

**St. Therese of the Little Flower | 315 Pugh St. • Woodsboro, TX**  
Welcome! Glad you are here!

“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Cor. 1:3



**Father Alex Saenz, Administrator**  
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**+Mass Intentions+**

**Sunday • January 18, 2026**

- +Mariano Ortega (b.d.) by The Family
- +Donnie E. Van Ness (b.d) by Donnie & RyAnn

**Wednesday • January 21, 2025**

- +Armando Ray Elizondo by Family

**Thursday • January 22, 2026**

- +Jimmy Mendez (ann.) by The Family
- Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

**Sunday • January 25, 2026**

- +Joe Fey by Family
- +Kimberly Jaramillo by The Family

**Liturgical Ministries**

- January 25**• Maria Lopez  
Maria, Martin, Volunteer
- February 1**• Lariyah Lopez  
Jamie, Angela, Volunteer
- February 8**• Lucy Cisneros  
Martin, Karla, Volunteer

*“Nothing is so strong as gentleness, nothing so gentle as real strength.”*

**-St. Francis de Sales Pray for Us**  
**St. Agnes Pray for Us**

**Mass Times**

**St. Therese of the Little Flower**

Sunday • 9:00am

\*Confession Sunday • 8:30-8:50

Holy Rosary Monday • 6:00pm & Sunday 8:30am

Wednesday • 7:30a.m. followed by Adoration

Thursday • 7:30a.m.

**Divine Mercy Chaplet**

St. Therese • Thursday 3:00pm

**Our Lady of Refuge**

Saturday Vigil • 4:00pm

\*Confession • Saturday 3:30-3:50

Sunday • 10:30am

Thursday • 12:05 pm in the Chapel

**St. James the Apostle**

Sunday • 12:00 Noon

Holy Rosary Sunday 11:30am

\*Confession • Sunday 11:30 - 11:50am

Monday • 7:30am

Friday • 7:30am followed by Adoration

*\*or by appointment.*

**Prayers for Strength and Healing**

Byrd Silguero, Helen Jane Spaarks, Kim Freeze, Oscar Cantu, Ray Cantu, Felix Luna, M.Maya, Tilly Yanez, Laura Balderamas, Martin Arriaga, Billy Gilstrap, Chris Castellano, Toni Tower, Jimmy Lewis, Arnulfo Arzola, Karla Arriaga, Cecelia Gonzales, Karen Linebarger, Rita Parker, Ashley Cisneros, Norm Alicia Newton, Vivian A. Zapata, Monica Rodriguez, Mike Gibbs, Jesse Flores, Sylvia Silguero, Yolanda Rodriguez, Melanie Thomas, Rene Garza, Janie Martinez, Robert Trevino, Rebecca Tanguma, Collins Tuttle, Ty Schultz, John Gilstrap, Deidra Fozzone, Pat Schubert, Richard Fierova, Connie Garcia, Frank Rodriguez, Cosme Valenzuela, Dorothy Welfel.

**Repose soul**-Vincent Linney, Ronnie Henning, Veronica Puentes, Gloria Hernandez, Grady Gillespie, Geneva Langridge, Thomas Braman, Jesse Lozano, Dan Haven, Kim Haygood, Benny Castellano, Lori Gutierrez.

*“The Lord is my strength and my shield, in whom my heart trusts. I am helped, so my heart rejoices; with my song I praise him.” Psalm 28:7*

**Parish Giving**

Sunday, January 11 \$1427.50

January 25 Second Collection Church in Latin America

## Diocese of Corpus Christi

### Jesus is the Light

As winter's chill lingers and the days gradually lengthen, the Catholic calendar marks an occasion of both spiritual and seasonal significance – *Candlemas*. Celebrated annually on *February 2nd, Candlemas*, also known as the *Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord* and the *Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary*, holds deep roots in tradition and symbolism. Central to this observance is the ceremonial blessing of candles, a practice that carries profound spiritual meaning and has become a cherished ritual in Traditional Catholicism. *Candlemas* finds its roots in both Christian and pagan traditions, marking a point in the liturgical calendar precisely 40 days after the birth of Our Lord. According to the Gospel of Luke, Mary and Joseph presented the infant Jesus at the Temple in Jerusalem for purification, as was the custom for Jewish law. Additionally, the day coincides with the ritual purification of the Virgin Mary. The celebration also intertwines with ancient Roman and Celtic festivals, most notably the *Roman feast of Lupercalia* and the Celtic celebration of *Imbolc*. As Christianity spread, *Candlemas* absorbed and transformed elements of these pre-existing traditions, becoming a beacon of light amid the darkness of winter. At the heart of *Candlemas* is the symbolism of light. The blessing of candles during this ceremony serves as a powerful metaphor for Christ as the "Light of the World." In many Parishes, candles are blessed on this day to symbolize the spiritual radiance brought by Our Lord into a world often overshadowed by sin and darkness. The ceremony typically involves a procession of candles, often led by clergy, through the church or the surrounding area. The candles are then blessed during a solemn ritual, invoking prayers for the light of Christ to dispel the darkness of sin. This act of blessing symbolizes purification, renewal, and the triumph of light over darkness. *Candlemas* holds deep spiritual significance, offering believers a profound reflection on the redemptive nature of Christ. The 40-day period marks the end of Our Lady's purification, during which she was considered impure after giving birth. In presenting Jesus at the Temple, Mary and Joseph participated in a ritual that symbolized redemption and the consecration of the firstborn. This act of purification, as narrated in the Gospel of Luke, underscores the importance of ritual and the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies. Simeon, a devout man who recognized the infant Jesus as the Messiah, proclaimed, "A light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel" (Luke 2:32). This declaration further emphasizes the theme of light and its connection to Christ's redemptive mission. *Candlemas* occupies a unique place in the liturgical calendar. It serves as a pivotal moment,

marking the transition from the Christmas season to the beginning of Lent. *The Feast of the Presentation* falls exactly 40 days after Christmas, leading into the period of preparation and reflection that culminates in the observance of Lent. As the liturgical colors shift from the festive hues of Christmas to the more somber tones of Lent, *Candlemas* bridges these two seasons, providing a spiritual link between the joy of Christ's birth and the contemplation of His sacrifice. The blessed candles hold a special place in households for the rest of the year, often used during times of prayer, moments of reflection, or in times of need. Lighting these candles becomes a tangible way for believers to connect with the spiritual significance of *Candlemas* and carry the symbolism of Christ's light into their daily lives. *Candlemas* and the blessing of candles stand as a radiant celebration of faith, blending historical, spiritual, and seasonal elements into a rich tapestry of tradition. As believers gather to commemorate the *Presentation of Our Lord* at the Temple and the *Purification of the Blessed Virgin*, they not only partake in a ritual with deep historical roots but also embrace a symbolic gesture that resonates with the enduring light of Christ in a world seeking illumination and redemption. The blessed candles become more than mere wax and wick; they become conduits of spiritual insight, casting a warm glow on the path of faith and hope for the journey ahead. — T.D. Van Horn

### St. Therese Community News

#### *CCD News:*

*January 18 Jr. High* 5-6:30 p.m.

*January 21 1st-5th Grade* 4:30-5:30 p.m.

*January 25 Youth Mass* at OLR

*Jr High* 5:00-6:30 p.m. at St. James

*\*February 1st* bring your candles to be blessed.

*\*The Refugio Community Cemetery Association* is presenting a Martin Luther King Jr. Day march and program on Monday, January 19. The march is set to begin at 10:30 a.m. at Union Baptist Church, 310 King Street, and proceed to Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church, 611 East Ward street, for the program. Guest speaker is Cedric Davis, Mathis City Manager.

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that". -*Martin Luther King Jr.*

**Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**