



St. Therese of the Child Jesus Catholic Church and School

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

503-256-5850

Therefore you also must be ready,
for the Son of Man is coming
at an hour you do not expect.

Matthew 24:44



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

St. Vincent de Paul will be collecting non-perishable food items at the Thanksgiving Masses.

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.



Looking to Help? Say Yes!

If you are interested in volunteering, but not ready to “join” a parish group, volunteer opportunities are available to prepare for Advent and Christmas. Help will be needed with cleaning and shining the candlesticks from the altar and also with decorating for Advent and Christmas. Both men and women are encouraged to participate - we would love to meet you! If you would like to help with any of these activities, please call Pam LaFerte at 503-256-4420.



Please Pray For

Living: Remy Agudelo, 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, John Keller, 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, Bernice Young, Lynn Young, Rose Zenger



Grant me, O Lord my God, a mind to know you, a heart to seek you, wisdom to find you, conduct pleasing to you, faithful perseverance in waiting for you, and a hope of finally embracing you.
- *Saint Thomas Aquinas*



Honor Our Mother, the Mother of God!



Because December 8th, the Feast of Immaculate Conception, falls on an Advent Sunday, the commemoration of the Immaculate Conception will be celebrated on the following day, **Monday, December 9th**. Please come to Mass on that day at **8:30 AM** for our Blessed Mother.

For Kids' Corner: Accepting Responsibility

For our children to be and feel successful we must parent them to understand that whatever happens in their life or career, the best path to follow is always to take responsibility for the outcomes, both positive and negative, which are the result of their efforts. If they make a mistake, we must encourage them to see their mistake as a self-created learning experience. We must help them examine what they need to shift and change to avoid making this same mistake in the future. Taking responsibility allows our children to learn the value of humility and to be flexible enough in their thinking to change their approach whenever necessary. We must parent our children to believe that true power is understanding that mistakes **gift** them with more than they take away from them. It is from their mistakes that all of their new directions will arise. It is important for our children to understand that powerful leadership is not about ego; it is about humility and a willingness to learn.

By *Sherrie Campbell*

Our Ecclesia Choir Corner



I wanted to share some things about the music ministry at St. Therese since becoming Music Director in August. The **Ecclesia Choir** has been formed by combining members of the contemporary 11:30 choir and the 9am traditional choir. We sing less frequently than the previous choir but with more 'amplitude' so to speak. We will be continuing to sing at 9am masses once or twice per month and on feast days. We rehearse weekly on Tuesday evening with some supplementary rehearsals. We currently have eight members but are always looking for eager people who enjoy singing and are willing to commit to at least 3 rehearsals per featured mass. Come see us perform in the Chapel of Mary at the Grotto Festival of Lights at 5:15pm on December 6th!

Toward Reflecting Faithful and Reverent Worship

We have been continuing with our commission from Archbishop Bishop Alexander Sample to sing more of the mass by including the required and appropriate antiphons at communion and, where possible, as the **introit** (opening processional). These 'Propers' change for each liturgy and often include a psalm or responsorial refrain. As advised in the GIRM (General Instructions to the Roman Missal) we have also conformed to the tradition of switching the mass setting or 'Ordinary' based on the season or Feast. For 'Ordinary Time' we offer the chant mass in Latin at the 5pm Saturday Vigil, the macaronic (in Latin and the vernacular) **Missa Ubi Caritas** for the 9am traditional mass and the slightly more contemporary **Mass of Creation** for the 11:30 mass.

On Feast Days

On Feast Days, per the liturgy committee's decision, we default to the somewhat more reverent Latin Chant Mass. This is partially due to a revival and resurgence of Latin in the mass per the instructions from the Second Vatican Council Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, **Sancrosanctum Concilium**, the GIRM, the recent Archdiocesan Liturgical Handbook and remarks recently made by the Holy Father to incorporate the faithful music of the church and to 'Give our best' and 'always begin with Latin Gregorian Chant' as the standard. Of course, the Kyrie is in Greek not Latin and is incorporated in that original language to keep the penitential rite as pure and sacred in intent as possible. We continue to need your prayers, all for the greater glory of God!

Stephen Thompson



More Holiday Bazaar Pictures -
with COOKIES, without cookies!



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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**.

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THE KING

NOVEMBER 24, 2019



The rulers of Israel who had lobbied to have Jesus killed and even the Roman soldiers tasked with his crucifixion jeered and mocked him as he died in agony. In an ironic touch, a sign had been placed atop the cross bearing the truth to an unheeding humanity: *Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews*. Unhappily the very fact that the Son of God had walked the earth, had been raised from the dead, and had preached the Good News of God's mercy, was not enough for the human race to respond with obeisant gratitude. Though his initial rejection could have been attributed to the fact that the advent of the Messiah was not as expected, with the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost however, none of the thousands present could possibly have failed to see and bear witness that the kingdom of God had indeed dawned. Yet even today there are those who deny the Lordship of Christ, ignoring the witness of millennia.

For Christian disciples it is of the utmost importance that we acknowledge Jesus here and now as Lord; indeed, he expects no more nor less from us. Yet like unbelievers we challenge his kingship day by day through our sins and stubborn self-absorption. The life of the Catholic Christian consequently involves an oscillating process of fall and re-conversion, one in which we struggle lifelong to 'bend the knee' to our Lord and King. This requires much more than the giving of lip service, but rather a deep engagement of soul. The committed member of the Church must therefore live out his life in the intense effort this demands. For this reason, I prefer the older metaphor of 'the Church militant' to that of a pilgrim Church (though both express valid, though different, ecclesiologies). Nonetheless, we are much more like warriors perpetually struggling against our fallen nature than we are pilgrims strolling down the road toward the Promised Land. If we aren't willing to engage in this great inner struggle of the Christian saint and mystic, then we will most likely gain little headway. We therefore most honor Jesus as King of the universe by our indefatigable perseverance in quelling our rebellious spirit.

As the liturgical year ends, we take this time to glance forward in faith and hope to that glorious moment when God himself will return bodily into his creation and draw the drama of history to a close. As one year ends, we rejoice at its promised fulfillment even as a new one dawns with the coming of Advent next week. Such a cycle inevitably reminds us that our time of pilgrimage is not at an end and that the battle for the integrity of our souls has not yet ceased. May the Eucharist we are to receive this day strengthen us in our resolve.





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Q. If God made us to become saints, how can we do so?

A. This is a question we should all ask ourselves every day of our lives! However, the answer to this question is never ending.

It's true, we are made to be saints. God made us to be one with Him forever in Heaven. We call this holiness, sanctity, or saintliness. But how do we do so?

First, we seek the truth. Truth is discovered by faith. Faith is not just believing in something we cannot know for sure. It's not just wishful thinking. Faith is knowledge. Certain knowledge. And we ultimately obtain faith by allowing God to speak to our inner conscience and reveal that which is true. This happens when two things are present. First, we engage our minds in the truth such as in the Scripture, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, the teachings of the saints, etc. Second, reading the truth is not enough. We also need the "gift" of faith, meaning that when we hear the truth, God needs to confirm this truth as "true" in our conscience. God's voice first revealed the truth through the Scripture, the Church or the saint, but then God tells us, interiorly, that this is His Truth. When this happens, we must believe. When this happens, we are gifted with faith. We know, with deep interior certitude, that which God revealed. Second, this process of coming to know the truth in faith is strengthened by prayer. When we pray, it's like adding fuel to a fire. The fire, which is faith, grows in intensity. As it grows in intensity, we grow in faith.

Third, we must live what we come to know through faith. This is an act of our will. When we choose to live the faith we come to know, we grow in charity, holiness and saintliness. We become saints.

Though this is a greatly simplified explanation of the path to holiness, hopefully it points you in the right direction.

Q. When we forget about God, do things go bad?

A. Yes, indeed they do. But it's important to understand what "go bad" actually means. Interestingly, if someone forgets about God, meaning they turn from God, they may still have a so called "good life" as defined by the fallen and sinful world. Thus, an atheist may become very wealthy, be popular and be successful in a worldly way. But if they lack God, and gain the whole world, things in their life are still quite bad from the perspective of truth and regarding true happiness.

On the other hand, if your question simply means that you do not actively think about God for a moment or two, but still love Him and have faith, then that's a different question. God does not punish us just because we forget to think about Him all day every day.

Let's look at that question with some analogies to better answer it:

If a fish were to forget to live in water, would things go bad for the fish?

If a person were to forget about eating, would that cause a problem?

If a car were to be without fuel, would that make the car stop?

If a plant were put in a closet without any light, would that do harm to the plant?

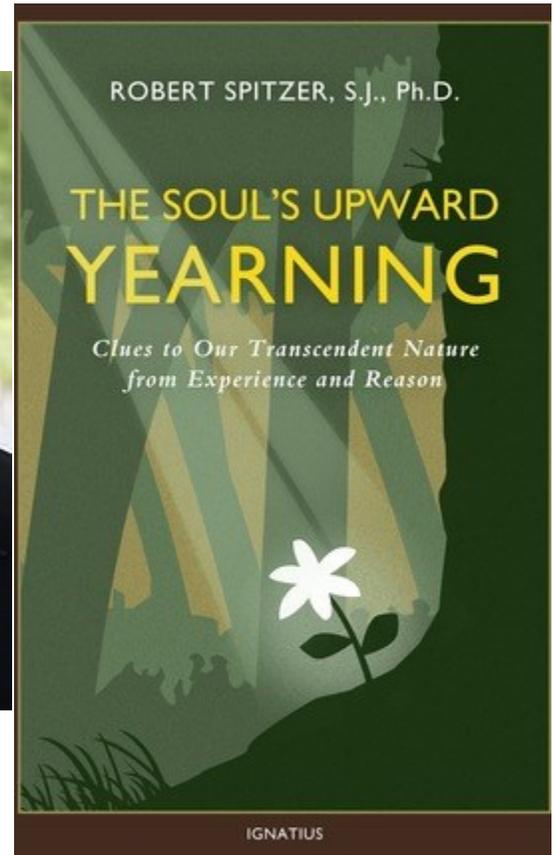
Of course, the answer to all these questions is "Yes." A fish is made for water, humans need food, a car needs fuel to operate and a plant needs light to survive. So it is with us and God. We are made to live in the life of God. Therefore, if by "forgetting about God" we mean we separate ourselves from God, then this is bad and we cannot find true fulfillment in life. If this continues unto death, then we lose God and life for eternity.

The bottom line is that without God we lose everything, including life itself. And if God is not in our life, we lose that which is most central to who we are. We lose ourselves and fall into a life of sin. So don't forget about God!

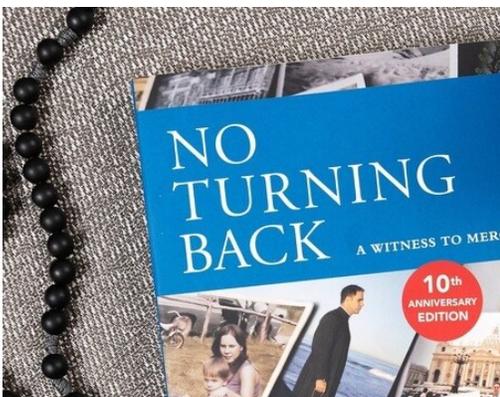
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Do you think and Science and God do not mix together?

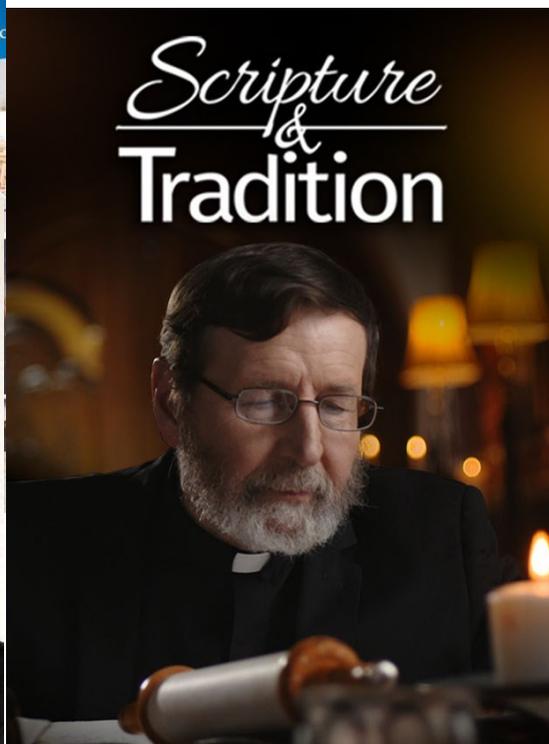
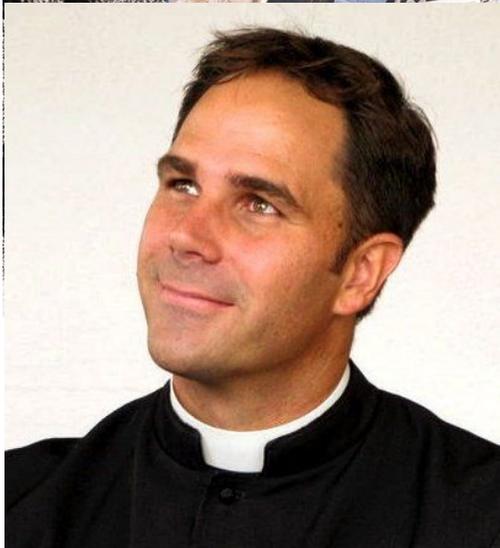
On the contrary, we need BOTH faith and our reason (logic, intelligence and yes, even science) if we truly want our Faith in God to grow deeper and stronger. The God we believe is not an illusion. He is very much a reality who entered into our History to remove any doubt that what we believe is all a 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.

