

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

“Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.” (Jn. 20:29)

This past week, a former evangelical Pastor appeared on social media expressing her disgust for the Christian faith and professing to have become an atheist. Indeed, many of us are likely to have recently, either online or in real life, met a former Christian who boldly expressed their rejection of the faith for some reason. The one thing common to all these cases is a clear lack of an essential understanding of the faith as an active connection to Someone who is alive and present. Sadly, this kind of “absence” mindset is very common among many “believers,” including many Catholics who profess a formal faith in the Eucharist.

On this Divine Mercy Sunday, we read the story of Thomas’ doubt and Jesus’ pronouncement of blessedness on “those who have not seen and have believed.” Often people interpret this to mean those of us who live several years after Christ’s physical presence on earth. This is wrong. It means believing that he is alive and present, even when invisible. Whenever we see the word “blessed” in the Bible, we should understand it to mean “happy.” This is not a future happiness but a present one, signified by the peace that the risen Christ gives to his disciples, all who believe in his presence. Jesus’ Resurrection means that he now lives and is directly connected to every believer and sustains their lives with his, in real-time. The believer is aware of a higher life that is already present in him or her through a connection to Christ.

Our connection to God, through Christ, is called Baptism, not as a past event of the Sacrament, but as a present state of our lives. In today’s Collect, the Church prays “that all may grasp and rightly understand, in what font they have been washed, by whose Spirit they have been reborn, and by whose Blood they have been redeemed.” This font, Spirit, and Blood are Christ’s, and they are constantly running, binding us to Him and to one another in Him. We live in this Font, His Spirit is ours, and His Blood too is ours. Through him, God’s mercy flows unceasingly into our lives and transforms us into merciful persons like him, and with God’s mercy comes God’s Peace into us and into our world. Those who believe, that is, are connected to the Risen Christ, even without physically seeing him, experience constant forgiveness, learn to forgive constantly, and so are always blessed or happy in Him.

Happy Divine Mercy to everyone!!!

Fr. Paulinus

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
Men’s Group—Thursday 5:30—6:30 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

Divine Mercy Sunday ~ is today. Chaplet and Adoration will be 2:30 – 3:30 pm

Women’s Group ~ will meet Saturday, April 18 at 11:00 am. All women are welcome as we discuss upcoming events for the Parish.

Men’s Group ~ our Men’s group meet each Thursday evening 5:30—6:30 pm to help support each other with fellowship and faith. All men are welcome to come to the meetings and find the encouragement you never knew you needed. Contact Chuck Herrick at 334-329-4293, Jim Volz at 229-938-2393 or Bill Epps at 904-612-0855 for more info.

Rice Bowls ~ please return them by April 26.

Easter Family ~ Father will meet with the Religious Education Classes and their parents on Sunday, April 26. We encourage all families to join us and learn how the Church encourages us and how to live our best Easter Life.

Youth Mass ~ will be on Saturday, April 25. The Confirmation Class will do the readings and all youth are welcome to learn about how to prepare and be a more full part of the Mass.

Thank you for all who have pledged and/or contributed to the 2026 Annual Catholic Appeal! No gift is too small or too large and every gift is important. Thank you for your generosity.

Weekly Mass

April 11
5:00 pm Mass
Dwayne Ellis+

April 12
9:30 am Mass
Eugene Podesgerva
12:15 pm Mass

April 13
Noon Mass
No Mass

April 14
No Mass

April 15
5:00 pm Holy Hour
6:00 pm Mass

April 16
Noon Mass

April 17
Noon Mass

Today’s readings begin on page 865 in the St. Augustine Hymnal.

Our Gifts to God:

Weekly Budget Goal: \$2,875 Last Year’s Offering: \$2,548.80
Last Sunday’s Offering :\$4,090.68 (In pew: \$3,782.00, Online:\$308.68)
Children’s Offertory: \$28
Harvest of Hope Goal: \$128,508
Pledges Remaining: \$28,191.46 Total Given: \$50,819.54

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

