

# SECOND SUNDAY *of Advent*



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



### 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 **Emil Hrycenko and Rita Zellman.** 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, LCP1 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.”<sup>130</sup>* 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 6, 2025

**4:00 PM – Rose & Andrew Ragusa/** Barbara Ragusa & Family  
**Elisabeth Vetuschi/** Andrew & Cathy Brys  
**Eleanor Niagas/** Betty Ann Wheeler  
**Joseph Anthony Schroedel/** Thorne Family

### SUNDAY – December 7, 2025

**7:30 AM – Joseph Panza/** Millie & Phil Cross  
**George Frigenti/** Millie & Phil Cross  
**Kathleen Fole/** Ann Gacek  
**Jeanette & Pat Capauno/** Family

**9:00 AM – Joan Connolly/** Briana Hamilton & Family  
**Leo Robert Foley III/** Diane Wolny  
**Angela Gaeta/** John & Paula Devos  
**Mike Lipack/** Jim Hughes

**11:30 AM – Helen & Vincent Morano/** Deborah & Joseph  
**Estrella & Benigno Rafanan/** Erlinda Gavina & Family  
**John Golden/** Ann & Dave Wilton  
**Rose McKee/** Rose Wilson

### SUNDAY – December 7, 2025

#### The Immaculate Conception Vigil

**7:00 PM – Haydee & Thomas Chizan/** Adriana Chizan  
**Douglas & Elizabeth Wood/** Adriana Chizan  
**Edith Kalkbrenner/** Dottie & Phil Paulucci

### Readings for Next Weekend

**December 14, 2025**

*Third Sunday of Advent*

*Reading I: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10*

*Reading II: James 5:7-10*

*Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11*



## MASSES FOR THIS WEEK:

### MONDAY – December 8, 2025

#### The Immaculate Conception

**8:00 AM – Leo Scherer/** Rose Faiss  
**Judy & Emma Fernandez Regan/** Cora

**12:15 PM – Cassie Sweeney/** Family  
**Mary Koshier/** Daughter, Marie  
**Cirilo Fernandez/** Cora  
**Ruth Conyers/** Dottie & Phil Paulucci

### TUESDAY – December 9, 2025

**8:00 AM – Carol Ann Sasin/** Mom & Dad  
**Andrew Ragusa, Jr./** Barbara Ragusa & Family

### WEDNESDAY – December 10, 2025

**8:00 AM – Henry Burns/** Bob & Linda Anderson  
**Anne McCann/** Peg & Roy

### THURSDAY – December 11, 2025

**8:00 AM – Cassie Sweeney/** Family  
**Louie Pacquing/** Mila Daproza

### FRIDAY – December 12, 2025

**8:00 AM – Massimo & Palmira DiGiovanni/** Family  
**Lena Chromowsky/** Maureen & Carl Klotzbach

### SATURDAY – December 13, 2025

**4:00 PM – Ken Bahrs/** O'Hara Family  
**Anthony Santos Garcia/** Garcia Family  
**Michael Hurley/** Al & Alice Roth  
**Jo Hellawell/** Peter Hellawell  
**Linda Groseclose/** Al & Alice Roth

### SUNDAY – December 14, 2025

**7:30 AM – Ralph Frigenti/** Millie & Phil Cross  
**Irma Chagnon/** Millie & Phil Cross  
**Jack Murray/** Wife, Rita  
**Jeanette & Pat Capuano/** Family

**9:00 AM – Carol Andrew/** Margaret Simon  
**Benjamin Richard Leber/** Mary Laney  
**Connie Gargone/** Art & Dot Midgley  
**John & Teresa Mitchell/** Dennis

**11:30 AM – Agnes Quattrone/** Deborah & Joseph  
**Anthony Daleo/** Family  
**Andrew Slinsky/** Theresa & Family  
**Frank Koshier/** Daughter, Marie



**Monday, December 8, 2025**

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSED**

**The Immaculate Conception**

**Mass @ 8:00 AM & 12:15 PM**

*Children's Faith Formation 5:30 PM*

*Al-Anon 7:15 PM*

*(Faith Formation Center)*

**Tuesday, December 9, 2025**

*Scriptural Rosary 1:30 PM (Daily Chapel)*

*Seven Sorrows Rosary 3:00 PM (Church)*

**Advent Penance Service 6:00 PM (Church)**

*OCIA 7:00 PM*

*Knights of Columbus Officers Meeting 7:00 PM*

*(Faith Formation Center)*

**Wednesday, December 10, 2025**

*Scripture Study 9:15 AM (Daily Chapel)*

*Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM (Church)*

**Thursday, December 11, 2025**

*No Events Scheduled*

**Friday, December 12, 2025**

*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)*

**Christmas Concert & Tree Lighting 6:00 PM**

**(Church & Church Grounds)**

**Saturday, December 13, 2025**

**RETURN Christmas Toys**

*Monthly 50/50 Tickets on Sale*

*(Gathering Space)*

**Sunday, December 14, 2025**

**RETURN Christmas Toys**

*Children's Liturgy of the Word 9:00 AM*

*(Church)*

*Monthly 50/50 Tickets on Sale*

*(Gathering Space)*



**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10**

In this beautiful passage, a messianic prophecy, Isaiah exults in the coming of the Lord, who will bring justice and peace for all.

**Second Reading: Romans 15:4-9**

Paul reveals to us the necessity of living in peace and harmony. His words "Accept one another, then, as Christ accepted you, for the Glory of God" are as needed today as they were in Paul's own time.

**Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12**

John the Baptizer prepares the way for Jesus. Clothed in a garment of camel's hair, he baptizes the people in the Jordan River, but warns the Pharisees in ringing tones that they must give evidence that they mean to reform.

**Consider & Refelet**

*"Accept one another, then, as Christ accepted you, for the glory of God. Yes, I affirm that Christ, became the servant of the Jews because of God's faithfulness in fulfilling the promises of the patriarchs, whereas the Gentiles glorify God because of his mercy. As scripture has it 'therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and I will sing to your name.'"*

We continue this season of anticipation and expectation. How special it is. Saint Paul reminds us of those in former times, how they longed for, yearned for the one who was to come as Messiah and Savior of us all. He later would tell us that we are no different, but all are one in Christ Jesus.

Today when there is such hate, division, and separateness, we need to seek Jesus who unites not divides. May this be part of our advent prayer this week.

**'Come Lord Jesus.'**



**Liturgical Ministers Schedule**

**Saturday, December 13, 2025 - 4:00 PM**

**CELEBRANT:** Fr. Gerry Johnson, Deacon Jay Werling

**READER:** Bernice Philhower

**ALTAR SERVER:** Kim Werling

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY**

**COMMUNION:** Pat O’Hara, Carol Owens, Barbara Ragusa, Janet Pascavitch, Lorraine Schaffer, Susan Geldart

**Sunday, December 14, 2025 - 7:30 AM**

**CELEBRANT:** Fr. Dean Gaudio, Deacon Jay Werling

**READER:** CeCe Scheckler

**ALTAR SERVER:** Alex Acquaviva

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY**

**COMMUNION:** Jim Newman, Mary Schneider, Arlene Murray, John Minnella

**Sunday, December 14, 2025 - 9:00 AM**

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

**READER:** Steve Shaffer

**ALTAR SERVERS:** Jack Krier, Rory Krier

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY**

**COMMUNION:** Justin Peticolas, Joann Spickard, Peggy Madison, Todd Lund, Sr., Diane Ellwood, Deacon Jim

**Sunday – December 14, 2025 - 11:30 AM**

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

**READER:** Mary Modlin

**ALTAR SERVERS:** Xavier Clayton, Josh Greene

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY**

**COMMUNION:** Mila Daproza, Carol Fine, Jaqueline Arduini, Cora Fernandez, Patricia Claussen, Nelida Kuhlmann

**TREE LIGHTING**  
**and CONCERT**



**Our Annual Tree Lighting**  
*will take place*

**Friday, December 12, 2025**  
**6:00 PM**



*Followed by a*



**CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

*in the Church*  
*by St. Theresa’s Choir*

Refreshments to follow  
the concert  
in the faith Formation Center

*We hope you will join us!*



### **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!*



### **ADVENT COMMUNAL PENANCE CELEBRATION**

**Tuesday, December 9, 2025 - 6:00 PM**

*Hope you will join us!*

### **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.



**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](mailto:Joana.schmidt@sttheresa450.org)



### **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.

# 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.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Grace Ruffino, this month’s winner of our 50/50.

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



**St. Theresa's Church**

**609-296-1345**

**Monday, Wednesday & Friday**

**2:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

**Items needed this month:**

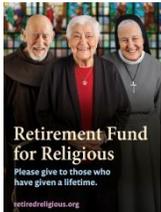
**TOILET PAPER**

*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, pasta, and toilet paper. Thank you!*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Collection NEXT WEEKEND**

**Retirement Fund for Religious**

**December 14, 2025**



Our senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests need your help. They have spent decades caring for those in need, but years of service for little or no pay have left many religious communities without sufficient retirement savings. Today, over 20,500 elderly religious depend on the Retirement Fund for Religious to help cover their rising health care costs, medication, and daily living expenses. Your gift can help ensure they receive the care they deserve. Please give back to those who have given a lifetime. Visit [retiredreligious.org](http://retiredreligious.org)

**COLLECTION ENVELOPES  
HAVE ARRIVED!!!**

Please pick up your envelopes from the Gathering Space this weekend or you may pick them up during office hours at the Parish Office

**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.**



**KNIGHTS  
OF COLUMBUS**

IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

**KNIGHT'S KORNER #25**

Can you believe we have already passed Thanksgiving and the calendar is barreling non-stop towards Christmas?

Well, everyone knows who comes on Christmas. No, I'm not talking about Santa (although he does come on Christmas Eve) but rather the historical coming of Jesus Christ thru His birth. "...a child is born to us; a son is given to us". (Is 9:5)

We have now begun the liturgical season of Advent. Advent's name comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning "**coming**" or "**arrival.**"

Advent is a time of EXPECTATION, anticipating the coming of Jesus. A time of PREPARATION, spiritually preparing for Christmas, and a time of REFLECTION focusing on hope, peace, joy, and love. Christians observe Advent to remember three kinds of "comings". **The historical coming** of Jesus at his birth (Christmas). **The spiritual coming** of Christ into believers' lives today, and **the future coming** of Christ at the end of time.

Despite the busyness of the Christmas Season, the shopping, the travel plans and all the "*running around*" that tend to occupy our lives these coming weeks, may we never forget who gave us the gifts that we desire to give back to Him.

As we begin to think about gifts both received and given this Advent Season, remember the prayer of English poet George Herbert "***O thou who has given us so much, mercifully grant us one more thing a grateful heart.***"

Let us all embrace the spirit of Advent. Be hopeful, watchful, humble, and joyfully expectant. Let us slow down, look inward, and prepare for God's presence in our lives.

*The Parish of St. Theresa*



**COMMUNAL PENANCE  
CELEBRATION**

*Tuesday, December 9, 2025*  
6:00 PM



**CHRISTMAS EVE**

*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

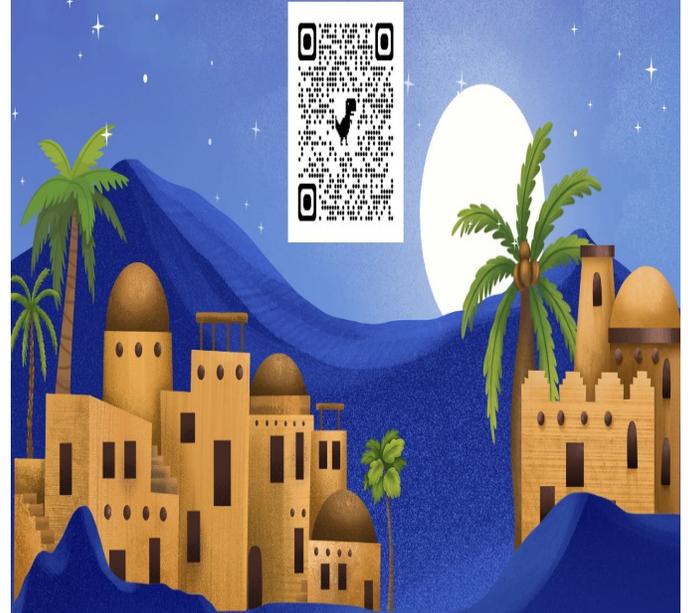
**New Year's Day**

***Solemnity of  
MARY MOTHER OF GOD***

*Thursday, January 1, 2026*  
8:00 AM & 12:15 PM

# ADVENTure to Bethlehem

December 7th ✦ 5:00-8:00pm



- ✦ A one-night pray and play event for children ages 5 and up.
- ✦ \$5 per child
- ✦ Snack provided
- ✦ Scan or click the QR code to register



# Toy Drive

Giving Children Hope

## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SHARING PROGRAM

Our Parish's Annual Christmas Sharing Program provides toys for needy children (*Ages 1-13 years old*) in our community. We work with the churches and the schools in Tuckerton, Little Egg Harbor, New Gretna and West Creek to make sure that no child goes without a toy at Christmas.

Gift tags with the age and gender of a child will be placed in baskets at the doors of the Church

*Please take a tag or two and purchase a **TOY** or gift card for a child in our community.*

*Please bring the toy or gift card with the tag attached to Church on:*

**December 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>**

**PLEASE NOTE:**  
**WE CANNOT ACCEPT TOYS AFTER THIS DATE**

Please buy only **1 TOY for 1 TAG**. We will gladly take any extra toys (*no tag necessary*) you would like to donate. They are always welcomed and appreciated.

**TOYS MUST BE BRAND NEW AND UNWRAPPED!**  
*(No gift bags please!)*

Please consider purchasing gift cards for those who are age 11 and older. Monetary donations are also accepted.

*Thank you for your continued support of our program.*



Annual Christmas

## Cookie Walk

Homemade cookies and treats to be sold at all Masses the weekend of

December 20/21

Minimum 3 dozen cookies recommended

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Cookie: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Cut out this form and return to the parish office or email [Joana.schmidt@sttheresa450.org](mailto:Joana.schmidt@sttheresa450.org).

Cookies must be dropped off to the parish office on **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2025**

between  
8:30 am and 12 noon  
or  
1:00 pm and 4:00 pm

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