

St. Theresa's Catholic Church

Fr. Paulinus Okpala, Pastor

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Office Email: churchofthelittleflower@gmail.com

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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

We are Immersed in God

Today's Feast of the Lord's Baptism marks the end of the Christmas season and the beginning of Ordinary Time. Properly understood, baptism is the mystery that sums up our relationship with God in Christ. It holds the key to our understanding of how Christ saves us by fully immersing himself in our sin-infested, broken lives. This full union with us was already realized at Christmas, but his baptism alongside sinners made it even clearer. He does not stand aloof from sinners but dives fully into our midst, as we can see in Holy Communion, to slowly and carefully drive sin away from our lives.

Baptism is not a one-time event that, for most Christians, belongs to the past when they received the Sacrament. It is an all-of-life journey of immersion into God, who immerses Himself into us. We were made for union with Him, and baptism, which means "to be immersed into," sums up this mutual immersion of God into us and we into God. The joining of the two natures, God's and ours, begins our journey from the self-destructive sinful human ways to the self-sacrificing Divine ways.

Jesus' baptism ultimately happens on the Cross. From this baptism, the Cross, our new life flows, our own immersion into his life. From there, he pours God's love like a flame into human hearts, and this flame of God, the Spirit, slowly transforms the hearts of his disciples. Through them, it slowly spreads throughout the world, the saving ways of God, the way of love. About this, he says, "I have come to ignite a fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is accomplished!" (Lk. 12:49-50). As we go into the Ordinary time of the Church's year, let us resolve to embrace more, in Christ, God's Spirit of self-giving Love. Amen.

God bless you all.

- Fr. Paulinus

Family Mass ~ our Religious Education will meet with parents and children on Sunday, January 25 at 11:00 am. Father will discuss how we prepare for the Mass and the different objects that are used during Mass and their meanings. As always, if you are interested you are welcome whether you have children in Religious Education or not. The more we know and understand about our Mass, the more special it becomes.

Sacraments

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

First Communion/ Religious Ed— Every Sunday 11:00 am—12 Noon

Confirmation— Every Sunday 11:00 am—12 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

Second Collection ~ Our second collection this weekend is for Black and Indian Missions.

Youth Group ~ will meet on Wednesday, January 14 at 7:00 pm. All youth 6th grade and up are welcome to come and join the fun and fellowship. Dinner will be provided.

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 11, 2026. Sponsor forms for Confirmation students are due this day also.

Stand For Life ~ will be on Saturday, January 24 in front of Aldi's on 16th Avenue from 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm. Please come and support all life from conception to natural death.

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 18. Please contact Tammy Teel or Fr. Paulinus with any questions or if you do not want your child to participate.

Gold and Silver Anniversary ~ If you are celebrating your Gold or Silver Wedding anniversary this year, you are invited to attend a celebration Mass on Sunday, February 15 at 1:00 pm in Savannah. If you would like to attend, please contact 912-201-4069 or go to diosav.org/gold-and-silver no later than January 31.

Macon 2026 Stand for Life ~ will be on Friday, January 23 and includes Mass with Bishop Parkes. Contact The Kolbe Center at 478-257-4425 to register.

Today's readings begin on page 831 in the St. Augustine Hymnal.

Our Gifts to God:

Weekly Budget Goal: \$2,875

Last Year's Offering: \$3,727.80

Last Sunday's Offering: \$4,116.30

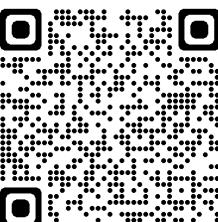
(In pew: \$3,830.00, Online: \$286.30)

Children's Offertory: \$49

Harvest of Hope Goal: \$128,508

Pledges Remaining: \$30,250.80 Total Given: \$48,540.20

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

January 10

5:00 pm Mass

January 11

9:30 am Mass

12:15 pm Mass

January 12

Noon Mass

January 13

Noon Mass

January 14

5:00 pm Holy Hour

6:00 pm Mass

January 15

No Mass

January 16

Noon Mass