

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time | January 28, 2024

# Saint Theresa of the Child Jesus Catholic Church

1394 Ashville Court | P.O. Box 525 | Leeds, AL 35094

**Phone:** 205-352-3741 | **Website:** sttheresaleeds.org

**Office Hours:** Monday: 9:00am – 12:00pm, Tuesday-Friday: 8:00am – 12:00pm

**Pastor:** Reverend E. Gray Bean | Ext. 3 | fathergraybean@gmail.com

**Permanent Deacons:** Reverend Mr. Silverio Rubio | Ext. 5 | silverio.rubio@yahoo.com

Reverend Mr. Chuck Kelley | deaconchuckkelley@gmail.com

**Parish Secretary:** Ms. Michele Shumate | Ext. 2 | sttheresaleeds@gmail.com

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE UPCOMING WEEK

**January 30th** 12:00pm – Gary Gagnon (SI)

**January 31st** 12:00pm – Mary Ellen Colafrancesco (RIP)

**February 1st** 12:00pm – Joann Lutz (RIP)

**February 2nd** 12:00pm – James Lutz (RIP)

**February 3rd** 4:00pm – Paul Aiken (SI) & Rose Henandez (RIP)

**February 4th** 8:00am – Betty Cochran (RIP) | 10:30am – Tony & Julia Rodriguez (SI)

**HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS:** Tuesday-Friday: 12:00pm | Saturday: 4:00pm

Sunday: 8:00am, 10:30am, 2:00pm (Spanish)

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** Tuesday-Friday 11:15am | Saturday 3:30pm | Sunday 9:00am

**ADORATION HOUR:** Wednesday evening from 7:00pm to 8:00pm | Thursday evening from 6:00pm to 7:00pm.

**HOLY ROSARY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY:** Weekdays: Tuesday- Friday 11:20am

Weekends: 4:00pm Saturday and Sunday, 30 minutes prior to Mass | 20 Decade Rosary:

Wednesday 10:30am

**FAITH FORMATION FOR CHILDREN & ADULTS:** Sundays at 9:00am in the Parish Life Center!

**LEGION OF MARY:** Tuesday at 10:00am in the Parish Life Center Library

**FATHER BEAN'S BOOK CLUB:** Thursday at 10:00am in the Martin Hall

**FLAME OF LOVE PRAYER CENACLE:** Tuesday at 10:00am in the church.

**MARY, MOTHER GUARDIAN OF THE FAITH PRAYER CENACLE:** Thursday at 5:45pm

Concert with the Harvest Arts Chamber Ensemble on Fat Tuesday, February 13, in the Parish Life Center Hall. Time: 7:00pm

January 28, 2024 (Sunday) the 9am confession will be cancelled. Father Bean will be speaking with the RCIA class during this time.

### LENT 2024

Ash Wednesday Schedule | February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Sacrament of Reconciliation: 11am, 5:30pm | Holy Sacrifice of the Mass: 12:00pm, 6:30pm

Stations of the Cross every Friday of Lent at 6:00pm, starting February 16<sup>th</sup>

### Saint Thomas Aquinas, Meditation on Fasting

1. We fast for three reasons

(i) To check the desires of the flesh. So St. Paul says in fasting, in chastity (2 Cor. Vi. 5) meaning that fasting is a safeguard for chastity. As St. Jerome says, "Without Ceres, and Bacchus, Venus would freeze," as much as to say that lust loses its heat through sparseness of food and drink.

(ii) That the mind may more freely raise itself to contemplation of the heights. We read in the book of Daniel that it was after a fast of three weeks that he received the revelation from God (Dan. X. 2-4)

(iii) To make satisfaction for sin. This is the reason given by the prophet Joel, *Be converted to me with all your heart, in fasting and in weeping and in mourning* (Joel ii. 12). And here is what St. Augustine writes on the matter. "Fasting purifies the soul. It lifts up the mind, and it brings the body into subjection to the spirit. It makes the heart contrite and humble, scatters the clouds of desire, puts out the flames of lust and the true light of chastity."

2. There is commandment laid on us to fast. For fasting helps to destroy sin, and to raise the mind to thoughts of the spiritual world. Each man is then bound, by the natural law of the matter, to fast just as much as necessary to help him in these matters. Which is to say that fasting in general is a matter of natural law. To determine, however, when we shall fast and how, according to what suits and is of use to the Catholic body, is a matter of positive law. To state the positive law is the business of the bishops, and what is thus stated by them is called ecclesiastical fasting, in contradistinction with the natural fasting previously mentioned.

3. The times fixed for fasting by the Church are well chosen. Fasting has two objects in view: The destruction of sin, and the lifting of the mind to higher things.

The times self-indicted for fasting are then those in which men are especially bound to free themselves from sin and to raise their minds to God in devotion. Such a time especially is that which proceeds that solemnity of Easter in which baptism is administered and sin thereby destroyed, and when the burial of Our Lord is recalled, for *we are buried together with Christ by baptism into death* (Rom. Vi. 4). Then, too, at Easter most of all, men's minds should be lifted, through devotion to the glory of that eternity which Christ in His resurrection inaugurated.

Wherefore the Church has decreed the immediately before the solemnity of Easter we must fast, and, for a similar reason, that we must fast on the eves of the principal feasts, setting apart those days as

The Holy See has granted a plenary indulgence for those who visit a Nativity Scene in a Church or Chapel. This is in honor of the 800th anniversary of the first Nativity Scene in Greccio, Italy (set up by St. Francis of Assisi in 1223). In accordance with Tradition and with the permission of Bishop Raica we will keep our Nativity Scene up until the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemass) in order to allow people to gain this unique indulgence. So, make a visit!!!