

# 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*

**Office:** 865-457-4073

**Rectory:** 865-457-1317

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**Secretary:** Virginia Knowles

**Bookkeeper:** Regina Sowko

**Church Office:** 865-457-4073

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

**E-mail:** [office@saintthereseclinton.org](mailto:office@saintthereseclinton.org)

**Website:** [www.saintthereseclinton.org](http://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,

On this Second Sunday of Advent, we light our candle of Faith, because the Liturgy opens us to the connections between the Ineffable Greatness and the Indwelling of God's Love in our lives through the Incarnation. These readings expose us to the reality of who we are *beyond* the shadows of our lesser selves; they point us in the direction to the larger pattern of the story of an event long ago yet so present and relevant to our daily realization of God's love.

In our First Reading, Isaiah prophesizes an idyllic return to harmony amongst the animals, perchance the Second Coming: "Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid." Does this not remind us of the beautiful prophecy we heard last Sunday from the same Prophet Isaiah concerning a return to harmony among humans also? "They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks"; "One nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again" (Isa 2:4). Thus, we see Isaiah in both prophecies telling us how the whole world will turn to God again, for "the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the Lord" (Isa 11:9).

In the Gospel reading, Matthew draws us closer to the fire of John the Baptist who seemingly is appalled by the way the Pharisees and the leaders of the Church cheapen and water down the powerful grace of God. He admonishes them towards repentance, how they should conduct themselves in anticipation of the inward conversion that would occur when *'the one who is coming after me'* arrives. If John the Baptist were here today, it is likely that he would say to us in his passionate voice "Be on fire for Christ!" John the Baptist continues to speak down the centuries to each generation. In the same way, as we pray through these Advent liturgies, longing to welcome Christ at Christmas, John the Baptist alerts us to "prepare the way of the Lord."

How do we do this? As Advent unfolds and Christmas approaches, we are challenged to allow the chaff of our sins and selfishness to be burned away while opening our hearts to the Word, the Lord Jesus Christ. We must pray for faith to believe; like so many circumstances in our life, events may appear logically implausible, but we need to grasp the truth that God supersedes human logic! And in the oft-repeated words of Pope Alexander: "What does it profit me if Jesus is reborn in thousands of cribs all over the world and not reborn in my heart?"

Happy Advent Sunday!

## Sacraments

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

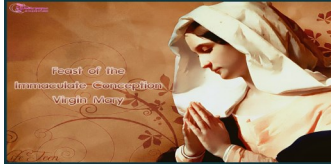
**Reconciliation:** Saturdays from 4:15-4:45 p.m.

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

## In the Parish

### HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

*Don't forget that Thurs., Dec. 8th is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Masses will be at 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. at St. Therese Church.*



### ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

There will be an Advent Penance Service at St. Therese Church on Monday, December 12th at 7 p.m. for both parishes. There will be 5 priests available to hear confessions.



### Knights of Columbus Christmas Card Sale

*Purchase your cards in the parish hall and help the Knights with their charitable works.*

### CHILDREN'S CHOIR FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

*Jackie Bentz will lead a children's choir for the Christmas Eve 4 p.m. liturgy. Children are invited to sing (if they are readers) but must attend the rehearsal on Sat., Dec. 10 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.*



### WHITE CHRISTMAS TREE



Years ago, St. Therese families put together a white Christmas tree covered in white ornaments donated by families. 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 a box in the parish hall. If there is a place to write your last name on the ornament, please feel free to do so!

### **Stewardship of Treasures on Weekly Offerings**

Offertory Collection Last Week 11/27/16	Offertory Collection Last Year 11/29/15	Offertory Collection for Nov.'16	Offertory Collection for Oct.'16	Monthly Budget Fiscal Year 2016-17
\$2,593.00	\$3,041.00	\$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:

**Tue., Dec. 6:** St. Nicholas  
**Wed., Dec. 7:** St. Ambrose  
**Thu., Dec. 8:** Immaculate Conception  
**Fri., Dec. 9:** St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin

### MINISTRIES SCHEDULE:

**December 10-11, 2016**

### Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

Saturday: J. Borne  
 A. Brown  
 K. Burns  
 Sunday: C. Mikeal  
 D. Nall  
 G. Paynter

### Lectors:

Saturday: J. Meersman  
 J. Meersman  
 Sunday: P. Chiaro

### Altar Servers:

Saturday: M. Kiernan  
 Sunday: L. Lawrence  
 T. Gudino

### Ushers:

Saturday: M. Haka  
 J. Mantione  
 Sunday: M. Gudino  
 J. Gudino

### Cantor:

Saturday: D. Stepp  
 Sunday: M. Tuskan

### Music:

Saturday: J. Bentz  
 Sunday: M. Tuskan

### MASS INTENTIONS:

**Thur., Dec. 8:** Fr. Phillip Sullivan, OCD by Leonard Nugent  
**Sat., Dec. 10:** +Edward Vitale by Sue Haese  
**Sun., Dec. 11:** Velma Herbulock by Don & Janice Watkins

*Please contact the office for Mass intention requests.*

## Announcements and Information

### **NATIONAL COLLECTION FOR THE RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS.**

Please be generous on Dec. 10 & 11 in helping to care for our priests and religious who dedicated their lives to caring for us and who are now in need of our support.

### *Church Christmas Party*

#### **PARISH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Please plan on joining us for the Parish Annual Christmas Party on Sunday, December 18th at 6 p.m.

CCD will be participating in the **Clinton Christmas Parade**. Donations of candy to fill our buckets on the float, would be appreciated. We also need adult volunteers to walk alongside the float.



#### **CHOIR PRACTICE**

Christmas midnight mass rehearsals will be in the church from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on the following evenings: Dec. 1; Dec. 6; Dec. 15; Dec. 20. If you're not a regular choir member and want to sing, please contact Mary Tuskan at 254-8346 and leave a message. All singers and musicians welcome!

**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. If you have items that are new, or fairly new (because of maintenance in Africa), please consider donating to the hospital. 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.

#### **SCRIPTURE PROGRAM**

During this Advent season, the Thursday evening scripture program invites you to join us. We meet in the church hall to read and discuss each upcoming Sunday's readings. This is a good way to prepare yourself for Sunday mass. If you have any questions please call Jean or Pete Chiaro at 865-742-5137. Please note that since there will be mass on Thurs., Dec. 8th at 7 p.m., so we will meet on Wed., Dec. 7th at 7 p.m. Thank you.



#### **IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

Ralph Collins, Kathleen Edwards, George Elliott, Barbara Gregory, Mary Harris, Cathy Hundley, Pauline Landrum, Cathy Long, 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 8: Stan Hatmaker  
December 9: Bettie Albright  
December 9: Robert Goodman

*Call the parish office to add your birthday!*





Bishop Richard Steika



## The Diocese of Knoxville News

### 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.

### Donate to St. Mary's Legacy Clinic by holiday shopping!

Visit <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/46-2331706> to find a page that tells you "Your shopping will support St. Mary's Legacy Clinic, Inc." Click on "start shopping", complete purchase and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price to the clinic. Please remember to use this link **every time** you shop on Amazon. Thank you!

Come celebrate the Christmas season with us and learn more about the mission and impact of Catholic Charities of East Tennessee! Tickets are on sale now for the **2nd Annual 360 of Hope Holiday Luncheon** on Friday, December 9 at the Knoxville Marriott. Tickets are \$50 and include a holiday lunch, an opportunity for fellowship and networking, and an inspirational message from special guest speaker, Susan Packard. Susan is the co-founder of Scripps Networks and is the former COO of HGTV. As a special Christmas gift from CCETN, all guests will receive an autographed copy of Susan's book, *New Rules of the Game: 10 Strategies for Women in the Workplace*.

To purchase your tickets today: [www.360degreesofhope.eventbrite.com](http://www.360degreesofhope.eventbrite.com)

For more information: 865-684-1894 or [events@ccetn.org](mailto:events@ccetn.org)

All proceeds benefit: Catholic Charities of East Tennessee



*Working to Reduce Poverty in America.*

### 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](mailto:psimoneau@dioknox.org) or 865-584-3307 with question or donations.



### PILGRIMAGE TO ST. AUGUSTINE & ORLANDO

Looking for something special to do with your family this summer? Join Fr. Michael Cummins on a family pilgrimage to St. Augustine and Orlando June 7-11, 2017, sponsored by the Office of Marriage Preparation & Enrichment. Travel with families of all ages & stages from around the diocese. Celebrate Mass & pray at the Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche. Enjoy the unique beauty of historic St. Augustine, our nation's oldest city. See the Greek Orthodox Shrine of St. Photios & the Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine. Celebrate Mass at Mary Queen of the Universe Shrine in Orlando. Enjoy the beach at St. Augustine and the fun that Orlando offers! Contact Marian Christian at [mchristiana@dioknox.org](mailto:mchristiana@dioknox.org) or 423-892-2310..