

St. Teresa of Avila Parish

1878 Abbe Road Sheffield Village, Ohio 44054

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

DECEMBER 27, 2020



*Simeon said,
“Now, Master, you may let your servant
go in peace, according to your word,
for my eyes have seen your salvation.”*

Luke 2:29-30



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.

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

December 27, 2020

My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all the peoples. — Luke 2:30-31

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

Monday, December 28 The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

NO MASS

Tuesday, December 29 St. Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr

NO MASS

Wednesday, December 30

8:30 a.m. +Al Kirchner by Uncle Don & Aunt Carol Kirchner

Thursday, December 31 St. Sylvester I, Pope

NO MASS

Friday, January 1 SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

8:30 a.m. living/deceased of St. Teresa Parish

Saturday, January 2 Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen

4:30 p.m. +Bernadette Mack by family

Sunday, January 3 EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

8:30 a.m. +Audrey Alten by Bruce & Sue

11:00 a.m. +Deacon Gary Tomazic by John & Ella Smith



Weekly Goal

\$4,000.00

December 13

\$2,055.00

Children's

\$6.00

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

Note: This reflection is religious/spiritual in nature ONLY.

This is not a political reflection. This is not a reflection meant to judge any individual person or groups of people. This is a reflection of a Pastor who has concern over the souls of a group of people entrusted to his care.

This year has certainly given all of us time to reflect on our lives in many areas. People and businesses have been forced to rethink how they conduct themselves, and what is important. Much of the conveniences we take for granted each day have been either taken away, or severely restricted. In society, people have been forced to accept new rules of behavior for the "common good".

What of the Church? What of our faith? I believe we would all agree that faith seeks expression. But, in this "time of COVID-19", the Church herself has limited the expression of our faith. In many ways, this is an unprecedented approach to Catholicism that the Bishops have taken in our country, and around the world. Focusing on the United States, understand what we have been told these last 9 months. We have been told that because of a virus, Catholics no longer need to honor the Sabbath by joining in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Questions, however, arise from such an approach. Because of the virus, have the Bishops tacitly retrained many to believe that watching Mass on the TV is just as good as physical attendance at Mass? Because of a virus, have the decisions of the Bishops quietly called into question how valuable the reception of the Eucharist is at any time, let alone in times of crisis? Because of a virus, have the Bishops unknowingly expressed to the faithful that Church attendance is simply not essential, and by extension, that earthly life is more important than eternal life?

Of course, as I write this, I can hear people yelling, "But, Father, what about the danger of the virus?" "What about the people that get sick because of it?" "What about the people who will die?" Certainly, the virus has always been something to take seriously. As in the case of all viruses, there will be people who will get sick and die. But I ask you, what of the immortal soul? At what point, as faithful Catholics, do we start worrying about eternal life more than earthly life? In Matthew 10:28 Jesus stated, "And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna." Throughout the history of the Church, we have faced many persecutions and pandemics. Truthfully, we have faced much graver situations, and still worshiped regularly. Have there been specific cases, in the past, of Churches being closed for a limited time as a precaution, yes to be sure. What marks our current situation as different is the fact that Bishops and Church leaders have now absolved Catholics of Mass attendance for so long...seemingly with no end in sight. Nine months will, most likely, extend into a year or more, as the Bishops Office has already begun canceling events for next Lent.

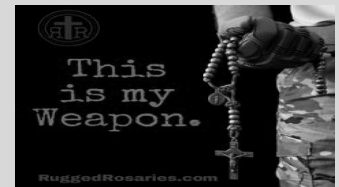
And what of the elephant in the room: How on earth do you convince people to come back to Church after so long? Can simply choosing an arbitrary day when Mass attendance is required again (and therefore sinful to miss) enough to get people, trained to sit at home, off their couch and back in a pew? To be honest, many Pastors I have spoken to believe that we will not see many of those people ever again. And, so, I return to my original concern as a Pastor: What of the eternal life of the people entrusted to me? When does our concern for our eternal life finally supersede the concern we have for our earthly life? What happens if this "spiritual hiatus" stretches on for a year...two years...three years? The need to safeguard our health is important, but just how important is it when eternal life is at stake?

My brothers and sisters, as we joyfully celebrate the birth of our Savior, I ask you to take a moment and seriously think about your eternal life. Jesus was not born, and did not accept death, to safeguard our earthly lives. The incarnation took place in order to reconcile our broken relationship with God, and open the gates of Heaven for our eternal lives.

Rev. Edward J. Smith, Pastor

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

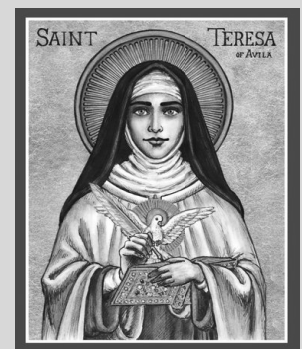


**FAMILY AND FRIENDS
SERVING OUR COUNTRY:**

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**



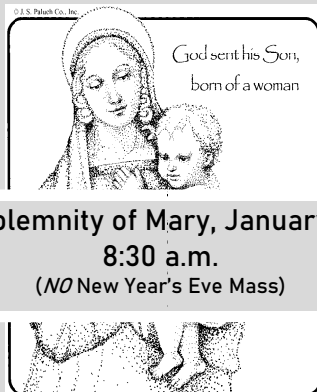
READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt:13-18
 Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40
 Thursday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18
 Friday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
 Saturday: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28
 Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

UPCOMING EVENTS

NO PSR	Tuesdays	Dec 29	Christmas Break
Mass	Wed, Dec 30	8:30 a.m.	Church
Eucharistic Adoration	Wed, Dec 30	9:00 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Church
Mother of God Mass	Fri, Jan 1	8:30 a.m.	Church
Confessions	Sat, Jan 2	3:30 – 4:00 p.m.	Church

NEW YEARS DAY MASS SCHEDULE



“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/

Today is the feast day of the Holy Family,

.....but also every family's feast day, since the Holy Family is the patron and model of all Christian families. Today should be a huge family feast, since it is devoted entirely to the Holy Family as a model for the Christian family life. As Rev. Edward Sutfin states:

“The children must learn to see in their father the foster-father St. Joseph, and the Blessed Mother as the perfect model for their own mother. The lesson to be learned is both practical and theoretical, in that the children must learn how to obey and to love their parents in thought, word and action, just as Christ was obedient to Mary and Joseph. Helping mother in the kitchen and in the house work, and helping father in his odd jobs about the home thus take on a new significance by being performed in a Christ-like spirit.” (True Christmas Spirit, ©1955, St. Meinrad Archabbey, Inc.)

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 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!

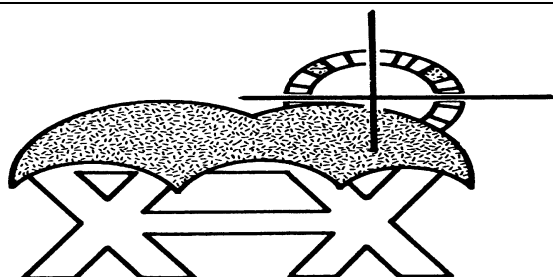
PSR (Parish School of Religion)

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 Tuesday, December 29, 2020.
Immaculate Heart of Mary – pray for us!

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.

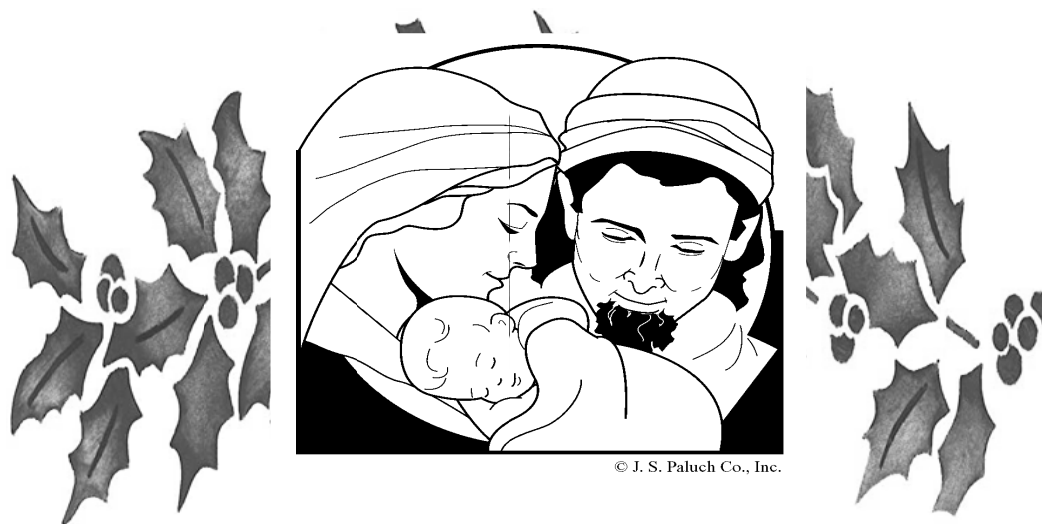
Mass on TV, Online and Radio

The weekly television Mass produced by the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland is moving. Starting on Nov. 22, the Sunday television Mass will be seen at 10 a.m. on WUAB Channel 43, the CW43. This change provides viewers with an opportunity to take part in the weekly celebration of the Mass at a more convenient time, and, is an over-the-air station that is accessible even to those without cable TV. Also watch the Mass at www.dioceseofcleveland.org/offices/communications/mass OR at: <http://www.catholictv.org> OR <https://www.ewtn.com/tv>, and www.HeartoftheNation.org.

Listen to Mass on AM 1260 The Rock at 4 p.m. Saturday and 10:30 a.m. Sunday.

WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS!

John and Ella Smith – welcome!



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!



JANUARY 1, 2021



Liturgical Ministers Schedule

Eucharistic Ministers

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
	Fri, Jan 1 8:30 a.m. Christ Smail	
Sat, Jan 2 4:30 p.m. John Katricak**	Sun, Jan 3 8:30 a.m. Greg Smail	Sun, Jan 3 11:00 a.m. Don Kirchner

Lectors

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
	Fri, Jan 1 8:30 a.m. Adam Smail	
Sat, Jan 2 4:30 p.m. Andrew Augustine	Sun, Jan 3 8:30 a.m. Bruce DiVaccaro	Sun, Jan 3 11:00 a.m. Fred Courtright

Prayers for after Mass

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.[Said three times]

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To thee to we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this exile, show unto us the blessed Fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray,

O God, our refuge and our strength, look down with mercy upon the people who cry to Thee; and by the intercession of the glorious and immaculate Virgin Mary, Mother of God, of Saint Joseph her spouse, of the blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, and of all the saints, in Thy mercy and goodness hear our prayers for the conversion of sinners, and for the liberty and exaltation of the Holy Mother the Church. Through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle; be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil.

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.

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.

ROSARY FOR THE UNBORN

On the first **Saturday of January, the 2nd**, at 11 am, all are warmly invited to pray the Rosary of the Unborn for an end to legalized abortions at St. Anthony Church, 1339 E. Erie Ave. The northwest entrance to the Church will be open at 10:30 am. (Every first Saturday of the month, this prayer service will continue until the Covid 19 Virus leaves and we will be able to return to our previous schedule of 12 rosaries from 10 am until 4 pm.) Questions? Call (440) 288-0416.

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES GRIEF SUPPORT

Catholic Cemeteries Association continues with our free monthly in-office grief support groups on **January 17th** with limited seating for social distancing. We offer a comfortable, private, and safe environment where you are free to talk about your grief. The January topic is "Facing the New Year with Hope and Love" but discussions follow whatever is on your heart. We meet the 3rd Sunday of every month from **3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at 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.