

THE PARISH OF ST. THERESA

450 RADIO ROAD • LITTLE EGG HARBOR, NEW JERSEY 08087



DECEMBER 28, 2025

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph



Phone ----- 609 296-2504

Fax----- 609 296-4530

Emergency Phone----- 609 857-3676

Email----- info@sttheresa450.org

Web ----- sttheresa450.org

Parish Office Business Hours

Monday through Friday: 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Closed for lunch: 12:00 noon - 1:00 pm

PARISH STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Selvam J. Asirvatham
(Rev. Gerry Johnson)

Parochial Vicar

Rev. Dean Gaudio

Weekend Assistant

Rev. Phillip Pflieger

Deacons

Deacon David O'Connor
Deacon Jay Werling

Parish Coordinator / Assistant to the Pastor

Cathy Mazanek

Parish Secretary

Katrina Barrett

Director of Religious Education

Joana Schmidt

Director of Music

Joe Dalton

Parish Finance Manager/HR

Chris Gile

Facilities Manager

Michael Gavina

Trustees

John Kern, Maureen Malsbury

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

Saturday: 3:00 - 3:45 pm & By appointment

DAILY PRAYER & ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

The Main Church and the Daily Chapel are opened for private prayer Monday through Friday, 7:30 am - 4:00 pm. The Blessed Sacrament is exposed for Adoration (in the Daily Chapel) Fridays after the 8:00 am Mass and concludes with Evening Prayer & Benediction at 4:00 pm.

PARISH LIFE

“The Church draws her life from the Eucharist. This truth does not simply express a daily experience of faith, but recapitulates *the heart of the mystery of the Church.*” (St. John Paul - *On the Eucharist & Its Relationship to the Church*). At the parish of St. Theresa, we strive to embody these words that describe the centrality of the Eucharist for the life and mission of the Church.

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.

REGISTRATION: We invite you to officially register as a member of our parish community. By registering you declare your desire to be part of our Catholic community and you are able to stay closely connected with the life of the parish. In order to register, please call or stop by the Parish Office.



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.



Mass Intentions

MASSES FOR THIS WEEKEND:

SATURDAY – December 27, 2025

4:00 PM – Ken Bahrs/ O’Hara Family
Marie Barton/ Tom Barton &
Daughter
Joe Barnet/ 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



Bread & Wine and Sanctuary Light

*Are offered for the special intentions of
Fr. John Large*



Readings for Next Weekend

January 4, 2026

The Epiphany of the Lord

Reading I: Isaiah 60:1-6

Reading II: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12



Mass Intentions

MASSES FOR THIS WEEK:

MONDAY – December 29, 2025

8:00 AM – Joseph Ruoto IV/ Uncle Bob & Aunt Linda
Joan Connolly/ Sherry Miller & Girls

TUESDAY – December 30, 2025

8:00 AM – John Kennedy/ Wife
Shawn Anthony Pluta/ Cathy Brys

WEDNESDAY- December 31, 2025

8:00 AM – Carol Coladonato/ Marie Adderly
Joseph Geiss/ Rose Wilson

Vigil of Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

4:00 PM- Michelle Scott/ Bob & Ann Marie
Rehrmann
Sheryl Worth-Farfalla/ Bob &
Ann Marie Rehrmann
Gerald Sauter/ Ann & Dave Wilton

THURSDAY – January 1, 2026

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

8:00 AM – Shawn Pluta/ Adriana Chizan
Barry Kent Herbert/ Margaret Simon
12:15 PM - Eggert & Sieben Families/ Family
Frances & Ralph Portella/ Norma & Art

FRIDAY – January 2, 2026

8:00 AM – Jake Fellers/ Jack & Lorraine
Domenico Mastopaquo/ Linda & Bill
Gruss

SATURDAY – January 3, 2026

4:00 PM – Schaefer Family/ The Lorraines
Catherine Kozzi/ Marjorie Annette
Connie Gargone/ Arlene & Bob Keenan
Mike & Caitlyn McMahon/ Moran
Family

SUNDAY – January 4, 2026

7:30 AM – Joseph LaCasale/ Piscola Family
Sabastian Panza/ Millie & Phil Cross
Elizabeth Long-Furia/ Rose Faiss
Sheree Barone/ Maria

9:00 AM – Sherly Worth-Farfalla/ Ann & Dave
Connie Gargone/ Debra
Albert Pifer/ Ron & Patty Krup
Andrew & Barbara Guerriero/ Fran &
Victor Vitello

11:30 AM – Barbara Hobbs-Fernie/ Carol & Don Fine
Helene & Vincent Morano/ Deborah &
Joseph
Larry Weimer/ Family
Ed & Ana Lyn Daproza/ Mila

JANUARY

Monday, December 29, 2025

Al-Anon 7:15 PM
(Faith Formation Center)

Tuesday, December 30, 2025

Scriptural Rosary 1:30 PM
(Daily Chapel)
Seven Sorrows Rosary 3:00 PM
(Church)

Wednesday, December 31, 2025

New Year's Eve
Parish Office Closed

Thursday, January 1, 2026

New Year's Day
Parish Office Closed

Friday, January 2, 2026

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, January 3, 2026

Adult Faith Formation Registration
Food Collection for the Pantry
Monthly 50/50 Tickets on Sale
(Gathering Space)

Sunday, January 4, 2026

Adult Faith Formation Registration
Food Collection for the Pantry
Monthly 50/50 Tickets on Sale
(Gathering Space)
Liturgy of the Word for Children 9:00 AM Mass
(Church)
Altar Rosary Society Recitation of the Rosary
After 11:30 AM Mass
(Daily Chapel)



THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

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

This passage from Sirach details the duties children owe to father and mother. Their life-long devotion will not be forgotten and “will take lasting root.”

Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-21

Paul urges Christians, particularly in the setting of the family, to “clothe” themselves with kindness, patience, humility, and mercy; to forgive; and, above all, to love!

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

An angel of the Lord, appearing in a dream to Joseph, urges him to flee with Jesus and Mary to Egypt to escape the murderous schemes of Herod. Later, in another dream, an angel tells Joseph to go with Jesus and Mary to a town called Nazareth in the region of Galilee, thus fulfilling the Scriptures: “He shall be called a Nazarian.”

Consider & Reflect

“Because you are God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with heartfelt mercy, with kindness, humility, meekness and patience. Bear with one another, forgive whatever grievances you have against one another. Forgive as the Lord has forgiven you. Over all these virtues put on love, which binds the rest together and makes them perfect. Christ’s peace must reign in your hearts.”

As the year draws to a close, rather than make new year’s resolutions we will soon forget, may I use the teaching of Paul to examine my 2025 conduct and seek ways to be sure these gifts are part and parcel of my daily living. The family of Nazareth had great difficulties and trials but surely they model the virtues spoken of in the scripture passage.

Paul’s audience was chosen by the Lord. We are chosen too but often forget how special we are. Why not consider a family which needs your prayer and support them, or one who models these virtues and imitate them. Isn’t that a great way to begin 2026? Our family living is OJT ‘on the job training.’



BLP

Liturgical Ministers Schedule

Saturday, January 3, 2026- 4:00 PM

CELEBRANT: TBD

READER: Bernice Philhower

ALTAR SERVERS: Kim Werling, Raelyn Lewis

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY

COMMUNION: Barbara Ragusa Jack Stewart,
Eileen Wertz, Lorraine Schaefer, Susan Geldart,
Janet Pascavitch

Sunday, January 4, 2026- 7:30 AM

CELEBRANT: TBD

READER: Maddox Barradas

ALTAR SERVER: Jack Wurth

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY

COMMUNION: Ginny Biely, Jim Newman,
Arlene Murray, Gail Englert

Sunday, January 4, 2026- 9:00 AM

CELEBRANT: TBD

READER: Steven Shaffer

ALTAR SERVERS: Rory Krier, Brynn Krier

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY

COMMUNION: David Laskowski, Todd Lund,
Sr., Gail Buffi, Joann Spickard, John Sullivan,
Jayne Ziegler

Sunday – January 4, 2026- 11:30 AM

CELEBRANT: TBD

READER: Royal Dwyer

ALTAR SERVERS: Josh Greene, Kim Werling

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY

COMMUNION: Jacqueline Arduini, Carol Fine,
Cora Fernandez, Patricia Claussen, Mila
Daproza, Ann Burg



BLP

Liturgical Ministers Schedule

Mary Mother of God

Wednesday, December 31, 2025 - 4:00 PM

CELEBRANT: Fr. Gerry Johnson, Deacon Jay Werling

READER: CeCe Scheckler

ALTAR SERVER: Kim Werling

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY

COMMUNION: Eileen Wertz, John Kern, Carol Fine,
Pat O'Hara

Thursday, January 1, 2026 8:00 AM

CELEBRANT: TBD

READER: Peg Chrobocinski

ALTAR SERVER: TBD

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY

COMMUNION: Gail Englert, Arlene Murray

Thursday, January 1, 2026 12:15 PM

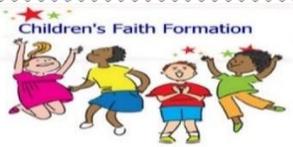
CELEBRANT: TBD

READER: Susan McEwan

ALTAR SERVER: Justin McCarthy

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY

COMMUNION: John Sullivan, Suzanne Hughes,
John Minnella

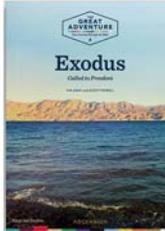


Children in Grades K - 8
Includes preparation for
First Communion and Confirmation

For more information call Joana Schmidt at
609-296-2504 Ext. 224
or email
Joana.schmidt@sttheresa450.org

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.



2026 CATHOLIC CALENDARS

Calendars are located in the Gathering Space, the Kiosk, on the table by the Daily Chapel and at the Parish Office. Please feel free to take as many as you would like.



SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

January 1, 2025

Is a Holy Day of Obligation

Wednesday, December 31, 2025
4:00 PM

New Year's Day
Solemnity of MARY,
THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Wednesday, January 1, 2026
8:00 AM
12:15 PM

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.



The Parish Office will be closed:

December 31, 2025
January 1 and 2, 2026

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



Thank You

A warm heartfelt thanks to everyone who sent cards, gifts, cookies, cakes, candy, and all sorts of treats, to the Parish Office over the Christmas holiday. It was so thoughtful and we really enjoyed all of them. May God Bless you in the New Year. Thanks Again!

Sincerely,
Fr. Gerry, Fr. Dean,
and the Parish Staff



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!



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.



Remember St. Theresa's Church

Whether your estate is grand or humble, you can contribute significantly by including a charitable **bequest** in your estate plan.

You do not have to be wealthy to leave a charitable bequest. It is not about the dollar amount. It is about leaving a legacy to a Parish that has been there for you and your family so that we may continue to serve others in the future. Please consider adding St. Theresa's Church as one of your beneficiaries.



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is held on **Fridays** in the Daily Chapel following the 8:00 AM Mass and closing with Evening Prayer and Benediction at **4:00 PM**. ***Please prayerfully consider spending an hour or so in the presence of our Lord each week***



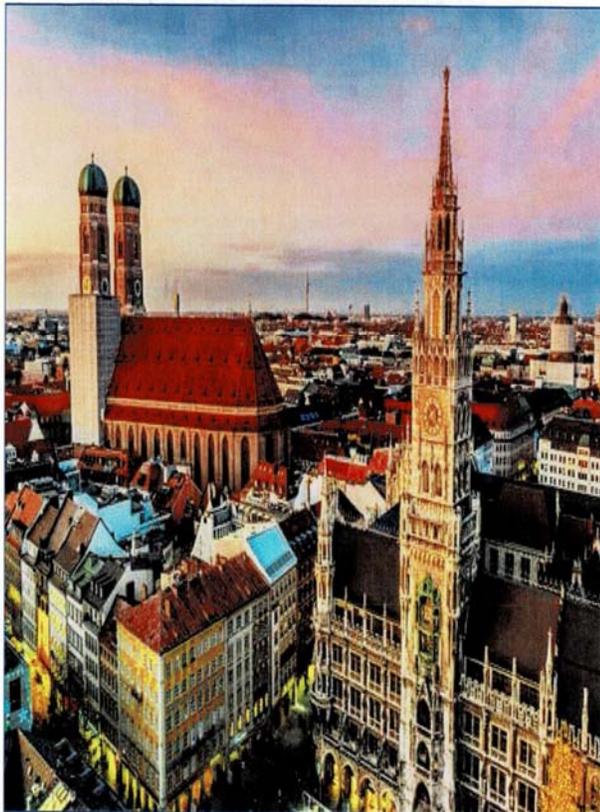
AL-ANON

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

Fr. Gerry Asirvatham Pilgrimages



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Spiritual Leader: Fr. Gerry Asirvatham

Date	Duration	Destination
April 20 - 30, 2026	11 days	Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy

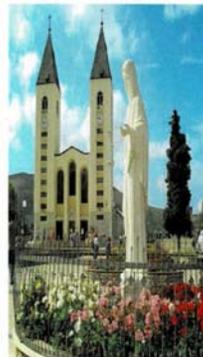
Munich (Frauenkirche) · Altotting (Jerusalem Panorama) · Salzburg (Maria Von Trapp) · Dachau (Concentration Camp) · Seefeld (Eucharistic Miracle) · Liechtenstein (tiny country) · Einsiedeln (Marian shrine) · Lucerne · Orselina (Santuario de la Madonna del Sasso) · Milan (Last Supper by Leonardo da Vinci) · Pavia (San Pietro in Ciel d Oro) · Mesero (St. Gianna Beretta Molla) · Castelnuovo Don Bosco (St. John Bosco) · Turin (Shroud) · Oropa (Marian Shrine) · Biella

<https://www.206tours.com/cms/frgerry>

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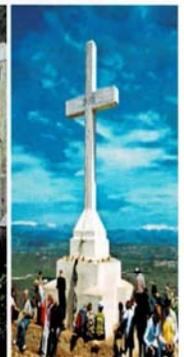
Join Fr. Dean Gaudio on a Special Pilgrimage to the Shrines of Croatia and Bosnia & Herzegovina October 14 - 23, 2026



St. James Church, Medjugorje



Mostar Bridge



Cross Mountain, Medjugorje



Cathedral of Saint Anastasia in Zadar, Croatia



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50/50

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Drawing to be held
after the Easter Vigil

Book of 4 tickets - \$100.00

3 CHANCES TO WIN

*Watch the bulletin
for further Details*



BRINGING UP THE GIFTS AT MASS

If the Mass Intention on any given Sunday is for a friend or loved one, you can request to bring up the gifts at that Mass. Simply inform the Head Usher who is usually stationed by the Baptismal Font.

This practice, of people bringing up the gifts, has been part of our Catholic tradition from the very beginning. Anyone can bring up the gifts regardless of who the intention is for.

We encourage and hope you will participate.



6 Things Catholics Should Stop Doing During Holy Mass

The Holy Mass is the highest form of worship in the Catholic Church. Yet, many Catholics unknowingly fall into habits that can distract from the sacredness of the celebration. Here are six things every Catholic should stop doing during Mass:

1. Arriving Late or Leaving Early

While emergencies happen, consistently walking in after the Mass has begun, or worse, leaving right after Communion, shows a lack of reverence for the full sacrifice of the Mass. Aim to arrive early and stay for the final blessing.

2. Using Phones for Non-Spiritual Purposes

Unless you're following readings on a Mass app or using it for prayer, phones should be silenced and stowed away. Browsing social media or texting during Mass not only distracts you but also those around you.

3. Casual Attire with No Reverence

Wearing immodest or overly casual clothing can downplay the sacredness of the Mass. Dress with dignity as if you're entering the presence of the King — because you are.

4. Chewing Gum or Eating

The Church calls for a one-hour Eucharistic fast before receiving Communion. Chewing gum in church is both disrespectful and breaks this fast. Save snacks for after Mass unless you have a medical need.

5. Talking and Whispering Unnecessarily

The church is a house of prayer. Chatting, even in whispers, takes away from the silence and sacred atmosphere meant for reflection, prayer, and awe.

6. Rushing Through Responses and Prayers

Mass isn't a race. Reciting prayers mindlessly or rushing through responses reduces their meaning. Pray each word with attention and devotion as a true offering to God.

Conclusion

Mass is not just another religious service, it's the representation of Christ's sacrifice on Calvary. Let's strive to participate fully, consciously, and reverently, giving God the attention and love He deserves.

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12-4 PM**

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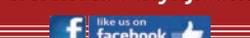


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