

# Saint Theresa of the Child Jesus Catholic Church

1394 Ashville Court, Leeds, AL 35094 (Mailing address: P.O. Box 525)

Office: 205-352-3741

Rectory: 205-702-6356

December 3, 2017

First Sunday of Advent

Mass Intentions: December 2 (12:00): Anna & Joseph Diliberto (SI), (5:00): Julian Lackey (SI), December 3 (8:00): Kathleen DePhillips (SI), (10:30): Tom Shipman (RIP), December 5 (9:00): Marie Hodge (RIP), December 6 (9:00): Robert Couldron (RIP), December 7 (9:00): Jean & Maisy Shumann (RIP), December 8 (9:00): Kathlenn DePhillips (SI), (6:00): Janet Bean (SI)

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AT ST. THERESA

- There will be a silent Eucharistic Holy Hour this Wednesday, December 6 at 6:00PM
- There will be a Eucharistic Holy Hour this Friday, December 8, following the 9:00AM Mass.

*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.**

**YOUTH GROUP: THIS 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 Three in a Series

We considered last week how a true disciple is one who hungers to know Jesus more deeply and be a lifelong learner. This suggests that a personal commitment to and relationship with the Lord Jesus is vital to being a practicing and growing Catholic...a missionary disciple.

A few years ago, the Bishops of Latin America and the Caribbean released a study that listed four reasons why many Catholics were leaving the Church to join other Non-Catholic Communities. They are:

1. The faithful never experienced a personal encounter with Jesus that was profound and intense within the Catholic Church but had in other churches. This encounter had come about due to a "kerygmatic proclamation and personal witness of these Christians that leads to a personal conversion and to a change of life." They had not encountered this in their experience of the Catholic Church.
2. The presence of meaningful community life where people are "accepted, feel valued and visible, and included in the Church. They had not experienced this in their Catholic context, but they did when they joined other churches.
3. Biblical and doctrinal formation, not as "theoretical and cold knowledge" but something that brings about "spiritual, personal and community growth" and brings people to maturity.
4. Missionary commitment that moves Church members from the pews to go out and meet those on the periphery to bring people home to the family of God.

The Bishops continued, "In our pastoral experience, often people who leave the Catholic Church do not do so because of what non-Catholic groups believe, but fundamentally for what they live; not for doctrinal reasons but for experiential reasons." I would add that we Catholics have a wonderful theology of discipleship, evangelization, fellowship and mission, but if it is not lived out it remains an abstraction. Our faith becomes a sterile intellectualism. The truth is, however, people do not want abstract ideas....they want a living experience! More next week...

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 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.*

- **THIS FRIDAY, December 8: The Immaculate Conception, 9:00AM & 6:30PM (Holy Day of Obligation)**
- Sunday, December 10: Special Processional and Mass for the Virgin of Guadalupe, 1:30PM, Bishop Emeritus David Foley will be here for this celebration! There will be a meal following the Mass!
- Tuesday, December 12: Our Lady of Guadalupe, 9:00AM (in English) & 6:30PM (in Spanish)
- 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)

**Regular Events in the Parish:**

Faith Formation for Adults, Children and Young People (K-12) is held each Sunday at 9:00AM in the Parish Life Center. Please contact Samantha Wadsworth, our Director of Religious Education, at 205-352-3741 for more information.

The Youth Group is for young people (grades 7-12) and meets regularly. Please contact Andrea Mitchell, our Youth Group Coordinator, at 205-914-7884 for more information.

The Goretti Group is for girls and young women. They meet monthly and focus on building relationships, service and living the faith in the real world! Please contact Eileen Vacheresse at 205-335-9531 for more information.

BINGO: Every First and Third Friday at 6:30PM. Food served at 5:30PM.

**ANGEL TREE!!!!!!** Please deliver your cards to the parish by Monday, December 4 before 3:30PM. They may be dropped in the Offering Basket at Mass this weekend. THANK YOU for being so generous.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Foyer for volunteers to clean the Church. Will you consider cleaning the Lord's house? NO ONE is signed up for the month of December. In October we had to pay someone because no one signed up. January and February are covered. We need volunteers for December, March, April and May.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "Into this world, this demented inn, in which there is absolutely no room for him at all, Christ comes uninvited." — Thomas Merton