

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

God’s Seed Grows in Willing Hearts

Jesus compares the Word of God to a seed. This is the first of his seven parables in the thirteenth chapter of Matthew’s Gospel. We will be reading the rest in the coming weeks. A seed is small but has enormous hidden potential to produce great fruits. It produces fruits of its kind when placed in the right conditions. The Word of God produces the Life of God in people (faith, hope, and charity) if properly absorbed and nourished.

Just as a great life is “hidden” in the tiny seed and blossoms in the right conditions, God’s Life is hidden in Jesus, the Eternal Word of the Father, whom the Father keeps trying to plant in our hearts to produce God’s Life in us. Our level of interest is of the greatest importance for the growth of this seed in us. God’s Truth is essentially hidden because it is God Himself. He is not giving us something, but Himself, and a relationship is not forced. That is why He must always be hidden and given only to those interested and willing to grow in a relationship.

That we showed up for Mass today means we have some interest. But all four categories of listeners can be found in each of us. As pathway listeners, we give minimal attention to the Word of God during the week (For some, only at weekends). As rocky listeners, we are set like rock in our ways and are unwilling to give God the freedom to get deep into us and change us. Among thorns, we give more time and attention to other needs than to God. But thank God we are here today. It is a sign of some good soil in us that has been taking in the Word, at least to some extent. Our major task this week will be to work with God every day to make our soil richer for His deep roots and fruits of an enduring and close relationship.

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

Neighbors in the Park ~ the Crisp Ministerial Alliance is excited to host Neighbors in the Park, a community outreach event on Saturday, July 18, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Turner Park, 501 24th Ave. East, and would be honored to have our church family join them.

Fr. Paulinus’ 25th Priestly Ordination ~ is Tuesday, August 18. He will begin with Mass at 6:00 pm with a potluck dinner to celebrate afterwards. Everyone is invited to come and join him on this special day. We ask each family to bring your favorite side dish or salad to share. Meat and drinks will be provided.

Second Collection ~ will be next weekend for the Church in Africa.

Religious Education ~ will resume on Sunday, August 23 at 11:00 am. We will have a planning meeting during coffee & donuts on Sunday, August 2 after the 9:30 am Mass. If you are interested in volunteering, please feel free to come and join us. If you have questions, please contact Tammy at 229.313.9065. Perfection is not needed, only a willing heart and spirit.

Question of the Week ~What will I do this week to cultivate God’s word? Which passages from scripture have I applied to my life recently or regularly?

Weekly Mass

July 11
5:00 pm Mass

July 12
9:30 am Mass
12:15 pm Mass

July 13
Noon Mass

July 14
Noon Mass

July 15
5:00 pm Holy Hour
6:00 pm Mass
Tom Brian+

July 16
Noon Mass

July 17
Noon Mass

Today’s readings begin on page 913 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 :\$3,748.08 (In pew: \$3,498.00, Online:\$250.08)
Children’s Offertory: \$46
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

