

ST. THERESA CATHOLIC CHURCH – Sunny Hills

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“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, The Octave of Christmas, and The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

December 28 Saturday Vigil Mass 5:00 pm
The Holy Family

Intention: Catherine Andrews
Reader: Mark

December 29 Sunday Masses 9:00 am
The Holy Family



Intention: Hai & Luong Nguyen
Reader: Christina

December 30 Monday Mass 8:00 am
Sixth Day of the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

Int: + Julia & Wladyslaw Gliszczynski

December 31 Tuesday Mass 6:00 pm
Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Intention: + Hella Tompkins
Reader: Kate

January 1 Wednesday Mass 8:00 am
Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Intention: The Family of John Ciesla
Reader: Mark

January 2 Thursday Mass 8:00 am
Sts. Basil & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors of the Church – Mem.

Int: Thanksgiving for Prayers Answered

January 3 Friday Adoration 7:00 am – 8:00 am
Most Holy Name of Jesus - Memorial Mass 8:00 am

Intention: + Marianna Hamilton

January 4 Saturday Vigil Mass 5:00 pm
The Epiphany of the Lord

Intention: + Brone Nakas
Reader: Veronica

January 5 Sunday Mass 9:00 am
The Epiphany of the Lord

Int: Thanksgiving for Prayers Answered
Reader: Mark

As Catholics we believe the sacrament of marriage is a bond freely formed in love by a man and a woman for their mutual benefit and for the good of the children they may have. At St. Theresa we are blessed to have many faithful couples who have made the challenging work of marriage last for decades. We congratulate all couples on their Wedding Anniversaries!

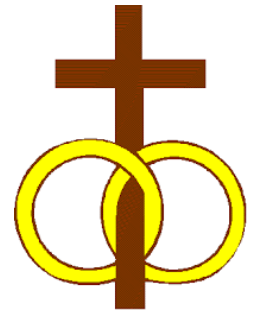


Happy Anniversary



Chúc mừng kỷ niệm

**Hai and Luong Nguyen
are celebrating their 46th
Wedding Anniversary
on December 30th.**



“To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often.” – St John Henry Newman

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 and Brian Paridon as they risk their lives to keep us safe.



There are special prayer requests for Sr. Anna Szostek, Ed Lang, 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. 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



I would like to thank all of the Parishioners of St Theresa and our guests for their prayers, best wishes, 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



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.



Offertory: 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
CSA for 2024	Goal	Pledged	Received	
	\$ 7000	\$ 8355	\$ 8355	

The mysteries of Jesus' hidden life: During the greater part of his life Jesus shared the condition of the vast majority of human beings: a daily life spent without evident greatness, a life of



manual labor. His religious life was that of a Jew obedient to the law of God, a life in the community. From this whole period it is revealed to us that Jesus was "obedient" to his parents and that he "increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man."

Jesus' obedience to his mother and legal father fulfills the fourth commandment perfectly and was the temporal image of his filial obedience to his Father in heaven. The everyday obedience of Jesus to Joseph and Mary both announced and anticipated the obedience of Holy Thursday: "Not my will. . ." The obedience of Christ in the daily routine of his hidden life was already inaugurating his work of restoring what the disobedience of Adam had destroyed.

The hidden life at Nazareth allows everyone to enter into fellowship with Jesus by the most ordinary events of daily life:

"The home of Nazareth is the school where we begin to understand the life of Jesus - the school

of the Gospel. First, then, a lesson of silence. May esteem for *silence*, that admirable and indispensable condition of mind, revive in us. . . A lesson on *family life*. May Nazareth teach us what family life is, its communion of love, its austere and simple beauty, and its sacred and inviolable character. . . A lesson of *work*. Nazareth, home of the "Carpenter's Son", in you I would choose to understand and proclaim the severe and redeeming law of human work. . . To conclude, I want to greet all the workers of the world, holding up to them their great pattern their brother who is God."

The *finding of Jesus in the temple* is the only event that breaks the silence of the Gospels about the hidden years of Jesus. Here Jesus lets us catch a glimpse of the mystery of his total consecration to a mission that flows from his divine sonship: "Did you not know that I must be about my Father's work?" Mary and Joseph did not understand these words, but they accepted them in faith. Mary "kept all these things in her heart" during the years Jesus remained hidden in the silence of an ordinary life. [CCC 531-534]

THE DUTIES OF FAMILY MEMBERS

The duties of children: The divine fatherhood is the source of human fatherhood; this is the foundation of the honor owed to parents. The respect of children, whether minors or adults, for their father and mother is nourished by the natural affection born of the bond uniting them. It is required by God's commandment.

Respect for parents (*filial piety*) derives from *gratitude* toward those who, by the gift of life, their love and their work, have brought their children into the world and enabled them to grow in stature, wisdom, and grace. "With all your heart honor your father, and do not forget the birth pangs of your mother. Remember that through your parents you were born; what can you give back to them that equals their gift to you?"

Filial respect is shown by true docility and *obedience*. "My son, keep your father's commandment, and forsake not your mother's teaching. . . . When you walk, they will lead you; when you lie down, they will watch over you; and when you awake, they will talk with you."²⁰ "A wise son hears his father's instruction, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke."

"As long as a child lives at home with his parents, the child should obey his parents in all that they ask of him when it is for his good or that of the family. "Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord." Children should also obey the reasonable directions of their teachers and all to whom their parents have entrusted them. But if a child is convinced in conscience that it would be morally wrong to obey a particular order, he must not do so."

As they grow up, children should continue to respect their parents. They should anticipate their wishes, willingly seek their advice, and accept their just admonitions. Obedience toward parents ceases with the emancipation of the children; not so respect, which is always owed to them. This respect has its roots in the fear of God, one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The fourth commandment reminds grown children of their *responsibilities toward their parents*. As much as they can, they must give them material and moral support in old age and in times of illness, loneliness, or distress. Jesus recalls this duty of gratitude.

“For the Lord honored the father above the children, and he confirmed the right of the mother over her sons. Whoever honors his father atones for sins, and whoever glorifies his mother is like one who lays up treasure. Whoever honors his father will be gladdened by his own children, and when he prays he will be heard. Whoever glorifies his father will have long life, and whoever obeys the Lord will refresh his mother.”

“O son, help your father in his old age, and do not grieve him as long as he lives; even if he is lacking in understanding, show forbearance; in all your strength do not despise him. . . . Whoever forsakes his father is like a blasphemer, and whoever angers his mother is cursed by the Lord.”

Filial respect promotes harmony in all of family life; it also concerns *relationships between brothers and sisters*. Respect toward parents fills the home with light and warmth. "Grandchildren are the crown of the aged." "With all humility and meekness, with patience, [support] one another in charity." For Christians a special gratitude is due to those from whom they have received the gift of faith, the grace of Baptism, and life in the Church. These may include parents, grandparents, other members of the family, pastors, catechists, and other teachers or friends. "I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you."

The duties of parents: The fecundity of conjugal love cannot be reduced solely to the procreation of children, but must extend to their moral education and their spiritual formation. "The *role of parents in education* is of such importance that it is almost impossible to provide an adequate substitute." The right and the duty of parents to educate their children are primordial and inalienable.

Parents must regard their children as *children of God* and respect them as *human persons*. Showing themselves obedient to the will of the Father in heaven, they educate their children to fulfill God's law.

Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. They bear witness to this responsibility first by *creating a home* where tenderness, forgiveness, respect, fidelity, and disinterested service are the rule. The home is well suited for *education in the virtues*. This requires an apprenticeship in self-denial, sound judgment, and self-mastery - the preconditions of all true freedom. Parents should teach their children to subordinate the "material and instinctual dimensions to interior and spiritual ones." Parents have a grave responsibility to give good example to their children. By knowing how to acknowledge their own failings to their children, parents will be better able to guide and correct them:

“He who loves his son will not spare the rod. . . . He who disciplines his son will profit by him.”

“Fathers do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”

The home is the natural environment for initiating a human being into solidarity and communal responsibilities. Parents should teach children to avoid the compromising and degrading influences which threaten human societies.

Through the grace of the sacrament of marriage, parents receive the responsibility and privilege of *evangelizing their children*. Parents should initiate their children at an early age into the mysteries of the faith of which they are the "first heralds" for their children. They should associate them from their tenderest years with the life of the Church. A wholesome family life can foster interior dispositions that are a genuine preparation for a living faith and remain a support for it throughout one's life.

Education in the faith by the parents should begin in the child's earliest years. This already happens when family members help one another to grow in faith by the witness of a Christian life in keeping with the Gospel. Family catechesis precedes, accompanies, and enriches other forms of instruction in the faith. Parents have the mission of teaching their children to pray and to discover their vocation as children of God. The parish is the Eucharistic community and the heart of the liturgical life of Christian families; it is a privileged place for the catechesis of children and parents.

Children in turn contribute to the *growth in holiness* of their parents. Each and every one should be generous and tireless in forgiving one another for offenses, quarrels, injustices, and neglect. Mutual affection suggests this. The charity of Christ demands it.

Parents' respect and affection are expressed by the care and attention they devote to bringing up their young children and *providing for their physical and spiritual needs*. As the children grow up, the same respect and devotion lead parents to educate them in the right use of their reason and freedom. As those first responsible for the education of their children, parents have the right

to *choose a school for them* which corresponds to their own convictions. This right is fundamental. As far as possible parents have the duty of choosing schools that will best help them in their task as Christian educators. Public authorities have the duty of guaranteeing this parental right and of ensuring the concrete conditions for its exercise.

When they become adults, children have the right and duty to *choose their profession and state of life*. They should assume their new responsibilities within a trusting relationship with their parents, willingly asking and receiving their advice and counsel. Parents should be careful not to exert pressure on their children either in the choice of a profession or in that of a spouse. This necessary restraint does not prevent them - quite the contrary - from giving their children judicious advice, particularly when they are planning to start a family.

Some forgo marriage in order to care for their parents or brothers and sisters, to give themselves more completely to a profession, or to serve other honorable ends. They can contribute greatly to the good of the human family.

THE FAMILY AND THE KINGDOM : Family ties are important but not absolute. Just as the child grows to maturity and human and spiritual autonomy, so his unique vocation which comes from God asserts itself more clearly and forcefully. Parents should respect this call and encourage their children to follow it. They must be convinced that the first vocation of the Christian is to *follow Jesus*: "He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me."

Becoming a disciple of Jesus means accepting the invitation to belong to *God's family*, to live in conformity with His way of life: "For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother, and sister, and mother."

Parents should welcome and respect with joy and thanksgiving the Lord's call to one of their children to follow him in virginity for the sake of the Kingdom in the consecrated life or in priestly ministry.

[CCC 2214-2233]

