



# Saint Teresa of Avila Catholic Church

Fall 2019 Newsletter

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## “Meditate on God’s Word Every Day” *by Fr. Edward Smith*

Over my 18 years as a priest I have led many bible studies, and encouraged many Catholic to make the reading of scripture a part of their daily life. Many older Catholics have recounted stories of how they may have been dissuaded to read the bible by someone in the past. **The truth is, the Church actively encourages all Catholics to meditate on God’s Word every day.** Here are a few important points I would like to make in regards to this healthy and holy practice:

1. Bible reading is for Catholics. The Church encourages Catholics to make reading the Bible part of their daily prayer lives. By reading these inspired words, people grow deeper in their relationship with God and come to understand their place in the community God has called them to.
2. Prayer is the beginning and the end. Reading the Bible is not like reading a novel or a history book. It should begin with a prayer asking the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and minds to the Word of God. Scripture reading should end with a prayer that this Word will bear fruit in our lives, helping us to become holier and more faithful people.
3. Get the whole story! When selecting a Bible, look for a Catholic edition. A Catholic edition will include the

Church’s complete list of sacred books along with introductions and notes for understanding the text. A Catholic edition will have an imprimatur notice on the back of the title page. An imprimatur indicates that the book is free of errors in Catholic doctrine.

4. The Bible isn’t a book. It’s a library. The Bible is a collection of 73 books written over the course of many centuries. The books include royal history, prophecy, poetry, challenging letters to struggling new faith communities, and believers’ accounts of the preaching and passion of Jesus. Knowing the genre of the book you are reading will help you understand the literary tools the author is using and the meaning the author is trying to convey.

5. Know what the Bible is – and what it isn’t. The Bible is the story of God’s relationship with the people he has called to himself. It is not intended to be read as history text, a science book, or a political manifesto. In the Bible, God teaches us the truths that we need for the sake of our salvation.

6. The sum is greater than the parts. Read the Bible in context. What happens before and after – even in other books – helps us to understand the true mean-

ing of the text.

7. The Old relates to the New. The Old Testament and the New Testament shed light on each other. While we read the Old Testament in light of the death and resurrection of Jesus, it has its own value as well. Together, these testaments help us to understand God’s plan for human beings.

8. You do not read alone. By reading and reflecting on Sacred Scripture, Catholics join those faithful men and women who have taken God’s Word to heart and put it into practice in their lives. We read the Bible within the tradition of the Church to benefit from the holiness and wisdom of all the faithful.

9. What is God saying to me? The Bible is not addressed only to long-dead people in a faraway land. It is addressed to each of us in our own unique situations. When we read, we need to understand what the text says and how the faithful have understood its meaning in the past. In light of this understanding, we then ask: What is God saying to me?

10. Reading isn’t enough. If Scripture remains just words on a page, our work is not done. We need to meditate on the message and put it into action in our lives. Only then can the word be “living and effective.” (Hebrews 4:12).

*Rev. Edward J. Smith*

### Inside this issue:

St. Teresa’s Bible Study	2
Social Concerns Update	2
Altar & Rosary Update	2
“Orthodoxy & Heresy” Study with Fr. Smith	3
Save These Dates!	3
Upcoming Feast Days	4



## St. Teresa's Bible Study

This Bible Study began over 10 years ago! Dr. Phil Gigliotti began leading a dedicated group of parishioners in a once a month study. They met in the homes of the members, a different member hosting the study each month.

**Eventually the group asked, "This is so wonderful, shouldn't we open it up to every parishioner at St. Teresa?"**

Since then, the group meets in the Parish Life Center two times a month and has grown from 10 members to 20, and sometimes more!

**Come and see, "What is God saying to me?", like Fr. Smith noted in his column.**

**St Teresa's Bible Study meets the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month. Everyone is invited to attend!**

## Social Concerns Committee

### Blessing House

The Social Concerns Committee would like to thank all of our parishioners who generously donated to the 4th Annual Blessing House Christmas in July collection. We delivered 3 carloads of items along with cash and gift cards to Blessing House. Blessing House is celebrating 15 years in operation this year and is one of only 4 licensed the need for a children's crisis centers in Ohio. They are open 24/7, 365 days per year.

This year several members of the parish have prepared dinner every Tuesday to deliver to Blessing House. The Blessing House staff is so appreciative of this weekly dinner!

**If anyone is interested in helping out with weekly dinners, please contact the Parish Office.**

## What does the Altar & Rosary Society Do and Why?

**St. Teresa's Altar & Rosary Society is one of the most active groups in our Parish!**

President Darlene Lanza wants every woman in the Parish to know this is not an "old Lady group"! True, many members are "experienced at life" but not all are, and, new members and ideas are always welcome.

### **What do We Do?**

#### ***Fun things!***

Summer Ladies' Lunch

Casino Bus Trip

#### ***Outreach***

Plastic Mats for Homeless (w/Social Concerns)

Homebound Ministry

#### ***Fundraising***

Turkey Raffle

### **Care For the Church**

Decorating at Christmas and Easter  
Cleaning and Changing Altar Clothes

Altar Candles

Cleaning Candle Holders

St. Teresa's Altar & Rosary Society has been a vibrant part of the parish for generations. Their work in maintaining the altar and in prayer are very important.

**Everyone is welcome to join them the 2nd Sunday of each month at 8:00 a.m. (prior to the 8:30 a.m. Mass) for the Rosary.**

**Any women interested in joining the Altar & Rosary Society are asked to call the church office at 440-934-4227.**

# Fall Study, “Orthodoxy & Heresy” with Fr. Smith

## “Why It Matters What We Believe”

### Part 1

As Catholics, we know that our faith is built on theological doctrines. Although these doctrines define every aspect of our faith, most Catholics are completely ignorant of what they are and why they matter. We recite theological statements such as the Creed at every Sunday Mass, and yet we have no idea what those words mean or why they are crucially important.

In this class Father Edward Smith will



delve into some of the most important teachings of the Church, while addressing those who have challenged those teachings throughout history. We will discuss why it is important to understand what we believe as Catholics, and how easy it can be to embrace false ideas or heresies, if we don't know the truths of our faith.

### Join us at Saint Teresa of Avila Parish Life Center

Wednesdays from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

October 2<sup>nd</sup>: Arianism

October 9<sup>th</sup>: Docetism

October 16<sup>th</sup>: Nestorianism

October 23<sup>rd</sup>: Eutychianism

October 30<sup>th</sup>, Adoptionism

## MARK DATE IN YOUR CALENDAR

### Saturday Night Supper

*Saturday, September 21, 2019*

Watch the church bulletin for the complete menu. \$10 each

### Fall Coffee & Donuts Sunday

*Sunday, September 29*

After 8:30 & 11 a.m. Masses

### Feast Day Celebration Dinner

#### Fish Fry

*October 12, 2019, 5:30—7 p.m.*

Fish *or* Shrimp, Fries, Coleslaw, Roll, Dessert, Lemonade & Iced Tea Tickets \$14 each

*Pre-Sale Only!!*

*Same great recipe as Lenten Fish Fries*

### Parish Turkey Raffle

Sponsored by the Altar & Rosary Society

*Friday, November 8, 2019*

### Parish Christmas Dinner

*December 14, 2019*

## Let Us Pray

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

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## Liturgical Calendar & Feast Days

**September 14: Exaltation of the Holy Cross**

**October 7: Our Lady of the Rosary**

**October 15: St. Teresa of Avila**

**October 22: St. John Paul II, Pope**

**November 1: All Saints Day**

**November 2: All Souls Day**

**November 24: Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**

**December 1: First Sunday of Advent and beginning of the New Church Year**

## Up Coming Parish Events!

### Bible Study

The 1st and 3rd Thursday of each Month—Through the hearing of the Word comes faith.

### Religious Formation

PSR: Tuesdays from 6–7:15 p.m. PSR is cancelled when the Sheffield Schools are closed due to bad weather.

**Confirmation:** Sundays at 8:30 a.m. with Mass followed by class.

### Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesdays from 9 a.m.—1 p.m.  
*“The spiritual lives of our families are strengthened through our Holy Hour.”* St Pope John Paul II

### Volunteer at Food Pantry

2nd, 3rd & 4th Saturday/  
month

### Are you looking for ways to support and become more involved in our Parish Community?

The Social Concerns Committee is always in need of a helping hand in outreach to our Parish family and the community.

The Altar & Rosary Society supports the parish in many ways and leads the rosary before Mass the 2nd Sunday of each month. All women of the Parish are welcome to join or just help.

For monthly Parish Committee meeting dates, visit our website at [www.stteresaparish.com](http://www.stteresaparish.com) or watch the bulletin for current dates/times.