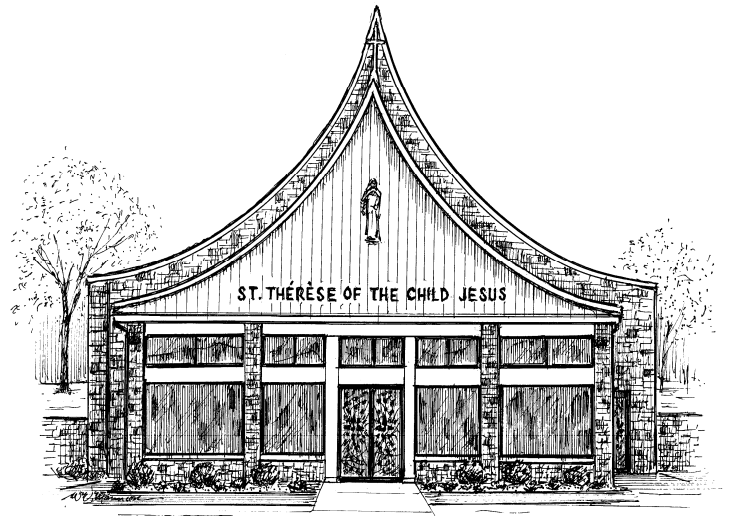


# Saint Therese of the Child Jesus



**Father Brian Norris**  
**Deacon Thomas McFee**  
2301 Fifth Street  
Altoona, PA 16601-3863

## Mass Schedule

Saturday Evening:..... 5:00 PM  
Sunday Morning: ..... 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

## Parish Telephones

Office: ..... 814-942-4479  
[Usual Office Hours: 9AM-2PM, Mon., Wed., Fri.]  
Mary Beth Schmidhamer, DRE..... 814-515-2914

## Holy Trinity Regional Catholic School:

Fairview School Campus:..... 814-381-7011  
Eldorado School Campus:..... 814-942-7835  
Fr. Kelley Hall: ..... 814-944-7450  
E-mail: ...(Rectory) - sttheresealtoona@dioceseaj.org  
(Fr. Brian Norris) - bnorris@dioceseaj.org  
(Paula Hall) - phall@dioceseaj.org  
(Sally Love) - slove@dioceseaj.org  
Fax: ..... 814-942-1873

**Homepage: [sttheresealtoona.com](http://sttheresealtoona.com)**

**Weekday Masses:** Monday at 7:45. No mass on Tuesday. Thursday, Friday at 7:45 AM, Wednesday at 8:30 AM (with Holy Trinity Catholic School during school term), Saturday at 8:00 AM.

**Holy Day Masses:** 5:30 PM on the eve of the Holy Day, 12:05 PM & 6:30 PM on the Holy Day. Please refer to the bulletin for Christmas and New Year's schedules and for any schedule changes.

**Baptisms:** Our parish generally celebrates Baptisms on the Third Sunday of each month at the 10:30 AM Mass. Please contact the Parish Office for information regarding required instructional preparations. "Baptismal Names" can be a saint or biblical name, an expression of a Christian mystery or virtue, no name can be used which is foreign to the Christian mentality.

**Confirmation:** Confirmation is celebrated each year as scheduled by our Diocese. Candidates are expected to fulfill all Diocesan and Parish requirements in preparation

**Holy Eucharist:** First Communion is celebrated on the First Sunday of May. Please call the Parish Office to arrange for Holy Communion to be brought to shut-ins.

**Reconciliation:** Saturdays from 4:00 to 4:40 PM or by appointment.

**Anointing of the Sick:** For the seriously ill or injured OR those about to have surgery, please contact the Parish Office. Communal Anointing as arranged by the Pastoral Council.

**Weddings:** Weddings are to be scheduled at least six (6) months in advance and should precede any other arrangements for the wedding. All Wedding liturgies are scheduled so as not to conflict with regularly scheduled parish liturgies. All Diocesan directives and regulations for Marriage preparation (FOCCUS, Pre-Cana & Natural Family Planning) are required to be followed.

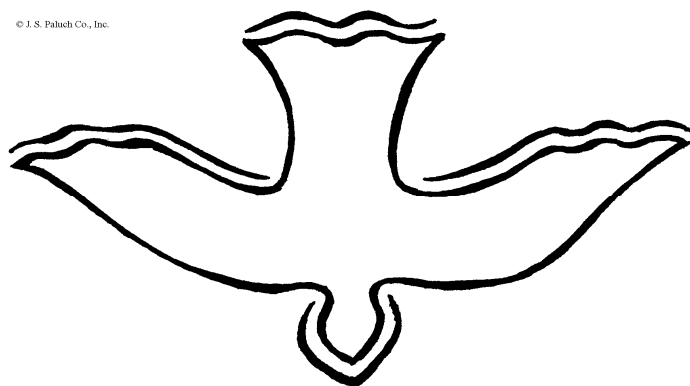
**Christian Initiation for Adults:** People desiring to become Catholic should contact the Parish Office before September of each year to begin the Christian Initiation Program which concludes at the Easter Vigil.

**Religious Education:** Public School Students from Grades 1 through 11, meet Sunday mornings from 9:00 AM to 10:20 AM in the school building.

**Catholic Education:** Our Parish is a supporting member of Holy Trinity Catholic School, grades Pre-school through 5th grade, and Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School, grades 6th through 12th.

**Parish Membership:** Consists of Registration in the Parish Census, active participation at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days, worthy reception of the sacraments of Holy Communion and Reconciliation regularly, and financial support of our Parish.

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## Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 14, 2024

Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you.

- *1 Corinthians 6:19a*

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Sm 15:16-23; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23;  
Mk 2:18-22

Tuesday: 1 Sm 16:1-13; Ps 89:20-22, 27-28;  
Mk 2:23-28

Wednesday: 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51; Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10;  
Mk 3:1-6

Thursday: 1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7; Ps 56:2-3, 9-13;  
Mk 3:7-12

Friday: 1 Sm 24:3-21; Ps 57:2-4, 6, 11; Mk 3:13-19

Saturday: 2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27;  
Ps 80:2-3, 5-7; Mk 3:20-21

Sunday: Jon 3:1-5, 10; Ps 25:4-9; 1 Cor 7:29-31;  
Mk 1:14-20

Keep in touch with us via  
email and text!



TEXT  
STTHALTOONA  
TO 84576



OR CONNECT WITH US ONLINE AT:  
[stthereseofjesus.flocknote.com](http://stthereseofjesus.flocknote.com)

### FREE MINISTRY TO TRAVELING CATHOLIC

For nationwide Mass times and locations:  
Internet [www.Masstimes.org](http://www.Masstimes.org) OR call 1-410-676-6000.

### THE LAMB OF GOD

“Behold the Lamb of God!” We hear this phrase every Sunday at Mass, but there’s a good chance that many Roman Catholics do not know who in the Bible originally spoke it. The phrase appears only in the Gospel of John, on the lips of John the Baptist, who utters it twice. In today’s Gospel reading, John proclaims Jesus as the Lamb of God, and two of John’s own disciples then follow Christ. A little bit later Andrew, who heard John and then followed Jesus, brings his brother Simon to be re-named Cephas, or Peter. A careful look at these Bible verses shows us the mission of everyone baptized into the Body of Christ: we must always proclaim our faith in Christ, so that others will follow him. We may not know how the will of God might work through those we bring to Christ; that is not the point. The point is that our ongoing mission as a church is to bring others to Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

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### TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

“Ordinary Time” began for us this week. On the old calendar, the feast of the Presentation, still more than two weeks away, was the last day of the Christmas season. Sadly, Bethlehem is hardly a place of peace on earth these days. The ancient Christian community has been largely uprooted by political strife. The Church of the Nativity stands (barely) in remarkable disrepair and disorder in Manger Square. The roof is crumbling, the major doorways are blocked, the wiring is faulty, and the worship life is disrupted by quarrels among Eastern Christians.

The church was founded by the Emperor Constantine in 325, destroyed in a Samaritan revolt in 539, and rebuilt by the Emperor Justinian. When the area came under Muslim control in 638, the holiness of the church was respected, and in return Christians allowed Muslims to pray in the south aisle, a right still upheld. Earlier in that century, invading Persians were ordered to destroy all churches, but when they saw the magi carved over the doorway of the Church of the Nativity, they spared it out of respect for their ancestors who bore gold, frankincense, and myrrh to the same city. The Crusaders restored and redecored the church by the twelfth century, and it is their plan that survives. Down a few stone steps is a stone grotto with a silver star marking the place of Christ’s birth: when the star was stolen in 1847 it triggered an international crisis that exploded into the Crimean War.

Since 1852, the church has been shared by the Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, and Armenian Churches. The Greeks are in charge of the grotto, but don’t enjoy the best of friendships with the Armenians. Catholics have the care of the Chapel of the Manger, and avoid the squabbles by a separate entrance to the Franciscan monastery church of St. Catherine. Pray for peace in Bethlehem!

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

### CHAINS OF GRACE

The chains of grace are so powerful, and yet so sweet, that though they attract our heart, they do not shackle our freedoms.

—St. Francis de Sales

# BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

**Birthdays:**

- January 15: Kellie Craig
- January 17: Rose Marie Kimmel + Marcy Agee + Dina Muffie
- January 18: Daniel Irvin, Jr. + Marissa Villano + Corry Fatigante + Makeena Miller
- January 19: Sue Slates + Joshua Wagner
- January 20: Marjorie Beiswenger + Katerina Parowski
- January 21: Nicholas Stoltz + Brandon Clark + Elaina Waksmonski + Kaitlyn Onder + Paitlyn Onder

**Anniversaries:**

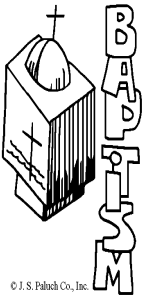
- January 17, 1987: Nancy & R. Gary Williams

**BAPTISM!**

We want to welcome and congratulate our newest parishioner, **Ella Mary Betar**, who was baptized last Sunday January 7th, 2024.

Ella is the daughter of Bradley J. Betar & Colleen A. Kelly.

**Ella, Welcome to Our Parish Family!**



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**WEEKLY PARISH SUPPORT**

Deposits for the week of December 28 2023-January 3, 2024

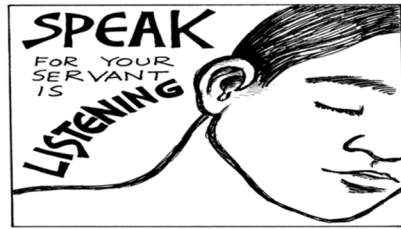
Sunday Offertory Adults:	\$ 2,782.00
Sunday Offertory Students:	\$ 8.45
Monthly Collection:	\$ 1,495.00
Loose Collection:	\$ 220.00
Total Offertory:	\$ 4,505.75
Twin Parish Collection:	\$ 170.00
Christmas Club:	\$ 447.00
Votive Candles:	\$ 39.00
School Support:	\$ 25.00
2nd Sunday:	\$ 70.00
Christmas:	\$ 600.00
Solemnity of Mary:	\$ 390.00
SVDP:	\$ 155.00
Fundraiser/Save Around:	\$ 50.00
Fr. Kelley Hall Rental:	\$ 530.00

**TOTAL DEPOSIT: \$ 6,981.45**

May God continue to bless you for your support of Saint Therese Parish and its programs.

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

- Monday, January 15, 2024: Martin Luther King Day**  
7:45 AM JOHN PLASKO [Birthday 1/16]  
(Mrs. Margaret Bakale)
- Tuesday, January 16, 2024:**  
7:45 AM NO MASS
- Wednesday, January 17, 2024: St. Anthony**  
8:30 AM JEAN GALLAGHER (Larry Wills)
- Thursday, January 18, 2024: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins**  
7:45 AM NANCY & LOUIS BRAVIN  
(Daughter & Son)
- Friday, January 19, 2024:**  
7:45 AM JAMES J. HATCH [Anniversary 1/15]  
(Patricia Hatch)
- Saturday, January 20, 2024: Sts. Fabian & Sabastian**  
8:00 AM LARRY SPROUSE (Frank & Elaine Dombrowski, Co-workers & Friends)  
5:00 PM ARTHUR HASSON [Anniversary] (Jack & Cathy Reilly)
- Sunday, January 21, 2024:**  
8:00 AM FOR OUR PARISH FAMILY  
10:30 AM AUDREY WIRFEL (Vickie Galardy)



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**LITURGICAL + ROLES**

January 20th and 21st

**ALTAR SERVERS**

- 5:00 PM Alana Cropsey
- 8:00 AM Camryn Colledge, Mya Colledge
- 10:30 AM Ember McConnell, Alayna Bott

**READERS**

- 5:00 PM Barbara Fagan, Melvin Kepner
- 8:00 AM VOLUNTEER, Kathryn Millward
- 10:30 AM Alice Strum, Jay Burlingame

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

- 5:00 PM Kathleen Leporte, Janet Durbin
- 8:00 AM Deacon McFee, Mary Bravin, John Bravin
- 10:30 AM Amber Bott, Eileen Porta, Mary Beth Schmidhamer

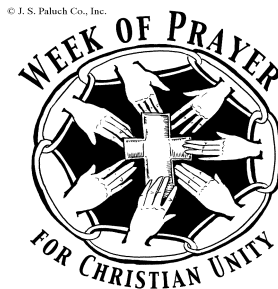
**GREETERS/USHERS**

- 5:00 PM Janet Luciano, Dave Mason, Barbara Grimme, Leonard Haduck
- 8:00 AM Robert Gallagher, Jr., Robert Gallagher, III, Kenneth Klingler
- 10:30 AM Marita Forr, Diane Hite, Paul Hite, Kristine Hennaman

**Christian Unity** – This week is recognized by Christians as the week to pray for Christian Unity. The command to pray for Christian Unity comes from Jesus Himself in the Gospel of John during the last supper discourse. There, Jesus prays to the Father on behalf of his disciples who are with Him and all generations of disciples praying: 20 “I pray not only for them[the twelve apostles], but also for those who will believe in me through their word[Christians throughout the ages], 21 so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me. 22 And I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one, 23 I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one, that the world may know that you sent me, and that you loved them even as you loved me” (Jn 17:20–23). Jesus’ prayer that “all of us may be one” should be our prayer.

The path to unity begins in prayer and mutual good works. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has declared that this year our prayer should focus on the unity found in Christians coming together to do charitable works like the Good Samaritan. The Warming Shelter at Overflow Church which Alice Sturm discussed at mass a few weeks ago is a great example of Christians working together in our Altoona community. The USCCB has put together Scripture verses and reflections to read and pray over throughout this week on their website: <https://www.usccb.org/committees/ecumenical-interreligious-affairs/week-prayer-christian-unity-2024>

Please pray for Christian unity this week so that Jesus’ desire that “all of us may be one” can become a reality.



**Parish Council** – So far, three parishioners have put their names forward for the parish council openings: Josh Fera, David Settimio, and Mel Kepner. If anyone else would like to put forward their name or the name of another parishioner, please do so by Friday January 26th. Joining the parish council comes with a commitment to meet once a month on Wednesday nights at 7pm.

As I said in a bulletin before the holidays: “at the New Pastor’s Conference, I was reminded that it is important to have active parish councils and finance councils to receive greater input from parishioners to know how our parish can best serve the people in our pews and bring in more people! To do this I would like to find 3 new members for the parish council. The parish council is currently made up of four dedicated women of the parish. In order to have a well-rounded council with a diversity of backgrounds and opinions, I would like to extend an invitation to new families and men in the parish to prayerfully consider joining the parish council. Together we can come up with a great vision for growing our parish family and helping all of our parishioners to grow in their faith!”

**Narthex HVAC System** – The Finance Council and I have consulted bids for replacing the Narthex HVAC system and approved a bid. The cost of replacing the HVAC system in the Narthex and replacing the ceiling tiles will be a combined total of \$14,500.00. The majority of that expense is replacing the ceiling unit and replacing the ceiling track system for the ceiling tiles. There will be a trapdoor in the new ceiling tile grid for easier access to the ceiling unit for the regular maintenance of that new unit. The Second Collections for the foreseeable future will be designated for replacing the money used for this project which will be taken from the Fr. Kelley Hall Air Conditioning Project Funds. Please give generously to this project as we continue to update and repair the physical plant of this parish for our benefit and the benefit of future generations of St. Therese parishioners