

St. Therese Catholic Church

701 S. Charles G. Seivers Blvd.
Clinton, TN 37716

Bishop of Knoxville:

Most Rev. Bishop Richard Stika



Administrator:

Father Julius Abuh

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frjabuh@gmail.com

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Church Office: 865-457-4073

Office Hours: 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. (M-Th.)

E-mail: office@saintthereseclinton.org

Website: www.saintthereseclinton.org

Twitter: *SThereseClinton*

Facebook: *St Therese Catholic Church*

Deadline for bulletin submissions:

Wednesday afternoons by 1:30 p.m.

St. Therese Weekly Mass Schedule:

Saturday: Confessions 4:15-4:45 p.m.

Mass 5 p.m.

Sunday: 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday: 9 a.m. at St. Joseph, Norris

Wednesday & Thursday: 9 a.m.

Friday: 9 a.m. (9:30-10:30 a.m. Adoration)

Parish Pastoral Council:

Stan Bielecki, Chair

Olivia Kuhens, Secretary

Maureen McMyler

John Meersman

George Paynter

Sue Thais

Fr. Julius Abuh (ex-officio)

Finance Board:

Don McCarthy, Chair

Dave McCune

Monica Spurlock

Fr. Julius Abuh (ex-officio)

Regina Sowko (ex-officio)

Committee Chairpersons:

Communications: Olivia Kuhens

Hospitality: Fran Pisano, Maria Gee

Music Director: Mary Tuskan (865) 254-8346

Parish/Family Life: Dials Family

Parish Plant: Dave McCune

RCIA: Dave McCune (865-457-5015)

Religious Ed: Amanda Dials, Julie Keller

Social Action: Connie Mikeal

Spiritual Life/Liturgy: Jim Ferguson, Chantal Milne

Mission Statement

St. Therese Parish, joined together by the love of Christ, desiring to further the understanding of prayer and religious commitment, pledge ourselves to continue and improve our mission to Jesus, which is loving and serving the Lord and our neighbor.

Fr. Julius' Desk

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are nearly at the threshold of Christmas this weekend, scurrying about with preparations, especially rapping gifts for loved ones. Have you ever imagined Joseph and Mary's plans as they prepared for the First Christmas? It was to say "yes" to God's plan for the birth of Jesus, abandoning their own intentions to embrace divine providence. On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, our Gospel focuses on Joseph's complete fidelity to God's will, conveyed through the angel of the Lord, as he appeared to him in a dream.

In our First Reading of Isaiah, we learn how the Lord remarkably addresses Ahaz in faith! Although Ahaz seems to fight this plan from God, declining God's invitation, Isaiah prevails, announcing a divine intervention: "*Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel*" (Is 7: 14). We note later in the Gospel reading that Matthew considers this one of the most descriptive and definitive prophecies heralding the future messianic king, Christ, to be born as a descendant of David.

In the Second Reading, Paul, in one of his most important theological legacies, plainly affirms that as an apostle, one is "*called to belong to Jesus Christ*" through obedience to the faith: a call by God can be freely accepted or rejected at any moment of one's life. Moreover, when the Master declares anything, that doesn't mean we are free to add anything from our own stock!

In today's Gospel exposition, unlike the prideful Ahaz from Isaiah, who fought the Lord's plan, we come to see how the humble and obedient Joseph places himself completely as the Lord commanded, accepting Jesus as his son. Joseph rejoiced in this unexpected child, thus celebrating the presence of God's love on earth. Like Joseph, every Christian is granted the capacity to trust in God, listen to Him and be faithful. Although we all face various challenges in life – finances, job security, tensions in and around the family – let us keep in our hearts this marvelous striving to be like St. Joseph, trusting and faithful. The Lord wants to enter our hearts; instead of relying on our own schemes to get us through life, let us trust in God and be strengthened in the Church, in fervent prayer and by listening to Him speak to us through scripture and the Eucharist. Remembering Mary's tranquility and serenity, we have her permission to stop our rushing and strive for stillness. Happy Advent!

Baptism: By appointment. Please call the church office at least 4 weeks prior to desired

Reconciliation: Saturdays from 4:15-4:45 p.m.

Matrimony: A four-month preparation period in the Knoxville Diocese

In the Parish

Christmas Flowers In Honor Of/In Memory Of



Donations for your loved ones can be made and placed next to the box for the white Christmas Ornaments. Deadline is Dec. 22nd. Your contributions go toward the flowers in the sanctuary for the Christmas season.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Sat., Dec. 24: Children's Mass 4 p.m.

Midnight Mass music 11:30 p.m. & Mass at midnight

Sun., Dec. 25: Christmas Day Mass at 11 a.m.



CHOIR PRACTICE

Christmas midnight mass rehearsals will be from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on the following evening: **Dec. 20.** If you're not a regular choir member and want to sing, please contact Mary Tuskan at 254-8346. All singers and musicians welcome!



Bishop Stika declares a week of Grace & Gratitude to everyone in the St. Therese Parish for all they have done for the Home Campaign! Congratulations.

Stewardship of Treasures on Weekly Offerings

Offertory Collection Last Week 12/11/16	Offertory Collection Last Year 12/13/15	Offertory Collection for Nov.'16	Offertory Collection for Oct.'16	Monthly Budget Fiscal Year 2016-17
\$3,668.00	\$3,466.00	\$12,267.00	\$17,288.00	\$15,000.00

Building Fund / Loan

Sept'16	Budget	+/- Month	Loan Sept 2016	Loan Sept. 2015
\$1,230.66	\$1,707.00	-\$476.34	\$146,299.45	\$160,397.70

FEASTS OF THE WEEK:

Wed., Dec. 21: St. Peter Canisius

Fri., Dec. 23: St. John of Kanty

MINISTRIES SCHEDULE:

December 24-25, 2016

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

Saturday: TBA
TBA
TBA
Sunday: TBA
TBA
TBA

Lectors:

Saturday: A. Brown
Sunday: J. Meersman
J. Meersman

Altar Servers:

Saturday: TBA
Sunday: TBA

Ushers:

Saturday: TBA
Sunday: TBA
TBA

Cantor:

Saturday: D. Stepp
Sunday: M. Tuskan

Music:

Saturday: J. Bentz
Sunday: M. Tuskan

MASS INTENTIONS:

Wed., Dec. 21: Special Intention of Max Kiernan

Fri., Dec. 23: The Hunt Triplets by Brian & Betsy Hunt

Please contact the office for Mass intention requests.

Announcements and Information

WHITE CHRISTMAS TREE

St. Therese families put together a white Christmas tree covered in white ornaments. St. Therese Family would like to revive that tradition and add to the ornaments found from years past. Anyone interested may bring in a white ornament and leave it in the parish hall. If there is a place to write your last name on the ornament, please feel free to do so!



END OF YEAR DONATIONS

Don't forget any donation made to St. Therese Church that you wish to be credited to your 2016 account must be received or postmarked no later than



December 31, 2016.

COATS NEEDED

The Social Action Committee is collecting Coats for the Cold. They are also collecting gently used coats for Karm to distribute in the local area. This drive will continue thru February.



Fr. Julius' village in Nigeria is building a much needed hospital. The hospital is in need of medical equipment. Dr. Fran Pisano is helping him collect items. Small items may be dropped off at Dr. Fran's office at Oak Ridge Pediatric Clinic or at the church office. For questions, please contact Fr. Julius at 865-457-1317.

BULLETIN SPONSORS

The sponsors that appear in our weekly bulletin completely defray all publishing costs with which the church would otherwise be burdened. When you patronize these sponsors, please let them know that you saw their advertisement in your church bulletin.

IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Paul Burkhardt, Ralph Collins, Kathleen Edwards, George Elliott, Barbara Gregory, Mary Harris, Cathy Hundley, Cathy Long, Vicky McCarthy, Ellen Saganich, Ron and Flo Schramm, Carol Stanley, Patrice Thompson.

DEATH IN THE FAMILY:

If you would like St. Therese to share in your grief in the event of a family member's death, please officially notify Father or the parish office. A Mass will be offered for the deceased at a date convenient to the family.

REMEMBER OUR MILITARY:

Andrew Adkins, Bradley Adkins, Adrian Agbanlog, Jesse Baker, Matthew Carroll, Jeffery Hatmaker, Jon-Michael Hatmaker, Brandon Parker, David Trent, and Lee Welty who are on military assignment.

***Names are added and taken off both **In Your Prayers** and **Remember Our Military** lists on a monthly basis. If you would like a name re-added, please call the office to resubmit the name for another month.*

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

December 21: Julie Keller

December 22: Audeya Burkhardt-Hundley

Call the parish office to add your birthday!



Bishop Richard Stika



The Diocese of Knoxville News



St. Therese, Clinton

Thank you for your support!

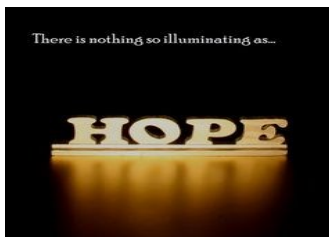
Parish Goal: \$13,000.00

Total Committed: \$16,422.00

Collections to Date: \$13,975.00

Collections Needed to Reach Goal: \$.00

MASS OF LIGHT & HOPE



St. John Neumann Church is offering a Mass of Light and Hope on Thursday, December 22 at 7 p.m. This Mass is designed for people who may not find the holiday season a time of joy because of grief, illness, or other struggles. It is open to all who seek a reminder of the comforting presence of Christ, who is light and hope come into our darkness.

LET'S CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENT & COMMITMENT OF MATRIMONY!

Bishop Stika to celebrate bilingual Mass in honor of the sacrament of matrimony. Couples will have the opportunity to reaffirm their vows during Mass and continue to celebrate with family & friends at a luncheon following the Mass.

Sat., Jan. 28, 2017 at 11 a.m. Register by Thurs., Jan. 19

Our Lady of Lourdes

858 Louisville Road

Alcoa, Tn. 37701



For more information, contact Marian Christiana mchristiana@dioknox.org 423-892-2310 or Karen Byrne kbyrne@dioknox.org 865-584-3307 at the Diocese.

SLEEPING BAGS & MATS FOR THE HOMELESS



Donations of sleeping bags and sleeping mats are needed for the homeless! With the cooler evenings and approach of colder weather, please consider the donation of a combination sleeping bag and sleeping mat set (to help insulate against the cold ground) for the homeless. Small tents are welcome as well. Used (but clean) and new sleeping bags/mats are most welcome. Donations will gladly be accepted at the Chancery for distribution. Please contact Paul Simoneau psimoneau@dioknox.org or 865-584-3307 with question or donations.