

# Saint Teresa of Avila Catholic Church

Fall 2016 Newsletter

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 2

## Look at Us “Shrine” !

It has been almost a year now since we celebrated the 500th Birthday of our Patron Saint, St. Teresa of Avila. Part of that celebration of October 2015 included our new Outdoor Shrine which was dedicated by Bishop Lennon during our Feast Day Mass.

Ground was broken in the summer of 2015 for the shrine. Blank pavers were laid and the slatted roof constructed. Engraved paver stones and granite benches were made available for purchase to parishioners and friends. The landscaping around the shrine was beautifully done with trees and flowering bushes.

In the spring of 2016 we were treated to the blooming of tulips around the shrine—a generous gift planted by the Altar & Rosary Society. David Aring, our groundskeeper, spread mulch around the



shrine to really show off the landscaping and the stones.

We also saw 47 engraved paver stones placed in the walkway to the shrine. To date 55 pavers have been purchased with 15 still available. If you would like to have a stone engraved please call the church office.

Of the 6 granite benches to be placed in the shrine, 5 were purchased by parish families or groups. Mr. Robert Lewis, from Lewis Monument in Elyria, came out and personally met with each family who ordered a bench to make sure the inscriptions and pictures would be done just the way they imagined. These benches will be a stunning contribution to this shrine when completed.

The final bench is being dedicated to the “Living and Deceased Members of St. Teresa of Avila Church”. Donations for that bench are being accepted.

It is hoped that the benches will be in place before the end of this year.

Of course the most important element of the shrine is—those who come for reflection and prayer. This shrine was made to encourage a “time out” with our Lord through the intercession of St. Teresa of Avila. Everyone is invited to this welcoming place - stop, spend time, and relax.

*Pictures courtesy of Bill Bistak*

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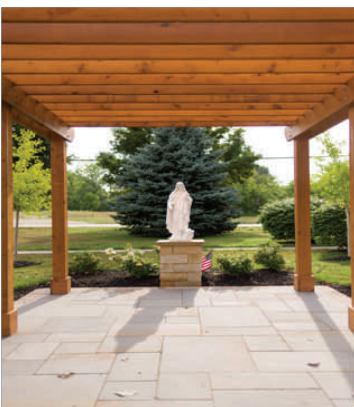


*God withholds Himself from no one who perseveres.*

### Bible Humor

**Q. Where is the first baseball game in the Bible?**

**A.** In the big inning. Eve stole first, Adam stole second. Cain struck out Abel. The Giants and the Angels were rained out.



## Catechetical Leadership and Classes—Fall 2016

**D**ean Robinson has been named the Catechetical Leader at St. Teresa Church.

Dean will be in charge of our PSR and Confirmation programs. Dean has more than 19 years of experience in both parish and school environments. He has also been the director of The Edge Youth Ministry here and at Holy Spirit Parish in Avon Lake. We are happy to have Dean on board with these expanded ministries.

**Parish School of Religion Classes (PSR)** PSR classes will begin September 20, 2016 and will continue on Tuesdays from 6:00—7:15 p.m. Students in grades 1—8 should be registered by September 20. Registration forms are in the church and church office.

**Confirmation Classes** These classes will be combined with St. Anthony Parish this year and are for those students in 8th grade.

### Homebound Ministry

We are a group of volunteers from the parish who have felt a great desire to visit parishioners who are homebound and in nursing homes. Some of us have been homebound in the past due to illness and want so much to do this for others so they don't feel forgotten. Those we have visited seemed to appreciate casual conversation, especially about the parish and what's going on. Most of these homebound folks were very active in our community at one time. We also pray, take the Holy Eucharist and will read the Bible. If you know a parishioner who would enjoy such a visit call the church office.

Here is what the Homebound Ministry visit means to some of our Parishioners:

*"It brightens our day; we hadn't realized that with the natural progression of age how isolated we could feel. The ladies who visit are an additional support system for us."*

### An Invitation to RCIA

RCIA stands for **Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults**. It is the Catholic Church's way of initiating new members. RCIA is much more than a program. It is a learning and loving process in which conversion of the heart brings one to Jesus Christ. It is an answer to the Gospel invitation in Mathew 11:28-30: "Come to me, all you who are weary and find life burdensome, and I will refresh you. Take my yoke upon your shoulders and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart. Your souls will find rest, for my yoke is easy and my burden light." RCIA is an opportunity.

- For those who have not been baptized.  
-- For those who have been baptized, but have little affiliation with, and/or training in the Catholic religion.  
-- For those who want to learn and ask questions about the Catholic faith. Through weekly gatherings, those attending gain a deeper appreciation and understanding of the Catholic beliefs and practices. All are welcome, and there is no obligation to make any commitment to become Catholic.

Sometimes, those of us who have been Catholic our whole lives forget to offer this information to others who may be interested in becoming Catholic. Ex-

tending an invitation to relatives, friends, and neighbors, in a gentle way, might be just the opportunity that they are waiting for. They may be ready, but are not sure how to make an inquiry. However, if they are not ready today, you may have planted a seed that will grow and bloom into a decision sometime in the future.

Feel free to invite  
-- Those who may be searching.  
-- Those who have never been baptized as Christians.  
-- Those who have been baptized in another Christian faith tradition and are now interested in the Catholic faith.  
-- Those who were baptized in the Catholic faith, but did not receive First Communion and/or Confirmation.

Please contact the parish office for further inquire. Ask for Sue or Debbie at 440-934-4227.

*Bill Bistak will be teaching RCIA this year. Bill is also our Jr. High PSR Teacher and a retired Catholic school teacher and principal.*

**All these formation classes will begin in the Fall of 2016. Watch the bulletin for dates, times and registration information.**

### Building Fund & Repair/Replacement Envelopes

**You see these envelopes each month in your packet—here is how your contributions help support our Parish:**

**Building Fund Donations:** Primarily pays the monthly mortgage. Our monthly payment is \$3,272.20 and very often we fall short of this amount.

**Repair/Replacement Donations:** - Repairs to equipment/appliances in the church and rectory; Concrete patching; Gas for winter/summer yard equipment; Sidewalk salt; Mulch for the gardens; Lawn mower and snow blower maintenance; Small maintenance items for the church and rectory buildings

*Thank you to all the Parishioners who place contributions in these envelopes!*

## St. Teresa's Coal Miner's Daughter: Jean Varos

In the southern Virginia hills, in a room tucked beneath a small clapboard Baptists Church there is a deep earthy smell of peacefulness that Jean Varos says, "I will go to my grave remembering." Growing up in a coal mining camp in a house with no indoor plumbing and with a Mom who "disciplined" her often, the only sanctuary she ever found was with God—in that Baptist church. In fact, the woman who raised her was not really her Mom. With that news, Jean got even more "independent", all the while getting more dependent on her frequent talks with Jesus and her frequent walks down the hill to that Baptist church. She recalls those God-centered moments and "running all over the mountains", happy at play, as the only solidly good part of her young life. There were no birthday cakes, no encouragements, and never any hugs.

A Miss Tobacco Queen, when Jean started dating, her independent, feisty approach to survival found her gravitating toward "bad boys." Once graduated, while her real siblings living with her biological mother got nursing vouchers to go to college, Jean had no way to get any money to get there. She had no idea what she could possibly do with her life. Then, in what she describes as a typical Jean moment, she walked into the neighboring small town one day to get the mail and started flirting with a couple of cute guys. They happened to be army recruiters. So, she signed up and took them home to break the news.

In the army, she made a good name for herself as an administrative secretary and worked her way up to a position with a higher ranking officer. Then it happened. At a Military Police dance she met Lou



Varos and knew this might be *The One*. So, she asked Lou if he'd been saved. He answered, "From what?" Thus began Jean's 45 year tumultuous relationship with the Catholic Church. Lou wouldn't become Baptist so she converted to Catholicism for the sake of unity. But, back in Virginia, her roots had been dug deep into Baptist soil in an area where no Catholic church existed but plenty of hatred towards Catholics did. Lil and her Dad (uncle) were furious that she'd "throw her life away on one of *Them*." This Dad, whom she loved, broke her heart when he wouldn't come to her Catholic wedding. After the army, Lou and Jean moved here, immediately joined St. Teresa's, and then had three kids, John (Greg), Andrea, and Jennifer.

Jean recalls that her middle years were full of a difficult kind of relationship to the Church. At times, she felt great resentment for the fact she was now Catholic. Her comforting Baptist ways had been replaced with strangeness. The Varos family bought a cottage on Pelee Island and began spending lots of time there. Jean began to run around with people who weren't grounded in religious values. Eventually, she decided that kind of living wasn't what she wanted. She needed to be "born again." But this time in the Catholic church—our church. She knew she had to find a way to be at peace with God at St. Teresa's. Jean joined the Altar and Rosary society and the rest, as they say, is history. She tells us, "There I met good women! These women are truly good. They are amazing because of that

goodness. It changed me. I realized I had never known any good women before. I think that if I had known some good women like these when I was a kid, my life would have been so very different."

For years now, Jean Varos has been an ardent supporter of the Altar and Rosary society and its various missions. She has chaired several of the major committees, including our recent summer fundraising event. She encourages everyone to pitch in, saying, "Belonging is a life-changer." With Lou, her loving and committed partner of over 55 years, she regularly attends the weekday Masses we have here at St. Teresa's. Now, she again has a personal relationship with Jesus. A relationship she depends on, just as she did as a child.

Jean knows that God's grace can work its way through all the confusion and all the muck that life too often has on offer. In Jean's case, we thank God for the Baptist Church and the good women of St. Teresa's Altar and Rosary Society. Within these God-centered communities, Jean Varos—with her characteristic feistiness—found a way to develop the best within herself. From scarred beginnings ripe for failure and despair, Jean created a life to be proud of. Hers is truly a life of triumph. When you get to know her, you're in for a treat. She'll have you in stitches when she speaks in her original southern hill country dialect. This petite and vivacious woman will encourage you to be the best that you can be. In fact—although she doesn't really know this—Jean Varos, herself, is now one of those *Good Women* of our Altar and Rosary Society.

### Support Through Prayer

**John 14:13-14** *Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.* **For Pope Francis, Fr. Smith, Fr. Becherer and all Bishops, Priests and Deacons; the intentions in our prayer basket; for those who are homebound, recovering from illness or surgery and those in nursing homes; for all those in elected office at the national, state and local levels; that we all pray daily for our country and a return to Jesus and His Gospel values,** in the name of Jesus. Amen

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## Feast Day Activities

### Feast Day Mass

All Masses

### Clam Bake Dinner

Save the Date: Saturday, October 15, 2016

A delicious clambake with all the trimmings will be offered. The perfect fall meal to celebrate St. Teresa's Feast Day.

*Details will be posted in the bulletin soon.*

#### **The night will also include:**

Music by Strukley & Cole

Dancing

Raffles

### Parish Raffle

Tickets will be sold prior to our Feast Day weekend.

First prize is \$1,000

Second Prize is \$250

Third Prize is \$100

Winning ticket will be drawn the week following the Feast Day

## Up Coming Parish Events!

### Bible Study

The 1st and 3rd Thursday of each Month

### Religious Formation

PSR: Tuesdays from 6–7:15 p.m.  
Classes begin September 20, 2016.  
Students need to be registered prior to the first class; forms available in church and the church office. Turn into the church office.

Confirmation: to begin this Fall

RCIA: to begin this Fall

*Watch the bulletin and our Parish website for details or call the office.*

### Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesdays from 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

### Volunteer at Food Pantry

2nd, 3rd & 4th Saturday/month 8:30 am–1 pm

Are you looking for ways to support and become more involved in our Parish Community?

- Pray! Spend time with Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration
- Bible Study—twice a month we learn and share God's living Word!
- Become a Eucharistic Minister, Lector or Altar Server
- Become a closer friend of Jesus in your personal prayer time everyday —He will show you the way!

### **Parish Life Center is for Rent**

**For information visit our website at [stteresaparish.com](http://stteresaparish.com) or call our office at 440-934-4227.**

For monthly Parish Committee meeting dates, visit our website at [www.stteresaparish.com](http://www.stteresaparish.com) or watch the bulletin for current dates/times.