



# ST. THERESA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

11528 S.E. HIGHWAY 301 BELLEVIEW, FLORIDA 34420  
PHONE: 352-245-2458 • FAX: 352-245-1521  
[www.sttheresacatholicchurch.org](http://www.sttheresacatholicchurch.org)

THRIFT SHOP \* SOUP KITCHEN \* ST.VINCENT DE PAUL  
245-0650                      245-1359                      245-2915



*Father in heaven, our hearts desire the warmth of your love and our minds are searching for the light of your Word. Increase our longing for Christ, our Savior, and give us the strength to grow in love, that the dawn of His coming may find us rejoicing in His presence and welcoming the light of His truth. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord. Amen.*

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Gaudete Sunday - Rejoice!

### +++ MASS SCHEDULE

**DAILY MASSES**  
*Monday through Friday:*  
8:30 a.m.  
**WEEKENDS**  
*Saturday:*  
4:00 & 5:30 p.m.  
*Sunday:*  
7:30, 9:00 & 11:30 a.m.  
**Holy Day Vigil:** 7:30 p.m.  
**Holy Day Masses:**  
8:30 a.m. & 12:00 noon

### SACRAMENTS

**Baptisms and Confirmation:** Please contact the Parish Office at 245-2458 for more information.  
**Marriage:** Call the office at least 6 months prior to intended date.  
**Anointing of the Sick:** Available after all Masses.  
**Vocations:** Call the office for more information and guidance.  
**Confessions:** 3:00-3:45 p.m. on Saturday or contact the office for appointment.  
**Hospital and Homebound Communion:** Call Parish Office.

**SICK CALL and FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS**  
245-2458 or 245-4506



## St. Theresa Catholic Church

**Pastor: Fr. David Vivero**

**Retired Assoc: Fr. George Koerber**

**Deacon: Norman LaFleur**

(Contact Deacon LaFleur regarding Annulments)

New Parishioners: Please register at Parish Office

**Parish Office: (352) 245-2458**

(Voice mail checked during non-office times)

**FAX: (352) 245-1521**

**11528 S.E. Highway 301**

**Bellevue, Florida 34420**

**Email: Info@sttheresacatholicchurch.org**

**Website: www.sttheresacatholicchurch.org**

**Secretary/Administration (352) 245-2458**

Alice Ghigliotty

**Receptionist (352) 245-2458**

JoAnn Day

**Liturgy and Music (352) 245-5300**

Kay Roberts

**Religious Education and Youth (352) 245-5300**

Julie McAllister

**Maintenance and Repair (352) 245-2458**

Tom Swarbrick

**Social Services-Donna Krause (352) 245-1359**

**Soup Kitchen (352) 245-1359**

**Thrift Shop (352) 245-0650**

Mary Ann Jones

**Website and Bulletin (352) 861-4397**

Penn Herbert

**Parish Hall Coordinator (352) 245-7689**

Karen French

**St. Vincent DePaul Society (352) 245-2915**

Tom Mulloy

**Catholic Charities Counseling (888) 658-2828**

(Information and Referral Service)

Volunteers are unpaid  
not because they are worthless  
but because they are  
**PRICELESS!**

## PARISH MISSION STATEMENT



WE ARE COMMUNITY FOUNDED BY CHRIST HIMSELF, EMPOWERED BY HIS GIFT OF THE EUCHARIST. WE ARE COMMITTED TO GROW IN FAITH, HOPE, LOVE AND SERVICE TO ALL.

## PARISH MINISTRIES

### EUCHARISTIC

Ministers to the Sick (MTS): Donna @ 687-1070

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC):

Fred @ 861-4397

Holy Hour/Adoration Assistants: Fred @ 861-4397

### LITURGICAL

Altar Servers: Julie @ 245-5300 or Pastor @ 245-2458

Lectors: Kay @ 245-9098

Ushers: Kay @ 245-9098 or Pastor @ 245-2458

Choir: Kay @ 245-9098

### FAITH FORMATION

Adult Discussion Group: Joan @ 307-7905

Bible Study: Lois @ 245-2255

Catechists: Julie @ 245-5300

R.C.I.A.: Julie @ 245-5300 or Gloria @ 347-6149

Youth Ministry: Julie @ 245-5300

### PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

Cursillo: Elena @ 245-7348 or 812-3125

Knights of Columbus: Ron @ 288-2901

Knights' Columbiettes: Karen @ 245-7689

Ladies Guild: Karen @ 245-7689

Legion of Mary: Fred @ 861-4397

Ultreya: Elena @ 245-7348 or 812-3125

### MISC. OUTREACH

HIV/Aids: Jim @ 347-2172

Bereavement: Ruth @ 307-1292

Prison Ministry: Fred & Arlene @ 347-6708

Respect Life: Jim @ 347-2172

Transporting to Mass & Doctors: Alice @ 245-2458

## BULLETIN NOTICES and WEBSITE INFORMATION

*Bulletin copy must be in written format and submitted two (2) Thursdays prior to the weekend of publication.*

Place in "Bulletin" or "Website" inbox at office with all particulars and desired date of insertion noted

**OR E-mail** (preferred method)

for Bulletin: [info@sttheresacatholicchurch.org](mailto:info@sttheresacatholicchurch.org)

for Website: [webmaster@sttheresacatholicchurch.org](mailto:webmaster@sttheresacatholicchurch.org)

**Third Sunday of Advent  
December 16, 2007**



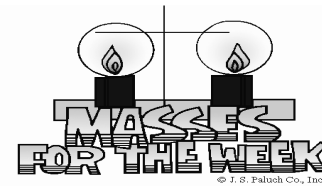
Those whom the LORD has ransomed  
will return and enter Zion singing,  
crowned with everlasting joy.

- Isaiah 35:10a



**Offertory Contributions**

December 9, 2007 \$ 8,264.48  
Project Growth \$ 1,641.00



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2007**

8:30 am **COMMUNION PRAYER SERVICE**  
4:00 pm **Elizabeth Callahan (+)** by Mary Callahan  
**Francis & Lottie Baranek and David F. Reiter (+)**  
by Jane & Dave Reiter  
**Laura Kacherik (+)** by Laura Kacherik  
**John Obrzut (+)** by Helen Spoulstra  
5:30 pm **Betty Williams (+)** by Sister Irene  
**Deceased of Rogan Family** by William & Nancy Rogan

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2007**

7:30 am **Patrick Bacon (+)** by Mary Bacon  
**Robert & Gladys Wernsing (+)** by Joyce Duke  
9:00 am **Barbara Streppone (+)** by M/M Richard Cannone  
**Chuck Gruca (+)** by C & M Harrington  
**Spec. Intention of Mary Rogoski**  
**In Thanksgiving** by Ana Gonzalez  
**To Our Lady of Perpetual Help** by Pedro Rivera  
11:30 am **Well-Being of Parish Family**

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2007**

8:30 am **Judy Sullivan (+)** by Patsy & Mickey Sullivan  
**Al Jordan (+)** by Leona J. Martin  
**Holy Souls in Purgatory** by Pat & George Ezzo  
**Spec. Intention of Cassandra Ezzo** by Pat & George Ezzo

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2007**

8:30 am **Mary Ann Meshak (+)** by Ray Meshak  
**James Lyons (+)** by wife, Kitty  
**Holy Souls in Purgatory** by Pat & George Ezzo  
**Spec. Int. of Clara & Andy Annunizata** by Pat & George Ezzo

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2007**

8:30 am **Sara Isquero (+)** by Pat & George Ezzo  
**John DeLuca (+)** by Ron & Loretta Ciampi & Daughters  
**Matthew Close, Jr. (+)** by Donna L. Martin and Michael Rodak  
**Holy Souls in Purgatory** by Pat & George Ezzo  
and by Navia Montoya

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2007**

8:30 am **Herbert Kelly (+)** by Martin & Martha Gonzalez  
**Edward Lyons (+)** by Mother, Kitty  
**Spec. Intention of Brittani Lindsey** by Pat & George Ezzo  
**Spec. Int. of Susan & Sharon Humphreys** by James P. Kennedy

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2007**

8:30 am **Monthly Memorial Mass**

**A SEASON OF HOPE**

Today we can bask in the imagery that the Mass readings offer us. In particular, Isaiah's vision of a parched land that blooms with abundant flowers holds a message for each of us. Too often we are just like that parched land. We can allow ourselves to become absorbed in the waves of consumerism that grip so many. We look for fulfillment in the things that money can buy. Unfortunately, this leaves us like parched land, thirsting for something that money can't buy. This holy season has much to offer to quench our thirsts. In a word, this season offers hope. We are told that those who are ransomed by God will know joy and gladness. For them, sorrow and mourning will be no more. Let us place our hope in these promises.



**READINGS**

**TODAY'S READINGS**

**First Reading** — The barren deserts will rejoice and flower. Tired bodies will receive strength. Aching hearts will be made glad (Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10).

**Psalms** — Lord, come and save us (Psalm 146).

**Second Reading** — Be patient, for the coming of the Lord is as sure as the rain (James 5:7-10).

**Gospel** — Tell of what you hear and see: The blind regain their vision, the crippled their movement, the deaf their hearing. The dead are raised to new life! (Matthew 11:2-11).

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday:** Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17  
**Tuesday:** Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25  
**Wednesday:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25  
**Thursday:** Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38  
**Friday:** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45  
**Saturday:** 1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56  
**Sunday:** Is 7:10-14; Ps 24; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

*Behold, the days are coming,  
says the Lord . . .*

*Jeremiah 23:5*

Thoughts from Fr. David . . .



Go and Tell

Matthew relates to us in the gospel, “when John heard in prison of the works of Jesus, he sent his disciples to him with a question, *Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?*”

Each generation of Israel wondered if the newly appointed king was the promised Messiah. When kings were no more, the people of Israel put such questions to their religious leaders. John puts the question to Jesus. John could not tell. Probably it did not fit the image the people wanted or expected.

WHAT DO YOU EXPECT FROM JESUS?  
WHAT IMAGE DO YOU HAVE OF A MESSIAH?

Unfortunately, sometimes we do not see him in the ordinary rhythm of our lives. Although we hardly find him in the behavior of people, the question of Jesus becomes more significant.

*What did you go out to the desert to see?* I mean your inner desert.

In his reply, Jesus directs our sight in our blindness; carries us in our journey of faith when we can't move on; challenges us to hear when we refuse or have difficulty in hearing; raises us up when we feel crushed by sin and death.

For this we celebrate a Joyful 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent. Go tell John, Dad, Mom, everyone...all of your friends & relatives what you hear and see in Jesus Christ, our Lord!

**Saints and Special Observances**

Sunday: Third Sunday of Advent;  
Las Posadas begins;  
Eid al-Adha (Muslim feast of the sacrifice of Ishmael) celebrated this week  
Friday: St. Peter Canisius  
Saturday: Winter begins



**Mass Celebrants for DECEMBER**

Saturday: 4:00 p.m. - Fr. David  
5:30 p.m. - Fr. David  
Sunday: 7:30 a.m. - Fr. David  
9:00 a.m. - Fr. Shine  
11:30 a.m. - Fr. George  
Monday & Wednesday: 8:30 a.m.- Fr. George  
Tues./Thurs./Fri.: 8:30 a.m. - Fr. David

**Prayer for the Sick of Our Parish**

Father, hear our prayers for the sick members of our community and for all who are in need. Amid mental and physical suffering may they find consolation in your healing presence. We ask this through the Lord Jesus who healed those who believed. Amen.

Fr. George Walter Studzinski Tom Mascaro Joyce Landry  
Paulie Lozano Leo Dubuc Anne Teti Roland Vonisinski  
Margaret Blair Richard Gustafson Nancy Armitage

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**Saturday, December 15: MINISTRY LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING** - All Ministry Coordinators are asked to attend a special **Communications Seminar** on Saturday, **December 15 from 9:00 - 12:00 Noon** in the Quad.

**Holiday Mass Schedule**

**Christmas Eve Masses**

Mon., Dec. 24  
7:30 PM & Midnight

**Christmas Day Masses**

Tues., Dec. 25  
8:30 AM & Noon

**New Year's Eve Mass**

Mon., Dec. 31  
7:30 PM

**New Year's Day Masses**

Tues., Jan. 1  
8:30 AM & Noon

Special and Warm  
**Seasons Greetings**

To All St. Theresa Parishioners  
 From Fr. James MacLoughlin



We would like to extend our best wishes to all the good people of St. Theresa during this blessed holiday season and throughout the year. You are in our prayers for health, happiness and spiritual fulfillment.

*Fr. David Vivero, Fr. George Koerber, & Fr. Sean Shine*

## The Gift of Peace

The Perfect Choice for Everyone on Your Christmas List

*by Louise Perrotta*

(The Word Among Us ~ Family Insert)

This is the season when a familiar question begins echoing in homes throughout the land: "What do you want for Christmas?" We've all heard answers ranging from reasonable (a CD, a toy truck, a sweater) to poignant (a job, good health, friends) to outrageous (a sports car, a five-thousand-dollar pinball machine from The Sharper Image catalogue). Compared to the actual promise of Christmas, though, even the most ambitious wish lists fall short. God invites us and our families to set our sights on something higher—to seek nothing less than the "peace on earth" announced by angels at the birth of the Prince of Peace (Luke 2:13-14).

Peace is the deepest need and longing of our hearts and of our world. And peace is the gift that Jesus came to bring. Throughout His life on earth, He spoke peace to all who would listen and promised peace as His lasting gift. He reconciled us to God and to one another "by making peace through the blood of His cross" (Colossians 1:20). He declared peacemakers "blessed" and called His followers to continue His mission of peace and reconciliation.

Advent is the perfect opportunity to get ready to receive the gift in a new and deeper way. As the season continues, prayerfully reflect on a few questions. Then talk them over with your spouse and, age permitting, with your children: Lord, where do you want to bring peace into my life by your coming? Into our family's life? How can I cooperate with your plan? What can we offer you as a family this Advent to further your work of bringing peace on earth? . . .

. . . **Peace with One Another.** As preparation for His coming at Christmas, offer the Prince of Peace some effort you've made to bring peace into your relationships with others. Are you miffed about something your nephew did? Give him a friendly call anyway. Do you tune out when your spouse starts worrying out loud about the kids? Listen up, and look for ways to bring God's peace into the situation.

A good prayer for this project is the one attributed to St. Francis of Assisi: "Lord, make me a channel of your peace." And the right spirit was set out by St. John Chrysostom, who urged perseverance in the face of rebuffs: "God pleads with us every day, and we refuse to listen—yet he doesn't stop pleading. Shouldn't you do the same?" . . . .

. . . **The Right Gift.** You can't guarantee that no one will give you oven mitts, an ugly tie, or some other wrong gift this Christmas. But no matter what you find under the tree, you'll find the right gift in your heart—if you've made peace your Advent theme.

*Louise Perrotta is an editor at The Word Among Us*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you for the many prayers during my hospital stay. Prayers do work!  
I am home and doing well. Loretta Lostracco



I wish to thank everyone who supported the Holiday Food Drive, all those who donated turkeys and canned goods. With your generosity, we were able to give 153 families a Thanksgiving dinner. We

will be able to do the same for Christmas, along with toys. My thanks to Corinne and her team for pulling it all together. Thanks also go out to Gloria & Tony Weis, John Lee, Jan Bailey, and Paul & Ginger Trunk for giving of their time to have the Soup Kitchen open on Thanksgiving Day. They served 90 meals. May God bless you all in this Holy Season.

Donna, Director of Social Services

**BIBLE STUDY:** Thurs., Dec. 20, 1-2:00 PM, Rm. 8. Study Question: What experiences do you have of God "speaking to you" and directing your life and work? How does God speak to you in prayer?

**WANTED—Woodworker To Make Small Crosses**

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Legion of Mary looking for a source of small (2-3") wood crosses to be used in its ongoing evangelizing activities. Call Fred (861-4397) for more details.



**NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER/DANCE**  
Knights of Columbus Council 8012  
Hwy. 301, Belleview on Monday,

Dec.31. Dinner at 7:00 PM. Music by *Florida Country* from 8:30-12:30 AM. Donation \$25.00 per person. BYOB \* 50/50 \* Raffles \* Party Favors. Call Ron Rushford at 288-2901.



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION &amp; ENRICHMENT

For the following notices, if you have further questions or concerns, please call 245-5300.

**2007-2008 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM:**  
Registration is an ongoing process. There are Religious Education registration forms in the vestibule of the church. REMINDER: FOR ALL NEW REGISTRATIONS A BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE IS REQUIRED FOR EACH CHILD REGISTERED.

*THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION  
OF ADULTS - R.C.I.A.*

This is an ongoing process for:  
Catechumens-Non-Baptized persons wishing to join or to learn about the Catholic Church.  
Converts – Baptized Protestants who wish to join or to learn about the Catholic Church.  
Catholics seeking Confirmation  
Catholics seeking Faith Enrichment.  
If you or someone you know is interested in information regarding RCIA: Call the Office at 245-5300.

**PRE-K-HIGH SCHOOL CHRISTMAS**

**PROGRAM**—All are welcome to see our talented students celebrate the season with Christmas song and skit on Sunday, Dec. 16th, 10:15-11:15 AM in the Quad. Refreshments served.



**PARENT MEETING FOR CONFIRMATION**

**PREPARATION**—There will be an important meeting for parents of young people 9th grade or older who are ready to prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this Spring. This meeting will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 18th at 7-8 PM in the Religious Education building.

**CATECHISTS ADVENT CELEBRATION** for all those in the ministry of faith formation for children through adults. A time to gather to celebrate this Advent season. Wednesday, Dec. 19th, 6:30-8:30 PM. Dinner included. RSVP by Dec. 17th.

**YA2 –ALIVE IN CHRIST:** YA2 is the youth component of the Catholic Campaign. We will be sponsoring a one-day event for the youth of our parish on Friday, December 21st beginning with morning Mass at 8:30. The day will be filled with opportunities for prayer, crafts, games, skits, movies, and service to others. This is for children 4 years old through High School. All 7th & 8th graders and H.S. teens are welcome to serve as "Crew Leaders" for the day. Please attend a planning meeting on Sunday, Dec. 16th at 2:30 PM in the Religious Education building. Call the R.E. office for info. and to register.

**RELIG. ED Classes 4 yr. old Pre-K-8th Grade will not meet Dec. 23 & 30th. Classes resume Sun., January 6th. THANK YOU, catechists and aides, for your dedication!**

**A legend reads:**

*For those who fear, time is too swift  
For those who wait, time is too slow.  
For those who celebrate, time is too short.  
For those who grieve, time is too long.  
For those who love, time is not.*

**Perhaps that is the meaning of the eternity of God: For him who is love, there is no time, and “one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years are as a day.” (2 Pet.3:9). For those who live in His love there is no fear, and waiting becomes hope and the celebration never ends and grief is comforted by faith and love. Faith and love are the victory that is in the making. The Day of the Lord whose fullness is yet to come.**

A.M.D.G.