

St. Theresa Catholic Church

21371 St. Theresa Lane, Ashburn, Virginia 20147

August 24, 2025

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time



Masses for the Week

Mon, Aug 25	6:15— Quentin Miles 8:30— Myriam Perez 12:15— Msgr. Roy Cosby+
Tues, Aug 26	6:15— Chanh Tran+ 8:30— Father Barnes
Wed, Aug 27	6:15— Francis Barry 8:30— Linda McKay+ 12:15— Patti Sinski
Thurs, Aug 28	6:15— Levi Miles 8:30— Pete Slemko+
Fri, Aug 29	6:15— Melvin Engbert 8:30— Marlene Rannan de Vazeille+
Sat, Aug 30	8:30— Kay Reardon+ & Eileen Manning+ 5:30— Nithya Venkat
Sun, Aug 31	7:30— Billy Sue Chalcult+ 8:45— Richard Clay 10:30— Margaret Mary Moore McDonald+ 12:30— Bob Snow+ 5:00— St. Theresa Parishioners

Prayers For The Sick: Michael Tabash, Maddie N., Suzanne Miles, Martin Caplan, Gene Epperly, Patricia LeMay, Megan Brown, John Forbes, Ronald Lewis Cricks, Tom Poerstel, 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.

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, 9am (until line ends); Holy Hour, 7pm (until line ends); Saturdays, 4pm (until line ends); 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
Reverend Matthew J. DeForest, In Residence
Deacon Paul C. Konold
Deacon Anthony J. Renzette

Prayers For Our Military: Ify Nwabuku, 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.

How the Church Canonizes a New Saint, Part I

Before the year 1234, there was no formal process by which the Church canonized a new saint. Up until that time, saints were made by acclamation—that is to say, the sanctity of a deceased person was so widely known and accepted that their place in heaven was universally acknowledged. Perhaps the best example of this in our own time was that of Mother Teresa of Calcutta. When she died in 1997, the entire world already knew—she was one of the saints.

In the early Church, the first saints were martyrs—those who chose to sacrifice their lives rather than to deny their faith in Christ. There were countless martyrs in the first three centuries of Christianity, because the faith was almost universally persecuted. But beginning in the fourth century, following the legalization of Christianity in 313AD by the Edict of Milan, there arose for the first time the question of how to choose new saints. Clearly, many holy men and women would live and die without ever being asked to shed their blood as martyrs. These became known as “white martyrs.” Unlike the “red martyrs” of the Church’s early centuries, these saints gave their lives for Christ without bloodshed. They were also known as “confessors” because their lives were a continual confession of their love for God.

As the Church grew, it became impossible for Christians throughout the world to know the deceased souls well enough to canonize them by acclamation. This is when the Church began to create a process for canonizing a new saint. This process evolved very slowly across many centuries before it reached its current form, but to put it briefly, when canonizing a new saint, the Church looks for evidence of “heroic virtue.” What is “heroic virtue?” It’s a term that refers to Faith, Hope, and Charity lived to such a high degree, that it is simply inexplicable from the standpoint of human capacity alone. “Heroic virtue” are qualities of goodness in a soul which are so powerful that their source could only be the strength of God himself. In our current process of canonization, a candidate for sainthood must be deceased at least five years. (The Pope will sometimes excuse this waiting period, which he did for Saints Mother Teresa and Pope John Paul II). After that, the path to sainthood proceeds in four steps:

Servant of God → Venerable → Blessed → Saint

Servant of God: This title is given to any deceased soul whose local bishop has formally opened his cause for canonization. The bishop forms a tribunal to rigorously examine every detail of the life of the potential saint—their writings and documents, their reputation, and any stories of witnesses who knew them, personally.

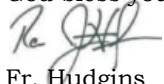
Venerable: After a local church has finished its investigation and believes a candidate has lived a life of heroic virtue, their testimony is sent to the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints—the department of the Roman Curia responsible for making recommendations to the pope on canonization of new saints. At this point, a panel of nine theologians will vote on the candidate’s cause. A favorable judgment passes the cause onto the pope, who gives the final approval for the individual. If approved, the person is declared “Venerable.”

Blessed: Once a candidate is declared “Venerable,” the Church has made a definitive statement that the soul lived a life of heroic virtue. But to be canonized a saint, the Church needs evidence that a soul is in heaven. At this point the Church looks for at least one miracle to occur through the intercession of the candidate for sainthood. A “miracle” is considered something that occurs by God’s power through the candidate’s intercession. It must be utterly, indisputably inexplicable by science. This is proven through a rigorous scientific investigation, conducted by laity, both Catholic and non-Catholic. An example of a miracle might be a healing which is instant, permanent, and irreversible which defies all scientific explanation. (One case in particular—a child suffered the loss of his auditory nerve in an automobile accident. The morning after the accident, the entire nerve was found to be completely intact and perfectly healthy, after the parents had asked for the prayers of Venerable John Neumann). Having investigated and approved a miracle, a soul may be called “Blessed.”

Saint: To become a canonized saint, a second miracle is required. This process is the same as it was for the miracle leading to their beatification. Once a second miracle is approved, the Rite of Canonization can occur. Through this, the person is elevated to universal veneration in the Church. By canonization the pope does not “make” the person a saint. Rather, he declares that the person is with God and is an example of following Christ worthy of imitation by the faithful.

Next week, I will explain a bit further what “heroic virtue” means.

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



Fr. Hudgins

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

Upcoming Early Bulletin Deadline

September 7 bulletin--due by Tuesday, August 26th, 12noon

Youth Education and News



ymoffice@sainttheresaparish.com

August

Sun, 24th-Parish Food Drive (after 8:45am Mass & 5pm Mass)

Mon, 25th - Food Sort by Expirations Dates, 7-8:30pm

Tues, 26th-Load food for transport, 6:15-7pm

Tues, 26th-Teen Leader Training for the Confirmation Retreat, 7-8:30pm

Sat, 30th-Confirmation Retreat, 1:30-8pm

St. Theresa CYO Thunder Runners

Registration—St. Theresa Thunder Runners, the Fall Track and Cross-Country program, is open to parishioners in grades 4th -8th. Our season will begin on Tuesday, September 2, 2025 and end early November. Prac-

tices will be held Tuesdays and Fridays after school on the school track from 3:00-4:45. All athletes **MUST** be registered in both the Track & Field database and the Cross Country database in order to participate in the program. Cost of the program is \$85 per child. Registration opened on **August 21, 2025 at 7pm**. Registration is first come, first served and spots fill up fast, don't wait to register! All levels of runner's welcome!

Registration link: <https://reg.sportspilot.com/106557>



Office Hours:

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

RE Registration is OPEN! Please visit the parish website to complete the online form and submit payment for your children's RE classes for the 2025-26 school year. Classes begin the week of September 14th.

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.

Certification for RE Teachers - If you would like to develop a deeper understanding of our Catholic Faith, especially if you are or will be teaching Religious Education, please consider participating in one of the following series of Certification courses:

Fall 2025/Winter 2026 - St. Theresa's, on Saturdays

Please contact the Office of Religious Education if you would like more information.

May God bless all students & teachers as they start the new year!



STCS Parents, mark your calendars for these important upcoming events:

Wednesday, August 27—

Middle School Back-to-School Night

Thursday, August 28—

Elementary Back-to-School Night

Friday, August 29—

Early Dismissal

Monday, September 1—

No school, Labor Day

Thursday, September 11—

Band parent meeting

Registration is Open & Sponsors are needed for the 15th Annual Friends of St. Theresa School (FOSTS) Golf Tournament for tuition assistance on Monday, October 6, 2025 at Belmont Country Club. This is a wonderful parish event – we hope you'll join us for a fantastic day of golf, food, and

fundraising for tuition assistance! ***This is the primary fundraiser for FOSTS, which provides assistance to families and students who might not otherwise have access to a Catholic education.*** Not a golfer? **Join us for dinner!** To sponsor, golf, join us for dinner, or make a donation please scan the QR code or visit our parish website (www.SaintTheresaParish.com). **Sponsors are needed for the tournament** (individuals, businesses, families), please contact Regina Freschi, freschir@stsashburn.com or 703.729.3577.



Wanting to hear Fr. Hudgins' homilies?

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

News from our Parish

Altar Server TRAINING

Interested in becoming a St Theresa Altar

Boy?—Training for new altar boys will be held on two consecutive Sunday evenings, **September 7 and September 14, from 7pm to 8:30pm.** Attendance is required at both events, and is open to any boy 4th grade and older, who would like to be an Altar Server at St Theresa.

Pre-registration is required. To register, go to the parish website: <https://sainttheresaparish.com/news/altar-server-training/>

Please note: attendance at both nights is required, and there will be no exceptions made. Parents are encouraged to attend with their child.

Attention Current and Prospective Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers, and Ushers

—You are invited to a refresher session for all current ministers and those interested in joining these ministries. The session will take place on **September 13th** from 10am to 12pm in the Church. Father Vaccaro and Father Dudzinski will lead the gathering, helping us reflect on the beauty and privilege of serving God through these roles. We hope you can join us!

Are you interested in becoming Catholic or learning more about the Catholic faith? Are you missing Sacraments? RCIA registration for this year is now online. Please go to <https://sainttheresaparish.com/activity/rcia/> to register today. Classes start this fall in late October/early November.

Young at Heart Social Club (YAH)—Men and Women (55 and over) We meet after the 12:15pm Mass in the Zelig Room located across from the Church. On Wed., **Sept 17th** (3rd Wed.), we are having our first get-together since June and it will be Pot Luck. Bring food to share and we'll provide coffee, tea, lemonade & dessert. We are very fortunate to have a special speaker from the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office to update us on the latest scams and how we can avoid them, plus we'll have our usual 50/50 drawing. Guests and new members are always welcome. If you plan to join us please RSVP to Freddie at wallflower64@gmail.com or 703.625.5715.

Walking With Purpose—St. Theresa's is offering Walking With Purpose Bible studies for women, young women, and middle school girls, beginning this fall.

What is Walking With Purpose? A Catholic women's ministry that blends Scripture study with small group conversation, helping women of all ages deepen their faith and connect in community.

Offerings Include:

- Adult Women Bible Studies (Begin the week of September 22)
- Beloved – A new study for young women seeking a stronger foundation in their identity in Christ
- BLAZE – A 20-week program for middle school girls, starting in October, exploring Scripture in a fun, engaging way

Registration is now open! Find us under activities on the parish website. Explore studies, find your group, and take a meaningful step on your faith journey.

□ Questions? Email: sttheresawwp@gmail.com

Childcare Help Needed—Walking With Purpose

St. Theresa Parish is seeking kind and reliable childcare helpers for our Walking With Purpose women's Bible study program.

- Thursdays, 9:15–11am
- September 25 – May 7
- Paid position
- VIRTUS compliance required

If you enjoy caring for children and would like to support this ministry, we'd love to hear from you!

Contact us at: sttheresawwp@gmail.com

Festival of Trees—This year our beloved Divine Mercy Outreach Festival of Trees will be on **December 6 & 7.**

This year's festival promises to be better than ever with the venue moving back to the gym, cookies, punch and even singing. Plan to join this amazing gathering for fellowship, fun, and a great cause. It's time to get the creative juices flowing and think about donating a themed tree, wreath or basket to FOT. Cookie donations are also needed—everyone loves Christmas cookies! Last year's Festival of Trees raised \$23,600. For more information check out the DMO Festival of trees on our parish website: sainttheresaparish.com/divine-mercy/divine-mercy-outreach/festival-of-trees/

Contact Cathy Branly for tree/wreath/basket donations, or to volunteer: cathysews@yahoo.com
Contact Danielle Zuccaro for cookie donations: danielle.a.zuccaro@gmail.com

Donut Sunday Program Art Contest—Drawing of Mother Mary. Drawing must be completed by **August 29th**, drop of @



St Theresa Parish Office, Office Hours: M-F: 9:30am-3:30pm (closed for lunch 12-1)

Rules: 8 ½ x 11 Sheet | Name & Age and Parent Contact on back. Must be a hand drawn picture of Mother Mary Only 1 submission per person

Age Groups: up to 5 yrs old; 6–10 yrs old; 10–16 yrs old; 16–24 yrs old; New Age Groups Added: 25–44 yrs old; 45 and over. Winners will be announced on September 7th by email. (6) 1st Place Awards. Winners will get a \$25 Gift Card & Trophy. Questions? Contact: Angela Haberland angela.haberland@gmail.com | 703.407.1204

Sponsors Needed!

several levels available for individuals, families, & businesses





Friends of St. Theresa School (FOSTS)

15th Annual

Golf Tournament for Tuition Assistance

Monday, October 6, 2025 | Belmont Country Club

To sponsor, golf & buy dinner-only tickets:

Scan the QR code, visit

www.SaintTheresaParish.com,

or call 703/729-3577

A St. Theresa parish tradition!



Adult Education and Spiritual Enrichment

Looking to learn more about your faith? This Fall the Catholic Education for Adults team will be offering five different classes:

Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible (8 weeks): Get the “big picture” of salvation history by seeing how fourteen narrative books of the Bible tell the complete story from Adam and Eve to Christ and the Church. Zoom Tuesdays 8-9pm. Starts Oct. 7th. Contact Andy at johnson.andrew7003@gmail.com or In-Person at Ashby Ponds (All are welcome). Tuesdays Starts Oct. 7th. Contact Peggy at peggy.burkholder@gmail.com

The Gospel of Matthew (24 weeks-In Person): Set in the rich context of Jesus’ life, Matthew shows us who Jesus is and what His life and teachings mean for us today. Wednesdays 7-8pm. Starts Oct. 15th. Contact: Linda at lmmetz3@msn.com.

Acts (20 weeks-Zoom): The Compelling Story of the First Christians. This

class traces how the gospel witness spread outward in waves from Jerusalem and reveals how the seeds of Church structure and authority took root. Wednesdays 7-8pm. Starts Oct 8th. Contact: Brett at brettastengako@gmail.com.

Revelation: The Kingdom Yet to Come (11 weeks-Zoom): Perhaps no book of the Bible fascinates people more than Revelation. This is an intriguing study that shows how the kingdom established by Christ in his Church is intimately connected with the kingdom of heaven. Wednesdays 7-8pm. Starts Oct. 8th. Contact: Mark at markscallion20@gmail.com.

Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother (8 weeks-In Person): This class is an extraordinary pilgrimage that reveals Mary’s unique role in God’s kingdom and in our lives. Filmed on location in the Holy Land, you will learn how she works in our lives today, drawing us ever closer to her divine Son. Thursdays 7-8pm. Starts

Oct. 9th. Contact: Viki at viki.hughes@gmail.com.

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. We are currently reading the book, “Jesus and the Jewish Roots of Mary” by Brant Pitre. 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)—The new TMIY year begins Saturday, September 6, at 6:30am in the school. If you missed our Registration event on August 9/10, you can still join our TMIY group using the following QR Code, or by contacting Jack Hayes at jack.hayes422@aol.com.



Legion of Mary

Want to deepen your faith, build community, increase your relationship with our

Lord, and serve others? Want to be part of something bigger than yourself? We have two praesidium options. Saturdays at 9:15am and Wednesdays at 7:00pm. Stop by the Saint Martin room and learn more about it.

Home Enthronement of the Sacred Heart

Our Lord revealed that wherever the image of His Sacred Heart is exposed and given special honor, great blessings, and graces would abound. One way to accomplish this goal is to do a formal enthronement of the Sacred Heart in your home. The enthronement is a ceremony where Jesus is invited into your home and is given authority over your family/household. Please email sttheresalegionofmary@gmail.com to schedule one.

Prayer Request - Are you in need of prayer?

Do you need the power of prayer to support you? Join your fellow parishioners in our prayer emails. This is a prayer network maintained by the Legion of Mary. You can enroll in the prayer email here: legionofmarysttheresa@gmail.com We are all on this journey together. Let us be together by praying together for one another!



Knights of Columbus

Food Drive: Many thanks to the parishioners, volunteers, youth group, and Knights for donating, sorting, and delivering food to the Catholic Charities Loudoun Food Pantry in Sterling. Your contributions and effort make this program a successful one.

Please keep up the generosity by returning your bag this weekend (August 23-24) with items in the attached flyer. If you were unable to pick up a blue bag, you can always

return food in a reusable, paper, or plastic bag. Please, no expired items. The pantry is unable to distribute expired items.

Are you a parishioner in need of a home repair? If you are physically or financially unable to complete basic home repairs, we can help. Our Handy-Man team skills include Plumbing, Electrical, Carpentry, and Painting but exclude outdoor yard or gardening work. If you are in need of repairs, or would like to be part of the Handy-

man Team, please visit this website to submit your repair project request or to join the team <https://www.st-louismartin-kofc.org/handy-man-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

Our Lady of Hope is hiring—Youth Minister position. Interested candidates are asked to provide a resume along with three references to: youthminister@ourladyofhope.net Please visit Catholicjobs.com for additional details.

Mass and Healing Prayer Service—Tuesday, **August 26**, Mass and Healing Prayer Service is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at St. John Neumann Catholic Church, 11900 Lawyers Road, Reston, 7:30 p.m. Fr. John Melmer of St. John the Beloved Church of McLean will celebrate. Confessions will be available. This liturgy comes through the diocesan Catholic Healing Ministry. For more information, please contact Richard Schaad, 703.455.6131.

Calling all Young Adults!—Join us for a fundraising BBQ supporting the Associates of St. John Bosco (ASJB) on Saturday, **September 6th** at 12:30 pm in Alexandria. ASJB is a Catholic nonprofit organization that helps rising college freshmen grow closer to God as they transition to college. Come meet other young adults and learn about how you can be a part of our mission! Please register at asjb.org/bosco-bbq by **September 2**. Location will be provided upon registration. If you have questions, please email Cora Scheib at cora@asjb.org.

How Can We Grow Closer to Jesus While living in the Secular World?—If you are seeking to grow deeper in love with Jesus, you are invited to attend an informative session about Lay Communities: Dominican, Franciscan, Carmelite, Benedictine and Youth Apostles. There will be two sessions: 10am and again at 7pm. You may attend either one to hear short presentations from members of each Community. There will be time to ask questions and to speak with their members. This informational opportunity is intended to help you discern whether you may be called to this way of life. There is no obligation or pressure to join! **Save the Date! Monday, September 8, 2025** at St. John the Apostle, 101 Oakcrest Manor Drive, Leesburg.

Married Couples—"I Place Much of My Hope for the Future in Marriage

Encounter". (Pope Saint John Paul II) Your honeymoon was a special time. Wherever you went, the things you saw and did were secondary. Just being together was most important. The Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend has the same focus. The weekend centers entirely on your relationship. It is a positive, simple common sense, private experience between you and your spouse, that revitalizes marriage by helping you to see again those loving qualities in each other that you may be taking for granted. Upcoming experience are: September 12-14, 2025 - Richmond VA; October 24-26, 2025- Jessup MD; November 7-9, 2025- Rehoboth Beach DE; February 13-15, 2026 - Waynesboro VA; March 6-8, 2026 - Hampton VA. For more information please call 757.690.1369 or to register, go to WWME.org, click "Apply" and search for your desired location

You are Invited: "Come and See"—The Lay Dominicans of Mary Magdalene are offering a program that invites you to prayerfully reflect on life's most important questions. If you would like to go deeper in your relationship with God, we invite you to join us. Corpus Christi Parish Office (Rectorate basement). 41677 Corpus Christi Drive, Aldie VA 20105. Two-hour sessions will be held after the Saturday 8:30am Mass every week for 14 sessions. First session is Saturday, **September 13**. All adults are welcome. The instructor, Mr. Peter-Martin Baysdell, OP, has taught widely in the Arlington, Washington, and Baltimore Dioceses. No prerequisites. No books or videos required. No registration fee. For questions, call Peter-Martin Baysdell at 443.878.3055.

Men's Evening of Reflection—Looking to grow in your relationship with Christ? This evening provides Catholic formation with spiritual talks, reflection, prayer, and fellowship. Mass and opportunities for confession are also offered. Wednesday, **September 17**, 6:30-9pm, Divine Mercy University, 45154 Underwood Drive, Sterling. For more info or to register contact rcmenssectionva@gmail.com

Three to Get Married Marriage Prep in 2025—Sept 18-21; Dec 11-14
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. ourladyofbethesda.org. Bethesda, MD.

Monthly 2025-2026 Catholic Home-school Clubs!—Looking for fun social activities for all of your homeschooled kids in the same time & place? Look no further! Mayflower Homeschoolers offers a Clubs Day for all ages on 3rd Fridays of the school year! St. Bosco Coed Teen Games Club~Little Flowers Girls Club~Blue Knights Boys Club~St. Nicholas Coed PreK&K Club. For details about clubs & our other weekly events, go to www.mayflowerhomeschoolers.org.

Seminarian Education Endowment—The Seminarian Education Endowment at the Catholic Foundation of Arlington has been supporting the education and formation of those who have been preparing for the priesthood in the Catholic Diocese of Arlington for many years. Find out how you can support the future leaders of our Diocese at catholicarlington.org/seminarian

Men's Bootcamp Weekend Retreat Sep 26-28, 2025—Join us for a dynamic weekend retreat designed specifically for men! The Men's Bootcamp Weekend Retreat combines the structure of the Spiritual Exercises with engaging breakout groups and powerful talks tailored to strengthen your faith, leadership, and brotherhood. While not a silent retreat, the schedule will include time for personal reflection, prayer, and discussion. Step away from the noise of daily life and invest in your spiritual growth. You can take advantage of the early-bird pricing by registering soon! Cost to attend: \$368 per person, EARLY-BIRD RATE: \$318 per person. Find more details on our website www.ourladyofbethesda.org or call 301.365.0612. Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center, 7007 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda, MD 20817. Don't miss this opportunity to invest in your spiritual renewal and reconnect with God.

News from the Diocese Continued

Obedience and Spiritual Union – “Let it be Done Unto Me”—In this women’s silent retreat, we will consider the secret to true Obedience; a disposition of Receptivity. Meditating on the nature of a woman’s receptive power, we will explore how the feminine gifts of Empathy, Intuition, and Adaptability enable us to listen more deeply in prayer, and to achieve spiritual union, not only with our spouses, but with Jesus Himself.

Mary Stanford, a Professor at Christendom College and author of *The Obedience Paradox: Finding True Freedom in Marriage*, will lead this retreat at the Arlington Diocese’s San Damiano Retreat Center in White Post, Virginia. Father John Riley, Spiritual Director at the center will serve those gathering with daily Mass and opportunities for confession. This retreat begins at 6 pm Friday **September 19th and concludes Sunday 21st** at noon. Retreat cost is \$299, and financial assistance may be available. For further information, please contact Father John Riley at: john.riley@arlingtondiocese.org For more information about San Damiano and retreats being offered in the months ahead, please visit www.arlingtondiocese.org/retreat

Join us in celebrating Mary’s Shelter’s 20th Anniversary. Mary’s Shelter’s 15th Annual Soirée and Fund-raiser, **September 20th, 2025**, 6-10pm, Fredericksburg Expo Center, RSVP online by Sept. 11th, on our website Marysshelterva.org. For further information, feel free reach out to us: soiree@marysshelterva.org or give us a call: 540.374.3407

After Abortion Retreats—A Day of Prayer & Healing for women who have experienced abortion will be held on Saturday, **September 27, 2025**. These group healing events are held in a private and peaceful setting, in Eng-

lish and in Spanish, based on the Entering Canaan model (2 separate retreats, in 1 location). There will be an opportunity to hear from a past participant and others who have found healing. You are not alone. Take the first step. For confidential inquiries, please contact Project Rachel Ministry: 703.841.2504 or info@helpafterabortion.org

“Her Call Is Sacred” | Mighty Is Her Call Retreat—Mothers in our Diocese are invited to a day retreat with Mighty Is Her Call, “Her Call Is Sacred”, at St. Mary of Sorrows in Fairfax on **September 27th**. A Mighty Is Her Call retreat is designed to provide a day of rest, encouragement and fortification in your life as a mother. Be reminded of the Christ-like nature of your called. The day includes: - Three inspiring talks, including one by Kimberly Cook, author of “Motherhood Redeemed” - Mass, Adoration, and Confession - Food and fellowship Register today at mightyishercall.com!

Marriage Jubilee Mass 2025—Celebrating A Golden or Silver Wedding Anniversary This Year? If you were married in 1975 or 2000, please join Bishop Michael Burbidge for the 2025 Mass for Jubilarians to be celebrated on Sunday, **October 19th** at 2:30pm at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More in Arlington, VA. Contact your parish office to register no later than **October 3rd**. For more info, visit <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/marriagejubilee>.

Marriage Workshop: Strengthening Your Love Marriage Renewal Workshop: Oct 11-12, 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: \$520 per couple, if registered by Sep 21st, afterward the price increases to \$650. Seating is limited. Scan the code above to register or visit

www.ourladyofbethesda.org. Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center, 7007 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda, MD 20817.

Finding Jesus with St. Thomas More – Men’s Silent Retreat—Gather with a band of brothers at the Arlington Diocese’s San Damiano Retreat Center to consider the life and spirituality of St. Thomas More. Fr. Nicholas Blank will lead this retreat, considering the “riches hidden in Christ” and in His saints, meditating on Our Lord’s familiar words deeply engraved upon the heart of More: “What does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?” This retreat begins at 6 pm **Friday, October 24th, and concludes Sunday, October 26th**, after lunch. Retreat cost is \$299, and financial assistance may be available. For further information, please contact Deacon Mark Maines at: mark.maines@arlingtondiocese.org or visit our website at www.arlingtondiocese.org/retreat For more information about San Damiano and retreats being offered in the months ahead, please visit www.arlingtondiocese.org/retreat

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.

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 (closed for lunch from 12-1) 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.

Parish Offices

Secretary: Kathy Fitzpatrick, 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
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: Danny Costa, 703.729.3577
Assistant Principal: Audrey Allman, 703.729.3577
Admin Asst: Lisa Ralston, 703.729.3577
Receptionist: Denise Oriti, 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 **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

Thank you to all who donated bedding items. God bless you!

Fall Children's Consignment sale Sept 27th—Consign, volunteer, donate and mark your calendar to shop the sale. For more information go to www.littleflowerconsignments.org

For those not wanted to consign consider donating children's items (baby-teen). Contact Jean Nowakowski at john.jean90@verizon.net
Proceeds help families in need through Divine Mercy Outreach.

Save the Date: Festival of Trees Dec 6th & 7th—Contact Cathy Branly for tree/wreath donations, or to volunteer: cathysews@yahoo.com Proceeds help families in need through Divine Mercy Outreach.

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.

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 or if you or a loved one need of help with meals.

Did you know? 99 percent of the funds you donate go directly to families in need! Your donation makes 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. The families are so grateful!

Donations accepted online, or by mail or dropping 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 in their time of need.

Bed Ministry—Volunteer for the Bed Ministry—volunteers with trucks or Large SUVs needed especially! We have had an increase in bed requests.

It's rewarding to assist families in need. 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

Do you have furniture items to donate?—Consider donating to help those in need that are moving out of shelters. 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

Looking for more ways help? Consider signing up to receive our Outreach email to get up to date information on needs and volunteer opportunities. If you would like to sign up to be placed on our Outreach email 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

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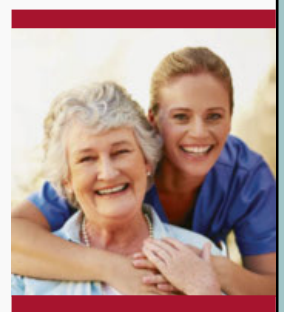
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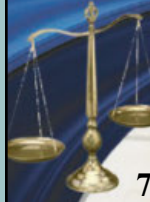
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