

## 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>

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

“I have baptized you with water;  
he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”



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

### Mass Times for The Second Sunday of Advent and the Second Week of Advent.

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

December 11 Monday Mass 8:00 am  
Advent Weekday

Intention: + Vince Derencius

December 14 Thursday Mass 8:00 am  
St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of Church – Mem.

Intention: + Ramona Derencius

December 15 Friday Adoration 7:00 am – 8:00 am  
Advent Weekday      Mass 8:00 am

Intention: + Andrzej Ciesla

December 16 Saturday Vigil Mass 5:00 pm  
Third Sunday of Advent

Intention: The Derencius Family  
Reader: Rose

December 17 Sunday Mass 9:00 am  
Third Sunday of Advent

Intention: + Albert & Frances Ciesla  
Reader: Christina

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

**Advent Parish Confessions:** On Monday December 18, the sacrament of reconciliation will be available. From 5:00 pm until all have been heard. Please enter the Church and be seated on the side closest to the parking lot. Advent is a good time to examine our lives in detail, resolve to change what needs to be changed, and to use the grace available through the sacrament of reconciliation to transform our lives.

**"Advent is the spiritual season of hope par excellence, and in this season, the whole Church is called to be hope, for itself and for the world." - Pope Benedict XVI**



**Happy 52<sup>nd</sup> Wedding Anniversary to Patricia (Pat) & Steve Bertrand!**  
Their anniversary is on December 19.  
May God continue to bless you as a couple.



### **Christmas Mass Schedule – Holy Day of Obligation and our Sunday Obligation**

**Holy Day of Obligation:** Monday, December 25 is a Holy Day of Obligation for the Nativity of the Lord. This year we have our Sunday Mass obligation *and* our Holy Day of Obligation for Christmas. Attending Mass on Christmas **does not** satisfy our Sunday Mass obligation as Catholics.

**Saturday December 23**

**5:00 pm Sunday Vigil Mass**

**Sunday December 24**

**9:00 am Sunday Mass**

#### **Christmas Mass Schedule:**

**Midnight Christmas Mass**

**Monday December 25**

**9:00 am Christmas Mass**

**11:00 am Christmas Mass**

**"There are two births of Christ, one unto the world in Bethlehem; the other in the soul, when it is spiritually reborn. Men think of the former much more than the later, and celebrate it every year; but the spiritual Bethlehem is equally momentous. . . . It was the second birth that Saint Paul insisted on when he wrote from prison to his beloved people, the Ephesians, asking that Christ may dwell in their hearts by faith and that they be rooted and grounded in love. This is the second Bethlehem, or the personal relationship of the individual heart to the Lord Christ." – Ven. Fulton Sheen**

**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.

**"God walks into your soul with silent step. God comes to you more than you go to Him. Never will his coming be what you expect, and yet never will it disappoint. The more you respond to his gentle pressure, the greater will be your freedom." – Ven. Fulton Sheen**

**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
<b>CSA for 2023</b>	<b>Goal</b>	<b>Pledged</b>	<b>Received</b>	
	\$ 3385	\$ 6896	\$ 6431	

**"It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope." - Pope Benedict XVI**

**THE MYSTERIES OF JESUS' INFANCY AND HIDDEN LIFE**

**The preparations:** The coming of God's Son to earth is an event of such immensity that God willed to prepare for it over centuries. He makes everything converge on Christ: all the rituals and sacrifices, figures and symbols of the "First Covenant". He announces him through the mouths of the prophets who succeeded one another in Israel. Moreover, he awakens in the hearts of the pagans a dim expectation of this coming.



St. John the Baptist is the Lord's immediate precursor or forerunner, sent to prepare his way. "Prophet of the Most High", John surpasses all the prophets, of whom he is the last. He inaugurates the Gospel, already from his mother's womb welcomes the coming of Christ, and rejoices in being "the friend of the bridegroom", whom he points out as "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world". Going before Jesus "in the spirit and power of Elijah", John bears witness to Christ in his preaching, by his Baptism of conversion, and through his martyrdom.

When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming. By celebrating the precursor's birth and martyrdom, the Church unites herself to his desire: "He must increase, but I must decrease."  
 (CCC 522 – 524)

**Advent is patience, it is how God has made us a people of promise, in a world of impatience." - Stanley Hauerwas**

