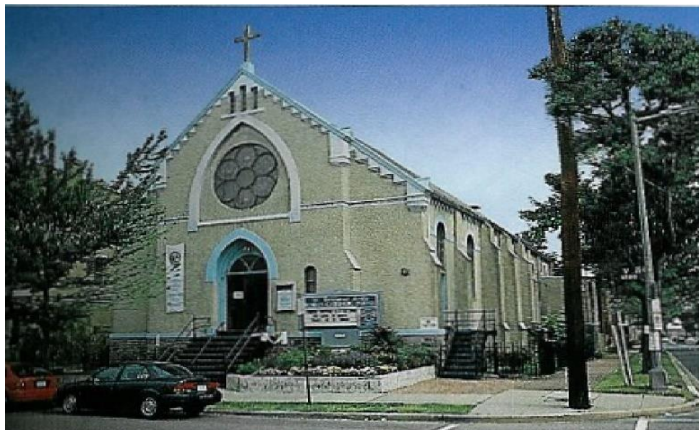


# Saint Teresa of Avila Catholic Church

1244 V Street SE, Washington, DC 20020-7016 [www.stachurchdc.org](http://www.stachurchdc.org)

*Twinning with our sister parish, St. Antoine, Vieux Bourg & with the Diocese of Jeremie  
Haiti, West Indies*

## Fourth Sunday of Advent December 20, 2020



Msgr. Raymond G. East, Pastor [rayeast@icloud.com](mailto:rayeast@icloud.com); Mobile 202-355-8888

### **MASS SCHEDULE**

*Sunday 9:30 a.m. In-person by pre-registration and livestream online  
Sunday 12:00 p.m. in the parking lot of the Parish Life Center*

### **RECONCILIATION**

Monsignor East is available for drive-by confessions. Please contact the PLC to schedule a time.

### **PARISH CONTACT INFORMATION**

**St. Teresa of Avila Parish Life Center**

1401 V Street SE, Washington, DC 20020-4809

PLC: 202-678-3709; Fax: 202-678-3325, **Website:** [www.stachurchdc.org](http://www.stachurchdc.org)

**Office Hours:** Monday – Thursday, 10:00am – 3:00pm and Friday, 10am – 1pm

### **PARISH STAFF**

**DEACON:** Dr. William A. Hawkins, Jr. [whawk39564@aol.com](mailto:whawk39564@aol.com)

**DIRECTOR OF WORSHIP & ARTS:** Shirli Hughes [shirli.stamusic@gmail.com](mailto:shirli.stamusic@gmail.com)

**SPIRITUAL DIRECTION:** Sister Anne Marie Schreiner, DC (205) 919-0010, [srannema@stv.org](mailto:srannema@stv.org)

**PARISH RECEPTIONIST:** Pamela Council [pcouncil2009@gmail.com](mailto:pcouncil2009@gmail.com)

**PARISH BOOKKEEPER:** Sister Pauline Oduekila [paulineoduekila@yahoo.fr](mailto:paulineoduekila@yahoo.fr)



## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Reflection on the Gospel

***“Here I am, God’s servant. Let it happen to me as you say.”***

\_\_\_ ***Luke 1:26-38***

Mary, whose body becomes home to God, responds three times in Luke’s story of her call. Three times the angel Gabriel, God’s messenger, speaks to her.

- ***To the angel’s greeting, “Greetings, favored one, God is with you,” Mary feels perplexed and wonders what kind of greeting this can be.***
- ***To Gabriel’s invitation to give birth to God’s Son, Mary questions, “How can this be since I am a virgin?”***
- ***To Gabriel’s promise, God will do the impossible in her, Mary says “yes”.***

This dialogue outlines the journey of a call from God. The journey moves from perplexity, to certainty that the call cannot be, to confidence that God can do the impossible in me. The human of God in Mary’s womb, she will feel the first stirrings of salvation within herself. God’s Son will look like her. She will nurse and rock him after he is born.

With Mary’s **yes** to God’s invitation, the Creator makes a new move. God becomes one of us to reveal who God is. Mary trusts God’s word. In her Magnificat which we prayed as last Sunday’s responsorial, Mary blesses God for showing mercy, for raising up the poor, for filling the hungry. In her yes, she trusts God’s promises to her people and to her.

\_\_\_\_\_ ***Excerpts from Good Ground Press***

## **MASS PARTICIPATION AT STA**

We continue our modified in-person Mass celebrating the Eucharist together according to the Guidelines from the District of Columbia and the Archdiocese of Washington. Please [click here](#) to review the guidelines below for in-person Mass as we continue with one Mass per week at our parish.

**Reminder:** Each week, you will have to register if you plan to attend in-person mass. You must have a confirmed reservation to attend Mass, this includes anyone who may be serving in any capacity. Space is limited. Reservations must be made by Fridays at 12:00 p.m. Parishioners who are particularly vulnerable (e.g., over the age of 60, those with serious underlying health conditions: high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those whose immune system is compromised, heart or lung conditions, or who are immune-compromised), and those who are ill or suspect they may be ill, should remain at home. Livestreaming of our Sunday Mass on our STA [YouTube](#) and [Facebook Live](#) channels will continue each Sunday, with Mass at 9:30 a.m.

**StreamingLive<sup>®</sup>**

Join us for Livestream Mass on the STA Facebook page and St. Teresa of Avila YouTube channel every Sunday at 9:30am. Visit [www.stachurchdc.org](http://www.stachurchdc.org) for links. We encourage you to get online 10 minutes early for virtual fellowship, praise, and worship time. Visit the Archdiocese website for additional recorded and live-streamed Masses at <https://adw.org/live-streamed-masses-and-prayers/>



### **Outdoor Mass**

Outdoor, socially distanced mass is offered each Sunday at 12:00 PM, weather permitting, outside the Parish Life Center (either in the parking lot or by the Marian garden behind the PLC). No RSVP is necessary, but individuals should arrive by 11:45 to have their temperature checked and sign a form confirming they have not been exposed to COVID-19 and have no symptoms of the virus.

# **DAILY** **MASS READINGS**

## **Sunday December 20<sup>th</sup> Fourth Sunday of Advent**

*2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16, Psalms 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29, Romans 16:25-27  
 Luke 1:38, Luke 1:26-38*

## **Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup> Fourth Week of Advent**

*Songs of Songs 2:8-14 Or Zephaniah 3:14-18A, Psalms 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21  
 Luke 1:39-45*

## **Tuesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> Fourth Week of Advent**

*1 Samuel 1:24-28, 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8ABCD, Luke 1:46-56*

## **Wednesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> Fourth Week of Advent**

*Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24, Psalms 25:4-5AB, 8-9, 10 AND 14, Luke 1:57-66*

## **Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> Fourth Week of Advent**

*2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16, Psalms 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 AND 29, Luke 1:67-79*

## **Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Vigil The Nativity of the Lord**

*Isaiah 62:1-5, Psalms 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29, Acts 13:16-17, 22-25, Matthew 1:1-25*

## **Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve Mass The Nativity of the Lord**

*Isaiah 9:1-6, Psalms 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13, Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-14*

## **Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day The Nativity of the Lord**

*Isaiah 52:7-10, Psalms 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6, Hebrews 1:1-6, John 1:1-18*

## **Saturday, December 26<sup>th</sup> St. Stephen's Day, Feast, First Martyr**

*ACTS 6:8-10; 7:54-5, Psalms 31:3CD-4, 6 AND 8AB, 16BC AND 17, Matthew 10:17-22*

## **Sunday December 27<sup>th</sup> The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph**

*Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 Or Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3, Psalms 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 Or  
 Psalms 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9, Colossians 3:12-21 Or Colossians 3:12-17  
 Or Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19, Colossians 3:15A, 16A Or Hebrews 1:1-2  
 Luke 2:22-40 Or Luke 2:22, 39-40*

# prayer & fasting

**Please Pray for our sick, our shut-in, and all who are suffering from the scares of this Pandemic.** And Jesus says, *let me fill you with My Love, "I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being".*

– Ephesians 3:16

*Richie Allison (son of Sandi Allison-Harris), Joyce Barbour (sister of Audrey Barbour), Marian Barbour (mother of Audrey Barbour), Darren Barnes, Ann Batiste, Briana Brown (granddaughter of Robin Kelly), Katie Butler, Audrey Caldwell, Vermel Thompson-Chichester, Betty Cook (aunt of Wanda Smith), Bro. Jeff Corry, Renato Cruz (father of Janelle Cruz), Nadine and Earl Day, Helen Despertt, Sharon Franks-Dunbar, Clark James Durand, Sylvester Enlow (father of Denise Yorkshire), Ricardo Featherstone, Howard Fleming, Corey Fowler-Cooke, Patricia Franklin, Wanda Garrett, George "Gino" Gates (cousin of Lethia Kelly & Fred Robinson), William Gorham, Mary Greenfield, Renee Gross and the Gross Family, Antonio "Big Tony" Haggins, Ethel Hale, Audrey Hawkins, Barbara Hill, Bro. Gerald Hopeck, Lucille Hopeck (mother of Bro. Gerald), Patricia Pickens-James, Reginald Johnson, Sheila Kennedy, Dr. Oralisa Martin, Ronald McCants, Paul McCloud (Ralph McCloud's brother), Channing McKinney, Veronica McKinney, Inez Matthews, Dorothy Morgan, Mother Kamana Asteria Mukangango (mother of Fr. Didace), Vivian Parker (Sister Marie Bernadette's sister), Angela (Angie) Powell (daughter of Jackie Christian), Jocelyn Reyes, Bonita Robinson, Joe Robinson, Jr. (uncle of Lethia & John Kelly and Fred Robinson), Rodney Robinson (brother of Lethia Kelly & Fred Robinson), Barbara Savoy (mother of Liz Hall), Lee Scott (husband of Joanne Scott), Michelle Whatley-Seabrooks, Willa Spruill, Wanda Smith and the entire Smith Family, Frieda Stanley, Darian Taylor, Dorothy Taylor (cousin of Pauline Barnes), Yolanda Thomas, Bernadette Trowell, Paulette Vernon, Sharree Walls, Denise Washington and Mike Woods.*

**How can we pray for you and your family?**

**You can send your request directly to [stachurchcommunications@gmail.com](mailto:stachurchcommunications@gmail.com) or contact the PLC.**





## ***Christmas Week Mass Schedule***



***The Christmas Week Mass schedule is  
as follows:***

***Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup>***

*Christmas Vigil Mass at 5pm*

***Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup>***

*Christmas Mass at 9:30am*

***Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup>***

*Holy Family Mass at 9:30am*

***Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup>***

*Solemnity of Mary Mass at 9:30am*

**To attend in-person, you must register online and have a confirmed reservation to attend Mass. This includes anyone who may be serving in any capacity. Confirmation numbers are sent once you complete the full reservations process.**

Please visit the STA website to complete the COVID-19 Questionnaire and Liability Waiver. Space is limited and registration is mandatory.

The online reservation system will open at 12pm on Sunday and will close for each Mass 48 hours prior to the date of service.

***There will be no same-day reservations. Mass will be livestreamed on Christmas Eve with a rebroadcast on Christmas Day.*** Sunday Mass will be livestreamed as usual.



**Communications Committee is looking for volunteers to assist with audio/visual and communications assistance. We need volunteers to assist with editing the bulletin and electronic communication, website, and social media management as well as technical assistance with weekly Mass audio/visual production and editing. If you are interested, please contact the communications team at [stachurchcommunications@gmail.com](mailto:stachurchcommunications@gmail.com)**

# HIGHWAY TO HEAVEN



## IN MEMORIAM

*Please keep the families of our beloved parishioners who have gone home this month lifted in prayers.*

### Deacon Ralph Cyrus

(Father of Brian, Maya, Brandon, and Ralph Cyrus, III)

### Olivia Booker

(Grandmother of Omar Booker who is the grandson of Hellen Despertt)

### Robert F. Brown, Sr.

(Uncle of Anna H. Friday)

### Kelvin Gross

(Grandson of Renee Gross, Brother of Jasmine, Leslie, Andre and KJ)

### Tyrone Neal

### Hattie Roberson

(Mother of Houston & Linda Roberson)

*They have made their way to this Highway to Heaven. They will be missed dearly, but we know that they go before us, and we will see them all someday soon.*



While we cannot personally wish you Happy Birthday, we wanted you to know that we did not forget! ***Below is the list of birthdays for the last week of December 2020:***

***(12/21) Montana Anderson***

***(12/22) Oscar Mebane, Freida Stanley***

***(12/23) Helen Despertt***

***(12/24) Dylan Coleman***

***(12/25) Aldon Bowlding***

***(12/29) Molly Graham, Shirley Hawkins***

***(12/30) Dona Gaskins***

***(12/31) Robert Bradley***

***We thank God for the life he has given us in you!***

***If we have not listed your birthday, we don't have it! PLEASE CONTACT THE Parish Life Center IMMEDIATELY!***



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Join the Sodality in praying the Rosary each Sunday at 10:45 am via free conference. The dial in number is 1-602-580-9273. The access code is 5360845. Please remember, when you call-in prior to 10:45 am, and after announcing your name, please mute your phone.**

Missing important STA communications? Stay connected with the parish by signing up to receive email and text messages through our Flock Note communications tool. Sign up at [www.stachurchdc.org](http://www.stachurchdc.org).

Monsignor East and the Baptism Ministry are working on our new virtual format (Zoom) for our preparation sessions for parents and godparents. If you have an infant or young child through four years of age who has not been baptized, **please contact the PLC (202-678-9068) or Sandi Allison-Harris (301-233-6649).**

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*There are three methods to give tithes and love offerings:*

- **eGiving:** From your cell phone, **Text staChurch to 77977**, click the link and follow the instructions and choose your gift amount and frequency.

- Visit the Parish website at [www.stachurchdc.org](http://www.stachurchdc.org), click on ***“Tithes and Love Offerings”*** and follow the instructions for online giving.
- **Want to send a check? Drop off** is in at the PLC in the secure lockbox at **1401 V Street, SE, Washington, DC 20020.**



## Angel Tree 2020

Visit our website at [catholiccharitiesdc.org](http://catholiccharitiesdc.org) or email [christmas@cc-dc.org](mailto:christmas@cc-dc.org) for more information.

Join Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington for our eighth annual Coats of Many Colors Coat Drive! Each year we provide coats, hats, gloves, and scarves to members of our local community. New and gently used coats that are clean and in good condition are being collected from November 2020 until January 2021. We are currently seeking donors to donate coats at our selected drop off sites. In addition, we are seeking volunteers to help on the day of the event to help set up the Coat Drive and assist with the distribution to clients. For more information on how to donate and volunteer please visit our event page at: <https://www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/coats>.