

Reflections

My Brothers and Sisters,

As we continue to celebrate the Christmas mystery with the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph this weekend, the Church gives us the choice of one of two different epistles to use as our second reading for Mass: 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24 and Colossians 3:12-21. The ability to choose from among various options for liturgical readings is only given to us a few times per year. In this particular case, I wish we could hear both readings as we celebrate the Holy Family... as both contain wonderful messages for us!

In the First Letter of John, we hear these words: *“Beloved: See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. And so we are... we are God’s children now; what we shall be has not been revealed.”* What an encouraging message this is for us - we are, right now, part of God’s family. God has filled us with love beyond imagining so that we can be God’s daughters and sons. That in itself could give us hours of meditation on the Feast of the Holy Family!



St. Paul, in his Letter to the Colossians, gives us some marvelous advice for achieving and maintaining family harmony - and indeed, harmony amongst all people: *“Put on (clothe yourselves) as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And, over all these things, put on love, that is the bond of perfection. Let the peace of Christ control your hearts... and be thankful.”* No matter what our particular configuration of “family” might be, can you imagine what the results would be in our family life if we were to take these words to heart? If this approach to life were to be extended to our workplace, our schools, our American society and politics, and ultimately to relationships among nations... what could the potential be? Perhaps bullying, put-downs and divisiveness - even within the Church - would become extinct. Civility would return to human discourse. Respect, tolerance and the dignity of all human life “from the womb to the tomb” would flourish. We would be able to recognize all people - regardless of religion, gender, race, national origin, politics, legal status, sexual orientation, language... as truly being children of God.

It’s wonderful to imagine such a world, isn’t it?

Well... we really don’t have to simply “imagine” such a world. We can actually begin to make it happen - first, by recognizing our own family (whatever form that might take) as a “holy family” of God’s sons and daughters. We can begin to put into action those qualities that St. Paul encourages the Colossians to embrace... and then, little by little, we can allow those qualities to guide us in all of our relationships - trusting that *nothing* is impossible for God.

We are about to begin a new decade as we enter the calendar year 2020. May God’s grace sustain us as we move confidently into the future... and may the Holy Spirit always empower us to live out our Christian discipleship as members of God’s Holy Family.

Christmas peace and joy,

Rev. Charles G. Kieffer
Pastor

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

PARISH NEWS



Firewood Sales: St. Theresa Parish Boy Scout Troop 147 has collected and split firewood and can deliver it to your home. \$125/half truckload, \$250/full truckload. Please contact Rose Cheke @ 602-625-4959 to place your order.

ATTENTION!

Priests around the country have reported a scam in which parishioners have received text messages and e-mails supposedly from their priest, asking the parishioner for emergency help - usually in the form of purchasing gift cards - and then signing off with the priest's name. This is a scam - do not fall for it! Your priests at St. Theresa do not send texts of this sort - if you receive such a text, please copy the text and forward it to "SPAM" (7726) free of charge to file a complaint.



St. Theresa Parish is pleased to provide you with a free subscription to [FORMED.ORG](https://www.formed.org); the best Catholic content, all in one place. Entertaining movies, enlightening programs, inspiring talks, and a great selection of popular ebooks - all just a click away!

Want to create a new FORMED account?

1. Visit [formed.org](https://www.formed.org)
2. Click "Sign Up"
3. Select "I Belong to a Parish or Organization"
4. Find your parish by zip code - "85018"
5. Enter your email - and you're in!



Liturgy & Music "Save the Date!"

Eucharistic Minister Training
Thursday, January 23, at 6:00pm
- or -

Saturday, January 25, at 9:00am

Altar Server Training
Saturday, February 8, at 9:00am
- or -

Thursday, February 13, at 6:00pm

Look for registration forms in the church vestibule as the time draws nearer! Questions?

Contact Brian in the Parish Office at 602-586-7433 or bkinzie@stphx.org

Certificate/Letter Requests We ask that all requests for copies of Sacramental Certificates/letters/forms be given a minimum of 5 business days to be completed. All requests will be processed within 10 business days on a first come/first serve basis. PLEASE NOTE: All Sacramental certificate requests REQUIRE a photo ID and a request form to be filled out. If the certificate request is for a minor, the legal guardian will need to provide a photo ID and fill out the request form. For questions, call Carrie in the Parish Office @ 602-840-0850.



Parishioner Updates

If you have had an address/email/phone number change within the past year, please call Carrie Vinesky in the Parish Office @ 602-840-0850. We can update your record as well as make any additional changes you may have. We appreciate your help in cutting our postage costs!

2019 Parish Year-End Giving From a Traditional IRA

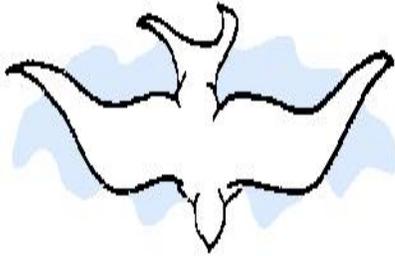
There is an excellent charitable giving option that St. Theresa Parish families have used for their annual tithing to the Parish. If you are 70 ½ or older and must take required minimum distributions from a traditional IRA, a qualified charitable distribution (or QCD transfers) from your IRA allows you to support St. Theresa Parish or the St. Theresa Parish Perpetual Endowment Fund without recognizing the income or paying any income tax. Please contact your accountant or Cheryl Lienau in the Parish Office if you want to explore this gifting option. Thank you for your ongoing generosity and support of St. Theresa Parish and the many ministries that serve our parish community and beyond.



**St. Vincent de Paul
5th Sunday Collection**

St. Vincent de Paul volunteers will be at the doors of the Church after Masses TODAY to collect donations to assist the needy of our parish. Thank you for your generosity!

Spring 2020 Adult Confirmation



Are you a practicing Catholic over age 19 who somewhere along the way, missed celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation?

Start the new year off by growing in faith and personal spirituality. Adult Confirmation preparation sessions will be offered starting Sunday, January 26th after the 11AM Liturgy at noon in the Convent Upper Room. Sessions normally run one hour. Candidates completing the 6 week preparation period will Celebrate Confirmation at the Easter Vigil. All participants must be registered members at St. Theresa Parish and provide a copy of their Baptism Certificate with registration form. Registration forms are available in the Parish Office or online at www.sttheresaphx.org and may be returned to RCIA mailbox in the Parish Office. We look forward to journeying in faith with you. Questions? Please email pdpettit@sttheresaphx.org.

PASTORAL CARE



The Alzheimer's Support Group meets the last Tuesday of each month. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 31st at Panera Bread (7145 East Indian School Road) in Scottsdale at 4PM. If you are caring for someone with Alzheimer's or dementia and need the support of others please come by and see if this is the group for you.

Pastoral Care is in need of Extra-Ordinary Ministers of the Eucharist (EMs) to serve on Tuesday mornings at The Gardens of Scottsdale.

If you are a trained homebound EM and are interested in serving in this way, please contact Maureen Schaaf at mschaaf@stphx.org or 602-840-0850 ext. 113.



Pastoral Care is looking to expand its list of bakers who can make desserts for funeral receptions. If you wish to help in this area of hospitality, please contact Maureen Schaaf at mschaaf@stphx.org or call 602-840-0850 ext. 113.

Pastoral Care wishes to thank all those who have generously given Poinsettia Plants for our homebound -we exceeded our goal! May you be blessed a hundred fold for your kindness and support.



**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
Every Thursday in the Convent Chapel
9:00AM-7:00PM**

Come and spend an hour with Jesus!

Grief Group Options at St. Theresa Parish

Please reserve your spot by Wednesday, January 29th

OPTION #1:



The Grief Recovery Method®
by The Grief Recovery Institute®

**The Grief Recovery Method®
-Grief Support Group
The Action Program for
Moving Beyond Death, Divorce,
and Other Losses**

Wednesday Evenings 6-8 PM - Parish Conference Room

**Facilitated by Maureen Schaaf:
Certified Grief Recovery Specialist**

Winter 2020 Dates:

February 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th March 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th

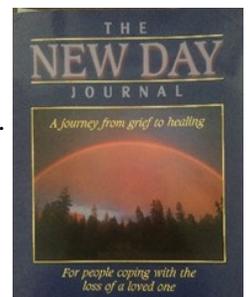
OPTION #2:

For anyone grieving the death of a loved one. The NEW DAY JOURNAL, a Catholic based process.

Tuesday Evenings 6-8 PM
Parish Conference Room

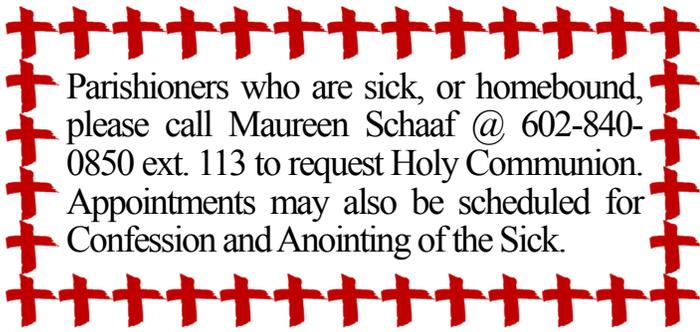
Winter 2020 Dates:

**February 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th
March 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th**



For more information on the two options above, please contact Maureen in the Pastoral Care Office at 602-840-0850 ext. 113 or mschaaf@stphx.org.

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH



Parishioners who are sick, or homebound, please call Maureen Schaaf @ 602-840-0850 ext. 113 to request Holy Communion. Appointments may also be scheduled for Confession and Anointing of the Sick.

SCHOOL NEWS

STCS DADS' CLUB PRESENTS

2020 GOLF OUTING

FRIDAY, MARCH 13
1:30 P.M.

PAPAGO GOLF COURSE

\$250 PER GOLFER
Includes drinks and after party with dinner

Call 602-297-7527 or visit <https://stcs.ejoinme.org/MyEvents/STCS2020GolfOuting/tabid/1105785/Default.aspx> for more information or to sign up.



Fry's Community Rewards Program...

awards money to non-profits based on the total eligible purchases made with Rewards Cards linked to that charity. Please take a moment to link St. Theresa Catholic School to your Fry's Rewards Card!

Step 1: Sign up for a Fry's Rewards Card (if you haven't already)

Step 2: Login to your Fry's mobile app Under "My Account," select "Community Rewards" -OR- Login at <https://www.frysfood.com/account/community> rewards

Step 3: Search for and select "St. Theresa Catholic School" All done!

DIOCESAN NEWS

Worldwide Marriage Encounter "Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another." The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekends are January 25th-26th in Phoenix or March 21st-22nd in Tucson. To apply online, and for more weekend dates please visit www.wmearizona.com.

Xavier College Preparatory Entrance Exam Financial Aid Workshop for Interested Parents Saturday, January 11th or January 25th

To begin the Xavier admissions process, parents must first establish a GatorNet account with a valid parent email address via the Admissions link on the Xavier website, www.xcp.org. Exam begins at 7:30AM and will end at approximately 11:15AM. Exam fee of \$50 will be collected at the beginning of the exam, payable in cash, check, or money order. (No credit cards accepted.) Additional information regarding the Xavier admissions process for the 2020-2021 school year is also available at www.xcp.org. Financial Aid Workshop offered on both testing dates from 8-10AM in Founders Hall on the Xavier campus. Workshops will provide an opportunity to gather information from the different tuition organizations and ask questions about the financial aid application process.

THE ORDER OF MALTA

Invites you to Join Us for a bilingual
World Day of the Sick Healing Mass
and Catholic Fair

In Celebration Of
Our Lady of Lourdes

Saturday, February 8th • 1pm
Cathedral of Ss. Simon and Jude
6351 N. 27th Ave., Phoenix

Mass will include:

- Anointing of the Sick
- Blessing of the Caregiver Hands
- Blessing with Lourdes Water

Attendees will receive Lourdes water blessed by principal celebrant Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted

Mass Intentions & Celebrants
(DECEMBER 30TH-JANUARY 5TH)



MONDAY, DECEMBER 30TH

6:30AM TANZER & MICHELLE VAZ, SPECIAL INT.
-FR. CHUCK

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31ST

6:30AM SHELDON & CELISA VAZ, SPECIAL INT.
-FR. JOACHIM

4:00PM LYNNE BLECKER, SP. INT.-FR. JOACHIM

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1ST

8:00AM +JOSEPH M. KRIMPLE - FR. JOACHIM
10:00AM +RUTH STEICHEN - FR. PAUL

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2ND

6:30AM MICHAEL & LORI HARRIS, SP. INT.-FR. CHUCK

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3RD

6:30AM +MARY JANE LAWS - FR. CHUCK

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4TH

8:00AM +AL MUCKENTHALER - FR. CHUCK
4:00PM FOR THE PARISHIONERS - FR. CHUCK

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5TH

7:30AM +PHILLIP FRANCIES - FR. CHUCK
9:00AM KEATING FAMILY, SP. INT.-FR. JOACHIM
11:00AM ELLEN & RICK PLACIDO, SP. INT.-FR. PAUL
5:00PM LIFE TEEN CORE MEMBERS,
SPECIAL INT. -FR. JOACHIM

*The Priest scheduled to celebrate the Mass
IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE*

~ Readings ~

Week of December 29, 2019

Sunday Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5;
Col 3:12-21 or Col 3:12-17; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23
Monday 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10; Lk 2:36-40
Tuesday 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13; Jn 1:1-18
Wednesday Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7;
Lk 2:16-21
Thursday 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Jn 1:19-28
Friday 1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6; Jn 1:29-34
Saturday 1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9; Jn 1:35-42
Sunday Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13;
Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

The Week Ahead!



Sunday

1:00PM Infant Baptisms (Church)

Monday

10:00AM Funeral - Stella Jusko (Church)

4:00PM SVDP Mtg. (Convent Conference Rm)

Tuesday

4:00PM Holy Day Vigil (Church)

Wednesday

*New Year's Day
Parish Office Closed*

8:00AM Holy Day Mass (Church)

10:00AM Holy Day Mass (Church)

Thursday

9:00AM Adoration (Convent Chapel)

7:00PM Infant Baptism Orientation
(Parish Conference Rm)

Praise & Worship (Church)

Friday

6:30PM Communion & Liberation Group
(Convent Upper Rm)

Saturday

9:00AM Reconciliation (Church)

8:00PM Al Anon (Classroom 16)

Alcoholics Anonymous (Classroom 17)

