



## St. Therese Parish

9525 W Bluemound Rd  
Milwaukee, WI 53226

sttheresemke.org  
info@sttheresemke.org  
(414) 771-2500  
Facebook: @sttheresemke

*We are St. Therese Catholic Church, a community of believers, who walk together by faith in Christ Jesus, and minister in the Little Way of St. Therese, as we strive hand-in-hand to live as God's people.*

## St. Vincent Pallotti Parish

### East Church

5424 W Bluemound  
Milwaukee, WI 53208

### West Church/Office

201 N 76th St  
Milwaukee, WI 53213

stvincentpallotti.org / vpallotti@stvpc.org  
(414) 453-5344  
Facebook: @stvincentpallottimke  
YouTube: @st.vincentpallottiparish



*A Community of disciples, nourished by the Eucharist, caring for each other and reaching out to others.*

# January 12, 2025



## THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

The Holy Spirit descended upon him.  
- Lk 3:21-22a

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPI

### Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday 4:00PM - St. Vincent Pallotti - West  
Sunday 7:30AM - St. Vincent Pallotti - East  
9:00AM - St. Therese  
10:30AM - St. Vincent Pallotti - West

### Weekday Mass Schedule

Mon, Wed, Fri: 6:25AM - St. Vincent Pallotti - East  
Tues: 8:45AM - St. Therese  
Tues: 12 Noon - St. Vincent Pallotti - West  
Wed: 6:00PM - St. Therese  
Thurs: 12 Noon - St. Vincent Pallotti - West  
First Friday: 5:30PM - St. Vincent Pallotti - West

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 3:15-3:45PM - St. Vincent Pallotti - West  
Sunday 6:45-7:15AM - St. Vincent Pallotti - East  
First Sunday of the Month - 8:15AM - St. Therese  
Or by appointment on weekdays

### Pray the Rosary

Saturday : 3:15PM - St. Vincent Pallotti - West  
Sunday: 7:00AM - St. Vincent Pallotti - East  
Third Sunday of the Month -10:00AM - St. Therese

### Adoration

First Friday 6:00PM - St. Vincent Pallotti - West  
Wednesdays 5:30PM - St. Therese  
Thursdays 11:30AM - St. Vincent Pallotti - West

### Blessing of the Sick

After Mass on the First Full Weekend of the Month.  
You can also contact either Parish Office or Fr. Tom PC on his cell phone (414) 308-6238 to arrange a visit.

### Baptism, Marriage and RCIA

Please call either Parish Office.  
Preparation can take nine months or more.

### Funerals

Contact either Parish Office to plan.

**Parish Pastoral Council**

1st Wednesday of the Month at 7:00PM

To contact a Parish Pastoral Council Member, send an email to council@sttheresemke.org or leave a message for them in either parish office. Meeting minutes are available in the parish offices.

**Chairperson**

Art Nennig

**Vice Chairperson**

Brett Surinak

**Secretary**

Jennifer Tierney

**Trustees**

Dennis Ferger – STP (414) 546-7330  
Christopher Gauthier – SVP (414) 302-1033  
Kathy Hubrich – STP (414) 839-2669  
Lenny Schaefer – SVP (414) 534-1450

**Members-At-Large**

David Helterbran Linda Okruhlica  
Sr. Marilyn Metz Tom Ratkowski  
Mary Noeske

**Saint Vincent de Paul**  
(414) 462-7837

**Hospital Visits**

The Federal Privacy Regulation (HIPAA—Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act) prohibits hospitals from informing churches of a patient’s presence unless the patient gives permission for the hospital to do so. If you are admitted to a hospital and would like a pastoral visit, please contact either Parish Office.

**Prayer List for Mass**

It is our privilege to pray at our weekend masses for those in need. If you would like to add a name to the list, please contact either Parish Office.

**Need Prayer?**

Call the Prayer Network at (414) 810-9844

**Need Holy Communion?**

Call either Parish Office

**Bulletin Deadline:**  
Monday, 8:00AM

**Announcement Deadline:**  
Thursday, 8:00AM

All submissions must be in writing to either Parish Office; email preferred.

**Pastor of St. Vincent Pallotti Parish & St. Therese Parish**

Fr. Thomas Pulikkeel Chacko, SAC  
ext. 1 at St. Therese and ext. 102 at St. Vincent Pallotti  
fr.thomaspc@stvpc.org  
(414) 308-6238

**St. Therese Parish Staff**

**Parish Emergencies** (414) 771-2500 – Push 0

**Office Hours:** Friday and Saturday: Closed Sunday: 10:00AM-11:30AM  
Mon, Tues, Wed, & Thurs: 8:00AM–12:00PM Onsite; 12:00PM–4:00PM Remote

**Director of Administrative Services**

Heather Goeden ext. 2  
heather@sttheresemke.org

**Finance Director**

Christine Jensen ext. 4  
christine@sttheresemke.org

**Choir Director**

Carrie Sanders

**Organist**

Kathy Luty

**Catechesis Ministry**

Sr. Marilyn Metz –  
Co-Coordinator Preschool to Grade 8 Program  
& Coordinator of First Reconciliation and First  
Communion: gr2\_3@sttheresemke.org

Mary Rose Sanger – Co-Coordinator Preschool  
to Grade 8 Program:  
mrs77stt@sttheresemke.org

Rick Reinders – Coordinator of High School &  
Youth Confirmation: rreinders@sttheresemke.org

**St. Vincent Pallotti Parish Staff**

**Office** (414) 453-5344

**Office Hours:** Monday through Friday: 8:30AM-3:30PM

**Director of Admin & Development**

Susana Cuellar ext. 109  
sscuelar@stvpc.org

**Director of Liturgy & Music**

Carrie Sanders (414) 258-4165  
ext. 107  
csanders@stvpc.org

**Food Service Director**

Laura Ruiz-Reyes ext. 120  
lruiz-reyes@stvpc.org

**Secretary**

Lori Gabert ext. 101  
lgabert@stvpc.org

**Bookkeeper**

Kari Utzerath ext. 104  
kutzerath@stvpc.org

**Scrip Coordinator**

Therese Schaefer (414) 534-3836

**St. Vincent Pallotti Parish School Staff**

Office: (414) 258-4165 Fax: (414) 258-9844

**Principal**

Joe Fryda ext. 111  
jfryda@stvps.org

**Vice Principal**

Tracy Irwin ext. 114  
tirwin@stvps.org

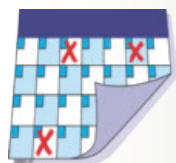
**Office Manager/  
Choice Coordinator**

Lirse Jones ext. 110  
ljones@stvps.org

**Parish Membership / Support**

Anyone over age 18 is invited to register as an adult member.  
Please call either Parish Office for more information.





# Events for the Week

STP = St. Therese Parish    SVP-E = St. Vincent Pallotti East Church  
SVP-W = St. Vincent Pallotti West Church

## Sunday, January 12

### Sharing Weekend at STP

- 7:30AM Mass at SVP-E
- 9:00AM Mass at STP – Live Streamed on Facebook
- 9:15AM Children’s Liturgy of the Word at STP
- 10:00AM Sunday Morning Catechesis Preschool – Grade 8 Program at STP
- 10:30AM Mass at SVP-W – Live Streamed and Posted

## Monday, January 13

- 6:25AM Morning Mass at SVP-E
- 6:00PM St. Vincent de Paul Society Meeting at STP

## Tuesday, January 14

- 8:45AM Morning Mass at STP
- 9:15AM Bible Study at STP
- 12:00PM Afternoon Mass at SVP-W
- 6:00PM Christian Formation Committee at STP

## Wednesday, January 15

- 6:25AM Morning Mass at SVP-E
- 5:30PM Adoration at STP
- 6:00PM Evening Mass at STP
- 6:30PM Human Concerns Committee at STP

## Thursday, January 16

- 11:00AM J.O.Y Ministry at STP
- 11:30AM Adoration at SVP-W
- 12:00PM Afternoon Mass at SVP-W
- 7:00PM Group 100 AA

## Friday, January 17

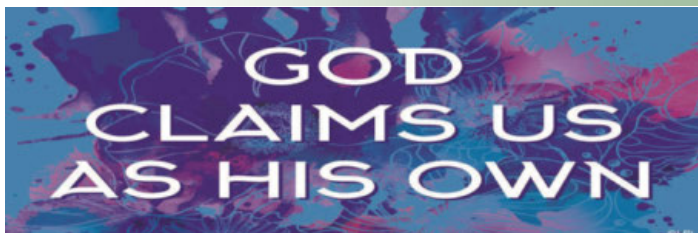
- 6:25AM Morning Mass at SVP-E
- 9:00AM Church Cleaning at SVP-W

## Saturday, January 18

- 3:15PM Confessions at SVP-W
- 3:15PM Rosary at SVP-W
- 4:00PM Mass at SVP-W

## Sunday, January 19

- 7:30AM Mass at SVP-E
- 9:00AM **NO MASS AT ST. THERESE!!!**
- 9:00AM Sunday Morning Catechesis Preschool – Grade 8 Program at STP
- 9:00AM High School Catechesis and Confirmation Prep at STP
- 10:00AM** Mass at SVP-W – Live Streamed and Posted



# Intentions & Readings for the Week



## January Sanctuary Candle at STP

For Musicians

## Sunday, January 12

Readings *Is* 40:1-5, 9-11/*Ps* 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 (1)/  
*Ti* 2:11-14; 3:4-7/*Lk* 3:15-16, 21-22

## Monday, January 13

Observance: **St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church**

Readings *Heb* 1:1-6/*Ps* 97:1 and 2b, 6 and 7c, 9/*Mk* 1:14-20  
6:25AM (SVP-E) Blessings for Aranda-Rojas Family

## Tuesday, January 14

Readings *Heb* 2:5-12/*Ps* 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9/*Mk* 1:21-28  
8:45AM (STP) †Peggy Jeziorski  
12:00PM (SVP-W) Special Intentions of Louise Faragallah

## Wednesday, January 15

Readings *Heb* 2:14-18/*Ps* 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9/*Mk* 1:29-39  
6:25AM (SVP-E) All Souls in Purgatory  
8:15AM (SVP-W) School Mass  
6:00PM (STP) †Ben Jeziorski

## Thursday, January 16

Readings *Heb* 3:7-14/*Ps* 95:6-7c, 8-9, 10-11/*Mk* 1:40-45  
12:00PM (SVP-W) †Mary Burke Ryan (M. Feedar)

## Friday, January 17

Observance: **St. Anthony, Abbot**

Readings *Heb* 4:1-5, 11/*Ps* 78:3 and 4bc, 6c-7, 8/*Mk* 2:1-12  
6:25AM (SVP-E) Bonnie Vaughn & Sal Sanfellippo

## Saturday Mass, January 18

Observance: **January 18-25 is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

Readings *Heb* 4:12-16/*Ps* 19:8, 9, 10, 15/*Mk* 2:13-17  
4:00PM (SVP-W) †Loretta Catt

## Sunday Mass, January 19

Observance: **2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Readings *Is* 62:1-5/*Ps* 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10 (3)/1 *Cor* 12:4-11/*In* 2:1-11  
7:30AM (SVP-E)  
9:00AM (STP) NO MASS  
10:00AM (SVP-W) Parishioners



To be included, please call either Parish Office.

Dorothy Ash, Peter Carlis, Brandon Choe, Irene Czarnecki, Michael Czarnecki, Pat D’Amore, Nancy Dineen, Dean Doberstein, Marge Dunn, Elizabeth and Elijah, Jan Eno, Kathleen Fugiasco, Family G, Matthew Harrison, Dan Heinz, Josette Jaeger, Mary Kirchner, Helen Klister, Julie Kross, Betty Lovinus, Rachel Lund, Kathy Manthe, Debbie Martin, Loretta Merz, Bob O’Neil, Fr. Norm Oswald, Celeste Rau, Jacob & Jaxson Rivera, Kaity Shields, Robert Szablewski, Beverly T., Rosann Thate, John Wachowiak, Crystal Webb, Chris Wehausen



### Changes to Parish Office Hours in January

- January 20 - Closed
- January 27 - Closed



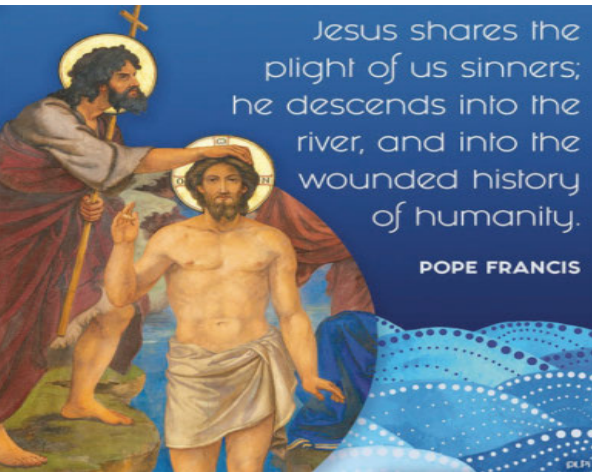
### Advent Giving Results

Thanks to your generosity, Advent Giving was an amazing success this year. You purchased a record \$3,110 in Gift Cards through the SCRIP program (with a percentage of every dollar coming back to St. Therese!) You made an additional \$690 in donations by cash/check for a total of \$3,800 donated to the Down Syndrome Assn. of Wisconsin, ERAS, the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the VA Hospital. Thank you for ministering, yet again, in the Little Way of St. Therese this Christmas Season.



### St Therese Reuniting Us As "One Nation, Under God" Prayer Service

Our January Rosary Service after Mass is canceled so that we can attend the St. Vincent Pallotti Feast Day Celebration on January 19. Mark your calendars and join us for our February Prayer Service that will be held on Sunday, February 16.



### Sharing Weekend is This Weekend: Jan 12

The Sharing Weekend recipient for January is our St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVdP). The SVdP Society is a network of friends, inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need. Our SVdP St. Therese, St. Jude, and St. Vincent Pallotti Conference is dedicated to helping with food, clothing, partial rents, utilities, appliances, furniture, beds, and household goods. Please give what you can as the need is great, and the blessings are many. Thank you, and God bless you.

Donations can be made at Mass, mailed to the Parish Office or by using the QR code to donate online. If you are writing a check, please make it out to St. Vincent de Paul Society.



### Thank You!!

Thank you again to all who baked and bought for the 2024 cookie sale. You donated well over 200 pounds of cookies and earned nearly \$1,900 for the parish. You are amazing.

Please remember to pick up any containers and if you would like this fundraiser to continue on and continue to grow, please get together with a group of your friends and volunteer to take it on. Lots of help is available, but the cookie committee has resigned after 12 years. This fundraiser needs a new vision. Yup, it needs YOU. Call the Parish Office to volunteer.

### Snow and Weather Closings

In the event of snow or weather closings for the parish, please check Channel 12 WISN-TV or WISN.com (WISN website) for closures. Please also note to look for "St. Therese-Milwaukee" in Milwaukee County. (Sometimes there is confusion with "St. Theresa" and "St. Therese" in other cities and counties of the archdiocese.)



### Flower/Candle Memorial Donations for the Christmas Season

In this season of giving, please consider remembering a loved one or honoring a special intention by donating a memorial toward the cost of flowers and candles for our church environment that enhance our worship during the Christmas Season. Please complete the form below, include your donation of any amount, and return both in the collection basket at any Mass or send it to the Parish Office. Thank you for your generosity!



### CHURCH SUPPORT

Envelopes & Offertory – Jan 5	\$ 3,840.00
Envelopes & Offertory – Jan 1	\$ 285.00
Envelopes & Offertory – Dec 29	\$ 6,440.00
Envelopes & Offertory – Dec 24	\$ 6,087.00
Envelopes & Offertory – Dec 22	\$ 3,310.00
Envelopes & Offertory – Dec 15	\$ 6,792.00
Envelopes & Offertory – Dec 9	\$ 575.25
Envelopes & Offertory – Dec 8	\$ 7,317.00
Envelopes & Offertory – Dec 1	\$ 1,975.00
Maintenance Donations	\$ 1,224.00
Sharing Weekend (December 8)	\$ 848.10

Please remember St. Therese in your will!

### Candle and Flower Donations—PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Donor Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Select one:  In Memory  In Honor  In Thanksgiving  
 Intention \_\_\_\_\_  
 Publish in bulletin?  Yes  No  Print intention, not donor

### Schedule a Mass Intention in Memory of a Loved One

Please consider donating a mass intention in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a special event. Masses are \$20 each. To donate, please contact Heather Goeden in the Parish Office.

Looking to donate online? Use the QR Code on the right to make a contribution to St. Therese Parish on our online giving website. Thank you for your generosity.



9:00AM Sunday Mass Live-Streamed on our Facebook page. It is also posted on our website after Mass.





Save the Date!

### ANNUAL PASTA DINNER

Saturday, February 8, 2025  
4:30pm-7:30pm  
in the Pallotti Parish Center.



Preorder ticket prices:

Adults: \$13

Children, ages 3-10: \$9

Children under 3: Free.

**Preorder by Tuesday, February 4**

Tickets at the door : Add \$3 to the price.

Ticket sales begin in the Parish Office on  
Monday, January 13.

Ticket Sales available: Monday-Friday, 9am - 3pm

"If you judge people, you have no time  
to love them."

*-St. Teresa of Calcutta*




For an on-line copy of our weekly combined  
bulletin, please refer to our website at:  
[www.stvincentpallotti.org](http://www.stvincentpallotti.org)

**10:30AM Sunday Mass Live-Streamed  
and Recorded**

Find the link under "Mass Times"  
Also available on YouTube.

#### STEWARDSHIP PARISH SUPPORT

	Actual Amount Received in December, 2024	Actual Amount Received this FY as of December, 2024	Budget for Fiscal Year 7/01/24-6/30/2025
Envelopes	\$24,195.42	\$100,499.81	\$217,000.00
Offertory	\$6,988.75	\$20,802.02	\$36,100.00
Donations	\$16,351.75	\$22,602.17	\$22,900.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$47,535.92</b>	<b>\$143,904.00</b>	<b>\$276,000.00</b>

**Thank you for your contributions!**

The Special Collection for January will be donated to  
**ERAS.**

To provide a contribution: Envelopes can be mailed to the Parish  
Office **OR** you can go to our **website** and do an  
**Online giving** donation. Look for the "Online Giving" button.

# Did You Know???

## What does 'AMEN' mean? Why do we end prayers with 'Amen'?

"Amen" is a Hebrew word that means "truly" or "so be it." When we say this at the end of a prayer, we are agreeing with the prayer. We're asking God to please let it be as we have prayed.

The Bible uses "amen" in both the Old and New Testaments. Almost half the occurrences appear in Deuteronomy as God announces punishments for specific sin (Deuteronomy 27:15-26). The people respond by saying "Amen" in agreement with God's justice and in acquiescence to His ways.

In the Old Testament, "amen" is linked with praise. For example, in 1 Chronicles 16:36, "... all the people said, 'Amen!' and praised the Lord." Nehemiah 5:13 and 8:6 similarly link saying "amen" with praising the Lord.

In the New Testament, letters often use "amen" in connection with praises to God, including letters from John, Jude, Peter, and Paul. Here is one example: "Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen" (Ephesians 3:20-21).

When Christians pray and end their prayers with "Amen" they are asking that God would hear and grant their prayer. "Amen" is not a magical word nor a plea to conform God to our wills. Rather, it is a statement of confident hope that we make to a God who invites His children to come to Him in prayer (Hebrews 4:14-16; 10:19-23; Matthew 7:7-11). We trust that He knows what is best and desire that His will be done (Matthew 6:10; 26:39). When we pray according to God's will, we can be confident that He will grant our requests (John 14:12; 1 John 5:14).



**From the Earth Ministry:  
Eco-Friendly Deicing**



In winter, we try to keep our roadways, driveways and walkways free of snow and ice. The most plentiful and cheapest way to melt snow and ice is to use rock salt (sodium chloride) or its “cousin” compound, calcium chloride. These two chlorides damage concrete, and the runoff or spray is harmful trees, plants and animals. With the spring thaw, our lakes and streams receive concentrations that are harmful to plankton and fish. It is estimated that 2.2 **billion pounds** of chlorides wash into Lake Michigan annually. Finally, the two most prevalent chloride compounds are harmful to pets by irritating their paws or making them sick if they ingest them by licking their paws.

Some eco-friendly things you can do aside from purchasing commercially-made deicers, include:

**Shoveling** - The best deterrent to ice is to shovel as soon after a snowfall as possible to allow the sunshine to dry out surfaces and avoid ice build-up.

**Sand or Kitty Litter** – Provide traction and for sand, a great way to use up excess from a sandbox.

**Wood By-products** – Wood shavings and sawdust from your workshop provide traction. So does ash from last night’s fire. Ash also darkens the surface, attracting heat from the sun for melting.

**Coffee grounds** – Sprinkling used grounds will help speed melting and provide some traction. This does not work very quickly, so it is best done when temperatures aren’t too low and the sun is shining.

If you aren’t able to use any of the above and must purchase a chloride for melting, use **Magnesium chloride**. It is available at most hardware and big box stores and is far safer for plants and animals. **Calcium magnesium acetate (CMA)** is considered the best overall choice for safely melting ice. Although more difficult to find, CMA-based products are non-toxic, and the minerals they contain can actually fertilize the plants they come into contact with. Good brands include Kind Melt, Safe Paw, Snow Joe MeltzGo and Natural Rapport Pet-Friendly Ice Melt.



**ADULT FORMATION  
Opportunities**

**Fourth Sunday Formation**

Stay, watch, and learn after Mass about Catholic Identity on the fourth weekend of the month. On January 25/26, we will show a short video about the why and how of Eucharistic Adoration, followed by a brief opportunity to experience Adoration. Did you know there is at least one Eucharistic adoration time at each parish per week? See the front of the bulletin for the schedule.

**Emmaus 90 – 2025**

Emmaus 90 is a 90-day journey from New Year’s to Easter 2025 that brings you closer to Jesus Christ through prayer and formation. It’s a personal commitment to grow in holiness with the support of hundreds of fellow participants (pilgrims) and the leadership of nationally-recognized educators.

One of the features of Emmaus 90 are the formation sessions. This year we will again offer monthly formation sessions after the 9:00AM Mass at St. Therese Parish on the second Sunday of the month and will last about 30 minutes. **The first session is this Sunday, January 12.** What a great way to start the new year with a deeper commitment grow in holiness and knowledge of the faith.

OLP



Our next blood drive is scheduled for Saturday, January 25 from 8:00AM to noon at the St. Vincent Pallotti parish center. Donors receive a free delicious breakfast. Make your appointment at [tinyurl.com/svp12525](http://tinyurl.com/svp12525) or call (877) 232-4376. You can also call Cathy at (414) 412-7940.

**Catechesis Corner**



- On the Feast of the Epiphany, families with children in the Preschool through Grade 8 Catechesis program brought a gift for Jesus. They discussed and agreed on a way that their family can grow together to deepen their faith, wrote it down, and then wrapped them as a gift to JESUS. As they processed into Mass and presented their gifts at the crèche, they provided a visual reminder for all to bring our personal gifts to the altar.
- Don’t forget that next week, January 19, classes will start at 9:00AM. It will be an abbreviated class before we head to St. Vincent Pallotti-West for 10:00AM Mass to celebrate the Feast of St. Vincent Pallotti.

**Upcoming Class Schedule:**

- o CLOW: January 19
- o Sunday Morning Age 3 – Grade 8: January 19
- o High School Program: January 19
- o Confirmation Preparation: January 19

**THE REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**  
34<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEMORIAL PRAYER SERVICE  
Guest Speaker: Rev. Fred Alexander, OCD  
**Saturday, January 18, 2025**  
1:30 p.m. – Musical Prelude  
2:00 p.m. – Prayer Service  
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH  
1937 N. Vel R. Phillips Ave., Milwaukee, WI  
CONTACT INFORMATION:  
Shanendra Johnson      Johnsons@archmil.org      414-758-2215  
Sister Callista Robinson      mcrobison64@att.net      414-374-3045  
Sponsored By:



**Sunday, January 19**

7:30am Mass ~ East Church

*NO 9:00am Mass at St. Therese!*

**10:00am Feast Day Mass  
& Procession ~ West Church**

**11:00am Potluck Luncheon  
~Parish Center**

**January 10- January 18**

**Novena to St. Vincent Pallotti**  
~ after each daily Mass



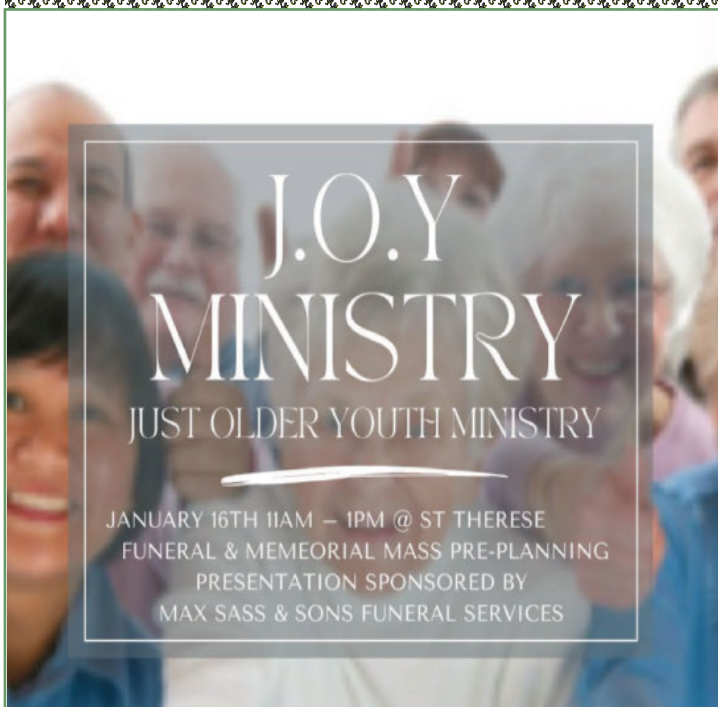
**All are invited to join us for these celebrations.**

For the Potluck Luncheon, please use the Sign-Up Genius found on the St. Vincent Pallotti website:

www.stvincentpallotti.org or call the parish office.

*Dishes for the potluck should be dropped off in the Parish center*

*before the 10:00am Mass.*



Join us for lunch and a brief presentation. The luncheon is free, but a free will offering is appreciated to further the ministry. RSVP by contacting the Parish Office.

**A Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: January 18th – 25th**

*“Do You Believe This?” – John 11:17-27*

For the year 2025, the prayers and reflections for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity were prepared by the brothers and sisters of the monastic community of Bose in northern Italy. The resources are jointly published by the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity and the World Council of Churches. 2025 marks the 1,700th anniversary of the first Christian Ecumenical Council, held in Nicaea, near Constantinople in 325 AD. This commemoration provides a unique opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the common faith of Christians, as expressed in the creed formulated during this council. For daily prayers, go to usccb.org

**Everyday Missionary Stories: Go Out on Mission**

Sometimes, we “Go Out in Mission” and don’t even realize it until later. In November, I and my Coffee Boys received a text that PW would not be at our Tuesday gathering as he had a brain bleed and was in ICU. Bleeding was stopped but he needed a 12 hour surgery to repair aneurisms and relieve pressure and fluid.

What started was three weeks of communication with PW’s wife, and sharing that with the Coffee Boys. I sent messages to PW’s wife about being strong and talking to God, and even suggesting it was fine to tell God she was angry. I copied the Coffee Boys, and thus began a Prayer Chain of sorts.

PW was a dear college friend and I began sending daily updates to about six fraternity brothers beyond the Coffee Boys. Soon we had more prayers and these folks expanded the Prayer Chain such that today, we have a large group across the Country praying for PW! Some of these folks have gotten prayers coming from friends in Church Groups that don’t even know PW! We are even getting scripture readings and written out prayers sent to PW’s wife, which is helping her tremendously. Many of us “tough guys” are expressing opinions about the strength of prayers and that the Lord is hearing us - never expected that when I began passing the daily updates along!

Best of all – PW is hanging in there for what will be a long journey with ups and downs. Only God knows how this ends, but all of us understand that He is hearing our prayers, and whatever the outcome, it is helping!

Who knew that a text from someone in distress would cause folks from all over the US to “Go Out in Mission” to pray for PW and his wife, even though many don’t know them.

- A St Therese Parishioner

Do you have an everyday missionary story to share? How have you been a missionary to others or how has someone been a missionary to you? Please share your stories with the Eucharistic Revival Committee. Your stories (we will keep them anonymous if you’d prefer) may be used in future bulletins or other communications. Send them to Heather Goeden in the St. Therese Parish Office at heather@sttheresemke.org.

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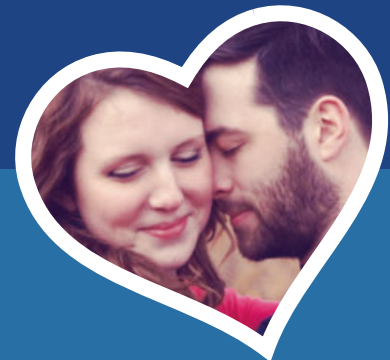
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