



Saint Therese Parish

9525 W Bluemound Rd, Milwaukee, WI 53226

Phone (414) 771-2500 ♦ Fax (414) 771-2410

sainttheresemilwaukee.org ♦ info@sainttheresemilwaukee.org

We are St. Therese Catholic Church, a community of believers, who walk together by faith in Christ Jesus, and minister in the Little Way of St. Therese, as we strive hand-in-hand to live as God's people.

December 20th, 2009

Parish Staff

Parish Director

Dr. Alexandra Guliano ext. 14
drguliano@sainttheresemilwaukee.org

Assisting Priest

Rev. Hugh Birdsall, SDS

Help-out Priest

Rev. Norm Oswald

Administrative Assistant

Courtney Falk ext. 11
courtney@sainttheresemilwaukee.org

Bookkeeper

Lisa Vallone ext. 17
vallonel@sainttheresemilwaukee.org

Pastoral Musician

Elterine Jankowski-Biggers ext. 15
jankowe@sainttheresemilwaukee.org

Sterling Biggers, Parish Musician

Coordinator of Parish Catechesis

Cathy Smith ext. 20
cathy.smith@sainttheresemilwaukee.org

Building Services Coordinator

Denise Dostalek ext. 16
denise@sainttheresemilwaukee.org

Ministers

All the Members of the Parish

Parish Emergencies

(414) 771-2500 — listen for instructions



Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." — Lk 1:41, 42, 45

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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Mass Schedule

Saturday: 5:00PM
Sunday: 8:00AM & 10:00AM
Tuesday: 8:00AM

Liturgy of the Word with Communion:

Thursday, Friday: 8:00AM

See inside for Holy Day Schedules

Reconciliation: 4:15PM — 4:45PM
1st Saturday of the Month

Anointing of the Sick:
2nd Full Weekend of the Month
Following Each Mass

All Other Sacraments:
Please call the Parish Office
Preparation can take six months or more

Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday:
8:30AM — 4:00PM
closed 12:00PM — 12:30PM

Wednesday:
12:00PM — 7:30PM
closed 4:00PM — 4:30PM

Friday: 8:30AM to 12:00PM

From the Desk of the Parish Director

◆ Please take a few minutes to stay after mass this weekend to enjoy hospitality and to wish Barb Heinz well on her retirement. Barb retired on December 18th after more than eleven years of service as our ChristCare minister. We are glad that Barb will remain as a parish member.

Please also note that we have begun advertising in the bulletin for people to continue the ChristCare ministries. To volunteer, please follow the contact information provided.

- ◆ We have come to the last week of Advent, generally a busy week of proximate preparations for the great feast of Christmas. Despite the busyness of these days, please remember to take time to for moments of silence, times of prayer, and reflection on the true gift of Jesus, Who is God-With-Us.
- ◆ Many writers have described gratitude as the highest form of prayer. How about expressing your thanks this last week of Advent? How about making a list of ten people, things, situations, or events for which you are thankful and expressing thanks by a note, a phone call, a conversation, or a prayer?
- ◆ We look forward to celebrating our Christmas liturgies with all who will come to our parish. All are welcome—parish members and their families, friends, neighbors, visitors, those searching for a spiritual home, families visiting patients in the nearby hospitals and health care centers, college students home on winter break, and others. It is our privilege to celebrate the Birth of Jesus with you!

Advent and Christmas blessings to you!

Dr. Alexandra Guliano

Altar Server Rehearsals for the Christmas Masses

Altar Servers who have signed up to serve on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are asked to attend a rehearsal in the church on Monday, December 21st at 6:30PM.

Wednesdays with the Word

Learn more about the weekly Scripture readings by participating in Wednesdays with the Word at 6:45PM on Wednesdays in the St. Therese Room. Our next session is Wednesday, December 23rd. We will not be meeting on Wednesday, December 30th but will resume on Wednesday, January 6th.

Important Info Regarding Snow Closings

Now that winter and the snow season has arrived, please note that any closings of the Parish Office and cancellation of meetings will be reported on Channel 12 (WISN TV); on the internet at wisn.com; radio stations 96.5 WKLH; 102.9 "The Hog;" Jammin' 98.3; and Smooth Jazz 106.9. Remember that our parish is St. Therese—Milwaukee in Milwaukee County. There are three "St. Therese" parishes in southeast Wisconsin—in Kenosha, in Eagle, and our parish in Milwaukee. Please also note that, if the Parish Office is closed, all meetings will be cancelled. There will also be a notice of this cancellation on our parish voicemail.

However, it is not our practice to cancel liturgical services. If we do so, we will make a point of specifically noting that liturgical services (masses) have been cancelled. Be safe and use caution when travelling this winter season!



Christmas and Holyday Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve, December 24th

- ◆ 3:45PM: Intergenerational Family Mass beginning with a presentation entitled "Christmas Around the World"
- ◆ 10:00PM: Night Mass beginning with a Choir Concert

Christmas Day, December 25th

- ◆ 8:00AM Mass
- ◆ 10:00AM Mass

New Year's Day, January 1st, 2010

- ◆ 9:00AM World Day of Prayer for Peace/Solemnity of Mary Holyday Mass



The Parish Office will be closed this week Thursday and Friday and next in observance of the holidays.

The Parish Staff would like to wish you and yours a blessed and safe holiday season!

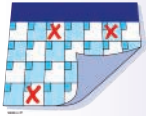
Two Multi-Colored Tote Bags Left for Sale

We have two multi-colored bags left for sale at \$25 each. These were handmade by people with disabilities in Baños, Ecuador and make beautiful gifts. To purchase, please contact Dr. Guliano by phone or email. 100% of the proceeds go to the ministry of FUVIRESE, our 2009 missionary partner to help people with disabilities help themselves.

CHURCH SUPPORT

Total will be published next week





Parish Events for the Week

Sunday, December 20th

- 9:10AM St. Therese Choir (CH)
- 11:00AM Decorating the Church (CH)

Monday, December 21st

- 6:00PM St. Vincent dePaul Society (MC)
- 6:30PM Library Committee (LIB)

Tuesday, December 22nd

No Meetings Scheduled

Wednesday, December 23rd

- 6:45PM Wednesday With the Word (STR)
- 7:30PM St. Therese Choir (CHP)
- 7:30PM Praise Band (CH)

Thursday, December 24th

Parish Office Closed

Friday, December 25th—Merry Christmas!

Parish Office Closed

Saturday, December 26th

No Meetings Scheduled

Sunday, December 27th

No Meetings Scheduled

CH=Church, CHP=Chapel, GLP=God's Littlest Place, GN=Good News Gathering Place, HH=Heck Hall, KIT=Heck Hall Kitchen, LIB=Library, MC=Miriam's Corner, RR=Raphael Room, STR=St. Therese Room

Have a "Green" Christmas This Year

It's holiday decorating time and we've got a couple of "green" decorating tips for you. These holiday ideas come from the St. Therese Green Team and the Urban Ecology Center. Here are some more tips to keep your home festive and eco-friendly this year!

- ♦ Use LED or solar powered lights to decorate your house to save energy.
- ♦ Wrap presents in re-usable items, such as a scarf, dish towel, or canvas bags for grocery shopping.
- ♦ Use cut evergreen branches and fruits and nuts for fragrant decorations.
- ♦ Consider baking edible gingerbread holiday ornaments and reusing decorations you already have instead of buying new ones.

There are many more things you can do to make this holiday season more earth-friendly. Just think about how people used to decorate before there was so much mass produced holiday stuff.

Question of the Week:

Like Mary and Elizabeth, do you also rejoice in the promise of the birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior?

Altered Bulletin Deadlines

All 2009 bulletins are done! Due to publication deadlines, the next available bulletin for articles is January 3rd. The deadline for submission is this Wednesday, December 23rd at 12:00PM. Please remember that these deadlines are firm. The deadline for the January 10th bulletin and all following until Easter are normal—Monday morning at 8:30AM. Thank you for planning ahead.

Liturgical Ministry Schedules

Liturgical ministry schedules for lectors, servers, and Eucharistic ministers for January through April are now available in the sacristy. Please pick up a copy as soon as possible. This is the last weekend to sign up on the Greeters schedule. Those schedules will be available next week. If you are interested in joining one of the ministries, please call the coordinator of the ministry you would like to join and you will be contacted.

Altar Servers: Jim Balliet (414) 257-0339

EMs: Lisa Stringer (262) 442-3856

Greeters: Audrey Wright (414) 771-2140

Lectors: Lisa Hollander (414) 443-9656

Updated Liturgical Ministry Rosters Available in Sacristy

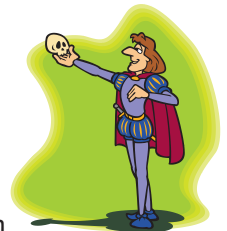
Updated rosters for Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Altar Servers, and Greeters are available in the ministry mailboxes in the sacristy. Each liturgical minister is asked to kindly take the time and pick these up.

Unused Surplus Christmas Cards

Have you finished writing out all of your Christmas cards and found you have a few leftover? Have you had extra unused cards from previous years sitting in a box thinking sometime you would use up your old ones? If you would like to get rid of these extras, please let me know. An event is in the works for Christmas 2010 and that would require up to 200 Christmas cards. Please contact Cathy in the Parish Office if you would like to donate these cards.

Variety Show

It's time to start thinking about this year's Variety Show. If you, or someone in your family likes to sing, dance, play an instrument, tell stories or has any other talent, please consider signing up for this year's "Yet Another Pretty good Variety Show." The show will be Sunday, January 31st, 2010 at 3:00PM. Pick up a flyer from Elterine "Dusty" Jankowski-Biggers at the church organ or call her in the Parish Office. We also need volunteers to help backstage and with refreshments. Here's your chance to be part of a fun activity with your friends and family at St. Therese. As they say, "Yet Another Pretty Good Variety Show" must go on.



Greeting Card Outreach Ministry

Birthday cards are sent from the parish to all members age 70 and older. Get well cards are sent to parish members who are suffering from an illness. Would you like to be a part of this ministry? If so, please contact Kathy Doyne of the Personnel Committee at (414) 771-7555.

Coordinator for 55+ Social Club Needed

The 55+ Social Club needs a Coordinator. The Club usually meets monthly for a lunch, program, and time for socializing. In addition, the Club sponsors bus trips for cultural and other enjoyable events. If you are interested in serving as a Coordinator or Co-Coordinator with another other person, please contact Kathy Doyne, Personnel Committee Chairperson at (414) 771-7555.

Intentions & Readings for the Week



December Sanctuary Candle

In Memory of †Peter Ferguson, son of Ann Ferguson, grandson of Ann Lemanski

Monday

Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Lk 1:39-45

Tuesday Mass

1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56

8:00AM †Abby Bunzel

Wednesday

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66

Thursday Masses

Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Lk 1:67-79

Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25

Midnight: Is 9:1-6/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

4:00PM The Nee Family

10:00PM Theodor Schmidt

Friday Masses

Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18

8:00AM †Jennie Ramus

10:00AM †Joseph & †Gertrude Kohlmann

Saturday Mass

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22

5:00PM St. Therese Parish Community and Gregory Enderson

Sunday Masses

Sir 3:2-7, 12-14/Col 3:12-21/Lk 2:41-52

8:00AM In thanksgiving from the Breitweiser Family

10:00AM †Frida Bippus

Respect Life

Just a few thoughts as we wait for Jesus' arrival. "Adoption, not abortion" is a catchy bumper sticker attached to the pro-life movement. Without help, this is not as simple as it appears. Many children are waiting for homes this Christmas; Adoptive homes, foster homes, special treatment foster care. As of December 2008, there were 2638 children in Milwaukee County waiting and only 857 active licensed foster homes. Maybe Respect Life Catholics can open their arms to these children. It is difficult and not all can do this, but pass the word. If you are interested, please call Children's Services Society at (414) 453-1400. Have a blessed Christmas and always choose life.

Why Do We Give Gifts at Christmas?

Great events in and of themselves are not tangible. They occur in life but leave no mark behind, nothing that someone could come across and know that something significant occurred. So we mark the event with monuments, holidays, gold watches or plaques, making a meaningful event tangible and memorable.



Gifts at Christmas do the same thing. They mark the occasion of the birth of Jesus, communicating a bit of the joy of the day by allowing us to be both giver and receiver. Gift-giving sets aside the day as special and different. The special foods, customs, decorations and gifts all help focus our attention on the importance and meaning of the day and at the same time allow us to share personally in its joy and happiness.

In giving gifts, though, we can share in the meaning of Christmas in a significant way. We imitate God in sharing with others. We give a bit of ourselves to others in the gifts we give, just as God gives us the gift of his Son. No wonder we often say that the best gifts are those that come from the heart. Given in love, these presents are wrapped in the best covering of all.

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Pray for

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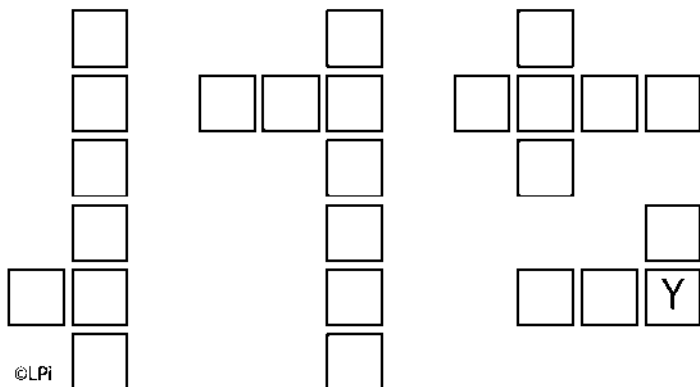
Lenore Black, Gene Brah, Anna Daewel, Tom Fera, Sr Mary Bride Grubbs, Georgina Guevara, Pauline Gutmann, Mary Ann Hesselbein, Ben Hoener, Andy Islo, Garnet Jankowski, Ken Knollenberg, Marcella Kozuh, Tom Kreuter, Ann Lackovic, Sarah Luck, Charlotte Meeks, Chris Melloch, Laverne Mucci, Michelle Muschelewicz, Gerry Roberts, Sylvia Schaffer, Gladys Shafer, Carlene Siever, Susan Sinks, Marion Stabo, Mary Stoke, Robert John Swiderski, Harold Vanden Heuvel, Merle Weber, Bob Wilcox



Puzzle

Fit the following words from today's Gospel into the empty squares below.

The infant in my womb leaped for joy.



©LPI

For the Kids!



Please Help Us Keep Our Prayer List Current

It is our privilege to pray for others at our parish liturgies. The General Intercessions are offered at our celebrations of the Eucharist to extend our prayer beyond our parish and assembly. Please help us keep our prayer list current. If you would like a name on our prayer list, you may submit the name at www.sainttheresemilwaukee.org/prayerlist or contact Courtney Falk in writing, by phone, or by email and submit the following:

- ♦ the name of the person to be prayed for, with pronunciation if needed
- ♦ your name and contact information (phone or email)
- ♦ an agreement to communicate to Courtney Falk in writing, by phone, or email when the person's name should be removed from the list.

Thank you for understanding.

These Important Ministries Need Your Help

Art and Environment Committee

Help plan and decorate our Church environment for all the liturgical seasons. To volunteer, please call the Parish Office and leave a message on extension #21.

Church Helpers

Church Helpers make sure that the songbooks, pencils, and envelopes in the pews are replenished and in good order for the weekend liturgies. This ministry can be done anytime before the weekend masses begin on Saturday or after the 10:00AM mass on Sunday. To volunteer, please contact a Parish Council member. Phone numbers are in the column at right.

Faith in Our Future Update

As of November 30, 2009, the parishioners of St. Therese have pledged nearly \$223,000 to the Faith In Our Future campaign. With the money already donated, St. Therese has been able to do building, electrical, and heating repairs and upgrade some of the church lighting. The next project is upgrades to the heating system.

Additionally, we have donated \$3,586 in six monthly tithes to the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Our next recipient will be Greater Tosa Interfaith, who will receive monthly donations from St. Therese starting in January 2010. Thank you to the many parishioners who have support this campaign!

Christmas Time Is...

Christmas time is when many run around in stores trying to find the perfect gift for the people in their lives. The word Christmas actually means "Christ's Mass." Some have forgotten that as Christians we are Easter people who celebrate the birth of Jesus as a way to better understand the God's greatest gift to the world. In the final days before Christmas try to think about the abundant gifts in your life, like the closeness of friends and family; a community to share both joys and sorrows; and the love God shows to us daily by provide these people to us.

Flower & Candle Memorial Donations

In this season of giving, you can remember a loved one or a special intention by donating toward the cost of flowers and candles for our church environment. Please complete the form below, include your donation of any amount, and return both in the collection basket at any mass. Thank you for your generosity!



Candle and Flower Donations—PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Donor Name _____

Phone () _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Select one: In Memory In Honor In Thanksgiving

Intention _____

Publish in bulletin? Yes No Print intention, not donor

Parish Council

1st Monday of Month at 7:00PM

Chairperson

Kathy Hubrich (414) 259-1961

Vice-Chairperson

Rich Sanger (414) 425-2028

Secretary

Heather Goeden (414) 313-6397

Trustees

Jim Balliet (414) 257-0339

Mari Pavleje (414) 545-2733

Darian Borst (414) 461-8030

Fran Clark (414) 476-7427

David Drozdowicz (262) 938-6756

Barb Gritzmacher (414) 774-1396

Pat Hall (414) 604-9396

Chuck Jagemann (414) 453-5280

Janet Krebs (414) 774-9113

Jesse Stringer (262) 442-3710

Greater Tosa
Interfaith
(414) 453-5750

Saint Vincent
de Paul
(414) 462-7837

Hospital Visits

The Federal Privacy Regulation (HIPAA—Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act) prohibits hospitals from informing churches of a patient's presence unless the patient gives permission for the hospital to do so. If you are admitted to a hospital and would like remembrance in prayer or a pastoral visit, please contact Dr. Guliano in the Parish Office.

Prayer Network/Home Visits

Members of the Prayer Network pray daily for those that have asked for prayers. The intentions are kept confidential. To request prayers or a home visit, please contact Barb in the Parish Office.

**Please remember
Saint Therese Parish
in your will !**

Deadline:
Please see body
of bulletin for
altered deadlines
for the holidays.
writing; email p.