

ST. THERESE OF THE CHILD JESUS

THE CHURCH OF THE FRANCISCANS
FR. BERNARD KARMANOCKY, OFM, PASTOR
FR. FRANCIS BALESTINO, IN RESIDENCE

CHURCH/RECTORY
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CONVENT
702 Saybrook Place
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OFFICE HOURS WEEKLY
Monday – Friday
9:00AM--2:00PM
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SOCIAL HALL: 535-8805
CHURCH HALL: 536-2287
CONVENT: 536-2287
RECTORY: 539-7633

Forth Sunday of Advent

Dec 18, 2022

FIRST READING: You will be given this sign: the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel (Isaiah 7:10-14).

PSALM: The king of glory shall come in (Psalm 24).

SECOND READING God has called us to belong to Jesus Christ (Romans 1:1-7).

GOSPEL: The son born of Mary shall be called Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. He shall be Emmanuel, “God is with us” (Matthew 1:18-24).

LITURGICAL REFLECTION: GOD WANTS TO BE ONE WITH US

What great lengths God will go to in loving and saving us! Think of the most outlandish circumstance you might conceive. That seems to be what the Lord is saying to Ahaz in today’s first reading. “A virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel.” Not only is the idea of a virgin conceiving beyond comprehension in Ahaz’s time, so would the concept of God wanting to be with us be, as the name Emmanuel indicates. And yet, this is what we celebrate in the Incarnation—God wants so completely to be one with us that God came to be with us in a son born to a virgin, the Blessed Virgin Mary. There is more to this story than even these amazing and outlandish occurrences, however. God wants to be one with us so deeply that God partners with us to make God’s presence known. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

WEEKLY PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

SUN	12/18	...	..... Nut Roll Pick up after all Masses Today
MON	12/19		
TUES	12/20		
WED	12/21		
THURS	12/22		
FRI	12/23	4-5PM	..... Confession
SAT	12/24		..... NO CONFESSION
SUN	12/25		

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK: (Dec 19th – Dec 25th)

MON	12/19	..... 7:50AM	..... + Bernard Babik – (God Daughter, Michelle, Tom & the Boys)
TUES	12/20	..... 7:50AM	..... + (A) George Pappas (22years) – (Sons)
WED	12/21	..... 7:50AM	..... + Genevieve Trotz – (Carol Audi)
THUR	12/22	..... 7:50AM	..... + (B) Thomas Friedman – (Paul & Marie Nikonow)
FRI	12/23	..... 7:50AM	..... + Agnes Mash – (Tom Nikonow)
SAT	12/24	..... 7:50AM	..... Friends and Family
		Christmas Eve 4:00PM	..... + Bill & Olga Labuda – (Daughter, Marie & Paul Nikonow)
		Midnight Mass 12:00AM	..... + Bernie & Pearl Forgas – (Daughter, Terri & Patrick Mulvehill)
			Merry Christmas
SUN	12/25	..... 7:30AM	..... + Kevin Gritzer – (Mom & Dad)
		..... 10:30AM	..... + Anna Kris – (Suzy Brett)

Sunday Dec 18, 2022

Stewardship Reflections: 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 of 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 but offer our lives as a 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. 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. We will no doubt find that the more we give ourselves away, the more our generous Father will fill us with His grace and peace. Catholic Stewardship Consultants, Inc. 2019/7/05)

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS (Dec 10th & Dec 11th2022)

Weekly	..... \$	4,802.50
Building Fund	..... \$	220.00
Fuel	..... \$	300.00
Christmas	..... \$	427.00

Thank you and May God Bless you for your continued support of St. Therese Church.



Sincere Condolences - The St. Therese Community would like to offer our sincere condolences to the family of **James Marshall**, who was called to his eternal reward this week. May God grant His eternal rest to **James** and peace and consolation to his family. Jimmy was the son of Patty Marshall.



Confessions will be heard on **Friday, Dec 23rd** from 4-5 at St Therese Church. There will be **NO COFESSION** on Christmas Eve



Nut Roll - If you ordered Nut Roll / Poppy Seed Rolls for the holiday they will be available for pick up **after** 7:30AM & 10:30AM Mass this weekend Dec 18th over at the Social Hall



ADVENT WREATH PRAYER Fourth Sunday of Advent

(Light the all purple candles & the rose candle)

Prayer: Pour forth thy power, O Lord, and come:
Assist us by that mighty power,
so that by thy grace and merciful kindness we
may
swiftly receive the salvation that our sins
impede
who livest and reignest with thee
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
ever one God, world without end.
Amen



Our Catholic Ministries Drive -Forward In Faith- As of November 30th we have collected **\$15,060.00** of our **\$20,392.00** Goal. Please consider making a pledge to the Ministries Drive. You have until Dec 31st 2022 to pay your pledge in full.

2023 Envelopes & Calendars- Adult envelopes & calendars are available in the vestibule. Please stop down before or after Mass. If you have a relative or neighbor you know is not coming to Church during this time, please drop their envelopes & a calendar off for them. They will be happy to see you!

Moving or joining a different parish: Please remember to notify us if you have recently moved, and or joining other parish, so we can update our records and notify the Diocese of the changes. Please call 814-539-7633, Mon-Fri 9-2PM, or email stthereseofm@atlanticbbn.net. Thank you.

A **Big Thank you** to all the ladies and gentlemen who baked for our Christian Mothers Cookie sale last week. It was a huge success!!



Thank you for all your hard work & thoughtfulness for this project.
~The Christian Mothers

2022 Church Donations -- the cut-off date for posting donations for 2022 is Dec. 31st. To receive credit on your 2022 Financial Statement, your envelopes must be received by that date. Any donation received after Dec 31st will be credited to 2023. Please call the office with any questions. Thank you.

Community News & Events



Area Penance Services

Dec 18	St. Benedict	5:00 PM
Dec 19	Visitation	5:30 PM
Dec 21	St. Patrick	6:00 PM



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Last Class before the Christmas Break is TODAY Dec 18th

Classes will resume on Jan 8th, 2022.



The faculty wishes to extend Christmas blessings to our students and their families.

Families and the Gospel - (Matthew: 1: 18-24)

Forth Sunday of Advent

The child born to Jesus and Mary was named Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." Every child is EMMANUEL, reminding us "God is with us." Children are signs of God's continuing presence in our lives.



On January 14th & 15th 2023 the Holy Name and Knights of Columbus #10409 will host a coffee and Donuts

Social for the purpose of recruiting new members, in the Church Hall after all masses. This is a time for the men of Church to stop by and see what the Holy Name and or the Knights of Columbus is all about.

ABORTION: "The moment I held my baby on my chest after he was born I knew he was the angel I had been dreaming about. That first encounter was magical"

"Some of the littlest things take up the most room in your heart"



Thank you! - We would like to thank Francis Ozog Funeral Home for once again providing us with the beautiful calendars for our parish. May God Bless your generous support of our parish throughout the year, you have always been a great friend to St Therese Church.

Retirement Fund for Religious collection

A sister writes, "We remember the many people who believe in the Retirement Fund for Religious, thanking them in prayer for their great generosity and compassion." God Bless you for donating to last week's collection.

The 6th Annual Christmas Decorating Contest sponsored by the West End Improvement Group.



All West End residents, turn on your outside light and house decorations for 6-8PM on Dec. 19th, 20th, and 21st. Celebrity judges will be canvassing the West End to find the best decorated houses in 5 different categories. Prizes will be awarded. Winners will be announced on our Facebook page on Dec 22nd.

Echoes of a Polish Christmas - All Saints Parish in Boswell will host their annual singing of Polish Christmas Carols (known as Kolędy) on Sunday January 8th at 2:00 PM at their church in Boswell. Following the singing of hymns by the parish's Polish choir, there will be Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament as well as refreshments. Kolędy help to capture some of the finest sentiments, values, and emotions of the Polish religious, national, and artistic heritage. Polish Christmas customs are very rich; whether you are Polish or not, please come and experience these time-honored hymns celebrating the birth of Christ.

