

ST. THERESA CATHOLIC CHURCH – Sunny Hills

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

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

“Lord give us grateful hearts and keep us mindful of the needs of others.”

“When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.”



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

Mass Times for The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, and The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

December 30 Saturday Mass 5:00 pm
Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Int: Michael & Mary Kathryn Peadar
Reader: Kate

December 31 Sunday Masses 9:00 am
Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph



Int: Hai & Luong Nguyen
Reader: Sal

January 1 Monday 8:00 am
Mary, The Holy Mother of God – Solemnity

Int: Parishioners of St. Theresa

January 4 Thursday Mass 8:00 am
Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious – Mem.

Intention: + Clifford Keough

January 5 Friday Adoration 7:00 am – 8:00 am
St. John Neumann, Bishop - Mem Mass 8:00 am

Intention: + Joseph Cearley

January 6 Saturday Vigil Mass 5:00 pm
The Epiphany of the Lord

Intention: Hella Tompkins
Reader: Mark

January 7 Sunday Mass 9:00 am
The Epiphany of the Lord

Intention: + Frank Biela
Reader: Mark

“From Mary we learn to surrender to God’s Will in all things. From Mary we learn to trust even when all hope seems gone. From Mary we learn to love Christ her Son and the Son of God!” - St. John Paul II



I would like to thank all of the Parishioners of St Theresa and our guests for their prayers, best wishes, patience, and generous financial support throughout this past year.

I hope the year to come brings you peace, stronger faith, and a greater appreciation for how much God has blessed all of us.

“Do something beautiful for God. Do it with your life. Do it every day. Do it in your own way. But do it!” – St. Mother Teresa



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.



Thank you to all who contributed to our Christmas Flower fund to help to decorate our altar this year.

Thank you to all who worked so hard to decorate our Church for Christmas.



Thank You: Many of our parishioners are always willing to help with the variety of issues that arise during the course of a year. On behalf of the whole parish I would like to thank Maria, Sr. Natalia, Sr. Margaret, Edward, Donald, Stan, Stanley, John, Jozef, Frank and Mary, Mike and Kate, Cathy, Ann, Veronica and Gerry, Rose, Christina, Sal, Mark, Alvera, Al, Larry and Freddie, and Frank and

Elizabeth for their time and love for St. Theresa. Our Finance Committee and Offertory Counting Team provide wonderful support to our parish.

THE FAMILY IN GOD'S PLAN

The nature of the family: The conjugal community is established upon the consent of the spouses. Marriage and the family are ordered to the good of the spouses and to the procreation and education of children. The love of the spouses and the begetting of children create among members of the same family personal relationships and primordial responsibilities. A man and a woman united in marriage, together with their children, form a family. This institution is prior to any recognition by public authority, which has an obligation to recognize it. It should be considered the normal reference point by which the different forms of family relationship are to be evaluated. In creating man and woman, God instituted the human family and endowed it with its fundamental constitution. Its members are persons equal in dignity. For the common good of its members and of society, the family necessarily has manifold responsibilities, rights, and duties. (CCC 2201-2203)

THE FAMILY AND SOCIETY

The family is the original cell of social life. It is the natural society in which husband and wife are called to give themselves in love and in the gift of life. Authority, stability, and a life of relationships within the family constitute the foundations for freedom, security, and fraternity within society. The family is the community in which, from childhood, one can learn moral values, begin to honor God, and make good use of freedom. Family life is an initiation into life in society.

The family should live in such a way that its members learn to care and take responsibility for the young, the old, the sick, the handicapped, and the poor. There are many families who are at times incapable of providing this help. It devolves then on other persons, other families, and, in a subsidiary way, society to provide for their needs: "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction and to keep oneself unstained from the world." The family must be helped and defended by appropriate social measures. Where families cannot fulfill their responsibilities; other social bodies have the duty of helping them and of

supporting the institution of the family. Following the principle of subsidiarity, larger communities should take care not to usurp the family's prerogatives or interfere in its life. The importance of the family for the life and well-being of society entails a particular responsibility for society to support and strengthen marriage and the family. Civil authority should consider it a grave duty "to acknowledge the true nature of marriage and the family, to protect and foster them, to safeguard public morality, and promote domestic prosperity." (CCC 2207-2210)

THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT: Honor your father and your mother...



The Lord Jesus himself recalled the force of this "commandment of God." The Apostle teaches: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother,' (This is the first commandment with a promise.) 'that it may be well with you and that you may live long on the earth.'"

The fourth commandment opens the second table of the Decalogue. It shows us the order of charity. God has willed that, after him, we should honor our parents to whom we owe life and who have handed on to us the knowledge of God. We are obliged to honor and respect all those whom God, for our good, has vested with his authority. This commandment is expressed in positive terms of duties to be fulfilled. It introduces the subsequent commandments which are concerned with particular respect for life, marriage, earthly goods, and speech. It constitutes one of the foundations of the

social doctrine of the Church. The fourth commandment is addressed expressly to children in their relationship to their father and mother, because this relationship is the most universal. It likewise concerns the ties of kinship between members of the extended family. It requires honor, affection, and gratitude toward elders and ancestors. Finally, it extends to the duties of pupils to teachers, employees to employers, subordinates to leaders, citizens to their country, and to those who administer or govern it. This commandment includes and presupposes the duties of parents, instructors, teachers, leaders, magistrates, those who govern, all who exercise authority over others or over a community of persons. Observing the fourth commandment brings its reward: "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land which the LORD your God gives you."⁸ Respecting this commandment provides, along with spiritual fruits, temporal fruits of peace and prosperity. Conversely, failure to observe it brings great harm to communities and to individuals. (CCC 2197-2200)

