



St. Therese of the Child Jesus Catholic Church and School

1260 N.E. 132nd Ave., Portland, OR 97230

503-256-5850

Third Sunday of Advent, December 15, 2019



*They will see the glory of the LORD,
the splendor of our God.
Strengthen the hands that are
feeble,
make firm the knees that are weak,
say to those whose hearts are
frightened:
be strong, fear not!
Here is your God,
he comes with vindication;
with divine recompense
he comes to save you.*

Sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation

Vigil of the Lord's Day
5:00 pm Saturday

Masses of the Lord's Day
9:00 am and 11:30 am Sunday

Reconciliation
By Appointment

Daily Mass at 8:30 am
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday

School Office Information

Phone (503) 253-9400
Website www.stthereseschool.org
School Office Hours . . . Monday to Friday
8:15 am to 3:15 pm

Parish Office Information

Office Hours Monday to Friday
9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Address 1260 N.E. 132nd Ave.
Portland, OR 97230
Phone (503) 256-5850
Website www.stthereseor.org

Staff Members

Pastor Rev. Stephen Michael Geer
Business Manager Mrs. Penny Montani
School Principal Mrs. Joy Hunt
Faith Formation and Liturgy Mrs. Stella Armstrong
Music Director Mr. Stephen Thompson
Cantor Ms. Laura Anderson
Facilities Manager Mr. Matthew Shelton
Receptionist Mrs. Angie Barnett
Office Assistant Ms. Jenn Kirkpatrick



Call **Shasta Hatter** 503-253-7566 for more information.

WEEKLY DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN ENTRIES IS EVERY MONDAY AT 1:00 PM. EMAIL angie@stthereseor.org.

*Advent Preparation at St. Therese Church
"Simbang Gabi"*

All are welcome to come and prepare your hearts and minds for the coming of our Lord!

Simbang Gabi Commissioning Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral on Saturday, December 14th at 11:00 a.m. Archbishop Sample will be the main celebrant. There will be light refreshments following the Mass.

From December 15th to the 23rd, the Christmas Novena Mass (Simbang Gabi) will be celebrated at St. Therese Church at 7:00 p.m., except December 21st when Simbang Gabi will be celebrated at 5:00 p.m.

St. Therese Church is located at 1260 NE 132nd Avenue, Portland, OR 97230

FRANCISCAN AT HOME
Online learning at your convenience

- Go to franciscanathome.com
- Click on **Partnering Dioceses** arrow to show drop-down menu (located on the dark green bar)
- Click on **Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon**. This will take you to the Archdiocese' landing page.
- Scroll down the page until you see **Register Online**
- Click on **My parish or school is already registered** box.
- Click on **create a new account**.



Please Pray For

Living: Vilma Anker, Antoinette Barker, Mary Basaraba, Maria Rosa, Bobbi Brown, Patty Burtner, Fr. Rob Bustamante, Arlene Caballero, Marie Carter, Jenni Clark, Mary Cox, Melanie Davantes, Joanne Gargano, Julie Ho, William Keller, Gregorio Manalo, Arden Manning, Margie Nelson, Edna Orello, Liz Parker, Fred Pelzer, Jim and Ava Riopelle, Margaret Routledge, Frances Ryland, Rosa Santos, Karen Saso, Joanne Scabery, Vera Saxton, Anne Schmidt, Kiersten and Elsa Schneider, Thelma Striplin, Marcie Farlow Taylor, Joe Van Buren, Bernadine West, Fr. Dave Wilkins, Rose Zenger

Prayers and Funeral Masses for Our Dear Departed Parishioners

Please keep in your prayers our parishioners who have recently died: Margaret Ann Wight, Emil Annes and Remy Agudelo, Anna Rose Allais and John Keller. The Funeral Masses for our beloved departed are on the following dates:

For **Margaret Ann Wight**, December 11 at 11:00 am
Recitation of Rosary at 10:30 am
Luncheon at PSC after the Funeral Mass
No 8:30 am Mass that day.

For **Anna Rose Allais** on December 17 at 11:00 am
Recitation of Rosary at 10:30 am
Luncheon at PSC after the Funeral Mass
No 8:30 am Mass that day.

For **Emil Annes** on December 18 at 11:00 am
Recitation of Rosary at 10:30 am
Luncheon at PSC after the Funeral Mass
No 8:30 am Mass that day.

For **Remy Agudelo** on January 3 at 11:00 am
Recitation of Rosary at 10:30 am
Luncheon at PSC after the Funeral Mass.

For **John Keller** on December 21 at 11:00 am
Holy Redeemer Church
Recitation of Rosary at 10:15
There will be a reception following Mass.



Please Come Help Put up Our Christmas Trees!

The Knights of Columbus along with the St. Therese Women's Association would like to invite you to participate in the following parish events:

On December 22nd following the 11:30am Mass, we will begin decorating the Church for Christmas.

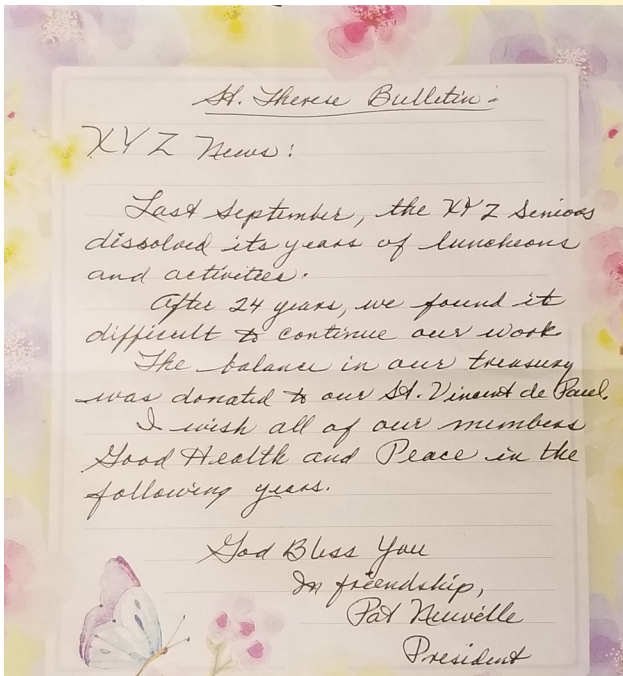
All parishioners are invited to participate. We are especially looking for young parents from our school community, as it is a fun way to get in your Fair Share hours. We've got some extra large trees that we will be handling so we need help getting them in and out.

On Sunday January 12, 2020 the Knights will serve a Parish Breakfast from 9:30am-11:00am, with all proceeds going to help the school with tuition assistance. The school children and parents will assist us in serving.

Later that day we will do the teardown of the Christmas decorations and change the colors at 12:45pm.



XYZ News



Last September, the XYZ Seniors dissolved its years of luncheons and activities.

After 24 years we found it difficult to continue our work. The balance in our treasury was donated to our St. Vincent de Paul.

I wish all of our members Good Health and Peace in the following years.

*God bless you in friendship,
Pat Neville
President*



Grandchildren are probably not the first people that come to mind when we think of primary caregivers. But one out of 12 caregivers are caring for a grandparent and 8% of all caregivers over the age of 18 are grandchildren. That's 5.3 million [grandchildren caring for grandparents](#).

Although grandchildren caring for grandparents is common in some cultures, it's new to many in the United States. In the U.S. context, grandchildren caregivers are an "out-of-time" event, meaning they take on this role at a point in adult development when we tend to focus on other things. Most of us expect to care for a loved one someday, usually later in life when we have a parent or spouse who needs care. Caregiving earlier in life can sometimes lead to delaying education, careers, romantic relationships and parenthood.



What Do the Candles Mean?



The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. A tradition is that each week represents one thousand years, to sum to the 4,000 years from Adam and Eve until the Birth of the Savior. Three candles are purple and one is rose. The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and goods works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they

are close to Christmas. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of His second coming to judge the living and the dead. The first purple candle lit up during the first week also symbolizes hope; the second purple candle symbolizes peace; the pink candle lit up during the third week also stands for joy and anticipation, and the fourth candle symbolized love.

The light again signifies Christ, the Light of the world. Some modern day adaptations include a white candle placed in the middle of the wreath, which represents Christ and is lit on Christmas Eve. Another tradition is to replace the three purple and one rose candles with four white candles, which will be lit throughout Christmas season.

In family practice, the Advent wreath is most appropriately lit at dinner time after the blessing of the food. A traditional prayer service using the Advent wreath proceeds as follows: On the First Sunday of Advent, the father of the family blesses the wreath, praying: O God, by whose word all things are sanctified, pour forth Thy blessing upon this wreath, and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ and may receive from Thee abundant graces. Who livest and reignest forever. Amen." He then continues for each of the days of the first week of Advent, O Lord, stir up Thy might, we beg thee, and come, that by Thy protection we may deserve to be rescued from the threatening dangers of our sins and saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest forever. Amen." The youngest child then lights one purple candle.

During the second week of Advent, the father prays: O Lord, stir up our hearts that we may prepare for Thy only begotten Son, that through His coming we may be made worthy to serve Thee with pure minds. Who livest and reignest forever. Amen." The oldest child then lights the purple candle from the first week plus one more purple candle.

During the third week of Advent, the father prays: O Lord, we beg Thee, incline Thy ear to our prayers and enlighten the darkness of our minds by the grace of Thy visitation. Who livest and reignest forever. Amen." The mother then lights the two previously lit purple candles plus the rose candle.

Finally, the father prays during the fourth week of Advent, O Lord, stir up Thy power, we pray Thee, and come; and with great might help us, that with the help of Thy grace, Thy merciful forgiveness may hasten what our sins impede. Who livest and reignest forever. Amen." The father then lights all of the candles of the wreath.

Since Advent is a time to stir-up our faith in the Lord, the wreath and its prayers provide us a way to augment this special preparation for Christmas. Moreover, this good tradition helps us to remain vigilant in our homes and not lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas. (By Rev. William Saunders, *Arlington Catholic Herald*.)

St. Therese of the Child Jesus Parish Christmas and New Year's Mass Schedule

CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS

December 24, 2019 (Tuesday) at 4:00 pm
Christmas Carols start at 3:30 pm

MASS DURING THE NIGHT

December 24, 2019 (Tuesday) at 9:00 pm
Christmas Carols start at 8:30 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

December 25, 2019 (Wednesday) at 11:30 am

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

December 28, 2019 (Saturday) at 5:00 pm
December 29, 2019 (Sunday)
First Mass at 9:00 am
Second Mass at 11:30 am

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

January 1, 2020 (Wednesday) at 11:30 am

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

January 4, 2020 (Saturday) at 5:00 pm
January 5, 2020 (Sunday)
First Mass at 9:00 pm
Second Mass at 11:30 pm

All Masses are in English.



Pastor's Homily

Second Sunday in Advent December 8, 2019

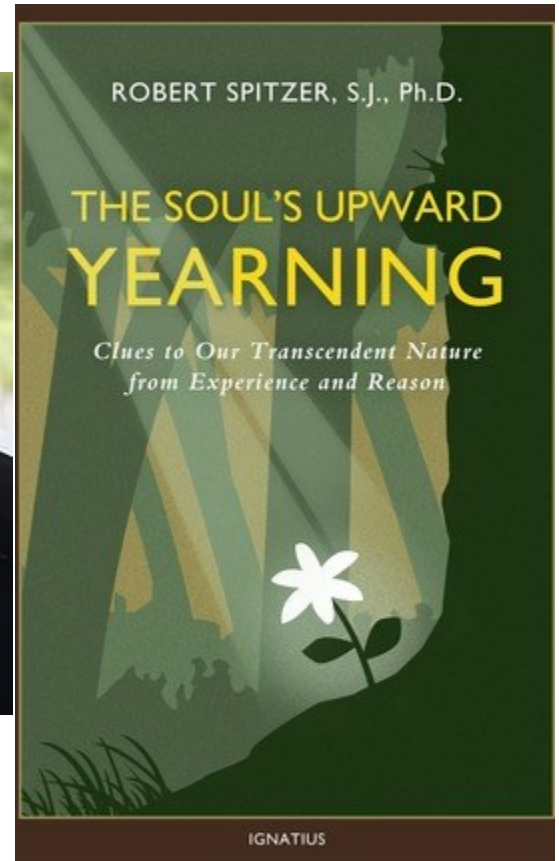
For forty years the Israelites wandered in the wilderness; Jesus himself was hurled into this same waste following his baptism. In Scripture, the desert wilderness is a place of testing and symbolizes the spiritual state of mankind expelled from Eden. It is here that the Baptist cries out: *Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand*. To those who heed his call, he leads them to that border marked by the Jordan River. Historically it was this river which the Chosen People passed-over as they entered the Promised Land; a type of that kingdom which Jesus has come to definitively establish.

John's mission is one of preparation as he notes when referring to the coming of the Messiah: *I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me ... will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire*. The distinction drawn between the two baptisms is illustrative of the purpose of each man's calling: John prepares; Jesus transforms. This is what is meant when John says: *Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees*. The tree of sin must be cut down that Christ the Rose might blossom forth from the roots. Hence the change referred to by John is 'radical', acting as it must at the very root of the soul. His reference is to Isaiah: *On that day, the root of Jesse, set-up as a signal for the nations, the Gentiles shall seek out*. As Isaiah identifies the Messiah with the 'root of Jesse', so John points forward to Christians as those grafted thereon. Jesus is the fulfillment of this promise as the three Kings bear witness. You and I are their progeny helping prepare nonbelievers for the Parousia. Come Lord Jesus!

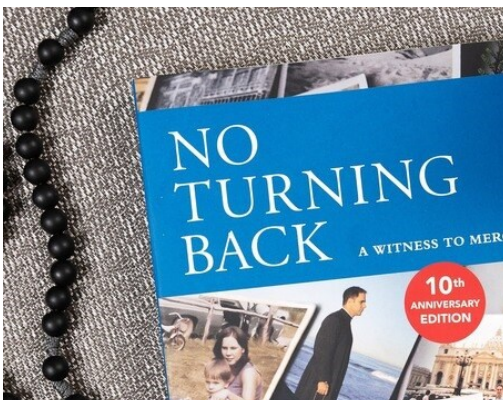


Do you think and Science and God do not mix together?

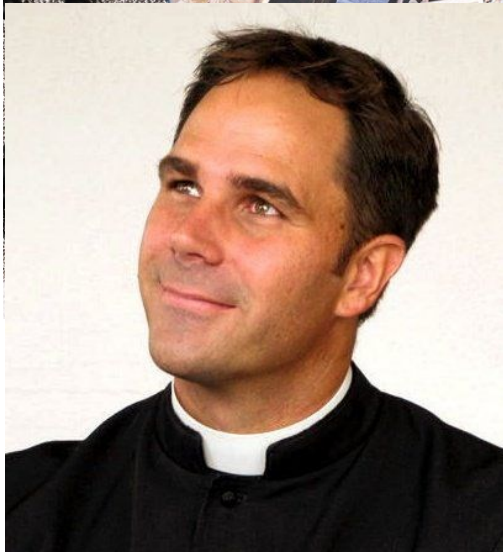
On the contrary, we need BOTH faith and our reason (logic, intelligence and yes, even science) if we truly want our Faith in God to grow deeper and stronger. The God we believe is not an illusion. He is very much a reality who entered into our History to remove any doubt that what we believe is all a myth or a legend. There are many authentic Catholic authors who will help us build a solid and firm foundation on how to engage our mind and reason in our desire to know God. One good reason is **Fr. Robert Spitzer**. Check out his Program “Fr. Spitzer’s Universe” at EWTN.com. He also has published many books on Science and Faith.



And never lose hope about loved ones who have drifted away!



Fr. Donald Calloway's drifting away from faith and his eventual response of yes to God is an inspiring story that will give you hope. Fr. Calloway's many books, especially about the Blessed Virgin Mary and the power of the Rosary are excellent resources for strengthening of faith and understanding the loving role of our Blessed Virgin Mary in redemption.



Check out Fr. Mitch Pacwa's regular featured programs at EWTN, www.ewtn.com. His current program, Scripture and Tradition will help us how to understand Scripture and learn about Divine Revelation through the eyes of Scripture, Apostolic Tradition and the teaching of the Church. In this age of confusion, Fr. Mitch will help us see with clarity the path we should take so that we will not be led astray by false shepherds.

