

# 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  
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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,

Today on *Rejoice! Sunday*, our opening antiphon invites us to "*Gaudete in domino semper*" (rejoice in the Lord always). Our readings these last Sundays focus us on St. John the Baptist, often thought of as a stark, grim figure. Actually, he could be the patron saint of spiritual joy, for did he not *leap* for joy in his mother's womb at the arrival of Jesus and Mary? As our Advent season continues to unfurl through the Baptist's theme of 'repentance,' our attending humility begets that joy. This Sunday with its more colorful blush draws us ever closer to our Savior's birth. As we pray our Advent readings daily, we continue to seek the coming of Jesus as our Savior and true source of our joy.

All three readings this *Gaudete Sunday* point to the imminent coming of the Messiah. With profound richness, the prophet Isaiah rouses the Jews who had been captives in Babylon, to rejoice, as the Lord is coming to strengthen and transform them. In the Second Reading, St. James encourages the early Christians to have patience, reminding them of the signs that the ancient prophets said would mark the advent of the Messiah.

A new element of exultation continues in the Gospel reading; Jesus points John's disciples to that other description of the Messiah, the one taken from Isaiah in our First Reading: "*the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.*" We can imagine the Baptist in the solitude of his prison, deeply pondering the Lord's response. They were words of hope and assurance; in all likelihood, it would not have taken John long to realize that every word of the prophet and psalmist was applicable to the Savior.

I personally think that this interaction between Jesus and John the Baptist can help us survive our crises of faith. Despite his direct personal encounter with Jesus the Messiah, we note that John the Baptist still articulated some uncertainty about Jesus and his teachings. However, it is probable that John knew that Jesus was the Messiah, that he sent his disciples to him so that they could shed *their* mistaken notions about the kind of Messiah to expect, and come to recognize Jesus.

On such occasions, let us remember in truth that all of our Christian principles are based on the Divinity of Jesus who first taught them, giving divine authority to His Church to teach what He taught. Hence, it is up to us to learn our faith in depth, to reduce any doubts. By so doing, our lives can be transformed as we grow in faith with patience and wisdom, placing our entire trust in God. Then can we truly rejoice on this *Gaudete Sunday*.

Happy Advent season!

## 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**

**ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE**

**For St. Therese & St. Joseph Parishes**

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



**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.**

**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! One per family.



**CHOIR PRACTICE**

Christmas midnight mass rehearsals will be from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on the following evenings: Dec. 15; 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!

**Stewardship of Treasures on Weekly Offerings**

Offertory Collection Last Week 12/04/16	Offertory Collection Last Year 12/06/15	Offertory Collection for Nov.'16	Offertory Collection for Oct.'16	Monthly Budget Fiscal Year 2016-17
\$4,603.00	\$2,929.00	\$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:**

**Mon. Dec. 12:** Our Lady of Guadalupe  
**Tue., Dec. 13:** St. Lucy  
**Wed., Dec. 14:** St. John of the Cross

**MINISTRIES SCHEDULE:**  
**December 17-18, 2016**

**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:**

Saturday: P. Chase  
 C. Converse  
 M. Haka  
 Sunday: B. Hunt  
 B. Stephens  
 J. Anderson

**Lectors:**

Saturday: M. Gee  
 Sunday: O. Kuhens

**Altar Servers:**

Saturday: TBA  
 Sunday: J. Thais  
 S. Thais

**Ushers:**

Saturday: J. Ferguson  
 C. Tucker  
 Sunday: D. McCune  
 P. Chiaro

**Cantor:**

Saturday: T. Ferguson  
 Sunday: B. Job

**Music:**

Saturday: J. Bentz  
 Sunday: M. Tuskan

**MASS INTENTIONS:**

**Sun., Dec. 11:** Velma Herbulock by Don & Janice Watkins

**Wed., Dec. 14:** Katie Schreiber by Leonard Nugent

**Thur., Dec. 15:** +Basilisa Burgos & +Doris Farrar by Kiernan Family

**Fri., Dec. 16:** +Fr. Elias Freidman, OCP by Leonard Nugent

**Sat., Dec. 18:** Special Intentions of John Mosca Family

## Announcements and Information

### 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.

### CLINTON CHRISTMAS PARADE

CCD will be participating in the **Clinton Christmas Parade on Sat., Dec. 17th**. Donations of candy to fill our buckets on the float, would be appreciated. We also need

### ST. THERESE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Please make plans to join us for the Annual St. Therese Christmas Party on Sunday, Dec. 18th at 6 p.m. There will be food, entertainment by our CCD students, and a visit from St. Nick. All parishioners and their families are welcome and are asked to bring a dish and/or a dessert to share. This year there will be an optional cookie exchange, so bring a container of cookies if you want to participate.

Set up for the event will be after the 11 a.m. mass that day and volunteers are needed. Please make plans to help out if able! Thank you!



**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.

### **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 12: Mary Tuskan  
December 14: Jane Peplow

Call the parish office to add your birthday!





Bishop Richard Stika



## 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!

### 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 or Karen Byrne 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](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 Christiana at [mchristiana@dioknox.org](mailto:mchristiana@dioknox.org) or 423-892-2310..