

# St. Teresa of Avila Parish

1878 Abbe Road Sheffield Village, Ohio 44054

JOHN THE BAPTIST APPEARED,  
PREACHING IN THE DESERT OF JUDEA  
AND SAYING, "REPENT,  
FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND!"

MATTHEW 3:1

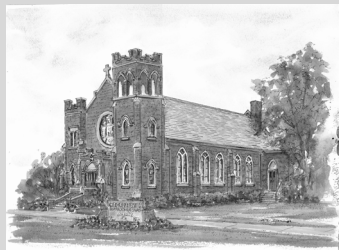


SECOND SUNDAY OF  
**ADVENT**  
DECEMBER 8, 2019

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Photo: Mosaic of John the Baptist, Hagia Sofia, Istanbul; Stig Atenas/Adobe Stock.

Advent flame art: Tony Ward for J. S. Paluch Co., Inc., 2019.



**Established 1845**

ST. TERESA OF AVILA CHURCH is handicap accessible.

**STAFF**

**Reverend Edward J. Smith, Pastor**

*Office Hours: Wed & Fri 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.*

**Fr. Thomas Sanders, OSB,**

*Weekend Associate*

**Debbie Wehler, Sue DiVaccaro,**

*Secretaries*

**Lou Varos, Finance Council Chairperson**

**ANOINTING OF THE SICK**

For those advanced in age, sick, or undergoing surgery. Administered upon request. Contact the Rectory.

**PARISH INFORMATION**

**BAPTISMS:** Baptisms are celebrated after the 11:00 a.m. Mass on Sundays. Arrangements should be made shortly before or after the birth of the child.

**COMMUNION CALLS:** Please call the Rectory to schedule.

**MATRIMONY:** At least one member must be a parishioner and be active for at least six months prior to calling. Couples need to make arrangements at least six months prior to the wedding date. No date may be reserved until discussed with the priest of the parish.

**NEW PARISHIONERS:** Call the Rectory to register.

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION:** Interested in becoming a member of the Catholic Church? Call the Rectory for more information.

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

The earth shall be filled with knowledge of the LORD, as water covers the sea.  
— Isaiah 11:9

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

- Saturday, December 7 St. Ambrose, Bishop**  
4:30 p.m. +Jean Ackerman by Mike & Barb Griffith & family
- Sunday, December 8 Second Sunday of Advent**  
8:30 a.m. living/deceased of the Altar & Rosary Society  
11:00 a.m. +Martha Niemiec by Ed & Jo Niemiec
- Monday, December 9 Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
**NO MASS**
- Tuesday, December 10**  
**NO MASS**
- Wednesday, December 11 St. Damasus I, Pope**  
8:30 a.m. living/deceased members of St. Anthony & St. Teresa Parishes
- Thursday, December 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe**  
**NO MASS**
- Friday, December 13 St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr**  
8:30 a.m. +Fr. Edward Luca
- Saturday, December 14 St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church**  
4:30 p.m. +Rafael Morales and +Jose Morales by family
- Sunday, December 15 Third Sunday of Advent**  
8:30 a.m. +Tom & George King by Tom & Peg  
11:00 a.m. +Martin Yonkof by family



<b>Weekly Goal</b>	\$4,000.00
<b>November 24</b>	\$2,620.25
<b>Children's</b>	\$1.17
<b>December 1</b>	\$4,192.54
<b>Children's</b>	\$9.00

*Please keep St. Teresa Parish in mind when making out your will.*

**ADVENT COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE**

The Parishes of St. Anthony, St. Teresa and St. Thomas will have a Communal Penance service on **Sunday, December 8 at 2 p.m. at St. Thomas Church.** Several priests will be available to hear confessions. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to prepare for the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, through this Sacrament of grace and reconciliation.

**MASSES**

**Sunday Vigil - Saturday 4:30 PM**      **Sunday - 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM**  
**Wed & Fri - 8:30 AM; Holy Day Vigil, Holy Day and Civic Holidays - Watch Bulletin**

**CONFESSIONS**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sat. 3:30 - 4:00 PM or by appointment.**

**CONTACT US**

**Rectory Office**.....(440) 934-4227      **Office Hours**.....Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
**Fax**.....(440) 934-4500      **E-mail** .....[st.teresa.church@neohio.twcbc.com](mailto:st.teresa.church@neohio.twcbc.com)  
**Website**..... [www.stteresaparish.com](http://www.stteresaparish.com)

**A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR**

Who would want to listen to a preacher who is a bug-eater, and dressed in the clothes of a caveman (Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12)? Wouldn't he "turn off" his listeners?

One must be careful not to mistake the messenger for the message. We must never judge a message by the appearance of the messenger; let the message speak for itself.

The message of John the Baptist is two-fold. First, repent! That message is for all times, for all generations – it is aimed at you and me. We are all sinners; we all need to repent, confess our sins, and then change our life patterns that led to those habitual sins. Secondly, we need to hope! John reminds us that someone else will very soon follow him. That someone, Jesus Christ, will bring the promised love and justice. Love, because he showed us how to love and even gave us a wonderful present: his Holy Spirit to dwell within us! Justice, because he cannot overlook an obstinate refusal to repent and change our ways.

God has provided a sacramental way for us to receive his mercy. However, an "unused" Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) is like a Christmas present that for many people sits "unopened" on the shelf. God's mercy and love is given freely, and is waiting for each and every person to receive freely. All they need to do is recognize and admit their sinfulness, confess their sins, and promise to amend their lives. This is done in God's chosen way: through the confessional method in the presence of an ordained Catholic priest.

Either way, we must accept the consequences. If we confess our sins, we are set free from the bondage of Satan and our consequences become the heavenly kingdom. If we do not confess our sins, then our consequences become the eternal kingdom of darkness. To quote Pope Benedict XVI: "Jesus came to tell us...that hell is eternal for those who close their hearts to his love" (March 26, 2007 homily).

**The Reverend Edward J. Smith, Pastor**

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38  
 Tuesday: Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13; Mt 18:12-14  
 Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30  
 Thursday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47,  
 Friday: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19  
 Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13  
 Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

**CANDLES ARE LIT FOR PRAYER INTENTIONS**

To "light a candle for someone" indicates one's intention to say a prayer for another person, and the candle symbolizes that prayer. We have large candles in the front of the church (\$3 suggested donation in the box underneath) and votive candles in the rear of the church.

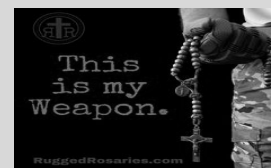
*"I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12).*

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Confirmation	Sun, Dec 8	8:30 a.m.	Church/PLC
Penance Service	Sun, Dec 8	2:00 p.m.	St. Thomas
PSR	Tues, Dec 10	6:00 p.m.	PLC Classrooms
Eucharistic Adoration	Wed, Dec 11	9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Church
Bible Study	Thurs, Dec 12	7:00 p.m.	St. John Room
Christmas Dinner	Sat, Dec 14	5:30 p.m.	Avila Hall

**TOGETHER -  LET US PRAY ...**  
**PARISHIONERS:**

Luz Villanueva, Eleanor Rieth  
 Loretta Forthofer, Dorothy Tomshe  
 Gladys Mackert, Eva-Maria Peters  
 Charlotte Joherle, Amy White  
 Kathleen Brezinski, Anna Joseph  
 Patricia Welsh, Maebelle Fill  
 Marty Lima, Marianne Rieth  
 Ruth Bistak, Arlene Flynn  
 Neva Young, Bernadette Mack  
 Mike Gall



**FAMILY AND FRIENDS SERVING OUR COUNTRY:**

Charles Godles, Christopher Barnhart, Jason Bender, Thomas Daley, Capt. Richard Robinson, Tom Fisher, Anthony Burns, Michael Naughton, Allen Fish, 2nd Lt. Louis Rios, Justin Callison, Quinn Rambo, Capt. Shelby Stratton, Grant Bartlett, Sgt. Tyler Corwin, John McGlynn, Cpl. Andrew Edwards, Justin Brown, Michael Garba, SSgt. Leo Ostrolencki, 1st Sgt. Derek Lisowski, Dustin Moorman, Capt. Matt Terrigno  
 To add names call 934-4227.

**HOSPITAL CALLS**

Please request the services of the Catholic Chaplain at the hospital for a patient. Notify the parish office so that the sick will be remembered in our prayers and Masses.



**ST. TERESA OF AVILA PRAY FOR US!**

*"There is every reason to be conformed to the will of God."*  
 St. Teresa of Avila



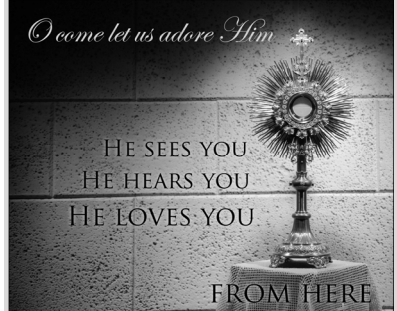
CATHOLIC PROGRAMMING



Local Advent Reflections from AM 1260 The Rock Fr. Ryan Mann, Parochial Vicar at St. John Neumann Parish in Strongsville, will share his Advent reflections on AM 1260 The Rock. Each week he will help us prepare for the coming of our Savior with a new reflection. Tune in to AM 1260 The Rock to hear Fr. Mann's reflections, daily Gospel reflections, and other great programming to make your Advent a time of prayer and preparation. Visit www.am1260therock.com for our complete program schedule.

“40 DAYS FOR LIFE” – THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2019 Fall Campaign of 40 Days for Life. God blessed the campaign and we know 738 babies, mothers and families were spared from abortion, including 4 babies in our communities, and 5 more abortion workers converted. Praise God! We look forward to praying with you from February 26 – April 5 in the 2020 spring campaign. God bless you and thank you. John Noall, Campaign Director



Seek Jesus by spending time with Him in the Eucharist. Every Wednesday at St. Teresa Church 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

Keep up to date with current happenings in your parish! Visit www.stteresaparish.com. Scroll to the bottom of the homepage for current events and other information.



THANK YOU TO... ...our Parishioners who gave our Priests cards of encouragement! A wonderful outpouring of appreciation was shown!

CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE IF YOUR LOVED ONE IS SICK

If a family member is sick or hospitalized we welcome a phone call at the parish office so their name can be put in the bulletin for prayers. Not all hospitals in the area notify churches that a parishioner has been admitted.

PARISH CLUSTER CORNER

St. Thomas the Apostle www.saintthomaschurch.net St. Anthony www.stanthonylorain.org/our-parish/

St. Andrew Christmas Novena Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born Of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother. Amen.

Pray this Novena from November 30 through Christmas Eve. Tradition says to say this prayer 15 times per day. May your Advent be a true preparation for the coming of Christ in your heart!

Please take a “Word Among Us” booklet from the rear of the church as an aid to your Advent prayer time.

Bulletin Any items to be included in the bulletins for December 22 & 29, and January 5, must be to the office by Monday, December 16, 2019.

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION - DECEMBER “That every country take the measures necessary to prioritize the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering.”



Time, Talent & Treasure

## HOW TO HELP OUR PARISH FAMILY



### SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE NEWS

#### “Gifts for Baby Jesus” to benefit Birthright of Lorain County

The Social Concerns Committee will be collecting Gifts for Baby Jesus during Advent from **November 30 – December 22, 2019.**

This year Birthright’s greatest need is diapers (newborn – size 6), formula (Gerber or similar), and cotton & fleece sleepers (up to size 5). Gifts can be wrapped or unwrapped and placed near the tree at the front of the church.

*Please help the children who are less fortunate in Lorain County to have a blessed & Merry Christmas!*

**ITEMS NEEDED:** Geber formulas (or similar), Bath items, Blankets/afghans, Gently used clothes (newborn – size 12), Gently used or new coats, boots, & gloves, Gently used maternity clothing, and money to replenish needed items.

#### Donate a gift for the unborn Baby you have Spiritually Adopted!

What better way to welcome “our” babies this Christmas! Let’s make sure all those babies that are born this Christmas and their mothers have what they need! Thank you all for your generous prayers and contributions!



### THE ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY NEWS

**Our next Altar & Rosary Society Mass** will be **Sunday, December 8, 2019 at 8:30 a.m.**

The Rosary will be said at 8:00 a.m. prior to Mass.

*All Ladies are welcome to all events & meetings! You do not have to be a member.*

### St. Teresa's Annual Christmas Dinner

Hosted by the Altar and Rosary Society



#### Saturday, December 14, 2019

**Social Hour at 5:30 p.m.** with appetizers, beer & wine

**Buffet Dinner at 6:30 p.m.**

Catered by Tom’s County Place

#### Menu includes

Breaded Pork Chops, Oven Roasted Eye of Round, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy,  
Glazed Baby Carrots, Green Beans, Salad with Roll, Dessert & Beverages

**Cost remains at \$20 per person!**

**Pre-Sale tickets only by December 11, 2019! Purchase your tickets in the church office and after Mass this weekend.**

#### GIFT BASKETS ARE NEEDED FOR THE CHRISTMAS DINNER

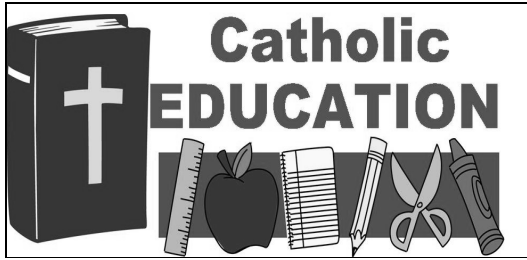
If you are able to put together a Raffle Gift Basket for the Christmas Dinner please call Barb Eifel at 440-934-1855. If you need a suggestion for a “theme” for your basket please contact Barb Eifel also - she has many ideas for baskets!

Please leave completed baskets in the breezeway of the Rectory office. *Many Thanks!!*

### ST. TERESA’S HOMEBOUND MINISTRY

We visit Parishioners who are in nursing homes or who are homebound because of age, illness or recovering from surgery.

If you know a Parishioner who would like a visit please call the church office at 440-934-4227.



Parish School of Religion  
**PSR**

**PSR classes are on Tuesdays from 6 – 7:15 p.m.**  
for students in grades 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>.  
Call the Office at 440-934-4227 with questions.

*If the Sheffield schools are closed on Tuesday because of bad weather, PSR will be cancelled that night as well.*



**ST. TERESA'S BIBLE STUDY**

We meet on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.  
Join us in December on the 12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>.

**CONFIRMATION CLASSES**

Classes are held on Sundays at St. Teresa of Avila Church/Parish Life Center from 8:30 a.m. (with Mass) to 11:45 a.m. **December classes are the 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.** There are no classes on December 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Class resumes on January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020.



**CHRISTMAS MEALS FOR FAMILIES IN NEED**

Fr. Smith and St. Teresa Parish are working with the other churches of Sheffield Village to provide a family-centered Christmas meal for families of Sheffield Village and Sheffield Lake. See Father's complete letter in the bulletin insert.

Parishioners of St. Teresa Parish who wish to donate money or food can drop it in front of the **St. Mary's altar** in church or to the church office. **\$30 provides a meal for a family.**  
**Food items to donate are: boxed mashed potatoes and scallop potatoes, canned sweet potatoes, green beans, corn, and brown gravy, boxed cake mix, and canned frosting.**

**Donate between now and December 13, 2019.**

*Our hope is that as we honor the coming of our Savior, and his place within the Holy Family of Nazareth, we can share Christ's love with all the families of our community who may need help during this Holy Season.*

**"...Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord." (Isaiah 2:5)**



In your home, place your Advent wreath in a central location. Make it the focal point of your home's décor, during the Advent season.

Bless your wreath, and light it at the same time each day, perhaps during personal or family prayer time. Especially on these dark winter nights, ponder the meaning of Christ as the light of the world, and how "the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:5)

**LORAIN COUNTY RIGHT TO LIFE SIGNATURE AD**



Bring America back to life – protect the unborn!  
**The weekend of December 7 & 8, 2019**  
we will be collecting signatures after Mass in the rear of the church.  
A donation of \$5 per name is requested to help cover the cost of the Ad.  
*Add your name to those in our County who support life!!*

Sponsored by the Social Concerns Committee

**TELEVISED SUNDAY MASS**

ch8 at 6:00 a.m.      WUAB ch43 at 8 a.m.      WMFD ch68 at 9:30 a.m.  
Online video Mass from *Heart of the Nation, Catholic Mass*, with Fr. Mark Payne at [www.HeartoftheNation.org](http://www.HeartoftheNation.org)

### Liturgical Ministers Schedule

#### Eucharistic Ministers

**Sat, Dec 7**  
**4:30 p.m.**  
 Tom Pienoski \*\*  
 Ann Glime  
 Daniel Bryda  
**EM Needed**

**Sun, Dec 8**  
**8:30 a.m.**  
 Marty Yonkof  
 Carol Yonkof  
 Barb Eifel \*\*  
 Christi Smail

**Sun, Dec 8**  
**11:00 a.m.**  
 Susan Novak  
 Norman Novak  
 Don Kirchner  
 Carol Kirchner

**Sat, Dec 14**  
**4:30 p.m.**  
 Frances Geiger  
 Joan Gigliotti  
 Debbie Korce  
**EM Needed**

**Sun, Dec 15**  
**8:30 a.m.**  
 Bill Bistak  
 Kathy Cunningham  
 Aaron Davis  
 Sue DiVaccaro \*\*

**Sun, Dec 15**  
**11:00 a.m.**  
 Marty Yonkof  
 Carol Yonkof  
 Marci Matsamas  
 Debbie Brady

#### Lectors

**Sat, Dec 7**  
**4:30 p.m.**  
 Andrew Augustine

**Sun, Dec 8**  
**8:30 a.m.**  
 Larry Durica

**Sun, Dec 8**  
**11:00 a.m.**  
 Fred Courtright

**Sat, Dec 14**  
**4:30 p.m.**  
 Phil Gigliotti

**Sun, Dec 15**  
**8:30 a.m.**  
 Andrew Augustine

**Sun, Dec 15**  
**11:00 a.m.**  
 Gene Welsh



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#### Altar Servers

**Sat, Dec 7**  
**4:30 p.m.**  
 Dan Huczko

**Sun, Dec 8**  
**8:30 a.m.**  
 Frank Lanza

**Sun, Dec 8**  
**11:00 a.m.**  
 Mikey Griffith  
 Dave Griffith

**Sat, Dec 14**  
**4:30 p.m.**  
 Bill Brock \*\*

**Sun, Dec 15**  
**8:30 a.m.**  
 Frank Lanza

**Sun, Dec 15**  
**11:00 a.m.**  
**Server Needed**

### Around the Town

#### **SOLACE OF LORAIN COUNTY - ADVOCACY FOR FAMILIES COPING WITH SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

The next meeting will be **December 27, 2019 from 6 - 8 p.m.**  
 Amherst Beaver Creek: Visitor Center, 913 N. Lake St., Amherst.  
 For information call Kathy at 440-823-6177. Visit:  
[www.lorainadas.org](http://www.lorainadas.org).

#### **MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST**

The next monthly breakfast will be on Saturday, December 21st. So please join us at St Julie's for breakfast from 8:30 am to 9:45 am. Meet new friends and strengthen your relationship with Jesus. Please try to give an RSVP to Tom Fumich (6106604 or [sjspbreakfast@gmail.com](mailto:sjspbreakfast@gmail.com)) to attend. To car pool from St. Teresa's parking lot meet at 7:45 a.m.

#### **"BREATH OF HEAVEN" LIVE NATIVITY PRESENTATION**

22<sup>nd</sup> presentation at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 15617 Mason Rd., Vermilion. Join us Sat, Dec. 14 & Sun, Dec. 15 from 4 – 8 p.m. Free! Bring a non-perishable food item for the local food bank. Walk-through presentations every 15 minutes.

#### **CHRISTMAS AT THE ACADEMY: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13**

It's the most wonderful time of the year - it's time for Christmas at the Academy! Girls in grades 2-5 are invited to take a journey to the North Pole with us on **Friday, December 13 from 6:30-8 p.m.** Students will be filled with the Christmas spirit that evening, including craft time, games and a delicious holiday treat. Don't miss out on this Saint Joseph Academy Christmas tradition! Admission is \$10 per student. Visit [www.sja1890.org/admission/visit](http://www.sja1890.org/admission/visit) to register.

#### **GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15**

Join us at St. Joseph Cemetery at 3 p.m. Topic will be: Emmanuel/God With Us: You are not alone.

#### **CURSILLO (Spanish for "short course")....**

.....is a movement deeply rooted in Catholicism. The mission of Cursillo is to provide adult men and women a method to come to know Jesus Christ in a more intimate way through prayer, fellowship and working together. The Diocese of Cleveland has scheduled Cursillo Weekends for the following dates: **Men's Weekend - January 16<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020; Women's Weekend - February 20<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020.** If you would like more information about Cursillo or would like to registrar for one of the above scheduled weekends, please call Joe Perez 440-915-4886 or Lisette Gracia 440-308-7006.

#### **FEED NEIGHBORS & ENJOY A CAVS GAME!**

The Cleveland Cavaliers have teamed up with the St. Vincent de Paul Society's Hunger Centers to help feed the hungry this Christmas season. The CAVS are offering discounted tickets to the **Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup> home game at 7 p.m. against the Memphis Grizzlies.** In addition to your ticket purchase benefiting our hunger centers, all attendees will receive a Whammer Bobblehead. The fun-filled evening includes a free throw on the court after the game - great photo-op for all. Order tickets at [svdpcle.org](http://svdpcle.org) or <https://go.rallyup.com/svdp-cavs>. Ticket sales end December 19, 2019 at 5 p.m.