

St. Theresa’s Catholic Church

Fr. Paulinus Okpala, Pastor

807 South 3rd Street Cordele, Georgia
(229) 273-3446 (office) (585) 285-1864 (emergency)
Office Email: churchofthelittleflower@gmail.com
Website: churchofthelittleflower.church

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

THE FREEDOM OF GOD’S CHILDREN

We thank God for the gift of freedom to this nation for the past 250 years still counting. Safety and freedom are precious gifts that we celebrate and appreciate immensely. But true freedom is much deeper than an absence of external aggression and oppression.

Today’s first reading from the prophet Zechariah was a prophecy of hope for a future freedom to the people of Israel who were still in bondage to foreign powers. He called on them to “rejoice heartily” in anticipation of this future time of great peace when the chariots and horses of war would be banished, and peace would be proclaimed to the nations. Years after that prophecy, we now celebrate its fulfillment in Christ. But, as always, this freedom comes at a price. In today’ gospel, Jesus calls this price his “yoke.” He says, “Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.” (Matt. 11:28-30). Jesus’ Yoke is His Cross, which he shares with us for our deepest freedom.

A train can only run freely on its tracks. Outside the tracks, it is grounded. There are many behaviors we call freedom that are indeed more enslavement of our lives. Paul, in today’s second reading distinguished such slavery from true freedom using the phrases “living according to the flesh” and “living according to the spirit of Christ.” Christ’s own life models true freedom for us. It takes humility to allow the one who gives us life to teach and guide us on how to live it right. When Jesus says, “Come to me,” he is inviting us to be yoked together with him so that we can carry the “burden” of life together. It becomes lighter because he carries it the right way and guides us to do the same. Being yoked to Christ evokes the image of farm animals that are yoked together in pairs for pulling farm instruments. Joined to Christ in faith, we accept his daily company, help, guide, disciplines, cleaning and enriching of our lives with Divine wisdom through his Word, his grace, and the Sacraments. Humbly submitting to his discipline of virtues is the little price we pay for the deepest freedom of the children of God.

God bless you all.
Fr. Paulinus

Sacraments

Baptism, Marriage, & Anointing of the Sick– Call for appointment
First Communion/ Religious Ed– Resumes August 23, 2026
Confirmation– Resumes August 23, 2026
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

Formed.org ~ If you are looking for something to watch this summer, don’t forget to check online at Formed.org. There is a wide variety of movies and shows about the Saints and Studies to help increase your faith. The best part is it won’t cost you anything. Take a few minutes and explore. There’s programming for all ages and levels of understanding. You can download the free iOS or Android app to put FORMED at your fingertips. We hope you will enjoy this incredible gift and please spread the word to others. To sign up for FREE, just visit us here: <https://formed.org> and select “Form for parishes”.

Question of the Week ~Do I consider myself meek? How can I be less resentful and more peaceful and patient with family, friends, and colleagues?

Harvest of Hope ~ Thank you to everyone who has given and continues to give to the Diocesan Appeal. We are still making progress towards our goal. We currently received 50% of all gifts that are given. Thank you for your generosity!

Ladies Club ~ will meet next Saturday, July 11 at 11:00 am to discuss upcoming events for the Parish.

Happy Fourth of July to All! May God continue to bless the USA!

Weekly Mass

July 4
5:00 pm Mass
Gordon Womble

July 5
9:30 am Mass
Peter Le Van Tuan
12:15 pm Mass

July 6
Noon Mass

July 7
Noon Mass

July 8
5:00 pm Holy Hour
6:00 pm Mass

July 9
Noon Mass

July 10
No Mass

Today’s readings begin on page 912 in the St. Augustine Hymnal.

Our Gifts to God:

Weekly Budget Goal: \$2,875 Last Year’s Offering: \$3,788.85
Last Sunday’s Offering :\$2,747.33 (In pew: \$2,474.00, Online:\$273.33)
Children’s Offertory: \$82
Annual Catholic Appeal:
Goal: \$14,054 Total Given: \$9,160.60
Harvest of Hope Goal: \$128,508
Pledges Remaining: \$24,346.12 Total Given: \$55,282.05

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

