



# *St. Therese of the Child Jesus Catholic Church and School*

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

503-256-5850



**Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22, 2019**

## *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](http://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](http://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. Therese is home to  
**Simbang Gabi** - worship  
as we wait for Jesus

Our Church has been  
home to Simbang Gabi for  
many years now, all are always  
welcome to come and prepare  
your hearts and minds for the coming of our Lord!

From December 15<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Christmas No-  
vena Mass (Simbang Gabi) will be celebrated at St.  
Therese Church at 7:00 p.m., except December 21<sup>st</sup>  
when Simbang Gabi will be celebrated at 5:00 p.m.

**St. Therese Church is located at 1260 NE 132<sup>nd</sup> Avenue,  
Portland, OR 97230**



*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 Da-  
vantes, Joanne Gargano, Julie Ho, William Kel-  
ler, 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 Scab-  
ery, 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 re-  
cently died: Margaret Ann Wight, Emil Annes, Remy  
Agudelo, Anna Rose Allais and John Keller. The funeral  
Mass for Margaret Ann Wight was on December 11th, for  
Anna Rose Allais on December 17th, and for Emil Annes on  
December 18th. The Funeral Masses for our beloved de-  
parted John Keller and Remy Agudelo are on the following  
dates:

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.

For **Remy Agudelo** on January 3 at 11:00 am

Recitation of Rosary at 10:30 am

Luncheon at PSC after the Funeral Mass.

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**.

**WEEKLY DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN ENTRIES IS EVERY  
MONDAY AT 1:00 PM. EMAIL [angie@stthereseor.org](mailto:angie@stthereseor.org).**



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

**FRANCISCAN AT HOME**  
*Online learning at your convenience*





## 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. Please come and help!**

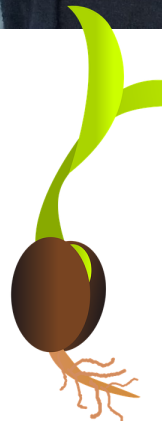
All parishioners are invited to participate. We are especially looking for young parents from our school community, as it is a fun way to get in your Fair Share hours. We've got some extra large trees that we will be handling so we need help getting them in and out.

**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.



**Our Future in Their Hands.** Three of our School Staff graciously let us take their picture and posted in our Bulletin. From left, Rita, who teaches 1st grade, Molly, awesome volunteer, and Margaret, who teaches Kindergarten. Molly also helped our students how to make saints' shields as they prepared to celebrate All Saints' Day last November. Why is our "future" in their hands? Forming strong, Catholic values in our children NEED to start early and these ladies are doing an excellent job in nurturing and encouraging our young ones to grow strong, the right, faithful way!



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*

# 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*

### *Third Sunday in Advent*

*December 15, 2019*

American tele-evangelists are nothing like John the Baptist. They typically anchor large, vast mega-church empires of television, radio, books, internet websites and so on. I stumbled the other day onto one of their channels and discovered a remarkably glitzy presentation. There were five thousand folks, truly dressed in their Sunday-best, packing the church. The minister/evangelist/actor prowled the stage, microphone in hand. He shouted, he sang, he quoted Scripture, he preached and he cried. The audience, raptly engrossed, mirrored back his emotions. Very much like a reed, he bent to their desires and they to his performance.

Jesus makes it clear that the last and greatest of all the prophets, his cousin John, is totally unlike this. John is not a bending, swaying reed but rather a rock of prophecy; a sign of contradiction whose witness will cost him his head. The tele-evangelist was impeccably dressed, costumed would be a better way of saying it, with all the care exhibited by any master craftsmen in the entertainment business. John was uninterested in his appearance and couldn't care less whether others found his dress appropriate or appealing. John's ministry was in the desert waste, while the home of many of the great mega-church leaders is often garishly lavish and techno-sophisticated beyond belief.

John was called to prepare people for the coming of the Messiah. Jesus himself confirmed the Baptist's identity as the forerunner to the Christ by quoting from the prophet Malachi. He also acknowledged his own calling to John's disciples by quoting to them the signs of the Advent from Isaiah. Repentance is John's mission; a necessary opening of the heart to the Spirit of Christ he promises is nigh. To repent is to turn around, not to be confirmed in one's current mis-direction. For that reason, John is anything but soothing or self-affirming. The penitent must travel over long, hot, dusty roads to meet him and then is hardly welcomed with a hug when he arrives. Rather, he is confronted with his complicity in sin. Such confrontation is rare in any American church nowadays, mega or not!

Too many of us expect to be both entertained and emotionally cosseted when we attend church; to be told how right or moral we are and how we are most surely on the right track in the manner in which we now live our lives. Such tactics sell in American religion and some parishes lose their way when they confuse this form of marketing with evangelization. Marketing is manipulation and often involves deception and outright lies. Evangelization, like the holy Mass which is its fount, involves the truth. And whereas the truth of the Gospel, like John crying out in the wilderness, can often seem highly off-putting, it is in reality liberating. Advent involves a turning around back towards the truths taught and witnessed to by our faith. These will never pack churches in modern day America, but they will lead those who choose to buck the trend of the modern age most assuredly to their eternal home where truth, love and beauty abide and where all are free in Christ.



The **Our Lady of Perpetual Help Guild** held their Christmas meeting at Elmer's. These ladies of the Women's Association do so much work, most of them, unseen, for our Church and our Parish. Thank you, ladies!

### *Getting to Know Our Lady: Our Lady of Perpetual Help*

On 23 June 1867, **Pope Pius IX** granted the image its **Canonical Coronation** along with its present title. The **Redemptorist Congregation** of priests and brothers are the only religious order currently entrusted by the **Holy See** to protect and propagate a Marian religious work of art. In the **Eastern Orthodox Church iconography**, the image is known as the "**Virgin Theotokos of the Passion**" due to the instruments of the **Passion of Jesus Christ** present on the image. The feast day of the image is celebrated on June 27, with novena devotions held every Wednesday. Under **Pope Pius XII's** Pontificate, the image was designated as the national **Patroness** of the **Republic of Haiti** and **Almoradi, Spain**.

Due to promotion by the **Redemptorist** Priests since 1865, the image has become very popular among Roman Catholics. Modern reproductions are oftentimes displayed in residential homes, commercial establishments, and public transportation. Our Lady of Perpetual Help has been venerated across many cultures and thus bears several titles in different languages, such as "Mother of Perpetual Succour", *Mutter von immerwährender Hilfe*, *Nuestra Señora del Perpetuo Socorro*, *Notre-Dame du Perpétuel Secours*, *Mater del Perpetuo Succursu*, and *Ina ng Laging Saklolo*.







One cold and rainy day, guess who came to the office and brought us pizza??

**Pizza Guys'** Santa came one cold and rainy morning to bring us a delicious box of cheer (aka pizza!). Santa said he and his helper elf have been going around visiting churches and nursing homes to leave a delicious box of pizza as a way of spreading the Christmas joy. Thank you, Pizza Guys!



**A Little gesture of warmth goes a long, long way!**

On this same cold and rainy day, Josh of UPS, came in briefly and gladly shared the pizza with us, a brief respite from the grinding pace that we put mail and package carriers through especially at this time of year. Christmas is not only a season to be jolly, but especially a season of joy to share, especially to those who are working long hours. Give our thanks to our God by sharing His blessings with others!

