

# St. Theresa's Catholic Church

Fr. Paulinus Okpala, Pastor

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## Mass Times

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 PM Sunday: 9:30 AM (English) & 12:15 PM (Spanish)  
Daily: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: Noon Wednesday: 6:00 PM  
Adoration: Wednesday 5:00 PM Private Prayer: Wednesday 8:00 AM—7:00 PM

## Christ, Our Guiding Star

The great feast of Epiphany celebrates Christ as God's Light, drawing the whole world to God. A few years ago, Pope Francis began one of his Epiphany homilies with these words: "Like a rising star (cf. Num 24:17), Jesus comes to enlighten all peoples and to brighten the nights of humanity. Today, with the Magi, let us lift our eyes to heaven and ask: "Where is the child who has been born?" (Mt 2:2). Where can we find and encounter our Lord? The Holy Father identifies three "places" where we are to seek and find the Lord: restless questioning, the risk of journeying, and the wonder of worship.

The first "place" God hides for us to seek and find him is in restless questioning. Every human heart has lots of questions, many questions that demand infinite answers. The Magi had a yearning for the infinite and found themselves marveling at the brilliance of a star. The star led them to more questioning: Where is the child who has been born? God creates a yearning for himself inside us, and we restlessly long for him. Our faith journey is propelled by this restlessness that God puts in our hearts. Finding Him gives our hearts their most needed restful peace.

The yearning for God invites us to the journey of faith. It is a journey with God to find God. The Magi set out on a journey full of risks, without safe roads and clear maps. The journey of faith requires that we trust the star, Jesus, and keep following where he leads. Without a continuous journey in constant dialogue with the Lord, faith cannot grow. We must be on a constant journey with Christ, our guiding Star.

Journeying with the Lord brings us to encounter him in the wonder of worship. At the end of their long journey and tiring quest, the Magi entered the house, where "they saw the child with Mary, his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage" (v. 11). This is what really matters: our restlessness, our questioning, our spiritual journeys and the practice of our faith must all converge in the worship of the Lord. In his presence, we are absorbed in the mystery of his love, where gifts of selves are exchanged in an endless communion. So, join the Magi and bow before the infant Christ today.

Happy Feast of Epiphany to everyone.

Fr. Paulinus

## Sacraments

**Baptism, Marriage, & Anointing of the Sick**— Call for appointment

**First Communion/ Religious Ed**— 11:00 am—Noon

**Confirmation**— Sunday 11:00 am—Noon

**Confessions**— Sunday: 8:45-9:15 am & 11:30 am to Noon;

Saturday: 4:15-4:45 pm; Wednesday: 5:15-5:45 pm;  
and by appointment

## Weekly Mass

January 4

5:00 pm Mass

Nancy Bonilla+

January 5

9:30 am Mass

12:15 pm Mass

January 6

Noon Mass

Clay & Heather Wiggins

January 7

No Mass

January 8

5:00 pm Holy Hour

6:00 pm Mass

In Thanksgiving to God

January 9

Noon Mass

January 10

No Mass

**First Weekend Social** ~ is this weekend following each Mass. All are welcome to come and join the fellowship.

**Stand For Life** ~ will be on Saturday, January 25 in front of Harvey's on 16th Avenue from 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm. Please come and support all life from conception to natural death.

**2025 Envelopes** ~ are available in the Narthex. If your address has changed, please make sure and update Parish Office.

**Second Collection** ~ there will be a second collection next weekend for Black and Indian Missions.

**First Communion and Confirmations Students** ~ If you were not Baptized here at St. Theresa, please make sure we have a copy of your certificate by Sunday, January 12, 2025.

**Religious Education** ~ resumes this Sunday at 11:00 am.

**Empowering God's Children** ~ our Religious Education class will present a Virtus program about teaching personal boundaries and computer safety to our students on January 19. Please contact Tammy Teel or Fr. Paulinus with any questions.

**Attention Parents/ Guardians** ~ because our Church and Parish Hall are open to the General Public, please always accompany your children to and from the restroom.

Today's readings begin on page 829 in the St. Augustine Hymnal.

## Our Gifts to God:

Weekly Budget Goal: \$2,875

Last Year's Offering: \$1,970.05

Last Sunday's Offering: \$1,837

Online Offering: \$182.80

Christmas Offering: \$1,586

Children's Offering: \$46

*As you are gone, help our church carry on. Please remember your offering is essential to help us meet our budget.*

*Give online: <https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/littletherese> or you may text "GIVE NOW" to 229.318.4127 or scan the QR Code*

