

# ST. THERESA CATHOLIC CHURCH – Sunny Hills

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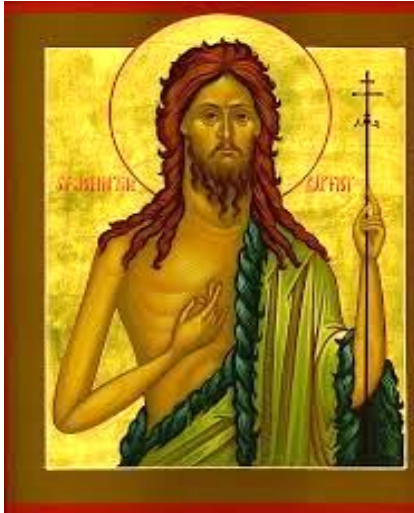
Please remember to leave a message when you call our Office or Emergency lines.

Email: [moodyp@clergy.ptdiocese.org](mailto:moodyp@clergy.ptdiocese.org)

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



**“Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.”**



## Mass Times for The Second Sunday of Advent, The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the Second Week of Advent.

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

December 9 Monday Mass 8:00 am  
The Immaculate Conception of the BVM

Intention: + Janet Rzonca



December 12 Thursday Mass 8:00 am    Intention: + Helena Rokosz  
Our Lady of Guadalupe - Feast



December 13 Friday Adoration 7:00am - 8:00 am  
St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr – Mem.  
Mass - 8:00 am

Int: Konefal & Rokosz Families

December 14 Saturday Vigil Mass 5:00 pm  
Third Sunday of Advent

Intention: Jadwiga & Stanislaw Kuc  
Reader: Kate

December 15 Sunday Masses 9:00 am  
Third Sunday of Advent

Intention: + Albert & Frances Ciesla  
Reader: Veronica



**Parish Breakfast:** After the 9 am Mass today 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 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am.

**Advent Parish Confessions:** On Monday December 16, the sacrament of reconciliation will be available. 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.

“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



**Thank you to everyone who has volunteered their time and talent for the good of St. Theresa. The Offertory counting team, the Finance Committee, the Readers, the Ushers, those who provide our monthly Parish Breakfast, those who decorate, clean, and tend to our buildings and grounds are a great blessing to our parish family.**

**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 Paul Day, 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.

“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

**Holy Day of Obligation:** Wednesday, December 25 is a Holy Day of Obligation for the Nativity of the Lord.

**Christmas Mass Schedule: Tuesday December 24                      Midnight Mass**

**Wednesday December 25                      9:00 am**

**We thank our parishioners and guests for their continued generosity.**

St. Theresa Offertory	Nov. 2024	Nov. 2023	Total for This FY (July 2024 – Nov. 2024)	Total for Prior FY (July 2023 – Nov. 2023)
	\$ 5033	\$ 5454	\$ 35624	\$ 40069
<b>CSA for 2024</b>	<b>Goal</b>	<b>Pledged</b>	<b>Received</b>	
	<b>\$ 7000</b>	<b>\$ 8480</b>	<b>\$ 8355</b>	

"This important Marian feast occurs during Advent, a season of watchful and prayerful preparation for Christmas. She who knew better than anyone how to wait attentively for the Lord guides us and shows us how to make more vital and active our journey to the Holy Night of Bethlehem. With her, we spend these weeks in prayer and, guided by her bright star, hasten to make the spiritual journey that will lead us to celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation with greater intensity." - Pope St. John Paul II

**Expectation of the Messiah and his Spirit:** "Behold, I am doing a new thing." Two prophetic lines were to develop, one leading to the expectation of the Messiah, the other pointing to the announcement of a new Spirit. They converge in the small Remnant, the people of the poor, who await in hope the "consolation of Israel" and "the redemption of Jerusalem."

We have seen earlier how Jesus fulfills the prophecies concerning himself. We limit ourselves here to those in which the relationship of the Messiah and his Spirit appears more clearly.

The characteristics of the awaited Messiah begin to appear in the "Book of Emmanuel" ("Isaiah said this when he saw his glory," speaking of Christ), especially in the first two verses of Isaiah 11:

"There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.  
And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD."

The Messiah's characteristics are revealed above all in the "Servant songs." These songs proclaim the meaning of Jesus' Passion and show how he will pour out the Holy Spirit to give life to the many: not as an outsider, but by embracing our "form as slave." Taking our death upon himself, he can communicate to us his own Spirit of life.

This is why Christ inaugurates the proclamation of the Good News by making his own the following passage from Isaiah:

"The Spirit of the LORD God is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me  
to bring good tidings to the afflicted;  
he has sent me to bind up the broken hearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;  
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor."

The prophetic texts that directly concern the sending of the Holy Spirit are oracles by which God speaks to the heart of his people in the language of the promise, with the accents of "love and fidelity." St. Peter will proclaim their fulfillment on the morning of Pentecost. According to these promises, at the "end time" the Lord's Spirit will renew the hearts of men, engraving a new law in them. He will gather and reconcile the scattered and divided peoples; he will transform the first creation, and God will dwell there with men in peace.

The People of the "poor" - those who, humble and meek, rely solely on their God's mysterious plans, who await the justice, not of men but of the Messiah - are in the end the great achievement of the Holy Spirit's hidden mission during the time of the promises that prepare for Christ's coming. It is this quality of heart, purified and enlightened by the Spirit, which is expressed in the Psalms. In these poor, the Spirit is making ready "a people prepared for the Lord."

**John, precursor, prophet, and baptist:** "There was a man sent from God, whose name was John." John was "filled with the Holy Spirit even from his mother's womb" by Christ himself, whom the Virgin Mary had just conceived by the Holy Spirit. Mary's visitation to Elizabeth thus became a visit from God to his people.

John is "Elijah [who] must come." The fire of the Spirit dwells in him and makes him the forerunner of the coming Lord. In John, the precursor, the Holy Spirit completes the work of "[making] ready a people prepared for the Lord."

John the Baptist is "more than a prophet." In him, the Holy Spirit concludes his speaking through the prophets. John completes the cycle of prophets begun by Elijah. He proclaims the imminence of the consolation of Israel; he is the "voice" of the Consoler who is coming. As the Spirit of truth will

also do, John "came to bear witness to the light." In John's sight, the Spirit thus brings to completion the careful search of the prophets and fulfills the longing of the angels. "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit. And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God. . . . Behold, the Lamb of God."

Finally, with John the Baptist, the Holy Spirit begins the restoration to man of "the divine likeness," prefiguring what he would achieve with and in Christ. John's baptism was for repentance; baptism in water and the Spirit will be a new birth. [CCC 711-720]

