2:2 Ps 124:2-5, 7cd-8 Mt 2:13-18
Thursday Dec. 29	1 Jn 2:3-11 Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6 Lk 2:22-35
Friday Dec. 30	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21 or Col 3:12-17 Ps 128:1-5 Mt 2:13-15, 19-23
Saturday Dec. 31	1 Jn 2:18-21 Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 Jn 1:1-18

### 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 Fontenet  
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

### 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	28
Brushelle Scott	28
Russell Bottley	29

#### Happy Anniversary

Andre & Lanier Robertson	8th
Richard & Brushelle Scott	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. 25	9:00 a.m.
Monday Dec. 26	No Mass
Tuesday Dec. 27	8:00 a.m. + Vernon Gray requested by Joe & Mary Ware family
Wednesday Dec. 28	8:00 a.m.+ Mr. Albert Ware requested by Joe & Mary Ware
Thursday Dec. 29	8:00 a.m. + Mrs. Lucille Ware requested by Joe & Mary Ware
Friday Dec. 30	8:00 a.m. + Mary Crossley requested by Cecilia, Eva & Christina
Saturday Dec. 31	4:00 p.m. + Harold Pillette requested by Felicia Richard

(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).

Workbooks for Lectors, Gospel Readers,  
and Proclaimers of the Word have arrived.  
The price is \$10.00 please see Ms. Rose  
Bottley or contact the parish office.

### MINISTRIES FOR THE WEEKEND HOSPITALITY

Saturday: Richard Scott, Shirley Allison, Rose Davis &  
Walter Davis  
Sunday: Fred Green, Peggy Green, Elizabeth Mitchell &  
Dorothy Jacobs

#### ANNOUNCER & LECTORS:

Saturday: A: John King L: Josie Curtis &  
Gary Mims  
Sunday: A: Dorothy Broussard L: Tina Kindle &  
Eva Platt

#### ALTAR SERVER:

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

#### MINISTERS OF COMMUNION:

Saturday Shirley Ray & Emma Nelson  
Sunday: Freda Guillory & Lucy Jones

#### Attendance

Saturday 53  
Sunday 56

#### Weekend Collection

#### Deductible

#### Non-Deductible

Mail In	\$ 43.85	
IOI reimbursement		\$ 17.99
Bake Sale		\$ 62.00
Black & Indian Mission		\$ 1,500.00
Building Rental		\$ 250.00
Saturday	\$ 652.00	
Sunday	\$ 7,217.00	
	\$ 7,912.85	\$ 1,829.99

**Total Deposit \$9,742.84**

#### \*\*\*Important\*\*\*

The Diocese of  
Beaumont Chancery  
will be closed for  
the Christmas  
holidays from  
Monday Dec. 26,  
2016 through Friday  
Dec. 31, 2016

# THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD — CHRISTMAS

## Glory

The parish church I grew up in is now paired with the parish church in a neighboring village on the prairie. The first Mass of Christmas is no longer held at midnight. The scheduling is complex; the parishioners are older now. But one Christmas we were together at the third Mass for Christmas—the Mass during the day. The sky was clear; the air cold; the sun bright. Young parents were the strong ones then. They were strong from hard farm work. They were strong for their aging parents and strong for their squirming children. The church was flooded with morning sunlight strong enough to recall the dawn of creation. On that Christmas day in full sunlight, it felt like all the ends of the earth had seen the glory of the only Son, coming from the Father, filled with enduring love.

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:7–10    RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 98:1, 2–3, 3–4, 5–6**

**SECOND READING: Hebrews 1:1–6    GOSPEL: John 1:1–18**

*(Readings are from the Mass During the Day)*

## Comment

Isaiah announces Israel's great return from exile and darkness to Jerusalem on Mount Zion. We have three perspectives all in one reading—the messenger who announces; the sentinels and city dwellers who hear and rejoice; the whole world that beholds this marvelous God of Israel.

The news is so good that even the messenger's very footprints are blessed. We can imagine him skipping over the hills with glad tidings. The sentinels at the walls of the city can make out the messenger coming, with voice ringing out. Finally, the Lord comes to comfort the broken people, to rebuild the ruined city of Jerusalem.

The rest of the world stands by and marvels at God's holiness and strength. Israel self-consciously boasts: "All the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God!"

Indeed! We can see it in the Gospel according to John. This Gospel begins in the heavens; it soars from beginning to end. It speaks of glory and light and eternity and triumph. This Gospel seems to be born of the sun and familiar with the heights. It thunders forth for us magnificently: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God." This opening reminds us of the first words of the Bible: "In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth ..."

The Word of God was before time and will be for all time. This dazzling Gospel pours out its message: "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us."

## Reflection

What does Christmas celebrate? Christmas celebrates a human event, an encounter with Jesus' humanity. Christmas recognizes how the God who created human beings to know, love, and serve realized that human beings could not know, love, or serve anything they couldn't wrap their arms around. Thus, God became a human being in Jesus.

As a human, Jesus was born, grew, worked, sweated, suffered, laughed, cried, and died as all humans do. In his body, he knew the smell of bread baking and the warm breath of animals. He felt the heat of the sun and the touch of a friend's hand. He woke up to the cooing of doves and was lulled to sleep by the slap of water on the side of a fishing boat. He heard the cry of a widow whose son had died. He tasted new wine, the dust of the road, and charbroiled fish shared with the apostles. He saw the world around him, and he looked into people's hearts.

On Christmas, the Church celebrates Jesus' experience of being a human being in a unique, concrete manner. More than that, we make memorial of that experience in our own life situation. At its core, Christmas celebrates the meaning of the experience of being human: pain and pleasure, suffering and joy, dying and rising to new life. That is why Christmas is such a hospitable feast. This hospitality is rooted in what it means to be a new creation, to be open to the stranger in our midst, and to be open to new experiences. Ultimately, Christmas means being willing to recognize that our everyday living is a sign of what will come. Why? Because the Word of God has taken on bone and blood and has entered into our human actions, experiences, and lives. Because of Christmas, our faith-filled eyes can see that our humanity now is our salvation.

## Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*As we celebrate Christmas, we are thankful for the gift of faith, that opens up for us the beautiful message of this holy season, namely, that God loves us so much that he sent his only Son to redeem us and to show us the way to the Father in heaven.*

*My hope for us is that we share our faith with loved ones and strangers alike, proclaiming the joyous tidings, "EMMANUEL", which means 'God is with us.' And we should not just share our faith but we should reach out to one another with all the blessings God has given us, especially the gift of peace, and may the peace of God and the joy of the season illumine your heart and lead you to the heart of God.*

*Fr. Donatus and the Parish Council wishes peace and good will to our parish community, assuring you of our prayers and best wishes always.*

Merry Christmas

### \*\*\*Offering envelopes\*\*\*

envelopes at the rear of the church and the names of each family are on them, please pick up the correct boxes. If there are any concerns please contact the parish office.

### \*\*\*Thank You\*\*\*

Our youth and young adults blessed our sick, shut-in and our elderly with Christmas gifts and good tidings, song and joy they have met the challenge with knowledge, courage and a willing heart to be the disciples and to serve with youthful zeal  
Coordinator, Mrs. Felicia Richard.

### MANRESA – BEAUMONT

Silent Retreat for Men  
Fr. Ross Romero, S.J.

Thursday - Sunday, January 12-15, 2017

Check-in begins on Thursday at 5:00 pm. The retreat begins with dinner at 7:00 pm and ends after lunch on Sunday. To register or to obtain more information, contact Tim Bonnin at 409-617-3210.

Cost: \$204.00/person  
Deposit: \$102.00

### \*\*\*Prayers\*\*\*

We are praying for Fr. Donatus, that the Lord guides & protects him that he may reach his destination safe. That while he will be gone the month of January and half of February, he has a well rested vacation. We are praying also for the pilot of the plane – give him the presence of mind that he may be able to do his duty and responsibilities for their safety as they travel. God Bless!

### C.C.D. Classes

Classes will resume January 4, 2017 and is held every Wednesday from 5 to 5:45 p.m. Please make sure your child is here to learn about his or her faith. For more information please contact  
**DRE, Sonja Popillion**

### \*\*\*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*

### 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.**