



# St. Theresa Catholic Church

21371 St. Theresa Lane, Ashburn, Virginia 20147

**December 8, 2024**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**

## *Masses for the Week*

|                      |                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Mon, Dec 9</b>    | 6:15— Raymond Verini+<br>8:30— Jeanette Engel<br>12:15— Joseph Blunda+<br>4:30— Francis Barry<br>7:30— Peggy Palizzi+               |
| <b>Tues, Dec 10</b>  | 6:15— Rosaria Canadeo+<br>8:30— Lois Mae Pate+                                                                                      |
| <b>Wed, Dec 11</b>   | 6:15— Dagmar Cook+<br>8:30— Joseph Pietrucha+<br>12:15— Anthony Kirincich+                                                          |
| <b>Thurs, Dec 12</b> | 6:15— Helen Cyran+<br>8:30— Fr. Guest                                                                                               |
| <b>Fri, Dec 13</b>   | 6:15— Susan Sullivan<br>8:30— Gabriel Miles                                                                                         |
| <b>Sat, Dec 14</b>   | 8:30— Brendan Baron<br>5:30— Joseph & Frances Pilaro+                                                                               |
| <b>Sun, Dec 15</b>   | 7:30— Cuti Family+<br>8:45— Joseph Price+<br>10:30— Dana Stalcup+<br>12:30— St. Theresa Parishioners<br>5:00— Anthony Ricciardella+ |

## **Parish Mass Schedule**

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

**\*\*Federal Holidays—6:15 and 8:30am Masses only**

## **Clergy**

Reverend James C. Hudgins, Pastor  
Reverend Paul Dudzinski, Parochial Vicar  
Reverend Christopher T. Vaccaro, Parochial Vicar  
Reverend John F. O'Farrell, Parochial Vicar  
Deacon Paul C. Konold  
Deacon Anthony J. Renzette

**Prayers For The Sick:** Suzanne Miles, Martin Caplan, Gene Epperly, Patricia LeMay, Megan Brown, John Forbes, Ronald Lewis Cricks, Tom Poerstel, Pamela Hoeft, Mary Broderick, Mary Giebel, Esther Yager, Tori Edmonds, Daniel John Begley, Michael DeCardona, Stephen Stahl, Steve Smith, Michael Williamson, Brenda Fitzpatrick, Barney Smith, Rick & Kathleen Mikszan, Jeffrey Miller, Raymond Humanik, Kelly Hargreaves, Ellen Russow, Patricia Fuechslin, Pranee Heinjarean, Nellie Gonzalez, Bernadette Valdez, Emma Ciaravino.

**Prayers For Our Military:** Cabell Early, Jack Williamson, Sabrina Sokol, Aidan Sullivan, Kyle Sullivan, Heather Hurley, Connor McCarthy, Kraig Broecker Jr., Victoria Carrick Caviston, Jack Ward, Michael Scully, Matthew Baba, Anthony Lupetaliaami, Tom Short, Bill Short, Sergio Mendez, Geoffrey Galasso, Logan Anna Davis, Stephen Holdorf, Jr. Daniel W. Beverly, Matthew Schierling, Eric Frames, Bill Freschi, Paul Schierling, Marshall Kellner, Eric Ciliberti, John Kesterson, Matthew Kesterson, Alexa Katharine Koenig, Russell Escalante.

## The Blessed Virgin Mary—Our Advent Companion

Although the Jewish people joyfully anticipated the coming of the Messiah for centuries, no one ever did so more perfectly than the Blessed Virgin Mary. We can truthfully say that she celebrated the first ever Advent. From the moment the Angel Gabriel announced that she would be the Mother of God to the moment of Jesus' birth, Mary had that spirit of confident hope that is the touchstone of the Advent season. On Monday, December 9th, (moved from December 8th, this year only) we will celebrate a great Advent feast day—the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. I have always loved this feast, and since it is widely misunderstood, I thought I could shed a bit of light on it.

### The Immaculate Conception refers to the conception of Mary, not Jesus.

Many well-intentioned souls explain the Immaculate Conception as the moment when Gabriel announced to Mary that she would be the Mother of God. This is actually the Annunciation, not the Immaculate Conception. *The Immaculate Conception refers to the conception of Mary in the womb of her mother, St. Anne.* We believe the ancient creed that she was free from sin from the first moment of her existence. This is what we mean by the "Immaculate Conception."

### Why would God do such a thing?

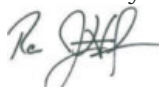
God could have done anything, of course. Jesus could have appeared on the Earth as a full-grown man—never born of anyone, never a child, never a carpenter, descending straight from the heavens above. But he chose to live as we lived, born as we are born, raised in this world of sin, and yet serving as the perfect human example for us by living a life free from sin and human faults. God chose to take human nature. Since Jesus had no human father, he took human nature entirely from Mary. Doesn't it make sense that God would do something special, just for her?

### A Man. A Woman. And a Tree.

Genesis tells us the story of the fall of man from grace—the first sin. In it, a perfect man (Adam) and a perfect woman (Eve) took the fruit of a tree in disobedience to God's will. Have you ever considered how amazing this is—when God restored us to grace, He once again used a perfect man (Jesus) and a perfect woman (Mary) who, in perfect obedience to the Father, went to the "tree" of the cross to reverse the curse—to give back what was lost by sin? There are many more reasons for the Immaculate Conception, but I will save them for a later date.

Everything we believe about Mary comes from what we believe about Christ, and what Mary received in advance as a special grace from God will one day be our grace as well. Every soul in heaven is "immaculate," when you think about it. That's why her feast day should be our celebration too.

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



Fr. Hudgins

Bulletin Deadline: Friday 2pm (9 days prior to publication)

## Parish Advent Offerings

### **Festival of Trees December 7 & 8**

Saturday 2:30 – 7:30pm  
Sunday 8am – 2pm

### **Pancake Breakfast with Santa December 8**

After 7:30, 8:45 & 10:30am Mass

### **Immaculate Conception – December 8 -**

#### **Holy Day of Obligation**

**\*\*No Vigil Mass\*\***

Monday, Dec. 9: 6:15, 8:30am &  
12:15, 4:30 & 7:30pm

### **Advent Retreat – Saturday, December 14, 8:30-12pm**

8:30 - Mass  
9:00 – Light Refreshments  
9:35 – First Reflection  
10:15 – Holy Hour – Time of Reflection  
\*\*Confessions Available\*\*  
11:15 – Second Reflection  
12:00 – Closing Prayer

### **Additional Confession Times**

Wednesdays 9am  
Mon., Wed. & Fri. Dec. 16, 18, & 20:  
7pm until the line runs out

### **Christmas Mass Schedule Tuesday, Dec. 24:**

#### **Vigil Mass:**

4, 6, 8 & 10pm

### **Wednesday, Dec. 25:**

8 & 10am & 12pm

### **Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God Tuesday, Dec. 31**

Vigil Mass: 5:30pm

### **Wednesday, Jan. 1:**

6:15, 8:30 & 10:30am, 12:00

## Wanting to hear Fr. Hudgins' homilies?

You can find all of Fr. Hudgins homilies recorded on [Fatherhudgins.com](http://Fatherhudgins.com)

# Youth Education and News



ymoffice@sainttheresaparish.com

## December

Sunday, the 8th-Upper Room Squad, 6-8pm

Sunday, the 15th-Upper Room Squad, 6-8pm

**Tricked** – A video-based safe-training program that explores the dangerous realities of sexual trafficking. Upper Room Squad will be showing the movie 'Tricked: Inside the World of Teen Sex Trafficking' on Sunday, December 1st, at 6pm in the school cafeteria. This is a part of the Youth Training Program established by the Diocese. While parents are the primary educators and caregivers of youth, the Diocese of Arlington enjoys the privilege of

sharing in that ministry, in the world we live in today, youth too often are alone and unprepared for the dangers presented. This movie will help students understand and spot the scouting and manipulating techniques that are commonly used by traffickers. Using testimony from survivors of sex trafficking, as well as insider information from a former trafficker, they talk about how to avoid susceptible behaviors. They also provide insights on how to get help if students or their friends get trapped in this terrible situation. To get more information on the program just visit the Arlington Diocese webpage under 'Protecting our Children', follow the 'Youth Training Programs' tab, <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/child-protection/youth-training-programs/>. (the make-up date will be Tuesday, December 3rd, at 6pm in the school cafeteria)



## 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](mailto:connie@sainttheresaparish.com) or call 703.729.3714.



STCS Parents, please see the **Thursday Thunder Newsletter** for information on important dates and events, including:

## Monday, Dec. 9—

Feast of the Immaculate Conception



## Wednesday, Dec. 11—

11:30am dismissal (DFE)

## Thursday, Dec. 12—

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

## Friday, Dec. 13—

Band & Choir Concert

## Thursday, Dec. 19—

STCS Christmas Pageant

## Friday, Dec. 20—

Christmas Break begins at dismissal/full day for students

**St. Theresa Catholic School's Annual Thunder Appeal – Rooted in Christ, Growing in Faith is now underway!** Your tax-deductible gift will impact students and faculty every day, and help us grow in our mission of *Educating Tomorrow's Catholic Leaders*. Scan the QR code or visit our website, [www.stsashburn.com](http://www.stsashburn.com), to make a gift online, or mail a check to St. Theresa Catholic School ("Thunder Appeal" in the memo). For more information, please email



[freschir@stsashburn.com](mailto:freschir@stsashburn.com) or call the school office, 703.729.3577. Thank you for your support!

**Thank you to all who visited our Open House in November, we were so happy to welcome you to our parish school!** If you would like information on admissions for the 2024-25 school year, please visit our website, [www.stsashburn.com](http://www.stsashburn.com) (click 'Admissions'), or contact Admissions Director Denise Rotell, [rotell@stsashburn.com](mailto:rotell@stsashburn.com).

**Shop for Christmas at the Book Fair!** Save the dates for the STCS Winter Book Fair, open Wednesday, December 4 thru Wednesday, December 11. **We'll also be open for parishioners to visit and shop on Sunday, December 8** during the parish Festival of Trees!



## News from our Parish

**December Baptism Class**—The December Baptism class will be held on **Thursday, December 12th** vice December 5th. Please make note of this.

**Parish Advent Retreat**—Saturday, **Dec 14**, 9:30-noon: Fr. James Sullivan, O.P., Prior, St Dominic's Priory in Washington DC, will challenge the parish with two reflections to use the remaining weeks of Advent to prepare, keeping our focus on the true meaning of Christmas. Bring friends and family. See next page for details.

**WorkCamp 2024 –Interest Meeting** Sunday, **December 15th** at 1:45pm. Meet with seasoned veterans of WorkCamp to find out all the details about this amazing week of service that is set for June 21-27 in Shenandoah County, VA. Find out why over 700 high schoolers gather together every year for a week long opportunity to serve the less fortunate within the boundaries of the Diocese of Arlington. The meeting is for parents of high school aged teens who are interested in attending or just want to find out about this great program the Diocese offers – which many consider the ‘best thing the Diocese has to offer to our teens’. The first meeting will be Thursday, December 5th at 7pm OR attend the second meeting on Sunday, December 15th at 1:45pm. Both meetings will be in the Louis Martin Conference room in the admin building. If you plan on

attending or have any additional questions, please RSVP to: [workcamp@sainttheresaparish.com](mailto:workcamp@sainttheresaparish.com).

**Simbang Gabi (Night Mass)**—Everyone is invited to the Philippine tradition of Simbang Gabi (Night Mass) to be held here at St. Theresa's on Tuesday, **December 17** at 7pm with Fr. Andy Gonzalo as the main celebrant, assisted by Deacon Renzette. For more information about the 400-year-old Advent tradition and the full list of the 9-day Novena of Masses, scan this code:



**Considering End-of-Year Giving? St. Theresa Catholic School's Thunder Appeal – Rooted in Christ, Growing in Faith is now underway -- please consider supporting our parish school! We are celebrating 30 Years of STCS this year;** since our opening in 1994 we have been blessed to be part of such a vibrant parish community. Your tax-deductible gift will impact our students and faculty every day, and help us grow in our mission of *Educating Tomorrow's Catholic Leaders*. Scan the QR code or visit our website, [www.stsashburn.com](http://www.stsashburn.com) to make a gift online, or mail a check to St. Theresa Catholic

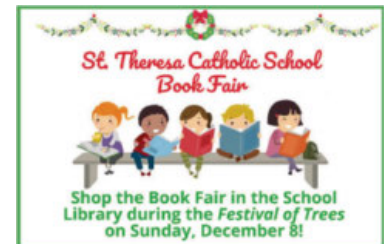


School (“Thunder Appeal” in the memo). For more information, please contact Regina Freschi, [freschir@stsashburn.com](mailto:freschir@stsashburn.com) or 703.729.3577. **We are grateful for your support!**

**Extra White House Ornaments for sale!** If you ordered a White House Christmas ornament, they are now available for pick-up in the Religious Education office Monday-Thursday 10am-12pm and 1:00-2:30pm. *Note that pick-up is not available on Fridays.* St. Theresa School parents may pick-up in the school office during regular business hours. **If you missed the pre-order we have some extras for sale!** Please email [freschir@stsashburn.com](mailto:freschir@stsashburn.com) or call 703.729.3577.



**Please Make Note**—New Year's Eve Mass (Vigil, Mary Mother of God) will begin at 5:30pm instead of 7:30pm.



### *Festival of the Trees*

Saturday December 7, 2024 2:30 PM-7:30 PM

Sunday December 8, 2024 8:00 AM-2:00PM

Winning Tickets Drawn at 2:00 PM Sunday,

Winners must pick up items by  
4pm on Sunday, Dec. 8th.

Location St. Theresa Parish Center  
(Across from the Church)

Visit with Santa on Sunday Morning  
December 8th at the  
Knights of Columbus Breakfast with Santa

All Proceeds Benefit Divine Mercy Outreach  
to help families in need.

Tickets are also available during the event!



**Knights of  
Columbus®**

**Parish Advent Retreat  
St. Theresa Parish, Ashburn VA  
Saturday morning-December 14, 2024**

Christmas is a time of joy and celebration - with family, friends and loved ones. Special guest preacher, Fr. Sullivan, will challenge us to use the weeks of Advent to prepare, keeping our focus on the true purpose of Christmas -

- to celebrate the birth 2000 years ago of our Savior, Jesus Christ
- to use this time to deepen our faith and prayer life
- for daily meditation of Sacred Scripture
- and frequent attendance at Mass and reception of the sacraments.

**Program**

- 9:30 AM Welcome  
9:35 First Reflection  
10:15 Holy Hour-time of reflection-  
confessions available  
11:15 Second Reflection  
12:00 Closing prayer

**Light refreshments available. Free will offerings accepted.**

*All are welcome to this morning of reflection and prayer.*



**Fr. James Sullivan, O.P.  
Prior, Saint Dominic's  
Priory in Washington, DC.**

Fr. James Sullivan, O.P., is a Dominican priest of the Province of Saint Joseph (eastern United States). He holds a Licentiate in Sacred Theology from the Dominican House of Studies and Licentiate in Philosophy from The Catholic University of America, both in Washington, DC. At present, Fr. Sullivan is Prior of Saint Dominic's Priory in Washington, DC.



# Adult Education and Spiritual Enrichment

**Looking for a great New Year's Resolution?** Beginning on January 1st 2025, you'll have the opportunity to join Catholics in listening to The Bible in a Year podcast with Fr. Mike Schmitz. In 365 days, you'll read through the entire Bible, with Fr. Mike acting as your guide and offering insight and prayer along the way. Maybe you've always wanted to read through the Bible and never knew where to start—this podcast is the solution. Additionally, every Thursday from 7-8pm, you'll have a chance to meet in-person in the Parish Center to discuss the podcast. For more details email Maria Basu at maria\_basu@yahoo.com.

**Legion of Mary?**—Want to deepen your faith, build community, increase in your relationship with our Lord and serve others? We have two praesidium options. Saturdays at 9:15am and Wednesdays at 7pm. Stop by the Saint Louis Martin room and learn more about it.

**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 for the Lectio Divina prayer is the Mass reading for the upcoming Sunday. Starting September 25th, we will be studying women in the Old Testament. Parish women of all ages

are cordially invited. For more information contact Dawn Garabito, 862.812.0039 or dmarie213@aol.com

**That Man is You (TMIY)**—Are you looking to strengthen your faith & family and meet other Catholic men at St Theresa's? We met on 23 November to study Mark's Gospel and how it helps our faith as Catholic men. Use the QR Code below or contact Jack Hayes at 703.537.6418 or jack.hayes422aol.com for more information.



## Knights of Columbus

**Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, December 8 with special guest Santa Claus!** Bring the kids after the morning Masses and enjoy pancakes with Santa! Breakfast includes pancakes (plain, chocolate and blueberry), scrambled eggs, sausage, potatoes, Dunkin' Munchkins, along with coffee and orange juice. Profits will benefit Divine Mercy Outreach.

**Sweats for Vets.** This upcoming Christmas season our council will again be doing the Sweats for Vets program. We will be collecting sweats for distribution to the Veterans at the Martinsburg VA hospital in January 2025.

Divine Mercy Outreach will also have sweats on the upcoming Christmas tree lights. Please consider donating a pair or two. The donation box will be

set up in the St. Theresa Admin building lobby.

There will be a "wrapping party" at the American Legion in Leesburg, where we will package the sweats for delivery.

**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! We do not do outdoor yard or gardening work. Please submit your request on our website at: <https://www.st-louismartin-kofc.org/handyman-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-louismartin-kofc.org/handyman-services>.

**Interested in Joining?** Guided by principles of charity, unity and fellowship, the Knights of Columbus work to strengthen our parish, our families and our community. FAQ: <https://www.st-louismartin-kofc.org/faqs>. To be contacted, please scan the following QR code.



## News Around the Diocese

**John Paul is now accepting applications for the 2025-2026 school year!**—To apply please visit: [https://www.jpthegreat.org/apps/pages/how\\_to\\_apply](https://www.jpthegreat.org/apps/pages/how_to_apply). For more information about scholarships and to see if your child will qualify please visit: <https://www.jpthegreat.org/apps/pages/scholarships>

**Shadow a Wolf for a Day!**—Shadow Days at John Paul are in full swing! Do you have an 8th-10th grader who

is interested in seeing what it is like to be a JP student? Sign them up for a Shadow Day visit! For registration and more details, please visit: [https://jpthegreat.schooladminonline.com/portal/new\\_inquiry](https://jpthegreat.schooladminonline.com/portal/new_inquiry) Limited spots available!

**Discover Oakcrest School!**—Oakcrest School is an independent all-girls school for grades 6-12 guided by the teachings of the Catholic Church and the spirituality of Opus Dei. We

invite families to our campus to learn more about our mission and academic program at an Admissions Information Session on Tuesday, December 3 from 8:00 to 9:30 am. Oakcrest School in partnership with parents combines a rich liberal arts curriculum, 1:1 mentoring, character development, and service to create a vibrant environment that graduates confident women who make a difference in all they choose to do.

## News Around the Diocese Continued

**Finding Divine Truth in Catholic Literature Dec 13-15**—Our faith has produced an abundance of Catholic writers throughout the ages, and the grace they received in the Sacraments permeates their works. Come spend a weekend with Fr. Rich Miserendino at the Arlington Diocese's San Damiano Retreat Center in White Post, VA and dive into short stories and snippets of longer works as we contemplate the divine Word glimpsed in the written word in the likes of O'Connor, Chesterton, Waugh and more. This unique retreat experience is for both men and women. The retreat begins at 5pm on Friday, December 13, and ends at 1pm on Sunday, December 15. Retreat cost is \$285 per person. For further information or to register, please contact Deacon Mark Maines at [mark.maines@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:mark.maines@arlingtondiocese.org)

**Three to Get Married Marriage Prep in 2024—Dec 19-22, Jan 9-12, Feb 20-23.** 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. \$398 per couple. Space is limited and these weekends fill up quickly, so reserve your spot today! Find more info on the website [ourladyofbethesda.org](http://ourladyofbethesda.org). Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center, Bethesda, MD.

**Continuing Education Spring 2025: "Called to Love: Theology of the Body"**—Wednesdays 6:30-8:30pm, **Jan. 22 – April 30, 2025.** Jesus called the Samaritan woman to a conversion of the heart, to be able to live God's call to love in truth. This course will explore how John Paul II unfolded the Catholic vision of the person and the vocation of human love. For more information: [information@johnpaulii.edu](mailto:information@johnpaulii.edu) or 202.526.3799. Cost is \$150.

**\*\*Numerous high schools in the Archdiocese of Washington and the Diocese of Arlington accept this course toward VCEA licensure or CEU requirements**

for teachers. The cost is \$150, but we have scholarships available.

**St. Therese of Lisieux Women's Silent Retreat Jan 24-26**—St. Therese of Lisieux's spiritual doctrine is easily understood and can be applied in our day-to-day lives. Her counsel can ably assist us in enduring and embracing difficulties in prayer, overcoming scruples, and patiently putting up with challenging people. Join Fr. Jack Riley at the feet of Jesus at San Damiano to learn more about this great saint. The retreat begins at 5pm on Friday, January 24, and ends at 1pm on Sunday, January 26, 2025. Retreat cost is \$285 per person. For further information or to register, please contact Deacon Mark Maines at [mark.maines@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:mark.maines@arlingtondiocese.org).

**Interested in Becoming a Foster Parent in Loudoun County?**—Want to make a difference right here in your community? Loudoun County is always in need of additional families to join their network of foster care families. Foster parenting is caring for a child placed in your home through the local department of social services. The child placed in your care is unable to remain safely in their home with their parents or relatives. Foster parents are asked to provide a safe, stable, temporary and caring atmosphere for a child placed in their home. Interested applicants are not required to have prior parenting experience but must be able to work as part of a team and support the goal of reunification. For more information, contact parishioner Kathleen Ciliberti at [kathleenciliberti@gmail.com](mailto:kathleenciliberti@gmail.com) or go to [www.loudoun.gov/1004/foster-care-adoption](http://www.loudoun.gov/1004/foster-care-adoption) for more information or at [beth.mason@loudoun.gov](mailto:beth.mason@loudoun.gov) or 703.771.5941.

**Marriage Workshop: Strengthening Your Love Marriage Renewal Workshop, Feb 15-16, 2025**—A Christ-centered weekend designed to offer practical tools that can help foster effective communication and emotional closeness in your marriage. Make your marriage thrive, not just survive! The expert speaker team includes Catholic psychologists, therapists, and

priests who will offer their expertise and experience, plus they will be on hand the entire weekend to offer individual consultation, upon request. Please note: This is NOT an overnight program. Cost: Early-Bird rate: \$480 per couple, if registered by Feb 3rd. Seating is limited. Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center, 7007 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda, MD 20817. See our website for more details about the program and links to register: [www.ourladyofbethesda.org](http://www.ourladyofbethesda.org).

**New: Private Retreats at Our Lady of Bethesda! Mar 21-23, 2025 (Men & Women); Apr 3-6, 2025 (Men only); Apr 11-12, 2025 (Women only)**—Our Lady of Bethesda now offers Private Retreats! A unique opportunity, the Private Retreat allows your soul to explore your spiritual journey at a pace that suits your needs. It coincides with a preached retreat, offering the same access to the sacraments, meals and our facilities, while giving you the flexibility of a private, self-directed experience. Cost is \$226 per person, if registered by the early-bird deadline. Advance Registration is required. Don't wait, sign up now and embrace this sacred time to nurture your unique soul and strengthen your faith. Visit our website to register and to find more dates at [ourladyofbethesda.org](http://ourladyofbethesda.org). Or call 301.365.0612. Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center, 7007 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda, MD 20817.

**Watch "A Day in the Life of a Catholic Priest"**—Ever want a glimpse into the life of a priest in our diocese? Now you can. We invite you to watch "A Day in the Life of a Catholic Priest" to follow Fr. John Paul Heisler from morning prayer to night prayer to see a window into the vocation of the priesthood. To view: <https://bit.ly/a-day-in-the-life-catholic-priest>

**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](mailto:separated.divorced@stjohnleesburg.com) for more information.

## Parish Offices

Secretary: Kelly Cosenke, 703.729.2287  
Office Manager: Christine Young, 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](http://www.sainttheresaparish.com)  
Email: [office@sainttheresaparish.com](mailto: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](mailto: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: Denise Oriti, 703.729.3577  
Website: [www.stsashburn.com](http://www.stsashburn.com)  
Email: [schooloffice@stsashburn.com](mailto: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 **7pm (note the time change)** 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](http://www.sainttheresaparish.com)

## Festival of Trees -This weekend!

**Join the fun!** Location: Parish Admin building across from church  
December 7th 2:30-7:30pm;  
Dec 8th 8am-2pm, Winning Tickets drawn at 2pm Sunday. Tickets available at the event! Plan to attend this beautiful, fun family event! There are beautiful themed and decorated 4ft Christmas trees, baskets and wreaths. If you haven't been to the Festival this is the year to attend. Many wonderful items and it's a great way to meet other parishioners.

## Light Up Someone's Christmas

Many thanks to those who participated in Light Up Someone's Christmas. For those who didn't get a chance to participate, you still can by donating grocery, gas or Walmart gift cards or by making a donation to help prevent rent eviction, utility cut off by going online to make a donation on the parish website. Wonderful way to help those in need. We also accept ongoing donations of new bedding & pillows (twin, full & queen)

God bless you! You make a difference!

## Volunteer needed--Sale Donation Coordinator-

Please prayerfully con-

sider! We are in need of a new coordinator to take donations for those who don't want to consign at the twice a year children's consignment sale. We do have a storage unit that the items can be stored in. We will train if interested. Contact Marianne Guidos [dmoutreach@sainttheresaparish.com](mailto:dmoutreach@sainttheresaparish.com)  
**Special thanks to Elisa Mitchell who has been our sale donation coordinator for many years. She has to step done at this time. God bless you!**

**Did you know?**—Your donations make a difference in the lives of struggling families by preventing evictions and keeping utilities on! We assist struggling veterans, individuals and families due to domestic violence, disabilities, layoffs, medical issues and unforeseen circumstances. 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

**Do you have furniture items to donate?**—Consider donating to help families in need that are moving out

of the shelter. We partner with McLean Bible church to assist families coming out of the shelter. Contact Matthew Broderick at 703.966.0791 or [mebroderick1@gmail.com](mailto:mebroderick1@gmail.com)

**Friends in Need**—Provides meals on a short-term basis for 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](mailto:emwilsey@aol.com) or 703.585.5435 to volunteer to make meals or if you or a loved one need of help with meals

**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](mailto:clewis825@gmail.com).

*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](mailto:dmoutreach@sainttheresaparish.com).

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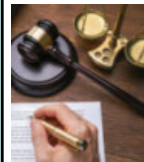
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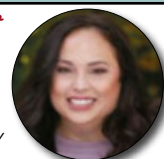
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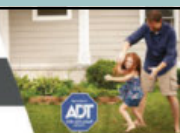
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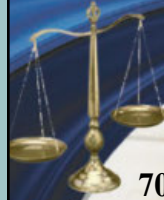
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