

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

They Were All Filled with the Holy Spirit

Who could have imagined what God was up to? With Pentecost, the whole plan of God was unraveled and turned out to exceed whatever humans would ever ask for, God, not just living with us but in us, and not for a time but forever. This is the supreme wonder of Christianity. We do not go to God, we can't, he comes to us and lives in us and allows us to live in him. This kind of life has become the new ordinary for Christians. It is called the life of faith or the supernatural life. It is to live in the awareness of God who is here with us and in us, and who is for us. "In him we live and move and have our being." (Acts 17:28).

The daily breath of those who live in God every day is prayer. It is not about being on your knees 24 hours but about being aware of him and interacting with him humbly, joyfully, and gratefully. Brother Lawrence of the Resurrection calls it the "Practice of the Presence of God." Pentecost is the end of Easter, not just because it brings the seven-week-long season of Easter to an end, but because it is the goal of Easter. Jesus' mission is to give us his Spirit and live in us through the Spirit. This is how we are trained to live with and in God forever. To live in the awareness of God is to live in the truth, and so become free of fears and anxieties rooted in untruth. This awareness made St. Teresa of Avila say: Let nothing worry you, nothing disturb you; all things are passing, God alone remains."

Dr. Peter Kreeft wrote a beautiful book, "Prayer for Beginners" based on Brother Lawrence's book "The Practice of the Presence of God." It is a practical guide to praying always, different from reciting or saying prayers. Here are some quotes from the book: "Praying keeps your soul alive because prayer is real contact with God, and God is the life of the soul as the soul is the life of the body. If you do not pray, your soul will wither and die, just as, if you do not eat, your body will wither and die." (p. 11). May the Holy Spirit open us up to His Presence in and around us so we can interact with Him every day for the life of our souls and of the whole world. Amen.

Happy Pentecost Day to all of you.

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

2026 Graduates ~ Congratulations to all those graduating this year! We pray for you and look forward to watching you achieve your dreams. High School: Katherine Collins, Jerald Hidalgo, Jeremy Hidalgo, Albert Lopez, Isabela Nguyen, Yahir Vargas, and Germaine Vesquez. College: Maykin Velasquez

Confirmation ~ will be Monday, June 1 at 6:00 pm. Please pray for the following as they begin their next phase of faithfulness: Karla Almeda, Jorge Almeda, George Collins, Brody Coulter, Yanet Gonzalez, Anthony Lerma, Armando Lerma, Axel Monrreal, Tripp Rumsey, Cielo Santiago and Julian Santiago.

Memorial Bricks ~ as part of the Marian Grotto, we are offering the Memorial Bricks for you to purchase as a Memorial for your family and loved ones. The bricks will be 4" x 8" and you may have up to 3 lines. We are asking for a minimum of \$100 per brick and you may pay when you can. The order forms are in the Narthex. We will submit our first batch to be engraved in June so the first deadline is June 7.

Second Collection ~ there will be a second collection next weekend for Catholic Communications.

Memorial Day Mass ~ will be held at Crown Hill Cemetery at 10:00 am in Albany with lunch provided by the Knights of Columbus. Please bring a side dish if possible. The address is 1907 Dawson Rd.

Today's readings begin on page 881 in the St. Augustine Hymnal.

Our Gifts to God:

Weekly Budget Goal: \$2,875

Last Year's Offering: \$1,615.80

Last Sunday's Offering :\$3,172.53

(In pew: \$2,850.00, Online:\$322.53)

Children's Offertory: \$32

Annual Catholic Appeal:

Goal: \$14,054 Total Given: \$8,640

Harvest of Hope Goal: \$128,508

Pledges Remaining: \$26,838.29 Total Given: \$52,172.71

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

May 23
5:00 pm Mass
Bob Herrick

May 24
9:30 am Mass
12:15 pm Mass

May 25
10:00 am Mass
Albany

May 26
No Mass

May 27
5:00 pm Holy Hour
6:00 pm Mass

May 28
Noon Mass

May 29
Noon Mass

