

FOURTH SUNDAY *of Advent*



**The Parish of St. Theresa
Little Egg Harbor, New Jersey**



The Parish of St. Theresa
450 Radio Road
Little Egg Harbor, NJ 08087

Parish Office Business Hours

Monday – Friday
8:30 am – 12:00 Noon & 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm.
Closed for Lunch between 12 Noon & 1:00 PM

Phone 609 296-2504
Fax 609 296-4530
Emergency Phone 609 857-3676
Email info@sttheresa450.org
Web sttheresa450.org

DAILY PRAYER

The Main Church and the Daily Chapel are open for private prayer Monday through Friday, 7:30 am - 4:00 pm.

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday - Friday: 8:00 am (*Main Church*)
Saturday Vigil: 4:00 pm
Sunday: 7:30 am, 9:00 am & 11:30 am

Holy Days of Obligation

Vigil Mass: 7:00 pm
Holy Day Mass: 8:00 am & 12:15 pm

RECONCILIATION

Saturdays: 3:00 - 3:45 PM
And by appointment

WELCOME *We welcome you to join us as we gather to celebrate our faith and worship God. Whatever your present status in the Catholic Church, whatever your current family or marital situation, whatever your past or present religious affiliation, whatever your personal history, age, background, or race, you are a Child of God and you are welcomed, accepted, loved, and respected at the Church of St. Theresa.*



Monday, December 22, 2025
Al-Anon 7:15 PM
(Faith Formation Center)

Tuesday, December 23, 2025
Scriptural Rosary 1:30 PM (Daily Chapel)
Seven Sorrows Rosary 3:00 PM (Church)
Knights of Columbus Council Meeting 7:00 PM
(Faith Formation Center)

Wednesday, December 24, 2025
Christmas Eve
Parish Office Closed

Thursday, December 25, 2025
Christmas Day
Parish Office Closed

Friday, December 26, 2025
Parish Officed Closed
Seven Sorrows Rosary 3:00 PM (Daily Chapel)
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
8:30 - 4:00 PM
Evening Prayer with Benediction 4:00 PM
(Daily Chapel)

Saturday, December 27, 2025
Food Bag Distribution
Monthly 50/50 Tickets on Sale
(Gathering Space)

Sunday, December 28, 2025
Food Bag Distribution
Monthly 50/50 Tickets on Sale
(Gathering Space)



WE PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Please remember in your prayers all those members of our parish family and our friends who continuously suffer physically, emotionally and/or spiritually and those who tirelessly care for them. Let us especially remember those currently in need of our prayers: *Kevin Brady, Kim Coyle, Maureen Dwyer, Johnny Favro, Chuck Griffin, Peter Hummel, Justin Marchese, Ro McLaughlin, Art Midgley, Peter Mills, Rev. William Modlin, Rita Murray, Andrew Joseph Ragusa, Samantha Saraceno, Valerie Schaffer, Nick Steiger.*



WE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED

We extend our prayers and sympathy to the family and friends of *our recently deceased*. May they find eternal rest in peace with God our Father.



WE PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Please remember in your prayers all those members of our parish family and our friends who are currently deployed, especially: *Sr. Boatswain Gabrielle Fest, LCPl Christopher Hansen, Airman Staff Sgt. Frank J. Kowalewski, Jr., Airmen Tech Sgt. Amanda Keller, Lt. Jennifer LaFalace, FC2 Paul R. Lund, Pvt. Anthony Mackiewicz, Jr., Pvt. Logan Mora, Sgt. John Murray, USMC, Staff Sgt. Michael Novelli, Spec. Jeffrey Peterson, Jr., Nicholas Roesch, Capt. Amanda Southard, LCDR Christopher J. Worosz, USN, Lt. Matthew A. Worosz, USN.* May the Lord protect them as they protect us.



WE PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

Heavenly Father, your harvest needs good and faithful men to tend to its many needs. Open their minds and hearts to respond to your call to be priests of and for the Diocese of Trenton, in imitation of your Son Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd of your flock. Amen. Follow us on Instagram: **TrentonMakesPriests**



THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptisms are held the first and third Sunday of each month at 1:00 PM. Arrangements must be made in person at the Parish Office at least two months in advance. Parents and Godparents are required to attend a Baptismal Prep Class.

THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Arrangements must be made at least one year in advance. Preparations include sessions with a member of the clergy and attendance at a Pre-Cana Conference. For more information, please call the Parish Office.



THE SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us there is **no need to wait until a person is at the point of death to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick**. A careful judgment about the serious nature of an illness is sufficient. *“Hence, as soon as anyone of the faithful begins to be in danger of death from sickness or old age, the fitting time for him to receive this sacrament has certainly already arrived.”¹³⁰* We welcome anyone who has a physical condition, is anticipating entering the hospital for surgery or tests, or under any emotional distress to avail themselves of this beautiful Sacrament. Please call the Parish Office to schedule the Sacrament with a priest. Please do not wait until the very last minute to call.



MASSES FOR THIS WEEKEND:

SATURDAY – December 20, 2025

4:00 PM – Stella Szewczyk/ Bob & Joann Szewczyk
Minnie Cusano/ Bob & Joann Szewczyk
Joe Folmer/ Lorraine & Steve Gondelmann
Joe Barnett/ Wife, Gloria

SUNDAY – December 21, 2025

7:30 AM – Leo Scherer/ Rose Faiss
Joe Triolo/ Marianne & Joe Downs
Geri Paolino/ Family
John Lagana/ John & Kathy Capuano

9:00 AM – Daniel Malone/ Leslie, Kevin & Michael
Rose & Caesar Laratta/ Family
Joseph Binetti/ Mr. & Mrs. Brian Murray
Joan Conolly/ Ginny Oswald & Family

11:30 AM – Ollie Cisyk/ Wife, Amy
Anthony Santos Garcia/ Garcia Family
Anthony Palomba/ Joey
Brenda Bajek/ Theresa Gwozdz



MASSES FOR THIS WEEK:

MONDAY – December 22, 2025

8:00 AM – Anges Cerbora/ Nancy & Jim Jo Hellawell/ Peter Hellawell

TUESDAY – December 23, 2025

8:00 AM – Jenna Plant/ Grandma & Jim Ernie Finizio/ Bob & Linda Anderson

WEDNESDAY- December 24, 2025

CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 PM – William Lisner/ Rosemary Hartley
Janine McKeon/ Husband
Ray Mazanek/ Family
Mick McGarrigle/ Family

6:00 PM- Frank Hughes/ Wife, Suzanne
Joan Connolly/ Sandra Hand & Andrea DeGregorio
Shawn Pluta/ Sue Eggert

THURSDAY – December 25, 2025 - CHRISTMAS

Midnight – Patrick Dolan/ Wife
Conlon & Dolan Families/ Family
Robert & Marge Douglass/ Bob & Thom

9:00 AM- Anthony Santos Garcia/ Garcia Family
William Lisner/ Wife, Ann
Michael Madsen/ George & Toni
Kathleen Fole/ George & Toni

11:30 AM- Daniel Duffy/ Family
Deceased Members of the Callahan Family/ Family
Deceased Members of the Frumolt Family/ Family
Robert Dowd/ Family

FRIDAY – December 26, 2025

8:00 AM – Helen Reale/ Vicki & John Kern
Bob Keenan/ Mom & Dad

SATURDAY – December 27, 2025

4:00 PM – Ken Bahrs/ O’Hara Family
Marie Barton/ Tom Barton & Daughter
Joe Barnett/ Wife, Gloria
Richard Dry/ O’Hara Family

SUNDAY – December 28, 2025

7:30 AM – William Moran/ Moran Family
John Lagana/ Family
Kathy Capuano/ Family
Carol & Robin Wyatt/ Family

9:00 AM – Helen Morrow/ Ian & Cheryl Smith
Joan Connolly/ Deb & Jim Hand
Jennifer Paradiso/ Family
Carol Dancer/ Ian & Cheryl Smith

11:30 AM – Jules & Matilda Feliciano/ Rose Wilson
Theresa Hayward/ Rose Wilson
Mary Ann Burghold/ Altar Rosary Society



First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

Ahaz receives from Isaiah a prophecy that he will be successful in war and is urged to ask for a sign that the prophecy is true. The sign is *“The virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel.”*

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Paul greets the Romans by pointing out that Jesus is the Christ who was promised to them in Scripture. He, Paul, is the apostle favored with the task of spreading the name of Christ to all.

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

In a brief, straightforward, simple narrative, Matthew recounts the events leading to Jesus’ birth. He details the appearance of the angel in a dream to Joseph and stresses that *“All this happened to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophets.”*

Consider & Reflect

“Greetings from Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart to proclaim the gospel of God, which he promised long ago through his prophets, as the holy Scriptures record – the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh but was made Son of God in power, according to the spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him we have been favored with apostleship that we may spread his name.”

How many greeting cards have you received? How careful were you to read the message? The scriptures today contain the message of Saint Paul for you. He summarizes what the coming of Christ means for all, as we too are favored, blessed, to be witnesses to spread his name. May we take a moment to reflect on Paul’s letter, put the material and social events aside, and decide to remind others of the reason for Christ’s coming. Ask one person *“do you know why Christ came?”*

Come Lord Jesus!



Liturgical Ministers Schedule

Saturday, December 27, 2025 - 4:00 PM

CELEBRANT: Fr. Phil Pfleger, Deacon Jay Werling

READER: Eileen Wertz

ALTAR SERVERS: Rory Krier, Brynn Krier

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY

COMMUNION: Ann Marie Rehrmann, Cathy Mills, Jack Stewart, Carol Owens, Lorraine Schaefer, Gloria Barnet

Sunday, December 28, 2025 - 7:30 AM

CELEBRANT: Fr. Gerry Johnson, Deacon Jay Werling

READER: Peg Chrobocinski

ALTAR SERVER: Jack Wurth

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY

COMMUNION: Arlene Murray, Ginny Biely, John Minnella, Gail Englert

Sunday, December 28, 2025 - 9:00 AM

CELEBRANT: Fr. Gerry Johnson, Deacon David O’Connor

READER: John Brady

ALTAR SERVERS: Matthew Wurst, Jacob Shaffer

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY

COMMUNION: Kathy Barneman, David Laskowski, Ann Hummel, Diana Hummel, Justin Peticolas, Gail Buffi

Sunday – December 28, 2025 - 11:30 AM

CELEBRANT: Fr. Dean Gaudio, Deacon David O’Connor

READER: Ann Wilton

ALTAR SERVER: Justin McCarthy

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY

COMMUNION: Ann Burg, Mila Daproza, Rose Wilson, Nelida Kuhlmann, Carol Fine, Cora Fernandez

Liturgical Ministers Christmas Schedule



Wednesday, December 24, 2025 - 4:00 PM

CELEBRANT: Fr. Dean Gaudio, Deacon Jay Werling

READER: Gloria Barnett

ALTAR SERVERS: Jacob Schaffer, Raelyn Lewis

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY

COMMUNION: Ann Marie Rehrmann, Sue Eggert, Eileen Wertz, Carol Owens, Pat O'Hara, John Kern

Wednesday, December 24, 2025 – 6:00 PM

CELEBRANT: Fr. Phil Pflieger, Deacon Jay Werling

READER: Steven Schaffer

ALTAR SERVERS: Jillie Aucoin, Zachary Aucoin

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY

COMMUNION: Desiree Ott, Diane Hummel, Ann Hummel, Gail Englert

Sunday, December 25, 2025 - 12:00 AM

CELEBRANT: Fr. Gerry Johnson, Fr. Dean Gaudio

READER: Royal Dwyer

ALTAR SERVER: Kim Werling

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY

COMMUNION: Jack Stewart, Diane Ellwood

Sunday, December 25, 2025 - 9:00 AM

CELEBRANT: Fr. Gerry Johnson, Deacon David O'Connor

READER: Todd Lund

ALTAR SERVERS: Brynn Krier, Jack Krier, Rory Krier

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY

COMMUNION: John Sullivan, Jayne Ziegler, Suzanne Hughes, Marie Adderly, Terry Walsh

Sunday, December 25, 2025 – 11:30 AM

CELEBRANT: Fr. Gerry Johnson, Deacon David O'Connor

READER: Jack Cashman

ALTAR SERVERS: Justin McCarthy, Josh Greene

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY

COMMUNION: Mila Daproza, Ann Wilton, Cathy Brys, Rose Wilson, Jaqueline Arduini, Deborah Norwillo



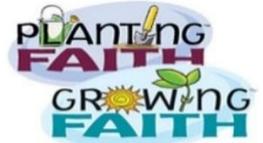
ADVENT WREATHS

"Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you." Luke 6:38

The Advent Wreaths for the Church and the Daily Chapel cost
\$3,200.00.

We would greatly appreciate if you can help us to cover the cost. If you can contribute in any way, please send checks to St. Theresa's Church. Please write **Advent Wreaths** in the memo.

Thank you again for your continued generosity!



Children in Grades K - 8

Includes preparation for

First Communion and Confirmation

For more information call Joana Schmidt at
609-296-2504 Ext. 224

or email

Joana.schmidt@sttheresa450.org



Readings for Next Weekend

December 28, 2025

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Reading I: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

Reading II: Colossians 3:12-21

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

CHRISTMAS WAFERS (OPLATEK)



Oplatek is a rectangular shaped wafer like our communion hosts. It is a custom that began a millennium ago in Poland, Slovakia, and Lithuania on Christmas Eve. When the first Star appears, the *oplatek* is broken and shared with those who are present for Christmas Eve Dinner, which traditionally is a meatless meal.

Oplatek is available for purchase (*donation \$5.00*) at the parish office.

50/50

St. Theresa's MONTHLY 50/50 Raffle

Tickets are on sale after all the Masses in the Gathering Space and at the Parish Office during office hours.

The next drawing will be held **January 6, 2026 at 10:00 AM** at the Parish Office.



OUR PROMISE TO PROTECT DIOCESE OF TRENTON

Office of Child and Youth Protection

The Diocese of Trenton is committed to the initiatives outlined in the US Bishop's Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People in regard to the reporting and investigation of sexual abuse allegations involving minors.

If you have been sexually abused as a minor by a member of the clergy or anyone representing the Catholic Church, or if you know someone who was, you can report that abuse through the diocesan Abuse Hotline: 1-888-296-2965 or via email at abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org.

The Diocese of Trenton reports any allegations of sexual abuse to the appropriate law enforcement agencies. Anyone with an allegation is also encouraged to provide that information to local law enforcement authorities.



St. Theresa's Church

609-296-1345

Monday, Wednesday & Friday

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Items needed this month:

TOILET PAPER

Hamburger Helper type packaged products, ravioli, canned soups, canned pastas, rice side dishes, cake mixes and frosting, small jars of mayonnaise, ketchup, mustard, peanut butter, jelly, pancake syrup, pancake mix, apple juice, and pasta.

Thank you!



Having "My Seat" in Church

Once a person finds a particular seat in Church, he/she tends to sit there all the time. A problem might exist when someone else sits in a seat that is "**claimed**" by another parishioner. For instance, a visitor might not know that someone has a certain seat that he/she usually occupies.

What should I do when this happens? Should I offend a person who drove to our worship service seeking Jesus by asking them to move because I staked a claim on a seat that belongs to God Almighty? No one who enters our worship service should give any thought at all as to where is the appropriate place to sit.

Arriving in Church to find someone in your normal spot should bring joy! Praise to God for the opportunity to make a new relationship and welcome them to our Parish Family. Our coming together each week is a reminder of how badly we need Jesus and each other.



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ONLINE GIVING

We're sure most of you already pay many of your other household bills online or through automatic withdrawal. Why not your contributions to St. Theresa's Church?

Online Giving is easy, convenient and secure. *When you give online, your gift will be transferred conveniently and securely from your bank account or credit card directly into the Church's account.*

Please sign up today on our website: www.sttheresa450.org or call Chris at 609-296-2504 Ext. 223. She can help walk you through the process



COLLECTION ENVELOPES

If you were unable to pick up your 2026 box of yearly donation envelopes, you may pick them up at the Parish Office during office hours.

If you are going away this winter, please let us know and we will hold your envelopes until you return.

If you have any questions, please call Katrina at the Parish Office at Ext. 232.



AL-ANON

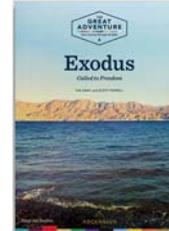
Al-Anon is a mutual support group of peers who share their experience in applying the AL-Anon principles to problems related to the effects of a problem drinker in their lives.

Al-Anon meets **every Monday** at **7:15 PM** in the Faith Formation Center. Please visit www.al-anon.org

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

The Adult Faith Formation Team will offer a ten-week study on

Exodus: Called to Freedom



The study will begin
Tuesday, January 13, 2026 - 9:30 am
OR
Thursday, January 15, 2026
9:30 am OR 7:00 pm

Learn how the Exodus story is not just Israel's story but our story as well, because it reveals who God is and what he calls us to be. Discover the divine purpose behind the plagues on Egypt and explore how God's law reflects his love and concern for us.

Produced by Ascension Press, Exodus will consist of 10 sessions with a 30-minute DVD presentation and then table discussion and a question and answer follow up.

The cost is \$35.00

Registration will be held on the weekend of **January 3rd & 4th** after all Masses. Please call MJ Piechocki at 304-268-4816 with any questions.

THE ROSARY OF THE SEVEN SORROWS and
DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET
TUESDAYS & FRIDAYS – 3:00 PM

The Rosary of the Seven Sorrows has long-standing roots in the Church's devotional life. As you pray the prayers, you meditate on seven specific sorrows of Our Lady. The graces promised through the Seven Sorrows Rosary also tie in to the Divine Mercy message. Divine Mercy offers us a pathway home to Christ and His Church.

We hope you will join us in these devotions to our Blessed Mother!



PHONES & COMPUTERS

Below are the extensions for our parish staff. Once connected, it is not necessary to listen to the entire announcement - you may dial the extension at any time. Also listed are the email addresses for the staff.

Reception: Office Volunteers Ext. 221

Parish Coordinator/Assistant to the Pastor:

Cathy Mazanek - Ext. 222 -

Cathy.Mazanek@sttheresa450.org

Finance Manager/HR: Christina Gile –

Ext. 223 ChrisGile@sttheresa450.org

Children’s Faith Formation Director:

Joana Schmidt - Ext. 224

Joana.Schmidt@sttheresa450.org

Deacon: David O’Connor

Deacon.David@sttheresa450.org

Deacon: Jay Werling – Ext. 225

Deacon.Jay@sttheresa450.org

Facilities: Michael Gavina – Ext. 227

Michael.Gavina@sttheresa450.org

Music Director: Joe Dalton - Ext. 228

Joe.Dalton@sttheresa450.org

Parish Secretary: Katrina Barrett - Ext. 232

Katrina.Barrett@sttheresa450.org

Pastor: Fr. Gerry Johnson - Ext. 234

Father.Gerry@sttheresa450.org

Parochial Vicar: Fr. Dean Gaudio - Ext. 233

Father.Dean@sttheresa450.org

For general questions, our parish email address is info@sttheresa450.org

The Parish of St. Theresa



CHRISTMAS EVE

No 8:00 AM Mass

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

4:00 PM

6:00 PM



CHRISTMAS

Thursday, December 25, 2025

12:00 Midnight

9:00 AM

11:30 AM



New Year’s Eve

Wednesday, December 31, 2025

4:00 PM

New Year’s Day

Solemnity of

MARY MOTHER OF GOD

Thursday, January 1, 2026

8:00 AM & 12:15 PM

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