

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
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CONVENT

702 Saybrook Place
Johnstown, PA 15906

SOCIAL HALL: 535-8805

CHURCH HALL: 536-2287

RECTORY: 539-7633

Second Sunday of Advent Dec 8, 2024

FIRST READING: Stand on the heights, Jerusalem; see your children rejoicing that they are remembered by God. A merciful and just God leads Israel in joy (Baruch 5:1-9).

PSALM: The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy (Psalm 126).

SECOND READING: May your love increase in knowledge to discern what is valuable that you may be blameless for the day of Christ (Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11).

GOSPEL: John proclaims a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All flesh shall see the salvation of God (Luke 3:1-6).



Jumpstarting Jubilee 2025 – Advent Peace

The second Advent candle symbolizes peace. The Jubilee Year is meant to be a time of Sabbath rest, reconciliation, and peace. Pope Francis encourages us during this time to be reconciled to God and one another. The Jubilee Year allows us to do this through opportunities for sacramental confession and the gaining of indulgences (“eased purgation from sin”) offered throughout the year. May you come to know the Jubilee “Prince of Peace.”

WEEKLY PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

SUN	12/08		..Nut Rolls pick up after all Masses TODAY
MON	12/09		..Immaculate Conception Holy Day of Obligation
TUES	12/10		
WED	12/11		
THURS	12/12		
FRI	12/13		
SAT	12/14	10:00AM	.. Breakfast with Santa
		3:00PM	..... Confession
			.. Cookies Sale in the Church Hall after Mass
NEXT SUN	12/15		.. Cookie Sale in the Church Hall after all Masses



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK: (Dec 9th – Dec 15th)

MON	12/09	..... 7:50AM	..... + Bob Gritzer – (Joe & Karen)
		Immaculate Conception . 6:00PM	..... + Dominec Petrore – (Denny & Marilyn Alberter)
TUES	12/10	..... 7:50AM	..... + Jane Bross – (Son, Dennis)
WED	12/11	..... 7:50AM	..... + (B) Caroline Albert – (Son, Joe)
THUR	12/12	..... 7:50AM	..... + (B) Joseph DiFalco – (Son, Charles, Vito & Kiara)
FRI	12/13	..... 7:50AM	..... + (A) James Marshall – (Son, Brewster)
SAT	12/14	..... 4:00PM	..... + Chandler Pentrack – (Chuck DiFalco)
SUN	12/15	..... 7:30AM	..... + Anthony Petrore – (M/M Anthony Bambino)
		..... 10:30AM	..... + (A) Pearl Forgas – (Daughter, Terri & Pat)

Sunday, Dec 8, 2024

Stewardship Reflections: The readings for the Second Week of Advent offer both encouragement and challenge during this brief but important season of the liturgical year. Recall from last week that the purpose of this season is reflection on and preparation for the two "comings" of Christ - His coming as a baby on the great feast of Christmas, and the anticipation of His second coming at the end of time.

Until He comes again, we must remain faithful to Him as true disciples and good stewards of all the gifts He has given us. While it can be tempting to give in to the materialism and calls for self-indulgence that surround us, our First Reading calls us back to the spiritual reality that this life is passing and that we are made for eternal life with God. We are called to prepare for eternal life by the way that we use our time, our talents, and our treasure now.

This Advent let's turn away from any bad habits or sin that may have crept into our lives and turn our hearts and minds back to Christ. This is what the stewardship way of life is all about - moving ever closer in relationship with Christ and imitation of Him, ready to celebrate His birth, with eyes fixed on eternal life with Him.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS (Nov 30th & Dec 1st 2024)

Weekly	.....	\$ 5,851.00
Building Fund	.....	\$ 578.00
Christmas Flowers	.....	\$ 570.00
Christmas	.....	\$ 2,670.00

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 **Larry Searle** who was called to his eternal reward this week. May God grant His eternal rest to **Larry** and peace and consolation to his family



Feast of the Immaculate Conception - will be observed this **Monday, Dec 9th**.

Masses on the Holy Day will be held at **7:50AM and 6:00PM. NO VIGIL MASS**



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 8th** over at the Social Hall



Sincere Gratitude to Fr. Bernard and the Committees who planned, invited, and prepared for the Birthday Celebration. Everything was great. It certainly was the most memorable party of my life.

Thanks for all the cards and gifts, especially your prayers. Let's all wait for another celebration. Everyday is a good day and a gift from God. Again, many thanks to all.

Fr. Balestino



We would like to express our sincerest thanks to all who participated in the Angel Tree Christmas gifts for children. Our parish, as always was so enthusiastic to buy for the children. We would also like to take this time to thank Linda & Gary Kozak who volunteered to take on this project.



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



Second Sunday of Advent

Prayer: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the paths of thine Only-begotten son: that we may worthily serve thee with hearts purified by his coming: who livest and reignest with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

All: 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)

Second Sunday of Advent

Today's gospel shows John the Baptist and parents have similar vocations. Like the Baptist, parents are asked to make "rough ways smooth" and to "prepare the way of the Lord" for their families. This Advent ask: "Does my life hinder or help my family to know Jesus?"



Children's Christmas Party - All children 13 & younger from St. Therese & St. Anne Parishes are invited to attend **Breakfast with Santa** on **Saturday, Dec 14th** in the **St. Therese Church Hall**. Doors open at 10:00AM



Lower Yoder Fire Hall will be selling **Holiday Giveaway tickets**, and taking pie orders from **the Pie Shoppe for Christmas, the weekend of Dec 7th & 8th**, in the vestibule. Cost is \$10.00. Winning number will be determined by the 7PM Official Pick 3, Dec 24th & 25th



Anyone interested in becoming a Eucharistic minister or Lector? Please stop and see Fr Karmanocky after 10:30 Mass or call the office



Congratulations to **Dorothy Lengyel**, the "Winner of the Christian Mothers Thanksgiving Ticket". Winning number drawn on Thursday evening pick 3 was **299**. Thank you to everyone who purchased a ticket. **Congratulations Dorothy!**



Saturday's Mass Intention at 4PM is for Jason Mulvehill from his parents, and the Sunday Mass intention at 7:30AM is for Anne Seminsky from Bev Bross. Sorry for the confusion

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 31st 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.

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.

ABORTION; "Inconceivable"

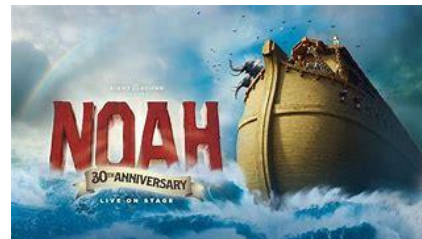
"An angel of light descended from heaven, came to a virgin kneeling in prayer, and asked her if she would allow God to dwell within her—and so intimately, that she would give Him a human nature and thus become the tabernacle of the Word made flesh.

Notice that the heavenly messenger did not tell Mary that she would conceive a fetus. No! She would conceive and bear a Son, a person, a Child of the Most High God.

It was inconceivable to her that because of her poverty, the overpopulation in Bethlehem, inadequate housing, and the shame attached to the unusual nature of her conception, that she would thwart the life within her, as some women do today."



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



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.

PUBLIC ROSARY

Lifting our prayers for
KEEPING CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS
THURSDAY, DEC 12TH
 6:30 PM St. Clement Church
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14TH
 11:30 AM (note time change) Central Park,
 Downtown Johnstown





Advent Penance Services

Wednesday	Dec 11 th	6:00PM	St Anthony of Padua, Windber
Sunday	Dec 15 th	2:00PM	St John Gualbert
Sunday	Dec 15 th	5:00PM	St Benedict Johnstown
Monday	Dec 16 th	6:00PM until 7:30PM	Our Mother of Sorrows
Tuesday	Dec 17 th	6:00PM until 7:30PM	Our Mother of Sorrows
Wednesday	Dec 18 th	6:00PM	St Elizabeth Ann Seton Windber
Wednesday	Dec 19 th	6:00PM	St Patrick



Retirement Fund for Religious - Support those who have given a lifetime. Women and men religious have dedicated their lives to service - praying, teaching, and caring for those in need - usually for little to no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. Your donation provides for the essential care, medicine, and daily needs of thousands of senior women and men religious. Please give generously.



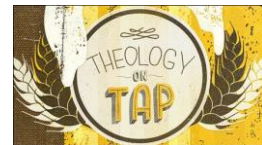
A THRILL OF HOPE ~

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

OUR FASCINATING FAITH

Our Lady of Guadalupe (December 12)

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas, first appeared to Cuauhtlatzin (Juan Diego) on December 9, 1531 while he was on his way to a Eucharistic celebration in Tlatelolco, Mexico. The Virgin addressed him by his indigenous name, asking him to go to the palace of Archbishop Zumárraga to request that a shrine be erected there at the site of the apparition, in Tepeyac, so as to share her love and compassion for all believers. Juan Diego did so, but the archbishop did not believe him, demanding proof of his story and of the Lady's identity. He returned to Our Lady daily, and on December 12, he conveyed to her the archbishop's request for proof. She showed him Castilian roses blooming there through the stony ground despite the winter's cold. He picked the flowers and carried them in his tilma (mantle) to the archbishop. When he unfolded his tilma to present the roses, Mary's image was imprinted on the mantle! Her blue sash and the flower over her womb were traditional Aztec symbols of pregnancy and new life. But her features were those of a mestiza, indicating mixed Aztec-European heritage. Thus, Our Lady of Guadalupe remains the enduring icon of unity-in-diversity, the fruit of our one baptism into Jesus, her Son



Young Adult Group (18-39): Our next Theology on Tap is December 18th 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 21st 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.

Divine Mercy Prayer Group next get together will be Wednesday Dec. Dec. 11th at 3pm and 6:30pm. Great way to make the best of your Advent resolutions! Info call: Cathy 814-288-1126 or Lolly 814-659-8717