

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>

“There is no higher dignity than to serve Christ.” - St. Ambrose

“Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man.”



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.

November 30 Saturday Vigil Mass 5:00 pm
First Sunday of Advent

Intention: + Lilijen Mateja
Reader: Kate

December 1 Sunday Mass 9:00 am
First Sunday of Advent

Int: + Stanislaw Bartulica & Parents
Reader: Mark

December 2 Monday Mass 8:00 am
Advent Weekday

Intention: The Vestiarki Sisters of Jesus

December 5 Thursday Mass 8:00 am
Advent Weekday

Intention: + Dolores M. Moody

December 6 Friday Adoration 7:00am to 8:00 am
Advent Weekday Mass 8:00 am

Intention: Dolores Pulanecki

December 7 Saturday Vigil Mass 5:00 pm
Second Sunday of Advent

Int: + Stanislaw & Aleksandra Obrochta
Reader: Veronica

December 8 Sunday Mass 9:00 am
Second Sunday of Advent

Intention: + Frank Biela
Reader: Christina



Parish Breakfast: After the 9 am Mass on Sunday December 8 everyone is invited to the Parish Hall to strengthen our parish community through conversation and food. I would encourage everyone to be there regardless of which Mass you attend. To say “Hello” to your established friends and to make new ones. St. Theresa is a parish filled with interesting people and it is a blessing to be able to meet each other in a relaxed setting!





The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary:

The Immaculate Conception of the BVM on Sunday, December 8th is transferred to Monday December 9 this year.

It **IS NOT** a Holy Day of Obligation in 2024.

Our Mass will be Monday December 9th at 8:00 am.

“God walks into your soul with silent steps. 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

Advent Parish Penance Service: On Monday December 16th, the sacrament of reconciliation will be available in the Church. From 4:00 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.

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 Alvera Seluga, Lidia Kraj, David Hilty, John Oakley, Larry Arnold, Susan & David Estes, Gerry Sott, Cathy Andrews, Stanley & Jadwiga Kuc, Ralph Rowbotham, Jennifer Nason, Mrs. Maria Doniec, Bob & Sonia Burke, Joana Macijauskas, Mrs. Hella Tompkins, Mrs. Ann Ivers, Albina Vysniauskas, Vida Nakas, 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.

**“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**

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."

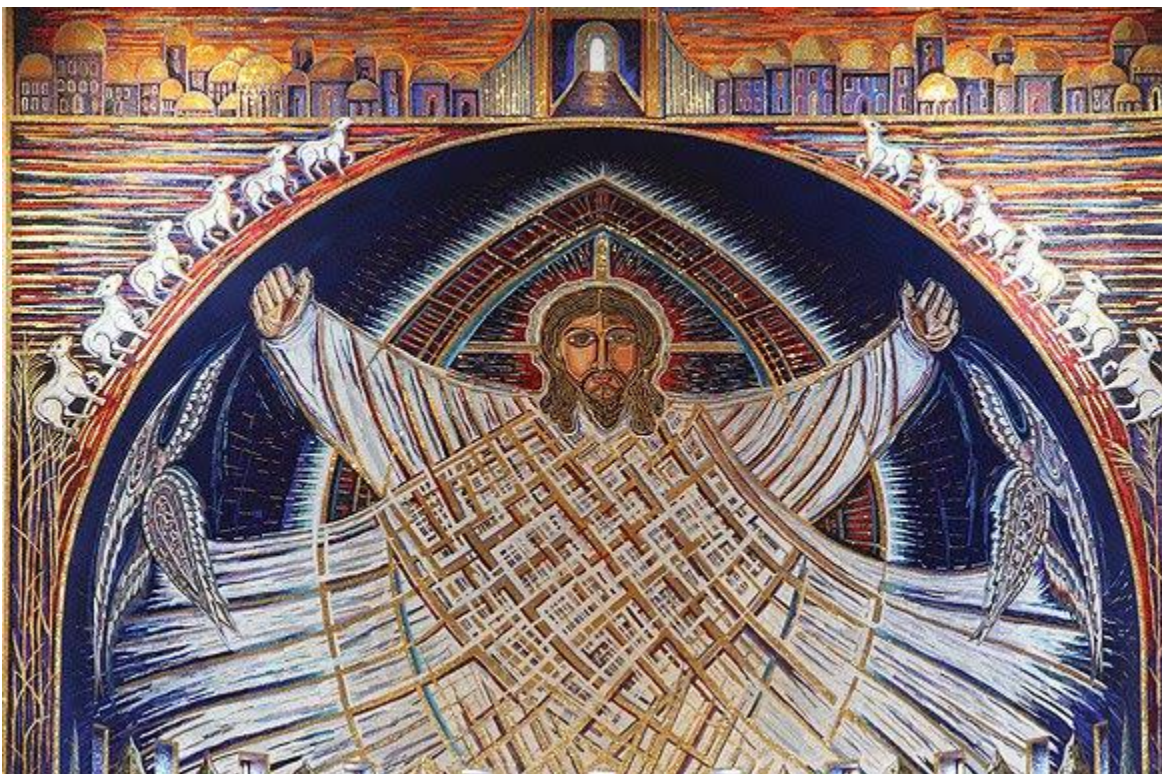
Jesus entrusted the ministry of reconciliation to the Church. The Sacrament of Penance is God's gift to us so that any sin committed after Baptism can be forgiven. In confession we have the opportunity to repent and recover the grace of friendship with God. It is a holy moment in which we place ourselves 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

"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

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!' "

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*." (CCC 2729-2730 & 2732)



**“Wake up, O human being! For it was for you that God was made man.
Rise up and realize it was all for you.**

Eternal death would have awaited you had He not been born in time.

Never would you be freed from your sinful flesh had

He not taken to Himself the likeness of sinful flesh.

Everlasting would be your misery had He not performed this act of mercy.

You would not have come to life again had He not come to die your death.

You would have perished had He not come.”

– St. Augustine

We thank our parishioners and guests for their continued generosity.

St. Theresa Offertory	Oct. 2024	Oct. 2023	Total for This FY (July 2024 – Oct. 2024)	Total for Prior FY (July 2023 – Oct. 2023)
	\$ 5109	\$ 7716	\$ 28591	\$ 30305
CSA for 2024	Goal	Pledged	Received	
	\$ 7000	\$ 8480	\$ 8355	

“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. John Paul II

