

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
SAINT THERESA PARISH
ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON—HOUSTON



SAINT THERESA CATHOLIC CHURCH
705 SAINT THERESA BOULEVARD & SUGAR LAND, TEXAS 77498 & 281-494-1156
WWW.SUGARLANDCATHOLIC.COM

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE
MISA ENTRE SEMANA

Monday—Friday
6:45 a.m., 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday & Thursday
5:30 p.m.

Miércoles
7:00 p.m. (español)

Monday & Friday
(~~Extraordinary Form~~)
5:30 p.m.

CONFESSION • CONFESIONES

Saturday • Sábado
3:15 p.m.

Sunday • Domingo
4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Weekdays • Entre Semana
Monday-Friday:
after each Morning Mass

Tuesday & Thursday
at 6:00 p.m.

Miércoles a las 6:00 p.m. (español)

WEEKEND MASSES
MISAS DEL FIN DE SEMANA
SATURDAY • SÁBADO

8:30 a.m.
5:00 p.m. (anticipatory
Sunday Mass)

SUNDAY • DOMINGO

6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m. (español),
10:00 a.m., Noon,
2:00 p.m. (español),
5:00 p.m. (Latin,
~~Extraordinary Form~~-Novus Ordo)

On the cover:

Jehan Cousin the Younger.
The Last Judgment.
1585, oil on canvas,
Louvre Museum, Paris.

Pope Benedict XVI
Nov 30, 2008

Today on the First Sunday of Advent, we enter that four-week Season with which a new liturgical year begins and that immediately prepares us for the Feast of Christmas, the memorial of the Incarnation of Christ in history. Yet, the spiritual message of Advent is more profound and already orients us to the glorious return of the Lord at the end of our history. Adventus is the Latin word that could be translated by "arrival", "coming" or "presence". In the language of the ancient world it was a technical term that indicated the arrival of an official, and especially the visit of kings or emperors to the provinces, but it could also be used for the appearance of a divinity, which emerged from its hidden dwelling-place and thus manifested its divine power; its presence was solemnly celebrated with worship.

By using this term, "Advent", Christians wanted to express the special relationship that bound them to the Crucified and Risen Christ. He is a King who, having entered this poor province called earth, made us the gift of his visit and after his Resurrection and Ascension into Heaven desired in any case to stay with us; we perceive his mysterious presence in the liturgical assembly. Indeed, in celebrating the Eucharist, we proclaim that he did not withdraw from the world, that he did not leave us alone and, even though we cannot see and touch him as with material and tangible realities, he is in any case with us and among us. Indeed, he is in us, because he can attract to himself and communicate his life to every believer who opens his/her heart to him. Thus, Advent means commemorating the first coming of the Lord in the flesh, with his definitive return already in mind, and, at the same time, it means recognizing that Christ present in our midst makes himself our travelling companion in the life of the Church who celebrates his mystery. This knowledge, dear brothers and sisters, nourished by listening to the Word of God, must help us to see the world with different eyes, to interpret the individual events of life and history as words that God addresses to us, as signs of his love that assure us of his closeness in every situation; this awareness, in particular, should prepare us to welcome him when "he will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end", as in a little while we shall repeat in the Creed. In this perspective, Advent becomes for all Christians a time of expectation and hope, a privileged time for listening and reflection, as long as we let ourselves be guided by the liturgy, which invites us to advance to meet the Lord who comes.

"Come, Lord Jesus": dear friends, this ardent invocation of the Christian community of the early days must also become our constant aspiration, the aspiration of the Church in every epoch, which longs for and prepares herself for the encounter with her Lord. Come today, Lord; enlighten us, give us peace, help us triumph over violence. Come Lord, we pray precisely in these weeks: "Lord... let us see your face and will shall be saved" (Ps 80[79]: Ps 80,3), we have just prayed with the words of the Responsorial Psalm. And the Prophet Isaiah revealed to us in the First Reading that the Face of Our Saviour is that of a tender and merciful father who cares for us in all circumstances because we are the work of his hands: "You, O Lord, are our Father, our Redeemer from of old is your name" (Is 63,16). Our God is a father prepared to forgive repentant sinners and to welcome those who trust in his mercy (cf. Is 64,4). We had drifted away from him because of sin, falling under the dominion of death, but he took pity on us and, on his own initiative, without any merit on our part, decided to meet our needs, sending his only Son as our Redeemer. As we face such a great mystery of love, our thanksgiving rises spontaneously and our invocation becomes more trusting: Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, today, in our time, in every part of the world, let us feel your presence and grant us your salvation (cf. Gospel acclamation).

...To prepare ourselves for Christ's coming is also the exhortation we hear in today's Gospel: "Watch", Jesus tells us in Luke's short parable about the master of the house who goes on a journey, but the date of whose return is unknown (cf. Mc 13,33-37). Watching means following the Lord, choosing what Christ chose, loving what he loved, conforming one's own life to his; watching means passing every instant of our time in the sphere of his love without letting oneself be disheartened by the inevitable difficulties and problems of daily life. This is what St Lawrence did, this is what we must do and let us ask the Lord to grant us his grace so that Advent may be an incentive for all to walk in this direction. May Mary, the humble Virgin of Nazareth chosen by God to become Mother of the Redeemer, St Andrew whose feast we are celebrating today, and St Lawrence, an example of fearless Christian faithfulness to the point of martyrdom, guide us and go with us. Amen!

SOLEMNITY OF THE
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



Holy Day of Obligation
December 8, 2023

MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, December 7th

5:30 p.m. (Vigil)

7:30 p.m. (Vigilia)

Friday, December 8th

6:45 a.m.

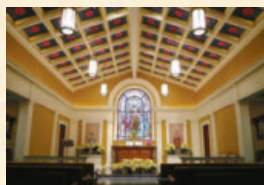
8:30 a.m.

12:10 p.m.

5:30 p.m.

7:30 p.m. — Español

**MORNING OF
RECOLLECTION FOR WOMEN**



The ladies of the parish are
invited to a morning of prayer on
Wednesday, December 6, 2023
from 10:00 a.m. until
noon in the Chapel.

The day includes adoration of
the Blessed Sacrament,
preached meditations, time
for private prayer, and the
opportunity for confession.

HOMILÍA DEL SANTO PADRE BENEDICTO XVI
I Domingo de Adviento, 30 de noviembre de 2008

Queridos hermanos y hermanas:

Con este primer domingo de Adviento entramos en el tiempo de cuatro semanas con que inicia un nuevo año litúrgico y que nos prepara inmediatamente para la fiesta de la Navidad, memoria de la encarnación de Cristo en la historia. Pero el mensaje espiritual de Adviento es más profundo y ya nos proyecta hacia la vuelta gloriosa del Señor, al final de nuestra historia. *Adventus* es palabra latina que podría traducirse por "llegada", "venida", "presencia". En el lenguaje del mundo antiguo era un término técnico que indicaba la llegada de un funcionario, en particular la visita de reyes o emperadores a las provincias, pero también podía utilizarse para la aparición de una divinidad, que salía de su morada oculta y así manifestaba su poder divino: su presencia se celebraba solemnemente en el culto.

Los cristianos, al adoptar el término "Adviento", quisieron expresar la relación especial que los unía a Cristo crucificado y resucitado. Él es el Rey que, al entrar en esta pobre provincia llamada tierra, nos ha hecho el don de su visita y, después de su resurrección y ascensión al cielo, ha querido permanecer siempre con nosotros: percibimos su misteriosa presencia en la asamblea litúrgica. En efecto, al celebrar la Eucaristía, proclamamos que él no se ha retirado del mundo y no nos ha dejado solos, y, aunque no lo podamos ver y tocar como sucede con las realidades materiales y sensibles, siempre está *con* nosotros y *entre* nosotros; más aún, está *en* nosotros, porque puede atraer a sí y comunicar su vida a todo creyente que le abra el corazón. Por tanto, Adviento significa hacer memoria de la primera venida del Señor en la carne, pensando ya en su vuelta definitiva; y, al mismo tiempo, significa reconocer que Cristo presente en medio de nosotros se hace nuestro compañero de viaje en la vida de la Iglesia, que celebra su misterio.

Esta certeza, queridos hermanos y hermanas, alimentada por la escucha de la Palabra de Dios, debería ayudarnos a ver el mundo de una manera diversa, a interpretar cada uno de los acontecimientos de la vida y de la historia como palabras que Dios nos dirige, como signos de su amor que nos garantizan su cercanía en todas las situaciones; en particular, esta certeza debería prepararnos para acogerlo cuando "de nuevo venga con gloria para juzgar a vivos y muertos, y su reino no tendrá fin", como repetiremos dentro de poco en el *Credo*. En esta perspectiva, el Adviento es para todos los cristianos un tiempo de espera y de esperanza, un tiempo privilegiado de escucha y de reflexión, con tal de que se dejen guiar por la liturgia, que invita a salir al encuentro del Señor que viene.

"¡Ven, Señor Jesús!": esta ferviente invocación de la comunidad cristiana de los orígenes debe ser también, queridos amigos, nuestra aspiración constante, la aspiración de la Iglesia de todas las épocas, que anhela y se prepara para el encuentro con su Señor. "¡Ven hoy, Señor!"; ilumínanos, danos la paz, ayúdanos a vencer la violencia. ¡Ven, Señor! rezamos precisamente en estas semanas. "Señor, ¡que brille tu rostro y nos salve!": hemos rezado así, hace unos instantes, con las palabras del salmo responsorial. Y el profeta Isaías, en la primera lectura, nos ha revelado que el rostro de nuestro Salvador es el de un padre tierno y misericordioso, que cuida de nosotros en todas las circunstancias, porque somos obra de sus manos: "Tú, Señor, eres nuestro padre, tu nombre de siempre es "Nuestro redentor"" (*Is* 63,16).

Nuestro Dios es un padre dispuesto a perdonar a los pecadores arrepentidos y a acoger a los que confían en su misericordia (cf. *Is* 64, 4). Nos habíamos alejado de él a causa del pecado, cayendo bajo el dominio de la muerte, pero él ha tenido piedad de nosotros y por su iniciativa, sin ningún mérito de nuestra parte, decidió salir a nuestro encuentro, enviando a su Hijo único como nuestro Redentor. Ante un misterio de amor tan grande brota espontáneamente nuestro agradecimiento, y nuestra invocación se hace más confiada: "Muéstranos, Señor, hoy, en nuestro tiempo, en todas las partes del mundo, tu misericordia; haz que sintamos tu presencia y danos tu salvación" (cf. *Aleluya*).

... Prepararnos para la venida de Cristo es también la exhortación que nos dirige el evangelio de hoy: "¡Velad!", nos dice Jesús en la breve parábola del dueño de casa que se va de viaje y no se sabe cuándo volverá (cf. *Mc* 13, 33-37). Velar significa seguir al Señor, elegir lo que Cristo eligió, amar lo que él amó, conformar la propia vida a la suya. Velar implica pasar cada instante de nuestro tiempo en el horizonte de su amor, sin dejarse abatir por las dificultades inevitables y los problemas diarios. Así hizo san Lorenzo y así debemos hacer nosotros. Pidamos al Señor que nos conceda su gracia, para que el Adviento sea para todo un estímulo a caminar en esta dirección. Que nos guíen y nos acompañen con su intercesión María, la humilde Virgen de Nazaret, elegida por Dios para ser la Madre del Redentor; san Andrés, cuya fiesta celebramos hoy; y san Lorenzo, ejemplo de intrépida fidelidad cristiana hasta el martirio. Amén.

MASS INTENTIONS AND OFFERTORY

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, December 4, 2023

Weekday in Advent

6:45 a.m. ✕ Sister Jose Claire

8:30 a.m. ✕ Rolando T. & Napoleon Sulit

Tuesday, December 5

Weekday in Advent

6:45 a.m. David Fischer

8:30 a.m. ✕ Fr. Roy Oggero

Wednesday, December 6

St. Nicholas

6:45 a.m. ✕ Mr. & Mrs. Ulhanana Rathapillil

8:30 a.m. ✕ Carmen Quintanilla

7:00 p.m. Fr. Miguel Obregon

Thursday, December 7

St. Ambrose

6:45 a.m. ✕ Pilar Mendoza &
Robert Dimaunahan

8:30 a.m. ✕ Juan Barrera

5:30 p.m. ✕ Dr. Luis Ernesto Alcocer F.

7:30 p.m. ✕ Maria Luisa Villegas

Friday, December 8

*The Immaculate Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary*

6:45 a.m. Theresa Tarlton

8:30 a.m. Parish Family

12:10 p.m. Glen & Octavia Redding

5:30 p.m. Angelino Family

7:30 p.m. ✕ Gilma Rosa Zapata Vargas

Saturday, December 9

St. Juan Diego

8:30 a.m. ✕ Juan Prudencio

5:00 p.m. ✕ Agustin Gomez

Sunday, December 10

Second Sunday of Advent

6:30 a.m. ✕ Macrina & Mariano Bigcas

8:00 a.m. ✕ Juan & Lucrecia Alonzo

10:00 a.m. Susie Sykes

12:00 p.m. ✕ Carolina Nieto &

Jessie Rodriguez

2:00 p.m. Parish Family

5:00 p.m. Guadalupe & Olga Elizondo

*One may request celebrant Mass intentions
through our website ("contact us") or
by visiting the parish office during regular
business hours. Mass intentions are
available two (2) months in advance only.*

Saint Theresa Catholic Church

Offertory Comparisons

Weekly Offertory Goal \$39,379

Week	Offertory	Online	Total
May 29 - June 4	\$27,702	\$17,547	\$45,249
June 5 - June 11	\$26,894	\$9,103	\$35,997
June 12 - June 18	\$28,222	\$10,386	\$38,607
June 19 - June 25	\$24,401	\$8,845	\$33,245
June 26 - July 2	\$26,368	\$16,480	\$42,847
July 3 - July 9	\$32,066	\$11,276	\$43,341
July 10 - July 16	\$27,693	\$8,714	\$36,406
July 17 - July 23	\$22,775	\$9,577	\$32,351
July 24 - July 30	\$24,811	\$13,902	\$38,712
July 31 - August 6	\$30,049	\$20,778	\$50,826
August 7 - August 13	\$23,644	\$7,887	\$31,530
August 14 - August 20	\$22,305	\$10,746	\$33,050
August 21 - August 27	\$25,836	\$9,527	\$35,362
August 28 - September 3	\$22,579	\$19,831	\$42,409
September 4 - September 10	\$21,388	\$8,783	\$30,171
September 11 - September 17	\$24,070	\$11,357	\$35,426
September 18 - September 24	\$23,330	\$10,724	\$34,053
September 25 - October 1	\$33,052	\$17,834	\$50,885
October 2 - October 8	\$27,830	\$14,311	\$42,141
October 9 - October 15	\$26,558	\$11,178	\$37,736
October 16 - October 22	\$23,424	\$9,005	\$32,429
October 23 - October 29	\$26,471	\$9,111	\$35,581
October 30 - November 5	\$30,606	\$17,259	\$47,865
November 6 - November 12	\$24,905	\$9,775	\$34,679
November 13 - November 19	\$24,812	\$9,614	\$34,426
November 20 - November 26	\$23,455	\$9,304	\$32,758

BELL TOWER RENOVATION

*Totals as of
November 26, 2023*

Goal	\$621,000	Deadline 1/29/2024
Donations	\$319,687	
To Reach Goal	\$301,313	
Expenses Paid Out	\$139,841	

MAINTENANCE FUND STATUS

2021-2022	\$174,654
2022-2023	\$165,181
2023-2024	\$24,857

DIOCESAN SERVICES FUND 2023

*Totals as of
November 26, 2023*

Goal	\$176,000
Payments	\$179,937
Balance	\$-3,937

418 participants

**Current Parish
Debt: \$1,739,399**

PREPARACIÓN PARA BAUTISMO INFANTIL

¡Les felicitamos por el nacimiento de su hijo/hija!
 Por favor llamen a la oficina para inscribirse al
 281-494-1156 ext. 228.

PREPARACIÓN PARA EL MATRIMONIO

Las personas que deseen contraer matrimonio aquí en la Iglesia de Santa Teresa son invitados a asistir a una entrevista de preparación matrimonial. Esto es obligatorio para comenzar el proceso de preparación. Es para las parejas que no están casadas y para las parejas que están casadas civilmente o que viven juntos. Por favor pre inscribise llamando al **281-494-1156**. El seminario se ofrece cada otro mes, el segundo jueves a las 7:00 p.m. **El próximo seminario es el Jueves 11 de Enero** en el Salón FLC-A.

INSCRIPCIÓN EN LA PARROQUIA

Solicitamos amablemente que todas las familias de nuestra parroquia estén registradas antes de registrarse para CCE o clases de preparación sacramental. Los formularios de registro y cambio están disponibles en el vestíbulo de la iglesia y en la oficina parroquial. Para actualizar la información en la parroquia, llame a la oficina parroquial de 8:00 a.m. a 5:00 p.m. Lunes a Viernes.

RITO DE INICIACIÓN CRISTIANA PARA ADULTOS (RICA)

**¿Está Dios llamándote a hacer algo más?
 ¡Ven y explora la Iglesia Católica!**

Si tienes 17 años de edad o más y no has sido bautizado, o has sido bautizado en otra comunidad de fe, o bautizado Católico pero que nunca has recibido la Primera Comunión, entonces RICA es para ti!

La próxima reunión de Iniciación será el **Domingo 3 de Diciembre del 2023** de 10:00 am a 12:00 pm en el salón B1/7. Estos encuentros informales están estructurados para responder a tus preguntas acerca de la Iglesia católica.

Póngase en contacto con: Elsa Galindo al 281-494-1156

Si usted, su hijo o alguien a quien usted conoce, tiene entre 7 y 16 años de edad, no haya sido bautizado o ha sido bautizado en otra comunidad de fe, tenemos el proceso de RICA propio para cada grupo de diferentes edades. Las sesiones de Iniciación son todos los miércoles a las 6:30 pm. Por favor haga una cita en la oficina al teléfono 281-494-1156 para Registrar su Familia y los Niños antes de atender la primera sesión.

BAPTISM PREPARATION FOR INFANTS

We congratulate you on your birth of your child! Please call the office at 281-494-1156 ext. 228 to register.

PRE-MARRIAGE SEMINAR

This pre-marriage seminar is to commence the marriage preparation for all couples who wish to be married within St. Theresa's Catholic community. It is held on the second Tuesday of every other month at 7:00 pm. It provides an opportunity for couples to learn about the Catholic Church's theology of matrimony and begin the process to properly receive this great sacrament of the Church. Couples will learn details of how to plan and prepare for their wedding day and matrimony thereafter. Please pre-register by calling **281-494-1156**. The next seminar will be **Tuesday, December 12, 2023**. For more information please contact Deacon James Anderson at 281-224-9986.



**Do you have Catholic questions?
 We have Catholic answers!**

Curious about the Catholic faith and the Rosary? Do we 'worship' Mary and the Pope? Attending Mass with a Catholic spouse, but are not Catholic yourself? In the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults we go in depth to answer some of these questions and much more. Come and see!

If you are seventeen years of age or older and are: unbaptized, baptized in another faith community, or a baptized Catholic who was not raised in the Catholic Church, then the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RICA) is for you!

You may begin the process at any time during the year.

We are meeting virtually on Zoom. Contact **Kelsey Pena** at (281) 494-1156 ext. 222 or by e-mail: kelsey.pena@sugarlandcatholic.com

If you, your child or someone you know is between the ages of seven and sixteen, not baptized or baptized in another faith community, we have an RICA process suited to your age group. Please contact **Paul Stoessel** at (paul@sugarlandcatholic.com) prior to attending your first session.



SAINT THERESA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

www.stcssugarland.org

GRIFFIN NEWS

For information about our school or to schedule a Family Tour, please contact Betty Pruski at 281-494-1157 or BPruski@StTheresaCatholicSchool.org

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT OUR SCHOOL

Interested applicants please contact Toni Goldak at tgoldak@sttheresacatholicschool.org.

For complete job descriptions, please visit our website:

<https://sttheresacatholicschool.org/about/employment-opportunities/>

BUSINESS MANAGER

The Business Manager oversees all financial transactions and fiscal processes, administers all accounting protocols, and completes all fiduciary reporting processes. He or she not only executes the functions associated with the financial well-being of the School, but also continually reviews processes and procedures for ongoing enhancement, streamlining, security, and accuracy. The Business Manager also acts as the Human Resource manager for the school and is responsible for maintaining all employee records as well as processing payroll and maintaining payroll records.

Qualifications

The ideal candidate will have at least an associate degree in accounting or the equivalent in accounting experience; the demonstrated ability to develop and maintain working relationships with faculty, students, families, and staff; excellent verbal and written skills; a thorough understanding of office technologies; and the proven ability to deliver high-quality work while performing multiple tasks simultaneously. Candidates who have experience working with *Parish Soft*, *ADP*, *FACTS Management*, and *Microsoft Office* are preferred.

SCHOOL SECRETARY

The School Secretary's primary duty is to maintain efficient operation of the school office to ensure that optimal services are available to staff, students, parents, and the community. The School Secretary will also support the Business Manager and the Development Director with daily tasks and long-term projects. The School Secretary must demonstrate a knowledge of office skills, technology, and general operations of the school. The secretary must be a people person and display a positive attitude in working with all campus visitors, staff, students, and parents.

Qualifications

The School Secretary must be a person of unquestioned integrity and possess a heart for stewardship and a commitment to Catholic education. Ideal candidates will have experience working in business and/or customer service, and be flexible, patient, and good humored.

The qualified candidate must have:

- At least a high school diploma or its equivalent.
- The ability to develop and maintain working relationships with faculty, students, families, and staff campus wide.
- The proven ability to work as a team with school administration, faculty, and staff.
- Proficiency in Microsoft 365.

SUBSTITUTE CLASSROOM TEACHER

Under the general supervision of the Principal, a substitute is asked to uphold the Catholic culture and classroom procedures as outlined by the teacher.

Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in Elementary Education or related discipline.
- Successful prior teaching experience for the appropriate grade level a plus.

Saint Theresa Catholic School's Mission is to furnish students with an outstanding Classical education informed by the wisdom of the Catholic intellectual and spiritual tradition.

SAVE THE DATES!

Sunday Dec 10th 7:00PM TALK #1
HOLINESS: OUR FINAL GOAL

Monday Dec 11th 7:00PM TALK #2
3 CONCRETE WAYS TO ACHIEVE OUR GOAL



Tuesday Dec 12th 7:00PM TALK #3
TIPS TO DISCERN THE WILL OF GOD IN OUR LIVES

Advent Mission

Sign up for 20min Spiritual Direction!

FR. CLAUDE LOMBARDO

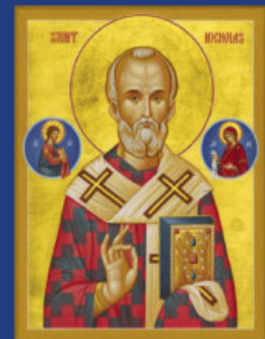
Fr. Claude belongs to Milies Christi, who are known for their amazing Silent Retreats, Spiritual Direction, devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows, and 10+ years study of Ignatian Spiritual Exercises.


Join us at **6:30 a.m.**
Saturday, December 9th
 for a **Rorate Mass**

A special candle-lit Mass invoking Our Lady in Advent

You are cordially invited to Breakfast with St. Nicholas



Discover the life story of one of the most beloved saints in the world: a remarkable Archbishop, fierce Defender of the Faith, passionate Lover of the Poor, and Miracle Worker.

Presentation by Leslie Bohannon, M.A.T.S.

Youth Lounge at the Family Life Center
Saturday, December 9, 2023
10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Coffee and refreshments will be served 30 minutes before the presentation. Seating is limited, please RSVP: Susiem-sykes@gmail.com

Eucharistic Miracle of **SCALA** ITALY, 1732

In 1732 for more than three consecutive months there appeared signs of our Lord's Passion in the consecrated Hosts. This marvelous event took place during exposition of the Most Holy Sacrament in the monastery of the Most Holy Redeemer of Scala in the presence of numerous testimonies, among whom was St. Alphonsus Maria Liguori, the great Doctor of the Church.



Sister Maria Celeste Crostata



Interior of the monastery church



Monstrance of the miracle



Monstrance of the Most Holy Redeemer, Scala

The venerable Sister Maria Celeste Crostata founded the Monastery of the Most Holy Redeemer together with St. Alphonsus Maria Liguori. Every Thursday the Most Blessed Sacrament was exposed in the monastery for public adoration. From September 11, 1732, for three consecutive months, during the solemn exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the signs of the Passion of Christ appeared in the Host contained in the monstrance. All this can be confirmed not only by the nuns and the people but also by Bishop Santoro of Scala and by the Bishop of Castellammare. The apparition occurred also in the presence of St. Alphonsus Maria Liguori. Bishop Santoro wrote a letter to Bishop Simonetti, Apostolic Nuncio of Naples, in which he described all the details related to the visions that took place in the Sacred Host that had been exposed. In turn, the Nuncio forwarded the letter to Cardinal Barbieri, then Secretary of State.

Novena a nuestra Santísima Virgen de Guadalupe

La iglesia de Santa Theresa los invita a participar por primera vez en la novena a nuestra santísima Virgen de Guadalupe empezando hoy Domingo 3 a las 6:30 pm en la iglesia.



CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS



CDA Christmas Poinsettia and Bake Sale December 9 & 10



The Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court St. Theresa of Lisieux, #2211, will be selling beautiful, live poinsettias and baked goods after the Masses, **December 9th and 10th**, while supplies last.

These blooming plants make a wonderful Christmas centerpiece or gift. Cost for each poinsettia: \$14.00. Poinsettia & Bake Sale proceeds benefit scholarships and charitable donations.

We appreciate your support.

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court St. Theresa of Lisieux, meet the fourth (4th) Monday of the month, at 7:00 p.m. in the KC Hall. We welcome all ladies of the parish, 18 years and older, to join us anytime to learn more about our organization and become a member. We do not meet in December. Our next meeting will be January 22, 2024.

Please contact Regent, Martha Durio at **281-788-3318** or marthadurio2211@gmail.com for more information.

SHARING SUNDAY 2023

**DECEMBER 1, FRIDAY PURPLE TAG NIGHT
7:00 P.M. - FLC, ST. CATHERINE'S ROOM**

VOLUNTEERS CREATE THE TREE TAGS FOR THE GIVING TREE
THERE WILL BE PIZZA FOR DINNER

**DECEMBER 2 & 3 GIVING TREE
DECEMBER 9 & 10 GIVING TREE**

THE TREE WILL BE IN THE VESTIBULE. PARISHIONERS HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO PULL TAGS OF THEIR CHOICE & PURCHASE THE GIFT SPECIFIED. THERE WILL BE A BASKET OF TAGS AT EACH ENTRANCE

DECEMBER 16 & 17 SHARING SUNDAY

PARISHIONERS BRING THEIR GIFTS TO MASS & WILL TAKE THEM TO THE ALTAR WHEN ANNOUNCED. THERE WILL ALSO BE BASKETS FOR MONETARY DONATIONS

DECEMBER 18 - 20 (9:00 AM - 6:00 PM) DISTRIBUTION WEEK

FAMILIES FROM SVDP WILL COME TO THE FLC TO PICK-UP THE GIFTS FOR THEIR CHILDREN. FOR THE AGENCIES & RETIREMENT HOMES, THEIR GIFTS WILL BE BAGGED SO THEY ARE READY FOR PICK-UP

Thank you
diane@sugarlandcatholic.com

Christmas Pageant

Join us for the parish's 3rd annual Christmas pageant as we continue celebrating Christ's birth throughout the Christmas season.

When: Saturday, Jan 6th 3:30-4:30PM

Where: Community Center

Who: All are invited to attend and join in a small reception after the pageant.



Children ages 3-14 are invited to participate, and we're looking for some adult helpers too (must have completed safe environment training). Children should plan to attend at least 2 of 3 one-hour rehearsals (dates forthcoming). If interested, please contact Billy Gibula at wgibula@gmail.com by 12/16/23.

GIVE BLOOD

St. Theresa Catholic Church &
Knights of Columbus



Sunday, December 10, 2023

7:30 am - 1:30 pm

KC Hall, 115 Seventh Street
Sugar Land, TX 77478

Contact Paul Cinquemani (832) 594-6753
sponsor code: st21

Here is the early Signup Link:

https://www.commitforlife.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/353834

•“Early health SCREENING online, ON THE DAY OF DRIVE (after midnight) at: www.Giveblood.org, then click **DONATE**, then click **CFL EXPRESS PASS** to get it done in ADVANCE.”

•Appointments preferred at prior week after masses, OR Link above. Walk-ins welcome!
** Successful donors will receive a “stocking stuffer item”! **

ST. DOMINIC VILLAGE

If interested in visiting
Retired Priests.

Please contact: Deacon
Alonso M. Martinez
Director of Spiritual
Care and Volunteers

St. Dominic Village

[amartinez@](mailto:amartinez@stdominicvillage.org)

stdominicvillage.org

SPIRITUAL BOUQUETS

A spiritual bouquet is an offering of prayers, devotions, novenas, or sacrifices to another, as a gift from your heart; a priceless gift of infinite value!

St. Theresa Catholic Church is offering Spiritual Bouquet cards, in packets of four \$5.00. There are four designs, suitable for all occasions, available in the Church office.

*All proceeds go to the
bell tower fund.*



Suggestions or inquiries?
Contact Toni Perich at
281-794-8798

Saint Theresa Catholic Church- Sugar Land

2023 Simbang GabiA Mass in the Filipino Tradition honoring the
Blessed Virgin Mary in anticipation of Christmas**Thursday, December 21, 2023
5:30PM MASS (English/Tagalog)**

Main Celebrant: Rev. Greg Mirto

Mass Immediately Followed by:
SIMBANG GABI FIESTA @ THE COMMUNITY CENTER
Everyone Invited – Free AdmissionFor Questions or Additional Details, Please Call:

Rudy & Ninfia Alcantara (281) 814-8817~Veronica Archibong
(281) 685-1638 Titahi Austin (832) 612-1684 ~ Rodrigo & Mercy
Barrey (281) 491-8222 Billy & Gloria Batac (281) 242-6673 ~
Bella Castro (713) 291-1662 Lito & Celia Clarete (281) 782-6072
~Tony & Divina Diza (713) 628-7485 Bong & Nida Dumantay
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Marzouk (202) 595-4355 Alex & Fely Melgarejo (281) 879-8665
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Staples (832) 668-6487 Sam & Alyn Vivares (832) 788-5778 ~
Glenn & Gladys Zamora (832) 212-2251

**Participation of Fil-Am Families @
St. Theresa Parish is Encouraged!****EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**
SAINT THERESA CATHOLIC CHURCH, SUGAR LAND, TX**TITLE:****Full-Time & Part-Time Custodians – Weeknights and Weekends****GENERAL SUMMARY****PURPOSE:** The custodian is responsible for providing cleaning service to all church buildings in the evening. All employees must conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent with and supportive of the mission and purpose of the Catholic Church, adhering to the ethical and personal conduct policies of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.**Skills, Knowledge and/or Abilities**

- Dependable attendance; commitment to professional cleaning service; attention to detail in custodial responsibilities.

Education, Training, and/or Experience

- A minimum of a High School Diploma; 1-2 years of practical experience in cleaning service is preferred.
- Ability to schedule and coordinate cleaning service in the most effective manner possible.
- Excellent organizational and inter-personal skills.

Please call the parish office to set-up a phone conference. 281-494-1156.

“Eucharistic Love”
by a Fellow Lay Person*As part of a new intermittent bulletin series,
parishioners share how their realization of the Real
Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist changed their lives.*

As a teenager, I was raised in the Novus Ordo, attending Protestant services occasionally with no distinction between Catholic and Protestant. Many of these services seemed the exact same as the Novus Ordo, and oftentimes, even more reverent. In addition to the Novus Ordo, phrases like “Fullness of Truth,” and words like “Ecuminism” led me right into Protesantism. After-all, where is the difference?

No differences were discernible in the services. So not long after starting college, I, like many others in that time, completely abandoned the Catholic faith for a church service that as far as I could tell looked the same. Put side-by-side, if I had been told only one church had the True Presence of Christ, I would have chosen the Lutheran Church, after-all, they even kneel for Communion instead of standing and rushing through it. Are you really going to tell me that isn't God? Natural means certainly told me otherwise.

It was the summer after my Freshman year when I was home for the summer. Unbeknownst to me that I had committed apostasy, a mortal sin where the Truth of the faith is abandoned, I attended Mass that summer with my parents. (Obviously, it was not mortal in that knowledge it was sinful was lacking.) I did not expect anything remotely remarkable to happen. I was doing what I thought I should be doing, however, upon reception, God shined a beautiful and special light in my intellect both to show and to teach me that what I had just received was truly Jesus, and what I had been receiving at the Lutheran church was clearly not Jesus.

That moment was momentous for me in so many ways. It was in that moment I realized the grave mistake I'd made the past year, and I repented. It was this moment that is held tightly in my mind when scandals hit. I know the True Church is the Catholic Church, and we have the Eucharist: the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Christ. In times of crisis, either personal or public, I can turn to Jesus and echo what Peter said, “Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life” (John 6:69). It comes as no surprise to me that this verse I echo comes after Jesus' Bread of Life discourse.

I was taught later that we have this gift because we have the authority to do so from Christ. I was shown this later when I was introduced to the Traditional Latin Mass. I choose to receive kneeling and on the tongue because others who look on should be able to naturally discern that we have the True God in the Eucharist. I live out my faith, happy that God has called me to be a part of it and blessed to be living it with others who choose to be intentional in their Catholic faith!

-A Lay Person in the Pew

PRAYER REQUESTS

PRAYER FOR THE SICK

Omnipotent and eternal God, the everlasting Salvation of those who believe, hear us on behalf of Thy sick servant, N., for whom we beg the aid of Thy loving mercy, that, with his bodily health restored, he may give thanks to Thee in Thy church. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Irene Aletor	Billy Meza
Bobby Alvarado	Jane Minard
Robert Andrews	Maria Elva Montalvo
Gloria Arp	Marcus & Cindie Mora
Anthony Barajas	Joe Morales
Jonathan Barras	Rachel Motte
Carol Becker	Jun & Wilma Narvocat
Cristina Boeun	Al Nelson
Viola Cleo Bradshaw	Minh Nguyen
Cyston Brian	Tuyen Nguyen
Sandra Buffolano	Roberta Noser
Tessie Bumanglag	Nnenna Ottih
Claire Bussell	Chidinma Otuonye
Heath Cang	Rick Peña
Renee Carlson	Anne Pfarr
John J. Clennan	Luna Bella Plandarte
Marco Cortez	Jose Lazaro Portillo
Barbara DeMarino	Alexis Puga
Fr. Vince Dulock	Delia Puga
Lawrence Elliott	Henry & Barbara Saenz
John Espinoza	Vicky Sandoval
Gracie Espinoza	Gina Sarabia
Kay Foltyn	Terry Solino
Britt Frey	Jose Heriberto Sorto
Lee Friederichs	Minh Stratton
Fernando Alducin	John Sudela
Connie Grogan	Theresa Tarlton
Deacon Glenn Haller	Teresa Villela
Edith Hartensteiner	Gonzalo Viteri
Cathleen Haughton	Ilse Viteri
Karen Neslony Hester	Holly Walther
Juan Hoyos	
Martha English	
Domingo Isiordia	
Morteza Karimi	
Rick Kercheval	
Carline Lehnhoff	
César Luna	
Irasema Luna	
Sammy Magana III	
Sandra Mancilla	
Nelly Marcucci	
Enemoria Meraz	

PRAYER FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen. May their souls, and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

We remember with gratitude, and pray for God's mercy upon:

Felipe Flores, John J. Swoboda, Thomas Justin, Bonifacio Rodriguez, Maria Mercedes Zaza, Jose A. Puga, Eddie Montoya, Payton A. English, Karen Cromer, Maria Caicedo, Geraldine Block, Carmen Rodriguez, Jose S. Arreguin, Fernanda A. Suarez, Joseph Aquinas Kim, Rose Marie Myer, Edgardo Paz, Ann Neslony, Kelvin Roberts, Teresa Cruz, Albert Eslao, Michaelene Ramos, Maria Elena Garcia, Matthew Ajaero, Cecilia Pena Ross, Rafael Pereira, Rosa Ronquillo, Hortencia Cuellar de Luna, Mercedes Batac, Frank Heitman, Fr. Roy Oggero, Christopher Pruski, Donna B. Unangst, Mauricio Andres Gomez, Lynn Guess, Mary Macha, Jesse Garcia, Helen Griesser, Angela Brewer, Julie Pruski, Troy Cernosek, Emmanuel Ezenwata, Lillie Beserra, Jon-Paul Ryan Abanto, David W. Scates, Ludmilla Becerra, Ha Vu, Anthony Valchar, Maria Luisa Villegas, Joe Segura



**O Lord, remember not our former iniquities,
and forgive us our sins, for Thy Name's sake.**

-Indulgence. 500 days

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 Rev. Juan Pineda.....Ext. 233
 Rev. Greg Mirto.....281-494-1156
 Deacon John Kennedy.....281-494-1156
 Deacon Gilbert Rodriguez.....281-494-1156
 Deacon James Anderson.....281-224-9986

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 Michelle Rivas, Administrative Asst...Ext. 230
 Isabel Lay, Parish Secretary.....Ext. 228
 Rebecca Freeman, Receptionist.....Ext. 221
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 Assist. Dir. of Elementary.....Ext.245
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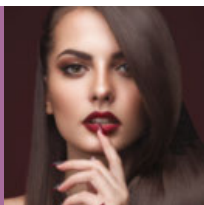
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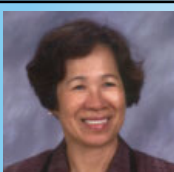
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St. Theresa Church, Sugar Land, TX

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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Grant your faithful, we pray,
almighty God, the resolve to run forth
to meet your Christ with righteous
deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at
his right hand, they may be worthy
to possess the heavenly Kingdom.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

“Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come” (Mark 13:33-37).

Saint Theresa Catholic Church

705 Saint Theresa Boulevard
Sugar Land, Texas 77498

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 - St. Theresa School | 9 - CCE Conference Room |
| 2 - Community Center | 10 - Parish Office |
| 3 - Emmaus Chapel | 11 - Church |
| 4 - Family Life Center/Gym | 12 - Temporary Office |
| 5 - Choir Room | 13 - Little Flower Chapel |
| 6 - Youth Lounge | 14 - Rooms (B1 - B11) |
| 7 - St. Catherine Room (Rm A) | 15 - St. Vincent de Paul |
| 8 - St. Thomas More Room (Rm B) | 16 - St. Basil Hall |

