

# 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](http://StThereseJohnstown.com)

Email: [stthereseofm@atlanticbbn.net](mailto:stthereseofm@atlanticbbn.net)



## CONVENT

702 Saybrook Place  
Johnstown, PA 15906

SOCIAL HALL: 535-8805

CHURCH HALL: 536-2287

RECTORY: 539-7633

## Third Sunday of Advent

**Dec 15, 2024**

FIRST READING: Shout for joy! Sing joyfully! Be glad and exult! The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior (Zephaniah 3:14-18a).

PSALM: Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel (Isaiah 12).

SECOND READING: Rejoice! The Lord is near. Make your requests known to God (Philippians 4:4-7).

GOSPEL: John tells his hearers to share their possessions with the needy; be honest; do not threaten or accuse others falsely (Luke 3:10-18).



### Jumpstarting Jubilee 2025 – Advent Joy

The third candle of Advent symbolizes Joy. Jubilee joy comes from our journey toward the fullness of God’s Kingdom. The upcoming Holy Year offers occasions for this through opportunities for pilgrimage and through communal liturgies. On December 29, 2024, Bishop Mark will open the Jubilee here in the diocese with a special Mass at 2 PM in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Come and celebrate “tidings of great Joy.”

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### WEEKLY PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

SUN	12/15	. . Cookie Sale in the Church Hall after all Masses
MON	12/16	
TUES	12/17	
WED	12/18	
THURS	12/19	
FRI	12/20	
SAT	12/21	3:00PM . . . . . Confession
NEXT SUN	12/22	

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### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK: (Dec 16<sup>th</sup> – Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>)

MON	12/16	7:50AM	+ Damian Lovas – (Wife, Darlene)
TUES	12/17	7:50AM	+ Mike Delich – (Dennis & Darlene Holtzman)
WED	12/18	7:50AM	+ Jim Golias – (Sister, Bea & Family)
THUR	12/19	7:50AM	+ (B) Julia Skala – (Husband, Casey & Daughter, Jami)
FRI	12/20	7:50AM	+ (A) George Pappas – (Sons)
SAT	12/21	4:00PM	+ Stella & Carol David – (Dolores, Bill & Billy)
SUN	12/22	7:30AM	+ James Marshall – (Mom & Family)
		10:30AM	+ Diane McKenzie – (Sister, Carol Watson)

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# Sunday, Dec 15, 2024

Stewardship Reflections: 'Rejoice in the Lord always, I shall say it again, rejoice!'

We have arrived at Gaudete Sunday (Gaudete is the Latin word for 'rejoice') on this Third Week of Advent, and the Scriptures takes on a joyful tone as we continue our preparations for the feast of our Savior's birth and ultimately for His Second Coming.

As the great feast of Christmas draws near, let us rejoice in Christ's extravagant love. Let's avail ourselves of the peace He longs to give us. And let's look carefully at our lives to make sure we are indeed making of them a gift fitting for Him. When we get this 'gift' right, all the other gifts and to-do's on our Christmas list will fall into their proper place.

### LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS (Dec 7<sup>th</sup> & Dec 8<sup>th</sup> 2024)

Weekly	.....	\$ 2,752.00
Building Fund	.....	\$ 149.00
Christmas Flowers	.....	.\$ 526.00
Christmas	.....	\$ 145.00

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



### Sincere Condolences - The St. Therese

Community would like to offer our sincere condolences to the family of **Mary Bicko** who was called to her eternal reward this week. May God grant His eternal rest to **Mary** and peace and consolation to her family.



Congratulations to **John Gritzer** would was the winner of the \$250 gift card tree. A Big thank you to all who purchased a chance.



Cookies will be sold before and after all Masses **this weekend, Dec 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>** in the Church Hall. Until supplies last!

**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](mailto:stthereseofm@atlanticbbn.net)

**2024 Church Donations** -- the cut-off date for posting donations for 2024 is **Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>**. To receive credit on your 2024 Financial Statement, your envelopes must be received by that date. Any donation received after Dec 31<sup>st</sup> will be credited to 2025. Please call the office with any questions. Thank you.



### 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)

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Last Class before the Christmas Break is  
**TODAY Dec 15<sup>th</sup>**  
Classes will resume on Jan 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025.



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



Special thanks go out to this year's crew of "Nutty Rollers" (Donna, Marianne, Helen, Roberta, Rich, Jeanne, Aggie, Marsha, Debbie, Bob, Marge, Ginny, and Denny) who volunteered their time last weekend to make our delicious nut and poppyseed rolls. Thanks also to Joe who comes in the wee hours on Sunday morning getting them ready to be picked up after church. We couldn't have done it without all of you!!! Special thanks to everyone who donated supplies or made monetary donations and to all who purchased. Your support is greatly appreciated. Karen & Marilyn

### Retirement Fund for Religious -

"Sincere thanks to the donors of the Retirement Fund for Religious. I hope we meet, if not in this world, then in the next," says Sister Teresa Korycka, 81 of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate. Your gift impacts over 24,000 senior women and men religious, providing them a dignified retirement. To learn how your donation helps, visit [retiredreligious.org](http://retiredreligious.org).



### Catholic Ministries Drive

**Encountering Christ.** Thank you to the **59** families who have pledged to date a total of **\$11,620.00** towards our target amount of **\$24,902.00**. Please prayerfully consider making a pledge according to your means so we will be able to reach that target. You have until Dec 31<sup>st</sup> 2024 to pay your pledge in full. **Just a reminder that the remaining balance of \$13,282 will have to be paid for from the church's funds.** There are envelopes in the back of Church or you can pick one up at the office. Thank you in advance for your contribution.

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### Advent Penance Services

Sunday	Dec 15 <sup>th</sup>	2:00PM	St John Gualbert
Sunday	Dec 15 <sup>th</sup>	5:00PM	St Benedict Johnstown
Monday	Dec 16 <sup>th</sup>	6:00PM until 7:30PM	Our Mother of Sorrows
Tuesday	Dec 17 <sup>th</sup>	6:00PM until 7:30PM	Our Mother of Sorrows
Wednesday	Dec 18 <sup>th</sup>	6:00PM	St Elizabeth Ann Seton Windber
Wednesday	Dec 19 <sup>th</sup>	6:00PM	St Patrick



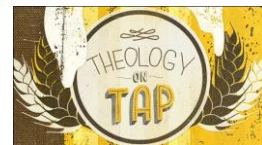
### THRILL OF HOPE ~

A Christmas Musical by Joel Raney~  
Westmont Presbyterian Church **SUNDAY,**  
**DECEMBER 15TH 7:00 PM** Free Admission



### An Advent of Christmas Concert

will be held 7:30pm, Saturday, December 21 at St John Gualbert Cathedral, 117 Clinton Street, Johnstown. The program will feature the Greater Johnstown Diocesan Festival Choir and Bishop McCort Academy Chorale. The choral groups will be accompanied by our own St John Gualbert Cathedral Chamber Ensemble. Admission is free and open to the public. A free-will offering will be taken.



**Young Adult Group (18-39):** Our next Theology on Tap is December 18<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at the Boulevard Grill with Deacon Rick Messina speaking on The Holy Family and Catholic Family Life. Our group is also Christmas Caroling at Hilltop Heights Health & Rehab Center on December 21<sup>st</sup> at 1pm. All young adults aged 18-39 are welcome to join us for faith, food, and fellowship! Thank you for your support and please continue spreading the word to young adults! For more information contact Geoffrey Stumpo at (814) 659-7415 or [geoffstumpo@gmail.com](mailto:geoffstumpo@gmail.com).



**Bus Trip for 2025** in planning! Save the date - St. Patrick's CLS group is offering an opportunity to see **Noah at the Sight and Sound Theatre in Lancaster, Pa. April 3, 2025.** The cost of the trip is \$180.00. Inquires may call Mary Jo Podratsky at 814-242-1183.