



St. Therese of the Child Jesus Catholic Church and School

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

503-256-5850

www.stthereseor.org



The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, rich in compassion

September 13, 2020, 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sacraments of the Eucharist

Saturday Vigil Mass 5:00 pm

Sunday Mass 9:00 am and 11:30 am

Important:

You need to call the Office to sign up for Masses. Walk-ins will not be allowed.

Reconciliation

By Appointment

School Office Information

Phone (503) 253-9400

Website www.stthereseschool.org

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. Rosemarie El Youssef

Liturgy Mrs. Stella Armstrong

Facilities Manager Mr. Matthew Shelton

Receptionist Mrs. Angie Barnett

Fr. Steve's Homily, 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

A Dish Served Cold
September 13, 2020

There is something viscerally attractive about revenge and all the more so if it is pursued for the sake justice. Attractive it most certainly is, but it is also profitable, for many movies make millions by exploiting the theme. Russell Crowe, even as he dies, makes sure to take Emperor Commodus with him in the classic *Gladiator*. Clint Eastwood goes on a killing spree to the delight of audiences in *Unforgiven*, a film which won the Academy Award for Best Picture. Family honor, if not the lives of murdered loved ones, is restored in the great vigilante tale *Death Wish*, which became a franchise for other films of the same type. And there are hundreds more.

Yet all of these craved acts of violence and pools of blood are based on a severely flawed premise, namely that justice can be achieved in such a manner. One comes to believe and even to celebrate the power of vengeance and most of us typically imbue it with divine sanction. Yet if Jesus knows anything and his words mean anything to those of us who bear his name, then forgiveness is far more powerful than revenge. Indeed, it is forgiveness which manifests God's love, not actions of divine wrath carried out to the stirring sounds of a massed choir singing the *Dies Irae*. God's justice does not take the form of a sub-machine gun, but of the cross upon which, in Christ, he died.

The Sacrament of the most holy Eucharist is the instantiation of this cruciform shaped divine justice. Its efficacious reception enhances our own ability to forgive others and to undo the power of resentment which can keep us mired in sin. And yet our own demonstrated willingness to forgive is a prerequisite that our reception of communion might bear fruit. This is why before communion is made available we pray the Lord's Prayer and recite the petition which reads: *And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us*. As we forgive are we in turn forgiven, a movement of the divine economy which allows us to then forgive others all the more deeply. Thus is the cycle of revenge and violence broken.



Please Pray For

Living: Vilma Anker, Antoinette Barker, Mary Basaraba, Maria Rosa Brekke, Bobbi Brown, Patty Burtner, Fr. Rob Bustamante, Arlene Cabal-lero, 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, Robert Yukutake, Sr., Rosemarie Zenger, and Becky

Call Shasta Hatter for more information or to volunteer.
503-253-7566.

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

We Need Your Help to Grow Our Masses!

Since in May, 2020 when we first opened the Mass to limited public attendance we saw a slow but encouraging return of our parishioners to attending Mass in church. From the 15 or less who attended our Masses in May, we now see an average total of about 120 parishioners who come to church and participate in the three weekend Masses that we offer. We feel encouraged that many will continue to respond to the call and attend correct worship in church. With that, we need your help to make sure that we remain able to provide the stringent safety protocol that we follow. Please help us build back our community of worship by the following:

1. Pray very hard for all of us to remain faithful to the Eucharist and long for the reception of Holy Communion.
2. Encourage others to come to Mass by sharing your own experience, your confidence, that our stringent safety protocol works!
3. Volunteer to help with the Mass Ministry. We have 20 volunteers who have continued to serve every weekend so that each of the three Masses can be offered. Please help them! More volunteers mean that we will be able to alternate our volunteers and give them some weekends to worship in the pew.

With so many challenges that ALL parishes continue to face because of the ongoing pandemic, there is no better time to step forward than now to help our small parish remain strengthened, renewed and anchored firmly on the Holy Eucharist. Remember that as we step up to help, we also give ourselves the opportunity to share in the strength of community. Please call the Parish Office or email stella@stthereseor.org. Be part of this amazing ministry!



Thank you, Volunteer Ministers!

Please remember to thank our volunteer Ministers who make it possible for our weekend Masses to be offered. Although our attendance is still restricted to 25 people, our ministers commit 100% of their efforts and dedication in maintaining our standard of safety protocol so that everyone who attends Mass will be safe and protected.

Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:00 pm

Janice Levesque
Sue Buhr
Greg Buhr
Tom Byington
Titay Schommer
Steve Schommer



Sunday Mass at 9:00 am

John Crouch
Pam LaFerte
Mary Haney
Hazel Philbrook
Margaret Oliphant
Ken Oliphant
Joan Galles



Sunday Mass at 11:30 am

Angie Jauregui
Barb Wilwers
Thang Nguyen
Sue Anker
Barb Miller
Kathy Hobbs
Gabriella Maertens

14TH ANNUAL ROSARY BOWL NW

Saturday, Oct. 3rd, 2020

8:30-10:30am



New Location this year:

**St. Edward Catholic Church,
Keizer, Oregon**

**Our Marian
Prayer
Program is
dedicated
this year to:
*Our Lady
Help of
Persecuted
Christians***

**Our 2020
Program
Lineup:**



8:00am Doors open

8:30am Holy Mass with Archbishop Sample

9:30am Marian Prayer Program

10:30am Confessions available

Online registration to attend required at www.rosarybowlNW.org

**We will Live Stream and offer Live Radio Broadcast
on Mater Dei Radio starting at 8:30am**



Be One With the Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Mother!

ROSARY COAST TO COAST will take place on Sunday, October 11th, 2020.

Catholics across the United States will simultaneously pray the Rosary as an Act of Reparation. We will call upon God through the powerful intercession of Our Lady, Queen of the Rosary, to heal our country and return it to holiness. Please join the World Apostolate of Fatima prayer cells in praying the Rosary and a Litany to the Blessed Mother, as we approach the Oct 13th date of the historical "Miracle of the Sun" apparition in Fatima in 1917.

Meet at St. Joseph the Worker, 2310 SE 148th Ave.

Portland in the parking lot near the **Statue of St. Joseph** (facing 148th Ave) at **12:30 pm**. We will then process with a statue Of Our Lady of Fatima from St. Joseph to the **Planned Parenthood at 14601 SE Division St.** (about 2 blocks from St. Joseph the Worker) **The Rosary will be recited at 1 pm** on the sidewalk in front of the Planned Parenthood Clinic.

Questions: Jerry McAfee @ 503-260-8995 or Mary Nordlund @ 503-914-8411.

Some Verses of Stabat Mater

*At the cross her station keeping,
Mary stood in sorrow weeping
When her Son was crucified.*

*Who, that sorrow contemplating,
On that passion meditating,
Would not share the Virgin's grief?*

*Christ she saw with life-blood failing,
All her anguish unavailing,
Saw him breathe his very last.*

*Mary, fount of love's devotion,
Let me share with true emotion
All the sorrow you endured.*



Food Drive Appeal

St. Vincent de Paul Needs Your

We are having a drive-in food drive on Sept 26th (Saturday) from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. We are especially needing canned corn, canned green beans, and kids' snacks. Please call 503-253-7566 if you have any questions.

Thank you for any help you can give.

Shasta Hatter
St Vincent de Paul



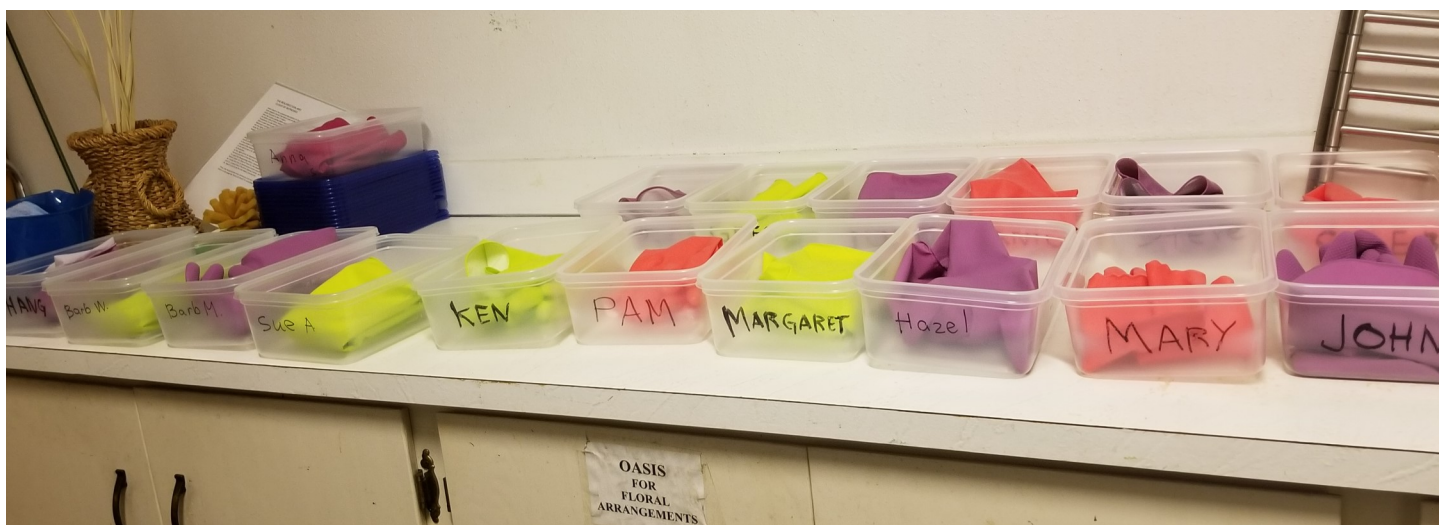
The Why's of our Safety Protocol

The safety protocol adopted by our Parish is derived from the safety checklist provided by the Archdiocese - what we have in place ensures that we provide, to the best of our ability, a safe environment that radically minimizes contact with surfaces, maximizes physical distance among those who attend a Mass and provides multiple opportunities to sanitize our hands before, during and after Mass. It could be a tedious process from one point of view; but on the other hand, it gets easier when our community takes this opportunity to **act** like a community. We already have a really amazing team of volunteers who not only help with the celebration of the Mass but have taken on additional roles as door keepers, ushers and sanitizers. And, with a few exceptions, all of those who have attended our Masses have been very patient, understanding and supportive as we work through some changes in our routines. If you have family members or friends who have questions, please continue to share with them the following information:

Why do we need to wear face masks: it is now required by the State to wear face masks indoors, and the mask should be covering **both** your **nose and mouth**. It is undoubtedly inconvenient for sure, but think of it as a thoughtful gesture and a proactive measure that lessens the spread of the virus through droplets in the air. Although our church appears to be "large" with plenty of space, our Mass is an "indoor" gathering. Additionally, most of those who attend Mass and those who serve as Ministers in the Mass belong to the high-risk group. Another thought to think about is that the priest **cannot** wear a face mask (he may wear a mask only when he is distributing Holy Communion). By wearing our masks we help show our collective effort in doing the best we can to provide Fr. Steve that safety "bubble." We are also getting ready for that time when the number of individuals allowed to attend Mass increases to 50 and more - having more people attending actually means we need all the more to be consistent with the safety standard that we have, and even make it better.

We try our best to explain why the wearing of a mask is required, so please feel free to call the Parish Office if you have more questions. Ultimately though, the door keeper will not let you in if you are not wearing a mask, **and** the usher will ask you to leave if your mask is not covering both your nose and your mouth.

Why can't we use the kneelers, while other churches allow the use of kneelers: our kneelers are cloth-covered (in emerald green), and the cleaning/sanitizing solution that we use is bleach and water. Besides that, if we wiped down the kneelers with the bleach and water solution they will not dry in time for the next Mass - think of Sunday when we have the 9:00 am Mass and the 11:30 am Mass, and we have to completely sanitize after the 9:00 am Mass. Some churches' kneelers have vinyl or plastic cover that of course will not discolor if wiped down with a bleach solution, and will dry quicker. And so, to another question - why wipe down pews and surfaces with bleach and water? It is the best sanitizing solution and manner of cleaning as recommended by our cleaning company. We do "double" sanitize as pews and surfaces are also sprayed with alcohol after the first cleaning. If you have any more questions, please feel free to call 503-256-5850!



PASTOR'S CORNER

Plague Journal X

From week to week, as the Spirit moves me, I will share with you certain theological reflections concerning the liturgy and its relation to the times we're in.

As we move back into Ordinary Time this week, I would like to ask you all to pray the following prayer each night before you retire. It comes from the monks of Mount Angel Abbey and is sung each night at the conclusion of Compline (Night Prayer). It is called the *Stella Caeli* (Star of Heaven) and was originally composed and sung during the 14th Century as a response to the Black Death (the Bubonic Plague). Covid 19 is not nearly as dangerous (thank God) as the Plague of that time; nonetheless people are fear ridden and over 108,000 have died in our country of the current pestilence:

**Star of Heaven,
who nourished the Lord
and uprooted the plague of death
which our first parents planted:**

**May that star now deign
to hold in check the constellations
whose strife causes in people
the sores of a terrible death.**

**O glorious star of the sea,
save us from infections.**

**Hear us:
for your Son, who honors you,
denies you nothing.**

**Jesus, save us,
for whom the Virgin Mother prays
to you.**

Amen.



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supporting the
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