

St. Teresa of Avila Church Est. 1868



DECEMBER 18, 2011 • FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PASTOR

Rev. Msgr. Robert J. Williamson

RECTORY

5771 Buell Street

P.O. Box 168

Akron, NY 14001

(716) 542-9103

Fax: (716) 542-2444

Office Hours: Monday–Friday

10:00 AM–1:30 PM

E-mail: stteresasofakron@verizon.net

Website: www.stteresasofakron.com

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Sr. M. Ruth Warejko, CSSF

PARISH TRUSTEES

Richard L. Campbell

Richard E. Forrestel

BUSINESS MANAGER

Melissa Sanford

CONVENT

5773 Buell Street

(716) 542-9717

PARISH HALL & OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

5775 Buell Street

(716) 542-5777

MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Catholic faith community of St. Teresa of Avila parish, guided by the Holy Spirit, commit ourselves to proclaim and follow the Good News of Jesus Christ. Basing our lives on faith, hope and love, we seek to meet our needs and the spiritual and corporal needs of those around us. It is our humble prayer that our lives will be visible signs of His presence in the world as we celebrate Christ in His Word and Sacraments.



MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday Liturgies 8:00 AM, 10:15 AM

Saturday Vigil.....4:30 PM

Weekday Liturgies

Daily..... 8:00 AM, except Wednesday 5:30 PM

Saturday.....9:00 AM

Vigil of Holy Days.....4:30 PM

Holy Days..... 8:00 AM, 7:30 PM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 3:45 to 4:15 p.m.

First Saturday 8:15 to 8:45 a.m.

Vigil of Holy Days 3:45 to 4:15 p.m.

or anytime by request.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

As preparation for Baptism, parents are asked to contact the parish office to make an appointment with the Pastor.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Arrangements to be made at the Rectory 6 months in advance.

NEW PARISHIONERS

Please register at the Rectory as soon as you move within the parish.

Note: If you are moving out of the parish, please notify the Rectory.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

These letters needed for Baptismal and Confirmation sponsors are issued gladly to those who have been registered for 6 months, attend Mass regularly, have been confirmed, if married, have done so in conformity with the Church laws, and children attend Religious Education.





MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, December 19

8:00 Josephine Randazzo *by*
Bordonaro Family

Tuesday, December 20

8:00 Deceased Members of
the Gardiner Family *by*
George and Vi Daigler

Wednesday, December 21 - St.
Peter Canisius

5:30 Maureen Connolly *by*
family

Thursday, December 22

8:00 Alfred Strollo *by family*

Friday, December 23 - St. John
of Kanty

8:00 Michael Kelly *by family*

Saturday, December 24 - Vigil of
Christmas

4:30 Henry and Michael
Raykowski *by family*

8:00 Pauline Zurlo and Ted
Kowalik *by Sanford*
Family

Sunday, December 25 - The
Nativity of the Lord

8:00 Sally and Sarah Shimmel
by family

10:15 Parishoners of St.
Teresa's



Scripture Readings for the Week

*Monday - Judges 13:2-7,
24-25a; Luke 1:5-25*

*Tuesday - Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke
1:26-38*

*Wednesday - Song of Songs 2:8-
14; Luke 1:39-45*

*Thursday - 1 Samuel 1:24-28;
Luke 1:46-56*

*Friday - Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24;
Luke 1:57-66*

*Saturday - Isaiah 62:1-5; Acts of
the Apostles 13:16-17, 22-25;
Matthew 1:1-25*

*Next Sunday - Isaiah 62:11-12;
Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:15-20*

**The 2012 Calendars are
here! Please take one on
the way out today!**



PASTORAL SHARINGS

The Marvel of the Incarnation

The very Son of God, older than the ages, the invisible, the incomprehensible, the incorporeal, the beginning of beginning, the light of light, the fountain of life and immortality, the image of the archetype, the immovable seal, the perfect likeness, the definition and word of the Father; He it is who comes to His own image and takes our nature for the good of our nature, and unites Himself to an intelligent soul for the good of my soul, to purify like by like. He takes to Himself all that is human, except for sin. He was conceived by the Virgin Mary, who had been first prepared in soul and body by the Spirit; His coming to birth had to be treated with honor, virginity had to receive new honor. He comes forth as God, in the human nature He has taken, one being, made of two contrary elements, flesh and spirit. Spirit gave divinity, flesh receive it.

He who makes rich is made poor; He takes on the poverty of my flesh, that I gain the riches of His divinity. He who is full is made empty; he is emptied for a brief space of His glory, that I may share in His fullness.

What is this wealth of goodness? What is this mystery that surrounds me? I received the likeness of God, but failed to keep it. He takes on my flesh, to bring salvation to the image, immortality to the flesh. He enters into a second union with us, a union far more wonderful than the first.

Holiness had to be brought to man by the humanity assumed by one who was God, so that God might overcome the tyrant by force and so deliver us and lead us back to Himself through the mediation of His Son. The Son arranged this for the honor of the Father, to whom the Son is clearly obedient in all things.

The Good Shepherd, who lays down his life for the sheep, came in search of the straying sheep to the mountains and hills on which you used to offer sacrifice. When he found it, he took in on the shoulders that bore the wood of the cross, and led it back to the life of heaven.

Christ, the light of all lights, follows John, the lamp that goes before him. The Word of God follows the voice in the wilderness; the bridegroom follows the bridegroom's friend, who prepares a worthy people for the Lord by cleansing them by water in preparation for the Spirit.

We need God to take our flesh and die, that we might live. We have died with Him, that we may be purified. We have risen again with Him, because we have died with Him. We have been glorified with Him, because we have risen again with Him.

St Gregory Nazianzan

Our Special Prayer Request for the Week: That our preparation from the coming of the Christ should not be overshadowed by our preparation of tinsel and lights, turkey and trimmings, presents and wrappings, and the coming of Santa Claus; we pray to the Lord...

In your prayers...


Please pray for the sick of the parish and their family members particularly; Emma Coffta, Stan Victor, Rita Matynka, Mary Karl, Julie Carlo, Jason Krear and David Miller.

Oplatki (Christmas Wafers) are available this weekend. The wafers are on the altar rail and a donation of \$1.00/envelope is suggested. Sharing Oplatki is a Central European Christmas tradition celebrated in Polish, Slovak, Lithuanian and Italian families during Wigilia (Christmas Eve Vigil). On the eve of Christmas, those gathered at the table watch for the evening star. Family and friends offer the wafer to each other expressing wishes for happiness and the peace of the newborn child.

Rekindle the Spark in your Marriage - Catholic Charities Marriage Counseling Center in Amherst is offering 10 Great Dates, a fun, romantic, relationship-enriching program from January 6–March 15 with each session beginning at 6 pm. The program is appropriate for all ages and stages of marriage and includes 10 classes and a copy of the book, *10 Great Dates*. For more information or to register, call Catholic Charities Marriage Counseling Center at 839-4406 or visit www.ccwny.org.

Domestic Violence Victims - If you are in need of access to safety planning, spiritual care, legal assistance, limited medical assistance counseling, law enforcement, the Family Justice Center of Erie County, Inc. "Where Families Come First" is for you! All services are FREE! All conversations are strictly private. For more information, please call 558-7233 or visit www.fjcsafe.org.

If you or someone you know is struggling with finances, domestic violence or child behavior issues, **Catholic Charities** is the place to start. Find help through a caring staff member who can help sort out the issues at one of our many neighborhood offices. For more information call 856-4494 or go to www.ccwny.org.

 **Three Wise Women**

You do know what would have happened if it had been three wise women instead of men don't you? They would have asked for directions, arrive on time, helped deliver the baby, cleaned the stable, made a casserole, and brought disposable diapers as gifts!

The Advent Wreath

Four weeks before Christmas, the local pastor was leading a children's service featuring an Advent wreath. He had told them what the three purple candles represented, then asked, "Does anyone know what the pink one means?" No one answered. Finally little Sara's hand went up. "Are they expecting a girl?"

MASS SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS VIGIL -

Saturday, December 24th
4:30 pm, 8:00 pm

(featuring Christmas music by St. Teresa's choir,
directed by Laurie Bordonaro Mozee')

CHRISTMAS DAY - Sunday, December 25th

8:00 am, 10:15 am



- Sunday, December 18 - Religious Education classes - 9:00 - 10:00 am and 11:15 am - 12:30 pm
- Wednesday, December 21 - No Religious Education Classes - Enjoy the day off!
- Sunday, December 25 - No Religious Education classes - Enjoy Christmas!



Prayer For Priests and Religious

Lord Jesus, Son of Mary, You called the apostles to become "fishers of men." We pray that many faith-filled and courageous young men and women will follow Your call to religious life. Inspire them to dedicate their lives to building up Your kingdom on earth.

Lord, we pray as well for all priests and religious. Help them to be joyful in service to Your people, and eager to bear witness to the power of Your love in the world.

Lord, help them to remain steadfast in their commitment to You and Your people. Grant them the gifts of wisdom and understanding, and reward them with lasting peace and joy. Grant that they may work without ceasing in obedience to Your will and Your greater honor and glory. Amen.

Christmas Confession

Schedule:

Wednesday, December 21st
7:00 - 7:30 pm

Saturday, December 24th -
11:15 am - 12:00 pm

BOTTOM LINE:

Let us climb the Lord's mountain to the house of God.