

St. Therese Catholic Church

Bishop of Knoxville:
Most Rev. Bishop Richard Stika



Pastor:
Father Julius Abuh

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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,

Our Entrance Antiphon today, **Gaudete in Domino semper --Rejoice in the Lord always!**, ushers in *Gaudete Sunday*, the third Sunday of Advent. For the first two weeks, the focus is "The Lord is coming." Now in passing the midway point, the mood is lightened to "The Lord is near." We kindle the warmer, rose-colored candle, and as you can see I bear the pretty rose vestment today. The Solemnity of the birth of Our Lord is one week away, and the coming theme of joy blends with this continued time of quiet expectation. As a parish family, I invite you all to join us as we celebrate our annual family Christmas party and the CCD Christmas play at 5:30 p.m. today (Sunday) in our parish hall.

In our First Reading, Isaiah offers a vision of the future – that the promised Messiah is coming to save and liberate the Israelites from bondage, and will make "justice and praise spring up before all the nations." In the Responsorial Psalm, Mary's Magnificat exults "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." This glorious canticle, inspired by the Holy Spirit, serves as a perfect segue between the Old and the New Testament. Here is St. Paul, in our Second Reading, who with a spirit of fervor, exhorts the early Christians to "rejoice always." With this God of peace, Paul inspires them to lead a faithful and blameless life amid the promise of our Lord's Divine Coming.

In our Gospel reading this Sunday, John the Baptist comes to testify to the Light, Jesus Christ. Imagine the impact of that event, offering people a second chance like a hand pulling us out of the deep cold! The coming of Jesus the Light into the world is the cause for our rejoicing! He wants nothing more than to dwell in our hearts, today and always, calling us to bear witness to this Light. He doesn't care if the halls are decked or what presents are wrapped. Thus, it is our calling to infuse our lives with Christ's Light, to joyfully radiate it and shed light in the sometimes-shadowy lives of others around us – sharing love, overflowing mercy, unconditional forgiveness, and humble service. May we prayerfully bring these brothers and sisters of ours into the light and riches of Christ.

Rejoice Always and a 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

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

ADVENT SEASON:

Saturday, December 23rd is the 4th Sunday of Advent, Vigil Mass at 5 p.m.

at St. Therese Parish.

Sunday, December 24th is the 4th Sunday of Advent, Mass at 9 a.m.

at St. Joseph Parish.

Sunday, December 24th is the 4th Sunday of Advent Mass at 11 a.m.

at St. Therese Parish.

CHRISTMAS SEASON:

Sunday, December 24th is the Family Vigil Mass for Christmas at 4 p.m.

at St. Therese Parish.

Sunday, December 24th is the Family Vigil Mass for Christmas at 4:30 p.m.

at St. Joseph Parish.

Sunday, December 24th is the Midnight Mass for Christmas

at St. Therese Parish. Carols start at 11:30.



Monday, December 25th is the Christmas Day Mass at 9 a.m.

at St. Joseph Parish (incense will be used)

Monday, December 25th is the Christmas Day Mass at 11 a.m.

at St. Therese Parish. (incense will be used)

NEW YEAR'S MASSES:

Saturday, December 30: Holy Family of Jesus & Mary, Mass at 5 p.m.

at St. Therese Parish.

Sunday, December 31: Holy Family of Jesus & Mary, Mass at 9 a.m.

at St. Joseph Parish.

Sunday, December 31: Holy Family of Jesus & Mary, Mass at 11 a.m.

at St. Therese Parish.

Monday, January 1 is the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, Mass at 9 a.m.

at St. Joseph Parish.

Monday, January 1 is the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, Mass at 11 a.m.

at St. Therese Parish.

WE THANK EVERYONE WHO GIVES SO GENEROUSLY

Offertory Collection Last Week 12/10/17	Offertory Collection Last Year 12/11/16	Offertory Collection for November 2017	Offertory Collection for October 2017	Monthly Budget Fiscal Year 2016-17
\$3,351.00	\$3,668.00	\$ 10,581.00	\$16,941.00	\$15,000.00

BUILDING FUND/LOAN /Last Week \$ 1,059.00

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:

Thu., Dec. 21: St. Peter Canisius

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

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MINISTRIES SCHEDULE:

December 23-24, 2017

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

Saturday: P. Chase
M. Haka
B. Hatmaker

Sunday: D. Nall
G. Paynter
B. Stephens

Lectors:

Saturday: J. Meersman
J. Meersman

Sunday: M. McMyler

Altar Servers:

Saturday: TBA

Sunday: S. Thais
J. Thais

A. Kuhens

Ushers:

Saturday: M. Spurlock
R. Spurlock

Sunday: E. Clevestine
J. Clevestine

Cantor:

Saturday: T. Ferguson

Sunday: M. Tuskan

Music:

Saturday: J. Bentz

Sunday: M. Tuskan

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MASS INTENTIONS:

Sat., Dec. 16: Katherine Baker by Tom Baker

Sun., Dec. 17: Sue Haese by Cathy Hundley

Wed., Dec. 20: Charles Frey by Tom Baker

Thu., Dec. 21: Karen Liker by Sue Haese

Fri., Dec. 22: +Jerry Hundley by Cathy Hundley

Announcements and Information

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.



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.



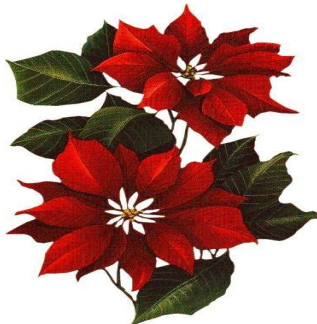
(Pronechen, Joseph. "Adoration makes Every Day Christmas." National Catholic Register 10 Dec. 2010. <http://www.ncregister.com/site/article/adoration-makes-every-day-christmas>)

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

CHOIR PRACTICE: The last practice is this Wednesday, Dec. 20 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.



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: The last day to request Christmas Flowers in honor of or in memory of a loved one will be Wednesday, December 20th at 11 a.m. This is in order to have the names printed in time to insert in to the Christmas bulletin. Thank you for your help.



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. 21: Julie Keller

Dec. 22: Audeya Hundley





Bishop Richard Stika



The Diocese of Knoxville News

WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES AUGUST 21-26, 2018

Join Fr. Mike Nolan on a Pilgrimage to the World Meeting of Families & Faith of the Irish 12 days-August 21 to September 1, 2018 Land and Air \$4,395.00—Single Supplement \$1,095.00 A deposit of \$750.00 per person by check should accompany the registration form along with your optional travel protection payment, if purchasing, and a copy of your passport picture page by February 1, 2018.

For more information and registration form contact: Marian Christiana at 423-892-3210 or mchirstiana@dioknox.org or Lisa Morris 567-1245 or lisaam@select-intl.com



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.

To register, contact Marilyn Derbyshire, Family & Parish Life Ministry Coordinator, at 865-777-4312 or mderbyshire@sjknnox.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 mchirstiana@dioknox.org or 423-892-2310.

