

ST. THERESE OF THE CHILD JESUS

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

CHURCH/RECTORY

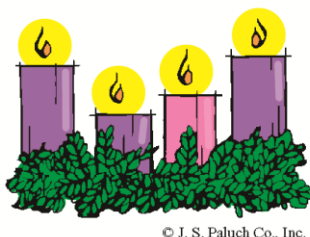
536 Decker Avenue
Johnstown, PA 15906

OFFICE HOURS WEEKLY

Monday – Friday
9:00AM---2:00PM

Website: StThereseJohnstown.com

Email: stthereseofm@atlanticbbn.net



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

CONVENT

702 Saybrook Place
Johnstown, PA 15906

SOCIAL HALL: 535-8805

CHURCH HALL: 536-2287

RECTORY: 539-7633

Four Sunday of Advent

Dec 22, 2024

FIRST READING: From Bethlehem-Ephrathah shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel (Micah 5:1-4a).

PSALM: Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved (Psalm 80).

SECOND READING: We have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Christ once for all (Hebrews 10:5-10).

GOSPEL: Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken by the Lord would be fulfilled (Luke 1:39-45)



Jumpstarting Jubilee 2025 – Advent Love The fourth Advent candle symbolizes love. Our renewed sense of hope that accompanies the Jubilee Year results in a commitment to love one another. The Jubilee Year offers the opportunity to be “ambassadors of hope” through loving service. Join in the efforts to serve the poor offered by your parish. See what outreach ministries such as Catholic Charities have to offer. “God so loved the world that he sent his only Son,” share that love in return.

WEEKLY PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

SUN	12/22	
MON	12/23	
TUES	12/24	
WED	12/25	Office will be Closed
THURS	12/26	
FRI	12/27	
SAT	12/28	3:00PM Confession
NEXT SUN	12/29	



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK: (Dec 23rd – Dec 29th)

MON	12/23	7:50AM	+ Danielle Gleason – (Tom & Susan Adams)
TUES	12/24	7:50AM	+ Jean Krupa – (Husband Ed & Daughter Missy)
		4:00PM	+ Bill & Olga Labuda – (Daughter, Marie & Paul Nikonow)
		12:00AM	+ Bernie & Pearl Forgas – (Daughter, Terri & Pat Mulvehill)
WED	12/25	7:30AM	+ Regis Bender– (Bonnie & Bill Oleskak)
		10:30AM	+ Bob & Bea Macy – (Family)
THUR	12/26	7:50AM	+ David Wilson – (Cass Kasper)
FRI	12/27	7:50AM	Mass Intention for Chris Lovas – (Barb & Bill)
SAT	12/28	4:00PM	+ (A) Donald Kris – (The Rovida Family)
SUN	12/29	7:30AM	+ Pro Populo
		10:30AM	+ Charles Karalfa – (Wife, & Family)

Sunday, Dec 22, 2024

Stewardship Reflections: 'Our Blessed Mother takes center stage on this fourth Sunday of Advent, and fittingly so 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. Mary's response to the angel Gabriel in our 'Alleluia' today captures her stewardship spirit: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word (Lk 1:38)." At the moment of the Annunciation, Mary recognized God's gift to her and made a generous and trusting return to Him, offering her very self to God as His servant. This reply to such an overwhelming request - made by an angel, no less - shows us how extraordinary our Blessed Mother is. She is indeed "full of grace."

How beautifully our Blessed Mother models the mind and heart of a steward. It is an example that we, her children, can follow in our own lives 2,000 years later. With all the gifts God gives us - our time, our talents, and our material possessions - we, too, can offer ourselves to God by using all these gifts to serve and glorify Him. In so doing, we will effectively spread the Good News of the Gospel to the world around us today. We will be stewards after our Mother's own heart.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS (Dec 14th & Dec 15th 2024)

Weekly	\$ 3,804.00
Building Fund	\$ 25.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 45.00
Christmas	\$ 1,320.00

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 **Antoinette Harrington** who was called to her eternal reward past week. May God grant His eternal rest to **Toni** and peace and consolation to her family.



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

**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)

A **Big Thank you** to all the ladies and gentlemen who baked for our Christian Mothers Cookie sale last weekend, and for all the people who purchased and or gave a monetary donation, it is very much appreciated. We would also just like to thank you all for the support that you give to all the Organizations through-out the year



Children's Party Thank You - A special Thank You goes out to everyone involved in making this year's Christmas party a huge success.

Breakfast was delicious! the bag of treats, awesome prizes and the different craft tables to make their own ornaments, that was fantastic!! The kids really had a great time making them. The big hit of the day was a visit from Santa & Mrs. Claus and their friend Buddy the elf. A Good time was had by all.

Moving or joining a different parish:

Please remember to notify us if you have recently moved, and are 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.

2025 Envelopes & Calendars- Adult & Children's envelopes & calendars are available in the back of Church. Please stop by and pick your envelopes up

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

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.



Dear Parishioners

"It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you...yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your brother and offer him your hand." Mother Theresa

As we once again are blessed to celebrate the birth of Our Lord, we are reminded how the Father gave us His Beloved Son. Inspired by this giving of His love, may it inspire us to keep on giving that love to others, as Mother Theresa tells us. And so keep on making Christmas Day every day.

On behalf of Fr. Balestino and myself, may you and your loved ones experience the great love of the Father shown to us in the birth of His Son, Jesus Christ, and may you keep on giving that love throughout the New Year.

Have a Blessed Christmas.

F. Balestino

Fr. Balestino

Mass Schedule for Christmas

Tuesday, Dec 24th Christmas Eve Mass
4:00PM, 11:30 the Senior Choir will perform
their Christmas Program and Mass will follow
at midnight.



Wednesday, Dec 25th Christmas Day
Masses will be held at
7:30AM & 10:30AM.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mary was excited about her first pregnancy and rushed to tell her cousin. Sadly children are often seen as a liability, "another mouth to feed" or an "obstacle to my career." It is said "Christmas is for children." It is more accurate to say "Christmas is for adults to appreciate the gift of children!"

Christmas Today's' gospel reminds us God chose to enter human history in a family. By Divine design the salvation of the world began in a family. Family was the best God the Creator could do for his Beloved Son. Jesus was our first Christmas gift.

Do you or any of your friends and family like to knit or crochet? If so please use that talent towards a rewarding experience and join the newly formed St Therese Prayer Shawl Ministry. What is a prayer Shawl Ministry? It is a group of knitters or crocheters who create shawls to bring comfort and hope to people experiencing illness or loss. If you are interested in joining the first meeting will be held at the Church Hall on Wednesday, Jan 8th at 1PM. If you have any questions, please call Debbie Hubbard at 814-421-2416 or email mommyhub@atlanticbb.net

Community News & Events

2024 Christmas Concert

This is Christmas celebrating the *Heart* of Christmas ~ **Monday December 30, 2024 at 6PM.** The Basilica of St. Michael the Archangel in Loretto invites you to a night of Christmas music performed by the Basilica Choir and the St. Michael Children's Choir. Enjoy the music and the beauty of our basilica during the Christmas Season! Make plans to join us!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Classes will resume on Jan 12th, 2025.



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

Catholic Ministries Drive

Encountering Christ. Thank you to the **59** families who have pledged to date a total of **\$12,620.00** 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 31st 2024 to pay your pledge in full. **Just a reminder that the remaining balance of \$12,282 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.

**ABORTION; On Christmas Day
a Child was born to save Us.**

Now it is up to Us.

TO SAVE THE UNBORN CHILD.

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children




*We Wish You and Your Families
Happy Holidays-
Merry Christmas
and a Blessed New Year!!*

“A thrill of hope, The weary world rejoices, For yonder breaks A new and glorious morn. Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born!”



Holiday Tunes

- Away in a Manger
- Choir of the Bells
- Dominick the Donkey
- Frosty the Snowman
- Holly Jolly Christmas
- Jingle Bell Rock
- Jingle Bells
- Let it Snow
- Little Drummer Boy
- Little St Nick
- O Holy Night
- Rudolph
- Santa Baby
- Silent Nigh
- Silver Bells
- The Christmas Song
- The First Noel
- Winter Wonderland



S	G	R	D	A	M	A	F	C	I	F	Z	Z	X	F	K	U	H	J	X
W	A	W	A	Y	O	B	R	E	M	M	U	R	D	E	L	T	T	I	L
C	K	M	B	H	P	L	O	D	U	R	J	T	G	J	I	H	Z	N	O
Z	D	W	T	Z	E	D	S	Y	E	L	C	B	Y	R	T	G	C	G	K
G	N	O	S	S	A	M	T	S	I	R	H	C	E	H	T	I	J	L	L
Q	A	N	K	O	I	D	Y	A	L	F	D	G	I	R	L	N	B	E	D
X	L	S	O	X	Q	R	T	B	T	I	N	W	X	N	E	T	O	B	J
D	R	T	J	T	I	R	H	V	A	A	H	X	I	P	S	N	A	E	W
F	E	I	F	W	V	T	E	C	M	B	E	U	U	B	T	E	S	L	S
N	D	T	U	C	H	S	A	Y	A	A	I	N	S	N	L	C	L	Q	
B	N	E	V	X	E	G	N	X	I	L	M	T	R	I	I	I	Y	R	W
F	O	L	N	I	A	I	O	Z	T	K	L	I	N	X	C	S	J	O	U
B	W	V	E	S	Y	N	W	K	M	G	F	O	O	A	K	T	E	C	N
G	R	O	K	A	C	Y	M	V	Z	E	U	A	J	Y	S	L	D	K	U
M	E	Q	W	Q	O	L	A	O	H	K	P	I	T	Y	K	B	N	M	Q
G	T	A	P	U	I	O	N	T	S	L	L	E	B	E	L	G	N	I	J
L	N	F	G	C	Z	H	N	S	L	L	E	B	R	E	V	L	I	S	E
I	I	Y	E	K	N	O	D	E	H	T	K	C	I	N	I	M	O	D	S
L	W	B	T	K	S	L	L	E	B	E	H	T	F	O	R	I	O	H	C
U	I	M	U	Y	F	C	J	H	B	X	B	V	R	U	M	Q	C	Y	B

Chicken Scratch NY