

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS
 Mass at 75% capacity
 Facebook Live Sunday & Christmas Day

Sunday, Dec. 20, 2020 9:00 am Mass
 Donald & Bessie Henry
 requested by Mona Richard

Monday Dec. 21st NO MASS

Tuesday Dec. 22nd 9:00 am
 Charles Adley Thomas
 requested by Cindy Hampton
 private meditation and prayer
 through our patron St. Therese

Wednesday, Dec. 23rd, 9:00 a.m.
 Clarence J Thomas
 requested by Cindy Hampton

Christmas Eve, Thurs., Dec. 24th,
 9:00 am & 4:00 pm
 Mary Lee Thomas
 requested by Cindy Hampton

Christmas Day Fri., Dec. 25th, 9:00 am
 Louella Thomas Wiltz
 requested by Cindy Hampton

Saturday, Dec. 26th, 4 p.m.
 Reconciliation by appointment

(N.B. You can request Mass to be offered for you, your love ones, or any deceased or living person. Speak with the Pastor or call the office to schedule your mass intention).

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Sun. Dec. 20 - 2 Sam 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 Rom 16:25-27 Lk 1:26-38

Mon. Dec. 21 - SG 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a PS 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 LK 1:39-45

Tues. Dec. 22 - 1 SM 1:24-28 1 SAMUEL 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8ABCD LK 1:46-56

Wed. Dec. 23 - MAL 3:1-4, 23-24 PS 25:4-5AB, 8-9, 10 AND 14 LK 1:57-66

Thurs. Dec. 24 - 2 SM 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16 PS 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 AND 29 LK 1:67-79

The Nativity of the Lord Christmas
Fri. Dec. 25 - Is 52:7-10 Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6. Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

Sat. Dec. 26 - ACTS 6:8-10; 7:54-59 PS 31:3CD-4, 6 AND 8AB, 16BC AND 17 PS 118:26A, 27A MT 10:17-22

COORDINATORS OF MINISTRIES

Activities - Brushelle Scott
BINGO - Evangeline Platt
Bishop Faith Appeal - Adam Jacobs / Dorothy Jacobs
Bereavement Committee - Rose Bottley
Donut Sunday's - Freda Guillory
Environmental - Ina Chavis
Extraordinary Minister of Communion - Dorothy Broussard
Finance - Janice Semien
Fund Raiser - Walter Davis
Hospitality/Ushers - Horace Broussard
Lectors - Peggy Green
Life Center - Adam Jacobs
Maintenance - Joseph Ware Sr.
Mission & Retreat - Cecilia Davis
Music Director - Leo Jackson
Pastoral Council - Lester Popillion meetings are held *every other* month.
Religious Education - Sanja Popillion
Youth - Felicia Richard
Stewardship - Gary Mims

Attendance last Weekend
 Saturday: 11 Sunday: 26
 Join us on Facebook LIVE! Sunday

Last Weekend Collection

Mass stipend	\$ 50.00
Missals	\$ 5.00
2nd collection	\$ 67.00
Saturday	\$ 147.00
Sunday	\$ 1,174.00
Total Deposit	\$ 1,443.00

Expenses:
Center Point <\$ 170.84>
Liturgy <\$ 34.23>
Supplies <\$ 21.49>
Phones <\$ 179.16>

December Birthday List
 Happy Birthday to:

Draven Platt	1
Eva Platt	3
Sanja Popillion	4
Betty Odom	5
Courtney Chavis	6
Debra Henderson	11
Lawrence DeLarue	12
Jordan Richard	13
Ashton Spearman	17
Zederick Cezar	19
Mary Rigsby	28
Brushelle Scott	28
Russell Bottley	29

Happy Anniversary

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

Bishop Faith Appeal
 Our Goal has been Achieved

As we deepen our commitment to the Gospel message, we come to understand that stewardship is a way of life. A commitment to serving God's people. Working together one parish, "I can do all things through Christ that gives me strength." is a testament to what we can achieved. Congratulations on accomplishing those goals that are set before us. Thank you to everyone.

Chairpersons, Adam & Dorothy Jacobs and Fr. Donatus.

****Attention Everyone****

The Holiday season is upon us and the Church is asking for those of you who want to donate live poinsettias, please bring them to the parish office on **Wednesday, December 23rd**, or if you are available to help get the Church ready for Christmas, meet us at the Church **Thursday, December 24th at 10 am**, bring your poinsettias and your helping hands. Thanks in advance.

St. Therese Catholic Church
 Established in 1924; Served by The Missionary Society of St. Paul from Nigeria since 2000



1409 6th Street 77630
 Email: sttherese1350@yahoo.com

Phone: (409) 883-3783
 Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-252-5400

Fax: (409) 883-4918
 Website: stthereseorantex.org

Pastoral Team:
Rev. Donatus Mgbeajuo, MSP
 Email: donachrisneo@yahoo.com
 Contact information: cell (409) 454-3958
 Deacon Julian Richard (409) 221-2743

Office Hours
 Tuesday thru Friday
 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
 Lunch 12-1:00 pm

The 4th Sunday of Advent - Year B
December 20, 2020

“Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God”

Eucharistic Celebration

Weekends:
 Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m. & Sunday: 9:00 a.m.

Weekdays:
 Tuesday-Friday 8:00 a.m.

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

Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
 Every Tuesday: 5:30 p.m.

Adoration & Benediction
 1st Tuesday each month 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

Infant Baptism:
 Please contact the pastor two (2) months in advance

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

PARISH SECRETARY
 Cindy Hampton (409) 882-0935

PARISH COUNCIL

Lester Popillion, Chairman	(409) 670-0808
John Semien, Vice Chairman	(409) 313-0594
Mona Richard, Secretary	(409) 779-1442
Horace Broussard	(409) 883-7937
Ina Chavis	(409) 779-4096
Clifton Richard	(409) 882-4739
Peter Roberson	(409) 221-1866
Ralph Wilkes	(409) 553-1451

MAINTENANCE & GROUNDS
 Joseph Ware Sr. (409) 886-5331

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
 Sonja Popillion (409) 670-0808

FINANCE COUNCIL

Janice Semien	(409) 883-7126
Tina Kindle	(409) 238-4447
Sheila Arnold	(409) 313-2062
Andre' Robertson	(409) 882-0012

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Hope

Christian hope addresses the present. It does so in a roundabout way. The hope-filled person is serene right now, right here, not because he or she possesses the wisdom and power to sustain the world, but because God does. The hope-filled person knows this through and through.

FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16 **RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Psalm 89:2–3, 4–5, 27, 29
SECOND READING: Romans 16:25–27 **GOSPEL:** Luke 1:26–38

Comment

Initially, David may have thought that power to sustain the world lay within him. David was, after all, the highly successful king of Israel. Were he a present-day general, there would be no end of decorations on his uniform, so stunning was his military history. The first reading is set at a time when David is at the pinnacle of his success as king of Israel. Peace reigns, the Ark of the Covenant—the dwelling place of God—is in the capital city, the people prosper. David, who has done so much for his people, thinks aloud how he will do something for God. He hits upon the idea of building God a fitting dwelling.

This is not what God has in mind, however. It is not David's business to take care of God, Nathan reminds him. Rather it is God's business to take care of David and more, far more than David could dream of, much less hope for. For David was talking about a dwelling, a temple. And less, a temporal temple.

David's seemingly generous musings are met by God's huge promise. No less than eight times God reminds David that God is the source of strength, triumph, success. This is all God's doing. Therein lies the possibility for hope. And David knows it. At the end of the God's "I" statements, we read that David will not build God a house, but rather God will build David a "house," a kingdom that will stand firm forever.

And this kingdom begins in a small house in the out-of-the-way village of Nazareth. A messenger from God comes with a greeting of joy and a plea for the young woman not to be afraid. The young woman engaged to the carpenter Joseph of the house and family of David is a child of her generation and of all the generations before her. Like so many of the people of Israel, Mary trusted that God would fulfill promises and act on their behalf. Mary's questions were not based on incredulity, but on hope. She asked about the next step; she did not doubt that God would act and lead. Understandably, she needed to know how God would act, what God would do to fulfill the promises kept close and dear through Israel's long history.

Without pretense or presumption, Mary's awareness of God's will for her dawned as gently as morning, and she welcomed God's future and her place in it: "Let it be done to me as you say."

Paul's words to the Romans assure us that the promise made to David has been accomplished in the person of Jesus the Christ. The unlikely virgin of tiny Nazareth became the fitting dwelling place of the One who would dwell among us and whose kingdom would endure forever. This is all up to God, in whose life these singular lives are lived. It is God's will and way that grounds the hope that David learned and Mary knew.

Reflection

Today's readings, especially the Gospel, speak to our hope—our trust that God will fulfill promises. That hope is precisely what gets us off the eternal cycle of hopelessness that shows up in our worrying, fearing, fretting, and stewing. If we think that everything depends on us, then hopelessness is often an appropriate response. But it does not depend on us. Our lives depend on God, and this is the good news that spurs us on. We can set this whole thing in God's hands, whatever the "thing" is.

Then we can roll up our sleeves and get on with it, just as Mary got on with it. She went to take care of her cousin Elizabeth. She could go on with her life because her life was in God's hands, not hers. This hope left her hands free to reach out and help whoever needed help. So hope enables us to live and act in the present, where God is and where our neighbor is.

PRAY FOR THE HOMEBOUND

Mary Alexander	Beatrice Guillory	Mark Mitchell Jr.
Mary Brown	Hollis Fain	James Mims
Courtney Chavis	Ella Mae Garrett	Westley Papillion
Florence Craig	Mary Gray	Mormon Richard
David J. Carey	Alma C Thibodeaux	Deacon Julian Richard



PRAY FOR THE SICK

Jalen A. Chambers	Ruby Milton
Carroll Durio	Clayona Pillette
Mable Durio	Andre Platt
Margaret Green	John Richard Sr.
Mrs. Doris Hayes	Gerald Richard
Roy Hayes	Claudine Riggs
Ronald Hebert	Sammie Ware
Lucy Mitchell	Tiffany Winphrey

AFTER THE MASS WE WILL MEET OUT FRONT

ORDER FOR THE BLESSING OF AN IMAGE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Priest: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Priest: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, born of the Virgin Mother, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

ALL: **And with your spirit.**

Priest: My dear brothers and sisters, we have gathered here in joy for the solemn blessing of this image of the blessed Virgin Mary. Under the title **Our Lady of Lourdes** this image will remind us of the close ties of Mary to Christ and his Church. First of all, she is Christ's Mother, the Mother of the visible image of the invisible God. But she is also the image and the model of the Church, and she is its exemplar. In Mary the Church joyously contemplates the image of all that the Church itself desires and hopes wholly to be. The Church recognizes in Mary the model of the path and the practice it must follow to reach complete union with Christ. As the Spouse of Christ, the Church raises its eyes to Mary, the exemplar it must look to in carrying out the work of the apostolate. We should strive to take part in this service with the greatest intensity and reverent devotion.

PRAYER OF BLESSING

Priest: Lord God we acknowledge your infinite glory and the abundance of your gifts. Before the foundation of the world, you appointed Christ red the beginning and end of all things. You chose the blessed Virgin Mary as the Mother and companion for your Son, the image and model of your- Church, the Mother and advocate of us all. She is the new Eve, through whom you restored what the first Eve had lost. She is the daughter of Zion, who echoed in her heart in the longings of the patriarchs and the hopes of Israel. She is the poor and lowly servant, who trusted solely in her Lord. In the fullness of time she was delivered of the Sun of justice, the dayspring from on high, your Son, Jesus Christ. In her flesh she was his Mother, in her person, his disciple, in her love, his servant. Father, may your children who have provided this image (statue) of Mary know her protection and trace in their hearts the pattern of her holiness. Bless them with faith and hope, love and humility; bless them with strength in hardship and self-respect in poverty; bless them with patience in adversity and kindness in times of plenty. May they search for peace, strive for justice, and realize your love, as they pursue their journey through life toward your heavenly city, where the blessed Virgin Mary intercedes as Mother and reigns as Queen. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CONCLUDING RITE

Priest: Through the motherhood of Mary, God in his goodness has chosen to redeem the human race. May he enrich you with his blessing. **Amen.**

May you always. and everywhere experience •the protection of Mary, through whom you have received the author of life. **Amen.**

May you who have come here today out of devotion take away with you the gift of joy in your hearts and the rewards of heaven. **Amen.**

Then he blesses all present.

And may almighty God bless you all, the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**