

A soft, painterly illustration of a nativity scene. The background is a warm, golden glow, suggesting a sunrise or a light source behind the figures. In the center, the silhouettes of Mary and Joseph are visible, with the infant Jesus lying in a manger. To the right, a camel is partially visible, and to the left, a donkey. The overall mood is peaceful and reverent.

CHRISTMAS 2024

PEACE ON EARTH

Church of St. Therese

6262 Main Street, Gloucester, VA 23061

804-693-5939 www.stthersglo.org

DECEMBER 22, 2024**MASSES AND INTENTIONS****Saturday, December 21st**

5:00 p.m. For the People

Sunday, December 22nd

8:00 a.m. Connie Francis

by Ed and Joanne Kizer

10:30 a.m. Salvatore Leone, Jr.

by Rosalia Leone

Monday, December 23rd

12:00 p.m. No Mass

Tuesday, December 24th

5:00 p.m. Theresa Allen by Floyd Allen

9:00 p.m. For the People

Wednesday, December 25th

10:00 a.m. For the People

Thursday, December 26th

12:00 p.m. No Mass

Friday, December 27th

12:00 p.m. No Mass

Saturday, December 28th

5:00 p.m. For the People

Sunday, December 29th

8:00 a.m. Ronald and Betty Jo Shalaski

by Ed and Joanne Kizer

10:30 a.m. Philip and Anna Fostek

by George Grabenstetter

Sacrament Chapel vase flowers are a perpetual living memorial for Anna Lupei.

Tabernacle Candle shines in loving memory of Alberto Alfaro.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL – Has anyone ever asked you if you've accepted Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior? And if you have, how do you share that personal faith with others? On **December 22**, between the morning Masses (starting about 9:15 a.m.), Father Gregory will present on **Personal Faith and Mission** in the Meeting Room. Like good Catholics, BYOB: bring your own Bible! All are welcome, Catholic or not!

BINGO – There will be no BINGO on December 24th and 31st.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD – Children's Liturgy of the Word is available during the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Children, ages 3 to 2nd grade are invited. Please contact Nadine McGrady for more information.

MORNING BIBLE STUDY – Our group meets on Thursday mornings from 10:15-11:45 a.m. in the Meeting Room. New participants are always welcome and may join the group at any time. For more information, please call Sid Dugas at 804-642-5869 or email at spdugas@cox.net. or call Kim Green at 804-824-1073 or email at kwg853@yahoo.com.

FOOD PANTRY – Please continue giving to the Food Pantry. The shopping cart is in the Social Hall. Please note their new addresses as well.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS – Knights of Columbus Council gathers on the First and Third Thursdays of the month. Rosary is at 7:00 p.m. and a meeting is to follow. BYOK!!!

THE THERESIAN SOCIETY – The Theresians thank all the Bakers, Buyers, and Biters who helped make our Big Winter Bake Sale fundraiser a success. Your help made this event possible; THANK YOU! If this sparked your interest, come to the Social Hall for our next meeting, Friday, January 3rd, and learn more about us. The meeting starts at 10:00 a.m. preceded by a social time at 9:30 a.m. We'll be welcoming the New Year after the Rosary (11:15 a.m.) and the Noon Mass.

JUSTICE AND CHARITY

Thank You to everyone who helped with our Christmas projects! The boxes for cards, shampoo and soap for the inmates were full. The Knights of Columbus purchased postage stamps. The Theresians donated the cost for the purchase of one pair of socks for each inmate. Bingo proceeds from the 50/50 raffle went for Christmas candy. Thirty-four gift bags were stuffed full of joy for the children of migrant workers on the Eastern Shore. Seventeen children in our community received gifts from our parishioners. The generosity of our parish has brought happiness to many people in need.

The GUEST Homeless Shelter – needs our help. Volunteers are needed for the Night Shelter. Night Shelter will be held at different churches rotating to a new location each week. The Day Shelter will be open 7 days a week, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. during the winter. Volunteers are needed to help staff the Day Shelter, especially on weekends. If you are willing to volunteer, you can sign up at guestshelter.org, call GUEST at 804-792-5046 or contact Ann Foster at anntgfoster@gmail.com. Training opportunities will be coming in the near future. Anything you can do to help would be greatly appreciated.

A brief training session for anyone able to volunteer at the GUEST shelters for the homeless will be held at St. Therese on Sunday, January 12 at 12:30 p.m. The training is required of all volunteers. If you prefer to do online training, call GUEST at 804-792-5046 for information.

TRUE LIFE IN GOD PRAYER GROUP – Please join us for Bible readings, saying the Rosary, meditation, and sharing. Our main purpose is to pray for Christian Unity as our Holy Father Pope Francis has asked of us. Point of Contact is Trudy Vanderhoof. You may reach her at btcentauri@aol.com. We meet the 1st Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. at the church in the library.

CALLING ALL PARISHIONERS TO SERVE IN LITURGICAL MINISTRIES! Prayerfully consider which of the liturgical ministries you are drawn to. We need USHERS, LECTORS, EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS, MASS COORDINATORS. We need adults and children for the ALTAR SERVER ministry. If we have more people involved in these ministries, serving won't fall to the same dedicated ministers every week. Contact Kerry Fallon in the office at 804-693-5939 or email k.fallon@stthersglo.org.

THE FOUR PILLARS OF OUR FAITH – Join the Adult Faith Formation team for a study of the second pillar of our faith: The Sacraments. We will begin in January for 12 weeks on Saturdays from, **3:00-4:30 p.m.** You can order the workbook yourself through AscensionPress.com (click on "Bible Studies" and scroll down to "Pillar 2: The Sacraments"), or Kerry Fallon can order the book for you. Please contact Kerry Fallon in the office or via email, k.fallon@stthersglo.org.

GIVE THE GIFT OF LOVE – Prayer shawls are available to gift for the holidays, holy days, birthdays and more. Slippers are now available and hats and scarves are on the way! Each is crafted with the prayer that the recipient knows they are loved not only by the giver but by our Lord, Jesus Christ. Contact Nadine McGrady at N.McGrady@StThersGlo.org or 804-693-5939, ext.3 for special orders or for more information.

LET EVERY HEART PREPARE HIM ROOM! Children, do you like to sing to Jesus? Well, this invite is for YOU and ALL adults who want to join our Christmas Choir during December 24th and December 25th Christmas Masses. The final rehearsal will be December 23rd at 10:00 a.m., which you must attend if you did not attend the first rehearsal. A list of songs is available on top of the organ in the Sanctuary. Contact Beverly with any questions: musicministry@stthersglo.org.

MUSIC IS WHAT FEELINGS SOUND LIKE... The Music Ministry is seeking a skilled pianist to play at Masses/liturgical services and church music programs. If you have a passion for sacred music, and feel moved to be part of a dynamic ministry, contact Beverly Sabourin at 757-817-3698/musicministry@stthersglo.org.

JOY TO THE WORLD! Celebrate this Christmas with the children of our church, as they present, *The Christmas Story*, on **December 22nd at 3:00 p.m.** Doors open at 2:45 p.m. Refreshments will be provided after the program. A box for the **Bread for Life** food bank will be set up to accept any donations you are able to give, prior to the performance; donations will be presented to the food bank from the children of St. Therese – thank you for helping the children in “the giving to others.”

YOUTH MINISTRY

Church of St. Therese Youth Ministry, Grades 6-12, Sundays from 12:00 Noon to 1:30 p.m. at the YLC.

YOUTH MINISTRY JANUARY CALENDAR

- Students meet at the YLC all 4 Sundays
- Saturday, January 18 – Service Project – Clothes Closet at Newington Church
- Friday, January 24 – Movie Night
- Wednesday, January 29 – Adoration

YOUTH MINISTRY FUNDRAISER

The youth will be accepting donations to offset the cost of attendance at the Diocesan Youth Conference to be held in February of 2025.



Congratulations to **Noah Patullo** for winning the Knights of Columbus Citizenship Essay Contest. Noah received a certificate and monetary award from Tim Brown, Grand Knight on Sunday during Faith Formation class. Noah's essay will now be forwarded to the Regional competition. Good Luck, Noah. So proud of your work!

BASKET OF GOODIES DRAWING

The basket is located in the Commons. Please enter your name and phone number and place in the box. The drawing will be held December 23rd, just in time for Christmas!

ST. THERESE HAITI TWINNING MISSION UPDATE

To date, St. Therese has sent Fr. Richardson \$4,000 (equal to approximately \$540,000 Haitian dollars) to support the salaries of the elementary school teachers and staff. The committee's goal is to send Fr. Richardson \$12,000 per year; \$4,000 every March, July, and November.

Our first order of bricks has arrived to the church. The second order of bricks has been placed and will arrive soon. To date, our parishioners have purchased approximately 35 bricks. We are truly blessed!

Bricks will be set in the garden area to the left of the front entrance.

Engraved bricks will make great Christmas presents. Although the bricks will not arrive in time for Christmas, we will give you a card with a picture of your engraved brick to wrap.

Bricks can be ordered at: <https://polarengraving.com/stthersglo>

How can you support this mission?

1. Purchase a brick on our “Haiti Twinning Mission” brick fundraising program.
2. Donate on the “Giving” page on the church website.

Future fundraising programs:

- A 50/50 “Drawn Down” event
- Haitian-made items for sale **this weekend**

If you have any questions, please contact a committee member. Members include: Walter and Barbara Priest, Marion Scott, Linda Gregory, Michael Weathers, Dennis Tate, Charlie Patullo and Ann Foster.

God Bless.



2024 ADVENT SCHEDULE

December 22 – Fourth Sunday of Advent
 December 22 – Christmas Music Program at 3:00 p.m.
 December 24 – Christmas Eve Masses at 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.
 December 25 – Christmas Day Mass at 10:00 a.m.



PLEASE UPDATE YOUR PARISH REGISTRATION INFORMATION

– We appreciate having your current information on file, including telephone numbers added or deleted, address updates and existing household members. Call the office and confirm your data as we have several folks with outdated land line phone numbers and no current way to reach out. Thanks for your cooperation!

OFFICE CLOSURE

The Parish Office will be closed December 23-27 for the Christmas holiday.

YEAR-END DONATIONS – The Holy Spirit brought the early Church alive by giving individuals gifts that would sustain the Church. By sharing your gifts, you can keep the Church alive for years to come. If you're at least 70 ½ years old, you can make a "tax-reducing" gift today through an IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). It doesn't create taxable income for you, but it can count towards your required minimum distribution. Plus, it will help you feel good about giving to our parish because we can put your gift to use right away in providing financial support to our ministries.

YOUR 2025 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES are available in the Social Hall on the white cabinet to the left. Thank you so much for your continued support! They will be out until December 29. Please call Deb at 804-693-5939 to pick yours up after that.

OUR MOST SACRED TREASURE

Annual Operating Budget Fiscal Year 24/25: \$699,286.00
Amount needed per week to maintain budget is \$13,447.81

December 8, 2024

Actual Plate Contributions: \$4,430.00

E-giving: \$5,956.00

Other Contributions: \$2,618.50

Weekly Grand Total: \$13,004.50

Weekend Mass Count: 331

2nd Collection Schedule

December 24/25 – Catholic Charities



Please use the QR code for Mobile giving.



The Trudeau Family

Floyd Allen in Memory of Theresa Allen, The Allen and Joannes families & Gary Coffie

Edwina Fitzpatrick in Memory of the Confroy-Fitzpatrick families

Pat and Zol Molnar

Carl and Kim Greene

Virginia and Mark Carrington in Memory of Gunther/Carrington family and friends

Becky Weatherly

Marge Jones

Linda Conway in Memory of the Kolano and Conway families

Elizabeth Onesty

Tom and Rowena Fauber for Luy and Fauber families

Rebecca Snyder Dirosa in Memory of Carl and Pat Snyder

Carolyn Hoover in Memory of John Hoover, Jerome Hoover, the Schwabe family and Marianne Paterson

The Sinisi family

Stephen and Donna Raschke

Leisa Strosnider

The Bernard family

Tony Byser in Memory of Tony and Sophia Byser, Amelia Byser, 1st Lt. J.J. Byser and Cpl. J.L. Zelaski

Don Toddy

The Kochanski family

Anthony Carambia

Trudy Vanderhoof

Mike and Ann Foster

Jim and Phyllis Hall

Carl and Patricia Shaw

Mary Stoddard

Trudy Terry

The Pray Family

Patricia Skurkis

Alyssa Joppich

Wilfredo & Olivia Platon

Allen & Denise Canada in Memory of Paul Bell and Dora Long

Ruth Hartkopf in Memory of Carl Hartkopf

Rosa Rodriguez

Jim and Kathy Gierlak

Mark Molnar
Joan and Jose Garcia
Tim and Janet Brown
Jerry and Karen Gustin
Doris C. Chapman for the D. Chapman family
Cathie Sobieski in Memory of Thomas and Rose Sobieski & Skip Pray
Joanne Kizer in Memory of Shalaski and Kizer families
Hilarie Hicks in Memory of Earl and Helen Hicks & Margaret Clancy
Nancy Gunn
Jim and Monique Raposa
Michael Weathers
Milton and Bonnie Campo in Memory of Moran and Campo families
Peter Roane and Michele Skarvelis
Susan Sparacia in Memory of Tony Sparacia
Anthony and Joan Gattuso
Beverly and Lee Moore and family

The Church of St. Therese would like to thank the above parishioners for contributing towards the beautiful poinsettias in the Sanctuary for our Christmas celebration.

