

St. Therese Catholic Church

Bishop of Knoxville:
Most Rev. Bishop Richard Stika



Pastor:
Father Julius Abuh

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Office Hours: 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. (M-Thur.)
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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 and Thursday: 9 a.m.

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

Parish Pastoral Council:

John Meersman, Chair
Anthony Papa, Vice Chair
Maureen McMyler, Secretary
George Paynter
Sue Thais
Jean Chiaro
Fr. Julius Abuh (ex-officio)

Finance Board:

Don McCarthy, Chair
Dave McCune
Monica Spurlock
Fr. Julius Abuh (ex-officio)

Committee Chairpersons:

Communications: Olivia Kuhens
Hospitality: Fran Pisano, Maria Gee
Music Director: Mary Tuskan 865-254-8346
Parish/Family Life: Jennifer Brown,
Deidra Hall
Parish Plant: Dave McCune
RCIA: Dave McCune 865-457-5015
Religious Ed: Amanda Dials, Julie Keller
Social Action: Connie Mikeal
Spiritual Life/Liturgy: 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

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our liturgy this Second Sunday of Advent Year B centers on the notion of *homecoming*. In our recent Thanksgiving observance, many families received or traveled to their loved ones, enjoying reunions like those we anticipate for Christmas. We all want to be ready! In today's liturgy of the Word, we are reminded to prepare ourselves for Christ's coming by true repentance, reparation, and the rekindling of His closeness to our lives. We encounter a larger picture of Jesus in our lives in the Liturgy, the Most Holy Eucharist, and within the Body of Christ as we await His Second Coming in Glory.

In both the First Reading and our Gospel readings, we discern some of the most beautiful scriptural imagery of Divine preparation within the natural world: rugged land, deserts, wastelands, rough country. With tender encouragement, Isaiah creates a gentle picture of the Christ: **like a Shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lamb...** St. Peter, in the Second Reading, continues last week's theme encouraging us to prayerful and holy devotion, that we be worthy of that unexpectedly powerful day of reckoning with the **mighty roar** of the heavens! For those who doubt the Second Coming, Peter alerts us that God's way of counting time is infinitely different from ours.

St. John the Baptist proclaims the message and vision of Isaiah, inflaming the people to get ready, fixing up the road so that God has a straight path to us. In the same way, in our Gospel, as we prepare our hearts to welcome Christ at Christmas, John advises us to **prepare the way of the Lord**. He wants both the inhabitants of Jerusalem – and us – to make ready for the Messiah, by filling in the narrow-minded valleys of our prejudice and leveling the mountains of our pride.

These scriptural invitations to open ourselves to our Savior can profoundly affect our lives by allowing Jesus to be reborn in us. Let us ask the challenging question with Alexander Pope, Seventeenth Century Catholic poet: **What do I profit if Jesus is born in thousands of cribs all over the world unless he is born in my heart and in my life?** By sharing our love, forgiveness, compassionate and merciful hearts, our spirit of humble and selfless service, Jesus' rebirth in our lives should be like a beacon for those people in our path. This is how we 'do' Advent!

In our parish last week Monday, we were privileged to have five priests come help us refashion our hearts as they 'prepared the way' for each of us to be reconciled and ready for the birth of the Savior. If you were out of town or missed the opportunity to participate in Reconciliation, I encourage you to check the diocesan website for a nearby parish offering this sacrament of God's love poured out on us, especially during this holy season of Christmas. Joyous Advent!

Sacraments

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

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

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

In the Parish

Masses at St. Therese Church

4th Sunday of Advent: Dec. 24 Mass at 11 a.m.

Family Vigil for Christmas: Dec. 24 Mass at 4 p.m.

Midnight Mass: Dec. 24 Mass at Midnight, Carols 11:30pm

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

Sunday Mass: Dec. 31 Mass at 11 a.m.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God: Jan. 1 Mass at 11a.m



CCD will meet at 6 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 15 for the last practice of the Christmas Play they will present on Sun, Dec. 17.

ST. THERESE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY *will be on Sunday, December 17th. The children's play will begin at 5:30 p.m. with supper to follow. This will be a potluck supper, so please bring a main dish, side dish, or dessert to share. Drinks will be provided. As always, there will be a special visitor after supper!*



MASS OF RENEWAL: *During Advent, the mass setting will change to the "Mass of Renewal". We will use this mass setting for the entire liturgical year. You can listen to "Mass of Renewal" on YouTube and familiarize yourself with the mass setting. (#864 to #872 in the current Breaking Bread hymnal)*



CHOIR PRACTICE: *The next practice is this Wednesday, Dec. 13 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the church. Please be on time. There is only one more before Christmas. Thanks to all who are participating.*

WE THANK EVERYONE WHO GIVES SO GENEROUSLY

Offertory Collection Last Week 12/3/17	Offertory Collection Last Year 12/4/16	Offertory Collection for November 2017	Offertory Collection for October 2017	Monthly Budget Fiscal Year 2016-17
\$5,093.00	\$4,603.00	\$ 10,581.00	\$16,941.00	\$15,000.00
BUILDING FUND/LOAN /Last Week \$ 125.00				
October 2017	Budget	+/- Month	Loan Oct. 2017	Loan Oct. 2016
\$ 1,400.00	\$1,707.00	-\$307.00	\$128,240.66	\$143,625.51

FEASTS OF THE WEEK:

Mon., Dec. 11: St. Damasis I
Tue., Dec. 12: Our Lady of Guadalupe
Wed., Dec. 13: St. Lucy
Thu., Dec. 14: St. John of the Cross

MINISTRIES SCHEDULE:

December 16-17, 2017

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

Saturday: J. Borne
A. Brown
K. Burns
Sunday: B. Hunt
L. McCune
C. Mikeal

Lectors:

Saturday: T. Ferguson
Sunday: E. Yonce

Altar Servers:

Saturday: H. Bentz
Sunday: M. Lawrence
L. Lawrence
R. Dials

Ushers:

Saturday: J. Ferguson
D. McCarthy
Sunday: K. Stewart
D. McCune

Cantor:

Saturday: D. Stepp
Sunday: B. Job

Music:

Saturday: J. Bentz
Sunday: M. Tuskan

MASS INTENTIONS:

Sun., Dec. 10: +Maggie Adkins by Stan & Becky Hatmaker
Wed., Dec. 13: Russell Haese by Sue Haese
Thu., Dec. 14: Anthony Papa by Patricia Papa
Fri., Dec. 15: +Ken Kavanagh by Pat Gambrell
Sat., Dec. 16: Katherine Baker by Tom Baker

Announcements and Information

THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO PURCHASED THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL CALENDAR RAFFLE. DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 23 TO PURCHASE. ST. THERESE GETS A PERCENTAGE OF THE SALE PRICE.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: *“At Christmas, when we look in the crib and at that beauty of the creche, we’re all drawn to the central image: baby Jesus and his face. And we can imagine what it was like for Joseph and Mary to see that face for the first time. And that’s what we do at adoration... What we gaze upon is so simple and beautiful. There’s no artificiality. We gaze upon the beauty of the living God. That’s an echo of looking at the crib at Christmas, and it’s a continuing gift throughout the year.”—Lucy Gatza.*

(Pronechen, Joseph. “Adoration makes Every Day Christmas.” National Catholic Register 10 Dec.

2010. <http://www.ncregister.com/site/article/adoration-makes-every-day-christmas>)

St. Therese Catholic Church offers adoration and benediction after the 9 a.m. Mass on Fridays. All are welcome.



SOCIAL ACTION: *December starts with items for Senior Center Christmas Baskets, such as small hygiene items like shampoo, perfume, gloves, socks, scarves, and food items to fill out the baskets.*

Toys for the Holiday Bureau and food drive continuing to next weekend, Dec. 16-17.

Coats for the Cold: *collection through February, please place in box provided in parish hall. Thank you.*



The Annual CCW Christmas Party *will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 19, at Stan and Barb Bielecki's at 6:30 p.m. If you wish to participate in the cookie exchange, please sign up on the list in the parish hall, bring a container for cookies and copies of your recipe to share. Otherwise, please bring a snack to share. Directions to the Bielecki's are also available near the sign-up list.*

Collection for National Diocesan Immigrant Services in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe has been postponed until next weekend, December 16-17.

IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Kathy Baker, Paul Burkhardt, Ralph Collins, Helen Davis, George Elliott, Barbara Gregory, Lydia Hatmaker, Russell Haese, Cathy Long, Vicky McCarthy, Ellen Saganich, Ron & Flo Schramm, Carol Stanley, Alysia Stimmler, 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, Zach Gillies, Jon-Michael Hatmaker, Brandon Parker, 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. Thank you.*

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK:

Dec. 10: Hunter Brewer
Dec. 12: Margaret Snow
Dec. 12: Mary Tuskan
Dec. 14: Jane Peplow





Bishop Richard Stika



The Diocese of Knoxville News

ATTENTION: HOLIDAY SHOPPERS



St. Mary's Legacy Clinic is a registered charity able to receive donations through the Amazon Smile Program. You can do some great online shopping at Amazon.com and most of the time the prices are lower

than what you would pay for the same product in the store. By visiting this link: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/46-2331706> you will see a page that tells you "Your shopping will support St. Mary's Legacy Clinic, Inc." Simply click on the "start shopping" icon and after you complete a purchase Amazon will automatically donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible items to us. You may also visit our website to learn more: www.stmaryclinic.org Thank you for your support!

Diocese of Knoxville's Office of Consecrated Life

Appreciation Dinner

Father Greg Cleveland, OMV, will be the keynote speaker at the **Diocese of Knoxville's Office of Consecrated Life appreciation dinner on Friday, Dec. 15 from 6-8 p.m.** The dinner is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Father Cleveland is a noted retreat master and author. He will also lead a half-day mini-retreat on Saturday, Dec. 16 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the All Saints Church Family Life Center in Knoxville. Mass will be celebrated and Reconciliation will be available. Tickets for Friday's dinner are \$20 per person. Tickets for Saturday's retreat, which includes lunch, are \$10 per person. Tickets can be purchased by contacting Sr. Mary Charles Mayer, Director of the Office of Consecrated Life at [865-862-5760](tel:865-862-5760) or by email at smarycharles@dioknox.org

MASS & REAFFIRMATION OF MARRIAGE VOWS WITH BISHOP STIKA

The Diocesan Office of Marriage Preparation & Enrichment has planned something special for all couples married in the Catholic Church and their families.



One church is now left that will host a Mass & luncheon honoring married couples. Couples will have an opportunity to reaffirm their vows and receive a blessing. Commemorative certificates will be distributed at the luncheon and a photo of each couple with Bishop Stika will be taken and mailed to your home. Masses are:

Sat., Feb. 10, 2018 at 11 a.m. Register by Feb. 1st. Immaculate Conception Church 414 W. Vine Avenue, Knoxville, Tn. 37902

To register and for more information, contact: Marian Christiana mchristiana@dioknox.org or 423-892-2310.

DIVORCE SUPPORT

St. John Neumann Family & Parish Life is partnering with the Diocesan Office of Marriage Preparation & Enrichment to offer Divorce Support.

Divorce & Beyond is a support group for Catholic men and women who have experienced or are experiencing divorce. You will find a safe environment to explore the myriad of feelings that divorce brings. Join us as you experience hope and healing simply by listening and sharing experiences and insights with others. Divorce support helps you to understand what you are going through and learn from others who have gone through the same things. Divorce and Beyond will help to make divorce a growth experience.

We invite each one of you with a need for healing and help to move beyond separation and to participate in this 9-week Catholic-based program.

Beginning Sunday, January 7 from 4:00-5:30 pm. Meetings will be held at St. John Neumann parish. Cost for supplies is \$15.00.

For more information, contact your facilitator, Mary Coffey at 865-966-3237 or email mccoffey86@gmail.com.