



## 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.*

December 7, 2025



# MAKE STRAIGHT HIS PATHS.

MATTHEW 3:3

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

©LPi

## Second Sunday of Advent

*Matthew 3:1-12*

This week we hear that John the Baptist is out in the wilderness eating **“locusts and wild honey” (Mark 1:6)**. It’s not just a strange historical detail. It’s a symbolic expression of a healthy spiritual diet. The path to Christ includes both the hard and the beautiful, the gritty and the sweet. We have to learn to gulp the locusts and savor the honey.

I remember working with a young couple preparing for marriage. They were sincere, but raw — barely beginning to discover faith. Part of me wanted to rush them ahead, to fill in all the gaps, to bombard them with scripture and church documents. I swallowed that instinct. It was like eating locusts.

But I also recall them light up as they spoke about each other, about their first child, then their second. And they wanted to be close to God. Something innocent and beautiful was unfolding. That was the honey. I knew God was asking me to savor it.

This Advent, maybe we’re each being invited to accept both locusts and honey. Maybe it’s time to stop avoiding the difficult parts of faith — prayer that feels dry, the call to repentance, the patience with the troublesome. It’s time to eat some locusts.

But we also need to notice the small gifts God gives us: a peaceful moment, a good conversation, the joy of serving someone else, new life, good intentions of our friends. That’s the honey. Savor it!

John didn’t avoid either. He took it all in. And so can we. What are your locusts? Your honey? If we let God feed us with both, we’ll be ready — really ready — for the coming of Christ. — *Father John Muir* ©LPi

**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  
Ann Maher – STP (414) 698-7016  
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

**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 Office** (414) 771-2500  
For Parish Emergencies After Hours, Push 0

**Office Hours**

Sunday: 10:00AM to 11:00AM  
Monday: 8:30AM–12:00PM; 12:00PM–3:30PM Remote  
Tuesday: 8:30AM–3:30PM  
Wednesday: Remote  
Thursday: 8:30AM–12:00PM REMOTE; 12:00PM–3:30PM  
Friday and Saturday: Closed

**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**

Contact the St. Therese Parish Office

**St. Vincent Pallotti Parish Office**  
(414) 453-5344

**Office Hours:**

Monday through Friday: 8:30AM–3:30PM

**Director of Admin & Development**

Susana Cuellar ext. 109  
sscullar@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

**Parish Secretary**

Heather Goeden ext. 101  
heather@sttheresemke.org

**Bookkeeper**

Kari Utzerath ext. 104  
kutzerath@stvpc.org

**Scrip Coordinator**

Therese Schaefer (414) 534-3836

**Librarian**

librarian@stvpc.org

**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

**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

**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 at (414) 308-6238 to arrange a visit.

**Baptism, Marriage and RCIA**

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

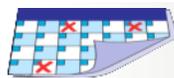
**Funerals**

Contact either Parish Office to plan.

**Parish Membership / Support**

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

*The deadline for the December 14 bulletin has passed. The next available bulletin is the December 21 bulletin.*



# Events for the Week

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

## Sunday, December 7

Prayer Shawl and Healing Blessing at SVP

Maintenance Collection Weekend and SCRIP Order Weekend at STP

- 6:45AM Reconciliation at SVP-E
- 7:30AM Mass at SVP-E
- 8:15AM Confessions at STP
- 9:00AM Mass at STP – Live Streamed on Facebook
- 10:00AM Middle School/High School Catechesis at St. Jude
- 10:00AM Christmas Eve Children's Choir Rehearsal at STP
- 10:00AM Blessing of the Sick at STP
- 10:30AM Mass at SVP-W – Live Streamed and Posted

## Monday, December 8 – Feast of the Immaculate Conception

- 6:25AM Holy Day Mass at SVP-E
- 8:00AM SVP School Holy Day Mass at SVP-W
- 12:15PM Holy Day Mass at STP
- 6:00PM Craft Circle at SVP-W
- 6:00PM St. Vincent de Paul Society Meeting at STP
- 6:00PM Gr 1-6 Catechesis Program at St. Jude
- 6:00PM Kindergarten Catechesis Program at St. Jude

## Tuesday, December 9

- 8:45AM Morning Mass at STP
- 12:00PM Afternoon Mass at SVP-W
- 6:00PM Craft Circle at SVP-W
- 6:30PM Christian Formation Committee Meeting at STP

## Wednesday, December 10

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

## Thursday, December 11

- 11:30AM Adoration at SVP-W
- 12:00PM Afternoon Mass at SVP-W
- 4:00PM Choir Rehearsal at SVP-W
- 7:00PM Group 100 AA

## Friday, December 12

Choir Cookie Sale Bake Day

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

## Saturday, December 13

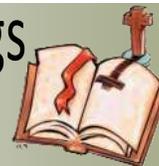
- 3:15PM Confessions at SVP-W
- 3:15PM Rosary at SVP-W
- 4:00PM Mass at SVP-W
- 5:00PM Cookie Sale at SVP-W

## Sunday, December 14

Sharing Weekend/SCRIP Pick-Up Weekend at STP

- 6:45AM Reconciliation at SVP-E
- 7:30AM Mass at SVP-E
- 8:30AM Cookie Sale at SVP-E
- 9:00AM Mass at STP – Live Streamed on Facebook
- 9:15AM Children's Liturgy of the Word at STP
- 10:00AM Advent/Christmas Library Display at STP
- 10:00AM Christmas Eve Children's Choir Rehearsal at STP
- 10:30AM Mass at SVP-W – Live Streamed and Posted
- 10:45AM Children's Liturgy of the Word at SVP-W
- 11:30AM Cookie Sale at SVP-W

# Intentions & Readings for the Week



## December Sanctuary Candle at STP

For Travelers and Explorers

## Sunday, December 7

Readings *Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 (see 7)/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12*

## Monday, December 8

Observance: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Readings *Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38*

6:25AM (SVP-E)

8:00AM School Mass at SVP-W

12:15PM (STP) The St. Therese Parish Community

Tuesday, December 9

Observance: St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin

Readings *Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/Mt 18:12-14*

8:45AM (STP) †Ann Willis

12:00PM (SVP-W)

## Wednesday, December 10

Observance: Our Lady of Loreto

Readings *Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30*

6:25AM †Andy Muellenbach (J Badura)

6:00PM (STP) †Peter Lovinus

## Thursday, December 11

Observance: St. Damasus I, Pope

Readings *Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab/Mt 11:11-15*

12:00PM (SVP-W)

## Friday, December 12

Observance: Our Lady of Guadalupe

Readings *Zec 2:14-17/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38*

6:25AM (SVP-E) Deacon Don & †Toni Borkowski

## Saturday Mass, December 13

Observance: St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

Readings *Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13*

4:00PM (SVP-W) The Peter Cychosz Family

## Sunday Mass, December 14

Observance: 3rd Sunday of Advent

Readings *Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 10 (see Is 35:4)/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11*

7:30AM (SVP-E) Parishioners

9:00AM (STP) †Anne Nee and the St. Therese Parish Community

10:30AM (SVP-W) †Christopher Koller (Family)



To be included, please call either Parish Office.

AG, Dorothy Ash, Peter Carlis, Brandon Choe, Irene Czarnecki, Michael Czarnecki, Shirley Diciaula, Nancy Dineen, Berni Doberstein, Dean Doberstein, Kylie Doyne, Dick Dufour, Elizabeth and Elijah, Theresa Gamsky, Family G, Sue Grignon, Edwin Gunther, Matthew Harrison, Dan Heinz, Josette Jaeger, Andrew James, Mary Kirchner, Helen Klister, Julie Kross, Ellen Lemkuiel, Rachel Lund, Kathy Manthe, Debbie Martin, Loretta Merz, Robert Metrey, Hanna Miroslaw, Celeste Rau, Jacob & Jaxson Rivera, Kaity Shields, Michael Sullivan, Robert Szablewski, Beverly T., Rosann Thate, Terry Valdovinos, Mary Vanderbunt, John Wachowiak, Chris Wehausen

**Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**  
**Holy Day of Obligation**



Join us to celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, a Holy Day of obligation, tomorrow – Monday, December 8. We will have Mass at 6:25AM at SVP-E, 8:00AM at SVP-W (School Mass), and 12:15PM at STP. All are welcome!

**Sharing Weekend is Next Weekend: December 14 at STP**

The December Sharing Weekend recipient at St. Therese is Sojourner Family Peace Center. Sojourner Family Peace Center was founded in 1975 in response to a critical need in our communities. The need is just as great now, 50 years later.

Though Sojourner is best known for emergency shelter and restraining order advocacy, advocates also serve survivors seeking safety and healing in a myriad of other ways. Current programming includes outreach in response to law enforcement and health care referrals, as well as family activities and prevention programming for youth.

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 Sojourner Family Peace Center. Thank you for your generosity.



**Christmas Office Hours**

**St. Vincent Pallotti**

- Tuesday, 12/23 - 8:30AM to 2:00PM
- Wednesday, 12/24 through Friday, 12/26 - Closed
- Monday, 12/29 - 8:30AM to Noon
- Tuesday, 12/30 - 8:30AM to 1:30PM
- Wednesday, 12/31 through Friday, 1/2 - Closed

**St. Therese Parish**

- Monday, 12/1 - Closed
- Wednesday, 12/24 through Sunday, 12/28 - Closed
- Tuesday, 12/30 - 8:30AM to Noon; Closed PM
- Wednesday, 12/31 through Sunday, 1/4 - Closed

**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.



**Altered Bulletin Deadlines for Holiday Season**

Please note the following altered bulletin deadlines:

- December 21 Bulletin – Articles due December 9 at 8:00AM
- December 28 Bulletin – Articles due December 16 at 8:00AM
- January 4 Bulletin – Articles due December 22 at 8:00AM
- January 25 Bulletin – Articles due January 12 at 8:00AM

**Christmas Mass Schedule**



- Christmas Eve – Wednesday, December 24
  - 4:00PM at St. Therese Parish
  - 4:00PM at St. Vincent Pallotti - West
- Christmas Day Mass – Thursday, December 25
  - 7:30AM at St. Vincent Pallotti - East
  - 10:00AM at St. Vincent Pallotti - West
- Solemnity of Mary/World Day of Prayer for Peace
  - Wednesday, December 31 at 4:00PM at St. Vincent Pallotti - West  
*Adoration before Mass at 3:30PM*
  - Thursday, January 1 at 9:00AM at Saint Therese Parish

**Sunday Masses Live-Streamed and Recorded!**

- The 9:00AM Sunday Mass at St. Therese Parish is live-streamed on their Facebook page and posted on their website after Mass.
- The 10:30AM Sunday Mass at St. Vincent Pallotti is live-streamed and posted on their website and is also available on YouTube.

**Flower/Candle Memorial Donations for the Christmas Season at St. Therese Parish**

Consider remembering a loved one or honoring a special intention by donating a memorial toward the cost of flowers and candles for the Christmas Season. Complete the form below and return with your donation in the collection basket or send it to the Parish Office.



**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**

Consider donating a Mass intention in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a special event. To donate, contact Heather Goeden in the Parish Office.

Looking to donate online? Go to either Parish website to make a contribution on our online giving websites. Thank you for your generosity.

**The Stewardship Parish Support tables with each parish’s collection totals will be reported on the second weekend each month showing the entire previous month’s contributions. Thank you for your support!**  
**Please remember St. Vincent Pallotti and St. Therese Parish in your will.**



## Christmas Cookie Sales

### Cookies, Crafts, Books, Ham Sandwiches and Santa!

The St. Vincent Pallotti Choir Cookie Sale is next weekend.

- December 13 after the 4:00PM Mass
- December 14 after the 7:30AM and 10:30AM Mass

Choose your own homemade cookies for \$13.00 for the first pound and \$12.00 for each subsequent pound. Prepared, wrapped plates of assorted cookies will also be available.

Your homemade cookie donations that are dropped off by the morning of December 12 will be included in our pre-packaged trays.

Donated cookies delivered before each Mass on December 13/14 will be presented on the tables for customers to choose from for their custom purchase.

Kindly see the bulletin flyer for more donation ideas and details.

Please call the parish office or talk to Music Director Carrie Sanders with any questions.

There will also be the annual Craft Sale which will benefit the parish prayer shawl ministry and the used book sale will return to benefit the parish library.

Ham sandwiches will be available for purchase and Santa will be there. He'll be happy to sit for pictures!

Thank you for your support!

### St. Therese Cookie Sale – December 20

Place your orders online at [www.sttheresemke.org](http://www.sttheresemke.org) or by using the QR Code or call Jennifer Poethig at (414) 217-3376 by December 15th.

Cookies are \$13 for a 1-lb box and \$25 for a 2 lb box. New this year- 2025 Cookie Book Recipes for \$5.

Bakers please remember to drop off your cookie donations on December 19 between 2:00–7:00PM, so your yummy holiday treats can be boxed up!

Pick-up will be on December 20 from 10:00AM to 2:00PM. Extra packages will also be available for purchase, as well as after Mass on December 21.



### St. Therese Advent Giving 2025

Advent Giving at St. Therese this year can be done online, through the mail, or in person. We will use the SCRIP program to provide gift cards for Down Syndrome Association of Wisconsin, ERAS Senior Network, St. Vincent de Paul Society, and the VA Hospital. Special Advent SCRIP order forms are available in the back of the church **today**. **Orders and payment must be turned in by the end of the 9:00AM Mass.** The gift cards will be distributed to the organizations directly.

If you prefer to give a cash donation to one of these organizations, you are welcome to make it **online using the QR code (through TODAY – December 7!)** or put **cash or a check** in the collection basket or mail to the Parish Office to be received **no later than December 14**. If you write a check, make it out to St. Therese with the organization in the memo line. *Please clearly indicate how you would like your donation allocated. If it is not indicated, we will divide your donation equally among the organizations.*



We are also collecting **hats, mittens and gloves for men, women and children to be distributed through Capuchin Community Services**, as well as **cash donations for St. Joseph Apache Mission in the Diocese of Las Cruces**. There are special envelopes on the table by the bulletins you can use for your donations to that group. Thank you for your generosity.

### St. Vincent Pallotti Advent Giving Tree

The Giving Tree this year is for the Capuchins and the people they serve. Their guests need gloves, scarves, hats and other winter clothes. Their homeless guests are in need of warm blankets. Additionally, we are collecting unwrapped toys for the children such as playdoh sets, hot wheel cars & track, music head/earphones, coloring sets & easel, action figures, jumbo character stuffed plush animals, Etch a Sketch, children's books, basketball, football, baseball or soccer balls, scooters, and other toys for children birth to 10 years of age.

**The drive goes through December 21.** Gift lists can be found at the Giving Tree. Help decorate the tree by hanging your warm gloves and scarves on the tree or taking an ornament from the basket and hanging it on the tree. Thank you for your generosity.

### 2025 Almsgiving Opportunity for Both Parishes – St Joseph Apache Mission Church in Las Cruces, NM

Last December, Fr. PC traveled with the Catholic Extension Society on an immersion trip to the St Joseph Apache Mission Church in Las Cruces, NM where he met with the pastor and some parishioners. Franciscan friars built the stone church in 1920 to bring comfort, hope and renewed faith to the indigenous community that lived on the reservation that serves as the church's home. Its mission continues today with a food bank, faith outreach, and social services for the local families, many of whom live well below the poverty line.

Please prayerfully consider supporting the St Joseph Apache Mission this advent. Your investment will help to raise up more missionaries and mission communities over the coming year. Flyers and envelopes for your donations are available on the table in the back of church. The envelopes can be placed in the collection basket or turned into the Parish Office by **December 21**.



### From The Earth Ministry: Sign up for the 2025 County Grounds Christmas Bird Count



This is a wonderful outdoors event that is supported by our Earth Ministry. The annual bird count will take place on Saturday, December 20 at 8:00AM for two hours. You don't have to be a full-fledged birder (pun intended) to help out – beginners are most welcome.

The County Grounds is a major Migratory Bird Route or Flyway for southeastern Wisconsin, following the Menomonee River with supportive forests and open fields. Loss of habitat and development continue to impact wildlife in the County Grounds. Identifying and counting bird populations is important to document the diverse treasures that we have.

Registration is requested. Sign up at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MWLJ6DX> Dress for the weather. There is an App for novice birders: <https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/> Sponsored by Friends of Co. Grounds Park, The Monarch Trail, Forest Exploration Ctr.

### Ministers and Volunteers Needed!

#### Birthday Weekend Bakers Needed – East Church

We would like to thank Ginny Hay & Jean Ann Stone for their many years of dedication to Birthday Sunday at the East Church. After decades of baking, Ginny has decided to retire although Jean Ann will continue. We are looking for a baker or bakers to help bake for Birthday Sunday at the East Church. Please contact Lenny Schaefer at (414) 534-1450 if you can help. Thank you!

#### Liturgical Ministers Needed

##### St. Vincent Pallotti

St Vincent Pallotti is always interested in finding more people who would be willing to assist at weekend Masses. We currently have a DESPERATE need for Eucharistic Ministers at the 4:00PM Mass on Saturdays. On most Saturdays, we have two or three open positions out of six needed. If you have questions or think you may be interested, please contact Father Tom, a sacristan, another Eucharistic minister or usher. You can also call the Parish Office or email Tom Barth at [tbarth@stvpc.org](mailto:tbarth@stvpc.org). Unfortunately, if we can not fill these positions, we will have to remove some communion stations.

##### St. Therese

Sign up now to serve as a Lector, Hospitality Minister, Altar Server or Eucharistic Minister during December at St. Therese Parish. Let's fill all these positions quickly through the Sign-Up Genius link on the parish website or contact Heather in the Parish Office. There are written instructions, as well as mentors, for those who are new to these ministries. We are grateful for those who sign up and minister often - but they need your help!

If you are interested in joining a ministry at either parish, please contact Heather in the Parish Office.

### Advent Prayer Materials

The Grow Your Faith Table (GYFT) has daily reflection booklets for Advent through Christmas to support your faith life. Each day offers a new perspective to reflect, meditate, and pray on. So take one today as Advent, the new Church year, is here. Be prepared in the best way for our Savior.

### Year End Giving & Contribution Statements

All final 2025 contributions must be placed in the collection basket the weekend of December 27/28 or postmarked no later than Wednesday, December 31, 2025 to be recognized as a 2025 contribution. Online contributions must be received no later than Friday, December 26 so they have time to process before the end of the year.

Year End Contribution Statements will be generated in early January. The statements will include contributions from all sources, including WeShare. However, only weekly envelopes, stock contributions, and maintenance donations are included. Advent Giving, Mission Contributions, and Sharing Sunday are pass through; that is, the donation goes to the recipient charity, not St. Therese.

If your address has changed, please let the Parish Office know. The information can be updated prior to mailing the statements.

If you plan to donate stock to by December 31, please contact Christine at St. Therese or Susana at St. Vincent Pallotti for our brokerage information.

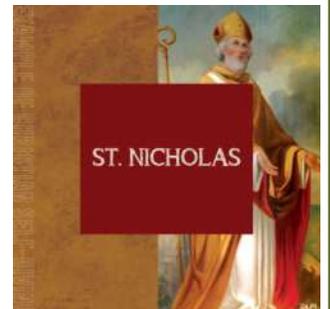
### Devotions, Explained!

#### St. Nicholas

St. Nicholas was a fourth-century Christian bishop who lived in modern-day Turkey. There is minimal historical scholarship dating to the period of his life, but stories and traditions that developed after his death emphasize his profound spirit of generosity, especially towards the poor.

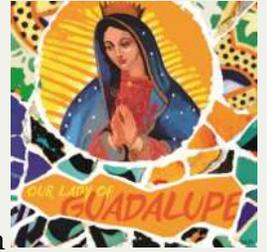
One particularly famous oral tradition tells that St. Nicholas saves three young women from a life of destitution and ruin by secretly giving them a dowry so they could marry. His popularity increased in the centuries following his death, and by the medieval period he was a beloved model of Christian charity invoked in a particular way during the seasons of Advent and Christmas.

On his feast day, December 6, children often wake up to find small gifts or treats in their shoes or Christmas stockings, a tradition which has variations across different ethnic groups. In the United States, St. Nicholas gift-giving practices are especially popular in places where large numbers of German and Dutch immigrants settled. ©LPi



### Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe – December 12

On December 9, 1531, Our Lady appeared to a simple Aztec Indian who had converted to the Catholic faith, Juan Diego. Three days later, at Juan Diego's request, Mary provided a sign so the local bishop would believe that she actually had appeared. Roses grew out of the cold winter soil, and when Juan Diego opened his cloak to show the bishop what he had found, an image of Our Lady appeared on the fabric. These occurrences led to the conversion of most of Mexico and remain today a strong sign of Our Lady's concern and love for us. Church-approved Marian apparitions always point to her Son, Jesus. For many of us with a strong Marian devotion, Mary is a pathway into a stronger relationship with our Lord. Her generosity shown to Juan Diego is the same generosity shown to each of us that choose to ask her intercession. Families pray for one another and she is a very prominent member of our family. May the miracle of Our Lady of Guadalupe be a sign of warmth for you in the cold of winter and of Advent hope for a Christ Child that has redeemed the world.



### St. Therese Christmas Library Display – Next Sunday

After mass next weekend you're all invited to stop by our annual library display of books and DVDs at the Bluemound exit. There's nothing to buy; it's all free. There are many Christmas storybooks for children and wonderful books and

DVDs for adults during this season of Advent. The new popular DVD series, "The Chosen" is available (all 5 seasons). This series is amazing. It's an authentic and intimate look at Jesus' life and teachings. Stop by and browse through all the materials available to you.

If you check out an item you may enter a free raffle for a beautiful Christmas gift basket. Enjoy a homemade cookie while you browse. Don't miss this special event!

AN EPIC FILM ON THE MOTHER OF CHRIST

MARY  
of NAZARETH

We are invited to join St. Jude Parish at their

**PARISH MOVIE NIGHT**

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 7 | 5 PM

Join us in the St. Jude Parish Activity Center in preparation for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception with a movie and fellowship.

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT

**WINTER WEEKEND**

Take time to enjoy being away from your daily routine. Our Winter Weekend Retreat is an opportunity to experience renewal within a vibrant young adult Catholic community. Whether you are already passionate about living your faith or are just looking to get to know the community, Christ, or the Church, you have a place here.

**FEB. 13, 6PM – FEB. 15, NOON**  
Schoenstatt Retreat Center, Waukesha



Cost per person will differ based upon lodging options. For more information and to register, go to [brewcitycatholic.com](http://brewcitycatholic.com)

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The ladies of St. Jude, St. Therese and St. Vincent Pallotti parishes, their female family members, friends and neighbors are invited to

*Advent by Candlelight*

A night out for women to set aside the season's busyness and focus on the real meaning of Christmas

There is no charge for this evening of the Word, music, and fellowship.

**December 14th 6:30pm-8:00pm**

St. Jude the Apostle Activity Center

RSVP by December 8th with Heather Warner  
[hwarner@stjudetheapostle.net](mailto:hwarner@stjudetheapostle.net)  
or by using the QR Code



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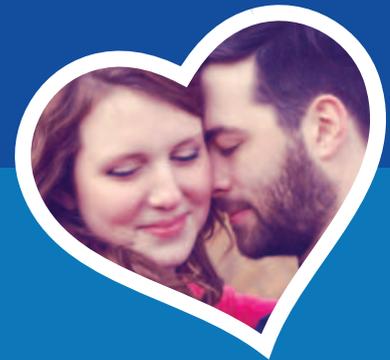
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