



306 MORRIS AVENUE, SUMMIT, NJ 07901

ST TERESA OF AVILA

DECEMBER 8, 2024

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MASS SCHEDULE

Daily

7:00 am Church 📶

Saturday

8:30 am Church 📶

Confessions follow

4:00 pm (Vigil) Memorial Hall

Sunday

7:30 am Church

9:00 am (Family) Memorial Hall*

10:30 am Church 📶

12:00 pm (Spanish) Church

5:00 pm Church

📶 = Mass also available via livestream

CHURCH HOURS

Monday - Friday

6:45 am - 4:00 pm

Saturday

8:00 am - 9:30 am

Sunday

7:00 am - 1:00 pm

and

4:45 pm to 6:00 pm

OFFICE HOURS

Appointments requested

Monday - Thursday

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Friday

By appointment only

PARISH OFFICE

908-277-3700

st-teresa.org

PRESCHOOL

908-277-6043

stteresaofavilaschool.org

CEMETERY & MAUSOLEUM

Cemetery: 908-598-9426

Mausoleum: 908-277-3741

st-teresa.org/cemetery



*"You will keep in perfect peace
those whose minds are steadfast,
because they trust in you."*

Isaiah 26:3

Mass † Intentions

To request a Mass intention, please visit st-teresa.org/mass-intentions.



Stewardship Reflections...

"And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value..." (PHILIPPIANS 1:9-10)

During the Christmas shopping season it is easy to get caught up in the frenzy of buying gifts. But, is that "gift" truly an expression of your love for the other person. Or, are you just fulfilling your "obligation" to give them something? To grow in friendship with someone, you need to spend time with them and learn what is of value to them. Maybe this year, buy less "stuff" and spend more time with those you love.

"Y esta es mi oración: que su amor se exprese cada vez con más conocimiento y entendimiento; para que distingan lo que es realmente importante de lo que no lo es..." (Filipenses 1:9-10)

Durante la temporada de compras navideñas es fácil quedarse atrapado en el frenesí de la compra de regalos. Sin embargo, ¿ese regalo es realmente una expresión de su amor por la otra persona? ¿O, lo hace solo como su "obligación" de darle algo? Para que la amistad con otras personas crezca, usted necesita pasar tiempo con ellos y aprender lo que es valioso para ellos. Quizás este año, compre menos "cosas" y pase más tiempo con sus seres queridos.



May the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.



"A Time to be Healed"

PARISH SICK:
Cosimo Mammone
Helen Lynaugh

Saturday, December 7	8:30 AM	† Rosario LaCorte † Nancy DeMar
	4:00 PM	† Theodore Higginson
Sunday, December 8	7:30 AM	† Dario Giorgio Elda Basilone † Carmela Attanasio
	9:00 AM	† James Aurelio
	10:30 AM	† Carlos and Eneida Jimenez † Carmela Attanasio
	12:00 PM	† Ramon Builes
	5:00 PM	† John Donohoe, Jr.
Monday, December 9 <i>Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	7:00 AM	† William Zotti Jr † Tiffany N. Uribe
	12:10 PM	People of the Parish
Tuesday, December 10	7:00 AM	† Sister Harriet Hamilton, CSJP
Wednesday, December 11	7:00 AM	† Kimberly Ann Kelly - Bianco
Thursday, December 12	7:00 AM	† Jane Wagner
Friday, December 13	7:00 AM	† Robert Entwistle † Thomas Welcher
	Saturday, December 14	8:30 AM
Sunday, December 15	4:00 PM	† Albert Entwistle
	7:30 AM	† John Donohoe, Jr.
	9:00 AM	† Veronica Woodfull
	10:30 AM	† Michael Louis Rossi
	12:00 PM	† Tiffany Uribe
	5:00 PM	† Joseph Guidi



Holy Day of Obligation:

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Monday, December 9
7 am Mass & 12:10 pm Mass

PLEASE NOTE: This year December 8 falls on the Second Sunday of Advent. The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary *is transferred to Monday, December 9.*

ANNIVERSARY REFLECTION

Dear Friends:

WE ARE MOVING THROUGH ADVENT VERY QUICKLY - ALREADY CELEBRATING ADVENT 2. I hope that your Advent and Christmas preparations are going well. Last week, in my homily, I made some suggestions on how to "reset ourselves" to best prepare. (The entire homily is printed on my blog on the parish website.)

Every year as this second week approaches, I take some time off to reflect on my ministry and my ordination to the priesthood - December 10, 1988 - this year I will celebrate 36 years as a priest of Jesus Christ in our holy Catholic Church. Times have surely changed for me, for my brother priests, for the Church and surely for you, those we serve. Despite it all, we can still count on the presence and love of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

On the internet recently, some priests have shared a reflection, contemplating deep thoughts at the wake of a brother priest. It got me thinking too. A few short excerpts are printed here:

As I stood at the wake of a brother priest, a rush of thoughts overwhelmed me, but one truth stood out above all: a priest may die without a spouse or children to mourn him, but his funeral will never lack for those who come to honor him. The faces gathered—young and old, families, individuals—were silent witnesses to a life lived for others. A priest does not leave behind a dynasty of blood, but a legacy of souls. His ministry reaches beyond the grave, a living testament to the God he served.

This brother, now laid to rest, carried the same burdens we all carry, wrestled with the same doubts, and fought the same battles of faith. Yet his life, though imperfect and frail, became a vessel of grace. Every sacrament he celebrated, every homily he preached, every hand he raised in blessing, built a treasury not for himself, but for eternity. He owned little, but he possessed everything that mattered—he was an instrument of God's mercy, a reflection of Christ's love.

I can only hope that despite my own weakness, sins, and failures that I have been that instrument of God's mercy and a reflection of Christ's love here at St Teresa's and everywhere I have served over the years. While at times the sharp criticisms of people can cut to the heart, I am more aware and concerned that one day, my own struggles, failures, and victories will be laid bare before the God who called me.

OVER THESE 36 YEARS, it has become more and more clear to me that no priest is ever enough on his own. Our strength is borrowed, our "holiness" is a gift, and our victories are not ours—they belong to God.

And while I certainly find great joy and happiness in celebrating the important days in your family's life, at baptisms, weddings, First Communions, and am genuinely humbled to celebrate the life of your loved ones who have passed, I grow sadder each passing year by those who just don't get it. I know that there are plenty whose lives are touched and transformed by God's work through my imperfect ministry.

And in those moments, I see the deepest truth of the priesthood: it is not about me or any priest. It is about God's love made visible, even in the brokenness of our humanity.

Perhaps it's the stickler in me, that wants more, more people to lean in, to participate more regularly, so as to truly experience all that God has in store for them - not only at Christmas and Easter, or on those one off, special occasions, but every day, in the ordinariness of life, every Sunday when we gather to pray with and for one another as a community of faith.

Further, it's in failing to better care for "the least" with the best that we have where I find my failure and that of our Church - both institutional and individual.

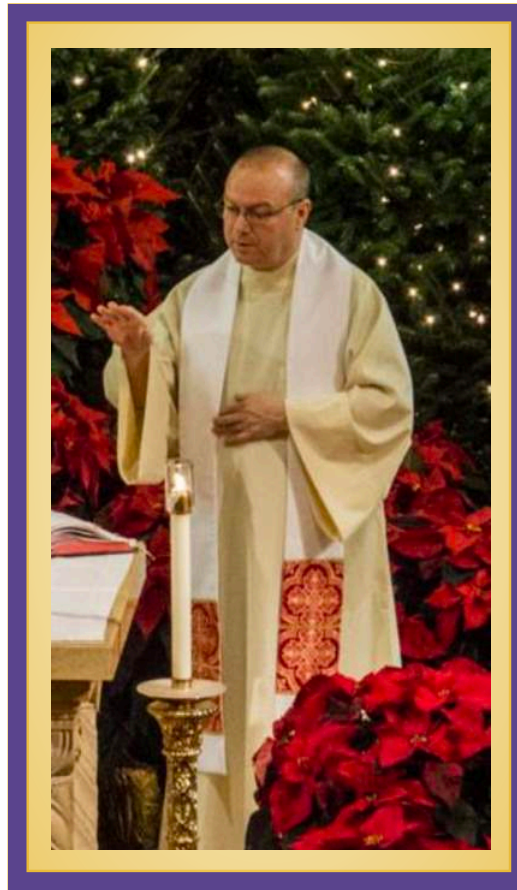
The reflection above continues:

After the visit, I left with a heavy but determined heart. I do not want to leave this ministry—not in failure, not in discouragement, not in bitterness. I want to stay the course, to press on, even when the nights feel endless and the sacrifices seem too great. I want to die as a priest—not for the glory of it, but for the grace of it. I want to meet my Creator with nothing left, having poured out everything I had for Him and His people.

Those are my feelings too, after all these years, and with however many more that remain, I pray that when my time comes to meet the Lord face to face, that both he and you, his holy people, will see a life not lived perfectly, but faithfully—a life that, to the best of my ability pointed them to Christ.

**Let us continue to pray for each other.
Thank you for the privilege of serving as
your priest. I am truly grateful.**

*Blessings!
Fr Bob*



ST TERESA OF AVILA MUSIC MINISTRY
PRESENTS

A GALA
CHRISTMAS
Concert



NEXT SUNDAY!
DECEMBER 15 | 3PM

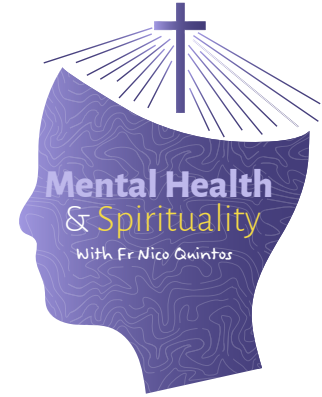
Featuring a variety of soloists, Adult Choir, Children's Choir, with guest choristers from Oak Knoll School Girls Choir and a 12 piece orchestra. Under the direction of Matthew Still, the program consists of a variety of traditional and contemporary choral arrangements.

For more information, contact Matthew Still,
Director of Liturgy and Music
matthews@stteresaavila.org
or visit st-teresa.org/christmas-concert



Kindly consider your meaningful contribution to a free-will offering allowing us to continue this event every year.

Support the parish Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry by donating non-perishable goods at the concert.



**Looking for ways
to integrate your
faith with your
mental well-being?**

Join our special two-part series on Mental Health and Spirituality, led by Father Nico Quintos, offering guidance, support, and practical steps to integrate mental health practices with our Catholic faith.

— Session 2 —

**Tuesday
December 10**

7 PM | MEMORIAL HALL

*Spiritual and Mental Health:
Practical Steps for Daily Well-being*



**Prepare your hearts
for Christmas, with
a good confession!**

Please note the following opportunities for receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent:

Saturday, December 14
immediately following
the 8:30 am Mass

Advent Penance Service
Tuesday, December 17 | 7 pm

GUIDANCE FOR BRINGING COMMUNION TO THE SICK

The Eucharist is the source and the summit of every Catholic's life of faith. It is in partaking of Holy Communion that Catholics receive the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ. It is important that Catholics not be deprived of the opportunity to receive the Blessed Sacrament due to illness, age, or infirmity.

Sometimes, ordinary ministers of Holy Communion (bishops, priests, deacons) cannot always fill the great need among Christ's faithful. Therefore extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion must be properly prepared according to pastoral theology, canon law, and diocesan regulations to fulfill this need in taking the Eucharist to the sick.

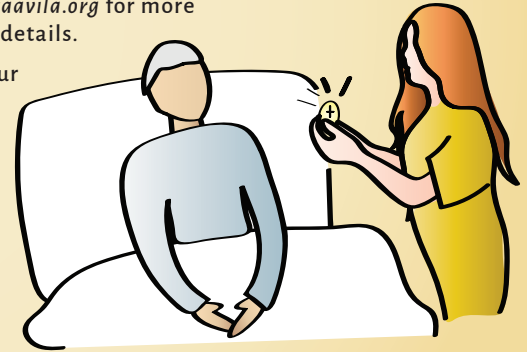
Here at St Teresa's we have a number of extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion who have been properly prepared, and have successfully completed the required process by the Archdiocese of Newark. They have also been mandated to serve in this important ministry. We are grateful to them for their ministry!

From time to time, and recently more frequently, someone approaches a mass celebrant or staff person, within or outside of mass, presenting a pyx, requesting to bring Holy Communion

to an infirm loved one who is at home, hospital, or in a care facility. As kind and pastorally sensitive as we would like to be to accommodate this generous request, this is never allowed, without the proper training and authorization.

Should you wish to serve as an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, we welcome you, but unless and until the required training is completed, simply "bringing" Holy Communion to a loved one is prohibited. Please reach out to Karen Imbach at kareni@stteresasaavila.org for more information and details.

Thank you for your understanding.



4 WAYS TO PRAY AS A FAMILY DURING THE ADVENT SEASON

Tara Stenger | PUBLISHED November 22, 2021 | via UnleashTheGospel.org

ADVENT IS THE BEGINNING OF OUR NEW LITURGICAL YEAR, so it is a great time to start building new habits or revisiting ones you're already doing. It is a time of waiting and expecting. Advent, roughly translated, means "coming." We are preparing for Christ's coming. People often think Advent means preparing for Christmas—when he first came into the world, but it also marks an opportunity to prepare for when He comes again.

What are we doing as families to bring us closer to God? Prayer is the place to begin. Whether you pray regularly as a family or are just starting this practice, there is always an opportunity to grow closer to God. The beauty of our Catholic faith is that there are a variety of prayer styles. Each member of your family may have a particular style

that draws them closer to the Lord—devotions, journaling, adoration, daily Mass, music, art, meditation, and so on. Advent offers specific opportunities to draw us closer to God through types of prayer unique to the season—times of silence, the O Antiphons, a Jesse Tree, and the Advent wreath.

The form of prayer you prefer is not as important as the acts of prayer. The season of life you are in, family schedules, and other factors may influence how and when you pray together. Listen to God, asking him what he is asking your family to do in this season of Advent.



WHAT ARE SOME WAYS TO DO THIS?



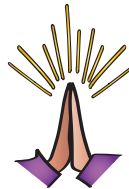
1. LISTEN to what the needs are and what the best movement is for your family.

You may desire to have an involved prayer experience at bedtime, but that might not work if everyone is grumpy at that time because they are overtired. Consider where your family has energy and excitement to try a new or more involved prayer experience.



2. Use different PRAYER RESOURCES.

These will help you learn new prayer styles, as well as explore Scripture. *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers* can each help your family grow closer to one another and the Lord during Advent and beyond.



3. PRAY together.

Try praying this simple prayer together each day of Advent:

Heavenly Father, help direct our thoughts and actions toward you, allowing us to imitate those who helped share Jesus with the world. May we be open to your will, just as Mary was when you asked her to be the mother of your Son. May we be guided like Joseph to listen and follow your directions, even at unexpected times. May we proclaim your goodness and share your Word with others, even when it is not easy or popular to do, just as John the Baptist did. Open our eyes and our hearts to "prepare the way of the Lord" in our home and beyond. Amen.



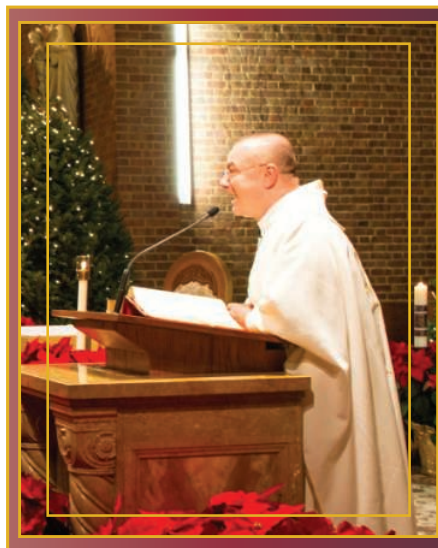
4. Take time to REFLECT on your time in prayer.

Family prayer isn't just about doing; it is also about understanding what you experienced. Take time to ask questions as a family: Where did you feel God in that experience? What part meant a lot to you during prayer? What was difficult about that prayer? (This can give you insight into possible adjustments to make, such as the best time to pray.) What did you hear God say?

*Congratulations,
Fr Bob*
ON THE
36th Anniversary
OF YOUR
Ordination
TO THE
Priesthood!

AD MULTOS ANNOS!

DECEMBER 10, 1988



[Divine] Architecture History

ROOM OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Via MUSEI VATICANI



Following the proclamation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception by Pius IX, which took place on 8 December 1854, the pontiff decide to celebrate the event with a cycle of frescoes.

The large room adjacent to the Raphael's Rooms was chosen, and the task was assigned to Francis Podesti (1800-1895), a painter originally from Ancona but rooted in the Roman artistic and academic panorama. The artist, along with his team of workers, worked on the commission from 1856 to 1865, planning it and following its execution in all its aspects: the wooden doors and window frames and the inlaid marble work, as well as the installation of the Roman mosaic from Ostia Antica, purchased specifically for this space.

The pictorial decoration proceeds from the ceiling, with allegorical scenes alluding to the virtues of the Virgin; it continues along the northern wall with the homage of the continents to the Church enthroned; it continues on the west wall, devoted to the Discussion of dogma in St Peter's Basilica, and concludes on the east wall, with the Coronation of the Image of Mary, an event following the Proclamation, which took place in St Peter's. Podesti, who was present, included a self-portrait here.



Scan the QR code for an immersive video tour of the Room of the Immaculate Conception, located in the Vatican Museum!

O COME
LET US
ADORE
HIM!



CHRISTMAS EVE

Tuesday, December 24

4:00 pm Memorial Hall & Church

6:00 pm Memorial Hall & Church

10:00 pm With 9:30 pm Candle-light carols, Bilingual

CHRISTMAS DAY

Wednesday, December 25

7:30 am

9:00 am

10:30 am 📶

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Tuesday, December 31

7:30 am

4:00 pm

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Wednesday, January 1

7:30 am

10:30 am Bilingual 📶

All Masses are in Church unless otherwise noted.

Doors will open 30 minutes before Mass.

Entrance only after the previous Mass has exited.

No admittance after the Fire Code occupancy limit has been reached.

Patience, Kindness and Compliance are appreciated.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURY

YEAR-TO-DATE REPORT
July 1 to November 30, 2024

SUNDAY & HOLY DAY	
ACTUAL	477,667
BUDGET	562,500
(DEFICIT)	(84,833)

ASSESSMENT	
ACTUAL	10,114
BUDGET	12,500
(DEFICIT)	(2,386)

LEGACY FUND	
ACTUAL	81,127
BUDGET	135,425
(DEFICIT)	(54,298)

MINISTRY Board



Holiday Green Tips! Here are just a few ways to save resources and energy this Advent and Christmas:

- (1) set lights on a timer; (2) replace lights with LED versions to save electricity; and (3) reuse boxes and bags instead of new wrapping paper. Also, pray for everyone on your Christmas list before shopping. Remember what a gift they are in your life. Consider donating to charities, gifting experiences homemade items or supporting local businesses.

Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry



Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry has been selected again by the Store Leadership Team as a Stop & Shop Bloomin' 4 Good Program Nonprofit Partner. The pantry will receive \$1 for each specially marked \$10.99 Bloomin' 4 Good bouquet sold during the month of December 2024 at 133 Main Street in Madison.



God Bless the
Newly Baptized



*Fiona Jane
AND
Derek Michael*



Emma Willow

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



**SAT
DEC 14
5PM**

**MEMORIAL
HALL**

Rooted

GINGERBREAD HOUSE MAKING

**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 14**

1 PM | ST JOHN THE CROSS
AGES 18-30 | RSVP TO VICTORIA
victorian@stteresaavila.org

Loaves & Fishes CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVE

Our Goal: 400 complete Christmas dinner baskets and supplemental monetary support for local families in need.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0A49ACA92BA46-52136430-turkey#/>

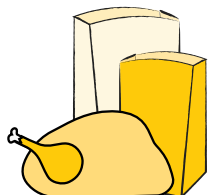


HOLIDAY TRIMMINGS:

13 oz Can or Jar of Turkey Gravy	15 oz Can of Cranberry Sauce	6 oz Box of Stuffing Mix	Package of Cookies
13 oz Box of Instant Mashed Potatoes	40 oz Can of Yams	15 oz Can of Green Beans	48 oz Bottled Juice
	15 oz Can of Corn	15 oz Canned Fruit	

DROP OFF:

Turkeys & Non-perishables can be dropped off at the side entrance of Memorial Hall.



Thursday, December 19
5:00 pm-7:00 pm

Saturday, December 21
8:30 am-10:00 am

Additional drop off opportunities:

TURKEYS:
WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 11 & 18
from 7:30 am to 8:00 am

NON-PERISHABLES:
On the parish office front porch during office hours OR in the Loaves and Fishes bins at the doors of the Church any time.

MONETARY DONATIONS:

Each bag costs approximately \$50

- Visit st-teresa.org/donate and select "Loaves and Fishes"
 - Text the donation amount and "food" to 84321 (eg "250 food")
 - Checks payable to St Teresa of Avila Loaves and Fishes can be dropped off in the church collection basket or parish office
- Thank you for your ongoing generosity!*



VOLUNTEER:

Volunteers are needed to pack baskets and assist with distribution in Memorial Hall.



Volunteers must sign up at this link or by scanning the QR code.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0A49ACA92BA46-53650900-christmas#/>



SORT FOOD/PREPARE BAGS:
Thursday, December 19
5:00 pm-7:00 pm

DISTRIBUTION:
Saturday, December 21
8:30 am-10:00 am



SAINT TERESA OF AVILA CHURCH
306 MORRIS AVENUE, SUMMIT, NJ 07901
P: 908.277.3700 F: 908.273.5909

VISIT US ONLINE
st-teresa.org
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For questions, please call Volunteer Leader Vinny Candela at 908-463-1026 or the parish office 908-277-3700.

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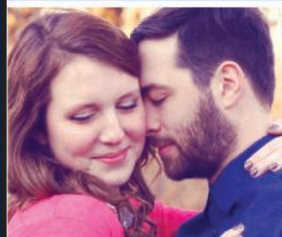


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