



CHURCH OF SAINT TERESA OF THE INFANT JESUS & ST. NICHOLAS CHAPEL

DECEMBER 21, 2025 | 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CONTACT US

ST. TERESA CHURCH / RECTORY
1634 Victory Boulevard
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Staten Island, NY 10314
PHONE 718 442 5412
EMAIL rectory@stteresasi.org
WEBSITE www.saintteresasi.org
OFFICE HOURS: 9:00am to 4:30pm

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SERVE YOU AND KEEP IN TOUCH.*

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 confessionals in church

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

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
First Fridays after Noon Mass
until Benediction at 3PM

RELIGION/ SCHOOL

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THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21	DO WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU!	NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28
4:00PM Gloria Marino 7:30AM Edward, John and Genevieve Lewis 9:00AM Jacqueline Franklin 10:30AM For the People of Our Parish 12:30PM Lila and Danielle Pabone 5:00PM Gerard and Irma Muro		4:00PM Colleen Westrenen 7:30AM Randy Chapple, Felicia Conti, Rosemary Cusimano and William Macintosh 9:00AM 10:30AM Giuseppe, Concetta and Rose Ferdico 12:30PM For the People of Our Parish 5:00PM Dr. Joseph Onah
MONDAY, DECEMBER 22	TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23	WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24
8:30AM Jose Esmilla	8:30AM Sophie Savron 12NOON Arelis Troncoso, Sgt. Ivan Rodriquez, Manuel Rodriques and Bernard Avitabile	4PM Chapel 4PM Church For the People of Our Parish 9PM
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25	FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26	SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27
7:30AM Dr. Rocco DiAntonio 9AM Roche William 10:30 AM Clare Murphy 12:30 Gloria Marino	8:30AM William Wisnieski 12NOON Francis Napolitano	8:30AM Macrina Jemma Reyes (Living)

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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

MR. EDWARD MORAND
Director of Music

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

Your prayers are requested for all who are sick in our parish and community, especially: **Grace Agalo-os, Bethany Armstrong, Bernadette, Karen Bertuzzi, Michael Borik, Vincent Borzumato, Rosemary Callenberg, Eileen Carroll, Libby Cugini, Carina DeGiulio, Kevin Dunne, Patricia Dunne, Joanie Edwards, Augustine Ferrer, Mark & Arlene Fileccia, Michael G., Josephine Greco, Edward Gross, Elaine Guarlino, Ricky Gundacker, David Hall, Barbara Harris, Vincent Hicks, Barbara Hicks, Buddy Jarrel, Pat Jarrell, Jennifer Johnson, Fred Kabat, Donnalyne Lawton, Catherine Leone, Edward Lewis, Josephine Linton, Lomando, Linda Mahoney, Paul Mahoney, Janet Massa, Judy C. Mc., Marie McMillen, Christine Momole Susan Morris, Josephine Nastasi, Joseph Pastore, Ryan Pizzaro, Joanny Pizzuti, Sal Prestigiacomo, Gerry Pye, Edwin Rodriguez, Marty Rose, Ronald Rothmund, Jerry Scattaglia, Cheryl Spinelli, David Valle, Michael Walsh, Jerry Yannaci Sr.,**

Margaret White

Pray for Our Parishioners in the Military

Staff Sergeant Michael R. Mazzuki, Jr. U.S. Army, Fort Stewart, GA

Staff Sergeant Connor M. O'Brien, U.S. Marine Corp., Camp Lejeune, NC

NEXT SUNDAY'S SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR PRIESTS

Monsignor Belford 4pm, 9am, 10:30pm,

Father Kallattil 7:30am, 12:30pm, Clove Lakes Home

Father Challman 5pm

Dear Parishioners and Friends of Saint Teresa Church,

Grace and peace, happiness and calm be yours as we come very close to celebrating the Birth of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Truly fortunate are we to be His followers, and receivers of His sacraments, and believers in His promises.

I hope that you will be able to give your thanks to Him with us, when Christ Mass Day arrives. To recap: on Christmas Eve we will have Mass at 4pm in St. Teresa Church, and also at 4pm in St. Nicholas Chapel. Our evening Mass in St. Teresa Church is at 9pm, with choir singing beginning at 8:30. On Christmas Day our Mass schedule is: 7:30 am in our Church, 9am in St. Nicholas Chapel, 10:30 in St. Teresa Church, and 12:30 in St. Teresa Church. We do not have an evening Mass here on Christmas Day. But FYI: Saint Christopher Church at 130 Midland Ave. will have a 6pm Mass on Christmas Day.

You know that I recommend, for accurate information about our Church, our Pope, our bishops, our parishioners, and for our inspiration and imitation of the saints, we should read Catholic newspapers and magazines, in print or online. Our Archdiocese ended our CATHOLIC NEW YORK weekly newspaper for high costs and small readership, but started a free website that you can sign up for and that I recommend: THEGOODNEWSROOM.org.

Being a Brooklynite by birth—baptized in Saint Patrick's Church on Fourth Avenue in Bay Ridge, and then a student in St. Ephrem School until we moved in 1960 to St. Rita's Church and St. Rita's School on Bradley Avenue—I still subscribe to the Catholic newspaper of the Brooklyn diocese, called The Tablet. I suggest that you do so too, and/or give a gift subscription this Christmas to some person you know who would enjoy reading it. The Tablet is on sale now for only \$30 a year, for 49 issues mailed to your home address! Go online to subscribe, or send a check to The Tablet, 1712 10th Av., Brooklyn 11215.

Earlier this month, just before we celebrated the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary on December 8, and the feastday of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12, The Tablet offered an excellent article by writer Paula Katinas about Mary the Mother of Jesus: By Any Name, the Mother of Jesus is Beloved by Catholics. I offer you some parts of it:

"She is known by various names, including Virgin Mary, the Blessed Mother, Mary the mother of Jesus. Or, simply, Mary. The feast days that honor her are varied and plentiful: Our Lady of Lourdes, Our Lady of Fátima, Our Lady of the Rosary and many others. But whatever name individual Catholics prefer to call her, there is one thread that runs through all of her titles — Catholics have a deep love and devotion for her.

Christopher Denny, professor of Christian theology at St. John's University in Jamaica offered this history: "In general, the titles applied to Mary arise first and foremost out of popular devotion...I think that the theology of Mary in the Roman Catholic Church is distinctive because Marian devotion is something that comes from the grassroots."

And many of the days celebrating the Blessed Mother stem from her apparitions—in which Mary appeared to people who were lowly and poor. As examples, Denny pointed to the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, which celebrates the Blessed Mother's appearance before an indigent Mexican named Juan Diego in 1531, and to Our Lady of Lourdes, which marks the apparition in 1858 when Mary appeared eighteen times to a peasant girl named Bernadette Soubirous. And then we know about the apparition in Fátima, in which Mary appeared to three Portuguese peasant children.

"I think some sort of sociological reality applies here," Denny said. "I'm surrounded in my office by books, books written by people with degrees. And they're sometimes complicated to read. But of all the different facets of Catholic theology, our Marian theology is the one that I think is most in touch with the grassroots members of the Church." Another interesting aspect of Marian devotion is how each nationality embraces Mary as its own: "The way Mary appears to Bernadette in Lourdes and to Juan Diego in Mexico is different than the way she appeared in Fátima," he added.

The article also mentions the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.. If you have not been there: it is the largest Catholic church in our nation's capital, near the Catholic University of America. It is well worth a pilgrimage and time for a visit, because of the many beautiful images and devotional prayers to Mary in chapels donated and decorated by countries that show Mary in places and clothing and features familiar to themselves.

This reminds us that the name we call ourselves and our Church—Catholic—means Universal. Jesus established His church to be for everyone. Historically many people have felt more at home going to Mary when they have a request or want to express their thanks. At the National Shrine you will see many national chapels inside the huge church, all devoted to Mary, but with different titles reflecting the catholicity—the world wide love—for Mary, that leads people to her from of all nations. As Professor Denny said. "I think this indicates how global the church is, with Marian apparitions being part of so many people's devotions on six continents."

Msgr. William Belford

Our Christmas Schedule of Masses begins on December 24 at 4pm in St. Teresa Church and at 4pm in St. Nicholas Chapel. There will be a Christmas Eve Mass at 9pm in our Church with choir singing at 8:30. On Christmas Day we will have Masses at 7:30am in Church, 9am in St. Nicholas Chapel, 10:30am in Church, and 12:30pm in Church. We do not have 5pm Mass on Christmas Day. But FYI: Saint Christopher Parish, at 130 Midland Ave. in Grant City, will offer a Christmas Mass at 6pm.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARISH SUPPORT

Many thanks to everyone who, according to your means, is making a generous gift to God and to our parish this Christmas. We do very appreciate everyone's loyal support!

A HYMN FOR THIS WEEK

IMMACULATE MARY, YOUR PRAISES WE SING!
YOU REIGN NOW IN HEAVEN
WITH JESUS OUR KING. AVE, AVE,
AVE MARIA! AVE, AVE, MARIA!

OUR HOLY NAME SOCIETY MEN DID A GREAT JOB AGAIN WITH OUR CHRISTMAS TREE DISPLAY! THANK YOU TO THE DONORS OF OUR TREES, WHICH WILL BE LIT ALL THE WAY TO JANUARY 10. COME BY AT NIGHT TO SEE HOW THIS DISPLAY HONORS JE-



We have a St. Teresa tradition of parishioners donating for the Christmas Flowers that decorate our Church and Chapel. Donors' names are now on posters in vestibules of our church and chapel.

Thank you to all our flower donors!

WELCOME TO NEWCOMERS

If you are a visitor, we welcome you to the Church of St. Teresa and hope that you will come back often.

If you are ready to join our parish, please talk to a priest or send a note or call the rectory at 718 442 5412.

You are most welcome here!

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

WeShare online amount was \$4,852. Parishioners brought envelopes to Mass with contributions of \$11,936.



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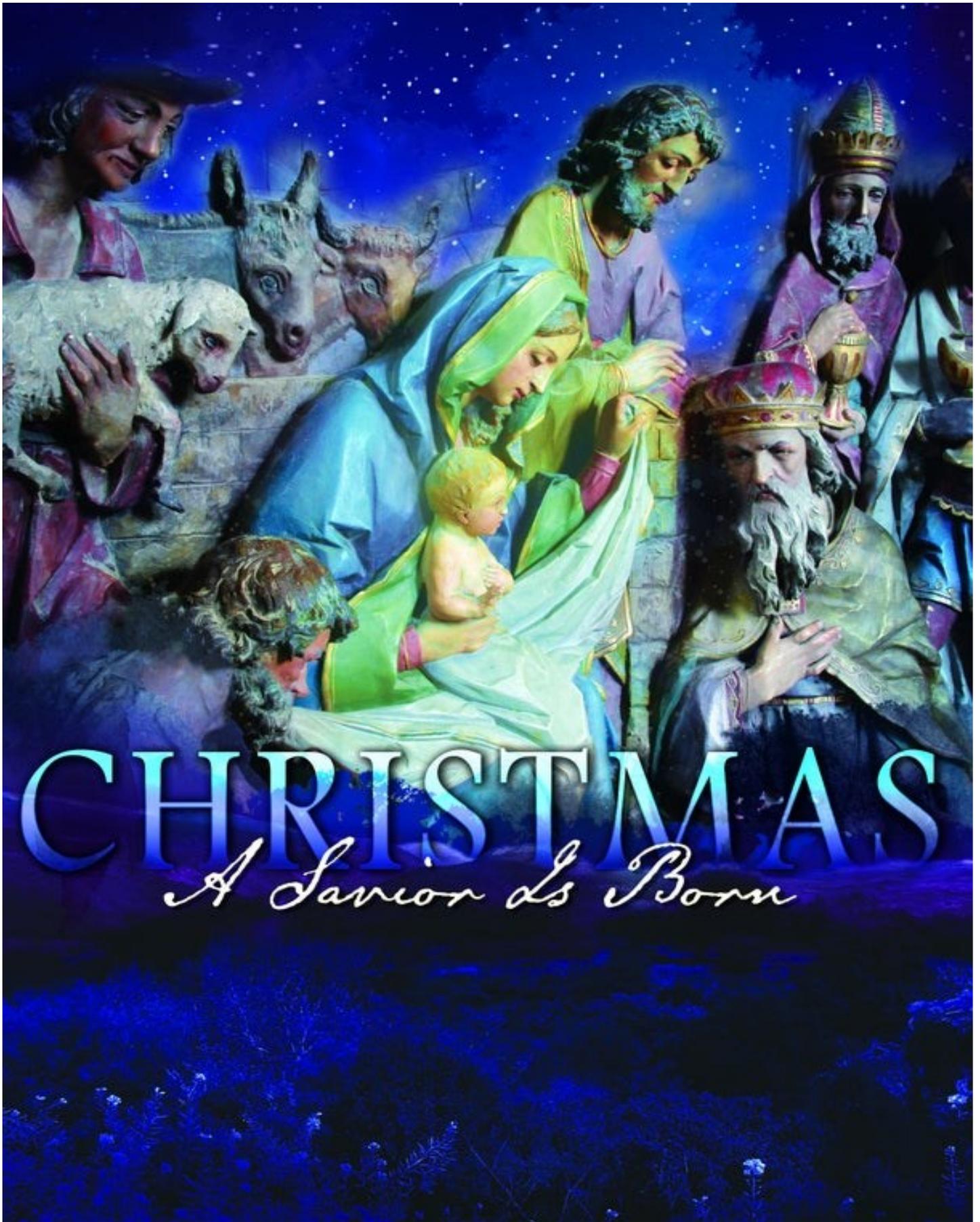
"What do bear families sing during Christmas?"



"Have yourself a **Beary** Little Christmas."



All of creation joins in praise for the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. May the joy of the season fill your home!

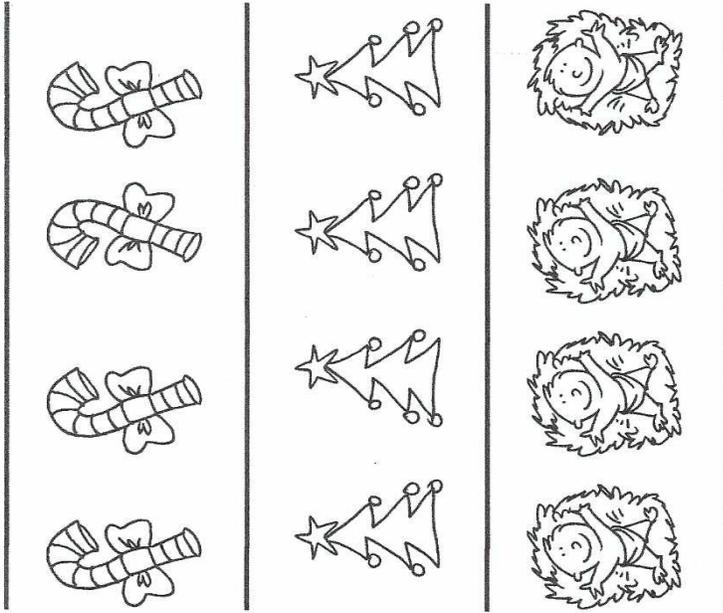


GROWING WITH THE Gospel

CYCLE A

PUZZLE

Circle the picture that is facing the **wrong** way.
Then color in all the pictures.



MISSION

I will give canned food, sheets, blankets, or money to help a homeless shelter.

COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.





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