

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

Patience is Divine

Our world is full of lessons on patience. This is one virtue we need most to live in a world filled with good and bad at the same time. Each of us has enough tests for our patience. It could be from people we have to live and deal with every day, health issues that would not go away, our family or job situation, people or things that constantly upset us, or our inner struggles that keep frustrating us. God is patient with us in our imperfections and uses lots of these tools to school us in patience. The goal is to learn to be patient with God, with people and with ourselves.

Jesus uses three parables in the gospel of today to give us some lessons on patience. The parable of the wheat and the weeds is a perfect picture of our world mixed with good and bad. It reflects both the outside world of different kinds of people and the inside world of our individual lives and struggles. The bottom line is that no one is completely good, except God. If God were as impulsive as we are and decided to weed out the world, no one would remain. We need time and care to be better Christians, loving others the way God loves us and them. Others need time too.

The last two parables are symbolic and instructive. Jesus compares the kingdom of God to a planted mustard seed that takes time to grow. He also compares it to a woman mixing yeast with three measures of wheat and turning it until the whole batch is leaven. This takes over from the parable of the sower, where Jesus explains the seed to be the Word of God. Jesus Himself is the Word of God planted in us and in the world, as yeast in wheat. The Spirit continues to turn the mixture to leaven the whole batch. The mixing goes on with each person, within the Church, and in the whole world. It takes time and patience. This is God’s virtue being slowly drilled into us by Him.

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

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 ~ this weekend is 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.

Give Us This Day ~ It’s time for our annual renewal. The new books will be available with the November issue. The cost is \$40 for the year. Please contact Tammy Teel no later than August 23 if you would like to continue or begin your subscription. If you would like, you may add your payment to the collection basket, please write “Give Us This Day” in the memo.

Blessing of the Backpacks ~will be the August 1 & 2. We invite all students and teachers to bring their backpacks and receive a blessing for a safe and fruitful year.

Weekly Mass

July 18
5:00 pm Mass

July 19
9:30 am Mass
12:15 pm Mass

July 20
Noon Mass
Helen Olek

July 21
Noon Mass

July 22
5:00 pm Holy Hour
6:00 pm Mass

July 23
Noon Mass

July 24
No Mass

Today’s readings begin on page 916 in the St. Augustine Hymnal.

Our Gifts to God:

Weekly Budget Goal: \$2,875 Last Year’s Offering: \$2,239.80
Last Sunday’s Offering :\$3,664.53 (In pew: \$3,342.00, Online:\$322.53)
Children’s Offertory: \$54
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

