St. Theresa Catholic Church

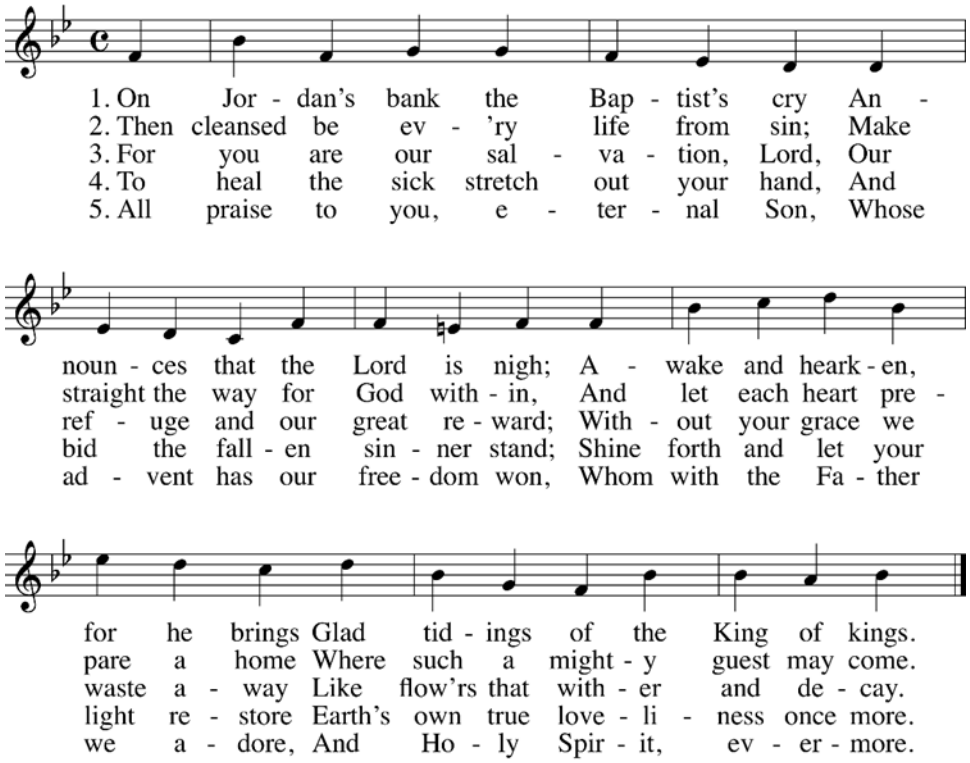
Worship Aid and Bulletin / December 12 2021

Choral Trio — *Lift Thine Eyes* from *Elijah,* Mendelssohn (Kim Sandoval, Sylvia Casper, Amber-Nicole McIntire)

Organ Prelude – *Magnificat,* Marcel Dupre

Introductory Rites

Processional Hymn – *On Jordan's Bank* ***Please stand***



Text: *Jordanis oras praevia*; Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. by John Chandler, 1806–1876, alt.
Tune: WINCHESTER NEW, LM; adapt. from *Musikalisches Handbuch*, Hamburg, 1690

Invocation

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Lord Have Mercy — *Kyrie* from *Missa Lauda Sion,* Palestrina, arr. Stevens

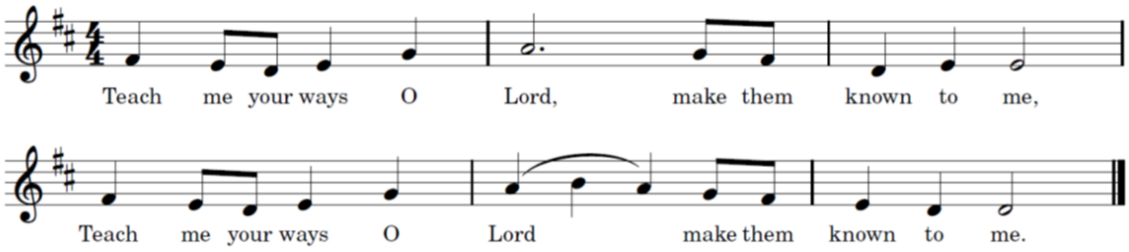
Sung: **Kyrie Eleison,**
Christe Eleison,
Kyrie Eleison

Collect

Please sit

The Liturgy *of the* Word

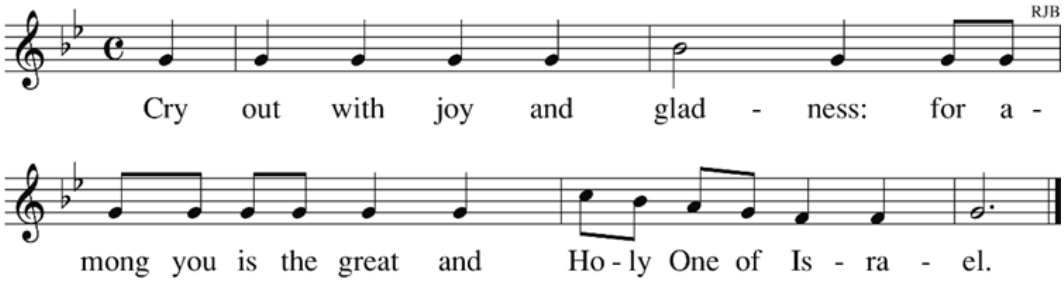
Children's Liturgy of the Word (Sun, 9:00) — *Teach Me Your Ways O Lord,* Stevens/Henderson



First Reading – *Zephaniah 3:14-18a*

Shout for joy, O daughter Zion! Sing joyfully, O Israel! Be glad and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has removed the judgment against you, he has turned away your enemies; the King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst, you have no further misfortune to fear. On that day, it shall be said to Jerusalem: Fear not, O Zion, be not discouraged! The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior; he will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love, he will sing joyfully because of you, as one sings at festivals.

Responsorial Psalm – *Isaiah 12:2-6*



Truly, God is my salvation,
I trust, I shall not fear.
For the Lord is my strength, my song,
he became my savior.
With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation. ℟.

Give thanks to the Lord,
give praise to his name!
Make his mighty deeds
known to the peoples!
Declare the greatness of his name,
sing a psalm to the Lord! ℟.

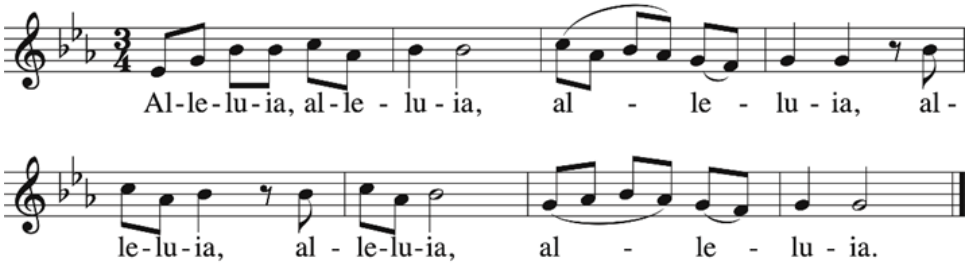
For he has done glorious deeds,
make them known to all the earth!
People of Zion,
sing and shout for joy
for great in your midst
is the Holy One of Israel. ℟.

Text: Verses © 1963, The Grail, GIA Publications, Inc., agent; Refrain, *Lectionary for Mass*, © 1969, 1981, 1997, ICEL
Music: Robert. J. Batastini, © 1986, GIA Publications, Inc.

Second Reading – *Philippians 4:4-7*

Brothers and sisters: Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Alleluia – *Isaiah 61:1 (cited in Luke 4:18)* ***Please stand***



Music: *Missa de Lumine*, Kathleen Demny and Carol Browning, © 2021 GIA Publications, Inc.

Verse: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.

Gospel – *Luke 3:10-18*

The crowds asked John the Baptist, "What should we do?" He said to them in reply, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized and they said to him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He answered them, "Stop collecting more than what is prescribed." Soldiers also asked him, "And what is it that we should do?" He told them, "Do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone, and be satisfied with your wages."

Now the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Exhorting them in many other ways, he preached good news to the people.

Homily ***Please sit***

Nicene Creed ***Please stand***

I believe in one God, the Father
almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation he came
down from heaven,
(All bow for the following words)
and by the Holy Spirit
was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius
Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with
the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the Faithful

Announcements ***Please sit***

THE LITURGY *of the* EUCHARIST

Preparation of the Gifts

Offertory Anthem *There Is No Rose of Such Virtue,* Robert H. Young (Sat, 5 PM and Sun, 11 AM)
Of the Father's Love Begotten, arr. Christopher Walker (Sun, 9 AM)

Invitation to Prayer

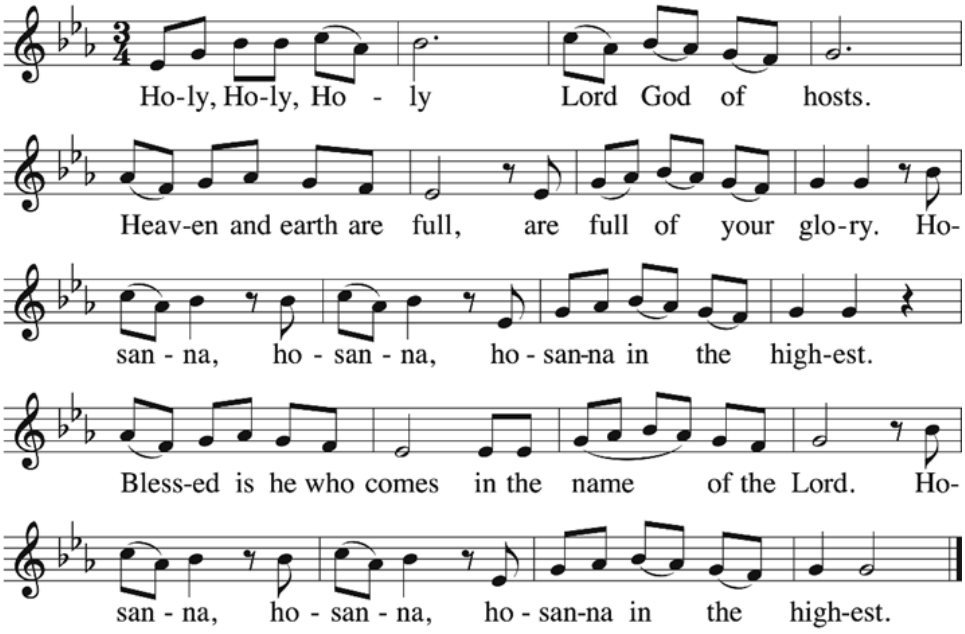
Please stand

Priest: Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

Assembly: **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

Prayer over the Offerings

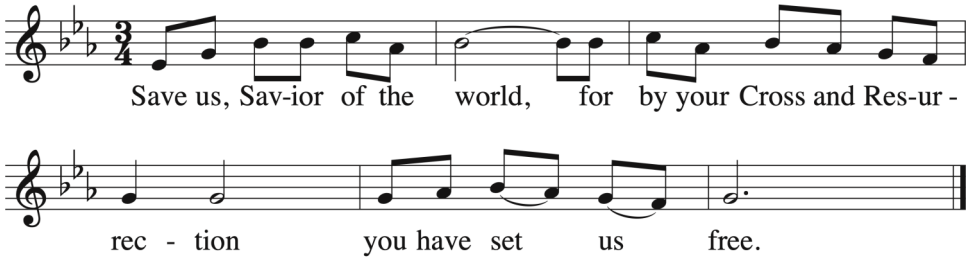
Holy, Holy, Holy — *Missa de Lumine*, Demny



Text: ICEL, © 2010
Music: *Missa de Lumine*, Kathleen Demny and Carol Browning, © 2021 GIA Publications, Inc.

Please kneel or be seated

Mystery of Faith — *Missa de Lumine*, Demny



Text: ICEL, © 2010
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Great Amen — *chant*

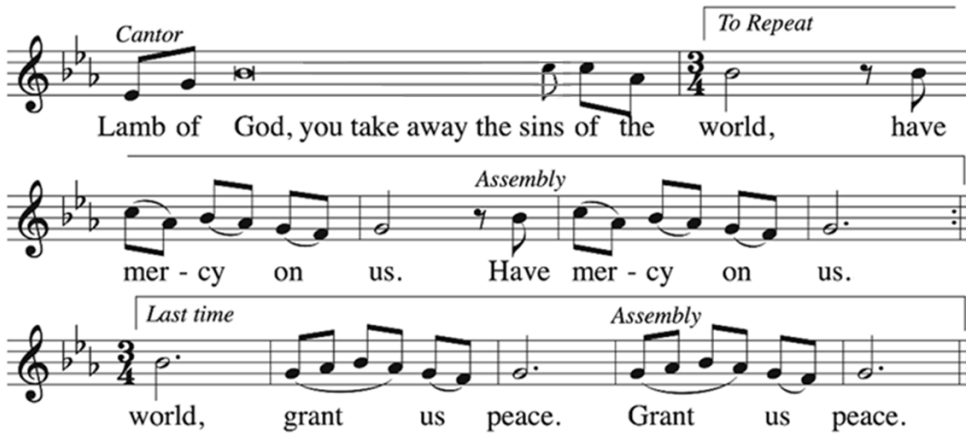
Please stand

The Communion Rite

Lord's Prayer

Sign of Peace

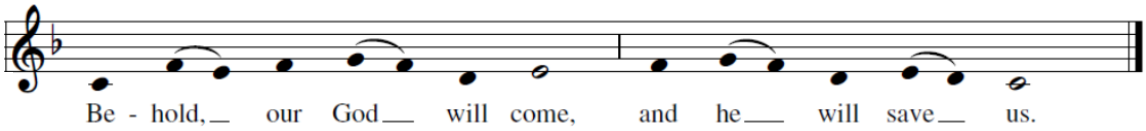
Lamb of God—*Missa de Lumine*, Demny



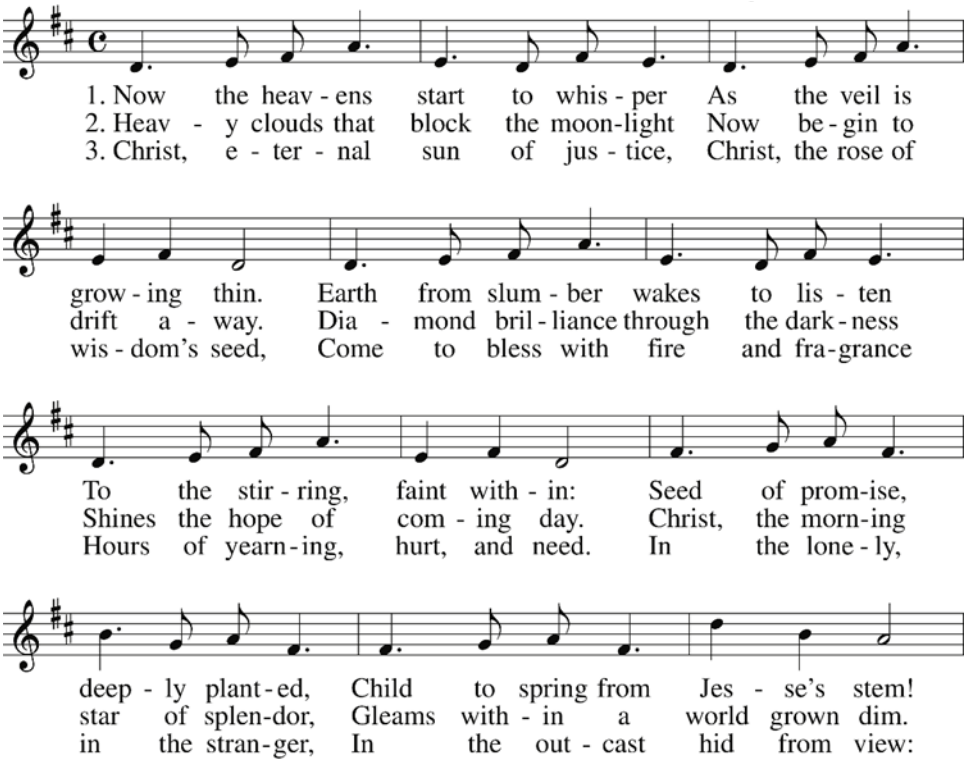
Music: *Missa de Lumine*, Kathleen Demny and Carol Browning, © 2021 GIA Publications, Inc.

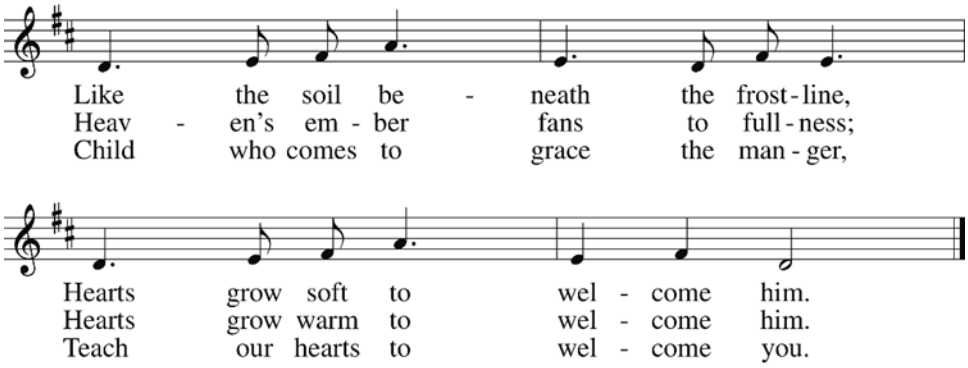
Please kneel as you are able

Communion Antiphon – *St. Meinrad Communion Antiphon,* Columba Kelly, OSB



Communion Hymn—*Now the Heavens Start to Whisper*



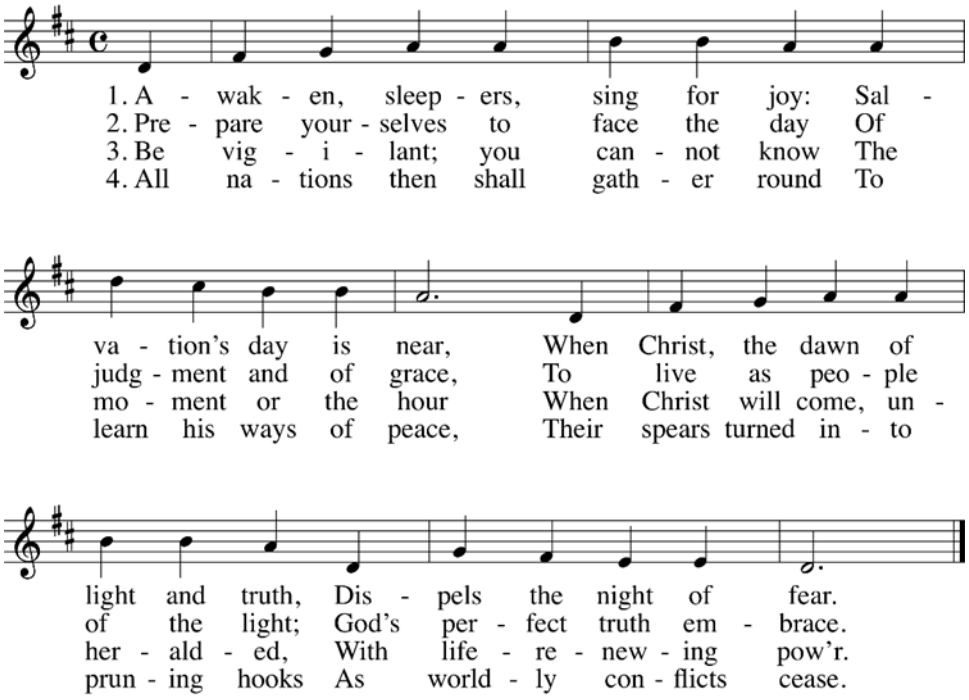


Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b.1953, © 2006, GIA Publications, Inc.
Tune: SUO GAN, 8 7 8 7 D; Welsh melody; arr. by Nicholas Palmer, b.1963

Prayer after Communion

THE CONCLUDING RITES

Hymn of Thanksgiving – *Awaken, Sleepers*



Text: Michael Forster, b.1946, alt., © 1993, Kevin Mayhew, Ltd
Tune: TALLIS' ORDINAL, CM; Thomas Tallis, c. 1505–1585

Blessing and Dismissal

Organ Postlude - Chorale Prelude on *Helmsley*, Andrew Lloyd Webber

Antiphons *– Text: Psalm texts from The Revised Grail Psalms © 2010, Conception Abbey/The Grail, administered by GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Music: Antiphon and Congregational Refrain settings by Columba Kelly, OSB, Saint Meinrad Archabbey © 2012, 2014; Psalm tones © 1973, 1993, Saint Meinrad Archabbey. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.*
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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MASS AND THE SACRAMENTS

WELCOME to St. Theresa Parish! We are glad you are here and want to walk with you no matter where you are on your journey of faith.

Rev. Larry Covington, *Pastor*
Rev. Moses Iyogwoya MSP, *Parochial Vicar*

MASS TIMES
Monday—Friday | 11:30 AM
Saturday | 5:00 PM
Sunday | 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM*, 11:00 AM
**This mass will be livestreamed.*

RECONCILIATION
Saturday 4:00—4:45 p.m. or by appointment

OFFICE HOURS
Mon—Friday | 9 AM—5 PM **| 512-451-5121**

BAPTISM—Contact Donna Henderson, parish secretary. (x1002)

MARRIAGE— Contact Kari Cruz (x1006) at least six months in advance of the wedding.

FUNERALS—Contact Kari Cruz (x1006) for arrangements.

BECOMING CATHOLIC— Contact Amy Allert (x1008).

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sun, 12/12	Advent Outreach Collection, Narthex Bethlehem wood carvings sale after Masses KofC Nut Sales after Masses Cornerstone, 10:15 a.m., Family Center Children's Catechesis, 10:15 a.m, Elmer Hall M.S. & H.S. Youth Groups, 6 p.m.
Mon, 12/13	Sr. Adult Monday Matinee, *It's a Wonderful Life,* 2:30 p.m., Family Center
Tues, 12/14	Sr. Adult Book Club, 1pm, Elmer, Rm. 201 Connections Women, 7pm, Family Center St. Theresa Mom's, Endow study, 8:30 p.m.
Wed, 12/15	Catalyst Men, 6 a.m., Family Center Bridge Club, 12:30 p.m., Family Center Children's Catechesis, 4:15 p.m., Elmer
Thur, 12/16	Adult Bible Study, 9:15 a.m., Elmer, Rm. 202 Masterworks Choir Rehearsal, 7pm, church
Sat, 12/18	Advent Outreach Collection, Narthex
Sun, 12/19	Christmas Decorating Party, 5pm, church

DAILY READINGS AND MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 11
Saint Damasus I, Pope
Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19
Mt 17:9a, 10-13
5:00 p.m.……...……Walter Tacquard, III

Sunday, December 12
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Zep 3:14-18a (Ps) Is 12:2-6 Phil 4:4-7 Lk 3:10-18
7:30 a.m……..…….....…..……Gabriel Fox
9:00 a.m……..……...…….…..…Gladys Graser †
11:00 a.m……..…..Parishioners of St. Theresa Catholic Church

Monday, December 13
Saint Lucy, Virgin, Martyr
Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a Ps 25:4-5b, 6, 7bc, 8-9 Mt 21:23-27
11:30 a.m…..…….…….…..……Toni Conroy

Tuesday, December 14
Saint John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor of the Church
Zep 3:1-2, 9-13 Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23 Mt 21:28-32
11:30 a.m……...……..…....Gregory Neff

Wednesday, December 15
Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25 Ps 85:9ab, 10-14 Lk 7:18b-23
11:30 a.m……..……...…..…....….Colette Conlan

Thursday, December 16
Is 54:1-10 Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b Lk 7:24-30
11:30 a.m...….....…...……...……Donald Streetman †

Friday, December 17
Gn 49:2, 8-10 Ps 72:1-4b, 7-8, 17 Mt 1:1-17
11:30 a.m……..……..……...…T.J. O'Neill †

Saturday, December 18
Jer 23:5-8 Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 Mt 1:18-25
5:00 p.m……..……...Pat Streetman

Sunday, December 19
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Mi 5:1-4a Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 Heb 10:5-10 Lk 1:39-45
7:30 a.m……..…….....Chris Earthman
9:00 a.m……..……...…….……Martha Holub †
11:00 a.m……..…..Parishioners of St. Theresa Catholic Church

*More information at **www.sttaustin.org.***
To schedule an event please contact Donna Henderson in the parish office, donna-henderson@sttaustin or 512-451-5121

Parish News

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m. Christmas Vigil
Church and gymnasium

6:30 p.m. Christmas Vigil

Christmas Day

12:00 a.m. Midnight Mass
10:00 a.m. Mass
No Saturday confessions or 5:00 p.m. Mass

Holy Family Sunday

Regular 7:30, 9:00, and 11:00 a.m. Masses

ST. THERESA
CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

STEWARDSHIP

Contributions:
Weekly—Nov 29-Dec 5…....$43,557
November……$161,344
December to date……..…$23,291
Fiscal Year '22* to date…....$808,011

Budgeted Offertory:
November Budget……...$154,299
December Budget……...$280,027
FY22 Budget…….....$1,998,763

For more information visit
sttaustin.org/ways-to-give

**Our Fiscal Year is July-June.*

Welcome New Members

Gerardo Cota &
Maria Gabriela Saad
Daniel, Maria, & Andrew

Darren & Stephanie Ercolani
Nathan

Welcome through Baptism

Micah Matthew Mackey

CHURCH DECORATING PARTY

Sunday, Dec. 19, 5:00 p.m.
Come make our sanctuary beautiful for the coming of Jesus Christ. Hang ornaments, help build a manger scene, and more as we decorate for Christmas. Pizza dinner and drinks will be provided for the volunteers.

WISH LIST FOR MUSIC MINISTRY

Many of you have already included St. Theresa in your end-of-year giving. Thank you. Our wish list this year focuses on the needs of the Music Ministry at St. Theresa. We are raising money for needed upgrades to our organ and choir rehearsal room, for risers for the choir area and for additional bells for the bell choir. A special donation page is being set up for this cause, and we'll share a link to it soon.

Renovation of the church organ:	$98,540
Choir space seating and storage:	$25,000
Choir room renovation:	$8,000
Fourth octave of handbells:	$6,760
Fifth octave (largest bells):	$12,145

ST. THERESA
CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

PARISH
Advent Outreach
ST. GABRIEL PREGNANCY AND PARENTING PROGRAM

COLLECTION
DECEMBER 4TH-12TH

PARISH LIFE

VERY JOYFUL ADVENT JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

About 200 folks of all ages joined us on our Journey to Bethlehem, Advent party and caroling. Here are some photos of this very special evening of December 4th.

FUNERAL MINISTRY ENJOYS VISIT FROM ST. NICK

The Funeral Ministry is one of the most dedicated ministries at St. Theresa. With only a couple of days notice, they are able to put together wonderful funeral receptions for those who have lost a loved one. St. Nicholas (Lou Hornung) stopped in for a surprise visit on his feast day, Dec. 6.

FINAL WEEKEND OF HOLIDAY NUT SALES

This is the final weekend of holiday nut sales by the Knights of Columbus following all Masses. The nuts include pecans (plain, and flavored as well as cashews). $15 per pound.

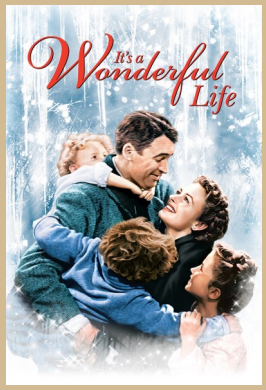
BETHLEHEM WOOD CARVINGS FOR SALE TODAY

Bring a bit of the Holy Land to your home and support Christians in the Holy Land. Bethlehem wood carvings will be available for purchase **outside of church this Sunday after all Masses. The beautiful** hand-carvings from olive wood make great gifts and serve as a primary source of income for some Christians in the Holy Land.

SENIOR ADULTS CORNER

"It's a Wonderful Life" Monday Matinee

December 13th, 2:30 p.m., Family Center



In this timeless 1946 classic film, Guardian Angel Clarence is called in to help suicidal George Bailey (James Stewart) understand what the world would have been like if he had never been born. The Guardian Angel shows George the inestimable value of life and how much we all need one another on earth. RSVP Leslie Key at s.leslie9@gmail.com.

Bridge Club

Whether you're a veteran or first-timer, the Bridge Club would love to have you! Other board/card games available too. Happy hour follows. Wednesdays from 12:30-3 p.m. in the Family Center.

ST. THERESA SCHOOL NEWS

STCS APPLYING TO BE DESIGNATED BLUE RIBBON

Please pray for our school administrators and staff as they go through the rigorous and exciting process of applying to be one of a few schools in the country to be designated as a Blue Ribbon School in the coming year.

GIVE TO ST. THERESA SCHOOL

The St. Theresa Fund helps keep tuition lower for our families. Scan this QR code to give a gift of any size, or visit the school website at st-theresa.org.

STCS APPLICATIONS FOR FALL NOW OPEN

Fall 2022 Applications are now OPEN at STCC. Did you know that our students score in the top 15% nationally in standardized testing? Apply or sign up for a tour online at st-theresa.org or contact Susie at sthompson@st-theresa.org.

Saint Nicholas visits classrooms on his feast day, December 6th, and teaches the children about how the saint helped the poor.

PARISH AND DIOCESE

ARE YOU CELEBRATING A MILESTONE ANNIVERSARY IN 2022?

Those couples of the parish who in 2022 will be celebrating a milestone anniversary of the sacrament of marriage (years 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 50 or above 50) are invited to be recognized at our 5 p.m. Mass on **January 15th**. Please RSVP Linda Gockel linda-gockel@sttaustin.org by January 10th. Please include the following information in your email: Name of couple, number of years of your milestone anniversary in 2022, your email address, and your mailing address. Thank you!

ANNOUNCING TWO NEW BIBLE STUDIES AT ST. THERESA!

HEBREWS: THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT

Wednesday evenings, beginning Jan. 5, 7 p.m., Elmer, Rm. 202

Embark on a guided tour of the "Holy of Holies" of biblical theology in this study from Ascension Press. The book of Hebrews is like a little catechism. It is steeped in rich truths that are foundational to our Catholic Faith, but its highly-refined theological concepts can be difficult for even the most seasoned Bible scholars to unpack.

FIRST SAMUEL: ESTABLISHING THE THRONE OF DAVID

Thursday mornings beginning Jan. 6, 9:15 a.m., Elmer, Rm. 202

This study by St. Benedict Press of the Book of Samuel chronicles a pivotal period in the story of salvation history. The era of the judges was coming to a close and Samuel, the last of the judges and the first prophet, becomes the instrument by which God transitions Israel from a confederation of tribes to a kingdom. The Throne of David is established as a new institution, one that would usher in the long-awaited Messiah.

SENIOR ALTAR SERVERS

Six altar servers were promoted to Senior Server on Sunday. They are (left to right) Patrick Chauvin, Will Garcia, Mary Teal. Not pictured are Abby Dewan, Adrian Anestos and Matti Schaelicke. Congratulations all!

Ladies Club members enjoy their Christmas Luncheon, Dec. 3rd.

PARISH OFFICE

4311 Small Dr., Austin, TX 78731
512-451-5121 www.sttaustin.org

Pastor: Reverend Larry Covington
larry-covington@sttaustin.org

Associate Pastor: Reverend Moses Iyogwoya, MSP
moses-iyogwoya@sttaustin.org

Deacons:
- Tony Pynes, *deaconpynes@gmail.com*
- Keith Carter, *keith-carter@sttaustin.org*
- Peter Barger, *Peter-barger@sttaustin.org*

Chief Operating Officer:
Chad Nusbaum, x1071
chad-nusbaum@sttaustin.org

Finance Officer:
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Business Office Assistant:
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Parish Secretary/Scheduling:
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Pastor Administrative Assistant:
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John-Lawrence@sttaustin.org

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Communications/Bulletin/Events:
Linda Gockel, x1009
linda-gockel@sttaustin.org

Director of Evangelization and Catechesis:
Amy Allert x1008
amy-allert@sttaustin.org

Director of Children's Ministry:
Natalie Mohr x1027
natalie-mohr@sttaustin.org

Director of Youth Ministry:
Chase Crouse, x1005 *chase-crouse@sttaustin.org*

Admin. Assist. for Evangelization and Catechesis:
Christine Chow, x1104
christine-chow@sttaustin.org

SCHOOL OFFICE: 512-451-7105

Principal: Brian Wheeler—*bwheeler@st-theresa.org*
Admissions: Susie Thompson—*sthompson@st-theresa.org*

Thank you from St. Vincent de Paul

We wish to thank you once again the wonderful generosity all of you at St. Theresa parish have extended to people in need through your donations to St. Vincent de Paul. We periodically share Stories of Hope to give you a sense of what is happening in our community and how your contributions have helped. Here are some numbers to show how broadly your donations have contributed to the families of Austin.

FY 2021 October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021 – Our Fiscal Year

Your Donations to St. Vincent de Paul—$193,179

Number of People We Served—855

This past year was a difficult time for all of us – and threatening to the poor:

- ◊ Many people were unable to pay rent or utilities for months, choosing food over buying other things
- ◊ Jobs of those we serve did not return in a timely manner, if at all
- ◊ People in homes lost their power for more than a week
- ◊ People without homes sought shelter from the life-threatening cold
- ◊ Food pantry lines were at historic lengths

Throughout all of these incredible challenges, your commitment to help never wavered. Your faith and your generosity to St. Vincent de Paul enabled us to extend your gifts to over 850 people, giving them a place to stay, power in their homes, overnight accommodations for the homeless during the storm, vaccinations for the homeless, and food.

St. Vincent said " God loves those that love the poor." He loves all of you.

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT de PAUL

Thank you,

From All Your Friends at St. Vincent de Paul

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Make Us an Image of Justice

Loving Father,
in your goodness
you have made us in your image.
Make us an image
of your justice, mercy, and peace
that, like John,
we might point the way to you.
Bring all the world into the light of your love
that we might see your glory forever.
Let our rejoicing now be the seed
of the joy that is to come.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 12, 2021

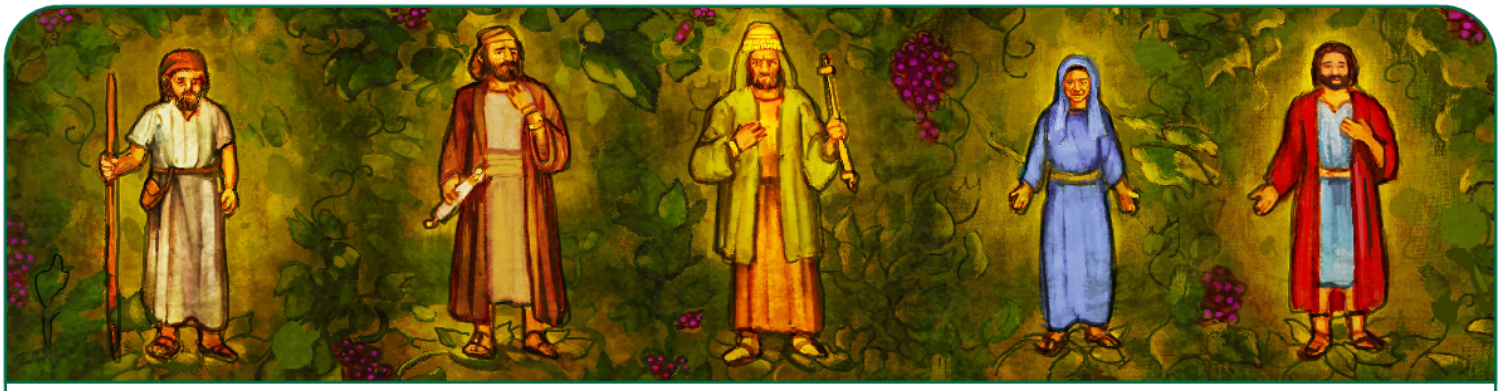
Rejoice!

Today's readings: Zephaniah 3:14–18a; Philemon 4:4–7; Isaiah 12:2–3, 4, 5–6; Luke 3:10–18. The nearness of Jesus, our salvation, is now made present and brings with it a call to rejoice.

In today's Gospel, the people ask John the Baptist what they are to do. His answer is always the same: act with justice. The Jewish people, then and now, await a messiah who will bring about perfect justice. John speaks to people waiting and watching, yesterday and today: act with justice.

Often, a need to change is not associated with "good news." Yet the people feel something in their hearts when they are with John. They experience his preaching as good news even when it is challenging. They desire the kingdom of God and see that the world is not there yet. They are called to change. John also makes clear that they themselves do not have to do everything. That is also a hopeful message. Each person does their part, and their part is enough. It is God who brings about the kingdom of justice and peace, fulfilling the work begun in creation.

John speaks of a baptism with the Holy Spirit and fire. Fire can purify metal, and its heat in boiling water sterilizes objects. While preparing for Jesus' coming, we might ask the Spirit to purify our hearts so that we seek to act justly. What could you do this week to live the value of justice? What in you must be taken away to live this more perfectly?



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, December 13
St. Lucy

St. Lucy was an early Christian martyr who died during the Roman persecutions. Accounts say that her eyes were gouged out when she was martyred, and therefore she is the patron of those with eye illnesses. Her feast day is often celebrated with candles because, in the Northern Hemisphere, the day is among the shortest days of the year. St. Lucy is one of eight women included in the canon of the Mass. *Today's readings: Numbers 24:2–7, 15–17a; Psalm 25:4–5ab, 6, 7bc, 8–9; Matthew 21:23–27.*

Tuesday, December 14
St. John of the Cross

St. John of the Cross, a doctor of the Church, was a priest, mystic, and writer who lived in Spain in the sixteenth century. One of his best-known works is *The Dark Night of the Soul*. He was a close collaborator of St. Teresa of Avila. *Today's readings: Zephaniah 3:1–2, 9–13; Psalm 34:2–3, 6–7, 17–18, 19, 23; Matthew 21:28–32.*

Wednesday, December 15
Signs

"The blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the good news proclaimed to them." Often we wish for miraculous signs that will help us know where to go. But these actions of Jesus are that and more. The hope of the people of Israel was in a person who would bring about a new kingdom in which the sufferings of this world would be left behind. These particular signs are a message to John the Baptist: Jesus is the long-awaited messiah. *Today's readings: Isaiah 45:6b–8, 18, 21c–25; Psalm 85:9ab, 10, 11–12, 13–14; Luke 7:18b–23.*

Thursday, December 16
God's Faithfulness

God's love will be constant, the covenant of peace unbroken, even if the mountains fall. While people often disappoint us when commitments are not kept, God's promise is not reliant on our faithfulness but on the faithfulness of God. We know that God is a keeper of promises: promises kept to Sarah, to Hannah, to Elizabeth, to Mary, to Noah, to Abraham, to Moses, to John the Baptist. We can trust that even in our darkest moments God is faithful to us as well. *Today's readings: Isaiah 54:1–10; Psalm 30:2, 4, 5–6, 11–12a, 13b; Luke 7:24–30.*

Friday, December 17
O Wisdom

Within the Church's liturgical tradition, the "O" Antiphons are prayed the seven days before Christmas. Each of these antiphons presents a title for the messiah. Many are familiar with these seven titles because they begin the verses of the hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." The first antiphon, which is used on December 17, is O Wisdom. You might sing this verse of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," or you might pray Evening Prayer. You can find resources online, including apps to assist you, in praying the Liturgy of the Hours. *Today's readings: Genesis 49:2, 8–10; Psalm 72:1–2, 3–4ab, 7–8, 17; Matthew 1:1–17.*

Saturday, December 18
The Dream of St. Joseph

St. Joseph was a righteous man, meaning he followed the law of Moses, and according to the Law, Mary would be put to death. St. Joseph also must have been a man of great compassion who was accustomed to God's voice. When the angel came to him in a dream, he immediately believed. Moreover, he immediately acted. Today, spend time in silent prayer so that, like Joseph, you may know your call when it comes and answer with your whole heart. *Today's readings: Jeremiah 23:5–8; Psalm 72:1–2, 12–13, 18–19; Matthew 1:18–25.*

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