

Saint Theresa of the Child Jesus Catholic Church

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November 26, 2017

Our Lord Jesus Christ the King

Mass Intentions: November 25 (5:00): Euel Musgrove (SI), November 26 (8:00AM): Bob & Marti Ross (SI), (10:30): the people of the parish, November 28 (9:00AM): Bauhof Family (SI), November 29 (9:00AM): Victor Rumore (RIP), November 30 (9:00AM): Mary D'Souza (RIP), December 1 (9:00AM): Julian Lackey (SI)

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AT ST. THERESA

- There will be a silent Eucharistic Holy Hour this Wednesday, November 29 at 6:00PM
- There will be a Eucharistic Holy Hour of this Friday, December 1, following the 9:00AM Mass. This will include the Novena and Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Anointing of the Sick.

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS THIS WEEK: December 2, Confessions at 11:30AM-12:30PM, Rosary at 12:00PM, Mass at 12:30PM.

The Marian Year of Grace of the Diocese of Birmingham...upcoming events in our Parish:

SPECIAL ADVENT RETREAT: Saturday, December 16: "The Triumph of the Immaculate Heart" A day of intense prayer, worship, music, teaching and healing with Fr. Daniel Gagnon, OMI. Sign-in at 9:30AM and the day begins at 10:00AM. All sessions will be held in the church in the presence of our Eucharistic Lord. Bring your own lunch. Drinks will be provided.

ANGEL TREE 2017: We are taking Angel Tree applications NOW!!! Saint Theresa Church has a beautiful tradition of helping those in need at Christmas through this program. If you or someone you know is in need of Christmas assistance, please contact the church office as soon as possible. On the weekends of November 18th/19th and November 25th/26th, our Angel Tree will be available in the church foyer before and after all the masses. Please help us to help the families in our community. Take an angel card from the tree. Purchase a gift card to be used for a child or family in need. Attach the angel to the gift card/cards and return to St. Theresa Church on or before December 3rd. Due to limited space, we will be collecting gift cards that will be used to sponsor children in need in our community. You may drop the gift card with attached angel in the collection on or before Dec. 3rd or you may bring it to the church office during office hours by Friday, December 1st. Please return your gift on time. Thank you for your support!

YOU

YOUTH GROUP: Thanks to everyone who donated to send eight of our kids to the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis, IN. It was a life-changing event!

Wednesday, December 6. We will meet at Chick-Fil-A in Leeds at 6:00PM to do the shopping for the parish Angel Tree Project.

From Father Bean: "The Purpose of a Parish" Part Two in a Series

Last week we considered that the Church, and by extension the local parish, exists for mission. What is the mission of the Church? Actually, Jesus tells us in Matthew 28:19-20. "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

In this passage we notice four verbs that indicate the four tasks of the Church: go, make (disciples), baptize and teach. In the Greek version of the Gospel of Matthew (the original version) one of these verbs is a finite verb and the other three are participles. A finite verb is always the grammatical hinge of a sentence while the participles only qualify the sentence and make no sense apart from the finite verb. Now...guess

which of these verbs (go, make (disciples), teach, baptize) is the finite verb upon which the other three verbs depend for meaning?

The answer is: make (disciples)! Think about it in this way: Why do we go? To make disciples. Why do we teach? To make disciples. Why do we baptize? To make disciples. The very word disciple comes from the Greek term *mathanein* which means "to learn". To be a disciple is to be a learner. The Latin word is *discipulus* and suggests that this learning is not haphazard, but intentional and disciplined. So, to be a true disciple one must commit mind and heart to engage in a lifelong process of learning from and about Jesus the Master through the teaching of His Church.

Most pastors admit that only 6-10% of their parishioners are passionate about their faith and truly hunger to grow and learn. These types are usually considered odd by "normal Catholics". This is a real problem! It is the membership of our churches that are called to make disciples, but most of them have not become disciples themselves! It is a sad truth that in American Catholicism being an adult learner in the Faith is viewed as entirely optional and non-essential. Although the laity of our Church is more educated and professional than any other time in history, the corresponding literacy in things of faith, Scripture, theology and the spiritual life lags far behind. What can be done? More next time...

Mass Schedule for the Upcoming Holiday Season:

Please notice that this year the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve are on the same day. The morning Masses are for the Fourth Sunday of Advent and the afternoon and evening Masses are for Christmas. This means you may attend Mass and receive Holy Communion twice in the same day.

- Friday, December 8: The Immaculate Conception, 9:00AM & 6:30PM (Holy Day of Obligation)
- Saturday, December 23: Fourth Sunday of Advent, 5:00PM
- Sunday, December 24: Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve
8:00AM & 10:30AM (Fourth Sunday of Advent)

Christmas Eve:

2:00 PM (Spanish Language), 4:00PM (Parish Life Center), 9:00PM (Choral Sung Mass)

- Monday, December 25: Christmas Day, 10:00AM
- Saturday, December 30: The Holy Family, 5:00PM
- Sunday, December 31: The Holy Family, 8:00AM, 10:30AM & 2:00PM (Spanish language)
- Monday, January 1: Mary, The Mother of God: 9:00AM & 6:30PM (Not obligatory this year)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "It must be admitted that from the religious point of view this pluralist type of society (America) involves serious disadvantages. It tends to make religion a matter of secondary importance. It means that man's first duty is not religious but political. We do not ask whether a man is a good Christian or a good Catholic, but whether he is a good citizen or a good American. If he is this, his religion is considered a matter that concerns only himself—and there is even a danger that it may be treated as a private hobby, so that a man's church membership will mean no more than his membership of a golf club."

Catholic historian and convert Christopher Dawson in his book The Formation of Christendom First published in 1965. Now available from Ignatius Press, published in 2008.