

ST. THERESE
Called to Serve

ST. THERESE LITTLE FLOWER PARISH

“I will send down a shower of roses from the heavens, I will spend my heaven by doing good on earth.”

— St. Thérèse of Lisieux



MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday Masses

Sunday.....8:00 & 9:15 a.m.
First Sunday of every month.....9:00 a.m.

Weekday Masses in the Chapel

Wednesday and Friday.....12:00 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Contact Fr. Matt Rotert or Fr. Bill Fox

Office Hours

Monday-Friday.....9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Closed Noon-1:00 p.m.
Tel: 816.444.5406.....Fax: 816.444.9345
Senior Center.....816.444.3514
Website:.....www.stlfkc.org

Diocesan Ombudsman:.....816.812.2500
Kathleen Chastain, Victims' Advocate:....816.392.0011

MISSION STATEMENT

We, God’s people, are a remnant whose faith has been tested and tempered by the transitions in our neighborhoods and our church. We do not have one common ethnic, religious, social, or economic background. We do have a common experience, of being the diverse but complementary members of the one Body of Christ. Because of this common experience, We choose to be St. Therese Parish Community.

We choose to use our gifts to build up the Body of Christ Incarnate here. This mission must take place both within the faith community and in reaching out to others. We confess the need to become more aware of one another and of the Lord calling us to be united in God’s spirit. We will strive to develop this awareness not only for our own sake, but so that we may become credible and inviting to those seeking Christ and His Gospel.

We answer this calling first by faithfully sharing the Word and breaking Bread together. We then realize our vocation to affirm one another’s gift, to reach out to the poor, to work for justice, to help form young minds and hearts, to acknowledge the place of the elders in our community, and to create a climate of fellowship for all people.

Parish Calendar

Sunday, December 22, 2019 — 4th Sunday of Advent

Mass 8:00 a.m. for Parishioners

Rosary 8:45 a.m. Chapel

Mass 9:15 a.m. for Parishioners

Tuesday, December 24, 2019 — Christmas Eve

Mass — 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 25, 2019 — Christmas Day

Mass — 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 29, 2019 — Feast of the Holy Family

Mass 8:00 a.m. for Parishioners

Rosary 8:45 a.m. Chapel

Mass 9:15 a.m. for Parishioners

Liturgical Roles*

December 29 — Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

	8:00 Mass	9:15 Mass
Lectors	B Miller A Davis	Knights of Columbus Ladies of Peter Claver
Eucharistic Ministers	S Sanders B Miller	A Johnson K Burdick Sr. A Landers T Lee Sr. H Alder
Hospitality	K Preston K Woodard	Knights of Columbus Ladies of Peter Claver
Servers	A Preston B Preston	Knights of Columbus Ladies of Peter Claver

*If you are unable to serve in a ministry that you are assigned, please contact another minister to take your place.

Pray with Scripture...

December 22

Isaiah 7:10-14

Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-24

December 29

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5

Colossians 3:12-21

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23



©LPi



Standing in the Need of Prayer

St. Therese Little Flower community prays for the following:

Bridgette Atkinson, Wanda Battle, Ben Bongers, Liesa Brown, Mary L. Brown, Louis Byrd, Randy Chestnut, Lisa Coan, Quinn Cogan, Evelyn Coleman, Craig Cowens, Sophia Jo Davis, Pamela Denson, Carol Dodd, Iona England, Jessie Mae Frazier, Joann Freeman, Dan Ivory, Elijah Jones, Joyce Jones, LaToya Jones, Marty Kata, Wenda King, Keith Kloster, Zach Kloster, Malcolm Knight, Raymond LaNear, Doreen Lacy, Charles Lidge, Aidan Liesveld, Helen Logan, Stephen Loston, Bob McCombs, Helen McVay, Venus Moore, Margaret Mulligan, Luqrecia Preston, Marilyn Richardson, Flanord Rideau, Judy Rieck, Fr. Bob Rost, Oden Sainte, Joseppi Sandoval, Lee John Scott, Sharon Sears, Arthur Shelton, Allen Shelton, Jeremiah Smith, Tracy Smith, Elaine Stevenson, Michael Stevenson, Blanche L. Thomas, Joshua Webb, Jr., Bobby J. Willis, Jesse Wilkes, Mildred Wilkes, Antwine Williams, the elderly and infirmed, the chronically ill and their caregivers; for those who attend to the dying and grieving; for medical professionals and first responders. For those who seek a better life for their families.

For the homeless and those lost in this world; for those who harbor hatred and especially for those who have no one to pray for them.

IN EVERYTHING give Thanks

YOUR GIFTS	Week of December 15	% of December Budget
Offertory	\$4,043	19%
Emergency Assistance	\$1,235	15%
Total	\$5,278	25%

You can **give via bank draft** from your savings or checking account or by debit or credit card. Go to stlfc.org and click on "Give" to sign up.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please submit requests for bulletin announcements by **Noon on Wednesday to bulletin@stlfc.org.**

THE CATHOLIC STEWARD



Is 7:10-14, 10; Ps 24:1-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

As our Advent preparations draw to a close and Christmas fast approaches, it is fitting that today's readings demonstrate the intensity of the Father's perfect and passionate love for each us, culminating in the gift of His own Son, Jesus Christ, on Christmas Day. In response to such an overwhelming gift, what can we do except offer our lives as gift in return, embracing a stewardship way of life with all the love and strength we have to give?

In our Gospel passage from Matthew, we find an unparalleled example of one who embraced this way of life in St. Joseph, as he obeys God's call to him through the message of an angel. We never hear St. Joseph speak, but the Scriptures tell us he was always listening, attentive to the leading of the Holy Spirit for his family. It was Joseph who found the stable where the baby Jesus would be born. No doubt it was Joseph who cleaned it up and prepared it for Mary and Jesus since we know that Mary was about to give birth. Joseph protected the family, guarded them, tended to their safety, their comfort, and their well-being at the expense of his own plans and preferences. Though we do not hear any words from St. Joseph his actions clearly show that he offered himself, his whole life, as a gift to his family through his strong guidance, protection and service.

Let us imitate St. Joseph then as good stewards, giving our very lives to those around us in love and gratitude to God who has given us everything we have, especially His own Son, Jesus Christ.

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The Christmas Cadillac

What is a convenience to one is an absolute miracle to another. When you think about going to the grocery store, what do you do? You make a list of what you need and head to the grocery store. You may jump in your car or call for a ride.

When some of our families come to the food pantry they don't have the luxury of a reliable ride. They try to get their groceries home in any way they can. Some go to the nearest grocery store and "borrow" a store grocery cart or maybe they find one on the way to the pantry. I've had some have a little tiny portable cart that we had to strap their groceries on the best way we could, or some mothers bring the strollers of their babies and put the groceries in the stroller. I've had some who found a duffle bag or suitcase, some with rollers some not.

This is the story of one of our neighbors who struggled home many times with a duffle bag. Sometimes she would have to make 2 trips to get all of her groceries home. That was not a big problem she just lives "down the street". I have seen her find inventive ways to get her groceries home. Most of the time she has some sort of suitcase but it is always a tough trip.

When she came for her Christmas Basket I knew her little suitcase was no match for what she was going to receive. She started out in the line and tried to put her turkey and fruit in the suitcase and we said, "try using this instead", and she was presented with a new large shopping cart. She cried out. She could fit her duffle bag suitcase inside the cart and still have plenty of room for all her groceries and her Christmas gifts. She could not proceed through the line, she just dropped to her knees and started crying in joy and happiness. She cried out, she praised God. I think she hugged every volunteer in the room and a few of the other people in the line. She called the cart her Cadillac. She said she was going to get it tagged and put Christmas lights on it. We finally got her through and on her way home. Halfway down the street we heard her telling people about the great gift she just received. When she finally got home. She called the St. Therese office back and said she was sitting on her porch in her hat and gloves and looking at her grocery Cadillac. She was still crying. That \$27.99 grocery cart was bought from donations from you — St. Therese Little Flower Family. Every little thing makes a difference. And you never know that just the ability to get your food home is the biggest blessing you can receive. Have a blessed Christmas. You've already blessed the families in this neighborhood.

The Miracle on 58th Street continues.

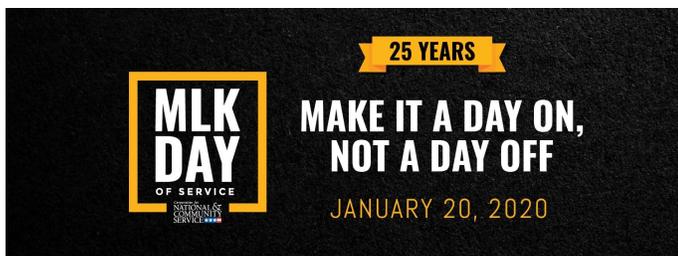


Dear St. Therese Little Flower Parishioners,

The fourth Sunday of Advent is suddenly here, and now we anxiously await the celebration of our Lord's birth. I always look forward to seeing all the families at Christmas Masses; St. Therese Little Flower is our parish home and all are welcome here.

Thank you all for the special gifts you bring to our faith family. May your holiday be filled with joy, and may the peace of Christ be yours, this Christmas and always.

Blessings,
Fr. Matt Rotert



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Prayer Service

Monday, January 20, 2020, 10 a.m.
St. Therese Little Flower Parish,
5814 Euclid Ave., Kansas City, MO 64130

St. Therese Little Flower parish will host a Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. prayer service on **Monday, January 20, 2020** at 10 a.m. **Bishop James Johnston** will offer the key message of the morning. All are invited to join us in a renewed commitment to serving others and being the face of God to each other and those who need our help. In the spirit of service and social justice, we invite you to participate in service projects from January 1-20, 2020: "Twenty Days of Service" (not a day off) to honor the legacy of Dr. King. Ministry groups are invited to be choose a service project and bring a symbol of your service project(s) to the prayer service to be used in the liturgy. If you are interested in singing with the combined choir, please contact Tamara Chestnut at tchestnut@stlflkc.org for information as soon as possible for rehearsal schedule. Brunch will be served following the service to continue our fellowship.

Questions may be directed to Estelle Tunley, Director, Liturgy and Music, etunley@stlflkc.org or 816.444.5406.



At this time of year we may find ourselves in a flurry of activities with Christmas preparations, but it is imperative that we stop what we are doing and allow for some quiet time to reflect and pray. It is easy to push aside our spiritual needs but it is even more important not overlook our spiritual side when we are busy and overwhelmed.



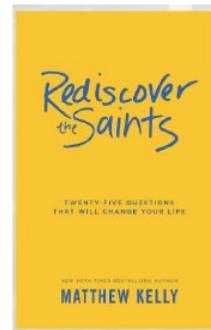
An author from Fellowship of Christian Athletes proposes 2 scriptures that are helpful for him. One is from Philippians 3 where Paul tells us to forget the past and press on toward what is ahead. Also Matthew 6:34 where Jesus tells us not to worry about tomorrow. These are the 3 guidelines he developed for Spiritual wellness from these scriptures:

1. Don't depend on past success: we need to continue to be disciplines and work hard each day to meet our goals and stay in the moment.
2. Don't be defeated by past failures: accept that there will be setbacks, but keep trying, and
3. Don't dread tomorrow: we can always make a new start even if yesterday didn't work out well, but trust in God for wisdom, courage and strength and accept the gift of His son.



A Gift this Christmas. . .

This Christmas, we will share Matthew Kelly's newest book, *Rediscover the Saints*. *This is one of the resources made available to us on our journey toward becoming a more Dynamic Parish.*



This book opens our eyes to the amazing possibilities God has for us and encourages us to strive for greatness, with the help of men and women in Church history who have done it before us — the saints.

Senior Center News

Senior Center Closed—Week of December 23—27
Open - Monday-Tuesday, December 30-31
Closed— New Year's Day.

“Thank you to all who celebrated with us for our Annual Senior Center Christmas Party on Wednesday. Thanks to seniors from St. Therese, St. Peter’s , St. Louis, St. Monica who we treated to a wonderful meal and lots of gifts and love. As always, we thank the volunteers from St. Therese and St. Peter’s who give generously of their time, talent and treasure to make this event so special. God has truly blessed us!”

With Love and Gratitude, Sharon Sanders

Parish Staff

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Kathleen Chastain, Victims' Advocate	chastain@diocesekcsj.org

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Carmen Denvir	816.872.2517	cdenvir514@gmail.com

Anointing of the Sick: Sacrament takes place at seasonal communal celebrations and may be requested as needed and offered after Mass.

Eucharist for the Sick: Contact the Parish Office.

Baptism, Catechumenate Inquiry, Marriage Preparation and Sacrament of Reconciliation—contact Fr. Matt or Fr. Bill.

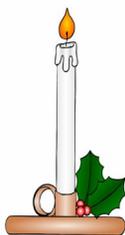
We are a member parish of Holy Rosary Credit Union - 816.221.2734

Upcoming Events—Save the Date

CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday School Program 6 p.m.
 Caroling 6:30 p.m.
 Mass 7:00 p.m.

(Fr. Bob Rost, Celebrant)



CHRISTMAS DAY

Mass 10:00 a.m.

DECEMBER 29

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH
KWANZAA CELEBRATION

(Fr. Bob Rost Celebrant—Both Masses)

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Mass 10:00 a.m. — St. Peter's Church

JANUARY 5, 2020—THE EPIHANY OF THE LORD

One Mass 9:00 a.m. (Fr. Waris, Celebrant)

JANUARY 1-20, 2020

“Twenty Days of Service”

Living the Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY, JANUARY 20, 2020

Prayer Service 10:00 a.m.

Bishop Johnston—Message of the Day



The Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph is committed to combating sexual abuse in the Church. If you are a victim of sexual abuse, or if you observe or suspect sexual abuse:

1. **Call the Missouri Child Abuse Hotline** at 1.800.392.3738 (if the victim is currently under the age of 18), and
2. **Contact your local law enforcement** agency or call 911, and
3. **After reporting to these civil and law enforcement authorities, report suspected sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult** to the Diocesan Ombudsman Joe Crayon at 816.812-2500 or crayon@ombudsmankcsj.org, if the abuse involves a priest, deacon, employee, or volunteer of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph. The Diocese has a sincere commitment to providing care and healing resources to victims of sexual abuse and their families. Please contact Victim Advocate Kathleen Chastain at 816.392.0011 or chastain@diocesekcsj.org

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