

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

A DIFFERENT KIND OF KING

The gospel of today takes us to the throne of Christ the King. It was a shocking disappointment to the Israelites, who daydreamed of a mighty David-like King. The inscription on the Cross, “Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews”, was to them the highest insult. A King nailed to a cross? Flanked by two thieves? Not seated on a golden throne, but nailed to a wooden cross. Not wearing splendid clothes, but completely naked. Not giving orders to his servants, but submitting to orders and humbly receiving blows from the people he was meant to rule. This means that God reigns in a different way.

Many Christians believe that the Cross of Christ was merely a preparation for His future, glorious, and powerful kingdom. This is not the case. Jesus’ glory is the Cross. God’s kingdom of love is the same yesterday, today, and forever. The Cross of Christ is the revealing of God’s reign of unconditional love. Unlike the kingdoms of this world, God does not reign with military forces, but with the power of love. Jesus does not rule by lording it over people, but by surrendering and giving himself to them. He is the servant king who has turned kingship on its head. He reigns through service. This is God’s kind of kingship. It is God’s way of life.

On the Cross, God has revealed everything about himself. However, we can only understand a very small part of it now. After our death, we will be able to see and understand him much better. This is the meaning of the future coming of his glory. In this present body of ours, we are not capable of understanding eternal truths. It is only when we leave this body, like a baby that leaves the womb, that we can see more clearly the meaning of the kingdom of God. That was why Jesus did not say to the good thief, "Someday in the future, you will be with me in paradise. No, he said, "today" because both would die that day and enter the full vision of the eternal kingdom of God. The Cross is not merely about suffering but about love that cannot stop, no matter what. It is who God is always; the One whose life is to give himself totally. God is love. Those who live in love live in God and God in them. May the love of Christ the King reign in all our hearts. Amen.

God bless you all Fr. Paulinus

Sacraments

Baptism, Marriage, & Anointing of the Sick– Call for appointment
First Communion/ Religious Ed– Sunday 11:00 am– Noon
Confirmation– Sunday 11:00 am– Noon
Youth Group—Next Meeting January 14, 2026 @ 7:00 pm
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

Children’s Christmas Program ~ will be on Wednesday, December 17 following the 6:00 pm Mass, so please mark your calendars. We will take up a love offering for the Daybreak Pregnancy Center in Vienna afterwards.

Second Collection ~ the collection this weekend is for the Campaign for Human Development.

Prison Ministry ~ please bring hygienic items to help with our prison ministry. They need soap, shampoo, body wash, toothpaste, and deodorants. Christmas Cards, and stamps are also needed. There is a basket for the items in the back. Envelopes are available for monetary donations as well. Father will be visiting the prison on December 1, so please have your donations in by Sunday, November 30.

Harvest of Hope Campaign~ the overall campaign has surpassed 22.4M! The Diocese is now 89% to our goal of \$25M! What a blessing this is! Thank you to all who turned in their pledge card at Mass, mailed it to the diocese, or made a gift online. Please visit diosav.org/hope for more information or to make your gift today. Did you know: An IRA owner, age 70 1/2 or older, can directly transfer up to \$108,000 per year to an eligible charity tax-free in 2025. This option can be used for distributions from IRAs, regardless of whether the owners itemize their deductions. To qualify, the funds must be transferred directly by the IRA trustee to the Harvest of Hope campaign. Distributed amounts may be excluded from the IRA owner’s income, resulting in lower taxable income for the IRA owner. For more information, please contact our campaign director Christine Goodwin at 908-907-5769 or cgoodwin@guidanceingiving.com

Today’s readings begin on page 1205 in the St. Augustine Hymnal.

Our Gifts to God:

Weekly Budget Goal: \$2,875 Last Year’s Offering: \$2,145.58
Last Sunday’s Offering :\$2,392.55 (In pew: \$2,158.00, Online:\$234.55)
Children’s Offertory: \$70
Harvest of Hope Goal: \$128,508
Pledges Remaining: \$30,235.14 Total Given: \$48,255.86

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

Weekly Mass

Nov 22
5:00 pm Mass

Nov 23
9:30 am Mass
12:15 pm Mass

Nov 24
Noon Mass

Nov 25
No Mass

Nov 26
5:00 pm Holy Hour
6:00 pm Mass

Nov 27
No Mass

Nov 28
Thanksgiving
Noon Mass
John Flowger

