

St. Therese of the Child Jesus Catholic Church and School

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

503-256-5850

July 12, 2020, 15th Sunday in Ordinary



“Whoever has ears ought to hear.” - Matthew 13

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
Faith Formation and Liturgy Mrs. Stella Armstrong
Facilities Manager Mr. Matthew Shelton
Receptionist Mrs. Angie Barnett



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.



Please Pray For

Living: Vilma Anker, Antoinette Barker, Mary Basaraba, Maria Rosa Brekke, Bobbi Brown, Patty Burtner, Fr. Rob Bustamante, Arlene Cabal-Iero, 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, Becky

Food Box Distribution Location at St. Henry in Gresham

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FRIDAYS
JULY 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 & AUGUST 7, 14, 21 & 28

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

DRIVE-THRU PICK-UP LOCATION:
St. Henry Catholic Church
346 NW First Street Gresham, OR 97030

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
Gabiella Maertens

PASTOR'S CORNER

Plague Journal

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.



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.

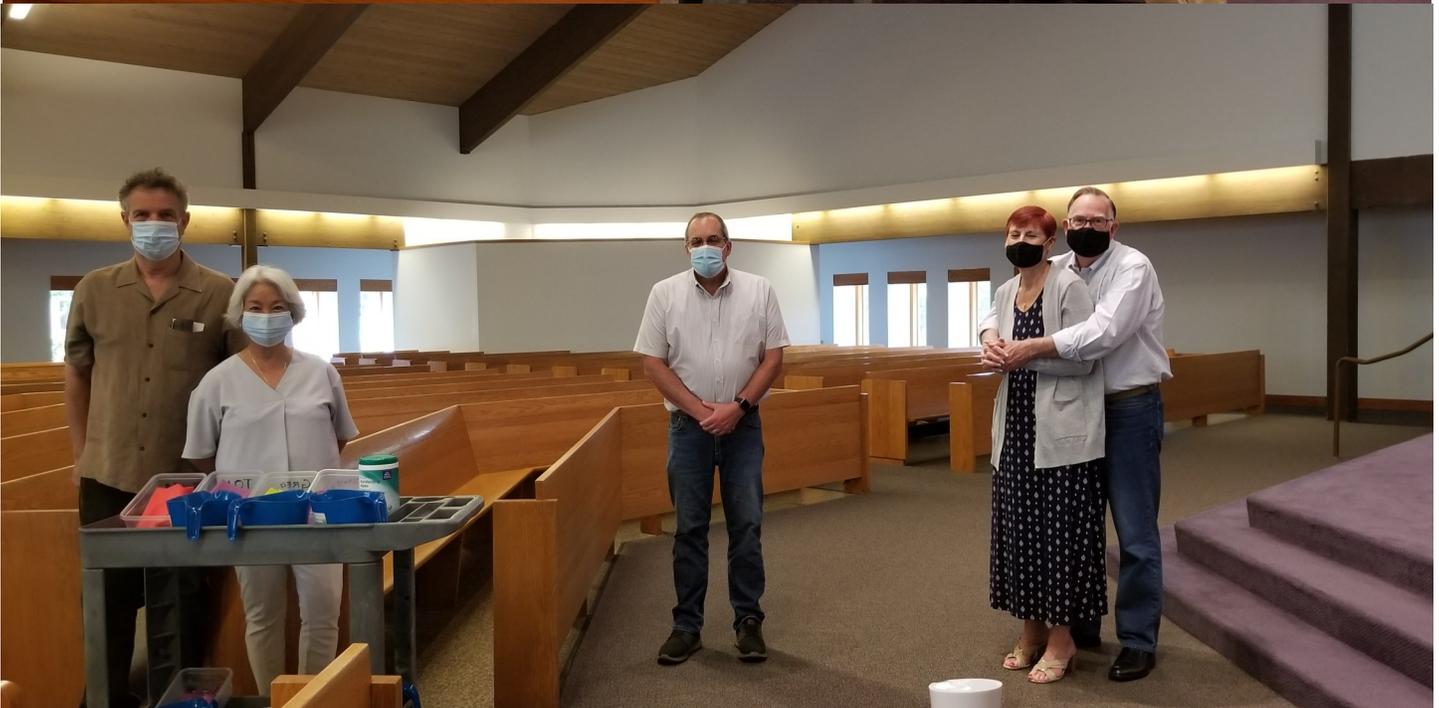
We try our best to explain why the wearing of a mask is required, so please feel free to call the Parish Office if you have more questions. Ultimately though, the door keeper will not let you in if you are not wearing a mask, **and** the usher will ask you to leave if your mask is not covering both your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



First, the Foundation of all

With fear and so many information flying about on how to live in this world that seems to be dominated by the COVID Virus, never lose sight of the foundational rock of our Faith, which is the Holy Eucharist, “the crux and summit of our Christian life” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*). Participating in the work of God (liturgy), being in the Holy presence of His Son and receiving His Body and Blood is the very antidote that we all need. There may be a “new normal” in how we live our lives, but we must all pray that we never lose sight of the foundational truth of our Faith. We need to receive His Body because by doing so, we reap the full benefit of His saving grace. By being open to receiving His precious Body we open ourselves to His perfect love, and perfect love drives out fear. (1 John 4:18) Please remember in your prayers our courageous Ministers who are all committed to work together not just to help in Mass, but also to keep our church sanitized and safe for all those who so hunger to participate in Mass and receive Jesus Christ.



Fr. Steve's 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time Homily

The Ears to Hear

July 12, 2020



As Jesus' popularity grows, so too do the crowds that come out to greet him. Pressed to the shore, he takes to a boat anchored in the vicinity that he may proclaim to all his Gospel. But as notoriety brings ever more folks out to see him the degree of their receptivity begins to vary widely: There are the bored seeking stimulation, the hecklers spoiling for a fight, the indifferent, the hangers-on and those few with an open ear. Jesus is the sower who generously and profligately sows the seed; but which of those present can truly receive the seed gifted and allow it to flourish and bear fruit?

Much of the seed, if not most, falls by the wayside of the path where there is no soil whatsoever. These are the proud and the self-satisfied for whom the Gospel, with its demands, is an unwelcome intrusion. The truth has been proffered, but rejected out of hand. The rocky ground is but a thin layer masking a barren foundation of stone. These folks are curious but firmly entrenched in the fashions of the age; they seek a seductive cosmetic to look and feel good now. Their engagement is superficial and they quickly drift away when the hard work of discipleship manifests. They will channel surf through life always seeking to find a faith to mold in their own image and likeness. Many with the requisite depth of character are nonetheless unwilling to let go of their many hidden barbs of illusionist religiosity. They seek Christianity without the Cross and are known by their outward signs of sentimentality: the smiley-face lapel button, the ukulele liturgy, the worship of youth with its faux vitality, the New Age religion with its suspension of all uncomfortable judgments. By contrast with these with their loud upbeat din of massed choirs and brightly colored banners, there is that liturgy which unfolds in the seriousness of a quiet and reverent engagement. In this silence open to God's grace does the seed grow in the darkness of a nurtured faith. One day it will burst forth in its piercing beauty and flourish in its fecundity as it yearns ever upward toward paradise.



Limited VBS
space available.
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NOW!**

One morning ONLY
Join us for a VBS Tour
of Faith and Fun.
Wednesday - July 29...
10 am– 12:30 pm

...Faith, Fun, Friends, Music, Crafts, Mission...

Phone registrations **ONLY...**

You must pre-register by calling
Jeanne at the office 665-9129 or
Cyndi @ 503-349-2432

Registration Ends Wednesday- July 22nd.

This is a free morning
to all parishioners
and friends who reg-
ister by phone.
Please consider
bringing a package of
diapers to support
our Catholic Charities
pregnancy program
or canned food for
the St. Vincent de
Paul food center.



We are adhering to the following guidelines for the
safety of our children and volunteers:

- *Pre-health check-in temperature screening for all participants...
- *Adult masks required...Under 12 years at parent discretion...
- *Activities will be spaced according to social distancing guidelines....
- *Hand sanitizer will be at each station with frequent sanitizing of materials between stations...
- *Individual pre-packaged crafts provided
- *Individual pre-packaged water & snacks provided
- *Parent participation with your child....

***Families are invited to
observe social distancing,
bring a sack lunch and
picnic on the grass.



St. Henry Catholic
Church
VBS
346 NW First St.
Gresham, Or 97030
503-665-9129

Weekly Intentions

| Ordinary Time | | | | |
|--|---------|----------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <i>Please note that both the school and parish offices remain closed due to the Pandemic</i> | | | | |
| Day | Date | Time | Observance | Mass Intention |
| VIGIL | July 11 | 5:00 pm | Vigil of the Sunday Eucharist | Fred Dewey + Betty Susnjara + |
| SUNDAY | July 12 | 9:00 am | Eucharist of the Lord's Day | John Keller + Young Ja Kim + |
| | | 11:30 am | Eucharist of the Lord's Day | Missa pro populo |
| Monday | July 13 | | No service | |
| Tuesday | July 14 | | No service | |
| Wednesday | July 15 | | No service | |
| Thursday | July 16 | | No service | |
| Friday | July 17 | | No service | |
| VIGIL | July 18 | 5:00 pm | Vigil of the Sunday Eucharist | Joanna Kong + Moon Chun Lee + |
| SUNDAY | July 19 | 9:00 am | Eucharist of the Lord's Day | Thomas Choi + |
| | | 11:30 am | Eucharist of the Lord's Day | Missa pro populo |

Our eyes cannot see everything



If you doubt about the existence of God . . . A good place to start is with our “reason” or “intelligence.” Most people would base intelligent thinking on what we often call scientific observation - what we cannot see or sense does not exist - forgetting that our physical senses are so limited, and that science is so far behind natural objects and phenomena that it supposes to “discover.” When our eyes cannot even see what is beneath the grime and dirt that had covered this silver container, shouldn't we, being an intelligent specie, be open to the possibility that something right in front of us does have the possibility of being there, even though we do not see it?

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