

St. Teresa of Avila Parish

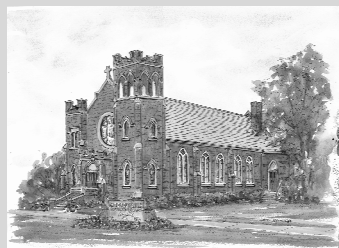
1878 Abbe Road Sheffield Village, Ohio 44054

Fourth SUNDAY of *Advent*

December 20, 2020

The angel Gabriel
said to Mary,
"Do not be afraid,
Mary, for you have
found favor with God.
Behold, you will
conceive in your womb
and bear a son, and you
shall name him Jesus."

Luke 1:30-31



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.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2020

The child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. —Luke 1:35

Saturday, December 19

4:30 p.m. +Clara Schilens & +grandson Adam by Bill DeChant

Sunday, December 20 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:30 a.m. +Louise Pliszka-Nichols by Sylvia & Sharon Lesner

11:00 a.m. +Jean Ackerman by her children

Monday, December 21 St. Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor of the Church NO MASS

Tuesday, December 22

NO MASS

Wednesday, December 23 St. John of Kanty, Priest

8:30 a.m. Kordich grandchildren

Thursday, December 24

4:30 p.m. living/deceased of St. Teresa Parish

Friday, December 25 THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

8:30 a.m. +Chuck, David & Brian DeChant by Bill DeChant, Gerry & family

Saturday, December 26 St. Stephen, the First Martyr

4:30 p.m. +Ellen Price by friend

Sunday, December 27 THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

8:30 a.m. +Martin & Dorothy Yonkof by family

11:00 a.m. Debbie Carpenter by Elmer & Sandy Klingshirn



Weekly Goal In Next Bulletin

\$4,000.00

Please keep St. Teresa Parish in mind when making out your will. We thank our parishioners for their continued, generous support of the Parish!



LECTOR NEEDED ON SUNDAYS AT 8:30 A.M.

If you are interested please call the church office at 440-934-4227.



Masses

Sunday Vigil - Saturday 4:30 PM and 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-mailsdebbie@stteresaparish.com and sue@stteresaparish.com
Website..... www.stteresaparish.com

 from the Pastor. . .

Today's gospel presents Mary and her initiation to the first Christmas. Let us pay attention to what happened to the conversation between Mary and the angel Gabriel.

1. *Mary listens.* The angel announces that the Messiah will be born in her and she listens. Her greatness comes through her faithful listening. Mary listens, asks for clarification, and finally accepts to be the servant of the Lord.

Prayer, in the first place, is a listening. We can ask questions, but the answers will come through listening. It is not only with God that we need a listening attitude. If there are difficulties with members of our family, it is often because we do not know how to listen. We are ready with our answer, but we have not understood yet the question.

2. *Mary accepts.* Mary is deeply disturbed even by the initial greeting of the angel. But the Angel Gabriel showers her with assurances that everything will be alright. "Do not be afraid.... The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; hence the holy offspring to be born will be called Son of God," (v. 35). These words of assurance eventually brought Mary to turn her negative emotion to a humble word of acceptance.

The important word in the angel's message of assurance is "overshadow". The word is rarely used in the Bible. In the Old Testament, however, we can find it in the book of Exodus. It says that as soon as the cloud overshadowed the tent, "The Lord's presence filled it," (Ex. 40:34). It was in the tent that the Ark of the Covenant was kept, and God overshadowed or covered it. Luke's choice of this word is not accidental, but it is deeply symbolic. He compared Mary's body to the tent in which the Ark of the Covenant was kept. He compared Mary's womb in which Jesus will be housed, to the Ark of the Covenant in which the tablet of the Ten Commandments was housed. Thus, when God's power overshadows Mary, the Lord's presence fills her.

Listening and accepting are essential aspects of the spiritual lives of every human. Mary came to know God's plan for her, only by listening to the words of the angel, and accepting her role in salvation history. In a world filled with competing voices and messages, the only way we can ever understand God's plan for us, is by imitating Mary, through our own prayerful listening and acceptance of God's Divine Will.

Rev. Edward J. Smith, Pastor

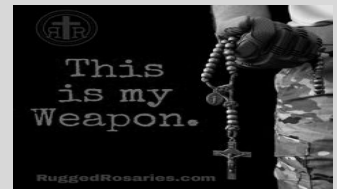


UPCOMING EVENTS

NO PSR Mass	Tuesdays	Dec 22 & 29	Christmas Break
NO Adoration	Wed, Dec 23	8:30 a.m.	Church
Christmas Eve Mass	Wed, Dec 23		
Christmas Mass	Thurs, Dec 24	4:30 p.m.	Church
Confessions	Fri, Dec 25	8:30 a.m.	Church
Mass	Sat, Dec 26	3:30 – 4:00 p.m.	Church
Mass	Sat, Dec 26	4:30 p.m.	Church
Mass	Sun, Dec 27	8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	Church

TOGETHER -  LET US PRAY ...

Luz Villanueva, Eleanor Rieth
Loretta Forthofer, Elvira Quester
Eva-Maria Peters, Marianne Rieth
Amy White, Jarmila Kos, Barb Eifel
Kathleen Brezinski, Anna Joseph
Patricia Welsh, Maebelle Fill
Marty Lima, William Wisnieski
Phillip Bruder, Vickie Aring



FAMILY AND FRIENDS SERVING OUR COUNTRY:

Charles Godles, Christopher Barnhart, Jason Bender, Thomas Daley, Major 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, Michael Garba, Darrin Kirchner
SSgt. Leo Ostrolencki, Ken D. Dustin Moorman
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!

"The devil suggests that you indulge yourselves."
St. Teresa of Avila



Remember
CATHOLIC PROGRAMMING

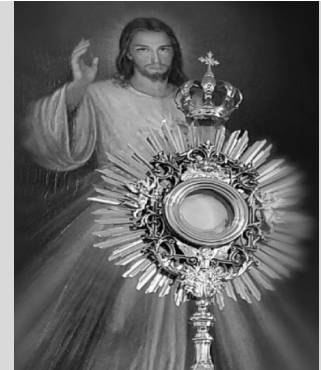


Christmas Programming at AM1260 The Rock As we are now in the Season of Advent and awaiting the Birth of Christ, AM 1260 The Rock will be broadcasting special Christmas Eve and Christmas Day programming to enrich your Christmas celebration. Please visit our website at: www.am1260therock.com for updates and have a blessed and peaceful Advent.

Prayer Intentions We at AM 1260 The Rock pray daily for the intentions of our listeners. Please call us at 216-227-1260 or email prayers@am1260therock.com with your prayer requests. The nuns at Christ the Bridegroom are our prayer partners and pray for and with you.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Tuesday:	1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
Wednesday:	Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66
Thursday:	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79 Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
Friday:	Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20 Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]
Saturday:	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22
Sunday:	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 105:1-6, 8-9; Col 3:12-21 or Hb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]



"In the silence of the heart God speaks. If you face God in prayer and silence, God will speak to you. Souls of prayer are souls of great silence."

St. Teresa of Calcutta
Adoration takes place on
Wednesdays from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

THERE WILL BE
NO ADORATION ON
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2020.

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.

Please Continue To Support
The Church With Your
Donations.
Mail donations to the office:
1878 Abbe Road
Sheffield Village, OH 44054
Thank You!!

CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE
FOR THE SICK

Call the church office if a family member is sick or hospitalized. 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 INFO

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

CHRISTMAS and NEW YEARS DAY
MASS SCHEDULE



Christmas Eve

4:30 p.m.

(NO 10:00 p.m. Mass)

Christmas Day

8:30 a.m.

Solemnity of Mary, January 1

8:30 a.m.

(NO New Year's Eve Mass)

SPIRITUAL ADOPTION
OF THE UNBORN

We are almost there! "Our babies" will have been saved throughout this year through our prayers to the Holy Family and our trust in the power and goodness of God our Father!

At Christmas we end this year's Spiritual Adoption and welcome **new life** in the babies that will be born and **new life** in the hearts of us all through the **Birth of Jesus Christ our Savior!**

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION - DECEMBER

Prayer intention for evangelization – For a life of prayer

"We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer."

Parish News

Please continue to read the *Bulletin* on our website at www.stteresaparish.com and "Announcements" at the top of the home page.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. *The office will remain closed to the public.*

The Church office will be closed on December 24-25 and December 31-January 1.



BIBLE STUDY has resumed! Please join us!
Thursdays in January: 7th & 21st at 7 p.m. in Avila Hall.
We will use the main hall in order to maintain social distancing.
All are welcome!

PSR (Parish School of Religion)

Classes continue on Tuesdays from 6:00 – 7:15 p.m.

Registration information and forms can be found on our website at www.stteresaparish.com. If you have questions, please call the church office at 440-934-4227. PSR is for students in 1st – 8th grades.



There will be No PSR Classes on Tuesdays, December 22 & 29, 2020.
Have a blessed Christmas!

Classes resume on Tuesday, January 5, 2021.



SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE NEWS

Mother Cabrini Food Pantry

The next food pantry collection will be **January 2 & 3, 2021**

Suggested food donations: boxed stuffing, spaghetti, taco kits, boxed mashed potatoes, pancake syrup, peanut butter/jelly, Ramen noodle soup, canned soup, canned vegetables, canned fruit, tuna fish, coffee, hominy beans, Hispanic foods, bottled water, and cooking oil.



We only accept donations of unused & unopened non-perishable food items.
Please no Non-Food donations.

Sign up for the annual **Lorain County Right To Life Ad and Billboard Campaign**. These ads will appear in the local newspapers in print and online on or about January 22, 2021, the 48th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's decisions legalizing abortion-on-demand for all 9 months of pregnancy. A \$5 minimum donation is requested to cover the cost of the Campaign. Sponsor names will be acknowledged on the Right to Life website. Please add your name and donation to those in our County who support the gift of life!

Donations can be made by mail or on-line ONLY. Pick up a sheet at the rear of the church with information for how to complete your donation.

Donations need to be in by the end of December.



THE ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY NEWS

The Altar and Rosary Society has a limited number of **prayer shawls** available. If you wish to have one or if you would like one for someone you know, please call the rectory at 1 440 934 4227.

The Altar & Rosary Society would be happy to pray the **Rosary at the funeral home** for the deceased of our Parish. The Family is invited to call the Parish Office at 440-934-4227 and ask for this gift of the heart!



Helping Hands for Parishioners

For those parishioners who may need monetary help during this difficult time, the Social Concerns Committee "**Helping Hands Fund**" may be able to provide assistance for groceries, medicine, and utility bills. **Please contact the parish office at 934-4227 Monday through Friday between 9a.m. – 3p.m.** All information is kept confidential.

Join Bishop Malesic for televised Christmas Masses

Join the Most Rev. Edward Malesic, bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, as he celebrates Masses from the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day that will be live streamed or broadcast on local television.

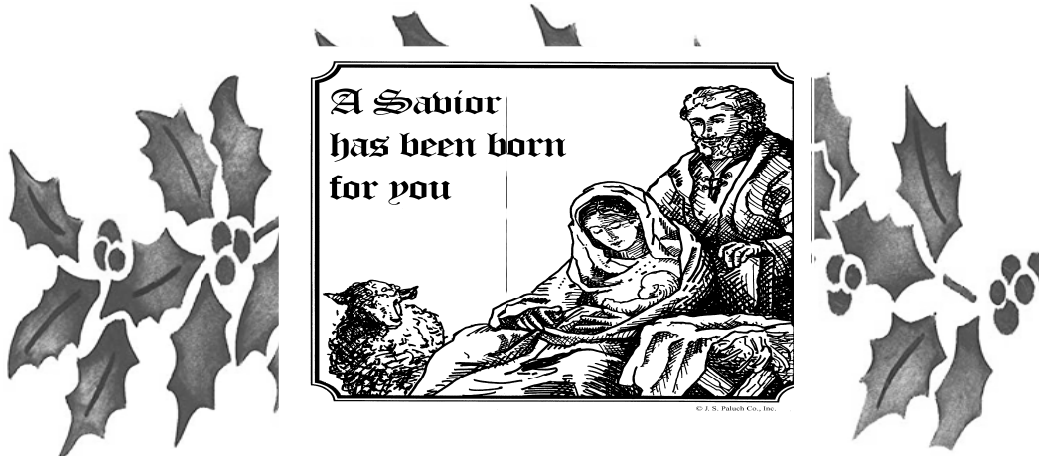
Christmas Eve, Dec. 24 at 4:30p.m. The Mass will be streamed live via the internet on the diocesan website, dioceseofcleveland.org. It also will be available on demand on the diocesan website after the broadcast.

Christmas Day, Dec. 25 at 9:00 a.m. The Mass will be available from the cathedral on WOIO – Channel 19 at 9 a.m. and on demand on the diocesan website at dioceseofcleveland.org.

For a schedule of weekday and Sunday live streamed Mass from the cathedral, which is in downtown Cleveland, visit the diocesan website, dioceseofcleveland.org.

There will be NO EUCHARISTIC ADORATION on Wednesday, December 23.

We will be cleaning and decorating the church for Christmas.



Travel with Fr. Edward Smith

Italy wide & Switzerland

April 15-27, 2021

Tour for 13 days through Sorrento, Capri, Amalfi Coast, Pompeii, Rome, Assisi, Tuscany, Florence, Venice, Milan, Lake Como & Switzerland. **Cost: \$4,699.00** and includes airfare, 4 or 5 star hotels, transportation on luxury buses, tips, tour guide fees, and more.

Complete details can be found on our website at www.stteresaparis.com and our facebook page.

Proximo Travel – Pilgrimages for Catholics and people of all faiths.

Guidelines for Attending Public Mass

1. **Until further notice, all Catholics in the Diocese of Cleveland remain dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass.** The restart of public Masses means you have the option to attend Mass, but it is not a requirement.

2. **Before coming to Mass please take your temperature.** If your temperature is 100.4 degrees or higher please stay home. If you feel sick, please stay home.

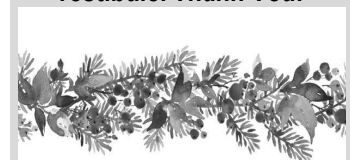
3. **All parishioners should be mindful of social distancing when sitting in pews and in the communion line.** Families may sit together, but must maintain social distancing between their family and others throughout the celebration of Mass.

4. **The precious blood cannot be offered to the faithful until directed by the Diocese.**

5. There will be no offertory procession. **Please drop your offertory envelopes in the baskets placed by the doors of the Church.**

6. **There will be no handshake of peace until further notice.**

If you wear a disposable mask during Mass, please do not leave it in the pew. Take it with you or throw it out in the garbage can in the vestibule. Thank You!



Liturgical Ministers Schedule

Eucharistic Ministers

Sat, Dec 19 4:30 p.m. Joan Gigliotti (Fitz**)	Sun, Dec 20 8:30 a.m. Bill Bistak	Sun, Dec 20 11:00 a.m. Susan Novak
Thurs, Dec 24 4:30 p.m. John Katricak**	Fri, Dec 25 8:30 a.m. Ann Glime	
Sat, Dec 26 4:30 p.m. Debbie Korce	Sun, Dec 27 8:30 a.m. Kathy Cunningham	Sun, Dec 27 11:00 a.m. Carol Kirchner

<u>Lectors</u>		
Sat, Dec 19 4:30 p.m. Phil Gigliotti	Sun, Dec 20 8:30 a.m. Bruce DiVaccaro	Sun, Dec 20 11:00 a.m. Lou Varos
Thurs, Dec 24 4:30 p.m. Ruth Bistak	Fri, Dec 25 8:30 a.m. Bruce DiVaccaro	
Sat, Dec 26 4:30 p.m. Tom Pienoski**	Sun, Dec 27 8:30 a.m. Adam Smail	Sun, Dec 27 11:00 a.m. Tom Parkey

15 Times Each Day from November 30th thru December 24th

The Saint Andrew Christmas Novena is often called simply the "Christmas Novena" or the "Christmas Anticipation Prayer," because it is prayed 15 times every day from the Feast of Saint Andrew the Apostle (November 30) until Christmas.

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



CHRISTMAS NOVENA

Around the Town

DO MORE! BE MORE!
LEND A HELPING HAND & JOIN US

Knights of Columbus
Council 3269 Avon-Avon Lake-Sheffield Lake

As Catholic men, we are called to do more. Since 1882 the **Knights of Columbus** have helped men answer that call. Your membership connects you with opportunities to make an impact in your community, gives you access to resources to help grow deeper in faith, stay informed about the issues Catholics care about, and meet others. You will also have exclusive access to insurance and financial planning products to help you protect your family. Members have the opportunity to develop lifelong friendships and attend social gatherings and enjoyable events with brother knights and their families.

For more information about the Knights of Columbus in Ohio or to join online visit: kofc.org/joinus.

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH CORNERSTONE OF HOPE

This Christmas Season fill your home with the joy and peace that we all are eager to receive this year. Join us on **Sunday, December 20, 2020 at 7PM** for our *Grieve with Hope Virtual Christmas Concert* that will premiere on Facebook and YouTube. Artists from across the nation will share their talent and unite us in the beauty of Christmas music.

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES SUNDAY GRIEF SUPPORT

Catholic Cemeteries Association continues with our free monthly in-office grief support groups on **December 20th** with limited seating for social distancing. The December topic is "The Gift of God's Presence: You Never Walk Alone" t. December participants are asked to bring a picture or item that brings fond memories of their departed loved one. We meet the 3rd Sunday of every month from 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the following location: Saint Joseph Cemetery, Avon (NEW office). Participants are requested to RSVP so we can plan appropriate social distancing at each location. It is required that participants wear protective facial coverings. To RSVP or for questions, please contact **Rhonda** at 216-930-4866.

The FEST Internship

Calling all college students looking for a paid summer internship! The FEST (www.theFEST.us) is looking for summer interns to make this year's event the best FEST yet! We are looking for students with interests in theology, business marketing & communications, event planning, or logistics management to join the team that puts together our annual Diocesan Family Festival. Interns will be a part of a fast-paced team and will play a critical role in the marketing, planning and coordination of annual event for thousands of people. Interns will provide support and have responsibilities including public speaking, marketing, mailings, digital and social media, press releases, logistics, event planning, and more. Interns must have strong people skills, work ethic, critical thinking, organizational skills, and reliable transportation. For more information or to apply, please send your resume to Caitlin@theFEST.us by January 10th.

PRO-LIFE DOCTORS LIST

A list of local Pro-life doctors, who do not practice abortion nor support its use, is available. Call 440-322-0076 or visit www.loraincountyrighttolife.org under Resources and Issues tab.