

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
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CONVENT

702 Saybrook Place
Johnstown, PA 15906

SOCIAL HALL: 535-8805
CHURCH HALL: 536-2287
CONVENT: 536-2287
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Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2023

FIRST READING: — I will fix a place for my people. I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance (2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16).

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord (Psalm 89).

SECOND READING: — To the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be glory forever and ever (Romans 16: 25-27).

GOSPEL — Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word (Luke 1: 26-38).

LITURGICAL REFLECTION – THE ETERNAL GOD

King David wished that the ark of God might have a more permanent home. David may have envisioned something like the cedar palace where he resided. God had in mind something more: a throne where David's descendants would rule for ever, a kingdom where Jews and Gentiles alike would be welcome. Mary's prayerful nature led to an even more disturbing message. She would conceive and bear a Son though she was not yet married. "How can this come about?" Mary wondered. "The Holy Spirit will come upon you," she was told (Luke 1:35). Mary's acceptance of this difficult challenge ushered in this, the final age of God's reign. What was once a secret known only by chosen people like King David and his descendants must now be made clear to all so that, as Saint Paul wrote to the Romans, we can be brought to the "obedience of faith" "according to the command of the eternal God" (Romans 16:26).

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WEEKLY PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

MON	12/25 Office will be closed
TUES	12/26	
WED	12/27	
THURS	12/28	
FRI	12/29	
SAT	12/30	3:00PM Confession
Next Sun	12/31	



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK: (Dec 25th – Dec 31st)

MON	12/25	..... 7:30AM. + Agnes Mash – (Tom & Kathy Livingston)
		..... 10:30AM. + Charles Karalfa – (Wife, Donna & Family)
TUES	12/26	..... 7:50AM. + Michael & Mary Macy– (Bea & Family)
WED	12/27	..... 7:50AM. + John & Catherine Golias Jr (Daughter, Bea & Family)
THUR	12/28	..... 7:50AM. + Frank & Andy Krupa – (Brother, Ed & Jean)
FRI	12/29	..... 7:50AM. + (A) Donald Kris – (Family)
SAT	12/30	..... 4:00PM. + Theresa Conway – (William Morihlatho)
SUN	12/31	..... 7:30AM. + Nancy Schultz – (Koslin Family)
		..... 10:30AM. + Bob Macy – (Daughter, Lorraine & Bryan)
		..... 4:00PM. + William Kolega – (Kathy Carpenter)



Sunday Dec 24, 2023

Stewardship Reflections: Our Blessed Mother takes center stage on this Fourth Sunday of Advent as we draw near to the celebration of her Son's birth. After our Lord Himself, Mary is our model and guide to a stewardship way of life. She "immediately set out and traveled to the hill country in haste," to assist her cousin Elizabeth.

Mary, in her grace, thought of others before herself, modeling two of the pillars of stewardship; Hospitality and Service. Her example is one that we can follow in our lives today. There is always a way to glorify God! You may want to...make that phone call to a relative, neighbor or a single parent family, and invite them to join you for Mass and a Christmas meal. Maybe your family could plan to help a church or community kitchen prepare and serve a lunch or dinner. We can spread the Good News of the Gospel in the world with the same heart as the Blessed Mother, with humility and generosity.

**LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS
(Dec 16th & Dec 17th2023)**

Weekly	.....	\$ 2,711.00
Building Fund	.....	\$ 245.00
Christmas Flowers	.....	\$ 110.00
Christmas	.....	\$ 650.00

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



**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



Dear Parishioners,

In the movie "Frozen" there is a kingdom under the curse of an eternal winter. The lifting of the curse comes when the sister of the queen makes an act of true love to save her sister. That act of love begins to end the long winter of frozenness and spring and warmth come again to the kingdom. This reminds us of how we were under the curse of sin and darkness since Adam and Eve. What broke the curse was an act of true love, the Father sending His Son into the world who gives His life for all of us. And at Christmas we celebrate the great thaw of our winter and frozenness. God's love in Christ warms our hearts and souls, new life is given to us. This love will last until the end of time.

May the warmth of Christ's love at Christmas warm your hearts, homes and families and bring that love into our frozen and cold world.

On behalf of Fr. Balestino and myself have a most Blessed Christmas Season.

F. Balestino

Fr. Balestino



The Senior Choir will present a musical program before Midnight Mass beginning starting at 11:30PM, Christmas Eve. Come early and enjoy the beautiful Holiday carols.

We would like to welcome the Seminarians from the Diocese of Philadelphia who will be staying with us over the holiday season.

We would like to wish **Teresa Polenik** a speedy recovery from her surgery. She is doing well but will be out of commission for awhile longer. We would like to thank Helen Dzendzel, Luis Gonzalez, and Miriam Petak for stepping in and playing for us when you are able.

Families and the Gospel - (Luke:1: 26-38)

QUESTION: What do you call a family, which began with an unmarried pregnant teen, and had a twelve-year-old son who ran away from home and was eventually executed as a criminal? **ANSWER:** HOLY! Two lessons in today's gospel: (1) No matter what is happening in your family, "The Lord is with you." (2) "Do not be afraid" for "nothing is impossible with God."



A big shout out to Helen, Ginny, Mark, Jeanne, Karen R, Donna, Marsha, Bob, Marge, Gina, & Debbie who helped make our Nut Roll project another success. Thanks to all who purchased and donated supplies or made monetary donations. **Your help & support is very much appreciated.** We hope you enjoy them!! Karen & Marilyn