

# CHURCH OF SAINT TERESA OF THE INFANT JESUS

ST. NICHOLAS CHAPEL

DECEMBER 17, 2023 | 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### **CONTACT US**

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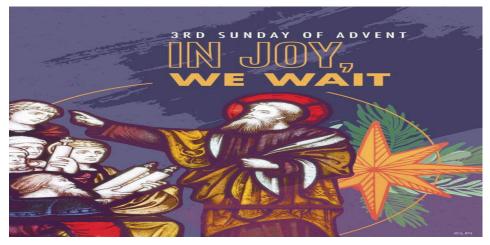
## **MASS SCHEDULE**

SUNDAY MASSES SATURDAY 4:00PM SUNDAY 7:30AM, 9:00AM, 10:30AM, 12:30PM, 5:00PM

ALL THESE MASSES ARE IN ST. TERESA CHURCH ON VICTORY BLVD., EXCEPT THE 9AM MASS WHICH IS IN ST. NICHOLAS CHAPEL, ON NORTHERN BLVD. AT LA BAU AVE., ONE BLOCK IN FROM VICTORY BLVD

WEEKDAY MASSES
MONDAY TO SATURDAY 8:30AM
TUESDAY TO FRIDAY 12 Noon

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION SATURDAYS, NOON TO 1:00PM



## **SACRAMENTS**

#### **BAPTISMS**

Designated Sundays at 1:30
Please call the rectory to check
dates and to meet with a priest
or deacon.

#### CONFESSIONS

Every Saturday, Noon to 1pm, in the sacristy near the altar

#### WEDDINGS

Please call and speak to a priest to begin planning your wedding

ANOINTING OF THE SICK
Anytime

# NOVENA SERVICES

Mondays after 8:30 Mass

#### EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

First Fridays after Noon Mass until Benediction at 3PM

# RELIGION/ SCHOOL

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THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17	NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24	CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25
4:00PM Andrew Thomas Williams 7:30AM John and Edward Lewis and Michael Norris Jr. 9:00AM Felicia Conti 10:30AM Claudia Bewalder 12:30PM For the People of Our Parish 5:00PM Donna LaForgia	4:00PM Rob Cavallone 7:30AM Rosemary Cusimano 9:00AM O'Farrell + Moriarty Families 10:30AM Albert Witt 12:30PM For the People of Our Parish 4:00PM Church For Yvonne Feline 4:00PM Chapel For Louis DeMauro 9:00PM For All of Our Deceased Parishioners and Benefactors	7:30AM Jose Luis Rementeria 9:00AM Deceased Members of the Deriso Family 10:30AM For the People of Our Parish 12:30PM Sylvia Prestia There is no 5pm Mass December 25
MONDAY, DECEMBER 18	TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19	WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20
8:30AM Sal Sena	8:30AM Mary Jane Malicay 12NOON Anthony Farina	8:30AM Fred Joseph Fischer Jr 12NOON Zachary Catalano
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21	FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22	SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23
8:30AM Irma Muro 12NOON Robert Marshal	8:30AM Jose Luis Rementeria 12NOON Claire Vryianos	8:30AM Sophie Savron

## SERVED BY

MSGR. WILLIAM BELFORD
Pastor

FATHER JOHN KALLATTIL, VC Parochial Vicar

**FATHER STEVEN CHALLMAN** Sunday Associate

**DEACON JONATHAN REYES**Deacon

MRS. NICOLE C. FRESCA St. Teresa-St. Rita Principal

MRS. LISA RAMETTA
Religious Education Coordinator

MRS. LISA NAUGHTON
Parish Manager

## PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

Your prayers are requested for all who are sick in our parish and community, especially: Grace Agalo-os, Karen Bertuzzi, Michael Borik, Vincent Borzumato, Rosemary Callenberg, Eileen Carroll, Nicholas Crispiano, Nicholas Ciricirillo, Carina DeGiulio, Kevin Dunne, Patricia Dunne, Joanie Edwards, Augustine Ferrer, Mark & Arlene Fileccia, Michael G., Josephine Greco, Elaine Guarlino, Ricky Gundacker, David Hall, Vincent Hicks, Barbara Hicks, Buddy Jarrel, Pat Jarrell, Jennifer Johnson, Fred Kabat, Donnalyn Lawton, Catherine Leone, Edward Lewis, Genevieve Lewis, Josephine Linton, Lomando, Linda Mahoney, Paul Mahoney, Emma Jane Mannix, Mikia James Martin, Judy C. Mc., Raymond and Maureen McLaughlin, Marie McMillen, Susan Morris, Josephine Nastasi, Joseph Pastore, Ryan Pizzaro, Joanny Pizzuti,

#### **NEXT SUNDAY'S SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR PRIESTS**

4pm, 7:30am, 12:30pm Monsignor Belford 9am, 10:30 Clove Lakes Home Father Kallattil

#### CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE FOR PRIESTS

4pm Church, 9:00pm, 7:30am,10:30am, 12:30pm Monsignor Belford

4pm Chapel, 9am, Clove Lakes Home Fr. Kallattil

Dear Parishioners and Friends of Saint Teresa Church,

Many people say that time is going too fast! And today being December 17, we are realizing that Christmas Day is nearly here. So let me print for you the Confession and Mass schedule for this great feast of our salvation, and hope you can make a successful effort to plan your Christmas Day to come to Jesus in His house and thank Him for His birth.

Tomorrow, agreed by our bishops, is RECONCILIATION MONDAY for Catholics in NYC and Long Island. Father John and I will be here in church from 2pm to 4pm, and again from 6pm to 8pm, to help people to be absolved from their sins through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which is also known as Confession and as Penance.

Each name teaches us something about this sacrament. We confess our sins to God, and tell them in secret to an ordained priest who will never repeat them. He may give advice, and assign a penance—prayers or actions—to begin to make up for those sins. The Sacrament of Reconciliation, like Baptism and Holy Communion and Confirmation and Matrimony and Holy Orders and the Anointing of the Sick, is an outward sign instituted by Christ to give us grace. They remind us that God loves us, forgives us, and helps us towards the joy of life in heaven. But we have to cooperate.

We have a RECONCILIATION MONDAY every year just before Christmas and Easter to help people get back on track and have the weight of their sins lifted off. Confessions are heard in confessional boxes in the rear of the church. Also every Saturday from 12 to 1. But as the song says: "We need a little Christmas, right this very minute." Many people feel that we are going through a sad, demoralizing time, and with less kindness and peacefulness than we want and need. In this moment, we may be sinned against. But we might also be sinners who need forgiveness.

As for Masses: Christmas is on a Monday, making for a complicated schedule. We have an obligation to come to Mass on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, and then for the celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

For the Fourth Sunday of Advent on December 24 we will offer Masses on Saturday evening at 4pm, and on Sunday at 7:30am, 9am in St. Nicholas Chapel, 10:30 and 12:30 in St. Teresa Church. There is no 5pm Mass.

For <u>Christmas—the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ</u>—our celebrations begin Sunday at 4pm with one Mass in our Church, and another Mass at 4pm Mass in our Chapel. Later in the evening on Christmas Eve, we will have a Mass with our choir at 9pm. This is preceded at 8:30pm by choir singing Christmas hymns.

On <u>Christmas Day itself</u>, we will have four Masses: 7:30am, 9am in St. Nicholas Chapel, 10:30am, and 12:30pm. The 12:30 Mass is our final Mass for Christmas Day. There is no evening Mass at 5pm.

Christmas is a time for presents. I ask for, and thank you in advance for, your Christmas gift to God our Father and to His Son Jesus Christ, given to His Church to help us announce the "news of great joy" proclaimed by the angels. We can be and need to be instruments of help and healing to a wounded world.

I hope you will take home with you, look over and use a beautiful religious calendar for 2024 that we have available for you today in our church and chapel. Donated by Casey Funeral Home on Slosson Avenue and Harmon Funeral Home on Forest Avenue, these calendars are free for our parishioners to help them to know and keep religious feasts of the coming year. For myself and our parishioners, I want to express appreciation for these useful presents.

This Religious Faith Calendar has attractive artwork and an inspiring message for each month. These illustrate some key moments in the lives of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, along with Scriptural verses from the Bible that we should know very well. Here are the selections with artwork for the first three months of 2024:

- \* Mary and Joseph bring their baby to the Temple, and hear the prophecy of the elderly holy man Simeon: "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and the rise of many in Israel..."
- \* A man on a deserted road offers a sip of water to a bandaged man: A Samaritan traveler was moved with compassion...approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds, and bandaged them"
- \* Jesus and Joseph are painted in a peaceful moment outdoors, admiring a butterfly: "The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him."

May the favor of God be upon you, and all of us, as we pray our way to Christmas Day and to eternal life.

Msgr. William Belford



#### OUR SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR CHRISTMAS

WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO WORSHIP ON BOTH SUNDAY AND MONDAY. FOR <u>SUNDAY DEC. 24</u>, WE HAVE MASSES ON SATURDAY AT 4PM, SUNDAY AT 7:30, 9:00 (ST. NICHOLAS CHAPEL), 10:30, 12:30.

ON SUNDAY, <u>CHRISTMAS MASSES</u> BEGIN AT 4PM IN OUR CHURCH AND IN OUR CHAPEL. CHRISTMAS MASS AT NIGHT IS AT 9PM, WITH HYMNS AT 8:30.

THEN ON <u>CHRISTMAS MORNING</u>, WE HAVE MASSES AT 7:30AM, 9AM IN ST. NICHOLAS CHAPEL, 10:30, 12:30. 12:30 IS LAST MASS FOR CHRISTMAS DAY.

AND LOOKING AHEAD: JANUARY FIRST IS NOT A HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION WHEN IT FALLS ON A MONDAY. THEREFORE THE SUNDAY DECEMBER 31 SCHEDULE WILL BE AS USUAL FOR A SUNDAY, INCLUDING 5PM MASS. BUT WE WILL OFFER THREE JANUARY 1 MASSES: AT 8:30, 10:30, 12 NOON.

#### **RECONCILIATION TOMORROW DEC. 18**

Advent is the beginning of a new year of grace, and time to remind everyone that we offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation every Saturday from 12noon to 1pm in church. Prepare for Christmas and a worthy reception of Holy Communion. And we soon have a special chance for confession: RECONCILATION MONDAY December 18, between 2-4 and 6-8.

MANY THANKS IN ADVANCE TO EVERYONE WHO IS SUPPORTING OUR PARISH AND CONTRIBUTING THIS CHRISTMAS WITH AN ENVELOPE IN CHURCH OR BY OUR ON-LINE GIVING CALLED WESHARE OR BY A CHECK IN THE MAIL THIS WEEK. WE ARE TRULY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SACRIFICIAL GIVING TO GOD THROUGH HIS CATHOLIC CHURCH.

Thank you for your faithful weekly donations to God for our Parish support.

WeShare online amount was \$3,417.

Parishioners brought envelopes to Mass with contributions of \$10,146.

#### A PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

For our Christmas Day meals to be marked with gratitude, patience, politeness, kindness, lots of compliments to those who shopped and cooked, and help for those who clean up, let us pray to the Lord...



We have a nice St. Teresa tradition of parishioners donating for the Christmas Flowers that will decorate our Church and Chapel. **Christmas Flower Memorial Envelopes** are available now. The suggested flower offering is \$20. Donors' names will be displayed during Christmastime on a poster in church and chapel. To have the poster list made on time, we need your name and offering by tomorrow morning, December 18.

#### PRACTICAL END-OF-THE-YEAR FINANCIAL PLANNING

There is a easy, practical way for people who have an IRA—an Individual Retirement Account— to help themselves and charitable organizations like our parish, anytime but especially if obliged to make a Required Minimum Distribution before December 31.

By instructing your IRA custodian to make a distribution directly to St. Teresa Church or to another charitable organization DIRECTLY from your account, you can gain more tax benefits than if you withdraw the money and then make your gift.

Further: in some cases, charitable distributions from your IRA may lower your Adjusted Gross Income. This in turn may also lower Medicare and other payments that are calculated from your Adjusted Gross Income.

<u>Direct charitable IRA distribution</u> is valuable and so easy to do. By giving directly—if you do not "touch" the money—you can make a bigger difference for your favorite charities, and for you.

So if you are fortunate to have saved in an IRA and are over 72 years of age, remember that you are required by law to take a required minimum distribution before December 31 every year. Failure triggers a financial penalty and an avoidable loss.

If you wish, please direct at least some of that required minimum distribution to help our Saint Teresa Parish so we can continue and improve our good works of worship, education, and charitable services for our community.



Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

December 2023

Saint Teresa Church Staten Island, New York

# One Minute Meditations

#### St. Edmund Campion

Born to a Catholic family in 16th century England,

St. Edmund left
a brilliant
academic
career at
Oxford to
become a



Jesuit missionary – a death sentence, since Catholics were being heavily persecuted under Queen Elizabeth I. He traveled around, secretly ministering the Sacraments to English Catholics, until he was betrayed by an informer and arrested. Despite efforts to persuade or threaten him, St. Edmund remained true to his faith. He was martyred with two companions at Tyburn.

#### Mary's "Yes"

When the angel appeared to Mary and told her what God was asking of her, she didn't have to agree. God gave all of us free will to allow us to make our own choices. Mary said "yes" to God out of love. Her reward (and ours, too) is eternity with her Son.

"And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon Him" (Luke 2:40).



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## A "Christ-centered" Christmas is a joyful one

For Catholics, the weeks leading up to Christmas are a sacred time to prepare our hearts for Christ's coming. For a joy-filled Christmas, try these ideas:

Encourage joyful anticipation. As disciples of Jesus, it is our role to help others to believe and hope in the power of God to change the world as He transforms hearts and minds. "But as for me, I will look to the Lord, I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me" (Micah 7:7). Look for opportunities to share your confidence in His love.

Focus on prayer. Become an Advent prayer intercessor praying for every soul to come home to God, especially at this time of peace. Ask that that He gives everyone the grace to live a new life reflecting glory on the Messiah.

Serve. Pope Francis said during Advent, "We are so busy with all the preparations, with gifts and things that pass, but let's ask ourselves what we should do for Jesus and for others! What should we do?" The pope said we should continuously ask God

what we should do to contribute to the good of the Church and society. We can do "something concrete, even if it is small" to help others. He suggested visiting the lonely, the elderly, the sick or someone in need.

# Why Do Catholics Do That

# Why do Catholics celebrate the "Immaculate Conception?"

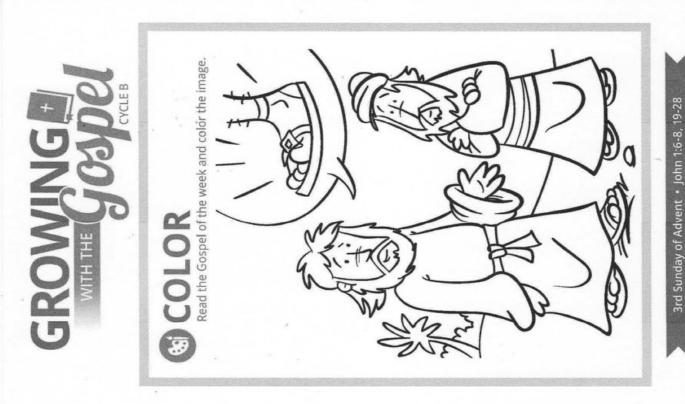
In 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed that Mary, by a special grace, was preserved from original and personal sin from her own conception in her mother's womb, in view of her role as the

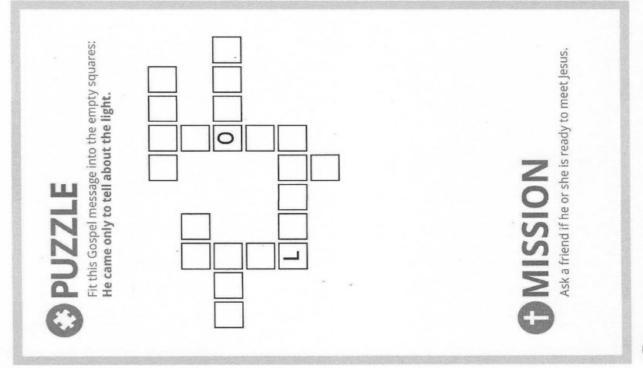


Mother of God. This grace bore immeasurable fruit for all of us in Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross.
On December 8 – a Holy Day of Obligation – we ask Mary to pray for us, so we, too, receive Jesus into our hearts with a faithful love like hers.

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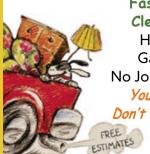
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