

ST. THERESE OF THE CHILD JESUS

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

CHURCH/RECTORY

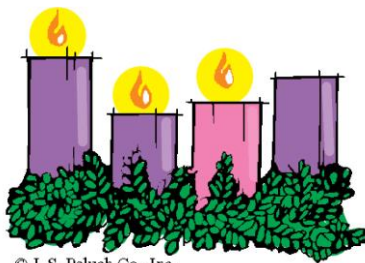
536 Decker Avenue
Johnstown, PA 15906

OFFICE HOURS WEEKLY

Monday – Friday
9:00AM---2:00PM

Website: StThereseJohnstown.com

Email: stthereseofm@atlanticbbs.net



CONVENT

702 Saybrook Place
Johnstown, PA 15906

SOCIAL HALL: 535-8805

CHURCH HALL: 536-2287

CONVENT: 536-2287

RECTORY: 539-7633

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023

FIRST READING: — As a garden makes its growth spring up, so will God make justice spring up before all the nations (Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11).

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: My soul rejoices in my God (Luke 1:46-50, 53-54).

SECOND READING — Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:16-24).

GOSPEL -- I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord (John 1:6-8, 19-28).

LITURGICAL REFLECTION – JOHN THE BAPTIST

At a school open house a woman could be overheard introducing her husband to some of the other parents. “Oh, Bill, I’d like you to meet Johnny’s father. And over here, this is Marie’s mom; you know, the little girl from our Ellen’s soccer team. “With satisfied resignation Bill introduced himself not by name: “I am Ellen’s Dad. “It’s good to know who you are. Be it someone’s father or mother, son or daughter, husband, or wife, it’s important to embrace the full meaning of our various roles. John the Baptist knows who he is. And who he is not. He is not the Christ. Nor Elijah. Nor like any other prophet God’s people had ever seen. John the Baptist knows his mission is divine. He’s more than satisfied to be the one to announce the coming of God’s reign. The Christ is near. Make straight your paths. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

WEEKLY PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

SUN	12/17	..... Nut & Poppyseed Roll Pick-up after all Masses today
MON	12/18	7:00PM Choir Rehearsal
TUES	12/19	
WED	12/20	
THURS	12/21	
FRI	12/22	
SAT	12/23	3:00PM Confession
Next Sun	12/24	..... Christmas Eve



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK: (Dec 18th – Dec 24th)

MON	12/18	..... 7:50AM. + (B) Julia Skala – (Husband & Family)
TUES	12/19	..... 7:50AM. + (A) Betty Quinn– (Lobb Family)
WED	12/20	..... 7:50AM. + (A) George & Pauline Pappas (Sons)
THUR	12/21	..... 7:50AM. + (A) Genevive Trotz – (Family)
FRI	12/22	..... 7:50AM. + (A) Tommy Delich – (Mom)
SAT	12/23	..... 4:00PM + Stella & Carol David – (Dolores, Bill & Billy Gentile)
SUN	12/24	..... 7:30AM. + Julia Skala – (Ed & Jean Skala)
		..... 10:30AM.+ Bob Macy – (Wife & Children)
		..... 4:00PM + Bill & Olga Labuda – (Daughter, Marie & Paul Nikonow)
		..... 12:00AM+ Bernie & Pearl Forgas – (Daughter Terri & Patrick Mulvehill)



Sunday Dec 17, 2023

Stewardship Reflections: Today we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday. 'Gaudete' is a Latin word meaning 'rejoice'. The Christian steward should be characterized by a spirit of rejoicing. The more we embrace the stewardship way of life, the more we will be filled with joy.

We can become like John the Baptist, in today's Gospel passage from the Book of John. We read this description of the prophet: "A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light. ... He was not the light, but came to testify to the light." This is our calling too, to testify to the Light, our wonderful Savior, by the way we make use of the time, talent and treasure He has entrusted to our care. Our actions and our priorities themselves give testimony to all that God has done in our lives. What a privilege!

When God himself is the source of our joy, it cannot be taken away from us. There is still time, this Advent season, to clear away any 'clutter' in our lives that may take our focus away from Him. Let us strive to detach from any of these things so that we can be free to truly rejoice in God on Christmas Day.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS (Dec 10th & Dec 11th 2023)

Weekly	.....	\$ 4,934.00
Building Fund	.....	\$ 186.00
Christmas Flowers	.....	\$ 378.00
Christmas	.....	\$ 1,605.00

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



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 17th over at the Social Hall

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. **If you are looking for more cookies we still have a few dozen left. You can stop over at the Social hall after Mass on Sunday.**
~The Christian Mothers

Our Catholic Ministries Drive -Forward In Faith- As of November 30th, we have collected **\$16,990.00 of our \$21,083.00 Goal.** Please consider making a pledge to the Ministries Drive. You have until Dec 31st 2023 to pay your pledge in full. **Just a reminder that the remaining balance will be paid for from the church's funds.**

Congratulations to **Marilyn Alberter** would be the winner of the \$200 gift card tree. A Big thank you to all who purchased a chance.



Congratulations to **Ralph Bretz** the winner of the Holy Name Nativity Diamond Dot Picture. We would like to thank everyone who supported this project.



ADVENT WREATH PRAYER Third Sunday of Advent

(Light the first & second purple candles & the rose candle)

Prayer:

We beseech thee to listen to our prayers,
O Lord,

And by the grace of thy coming enlighten
our darkened minds:

Thou who livest and reignest
with God the Father

In the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God forever and ever.

Amen

**Advent Wreath Candle symbols:

- | | |
|-----------|----------------------------------|
| Candle 1. | Hope (purple) |
| Candle 2. | Peace (purple) |
| Candle 3. | Joy (rose: for Gaudete Sunday) |
| Candle 4. | Love (purple) |
| Candle 5: | Christ (white; center of wreath) |
-

Families and the Gospel - (John 1: 6-8, 19-28)
Today's gospel reports, "There is one among you whom you do not recognize." It is hard to believe Christ is present in a family with crazy schedules, suppers that start too late and end too early, cars that do not start, misunderstandings, frustrations, piles of laundry, unmatched socks and stretched food budgets. The list is endless. The words spoken at Mass, "The Lord is with you," are not a hope, they are a fact.

Christmas Oplatki is available in the back of the church for \$1 per packet

2024 Envelopes & Calendars- Adult & Children's envelopes & calendars are available in the back of Church. Please stop by and pick your envelopes up

2023 Church Donations -- the cut-off date for posting donations for 2023 is Dec. 31st. To receive credit on your 2023 Financial Statement, your envelopes must be received by that date. Any donation received after Dec 31st will be credited to 2024. Please call the office with any questions. Thank you.

Parish Updates: Please remember to notify the parish office if you have changed your phone number, moved, or even changed churches, so we can update our records. Please call Mon- Fri 9-2or email stthereseofm@atlanticbbn.net

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.

Gaudete" Sunday

What is special about the Third Sunday of Advent? For much of the Church's history, this Sunday had a special name: "Gaudete" Sunday. On Gaudete Sunday, the season of Advent shifts its focus. For the first two weeks of Advent, the focus can be summed up in the phrase, "The Lord is coming." But beginning with Gaudete Sunday, the summary might be, "The Lord is near." This shift is marked by a lighter mood and a heightened sense of joyous anticipation.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Last Class before the Christmas Break is TODAY Dec 17th
Classes will resume on Jan 8th, 2024.



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

Support the Retirement Fund for Religious

A sister shares, "I thank the Lord for all who give. I do not think we would make it without them." Thank you for giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious last week. Your donation makes a difference in the lives of elderly women and men religious. To learn more about how your gift helps, visitretiredreligious.org

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"



Advent Penance Services

Sunday	Dec 17 th	5:00PM	St. Benedict
Monday	Dec 18 th	6:00PM	St Michael Church (St Michael)
Thursday	Dec 21 st	6:00PM	St Patrick

