

# St. Therese Catholic Church

1409 6th Street 77630 Phone: (409) 883-3783 Fax: (409) 883-4918  
 Email: sttherese1350@att.net Website: stthereseorangetx.org



## Pastoral Team:

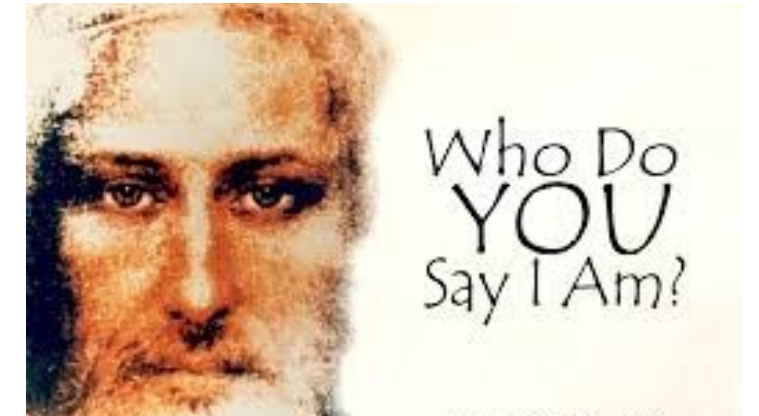
**Rev. Donatus Mgbajuo, MSP**

Email: donachisneo@yahoo.com  
 Contact information: cell (409) 454-3958  
 Rectory: (409) 238-3001  
 Deacon Julian Richard (409) 882-4302  
 Deacon Hazen Kenney (512) 791-0847

Office Hours: Tuesday thru Thursday

## December 11, 2016 3rd Sunday in Advent

*“John heard in prison of the works  
of the Christ and sent his disciples  
to Jesus”*



### Eucharistic Celebration

#### Weekends:

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 p.m.  
 Sunday: 9:00 a.m.

#### Reconciliation

Saturdays: 3:20 p.m.-3:55 p.m.

#### Infant Baptism:

Please contact the pastor two  
 (2) months in advance

#### Weekdays:

Tuesday-Friday 8:00 a.m.  
 Thursday: Faith Program 5:30 p.m.

#### Adoration & Benediction

1st Friday each month 6p.m.-7p.m.

#### Marriage:

Please call Rectory six (6) months  
 prior to proposed date

#### SECRETARY

Cindy Hampton (409) 882-0935

#### PARISH COUNCIL

Joe Ware, Chairman 886-5331  
 Adam Jacobs, Vice Chairman 883-9688  
 Dayna Smith, Secretary 988-6705  
 P.R.O., Leo Jackson 886-9692  
 Horace Broussard 883-7937  
 Shirley Ray 779-9922  
 Martin Feathers 882-4186  
 Albert Hebert, Jr. 746-2627  
 Freda Guillory 882-1768  
 Lanny DeLarue 330-0791  
 John King 920-2448

#### DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sanja Popillion (409) 670-0808

#### FINANCE COUNCIL

Andre Robertson 882-0012  
 Janice Semien 883-7126  
 Tina Kindle 238-4447  
 Robert Gobert

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday Dec. 11 Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-10 Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11  
 Monday Dec. 12 Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jth 13:18-19 Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47  
 Tuesday Dec. 13 Zep 3:1-2, 9-13 Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19, 23 Mt 21:28-32  
 Wednesday Dec. 14 Is 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25 Ps 85:9ab,10-14 Lk 7:18b-23  
 Thursday Dec. 15 Is 54:1-10 Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b Lk 7:24-30  
 Friday Dec. 16 Is 56:1-3a, 6-8 Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8 Jn 5:33-36  
 Saturday Dec. 17 Gn 49:2, 8-10 Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17 Mt 1:1-17

### PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND

Margaret Green  
 John Judge  
 Therese Ferguson  
 Frances Freeman  
 John Abram  
 Da'Morrius Allison  
 Julian Richard  
 Ruby Milton  
 Alma Thibodeaux  
 Rena Jenkins  
 Dorothy Broussard  
 Myrtle Guillory  
 Robert Simmons  
 Stacy Johnson  
 Leothus Jones  
 Debra Glaude  
 Mary Brown  
 Sammie Williams  
 John Richard, Sr.  
 Peggy Green  
 Elias Gobert  
 Mary Feathers  
 Clayona Pillette  
 Alberta Fontenot  
 Hollis Fain  
 James Arceneaux  
 John Milton  
 Gloria Richard  
 Ella Garrett  
 Bettye Odom  
 Fred Green  
 James Mims  
 Joe Ware, Sr.  
 Celestine Johnson  
 Mary Crossley  
 Calvin Johnson  
 Sanja Popillion  
 Lester Popillion  
 Joe B. Forward  
 Theresa Garrett  
 Andrew Hayes  
 Mary Ware  
 Courtney Chavis  
 Lakeisha Guidry-Jones  
 Brushelle Scott  
 Eva Platt  
 Mr. & Mrs. Mace  
 Rose Lee Johnson  
 David Jayce Carey  
 Ms. Tricia Slaughter  
 Raffelitta Jonea Lee

### December Birthday List Happy Birthday to::

Draven Platt 1  
 Eva Platt 3  
 Sonja Popillion 4  
 Betty Odom 5  
 Courtney Chavis 6  
 Debra Henderson 11  
 Lawrence DeLarue 12  
 Jordan Richard 13  
 Shirley Cezar 14  
 Ashton Spearman 17  
 Zederick Cezar 19  
 Mary Crossley 21  
 Lucy Jones 22  
 Rosie Scott 23  
 Mary Rigsby 27  
 Brushelle Scott 28  
 Russell Bottley 29

### Happy Anniversary

Richard & Brushelle Scott 8th  
 Andre & Lanier Robertson 8th  
 Herman & Mona Richard 10th

### Bishop Faith Appeal

Goal : \$18,693. Pledged : \$15,423

PAID: \$10,883

Thank you ALL for your pledges, we look ahead to the continued growth of our Parish

### MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday Dec. 11 9:00 a.m.  
 Monday Dec. 12 No Mass  
 Tuesday Dec. 13 8:00 a.m. + Elsie Jackson requested by sisters Rose Bottley & Shirley Ray  
 Wednesday Dec. 14 8:00 a.m.. Marvin Hampton requested by wife Cindy Hampton  
 Thursday Dec. 15 8:00 a.m. + Leo Jackson requested by daughter Mary Crossley  
 Friday Dec. 16 8:00 a.m. + Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Jeanes requested by the Kenney family  
 Saturday Dec. 17 4:00 p.m. The Kenney Family requested by the Kenney family

(N.B. You can request Mass to be offered for you/your loves one, or the deceased.. Speak with the Pastor or call the office to schedule).

### MINISTERIES FOR THE WEEKEND HOSPITALITY

Saturday: Walter Davis, Rose Davis, Shirley Allison & Patrick Mims  
 Sunday: Staci Powers, Lucy Jones, Fred Green & Phyllis Thibodeaux

### ANNOUNCER & LECTORS:

Saturday: A: Mona Richard L: Gary Mims & Freda Guillory  
 Sunday: A: Horace Broussard L: Josie Curtis & Eva Platt

### ALTAR SERVER:

Saturday Reagan Pitre & William Pitre  
 Sunday: D'Ana Williams

### MINISTERS OF COMMUNION:

Saturday Emma Nelson & Cecilia Davis  
 Sunday: Shirley Ray & Dorothy Broussard

### Attendance

Saturday 29  
 Sunday

### Weekend Collection

Saturday \$ 627.00  
 Sunday \$ 2,170.00  
 \$ 2,797.00

### \*\*\*Team Counters\*\*\*

Week One:	Week Two:	Week Three:	Week Four:	Week Five:
Gary Mims	Mrs. Broussard	Rose Bottley	Dorothy Jacobs	Gary Mims
Janice Semien	Leo Jackson	Cliff Richard	Dayna Smith	Shirley Ray
Lucy Jones	Shirley Ray	Peggy Green	John Judge	Peggy Green

If anyone is not available to count on your assigned week please inform Mr. Gary Mims or Fr. Dontaus. If anyone is interested in becoming a part of the count team please contact Fr. Donatus. Anyone involved with the handling of any parish money must sign a confidentiality disclosure form.

# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## Looking Forward

Children look forward to Christmas, teens look forward to the winter break, adults look forward to a time of relaxation—a weekend, a quiet evening. By this time in Advent, Christmas looms even closer and anticipation intensifies as we count off the days. Christmas is at most two weeks away. On this *Gaudete* Sunday we rejoice. We can hardly wait, and the joy spills over. *Gaudete!*

*FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1–6a, 10    RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 146:6–7, 8–9, 9–10*  
*SECOND READING: James 5:7–10    GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2–11*

## Comment

This day the church rejoices in the coming of the Lord, which is assured, yet we need to be reminded of how it looks and what it requires of us. The coming of the Lord is filled with abundance and looks most inviting; yet the coming of the Lord costs something as well.

Just ask Isaiah. He continues to speak of the wonders of the Lord's coming, but he speaks this to a weary people who must face the daunting task of rebuilding a new life together in a ravaged and war-torn land. The cost of the coming of the Lord is the work we are called to do to build up God's reign. Nevertheless, Isaiah speaks of a healing time for body and spirit.

Isaiah's description of healing and fullness finds its way into today's Gospel. The Lord who was to come has now appeared, and the miracles of wholeness and health and renewed life are signs of a new order. With the arrival of Jesus, the "Messianic Kingdom" of which Isaiah spoke with such passion has come to pass.

## Reflection

In Jesus, the work of John the Baptist and all of Israel's prophets before him has come to fulfillment. The reign of God is ushered in by this last prophet. John's vocation as prophet, though great, is dwarfed by his membership in the new dispensation, the new order, the reign of God. This membership, says Jesus, is available to each and every one who recognizes it.

We will know the reign of God is fully here when the human spirit breathes free, the shackles of fear are broken, the shadows of sin are dispersed, the weak are strengthened, hearts are healed, and the desert of the human spirit blooms. This reign of God does not happen *to* us; it happens *in* us and in the world, and it comes slowly and surely.

The second reading today counsels patience, the kind of patience the farmers exercise as they await the fall and spring rains. One season of rain must provide subsoil moisture—it must run deep. The other rains provide the top dressing, the moisture for germinating the planted seed. Farmers cannot hurry the rains. They can only await them in hope. So it is for us now. We wait in hope. But today our joy runs deep and it spills over. *Gaudete!*

### \*\*\* FOOD DRIVE \*\*\*

St. Therese Youth will be hosting a food drive for the Christmas holiday and is asking for non-perishable food items such as beans, rice, mac & cheese. In addition we are asking for items to warm our elderly such as socks, gloves, etc., Also any hygiene items like toothpaste, deodorant etc.. All items collected is going to our home-bound and nursing home members. Collection will begin December 1, until December 18, please place your items in the two boxes at the rear of the church. **THANKING ALL OF YOU IN ADVANCE, ST. THERESE YOUTH MINISTRIES**  
*Mrs. Felicia Richard-Coordinator*

## RIGHTEOUS IDOL WORSHIPPER?

I wondered why I was in the queue of accused at all. I am intelligent, aggressive, young, totally committed to God. What am I doing here with this sheet of supposed sins in my hand I wondered?

I don't drink, I don't smoke, I don't fornicate, I don't steal, I am righteous. Others should be here not me. It was finally my turn to face the Man.

I placed my sheet before Him, He glanced at it and sighed softly. He looked at me and calmly said, "Guilty of idol worship."

Imagine my anger, my fury, my indignation. I jumped out of the chair and said "Of course not! Check the sheet again, check the name, It can't be mine."

He sighed again and mentioned one of my names that no one knows. I would not be stopped. It's impossible I yelled. I worship only God, the Most High, Maker of heaven and earth, the king of kings and Lord of lords. I bow down to none, I have no talisman, no amulet, no pot underneath my bed "You are guilty of idol worship" He repeated calmly.

He looked at me, I looked at Him. It seemed like forever. The room was silent. I could hear the clock ticking. Then I slowly understood.

I am never late for bus/train station or air flight but I am always late to church-I blinked My payments to services I enjoy eg:Dstv, phone bills, gas bills, council tax, road tax, etc., are never late but I haven't given offerings/tithes in three months— I looked down.

When meeting one of our local chiefs last week I would not even pick a call in the presence of earthly royalty, but I WhatsupApp in church.

I wouldn't interrupt my performance appraisal with my boss for anything but I missed church last week because of a series on TV

I wouldn't let a day end without talking to my spouse but today I just said "Hi God, Bye God."

I would never miss going to the bank because of the weather but I missed fellowship on Tuesday and Thursday because it was cloudy.

I would wear my football team's colors to meetings and not care what anyone thought of me but I hate to talk to my workmates about God because of what they will think of me.

I always have the latest tech gadget you can think of but my bible is so worn out. I can't even find the book of Jude in my bible anymore.

The last thing I touch before going to bed is my phone and the first thing in morning....chatting on whatsupApp or replying to online messages. And never bordering to talk with God or reading His word.

I felt so hot in the room, a nervous sweat on my forehead, I felt so ill and weak, all of my anger and self-righteousness was gone, leaving immense guilt in its wake.

I slowly got off the chair and knelt by his feet and said "I am sorry, I am guilty as charged, Guilty of idol worship, guilty of placing others; humans, technology before You. "I am guilty of idol worship."

He smiled gently, looked at me with those passionate eyes of His, full of love and He gave me a fresh sheet! And said! Deliver souls!!

Now I want you to share or inform others to alert them as I know they are not aware of what they are doing.

God bless you as you share to deliver souls with me. **Amen.**

### NOVENA PRAYER TO ST. THERESE—THE LITTLE FLOWER

St. Therese, beloved friend, you promised to spend your time in heaven doing good upon the earth. WE come before you in our need. We believe that you listen to us and approach God for and with us. You are love in the heart of the God. Please accept these petitions, hopes, needs and dreams that I list below (pause). Please present them to our loving Father so that God may do what is best for us, for our loved ones, and for the fulfillment of God's Kingdom. Continue your shower of roses in our lives. We ask you, dear friend with the bold confidence and loving care. We make this prayerful petition in the name of Jesus and through the power of his Spirit. **AMEN.**