

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

Oh, the Depth of the Wisdom of God!!!

A childlike wonder is the Christian's general attitude toward the awesome mystery of God’s Kingdom, visible in creation and revealed in salvation history. We remember the Gospel passage when Jesus says, “Unless you turn and become like little children, you shall not enter the Kingdom of God.” (Matt. 18:3). He is referring to childlike wonder. For children, the world is a wonderful place. That is why they can play more and are lighthearted. Seashells and starlight are magically mysterious. Grasshoppers and green mountains inspire fascination and excitement. An attitude of wonder and awe in the face of God’s gifts is something the saints share. God’s wonder not only applies to natural gifts, but even more to the supernatural gifts of salvation and redemption.

St. Paul, after spending three chapters of his Letter to the Romans analyzing and explaining the complex twists and turns of salvation history, breaks out in a hymn of wonder and awe: “Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How inscrutable are his judgments and how unsearchable his ways! (Rom. 11:33). Paul models for us the childlike wonder with which we must approach the mysteries of God and his providential guidance of history and our lives. When we lose this amazement, we soon become numb to the amazing appeal of God’s mystery that is meant to slowly and carefully guide our growth in learning the ways of God and gradually “enter” the mystery of his Kingdom.

God and His ways remain a deep mystery to which human wisdom must learn to surrender in amazement and grow up like little children in a family. We are surrounded by these mysteries, and they are meant to both amaze us and instruct us. Our lives and their intricate turns are part of this wondrous mystery. The organic structure of our bodies reflects the mystery of God. Our family structure also reflects Him who is Family per excellence. And so, when Jesus, in today’s Gospel, gives the key of the kingdom to Peter, he is establishing the immense mystery of the Church with a visible Vicar who represents him and who guides God’s Family on earth like a father. We must wonder with gratitude at the mystery of the Church as one family of God on earth. May we humbly dispose ourselves to learning from the wisdom of God.

God bless you all. Fr. Paulinus

Sacraments

**Baptism, Marriage, & Anointing of the Sick**– Call for appointment  
**First Communion/ Religious Ed**– Sunday 11:00 am—12 Noon  
**Confirmation**– Sunday 11:00 am—12 Noon  
**Youth Group** - Resumes September 9, 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

**Religious Education** ~ Resumes this weekend at 11:00 am. All children are welcome, if you haven’t registered, you may register when you come.  
**Give Us This Day** ~ This is the last Sunday to sign up for renewal. If you aren’t able to pay at this time, please contact Tammy at 229.313.9065 so you can have your copy. If you would like, you may add your payment to the collection basket, please write “Give Us This Day” in the memo.  
**OCIA Class**~ formerly called RCIA will begin on Thursday, August 27 at 7:00 pm. This is open to everyone who is interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith both who are interested in joining the Church or those who are already a part of it.  
**Bible Study** ~ have you ever wondered about the background of the culture of Jesus’ time? Beginning Sunday, September 20 at 10:45 pm, Father will dive deeper into the weekends scriptures. He will help you to “See the Old Testament in the New Testament and see how the New Testament is hidden in the Old.” This study will give you a better understanding of Jesus’ ministry. Make plans to check this out!  
**Called By Name** ~ Do you know a faithful young person - man or woman- who may be interested in being called to serve God in our Diocese? Next weekend we encourage you to suggest someone who may be willing to serve. Please pray this week and think about who may be encouraged to follow this path.

| Weekly Mass |                                                     |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| August 22   | 5:00 pm Mass<br>Maria Nguyen T Mao                  |
| August 23   | 9:30 am Mass<br>Maria Nguyen T Mao<br>12:15 pm Mass |
| August 24   | Noon Mass                                           |
| August 25   | Noon Mass<br>Hilda Dorenkamper+                     |
| August 26   | 5:00 pm Holy Hour<br>6:00 pm Mass                   |
| August 27   | Noon Mass                                           |
| August 28   |                                                     |

Today’s readings begin on page 925 in the St. Augustine Hymnal.

Our Gifts to God:

Weekly Budget Goal: \$2,875 Last Year’s Offering: \$2,376.80  
Last Sunday’s Offering :\$2,683.28 (In pew: \$2,309.00, Online:\$374.28)  
Children’s Offering: \$45  
Annual Catholic Appeal:  
Goal: \$14,054 Total Given: \$9,181.20  
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

