



St. Theresa Catholic Church

21371 St. Theresa Lane, Ashburn, Virginia 20147

December 18, 2022

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Masses for the Week

Mon, Dec 19	6:15— Sylvia Hackney+ 8:30— GJ Vitale 12:15— Dr. John Dillon
Tues, Dec 20	6:15— Eugene McAndrew+ 8:30— Amy Delaney
Wed, Dec 21	6:15— Florence Louise Williams+ 8:30— Thomas Leonardi+ 12:15— Debra Capurro
Thurs, Dec 22	6:15— Lois McHale+ 8:30— Kim Mares
Fri, Dec 23	6:15— Mario Genovese+ 8:30— Amelia Ortiz+
Sat, Dec 24	8:30— Rita Giunta+ 4:00— McKay Family L & + 6:00— Robert Mica+ & Susanne King+ 8:00— Troy Farmer+ 10:00— St. Theresa Parishioners
Sun, Dec 25	8:00— The RE Program 10:00— Tellis Family Noon— Stan Urynowicz+

Parish Mass Schedule

Saturday:	8:30am, 5:30pm Vigil Mass
Sunday:	7:30, 8:45am & 10:30am 12:30 & 5:00pm
Weekdays:	6:15 and 8:30am, Monday through Friday 12:15pm, Mondays (except Federal Holidays) and Wednesdays
Holy Days:	As announced
Holy Hour:	Wednesdays, 7pm
Confessions:	Wednesdays, 9-9:30am Saturdays, 4:00-4:45 pm; during Holy Hour; and by appointment

Clergy

Reverend James C. Hudgins, Pastor
 Reverend Paul Dudzinski, Parochial Vicar
 Reverend Nicholas R. Barnes, Parochial Vicar
 Reverend John F. O'Farrell, Parochial Vicar
 Deacon Paul C. Konold
 Deacon Anthony J. Renzette
 Deacon Matthew K. Noah

Prayers For The Sick: Ellen Russow, Patricia Fuechslin, Pranee Heinjarean, Nellie Gonzalez, Bernadette Valdez, Emma Ciaravino, Keelan Griffen, Evan Sweeney, Helen Atallah, Nick Evers, Daniel Ramirez, Cynthia Ramirez, Haley Morris, Anabelle Huster, Russell Ramons, Martha Mason, John Forbes, Ruth Carradini, Mark Naftzger, Thomas Poerstel, Daniel John Begley, Scott Spitnale, Danny Schmude, Jess Williamson, Nancye Pochick, Matthew Albert Skubie, Barbara Orandello, Marcela Garcia, CJ Buechner, Nancye Pochick, Michael Robertson, Celeste Hall, Donna Caulfield, Ethan Falciani, Mary Ann Lyons.

Prayers For Our Military: Daniel W. Beverly, Michael Cinnamon, Matthew Schierling, Eric Frames, Bill Freschi, Paul Schierling, Marshall Kellner, Colin Freyne, Eric Ciliberti, John Kesterson, Matthew Kesterson, Alexa Katharine Koenig, Mark Short, Jonathan Bayly, Russell Escalante, Eric Reilly, John Conrad, Fr. James Hinkle, Andrew Gillespie, Stephen Gilliland, David Seliquini, Joseph Auler, Adam Parkinson, Jake Shelton, Patrick G. Fitzgerald, Sean Spurr, Jack Hayes, David and Katherine Bergeron, Christopher Martin, Thomas Gleason, Tony Mattice, David Lakey, Jim Murray, Keith Bittle.

Was Jesus Really Born on December 25?

Let's take a look at a fun question this week. No Gospel records the date of Christ's birth, so historically speaking, so how did we choose December 25 as the feast of the Nativity of Christ, better known as Christmas? Believe it or not, it's all based on the date of Good Friday.

Early Christians were not terribly concerned with recording birthdays, but the dates of Christ's death and resurrection were remarkably important. We needed to know the day of Christ's death in order to properly celebrate Easter each year. All four Gospels tell us that Christ died on Friday of Passover week. That falls on a different date each year, because Passover is calculated according to the Jewish lunar calendar, which uses 12 months of 30 days. As the years went by, early Christians began to wonder, "What was the exact date of the original Good Friday?" Reconciling the Jewish calendar with the Roman calendar was difficult, but over time, a consensus among Church leaders pointed to March 25 as the date of the first Good Friday.

Now, according to pious belief, every Jewish prophet would begin and end his life on the same day of the month. This was a tradition known as "whole year theory," or "integral age theory." An influential ancient Christian author named Julius Sextus Africanus noted that Christ's life began not at his birth, but at the moment of his conception—note the pro-life implications—and that March 25 therefore should become the Feast of the Annunciation (when the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, asking if she would be the mother of Jesus.) Once the Church celebrated the Annunciation on March 25, it fixed the date of Christmas nine months later, on December 25. This is how December 25 became the date of Christmas.

Do we know Jesus' birth was exactly December 25? No, but there's a good reason to believe it was a night in December. The Gospel of Luke tells us that the shepherds of Bethlehem were tending their flocks by night when the angels announced the good news of Christmas. Shepherds watch their flocks by night only on the coldest nights, because when a new lamb is born, the cold night air is a grave threat to its life. A shepherd would even swaddle a newborn lamb to help keep it warm. Interestingly enough, December is the month when most new lambs are born. (Anecdotally, this was once confirmed to me by a Montana cattle rancher.) So, when the shepherds of Bethlehem kept night watch over their flocks, there's a good reason to believe it was a frigid night in December. Moreover, a beautiful symbolism has emerged from the tradition of a December Christmas. When Christ the light of the world is born, the darkness of winter begins to reverse itself, and the days begin to grow longer again.

God bless you, and St. Theresa pray for us!



Fr. Hudgins

Upcoming Early Bulletin Deadline

Due to the upcoming Christmas and New Year's Holidays, here is the early bulletin deadline:
January 1 bulletin deadline—due by **Monday, December 19** noon

St. Theresa Advent & Christmas Schedule

Additional Confession Times

Wednesdays 9am
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday Dec. 20-22: 7pm until the line runs out

Christmas Mass Schedule

Saturday, Dec. 24: Vigil Mass: 4, 6, 8 & 10pm
(No Saturday 24th Confessions)
Sunday, Dec. 25: 8 & 10am & 12pm

Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

Saturday, Dec. 31 Vigil Mass: 5:30pm
Sunday, Jan. 1: 7:30, 8:45 & 10:30am, 12:30 & 5pm

How to Register to be a Parishioner of St. Theresa Catholic Church

In the sacramental life of the Church, Catholic faithful will need to prove residency in a parish. Registration with the parish office allows us to track your sacramental data and keep you connected with the life of the church.

In order to register, come to the parish office Monday – Friday 9:30am – 3:30pm to fill out a registration card. Yellow registration cards can also be obtained at all of the Church entrances – these can be mailed to the parish or given to an usher during a church liturgy.

Youth Education and News



ymoffice@sainttheresaparish.com

December

Sunday, the 18th-Upper Room Squad, 6-7:45pm

Thursday, the 22nd-Teen Led Bible Study – 8th-12th grade, 6-7pm

January

Sunday, the 8th-Upper Room Squad, 6-7:45pm

Monday, the 9th-Prepare Parish Food Bags

Thursday, the 12th-Teen Led Bible Study – 8th-12th grade, 6-7pm

Sunday, the 15th-Upper Room Squad, 6pm to 7:45pm

Thursday, the 19th-Teen Led Bible Study – 8th-12th grade, 6-7pm

Sunday, the 22nd-Parish Food Drive (after 8:45am Mass & 5pm Mass)

Monday, the 23rd-Food Sort by Expirations Dates, 7-8:30pm

Tuesday, the 24th-Load food for transport, 6:15-7pm

Thursday, the 26th-Teen Led Bible Study – 8th-12th grade, 6-7pm

Sunday, the 29th-Upper Room Squad, 6-7:45pm

Adult Volunteers Needed - We are looking for sincere, motivated, and willing adults who would like to help out with our Parish youth. All volunteers need to be compliant - having a background clearance check and hav-

ing completed a mandatory Child Protection Course (Virtus). Contact Paul Dwyer, ymoffice@sainttheresaparish.com.



Office Hours:

Mon-Thurs. 9am-4pm; Fri. 9am-noon

Adults Plan Ahead to Volunteer

Want to volunteer at the many St. Theresa's children based programs/ events? We encourage and welcome your involvement however it requires that all volunteers be compliant. For details contact Connie Gilligan, Parish Child Protection Coordinator, at connie@sainttheresaparish.com or call 703.729.3714.

LEARNING ABOUT ADVENT

Preparing our hearts during Advent!
St. Theresa Catholic School

STCS Parents, please read the **Thursday Thunder** email every week for important information and dates, including:

Wednesday, Dec. 21—

Early Dismissal for Christmas Break

Wednesday, Jan. 4—

Students Return

Friday, Jan. 6—

All-school Mass

Tuesday, Jan. 10—



First Holy Communion
Parent Meeting

St. Theresa Catholic School's 2022 Thunder Appeal, "Our Mission Matters" is now underway – please consider a gift to our parish school!



Your support will impact our students every day by helping to upgrade building security, add outdoor learning spaces, expand faith formation opportunities, and help bridge the gap between our tuition revenue and the actual cost to educate each student. Donate online by scanning the QR code or visiting our website, www.stsashburn.com. You may also mail a check to St. Theresa Catholic School ("Thunder Appeal" in the memo line). For more information, please contact Regina Freschi, freschir@stsashburn.com or 703.729.3577. *We are grateful for your support!*

STCS registration for siblings of current students is now underway, and registration for NEW families for the 2023-24 school year opens on January 4. If you would like information on admissions for the 2023-24

school year, please visit our website, www.stsashburn.com (click 'Admissions'), or contact Admissions Director Denise Rotell, rotell@stsashburn.com.

Calling all St. Theresa Catholic School Alumni & Alumni Families!

We would love to hear from you, and add you to our **Alumni & Friends Newsletter** email list. Please send your news and contact information to alumni@stsashburn.com.



Shop for Christmas and Support STCS!

When you shop on Amazon, please use AmazonSmile – they'll give back a portion of your purchase to STCS. Go to www.AmazonSmile.com and choose "St Theresa Parish School" from the list of charities (NOTE: no period after 'St'). At Harris Teeter, link your VIC card to STCS with code #5887 at the customer service desk or online. *Thank you for your support!*

News from our Parish

Simbang Gabi

Everyone is invited to the Filipino tradition of Simbang Gabi or night Mass to be held here at St. Theresa's on **Monday, December 19**, 7pm with Fr. Celso Tabalanza as the main celebrant. For the full list of the 9-day Novena of Masses, please visit <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/jubilee-simbanggabi2022/>.

Can you help with an end-of-year gift? St. Theresa Catholic School's 2022 Thunder Appeal, "Our Mission Matters" is now underway! Your



support will impact our students every day by helping to upgrade building security, add outdoor learning spaces, expand faith formation opportunities, and help bridge the gap between our tuition revenue and the actual

cost to educate each student. Donate online by scanning the QR code or visiting our website, www.stsashburn.com. You may also mail a check to St. Theresa Catholic School ("Thunder Appeal" in the memo line). For more information, please contact Regina Freschi, freschir@stsashburn.com or 703.729.3577. *We are grateful for your support!*

Current Vacant Adoration Slots

Critical Need

No Adorer Scheduled	Sunday	1:00am & 3:30am
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Urgent Need

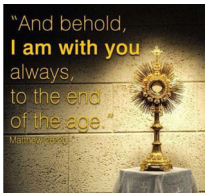
No Adorer for First Half Hour	Sunday	1:30pm
	Monday	4:30am
	Friday	4:00am & 7:30am

Second Adorer Needed

One Adorer already for these time slots but need one more Adorer.

If you can sign up for one of these available slots, it would be greatly appreciated. To sign up, go to: <http://sainttheresa.letusadore.com>

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
12:30am	12:00am	12:00am	12:00am	12:30am	12:30am	12:00am
1:30am	1:00am	1:00am	1:00am	2:30am	1:30am	1:00am
3:00am	3:00am	2:00am	2:00am	3:30am	2:30am	2:30am
4:00am	4:00am	3:00am	3:00am	8:00am	3:30am	3:30am
6:30am	11:30am	4:30am	4:00am	3:00pm	7:30am	4:30am
10:30am	12:30pm	8:30am	12:30pm	4:00pm	11:00am	10:00am
12:30pm	9:30pm	9:30am	5:30pm	8:30pm	12:00pm	11:00am
2:00pm		11:00am	7:00pm	11:30pm	4:00pm	12:00pm
5:00pm		1:00pm	8:00pm		5:30pm	1:00pm
8:00pm		8:30pm	11:30pm		6:30pm	2:00pm
11:00pm		10:30pm			10:00pm	3:00pm
					11:00pm	4:00pm
						5:00pm
						6:00pm
						7:00pm
						8:00pm
						9:00pm
						10:00pm
						11:30pm



Note: We have a very active group of adoration substitutes. The Adoration Schedule online system allows users to cancel commitments from time-to-time to allow for vacation, sickness or other possibilities that may prevent attendance. In those instances, substitute adorers will provide one-time coverage

Wanting to hear Fr. Hudgins' homilies?

You can find all of Fr. Hudgins homilies recorded on Fatherhudgins.com

Adult Education and Spiritual Enrichment

Women's Discipleship Group

Meets every Wednesday morning, 9:30-10:30am for Lectio Divina and 10:45-11:45am for spiritual book reading. Our focus is the Mass reading for the upcoming Sunday and a spiritual book selected by our spiritual director Deacon Matthew Noah. The

title of our next book is "A Biblical Walk Through The Mass" by Dr. Edward Sri.

Parish women of all ages are cordially invited. For more information contact Dawn Garabito, 862.812.0039 or dmarie213@aol.com

Interested in learning about the Legion of Mary?

Two Legion of Mary groups meet at different times. Check the website for information, or be our guest at any Legion meeting held on Wednesday, 7:15pm; or Saturday 9:15am.

News Around the Diocese

Catholic Programing

WMET 1160AM offers Catholic programming on air, via the smartphone app and at the GRNOnline.com-Radio for your Soul! WMET 1160 can lead to personal and family transformation, build up vocations, and help you grow in your Catholic faith, to defend it, and to evangelize it. Visit GRNOnline.com to learn about Guadalupe Radio Network.

Vocations—“When Joseph awoke he did as the angel of the Lord directed him.” Are you prayerfully vigilant about discovering your vocation in Christ? Might He be inviting you to the priesthood or consecrated life? Contact Fr. Michael Isenberg, Vocations Director, at 703.841.2514 or email: vocations@arlingtondiocese.org.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” Experience God’s grace and peace on the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experiences on Feb 3-5, 2023 in Warrenton, VA and Mar 31-Apr 2, 2023 in Herndon, VA. Early sign up is recommended. For more information visit our website at: RenewMarriage-VANorth.org or contact us at applications@renewmarriage-vanorth.org or 703.646.1521.

Separated or Divorced?—St. John's Separated and Divorced Ministry invites all separated or divorced Catholics to their meetings every third Thursday of the month, 7:30pm at St. John's in Leesburg. Email separated.divorced@stjohnleesburg.com for more information.

Do you love someone with a drug or alcohol problem?—The Nar-Anon is a worldwide fellowship for those affected by a friend's or family member's addiction. As a twelve-step program, we offer our help by sharing our experience, strength, and hope. Please join us for an evening of support and recovery; you're only a stranger until you walk through the door. For more information, contact Deacon Noah at dcnnoah@sainttheresaparish.com. Weekly meetings are held at: 2nd & 4th Mondays, 7-8pm @ Cascades Library; 1st, 3rd & 5th Mondays, 7-8pm via Zoom; Thursdays, 7-8pm @ Leesburg Presbyterian Church.

Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center Events:

Three to Get Married Marriage Prep Jan 19-22, Feb 9-12 (Virtual), Mar 9-12, Mar 23-26—2023 The Three to Get Married Marriage Preparation Program is a Catholic Pre-Cana program for seriously dating and

engaged couples. This marriage preparation course is an intensive preparation experience true to the teachings of the Catholic Church. Convenient one-weekend schedule. FOCCUS administration is included. \$375 per couple. Space will be limited and these weekends fill up quickly, so reserve your spot today!

Silent Retreat Weekend for Women January 6-8, 2023

Start the new year with a silent retreat. Explore your mission in life, and in the new year, as you experience His Presence in the silence! These retreats are based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Registration is required. Cost: \$300 per person. Plan your next retreat today!

Evening of Reflection for Couples Wednesday, Jan 11, 2023

Married and Engaged couples are invited to an Evening of Reflection especially for you! The evening will begin with mass and include a delicious dinner, talk, time for quiet reflection and the opportunity for confession. \$75 per couple.

Find more information and links to register on the website

www.ourladyofbethesda.org. Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center, A Place to Encounter Christ! 7007 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda, MD 20817.



Knights of Columbus

Food Drive: Last month the generous parishioners donated 4,992 pounds of food. For the calendar year the parishioners, volunteers, and youth group for donated, sorted, and delivered 52,959 pounds of food to the Catholic Charities Loudoun Food Pantry in Sterling. Your kindness and time make this program a successful one. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Thanks for the support.

Are you a parishioner in need of a home repair? If you need help in completing a small home repair that you cannot complete yourself or that may cause you financial hardship, we are here to help! Projects can involve carpentry plumbing, electrical, painting, and/or the installation of a new appliance. Please submit your request on our website at: [https://www.st-](https://www.st-louis-martin-kofc.org/handy-man-services)

[louis-martin-kofc.org/handy-man-services](https://www.st-louis-martin-kofc.org/handy-man-services).

Call for Handyman Crew Volunteers:

Are you available to volunteer as a handyman for those in need? The volunteers of the St. Louis Martin Council of the Knights of Columbus are available to complete small home repairs for the benefit of those in need who are physically incapable of performing the work, or for whom the hiring of a professional is cost prohibitive. Typical projects include Plumbing, Electrical, Carpentry, and Painting. As a volunteer, you will have the opportunity to work alongside brother knights in support of a worthy cause. What do you get in return? A smile and a thank you from the people you helped. Learn more here: <https://www.st-louis-martin-kofc.org/handy-man-services>.

Aid and Support After Pregnancy (ASAP) is a Knights of Columbus program to raise funds to support maternity and pregnancy centers in Loudoun County. Thank you to all who have donated. If you would like to donate, visit <https://tinyurl.com/knights4life>. See QR code below. Your donations will support pregnancy resource centers and in turn pregnant women and their pre-born babies. Thank you for all of the support you have shown to date!



Interested in learning more about the Knights of Columbus? See our most Frequently Asked Questions at <https://www.st-louis-martin-kofc.org/faqs>.

Parish Offices

Secretary: Christine Young, 703.729.2287
Secretary: Kelly Cosenke, 703.729.2287
Business Manager: Angelita Lupetaliaami, 703.729.2287
Facilities Coordinator: Tom Balint, 703.729.2287
Outreach Coordinator: Marianne Guidos, 703.729.2334
Website: www.sainttheresaparish.com
Email: office@sainttheresaparish.com
Fax: 703.729.9036

Religious Education Offices

Director: Larry Bayne, 703.729.3714
Youth Activities: Paul Dwyer, 703.729.0426
Secretary: Connie Gilligan, 703.729.3714
Secretary: Myriam Perez, 703.729.3714
Email: reoffice@sainttheresaparish.com
Fax: 703.729.9036

School Offices

Principal: Erin O'Malley, 703.729.3577
Assistant Principal: Danny Costa, 703.729.3577
Admin Asst: Lisa Ralston, 703.729.3577
Receptionist: Priscilla Keller, 703.729.3577
Website: www.stsashburn.com
Email: schooloffice@stsashburn.com
Fax: 703.729.8068

All offices located at 21370 St. Theresa Lane, Ashburn, VA

Sacraments

Sponsor Certificates

Please contact the Parish Office to obtain a sponsor certificate prior to a Baptism or Confirmation.

Baptisms

Parents desiring Baptism for their child must attend a class (preferably before the child's birth) held the first Thursday of each month at 7:30pm in a Conference Room in the Administration Bldg. You may schedule your child for the Sacrament of Baptism (held all Sundays 1:30pm) by visiting the Parish website under Faith, Sacraments, Baptism. Date is confirmed once all paperwork is received in the office (at least 2 weeks prior to the date of desired Baptism.)

Matrimony

The priest must be contacted at least six (6) months prior to the wedding date.

Visit the Parish Website under Faith, Sacraments, Marriage and fill out the Marriage Preparation Questionnaire prior to contacting the Parish Office. A priest will contact you.

RCIA

Adults desiring instruction in the Catholic Faith should visit the website to register for RCIA classes.

Hospitalized/Homebound

Please contact the Parish Office to ask for Holy Communion or the Anointing of the Sick.



Learn more, visit
www.sainttheresaparish.com

Monetary Donations—Your donations make a difference in the lives of struggling families! There are struggling veterans, individuals and families due to domestic violence, disabilities, layoffs, medical issues and unforeseen circumstances that need help in moving forward. Donations accepted online, or by mail or drop off to the parish office. Please indicate DMO in the memo of the check or on the envelope. To donate online go to the parish website <http://www.sainttheresaparish.com> and click on "Donate" tab to make a monetary donation online! Thank you for helping us to bring Christ's love to others by helping them in their time of need.

Furniture Ministry—accepting kitchen tables & chairs, small dressers and metal bed frames. Please contact our furniture coordinator, Una Giachinta at 571.217.7551 or furniture@sainttheresaparish.com if you want to help or if you have these items to donate.

The Feed the Hungry of Loudoun County works with the Salvation Army to help feed the hungry.

Currently we distribute at two low income apartment complexes and a senior center. While the Salvation Army canteen is out every Saturday, St Theresa does the third Saturday of each month. Interested in help making sandwiches and buying fruit or water or anyone who would like to know more or would like be placed on our notification list, please contact Tim Bowen, tjbowlen1@verizon.net or cell 703.244.4494. Thank you to all those who help us feed the hungry.

The Visitation Ministry—Are you HOMEBOUND? We have wonderful parishioners who would love to visit you or if you are not comfortable with a home visit at this time, they will call you! If you need help with an errand or would like someone to pray with you, let us know. If you are looking to volunteer, please contact us as well. Claudia Lewis at 703.431.8670 or email her at clewis825@gmail.com

Bed Ministry—volunteers with trucks or Large SUVs needed especially! Great to do this with your teenager too!

It's rewarding to assist families in

need. Consider taking a short time out of your day to bring some light into another's life. We need extra helpers to bring new beds and bedding from our storage to families moving out of the shelters and other families and children in need.

Interested in helping contact Bea Craig at 571.439.0364 or beds@sainttheresaparish.com

Friends in Need—Provides meals on a short-term basis for those families or individuals in the parish who are unable to cook for themselves due to arrival of a new baby, illness or a medical situation in the immediate family...Contact Emily Wilsey at emwilsey@aol.com or 703.585.5435 to volunteer to make meals or if you or a loved one need of help with meals

Looking for more ways help? Sign up to receive our Outreach email to get up to date information on needs and volunteer opportunities. If you sign up you will learn about what we do and how you can become more involved in touching the lives of families who are struggling. Contact Marianne Guidos 703.729.2334 or dmoutreach@sainttheresaparish.com.

Please do not leave clothing at church. We are not accepting clothing donations.

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Courtney J. Ullrich
DMD

Valerie V. Woo
DMD



**Dr. Woo is a
Parishioner and STCS parent**

Dominion Law Group



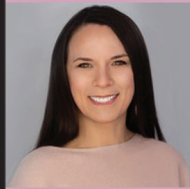
Jonathan Laramie
Attorney

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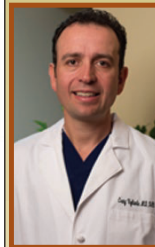
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