

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

The Hidden Treasure Within

Jesus describes God’s reign as a hidden treasure of immense value. We know the thrill of suddenly winning a huge prize or happily discovering that an item we possess has im-mense value. A wealthy parent wanting to gift their children with family treasure with-out spoiling them would hide them where the children would find them with little searching. God hides Himself in the hearts of his children in hopes that with little dig-ging, they can hit this treasure and grow rich in a life-giving relationship with Him. The search is meant to open our hearts to God’s Heart.

St. Augustine of Hippo lived a ‘wild’ life, almost endlessly searching for deep satisfaction and peace for his troubled soul. He steeped himself into luxuries, free living and deep intellectual ventures, looking for solace. His mother, St. Monica, pursued him with pray-ers. When finally, Augustine found God through the preaching of St. Ambrose, his joy and peace of soul knew no bounds. He wrote several books to teach people about God. He devoted one book, the ‘Confessions’, to telling the story of his own life struggles and search for God.

An outstanding quote from the “Confessions” is Augustine’s exclamation at discovering the hidden Treasure of God in his soul: “Late have I loved you, Beauty so ancient and so new, late have I loved you! Lo, you were within, but I outside, seeking there for you, and upon the shapely things you have made I rushed headlong, I, misshapen. You were with me, but I was not with you. They held me back far from you, those things which would have no being were they not in you. You called, shouted, broke through my deafness; you flared, blazed, banished my blindness; you lavished your fragrance, I gasped, and now I pant for you; I tasted you, and I hunger and thirst; you touched me, and I burned for your peace.” (Confessions X.27). Another outstanding line from the same book is: “God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless, until they can find rest in you.” (Confessions I.1)

We can ask God for the grace to discover Him within our souls and around us, as Augus-tine did.

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.

Prayer List ~ Please pray for Betty Gambrell who had a heart attack this week. Also, continue to keep Mary and Frank Olson in your prayers as well.

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 next weekend. We invite all students and teachers to bring their backpacks and receive a blessing for a safe and fruitful year.

Weekly Mass

July 25
5:00 pm Mass

July 26
9:30 am Mass
Bob Lee+
12:15 pm Mass

July 27
Noon Mass

July 28
Noon Mass

July 29
5:00 pm Holy Hour
6:00 pm Mass

July 30
Noon Mass

July 31
No Mass

Today’s readings begin on page 918 in the St. Augustine Hymnal.

Our Gifts to God:

Weekly Budget Goal: \$2,875 Last Year’s Offering: \$2,699.20
Last Sunday’s Offering :\$2,684.25 (In pew: \$2,429.00, Online:\$255.25)
Children’s Offertory: \$51
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

