Saint Teresa of Avila Catholic Church

1244 V Street SE, Washington, DC 20020-7016 www.stachurchdc.org
Twinning with our sister parish, St. Antoine, Vieux Bourg & with the Diocese of Jeremie, Haiti, West Indies

Sunday Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

December 26, 2021

Msgr. Raymond G. East, Pastor; rayeast@icloud.com; **Mobile**: **202-355-8888**

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday 9:30AM in-person and livestream online
Sunday 11:30AM in the courtyard between the church and the convent
****Weather permitting****

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

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday, 10:00AM – 3:00PM
Friday, 10:00AM – 1:00PM

PARISH STAFF

DEACON: Dr. William A. Hawkins, Jr.
whawk39564@aol.com
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tilghman13@gmail.com
DIRECTOR OF WORSHIP & ARTS
Shirli Hughes, shirli.stamusic@gmail.com
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PARISH RECEPTIONIST
Pamelia Council, pcouncil2009@gmail.com
PARISH BOOKKEEPER
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SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTON

"Celebrating 100 Years of the Feast of the Holy Family"

Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?
_____Lk. 2:41-52)

Today marks the 100th anniversary of the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Historically, the Church always venerated the Holy Family through art and other media. However, Pope Benedict XV, in 1921, made the Holy Family a liturgical celebration in the Catholic Church. The celebration initially came after the Feast of the Epiphany, on January 6th.

Later, in 1969 the Holy Family celebration date moved to the Christmas Season. Pope Benedict XV and other Popes promoted this wonderful celebration because they sensed the erosion of the family unit in the world. Unfortunately, 100 years later, when we look at our families, we see more and more deterioration through multiple layers of challenges. For this reason, these words by Jesus are interesting: "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

Jesus' words indicate that Mary and Joseph should have known that He needed to be in His Father's house. In retrospect, our Church leaders were correct in making the celebration of the Holy Family a great spiritual practice for us today. Look at some of the challenges that our families are facing today. Some children grow up with no parental guidance. Some men and women have multiple children from multiple partners, and the steady increase of the absence of the family unit in the Church is rising. Grandparents are now raising their grandchildren.

For this reason, since the Church teaches us to focus on the Holy Family, I believe that what is essential in our gospel is that whatever our family unit consists of, we need to get up and go to the Father's house.

Remember, the Holy Family unit had challenges as well. Joseph was not the biological father of Jesus. I am sure he faced stiff opposition from the neighborhood boys when deciding to take Mary as his wife. And Mary had an unexplainable pregnancy testifying that she did not know a man. History shows that there has never been a perfect family unit during biblical days. So, if you are a single parent with a child, get up and go to your Father's house. If your spouse wants to stay home with the T.V. remote, get the children and go to your Father's House. Do you not know that you and your family must be in God's house?

In his musical song, At The Table, musical icon, Richard Smallwood sang, *"Come on in where the table is spread, and the feast of the Lord is going on. Joy is here where the table is spread, and the feast of the Lord is going on."* Our Table is spread, in our Church. There is healing for your sorrow and for your pain. At the Table, Jesus wants to nourish the family no matter what makes up the family unit. Just come. The Table is set. We have mercy and grace to make us a Holy Family. We all must be in our Father's house.

Evangelist Michael P Howard, MACS
Member, Saint Teresa of Avila Catholic Church

Welcome to Saint Teresa of Avila parish, where we recognize and celebrate the joy of the Lord as our strength! We are so glad you stopped by to visit us today.

We think you will find STA a welcoming community of believers filled with the love of Jesus and each other. Your presence will allow us to be a friend, make a friend, and bring a friend to Christ.

Whether fully vaccinated or not, St. Teresa of Avila will continue to practice COVID health and safety precautions for all. Each week if you plan to attend in-person Mass, to avoid any delays in getting into the church house, we ask that you complete the **online COVID-19 questionnaire by Saturday 2:00PM. (this includes children).** Please click here to complete the online questionnaire.

Join us online each **Sunday for Mass on STA** YouTube and Facebook Live channels **at 9:30AM**. *Visit the Archdiocese Website for additional recorded and live-streamed Masses at* https://adw.org/live-streamed-masses-and-prayers/.

Outdoor Mass is held on Sundays at 11:30AM in the courtyard between the church and the convent, ***weather permitting.*** All are welcome!

ADMINISTRATION

Pastoral Council | Finance Council
Parish Staff | Communications Committee
Membership

SERVICE

Haiti Mission | Health Awareness
Senior Adult Outreach | Virginia Morgan
Memorial Soup Kitchen | | Mothers on the
Move Spiritually (M.O.M.S)

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Eucharistic Ministers | Lectors | Ministers of
Hospitality | Nurses | Environment

WORSHIP & ARTS

Liturgical Dance | Drama Ministry | Gospel
Choir | Children & Youth Choir | Men's
Ensemble | Women's Ensemble | Sisters of
Praise | Instrumental Praise | Sight & Sound
Ministry

EDUCATION

Youth Faith Formation | Adult Faith Formation
Faith Links Small Group | Bible Study Baptism

COMMUNITY

Sodality | St. Vincent DePaul | S.H.A.R.E.
| Kairos Prison Ministry | M.O.S.T. (Men of St.
Teresa) | Washington Interfaith Network
Cursillo Ultreya | Teen Club | Girl Scouts | Boy
Scouts | Bereavement Ministry

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***

Sandi Allison-Harris, Joyce Barbour (sister of Audrey Barbour), Marian Barbour (mother of Audrey Barbour), Darren Barnes, Briana Brown (granddaughter of Robin Kelly), Katie Butler, Audrey Caldwell, Vermel Thompson-Chichester, Betty Cook (aunt of Wanda Smith), Bro. Jeff Corry, Maurice Crump, Sr., Nadine Day, Helen Despertt, Clark James Durand, Thomas Easter, Howard Fleming, Patricia Franklin, John Friday, Mary Frye, William Gorham, Mary Greenfield, Renee Gross, Antonio "Big Tony" Haggins, Ethel Hale, Betty Hamer (mother of Anna Friday), Delores Hatcherson, Audrey Hawkins, Princess Collins (niece of Shirley Hawkins), Kim Jackson, Patricia Pickens-James, Margaret Jenkins, Charles Johnson III, Reginald Johnson, Sheila Kennedy, Jahan Keys (great nephew of Shirley Hawkins), Inez Matthews, Janet Mauceri-McCain, Paul McCloud (Ralph McCloud's brother), Veronica McKinney, Gwendolyn Means, Dorothy Morgan, Mother Kamana Asteria Mukangango (mother of Fr. Didace), Vivian Parker (Sister Marie Bernadette's sister), Dennis Patterson (father of Denise Wilson, Grandfather of Sheronne Wilson and Great Grandfather of Dylan Coleman), Angela (Angie) Powell (daughter of Jackie Christian), Jocelyn Reyes, Michelle Whatley-Seabrooks, Willa Spruill, Yolanda Thomas, Bernadette Trowell, Linus Wade and Family, Carol Walker, Jonathan Wallace (son of Mary Wallace), Sharree Walls, Denise Washington, Tawana Wiley, Alice Wingate, and Tom Young.

How can we pray for you and your family? You can send your request directly to stachurchcommunications@gmail.com or contact the PLC**.**

DAILY MASS READINGS

December 26th Sunday Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28, Psalms 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Psalms 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10, Colossians 3:12-21 Or Colossians 3:12-17 or 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24
Luke 2:41-52

December 27th Monday, Feast of Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist
1 John 1:1-4, Psalms 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12, John 20:1A and 2-8

December 28th Tuesday, Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs
1 John 1:5-2:2, Psalms 124:2-3, 4-5, 7CD-8
Matthew 2:13-18

December 29th Wednesday Fifth Day in the Octave of Christmas
1 John 2:3-11, Psalms 96:1-2A, 2B-3, 5B-6, Luke 2:22-35

December 30th Thursday Sixth Day in the Octave of Christmas
1 John 2:12-17, Psalms 96:7-8A, 8B-9, 10, Luke 2:36-40

December 31st Friday The Seventh Day in the Octave of Christmas
1 John 2:18-21, Psalms 96:1-2, 11-12, 13, John 1:1-18

January 1st Saturday Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, The Octave Day of Christmas
Numbers 6:22-27, Psalms 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8, Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:16-21

January 2nd Sunday The Epiphany of the Lord
Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalms 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13, Ephesians 3:2-3A, 5-6, Matthew 2:1-12

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.***

(12/29) Molly Graham, Shirley Hawkins
(12/30) Donna Gaskins
(12/31) Robert Bradley

We thank God for the life He has given us in each of you!

If we have not listed your birthday, we do not have it! PLEASE CONTACT the Parish Life Center IMMEDIATELY!

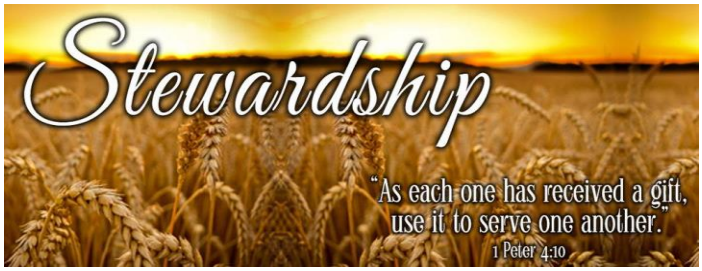
Join the Sodality in praying the Rosary *each* ***Sunday, at 11:00AM via free conference****.* ***The dial-in number is 1-602-580-9273.*** *The* ***access code*** *is* ***5360845.*** *When dialing in, please mute your phone after announcing your name.*

Wisdom Wednesdays

Wisdom Wednesday will be on Christmas break through the end of the year. We will be back in **January 2022** to gather each week and learn more about the origins of many gospel hymns, praise and worship chorus, and Gospel songs, followed by time for discussion and prayer. Please check the calendar of Events on the website for dial in information.

DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN & ANNOUNCEMENT SUBMISSIONS IS WEDNESDAYS BY 5:00PM. PLEASE SUBMIT

TO:stachurchcommunications@gmail.com



Here at STA, we practice "Stewardship" through our ministries, liturgies, and outreach, St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church touches the lives of hundreds of people in the Washington metropolitan area. You can help play a special and enduring role in our work. Regardless of your situation in life, there are multiple ways to support STA — first through your prayers but also through the gifts of your time, talents, financial resources and treasures.

Thank you for your generous tithes and love offerings. Please consider a Christmas offering to St. Teresa of Avila during this holy season by making a one-time or recurring end of year donation. Two easy ways to give:

- **eGiving:** Visit www.stachurchdc.org and click on ***"Tithes and Love Offerings"***. Choose ***"Christmas Offering"*** in the dropdown menu.
- Drop off or send your donation by mail to the **Parish Life Center** at 1401 V Street, SE, Washington, DC 20020. ***Please mark as a* ***"2021 Christmas Offering"*** *in the memo section of your check***

2021 Christmas offerings will be accepted through the entire Christmas Season.

HIGHWAY TO HEAVEN

IN MEMORIUM

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

Jacqueline McKinnie
(Sister of John Whiteside)

J. D Raynor, Jr.
(Brother of Eunice Wise and Uncle of Marian Yeldell)

Jerome Tilghman
(Brother of Deacon Tim Tilghman)

Mack R. Walston
(Uncle of Connie Darden)

They have made their way to this Highway to Heaven. ***We will miss them dearly, but we know that they go before us, and we will see them again.***

Grant, Father, us the peace and assurance that only You can give as we mourn these losses. We know that You are the author of life, that every one of Yours that leaves this world is coming directly to You. Grant those of us who remain here, waiting, watching, and trust You, comfort, and strength to go on without them. Amen, Amen, Amen

HELPING HANDS

"St. Teresa of Avila is called to be an evangelized and evangelizing community of believers who bear witness to Jesus Christ present in our midst…" If you are called to evangelize, please consider volunteering to read the **Parish Vision Statement**. You need not have experience, only a love for proclaiming our Parish Vision.

Anyone interested please send an email to:
stachurchcommunications@gmail.com

It started small, with just a few members of St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church deciding they would bring a small bag of grocery items to church each Sunday, to donate them to those in need. Thus, the **"STA Christmas Giving Project"** was born. It consisted of members who pledged to bring groceries to church each week until December 12th, at which time the items would be boxed up and donated to families in need. The volunteers were, Sandi Allison-Harris, Monica and Darren Barnes, LaMont and Kelli Baxter, Jeanette Callender, Maurice M. and Janice R. Crump, Toiya D. Crump, William Franklin, Donna Grimes, Kevin and Barbara Hill, John and Lethia Kelly, Willie and Joyce McNeill, Erin Sheehy, Tony Yorkshire, Robin Willis, and Eunice Wise. They were the ***"STA Christmas Angels,"*** and when people heard about what they were doing, boxes of food came pouring in from the community. The groceries collected at the church filled 14 boxes, and there were several cases of food left over. The excess was donated to Jubilee Housing, "an agency dedicated to creating service-enriched affordable housing in a rapidly gentrifying part of Washington, D.C."

In this time of COVID 19, job loss, and shut-downs, the ***"STA Christmas Angels"*** stepped up and unselfishly embraced the community around them. Thank you for your generous giving and unselfish love this holiday season!

Janice Crump, Organizer
STA Christmas Angels Project

Our STA faith community wants to thank Mrs. Charlene Howard, the students and faculty of **Bishop Carroll High School for the 60 boxes of food donated to the Anacostia community.** So many people were blessed by this wonderful act of kindness and because of their love for Gods people. Your generosity and love are appreciated.

Prayer for Haiti (Novena)

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

God of Life... Heavenly Father, we come to you being grateful for the gift of life for ourselves and our brothers and sisters in Haiti. We ask that you move in a mighty way to overcome challenges of life and death by providing necessary resources amid political unrest and devastation due to natural disasters. Help us to recognize and assist in some way to achieve "quality of life" in Haiti.

God of Hope…We come to you asking for restoration of food, shelter, health, peace, and unity for the common good of all people.

God of Creation…Creator of the Universe…. Maker of great and small, touch the hearts and hands of us. Let us unite our efforts to achieve by caring for God's people with respect and dignity.

God of Love… Let your love be the driving force that compels us to words and actions of faith, hope and charity. Lord, we ask you to replace any division, malice, discord, or greed with love. For in this love, we share safety, joy, and victory over evil.

God of Miracles…God, we thank you for divine intervention to the ongoing challenges that impact the quality of life among our brothers and sisters in Haiti.

_____**Amen**