

CHRISTMAS *Blessings*

MY DEAR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN THE LORD,

“For a child is born to us, a son is given us. Upon His shoulder dominion rests. They name Him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:5)

Merry Christmas! Feliz Navidad! Maligayang Pasko! Whichever language we say it, it only means one thing: The Lord has come into the world and we have every reason to be joyful. Today, we commemorate the fulfillment of the promise of a Savior who through the cooperation of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph was born into the world. This is the great reality that Christmas brings - God is here with us. He is Emmanuel.

Every time we celebrate His birth, we are being made aware of the immensity of God’s love for us. His great love calls us all to welcome Jesus and receive Him in our hearts. He has come to offer us love, mercy, joy, peace, and most of all - salvation. Salvation is the ultimate reason why “the Word was flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14). The way by which He was born tells us so many truths about God’s love. He could have chosen a different way, and yet He chose to be born in poverty, in a relatively unknown city, in a damp and smelly stable for animals. What a way for the Son of God - the Glorious One, the Kingly One, the Perfect One - to come into the world! He came into this world that needs to be led out of darkness into the light. He came incognito - He came unnoticed except for a few shepherds and some wise men from the East. The Bible tells us that “there was no room for them in the inn”. St. Joseph and the Virgin Mary kept looking and kept knocking on doors, but there was no room for the Child about to be born. That is simply God’s way of dealing with us - the way of humility.

I believe it is safe to say that the Savior is still looking for a place where He will be welcomed with joy. He is looking for a place to stay - and He is looking for a shelter in our hearts. He wants to enter deep into our lives so that He will always be part of everything we are, everything we say, and everything we do. He wants to dwell and be enthroned in our hearts - in a way that we will never want to let go of Him again. This Christmas, and every day hereon, let us strive to love Him more, to praise Him more, to thank Him more - and with His grace to commit to serving Him more through our community, and through those who have been entrusted to our care: the poor and the needy. By doing this, we will find a clearer meaning whenever we say the words “Merry Christmas!”

May you and your loved ones be blessed in a special way as we celebrate the birth of our Savior. A BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO ALL.

In Jesus, Mary, and Joseph,

FR. ROMY



CHRISTMAS 2024

Are You interested In Joining A Small Faith Group?

If you are interested in exploring a Small Faith Sharing Group with family, friends, neighbors, parishioners, etc. please contact Mary Fransen at mfransen@stphx.org for further information.

2024 Parish Year-End Giving From an 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 without recognizing the income or paying any income tax. Please contact your accountant or Cheryl Lienau at 602-359-0570 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.

GRIEF SUPPORT

Once or twice a year, Pastoral Care offers Grief Support in a group setting for those suffering from the death of a loved one. Watch the bulletin for upcoming dates. You may always contact Maureen in the Pastoral Care Office for support, or references at 602-840-0850 ext. 113 or email mschaaf@stphx.org.



Thank You To All Of Our Parishioners Who Support Our St. Vincent de Paul Ministry!

This coming weekend, December 28th and 29th, will be a SVdP donation collection weekend when St. Vincent de Paul collects donations to assist our needy neighbors who reside within our parish boundaries. Thank you for your continued generosity as these collections are SVdP's main source of funds. Over the last 3 months your generous monetary and food donations have enabled our SVdP conference to assist 640 neighbors with \$23,428 in food, \$4,535 in utilities, and with help from the SVdP Homeless Preventions Program, \$23,428 in shelter. As we approach the end of the year, our neighbors' needs remain high and your generosity is again needed to be able to carry on this level of help from our Parish. Next weekend donations can be given to St. Vincent de Paul volunteers who will be at the doors of the Church after each Mass. Checks should be made payable to "St. Theresa SVdP." Donations can also be placed in the poor boxes at all doors of the church or your donation can be mailed to:

St. Theresa Parish - Attention: St. Vincent de Paul
5045 East Thomas Road
Phoenix, AZ 85018

Families for Caring Christmas Program

Thank you to each and every one of our generous parishioners who added to Christmas joy by giving to our less fortunate neighbors through our giving tree and delivering gifts. Merry Christmas to you all!

If you are visiting us for Christmas Mass, consider making St. Theresa Parish your spiritual home. All Are Welcome! Please visit the parish website at stphx.org to fill out and submit a registration form. If we can answer any questions for you, please contact us at 602-840-0850 or email us at info@sttheresaphx.org.

CHRISTMAS 2024



St. Theresa Parish

5045 East Thomas Road ~ Phoenix, Arizona 85018

stphx.org

- **Pastor:** Fr. Romy Dionisio • **Associate Pastor:** Fr. John Udochukwu
- **Priest in Residence:** Fr. George Griener, S.J.
- **Deacons:** Colin F. Campbell & Mark Kriese

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Sunday Mass: 4:00PM Saturday (Vigil Mass); 7:00AM, 9:00AM, 11:00AM and 5:00PM.

Weekday Mass: Monday through Friday at 6:30AM and Saturday at 8:00AM.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Wednesday 5:00PM-6:00PM, Saturday 9:00AM-10:00AM, and by appointment.

Eucharistic Adoration: Thursday from 7:00AM-9:00PM in the Convent Chapel

First Friday Adoration & Mass: 5:00PM Adoration, 6:00PM Mass (Church)

Special Thanks To Our Bulletin Advertisers

We would like to extend a “special thank you” to all parishioners and friends of St. Theresa Parish who support the publication of our parish bulletin by placing an advertisement for their business or professional services in our weekly bulletin. It is through their generosity and support that we are able to share with you important parish news along with various ministry opportunities in our community and the Diocese. Thanks again to all of our bulletin advertisers for your continued patronage – may God bless you and your businesses!



2024-2025 Applications Are Open Now! Preschool through 8th Grade.
For more information please contact Admissions Coordinator, Adrienne Reese,
in the School Office at 602-840-0010 ext. 266 or areese@stcs.us.