

St. Therese Catholic Church

Bishop of Knoxville:
Most Rev. Bishop Richard Stika



Pastor:
Father Julius Abuh

Office: 865-457-4073
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Secretary: Virginia Knowles
Bookkeeper: Christiana Seay
Church Office: 865-457-4073
Office Hours: 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. (M-Thur.)
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 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

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I welcome all of you to the First Sunday of Advent, new liturgical year B. This seasonal cycle recalls some of my earliest childhood memories! We all associate Advent with that time of preparing for the birthday celebration of Our Lord, as we are lavishly blessed with His Incarnation. While beginning a fresh passage through the liturgical year, the Church invites all of her children to re-commit during these four weeks to deepening conversion, meditating upon Jesus' nativity, and noting His daily graces in our lives – the Sacraments, the Word, and our faith community.

With our current caution to 'stay awake and be sober,' the continuing reminder in today's readings intensify our watchfulness. Do you recall in the wake of 2000, that many people in the secular world experienced panic about the 'end of the world'? These fears have rippled within our culture from the third century on down to present day. Several contemporary best-sellers and Hollywood movies – such as *101 Reasons Why Christ Returns* from 1998; *Omega Code*, released in 1999 about Christ's Second Coming; and *Left Behind* from 2005 – are they not all examples of our culture's preoccupation with an ancient expectancy of the Messiah?

The prophet Isaiah in the First Reading pleads for God's active presence within a less-than-perfect Jewish community that, upon returning from Babylonian exile, might experience deep divine renewal. In the Second Reading, St. Paul bolsters the Corinthians concerning their favored standing in relationship to Jesus. He urges them as he urges us today not to lack "... in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Consequently, in today's Gospel, Jesus encourages us not to be afraid if we remain alert and watchful, all the time reminding us of His Second Coming. Advent may be well described as a liturgy of anticipation, a gift waiting to be unwrapped; of directing our hearts and of emptying ourselves of 'self' so that Jesus can come and take up residence within us. During this season of expectation, this puts us on the doorstep of the joy that is coming! May we increase our longing for Christ as we freely offer our daily work to God, regardless of any obstacles or daily challenges. Faith, hope, love, joy, and our inward preparedness to receive the Lord are some of the many gifts awaiting us in this season of Advent.

'The Lord is near'. This is the reason for our joy. — POPE BENEDICT XVI,
Dec. 14, 2008 Happy Advent Sunday!

Sacraments

Baptism: By appointment. Please call the

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

Matrimony: A four-month preparation period in the

In the Parish

PARISH STEWARDSHIP WEEKEND: *Christian stewardship is a year round activity in which we recognize our gifts from God, share them in generosity with others and return our gifts with increase to the Lord. This weekend & next weekend parish families will be asked to fill out a stewardship commitment form. This allows them to sign up for parish ministries, commit to making time each day for prayer, and to make or renew a financial commitment to the weekly parish offertory.*

Services & Masses at St. Therese Church

Penance Service: December 4th at 7 p.m. for both St. Joseph & St. Therese Parish.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception: Mass on Friday, Dec. 8th at 9 a.m. & 7 p.m.

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.

FOOD CITY GIFT CARDS: *Last weekend we sold \$1,450.00 in Food City cards. We are grateful to our parishioners for buying these cards from us, since we get a percentage of the sale! Please think about these cards for Christmas gifts. Thank you.*

2nd COLLECTION *next weekend, Dec. 9-10 for The National Collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Assists religious institutes in providing retirement needs of senior religious priests, brother, and sisters. Thank you.*

WE THANK EVERYONE WHO GIVES SO GENEROUSLY

Offertory Collection Last Week 11/26/17	Offertory Collection Last Year 11/27/16	Offertory Collection for October 2017	Offertory Collection for September 2017	Monthly Budget Fiscal Year 2016-17
\$1,408.00	\$2,593.00	\$ 16,941.00	\$14,399.00	\$15,000.00

BUILDING FUND/LOAN /Last Week \$ 75.00

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. 4: St. John Damascene

Wed., Dec. 6: St. Nicholas

Thu., Dec. 7: St. Ambrose

Fri., Dec. 8: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Sat., Dec. 9: St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin

MINISTRIES

SCHEDULE:

December 9-10, 2017

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

Saturday: M. Spurlock
R. Spurlock
S. Bieleski

Sunday: J. Anderson
J. Pubillones
O. Kuhens

Lectors:

Saturday: A. Brown
Sunday: B. Lauer

Altar Servers:

Saturday: C. Helus
S. Helus
Sunday: C. Milne
B. Milne
A. Powers

Ushers:

Saturday: J. Klee
K. Lenz
Sunday: A. Yonce
E. Yonce

Cantor:

Saturday: T. Ferguson
Sunday: M. Tuskan

Music:

Saturday: J. Bentz
Sunday: M. Tuskan

MASS INTENTIONS:

Wed., Dec. 06: +Maggie Atkins by Peggy Chase

Thu., Dec. 07: +Edward Vitale by Sue Haese

Fri., Dec. 08: Mass in Thanksgiving for Family by Thomas & Carmen Pemberton

Sat., Dec. 09: +Mary Hundley by Cathy Hundley

Sun., Dec. 10: +Maggie Atkins by Stan & Becky Hatmaker

Announcements and Information

HOLIDAY FLOWERS: *There is a donation box and form in the back of church to place a donation for flowers for the Christmas season. Please note if your donation is in memory of or in honor of loved ones. Thank you for your generosity in making our church beautiful during the holidays!*

GIFT BEARERS: *The Spiritual Life committee is scheduling gift bearers for the first quarter of 2018 (January-March). If interested, please speak to Chantal Milne or Olivia Kuhens, or add your information to the sign-up sheet in the parish hall.*

NEW MYPARISHAPP: *Our parish's new app is available for anyone with a Smartphone. Download the app for up-to-the-minute information regarding Mass times, cancellations, events, and other important info about the parish. See Olivia Kuhens for more information or help navigating the app.*

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 Gatzka.*

(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 the middle of **December**.*

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

IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Kathy Baker, Paul Burkhardt, Ralph Collins, Helen Davis, George Elliott, Barbara Gregory, Lydia Hatmaker, Russell Haese, Tiara Householder, Cathy Long, Vicky McCarthy, Ellen Saganich, Ron & Flo Schramm, Carol Stanley, Alyssa 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. 3: Lauren Pubillones
Dec. 4: Margaret Lawrence
Dec. 6: Sally Darnell
Dec. 8: Stan Hatmaker
Dec. 9: Robert Goodman
Dec. 9: Bettie Albright



Bishop Richard Stika



The Diocese of Knoxville News

Join the Dominican Sisters for an Advent Women's Retreat Morning. Enter into the beautiful season of Advent with 8 a.m. Mass, a talk by the Sisters, a panel discussion, fellowship with other women and concluding with a Eucharistic Holy Hour in the Sister's Chapel. Who: All women aged 16 and older are invited. When: December 2nd, 2017 Where: Mass in the St. Mary's (Oak Ridge) Parish Chapel, then St. Mary's Youth Center. Coffee will be provided. If you prefer to bring along a little morning tea to share, that would be lovely.

360 OF HOPE LUNCHEON

Join Catholic Charities of East Tennessee at the 3rd Annual 360 of Hope Luncheon, hosted by WATE's Kristin Farley featuring guest speaker Lt. Gov. Randy McNally on Thursday, December 7, from 11:30 a. m. to 1 p. m. at The Park Pavilion in Downtown Knoxville (525 Henley Street). For tickets or table host opportunities, please visit: <https://ccetn.org/event/knoxville-360-of-hope/>

Diocese of Knoxville's Office of Consecrated Life Appreciation Dinner on Friday, Dec. 15 from 6-8 p.m. will have Fr. Greg Cleveland, OMV as their keynote speaker. The dinner is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Fr. Cleveland is a noted retreat master & author. He will also lead a half-day mini-retreat on Sat., 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 or by email at smarycharles@dioknox.org.

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

Diocesan Men's Retreat

Join men from across the Diocese of Knoxville for a day of learning and reflection on Dec. 9 at All Saints' Catholic Church in Knoxville. Catholic speaker and evangelist Nic Davidson will be presenting on male Catholic identity. The culture has a message about what it means to be a man: Nothing. We disagree. It is time to claim and live your Catholic identity.

The day begins at 9 a.m. with Holy Mass with Bishop Richard F. Stika and will conclude at 2:30 p.m. Breakfast and lunch are included.

The retreat is free. Donations will be accepted to help cover speaker and food costs. For questions & to register contact Sr. Anna Marie at srannamarie@dioknox.org or 865-862-5763.

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!