

ST. THERESA CATHOLIC CHURCH – Sunny Hills

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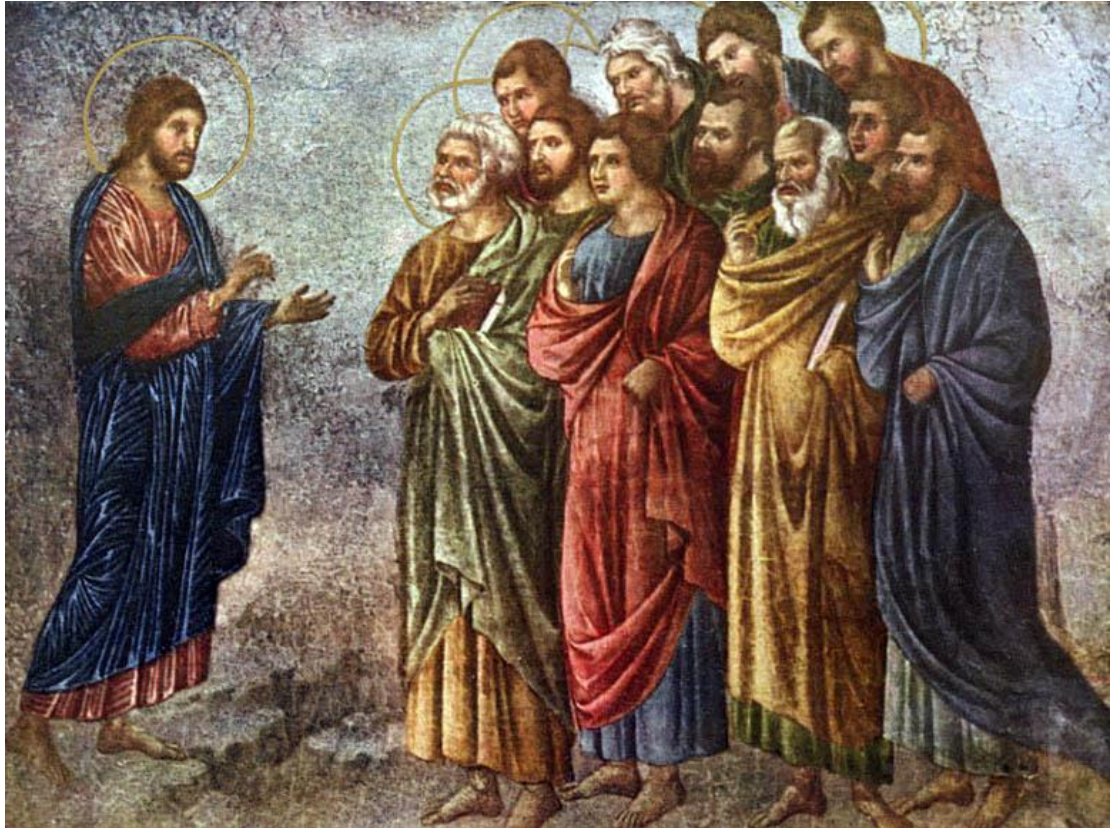
Please remember to leave a message when you call our Office or Emergency lines.

Email: moodyp@clergy.ptdiocese.org

St. Theresa Parish Website: <http://sttheresa.ptdiocese.org>

“What do you possess if you do not possess God?” – St. Augustine

**“Jesus said to his disciples:
“Be watchful! Be alert!
You do not know when the time will come.”**



The parishioners of St. Theresa and Fr. Paul Moody welcome everyone as we gather to worship.

Mass Times for The First Sunday of Advent and the First Week of Advent.

December 2 Saturday Vigil Mass 5:00 pm
First Sunday of Advent

Intention: + Maria Derencius
Reader: Kate

December 3 Sunday Mass 9:00 am
First Sunday of Advent

Intention: Jerry & Soози Pate
Reader: Sal

December 4 Monday Mass 8:00 am
Advent Weekday

Intention: + Dolores M. Moody

December 7 Thursday **Vigil Mass** 6:00 pm

Intention: Sr. Krystyna Dabrowska

Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary - HDO

December 8 Friday **Mass** 8:00 am

Intention: Anna Warpecha

Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary - HDO

December 9 Saturday Vigil Mass 5:00 pm
Second Sunday of Advent

Int: Margaret & Henry Beitler & Family
Reader: Christina

December 10 Sunday Mass 9:00 am
Second Sunday of Advent

Intention: + Margaret Ciesla
Reader: Mark

Confessions: Confessions are heard up to 15 min before any Mass and by appointment.



Holy Day of Obligation: The Immaculate Conception of the BVM on Friday, December 8th is a Holy Day of Obligation this year. Our Vigil Mass will be Thursday December 7th at 6:00 pm and Mass on Friday December 8th at 8:00 am.



There will be a Parish Breakfast after the 9:00 am Sunday Mass on December 10. Everyone is invited to attend. All you need to bring is a smile and a desire to get to know your fellow parishioners better. We look forward to seeing you there!



“Advent is concerned with that very connection between memory and hope which is so necessary to man. Advent’s intention is to awaken the most profound and basic emotional memory within us, namely, the memory of the God who became a child. This is a healing memory; it brings hope. The purpose of the Church’s year is continually to rehearse her great history of memories, to awaken the heart’s memory so that it can discern the star of hope.....” – Pope Benedict XVI

Prayer Requests: We continue to pray for all of our parishioners who are sick and for the people who care for them. Please pray for all of the members of our Armed Forces and for all of our Law Enforcement Officers, especially Deputy David Zurawska, Deputy Dakota Jarvis and Brian Paridon as they risk their lives to keep us safe.



There are special prayer requests for Cathy Andrews, Stanley and Jadwiga Kuc, Ralph Rowbotham, Jennifer Nason, Mrs. Maria Doniec, Bob and Sonia Burke, Joana Macijauskas, Mrs. Hella Tompkins, Mrs. Ann Ivers, Albina Vysniauskas, Brone and Vida Nakas, Dennis and Jean Sandfort, Maria Antoniewicz, Glen Zanetic, Mrs. Anna Jarzabek, Robert Espinosa, Winifred & Steve Flowers, and Bruce Paridon. Please remember to pray each day for the souls in purgatory and for our fellow parishioners at St. Theresa.

“The liturgy of Advent...helps us to understand fully the value and meaning of the mystery of Christmas. It is not just about commemorating the historical event, which occurred some 2,000 years ago in a little village of Judea. Instead, it is necessary to understand that the whole of our life must be an ‘advent,’ a vigilant awaiting of the final coming of Christ.

To predispose our mind to welcome the Lord who, as we say in the Creed, one day will come to judge the living and the dead, we must learn to recognize him as present in the events of daily life. Therefore, Advent is, so to speak, an intense training that directs us decisively toward him who already came, who will come, and who comes continuously.”

– St. Pope John Paul II

The Sacrament of Penance and Advent: Penance is an experience of the gift of God's boundless mercy. Not only does the Sacrament of Penance free us from our sins but it also challenges us to have the same kind of compassion and forgiveness for those who sin against us. We are liberated to be forgivers. We obtain new insight into the words of the Prayer of St. Francis: "It is in pardoning that we are pardoned."

Jesus entrusted the ministry of reconciliation to the Church. The Sacrament of Penance is God's gift to us so that any sin committed after Baptism can be forgiven. In confession we have the opportunity to repent and recover the grace of friendship with God. It is a holy moment in which we place ourselves in his presence and honestly acknowledge our sins, especially mortal sins. With absolution, we are reconciled to God and the Church. The Sacrament helps us stay close to the truth that we cannot live without God. "In him we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28).
- from the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults

Offertory: We thank our parishioners and guests for their continued generosity.

St. Theresa Parish Offertory	Nov. 2023	Nov. 2022	Total for This FY (July 2023 – Nov. 2023)	Total for Prior FY (July 2022 – Nov. 2022)
	\$ 6596	\$ 5114	\$ 36901	\$ 39739
CSA for 2023	Goal	Pledged	Received	
	\$ 3385	\$ 6896	\$ 6431	

**“Year passes after year silently; Christ’s coming is ever nearer than it was. O that, as He comes nearer earth, we may approach nearer heaven!”
– St. John Henry Newman**

HUMBLE VIGILANCE OF HEART

Facing difficulties in prayer

The habitual difficulty in prayer is distraction. It can affect words and their meaning in vocal prayer; it can concern, more profoundly, him to whom we are praying, in vocal prayer (liturgical or personal), meditation, and contemplative prayer. To set about hunting down distractions would be to fall into their trap, when all that is necessary is to turn back to our heart: for a distraction reveals to us what we are attached to, and this humble awareness before the Lord should awaken our preferential love for him and lead us resolutely to offer him our heart to be purified. Therein lies the battle, the choice of which master to serve. In positive terms, the battle against the possessive and dominating self requires vigilance, sobriety of heart. When Jesus insists on vigilance, he always relates it to himself, to his coming on the last day and every day: today. The bridegroom comes in the middle of the night; the light that must not be extinguished is that of faith: "Come," my heart says, "seek his face!" Another difficulty, especially for those who sincerely want to pray, is dryness. Dryness belongs to contemplative prayer when the heart is separated from God, with no taste for thoughts, memories, and feelings, even spiritual ones. This is the moment of sheer faith clinging faithfully to Jesus in his agony and in his tomb. "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." If dryness is due to the lack of roots, because the word has fallen on rocky soil, the battle requires conversion.

Facing temptations in prayer

The most common yet most hidden temptation is our lack of faith. It expresses itself less by declared incredulity than by our actual preferences. When we begin to pray, a thousand labors or cares thought to be urgent vie for priority; once again, it is the moment of truth for the heart: what is its real love? Sometimes we turn to the Lord as a last resort, but do we really believe he is? Sometimes we enlist the Lord as an ally, but our heart remains presumptuous. In each case, our lack of faith reveals that we do not yet share in the disposition of a humble heart: "Apart from me, you can do nothing." Another temptation, to which presumption opens the gate, is acedia. The spiritual writers understand by this a form of depression due to lax ascetical practice, decreasing vigilance, carelessness of heart. "The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." The greater the height, the harder the fall. Painful as discouragement is, it is the reverse of presumption. The humble are not surprised by their distress; it leads them to trust more, to hold fast in constancy.
(CCC 2729 – 2733)



"Take time to be aware that in the very midst of our busy preparations for the celebration of Christ’s birth in ancient Bethlehem, Christ is reborn in the Bethlehems of our homes and daily lives. Take time, slow down, be still, be awake to the Divine Mystery that looks so common and so ordinary yet is wondrously present.” - Edward Hays