

ST. THERESA’S CATHOLIC CHURCH Fr, Paulinus Okpala, Pastor 807 South Third Street, Cordele, Georgia 31015 229.273.3774 (office) 586.285.1864 (emergency) Office Email: churchofthelittleflower@gmail.com Website: www.churchofthelittleflower.church.com 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	Sacraments Baptism, Marriage, & Anointing of the Sick – Call for appointment First Communion, Confirmation & Religious Ed – Sunday 11:00 am – 12 Noon Youth Group – October 14 at 7:00 – 8:30 pm OCIA – Thursday 7:00 pm Confessions: Sunday: 8:45-9:15 pm & 11:30 am to Noon: Saturday: 4:15 – 4:45 pm; Wednesday: 5:15 – 5:45 pm and by appointment	DAILY MASS October 3 5:00 pm Mass Joachim Pham Van Dinh+ October 4 9:30 am Mass 12:15 PM Mass
THE PEACE OF GOD AND THE GOD OF PEACE Today, we celebrate our patroness, St. Thérèse of Lisieux. St. Thérèse gives us the precious gift of spiritual childhood. She describes this spirituality as “a surrender of a little child who sleeps without fear in its father’s arms.” The result of this kind of surrender is great peace of mind that comes from trusting God every day like a child in its parents’ arms. About Thérèse, one author wrote: “By no longer troubling herself about results or successes, by leaving the outcome of every deed and desire to God, Thérèse freed her mind from useless worry.” This is what Paul is asking of us in today’s second reading. He says, “Brothers and sisters: Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” Paul uses two wonderful phrases, the peace of God and the God of peace. Both are the same. The first phrase, which we just quoted above, says, “Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” The second phrase is, “Then the God of peace will be with you.” When we reflect on the various causes of our anxieties, our health, our finances, politics, family matters, or relationship problems, we will observe that often we have little or no control over these situations. Therefore, if our hearts do not have a shield that secures peace within, we will most often have restless hearts, broken hearts, angry outbursts, or some bitterness within. This shield is what Paul calls the God of peace and the peace of God that surpasses all understanding. This is what Jesus means when he says, “Peace I leave with you. My own peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or be afraid (Jn. 14:27).” The goal of our entire life is the peace of God and the God of peace. Whatever troubles there are in our times and lives <u>are not new</u>. The only thing that is new is us dealing with them. Every adversary, whether natural or man-made is a tool in God’s hand for shaping our hearts to love unconditionally. That is what Thérèse calls “Divine Furnace.” God’s goal is to shape our hearts like His so that we can both love unconditionally and have peace in the worst of conditions. If your peace of mind depends on what happens next, then faith is absent, and with it the Peace of God. Happy Feast of St. Thérèse to you all. Fr. Paulinus	St. Theresa Feast Day ~ is this Sunday from 4-6 pm. Please bring side dishes and desserts. The Church will provide meat and drinks. All are welcome to come join the fun rain or shine! <u>Ladies Club</u> ~ will meet Saturday, October 10 at 11:00 am. We will discuss the upcoming Baked Spaghetti Fundraiser. Please make plans to attend. <u>Commemorative bricks</u>~ We are preparing the second batch of commemorative bricks. The last day to place the order is Sunday, November 1. There are forms located in the narthex. <u>Stand for Life</u> ~ will be Saturday, October 17 from 1:00 pm -3:00 pm. We will meet in front of Aldi’s in support of life from conception to natural death. <u>Youth Group</u> ~ will be Wednesday, October 14 7:00-8:30 pm. All youth, 6th grade and up, are welcome. <u>Help Wanted</u> ~ St. Mary’s Church in Americus is looking for part-time administrative help. If you are interested, go to www.stmaryamericus.com. <u>Catholic Intern</u> ~ for 2 weeks in October/ November there will be a devote Catholic Intern doing a rotation in Cordele. She is looking for a place to stay while she is here. If you are willing to open your home to her, please let Father Paulinus know. Please note there will be no Mass on Saturday, October 31 due to the Beatification of the Georgia Martyrs. Today’s Readings can be found on page 936 in the St. Augustine Hymnal Our Gifts to God: Weekly Budget Goal: \$2,875 Last Year’s Offering: \$2,418.15 Last Sunday’s Offering: \$2,954.08 (In pew: \$2,629, Online: \$325.08) Children’s Offering: \$41 Annual Catholic Appeal: Goal: \$14,054 Total Given: \$11,394.80 Harvest of Hope Goal: \$128,508 Pledges Remaining: \$21,685.24 Total Given: \$57,625.73	October 5 Noon Mass October 6 Noon Mass October 7 5:00 pm Holy Hour 6:00 pm Mass October 8 Noon Mass October 9 Noon Mass You can scan the QR code to donate online. 