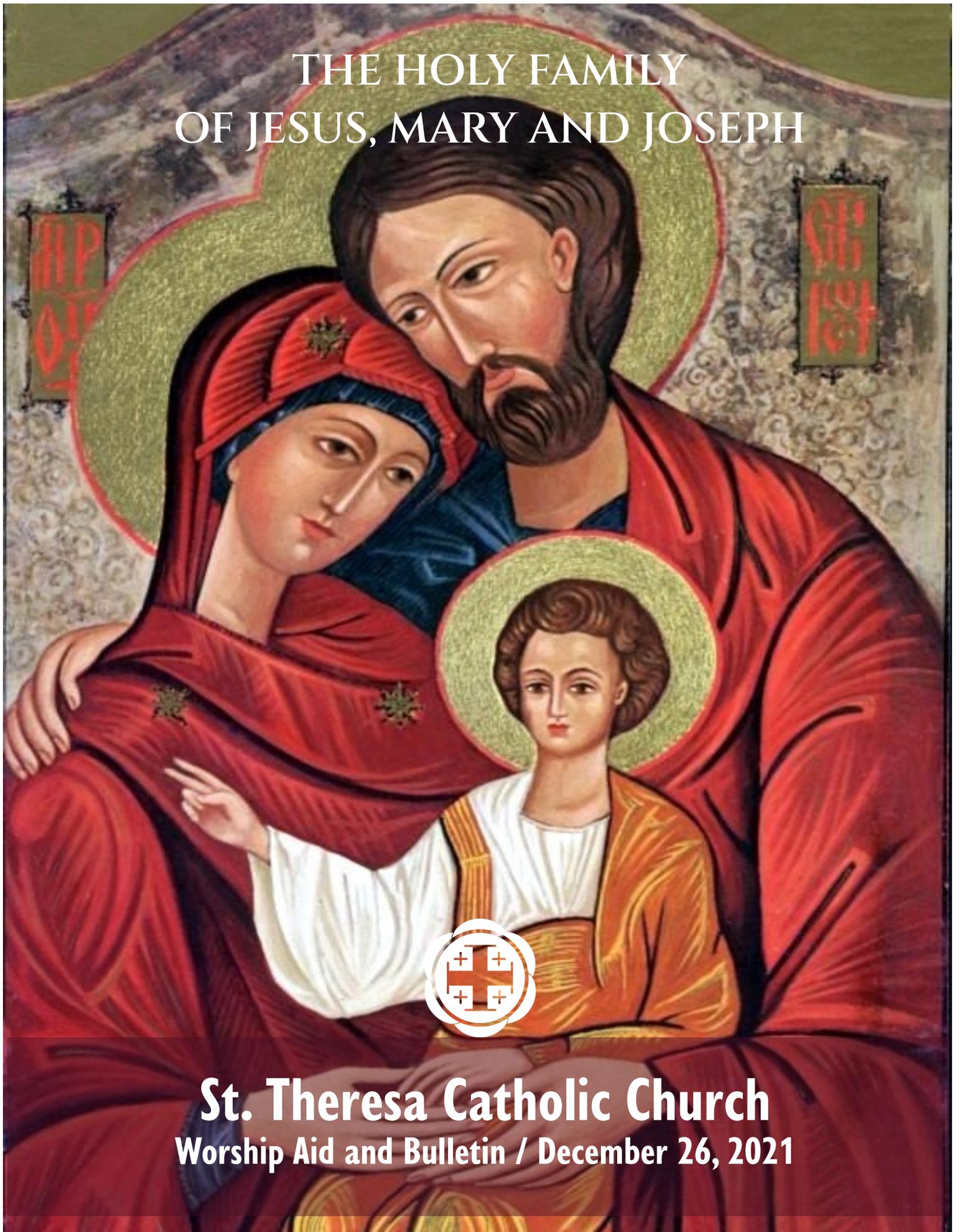


THE HOLY FAMILY
OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH



St. Theresa Catholic Church
Worship Aid and Bulletin / December 26, 2021

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Processional Hymn - *Once in Royal David's City*

Please stand



1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a
2. He came down to earth from heav - en Who is
3. And, through all his won - drous child - hood, He would
4. For he is our child - hood's pat - tern, Day by
5. And our eyes at last shall see him, Through his



low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her
God and Lord of all, And his shel - ter was a
hon - or and o - bey, Love and watch the low - ly
day like us he grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and
own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and



ba - by In a man - ger for his bed.
sta - ble, And his cra - dle was a stall.
maid - en In whose gen - tle arms he lay.
help - less, Tears and smiles like us he knew.
gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove.



Mar - y was that moth - er mild;
With the poor and meek and low - ly
Chris - tian chil - dren all should be
And he feels for all our sad - ness,
And he leads his chil - dren on



Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
Kind, o - be - dient, good as he.
And he shares in all our glad - ness.
To the place where he is gone.

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818-1895, alt.
Tune: IRBY, 8 7 8 7 77; Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-1876; harm. by Arthur H. Mann, 1850-1929

Invocation

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

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

Collect

Please sit

Glory to God—*Mass of St Theresa, Covington*

(Organ)

Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace on earth to
peo - ple of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we a - dore you, we glo - ri - fy you, we
give you thanks for your great glo - ry, Lord God hea - ven - ly King, O God, al -
migh - ty Fa - ther. Lord Je - sus Christ On - ly Be - got - ten Son, Lord God
Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther, you take a - way the
sins of the world, have mer - cy on us; you take a -
way the sins of the world, re - ceive our prayer;
you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther, have mer - cy on
us. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly
Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men,
a - men.

Collect

Please sit

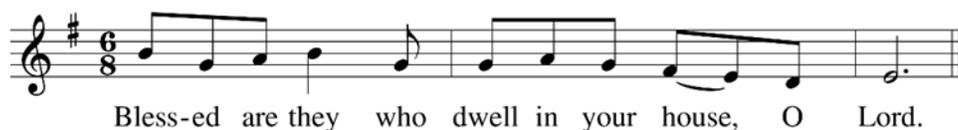
THE LITURGY *of the* WORD

First Reading – 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28

In those days Hannah conceived, and at the end of her term bore a son whom she called Samuel, since she had asked the LORD for him. The next time her husband Elkanah was going up with the rest of his household to offer the customary sacrifice to the LORD and to fulfill his vows, Hannah did not go, explaining to her husband, “Once the child is weaned, I will take him to appear before the LORD and to remain there forever; I will offer him as a perpetual nazirite.”

Once Samuel was weaned, Hannah brought him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and presented him at the temple of the LORD in Shiloh. After the boy’s father had sacrificed the young bull, Hannah, his mother, approached Eli and said: “Pardon, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood near you here, praying to the LORD. I prayed for this child, and the LORD granted my request. Now I, in turn, give him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the LORD.” Hannah left Samuel there.

Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10



How lovely is your dwelling place,
O LORD of hosts.

My soul is longing and yearning
for the courts of the LORD.

My heart and my flesh cry out
to the living God. *R.*

Blessed are they who dwell in your house,
forever singing your praise.

Blessed the people whose strength is in
you,
whose heart is set on pilgrim
ways. *R.*

O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer;
give ear, O God of Jacob.

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;
look on the face of your anointed. *R.*

Text: *The Revised Grail Psalms*, © 2010, Conception Abbey and The Grail, admin. by GIA Publications, Inc.;
refrain tr. © 1969, ICEL

Music: Michel Guimont, © 1994, GIA Publications, Inc.

Second Reading – 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24

Beloved: See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. And so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence in God and receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And his commandment is this: we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us. Those who keep his commandments remain in him, and he in them, and the way we know that he remains in us is from the Spirit he gave us.

Gospel Alleluia – cf. Acts 16:14b

Please stand

Verse: Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.

Gospel – Luke 2:41-52

Each year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.

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 genuflect for the following words)

**and by the Holy Spirit
was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.**

(All stand)

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

Lullay, My Liking, Gustav Holst (Sun, 9 AM)

Gently Mary Laid Her Child/Infant Holy, arr. Stevens (Sun, 11 AM)

Invitation to Prayer

Please stand

Prayer over the Offerings

Holy, Holy, Holy – *Mass of St Theresa, Covington*

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord
God of hosts. Hea - ven and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bles - sed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est.

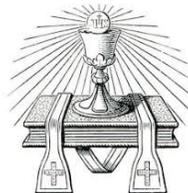
Please kneel or be seated

Mystery of Faith – *Mass of St Theresa, Covington*

Save us Sa - vior of the world, for by your cross and
Re - sur - rec - tion, you have set us free.

Great Amen – *chant*

Please stand



THE COMMUNION RITE

Lord's Prayer

Sign of Peace

Lamb of God—Mass for St. Theresa, Covington

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world,
grant us peace. Grant us peace.

Please kneel as you are able

Communion Antiphon - St. Meinrad Communion Antiphon, Columba Kelly, OSB

Our God__ has ap - peared and lives__ a - mong__ us.

Communion Hymn—O Little Town of Bethlehem

1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee
2. For Christ is born of Mar - y And, gath - ered all a -
3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is
4. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we
lie! A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep The
bove While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their
giv'n! So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The
pray; Cast out our sin and en - ter in, Be
si - lent stars go by; Yet in the dark streets
watch of won - d'ring love. O morn - ing stars, to -
bless - ings of his heav'n. No ear may hear his
born in us to - day. We hear the Christ - mas
shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing Light. The hopes and
geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth, And prais - es
com - ing, But in this world of sin, Where meek souls
an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell; O come to
fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.
sing to God the King, And peace to all on earth!
will re - ceive him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Prayer after Communion

THE CONCLUDING RITES

Hymn of Thanksgiving – *God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen*



1. God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, Let noth - ing you dis -
2. In Beth - le - hem in Ju - dah This bless - ed babe was
3. From God our heav'n - ly Fa - ther A bless - ed an - gel
4. The shep - herds at those tid - ings Re - joic - ed much in
5. Now to the Lord sing prais - es, All you with - in this



may; Re - mem - ber Christ our Sav - ior Was
born, And laid with - in a man - ger Up -
came, And un - to cer - tain shep - herds Brought
mind, And left their flocks a - feed - ing In
place, And with true love and char - i - ty Each



born on Christ - mas day To save us all from
on this bless - ed morn, For which his moth - er
tid - ings of the same, How that in Beth - le -
tem - pest, storm, and wind, And went to Beth - le -
oth - er now em - brace; This ho - ly tide of



Sa - tan's pow'r When we were gone a - stray.
Mar - y Did noth - ing take in scorn.
hem was born The Son of God by name.
hem straight - way, This bless - ed babe to find.
Christ - mas All oth - ers shall re - place.



O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and



joy; O tid - ings of com - fort and joy!

Text: English carol, 18th C.
Tune: GOD REST YOU MERRY, 8 6 8 6 8 6 with refrain; English carol, 18th C.; harm. by John Stainer, 1840–1901

Blessing and Dismissal

Organ Postlude – *Chorale Prelude on Antioch* (by Handel), Kristina Langlois

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

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).

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sun, 12/26	Regular Sunday Mass Schedule No Children's Catechesis or Cornerstone
Mon-Fri	Parish office open 9 a.m.—1 p.m.
Friday 12/31	11:30 a.m. Mass Holy Mother of God Vigil Mass, 6:00 p.m.
Sat, 1/1	Confessions, 4:00—4:45 p.m. 5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass
Sun, 1/2	Regular Sunday Mass Schedule



DAILY READINGS AND MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 25

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

Is 9:1-6 Ps 96:1-3, 11-13 Ti 2:11-14 Lk 2:1-14
 12:00 a.m. Midnight.....Bill and Helen Eschbacher †
 10:00 a.m.....Robert and Marilyn Putz †
 No Confessions or 5:00 p.m. Mass

Sunday, December 26

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

I Sm 1:20-22, 24-28 Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 I Jn 3:1-2, 21-24
 Lk 2:41-52
 7:30 a.m.....Joseph Bancerc †
 9:00 a.m.....Lisa Weesner
 11:00 a.m.....Parishioners of St. Theresa Catholic Church

Monday, December 27

SAINT JOHN, APOSTLE, EVANGELIST

I Jn 1:1-4 Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 Jn 20:1a, 2-8
 11:30 a.m.....Special Intention

Tuesday, December 28

THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS

I Jn 1:5—2:2 Ps 124:2-5, 7c-8 Mt 2:13-18
 11:30 a.m.....Anthony †

Wednesday, December 29

Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop, Martyr

I Jn 2:3-11 Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6 Lk 2:22-35
 11:30 a.m.....Francis †

Thursday, December 30

I Jn 2:12-17 Ps 96:7-10 Lk 2:36-40

11:30 a.m.....Avis Rebello †

Friday, December 31

Saint Sylvester I, Pope

I Jn 2:18-21 Ps 96:1-2, 11-13 Jn 1:1-18
 11:30 a.m.....Special Intention
 6:00 p.m. (solemnity vigil Mass).....Charlene Trochta †

Saturday, January 1

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Nm 6:22-27 Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8 Gal 4:4-7 Lk 2:16-21
 5:00 p.m.....Charlene Trochta †
 Confessions at 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 2

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Is 60:1-6 Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13 Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 Mt 2:1-12
 7:30 a.m.....Esperanza Perez
 9:00 a.m.....Margaret Polak †
 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

Feast of the Solemnity of Mary Holy Mother of God

December 31 6:00 PM (Vigil)
Holy day of opportunity



WEEKEND MASS TIMES

- Friday, December 31st, there is an 11:30 daily Mass and a 6 p.m. vigil Mass for the Solemnity of the Holy Mother of God.
- Saturday, January 1st, there will be confessions as well as the 5 p.m. Saturday Mass. This day is not a holy day of obligation this year.
- Sunday, January 2nd, Epiphany of the Lord, regular Mass times.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO BROUGHT BEAUTY TO CHRISTMAS MASSES

What exceptionally beautiful liturgies we celebrated this Christmas, from the well-appointed sanctuary decorations, to the detailed nativity scene, to the flowers, altar linens, vestments and of course the extraordinary music. Thank you to the dozens of volunteers who helped decorate, who served in altar care, as greeters and ushers, lectors, altar servers, musicians and singers. What a beautiful feast you made for the birthday of our Lord.

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. See the news section of the parish website to donate: sttaustin.org/news.



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

PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

The parish office will be open from 9 a.m.—1 p.m. Dec. 27-31, Monday-Friday of this week. Regular hours will resume on Monday, January 3rd.

STEWARDSHIP

Contributions:

Weekly—Dec 6-12.....\$41,483
 December to date.....\$68,099
 FY '22 to date.....\$852,820

Budgeted Offertory:

December Budget.....\$280,027
 FY22 Budget.....\$1,998,763

*For more information visit
sttaustin.org/ways-to-give
 or contact Geneva Moore in
 the parish office.
 Our Fiscal Year is July-June.

Welcome New Members

Jerrie and Donald Earthman

**Michael and Elaine Garza
Olivia Rose & Jacob Michael**

**Jerry and Angela Smith
Jerry A. Smith IV**

Through Baptism:

Graham Henry Pollock

SPECIAL COLLECTION TODAY

There is a special collection today for Maternity Homes and programs that support them in the Diocese of Austin including:

- Annunciation Maternity Home
- Our Lady of the Angels Shelter
- The Office of Pro-life activities

Thank you for your generosity in supporting life!

ADULT FAITH

TWO NEW BIBLE STUDIES IN JANUARY

HEBREWS: THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT

Wed. beginning Jan. 5, 7 p.m., Elmer, Rm. 202

Register on the parish website

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.

I SAMUEL: ESTABLISHING THE THRONE OF DAVID

Thurs. 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 salvation history. Samuel, the last of the judges and the first prophet, becomes God’s instrument for transitioning Israel from a confederation of tribes to a kingdom. The Throne of David is established as a new institution that would usher in the long-awaited Messiah. Register on the parish website.

NEW SERIES FOR ADULTS STARTS IN JANUARY

We are excited to begin a new Adult Confirmation/Catholic Refresher Series. This engaging and fascinating series is for:

- baptized Catholic adults needing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- fully initiated Catholics that would like a refresher course on the teachings and traditions of the faith.
- baptized Christians from any faith background who would like to explore the Catholic faith.

If you would like to learn more, please fill out the Adult Inquiry Form at sttaustin.org/adult-confirmation, and Amy Allert will respond to make an appointment with you for further discussion.



SAVE THE DATE! “MADE FOR MORE”

April 28th, 7:00—9:30 p.m.

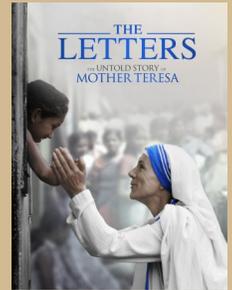
World renowned speaker and author Christopher West, along with award winning musician, Mike Mangione, are coming to St. Theresa with a beautiful multimedia event called MADE FOR MORE: VISIONS OF THE PROMISED LAND. Bring family and friends. No one should miss this awesome and inspiring event! Tickets are \$25.00. Available in the parish office and online at sttaustin.org/adults.

SENIOR ADULTS CORNER

SENIOR ADULT MONDAY MATINEE, “THE LETTERS”

January 5, 2:30 p.m., Family Center

This fascinating 2014 biographical drama explores the life of Mother Teresa through letters she wrote over a 50-year period to her longtime friend and spiritual advisor, Father Celeste van Exem. Popcorn and cold drinks will be served. Please RSVP to Leslie Key at s.leslie9@gmail.com



ST. THERESA SCHOOL NEWS



Catholic Schools Week 2022
January 30–February 5

#CSW22
www.NCEA.org/csw



SAVE THE DATES!

January 22: Saints & Scholars Catholic Schools Dinner and Awards Ceremony, Debbie Stapper honored.

January 30: Catholic Schools Week begins

February 4: Pep Rally and Grandparents/Friends Day

April 23: Spring Gala

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.

ADULT FAITH CONT.

SAVE THE DATE—JANUARY 22

SPECIAL DAY FOR WOMEN OF THE PARISH AND SCHOOL

Sat. Jan. 22, 2022, 9:30am—3:30pm in the Family Center

All women are invited for a special day of reflection! Our guest speaker will be Joelle Maryn (Speaker, Writer, Actress and TV Host, featured on various Christian TV and radio shows including “Life on the Rock” on EWTN.) Saturday, Jan. 22 from 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. More details to come!



FOR COUPLES AT ST. THERESA

6 Sessions, Thursdays, Feb. 17 – Mar. 24, 7:15 p.m. – 9:15 p.m.



Married couples have had so much asked of them in the past couple of years. Take some time to refresh or renew your love and marriage bond.

This is a practical workshop which uses a movement of communication and dialogue, from deep within, from heart to heart. A movement which establishes a means of being

open and welcoming, through which the spouses clarify, understand, commit, forgive, and accept each other. Pray about giving you and your spouse this opportunity to grow in harmony and a reciprocal joy. It could be the best Valentine gift ever! Registration information coming soon.

HOW TO TALK WITH OTHERS ABOUT FAITH

Connections presents *Evangelization*, beginning Jan. 4th, 7 p.m.

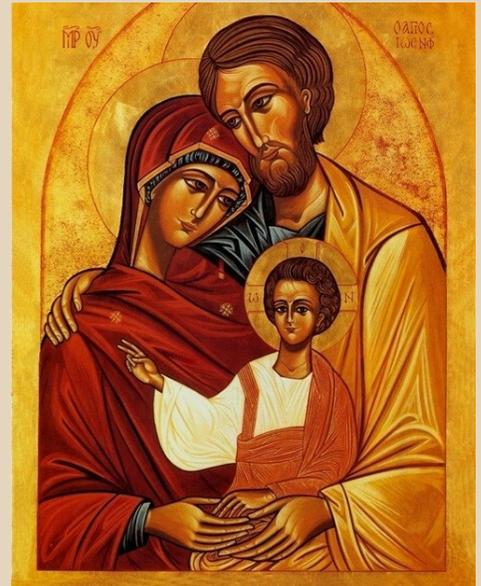
Join the women of Connections and learn from renowned speaker and writer, Chris Stefanick about ways to spread the Gospel message, bring others to a relationship with Christ, and dialogue with others about our Catholic faith. Spreading the Gospel and inviting others into a relationship with Christ is not just



the priest's job; it is the responsibility of all baptized Catholics. What does that look like in our modern world? How do we do that effectively? Contact Terry France at francetherese101@gmail.com with questions.

CATALYST MEN EXPLORE THE GOSPELS

Catalyst will be back Wednesday, January 12th, starting the new year exploring the Gospels with Dr. Brant Pitre. Dr. Pitre has a unique teaching style that makes recent scholarship, ancient manuscripts, and the early Church Fathers accessible to all. Coffee and breakfast provided, as always!



Feast of the Holy Family

Each of us was made by God, created in God's image and called to an authentic and holy life in Christ through the grace of the Holy Spirit. In keeping true to our commitment to raising children in the faith, we must continue to transmit the full truth concerning the human person at every stage from conception to natural death. May we focus not only on the gifts of family life, but also the family as the basis of a peaceful and just society.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!

Your generosity was once again AMAZING! Thank you for helping babies get a healthy start in life by contributing baby items for Advent outreach to St. Gabriel Project, a program of Catholic Charities. (The photo shows the collection from the second weekend only.)

PARISH AND DIOCESE

CELEBRATING A MILESTONE ANNIVERSARY IN '22?



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 '22, your email address, and mailing address. Thank you!

POPE FRANCIS WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU IN A SURVEY

In preparation for the international Synod of Bishops in 2023, Pope Francis wants your input on the topic of "For a Synodal Church, Communion, Participation, and Mission." People of all ages, Catholics – and those who are not in regular practice of the faith – are invited to provide their feedback on the Church's mission. **The Survey link can be found on the Diocese website or in the Friday E-Bulletin.** A parish input session will be scheduled soon. The entire Catholic Church is called to participate in the upcoming Synod of Bishops! The Synod is entitled: "For a Synodal Church: COMMUNION, PARTICIPATE, and MISSION." Synod is a Greek word (synodos) meaning a meeting or assembly.

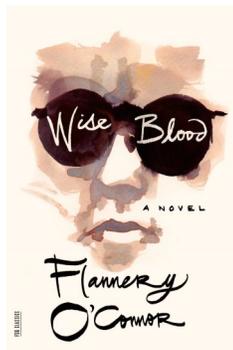


LADIES CLUB MEETS JANUARY 7

The Ladies' Club will hold its next meeting on Friday, January 7 at 9:30 a.m. in the Family Center. After refreshments and a short business meeting, we will play Dubbs Bridge. (No experience is needed!) All women of the parish are warmly invited. Afterwards we may attend the 11:30 a.m. Mass. Wishing you a blessed Christmas season.

WANT TO JOIN OUR BOOK CLUB?

"That belief in Christ is to some a matter of life and death has been a stumbling block for readers who would prefer to think it a matter of no great consequence," so says Flannery O'Connor of her darkly comic 1952 novel *Wise Blood*. You're invited to discuss it at our next meeting, Jan. 11th, 1:00 p.m. We always meet 2nd Tuesdays of the month, Elmer Hall room 201, at 1 p.m.



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:
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THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, December 27

St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

Today the Church celebrates the Feast of St. John, apostle and evangelist. He and his brother were early disciples of Jesus and witnesses to the resurrection. He traveled to Ephesus, where he composed his Gospel and letters, and later wrote the Book of Revelation from the island of Patmos. It is traditional to bless wine and cider on the Feast of St. John. *Today's readings: 1 John 1:1-4; Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; John 20:1a, 2-8.*

Tuesday, December 28

The Holy Innocents

When Herod massacred all baby boys under two years of age, he sought to eliminate the threat the messiah posed to his power. His horrific, violent act epitomizes a truth we know even today: those who benefit most from the world's brokenness and injustice will always oppose the transformation God has promised. The infant Jesus needed protection, protection God provided in the person of St. Joseph. The deaths of the children were profound violations of the law of God. God is the God of life. God raised the infants to be saints, that the profound injustice of their deaths might be transformed: from death to life, that is the way of our God. *Today's readings: 1 John 1:5-2:2; Psalm 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8; Matthew 2:13-18.*

Wednesday, December 29

Simeon: Waiting in Hope

God had promised Simeon that he would not see death until he had seen the salvation of Israel. The child Jesus, not yet six weeks old, is brought to the temple to be dedicated to the Lord. What must it have been like for him to feel the fulfillment of the promise? What desires of your heart are you awaiting God to fulfill? *Today's readings: 1 John 2:3-11; Psalm 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6; Luke 2:22-35.*

Thursday, December 30

Anna the Prophetess

Anna the prophetess "spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Israel." The hope that she has held onto has been realized before her eyes, and she cannot keep it to herself. She goes out into the world to be the bringer of the Good News, to bring hope. When we celebrate Christmas, we are making present the incarnation through which God continues to bring about a renewed world. Christians are to testify about our hope, just as Anna did. How can you share your hope today? *Today's readings: 1 John 2:12-17; Psalm 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10; Luke 2:36-40.*

Friday, December 31

Word Made Flesh

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." The evangelist John tells us the cosmic significance of the birth of Jesus. Because John uses the language of philosophy and poetry, it can be hard to grasp what he means. But because he uses these elevated ways of speaking, it is possible to approach the inexplicable mystery that is contained in the incarnation. Read today's Gospel. What word or phrase sticks out to you most? Copy it and meditate on it as you pray this week. *Today's readings: 1 John 2:18-21; Psalm 96:1-2, 11-12, 13; John 1:1-18.*

Saturday, January 1

Mary, the Holy Mother of God

"Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." Mary's central place in this great mystery of God dwelling among us led her to a place of contemplation. Though she was the one chosen to bring Jesus into the world, she did not have all the answers. Praying the Rosary, we have the opportunity to contemplate like Mary, deepening our reflection while our words proclaim the memorized prayers. Pray the Rosary today and ask Mary to help you to hold all these things in your heart. *Today's readings: Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Galatians 4: 4-7; Luke 2:16-21.*

