

# Saint Teresa of Avila Catholic Church

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*In all talking and conversation let something be always said of spiritual things, and so shall all idle words and evil-speaking be avoided.*

*St. Teresa of Avila (1515-82)*

## Happy New Year—Let's Read the Bible

### *A Letter from Our Pastor*

Happy New Year! I don't usually make a big deal about New Year's Day because it seems like a rather arbitrary line in the sands of time. But the solar year is about 365.25 days long, so we need to set some point at which to acknowledge that we are beginning another year. There are of course other places to draw the line. Both the Jewish New Year and Chinese New Year are based on the lunar calendar.

The beginning of a new year is a good time to look back on the past year and look forward to the new one. I'm personally not very big on New Year's resolutions, but one thing that I plan to do more of in this New Year, and I propose you consider doing the same, is daily reading of the Bible. This would be a wonderful way for all Catholics to spiritually celebrate the Church's "Year of Faith".

Reading the Bible on a consistent basis is essential for a healthy spiritual life. You will **never** grow into a mature Catholic without regularly taking in the spiritual food of God's word. If you have never read through the entire Bible, why not make 2013 the year in which you change that?

Consistent Bible reading is a habit well worth forming. If you read the Bible every day for several months it can become a regular habit, and you will feel that something is missing if you don't do your reading on a particular day. I'm not talking about feeling guilty because you did something wrong, but rather the feeling of missing out on something familiar and enjoyable.

If you are just beginning to read the Bible I have some suggestions for you:

- Remember that some things will be unfamiliar to you. After you have read through the Bible a few times it will be easier to understand what is going on. You will begin to see the connections between different parts of Scripture. For example, the description of the new temple in Ezekiel is reminiscent of Exodus, and the end times prophecy in Daniel is closely related to Revelation.
- Feel free to skim quickly over the long genealogies or detailed descriptions of the construction of the temple. These might be worth careful study at some point, but don't feel guilty if

you want to skim over them at this point.

- Try to understand individual passages in the context of the over-arching story of the Bible: Creation–Fall–Redemption.
- Don't give up if you fall behind. Reading the Bible in one year is a great goal, but the most important thing is to read it. If it takes you 1.5 or 2 years to get through the Bible that is fine. Just read it!

Why not make 2013 the year in which you finally read the entire Bible? If you have already read through the Bible, why not do it again? You will always find something new or different that will challenge your view of the world and your faith.

**The Reverend Edward J. Smith**

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Pastor, St. Teresa of Avila

### Inside this issue:

What is the Year of Faith?	2
Cooking for the Overnight Shelter	2
Children's Masses	3
Father Vincent Capodanno	3
Upcoming Parish Events	4
Lent & Easter Schedule	4

## What is the Year of Faith?

*Reprinted from Cleveland Catholic Diocese Website*

*[www.dioceseofcleveland.org/yearoffaith](http://www.dioceseofcleveland.org/yearoffaith)*

On October 11, 2011, Pope Benedict XVI issued his Apostolic Letter entitled, *Porta Fidei*, announcing a "Year of Faith" to begin on October 11, 2012, the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council, and ending on the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King, on November 24, 2013. The starting date of October 11, 2012 also marks the twentieth anniversary of the publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

**The Pope wrote, "The 'door of faith' is always open for us, ushering us into the life of communion with God and offering entry into His Church."**



It is possible to cross that threshold when the Word of God is proclaimed and the heart allows itself to be shaped by transforming grace. To enter through the door is to set out on a journey that lasts a lifetime."

The upcoming Year of Faith declared by Pope Benedict is an opportunity for Catholics to experience a conversion – to deepen their faith through loving, to enlighten their minds through learning, and to enrich their experience of living their relationship with Jesus Christ in their parish community, with an eye to the wider connection to the Local Church and the Universal Church.

*More resources for the Year of Faith are available at*

*[www.dioceseofcleveland.org/yearoffaith](http://www.dioceseofcleveland.org/yearoffaith).*

## Cooking for the Overnight Shelter

*by Joan Gigliotti*

Since the early 2000's, cooks and bakers at St. Teresa of Avila Parish have been doing their part to help feed those in need at the St. Joseph Homeless Shelter at 317 West 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Lorain. The Shelter was first opened in 1995, and at that time, only offered coffee and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, as well as lunchmeat sandwiches to those in need. The service at the Shelter has since evolved.

Today, many volunteers help Shelter guests receive a hot meal every evening the facility is open. There are 24 different contact persons who coordinate the meals at the Shelter. These volunteers include individuals, families, businesses and church groups like St. Teresa of Avila. This endeavor currently involves over 535 people in the Lorain area.

Each group plans the menu, prepares the meals and delivers the meals to

the Shelter on their designated day. At St. Teresa of Avila, we provide meals on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Mondays of each month between October and April. Meals are prepared to feed at least 70 men, women and children who come to the Shelter for a warm meal.

St. Teresa volunteers divide into two groups, one which prepares meals at the Parish Life Center together then delivers the meals to the Shelter. The second group volunteers to prepare meals at their homes and deliver them to the parish to then be delivered to the Shelter on Monday afternoons. Menus vary as the main dishes prepared include chicken and dressing, chicken and dumplings, pork loin with mashed potatoes and gravy, baked chicken with mashed potatoes and gravy, Swedish meatballs with egg noodles and gravy, beef stew, ziti with meat sauce, ham chunks with scalloped potatoes, and

Polish chili for New Year's Eve. Along with the main dish, salads, dinner rolls and a variety of pastries and desserts complete each week's menu.

Meals deliveries are made on Monday afternoons. Shelter workers greet those delivering the meals with a big smile and a "God bless you". **Often, persons waiting to receive a meal will thank you as well.** Volunteers leave the Shelter even more blessed, knowing that someone will eat a warm meal that night because of the small effort of those of us already blessed. According to Barb Reichlin at the St. Joe's Shelter, "the prepared meals which come to feed the homeless men, women and children staying at St. Joseph Shelter are a true blessing to us."

*If you are interested in helping with the ongoing effort at St. Teresa of Avila Parish, please contact Joan Gigliotti at [joangig@adelphia.net](mailto:joangig@adelphia.net).*

## Children's Masses

by Christine Sherry

**D**o you know whose idea it was to have the Children's Masses? The idea actually came from Emily Ackerman when she was in the fourth grade! She said to her father, John, that it would be nice if the children could be more involved in the Masses. John says that led to a meeting with Fr. Bob Franco, our pastor at the time, and a group of other parishioners. They discussed the idea and decided to have the children do the readings, the petitions, take up the collection, and carry up the gifts. They also decided to have the Masses every six weeks.

The plan was to have children in grades three and up perform the various roles but that quickly changed to having children in kindergarten and up. The youngest children typically carry up the gifts and the older children do the readings. Initially all the Children's Masses were planned for the 11 am Mass, except for the Christmas Vigil Mass at 4:30 pm. After a few years, we started

rotating between the 9 and 11 am Masses. We haven't had any at the 4:30 pm Mass because so few children attended it.

John Ackerman was the lead adult for the Children's Masses until this year. With Emily now a senior and his youngest, Lauren, in eighth grade it was time to let someone else be the lead. If this is something you would be interested in doing, please contact the rectory! Right now, we have different adults handling different Masses.

In preparing this article, I asked the PSR children a number of questions. Here's some of their responses:

**What is your favorite part of the Children's Masses?** Reading, seeing the young kids bring up the gifts, I like everything, learning about Jesus, receiving Communion, singing the songs, hearing the kids read from the Bible, seeing new people

**What part do you like to help with?** Bring up the gifts, passing the basket, reading in front of people, being a server, being an usher.

When asked why they think it's important for us to have the Children's Masses, the overwhelming answer was it helps them learn more about Jesus and more about the Mass. It gives them the opportunity to try different roles and see what they might like to continue doing. It engages them, making Mass more meaningful to them.

When asked for suggestions on improving the children's Masses, one student answered: have more first and second collections! Guess someone sees the need for more donations or maybe just the opportunity for them to participate more! Another student suggested the children could sing a special song. Two students suggested that Fr. Smith talk to the kids. A couple of kids suggested having an ice cream party after Mass.

## Servant of God Father Vincent Capodanno

by Tom Parkey

**G**reater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Of all the words our Lord gave us, few are as hard as this. Jesus knew that only the holiest among us would ever be able to live up to them as He did. Many of the saints did. One who did, and who is not officially a saint yet, is Father Vincent Capodanno. Father C, as his Marines called him, was a Navy chaplain in Viet Nam, serving with the 1st Marine Division. As the chaplain for a combat battalion, LT Capodanno was expected to remain with the command post when his unit was engaged in battle if he was in the field at all. Instead, **Father Capodanno was committed to taking his place alongside his Marines.**

Wherever the action was heaviest, Father Capodanno would be found. Knowing this, the Marines who served with him did their best to look out for him, but in his zeal to serve Christ and them, he would put himself where there would be no way they could. During the battle of Dong Son in September 1967, his unit faced some of the most intense combat of the war. Moving among the wounded, Father Capodanno selflessly put his duty to administer the sacrament of last rites to the dying before his own life. Though severely wounded, he refused to be evacuated. While rushing to the aid of a wounded corpsman, Father Capodanno was himself cut down. His body was found to have 27 bullet wounds when it was finally recovered from the battlefield. Father Capodanno was posthumously awarded the Con-

gressional Medal of Honor.

**The road to canonization is long, and "Servant of God" is the first of the steps on the path.** However, there are many firsthand witnesses to his work, and some of their words are absolutely amazing to read. I strongly encourage you to check out these websites to read some of their testimony to this incredible priest.

<http://www.vincentcapodanno.org>

<http://www.catchingthespirit.net/capodanno.htm>

<http://www.combatwife.net/memcapodanno.htm>

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**We're on the Web!**  
[www.stteresaparish.com](http://www.stteresaparish.com)

## Up Coming Parish Events!

### Religious Formation

**PSR:** Tuesdays from 6—7:15 p.m.

**RCIA:** Sundays from 10:15—11:30 a.m.

### Confirmation

Sundays from 9—11:00 a.m. at St. Teresa

**Retreat Day:** Saturday, February 2, 2013,  
10 a.m.—5:30 p.m.

**Rehearsal:** Sunday, February 17 @ 11 a.m.

**Confirmation is Sunday, February 24 at  
11 a.m. at St. Teresa Church**

*Schedules are in the bulletin and on our  
Parish website.*

### Children's Masses

February 3 at 9 a.m. & March 17 at 11 a.m.

### Food Pantry Donations

Donations taken 1st Weekend/month

January 5/6, February 2/3 & March 2/3

### Coffee and Donuts

Sunday, February 24 after all Masses

### Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

### The Edge—Youth Ministry

**Saturday, January 12 :** “Teen Mass” 5  
p.m. at Holy Spirit

**January 24 & 25:** “March for Life”

**Sunday, February 3:** “Youth Night” at St.  
Teresa

**Sunday, March 3:** “Teen Mass” at Noon at  
Holy Spirit

*See bulletin/website for complete schedule*

### Volunteer at Food Pantry

3rd Saturday/month 9 am—1 pm

January 19, February 16 & March 16

### Lent & Easter

**Ash Wednesday is February 13, 2013:**

Ashes distributed at Noon  
Mass with distribution of Ashes at 7 p.m.

**Stations of the Cross on Friday eve-  
nings during Lent.**

**Fish Fry Fridays during Lent:**  
4:30—7 p.m.

**Palm Sunday:** March 24, 2013

**Mass of the Lord's Supper:** March 28, 7  
p.m.

**Good Friday:** Celebration of the Lord's  
Passion at Noon, Stations at 3 p.m.

**Easter Vigil:** Saturday, March 30 at 8:30  
p.m.

**Easter Sunday Mass:** 9 & 11 a.m.

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