

St. Therese Parish

2017 Guide Book and Directory



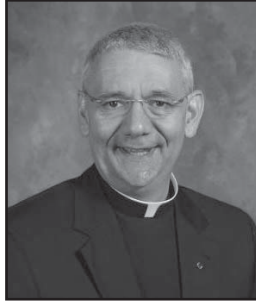
7207 NW Highway 9
Kansas City, MO 64152

816-741-2800



St. Therese Parish

7207 Northwest Highway 9, Kansas City, MO 64152-2997



Dear friends,

St. Therese is a wonderful parish and I have been blessed to be assigned here three times in my life as a priest. What makes it great is the fine, generous people here.

This guidebook/directory is a valuable tool to assist you with one of our greatest assets - - our people. It also lists the many ministries that take place here. Please note the businesses that help make this resource possible.

Together, may we live lives of intentional faith in every "little way."

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joe Cisetti".

Reverend Joseph I. Cisetti
Pastor



Father Randolph Sly
Associate Pastor

St. Therese Vision Statement

**We envision a community where all witness the
Real Presence of Christ in every "little way."**

St. Therese Parish

7207 Northwest Highway 9, Kansas City, Missouri 64152-2997

Parish Office.....	816-741-2800
Fax	816-741-4959
Education & Parish Center	816-741-5400
Fax	816-741-0533
Early Education Center	816-746-1500
Religious Education Office	816-741-5400, ext. 107
St. Vincent de Paul Society.....	816-741-8661

Business Hours

Parish Office:

Open Monday through Friday 8:00-4:00

(Closed for prayer/staff meeting - Wednesdays 1:15-3:00)

AFTER HOUR EMERGENCIES - 741-2800, SELECT OPTION 5

Please listen to entire message for detailed information

Education & Parish School Office:

Open Monday through Friday 7:30-3:30

(Summer hours vary so call in advance)

Early Education Center:

Open Monday through Friday 6:30-6:00

Religious Education Office:

Open Wednesday 12:00-8:30

(Voicemail and email checked daily for messages)

St. Vincent de Paul Office:

Open Monday through Friday 9:30-12:00

Parish Home Page

www.sttheresenorth.org (parish website)

with links to the church, school,

early education, youth and R.E. programs

sttherese@sttheresenorth.org (general mailbox)

WEEKEND LITURGY

Saturday at 4:30 PM

Sunday at 8:00 and 10:00 AM, 12:00 and 5:00 PM

WEEKDAY LITURGY

Monday - Saturday 8:30 AM

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 6:30 AM and 8:30 AM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Individual Celebration:

Wednesday from 8:00-8:20 AM

Saturday from 3:00 to 4:15 PM and by appointment

Communal Celebration: Offered during Advent and Lent

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Monday through Friday 9:00 AM until 10:00 PM, in the Adoration Chapel.

(Closed New Year's Day, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Memorial Day,

Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day)

Parish Devotions

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

On the First Friday of each month from the close of 8:30 AM Mass until 12:00 PM in church

Rosary Recitation

Monday through Saturday in church beginning at 7:55 AM; Sundays at 7:25 AM

Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Monday through Saturday, in church at 7:50 AM

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena

Tuesdays, after the 8:30 AM Mass

Stations of the Cross

Friday mornings (except First Friday), following the 8:30 AM Mass

Divine Mercy Devotion in Song

Friday in church at 7:00 PM

First Friday Prayers

On the First Friday of each month following 8:30 AM in church

First Saturday Prayers

On the First Saturday of each month following 8:30 AM in church

First Sunday Prayers

On the First Sunday of each month from 2:30-4:00 in the Adoration Chapel

Open Adoration

On the First Sunday of each month from 6:00-7:30 in church

General Information

PARISH REGISTRATION

Parish registration is available in several ways. Registration packets are available in the Welcome Center and Gathering Space or in the Parish Office. They may be mailed to you by calling the Parish Office, or you may register online at the parish website. If you are over 25 years of age and still listed your parents file, please register on your own.

RESTROOMS

Women's and Men's restrooms are located down the hallway on the left corridor off the Gathering Space, (near the cry room) as well as on the lower level of church (Wooldridge Center), at the bottom of the stairs.

CRY ROOM

The cry room is located at the end of the hallway near the Women's restroom, down the left corridor off the Gathering Space.

CHILDCARE DURING MASS

Complimentary childcare during 10:00 AM Mass is available in the Early Education Center. Enter the west school entrance, closest to 9 Highway. No age restrictions or registration is required.

LOST AND FOUND

Marked cabinets and drawers in the Usher's Room store lost and misplaced items. The Usher's Room is located down the right corridor off the Gathering Space. These items are purged annually in the fall.

OUR LADY'S GIFT SHOP

The gift shop, located down the right corridor off the Gathering Space, is open before and after all weekend Masses.

AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR

The church AED is located in the Gathering Space, along the south wall. Training for this, as well as for CPR, is provided regularly through the parish.

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St. Therese Parish Staff

816-741-2800 / 816-741-4959 (fax)

(If you call after hours, please follow the prompts to leave a voicemail message)

PASTOR	Rev. Joseph I. Ciseti	ext. 236
jciseti@sttheresenorth.org		
ASSOCIATE PASTOR	Rev. Randolph Sly	ext. 218
rsly@sttheresenorth.org		
DEACON	Tony Zimmerman	816-741-4066
tonybarbz@prodigy.net		
DEACON	Doug Warrens	ext. 212
dwarrens@sttheresenorth.org		
BUSINESS MANAGER	Jonathan Rhodes	ext. 217
jrhodes@sttheresenorth.org		
BOOKKEEPER	Barbara Volz	ext. 237
bvolz@sttheresenorth.org		
COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR	Tressa Collins	ext. 221
tcollins@sttheresenorth.org		
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	Donna Patti	ext. 211
dpatti@sttheresenorth.org		
MUSIC DIR/LITURGY COORDINATOR	Karen Engebretson	ext. 258
kengebretson@sttheresenorth.org		
PASTORAL ASSOCIATE	Susan Tomelleri	ext. 213
stomelleri@sttheresenorth.org		
ART & ENVIRONMENT	Nancy Borman	
nborman@sttheresenorth.org		
RITE of CHRISTIAN INITIATION of ADULTS (RCIA) ..	Doug Warrens	ext. 212
dwarrens@sttheresenorth.org		
DIR of STEWARDSHIP/DEVELOPMENT	Annette Teson	ext. 219
ateson@sttheresenorth.org		
DIR. of YOUTH MINISTRY/CONFIRMATION COORDINATOR	Tim Volk 741-5400, ext. 119	
tvolk@sttheresenorth.org		
DIR. of BUILDING & GROUNDS	Jeff McKinney 741-5400, ext. 412	
jmckinney@sttheresenorth.org		

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE

816-741-5400, ext. 107

Director - Grades 1-5.....	Jennifer Davis	ext. 107
jdavis@sttheresenorth.org		
Director of Edge - Grades 6-8.....	Tim Volk	ext. 119
tvolk@sttheresenorth.org		
Preschool Director - 4 & 5 yr. olds.....	Julie Parnell	741-2707

EDUCATION & PARISH STAFF

816-741-5400 / Fax 816-741-0533

PRINCIPAL	Carol Lenz	ext. 104
clenz@sttheresenorth.org		
VICE-PRINCIPAL	Theresa Roth	ext. 105
troth@sttheresenorth.org		
SECRETARY	Teri Jo Garitz	ext. 106
tjgaritz@sttheresenorth.org		

RECEPTIONISTKim Mc Connellext. 100
 kmcconnell@sttheresenorth.org
CAFETERIA MANAGER.....Joe Evanoext. 410
 jevano@sttheresenorth.org

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 dmccconnell@sttheresenorth.org

EARLY EDUCATION CENTER

816-746-1500 / Fax 816-741-0533

CENTER DIRECTOR..... Kelly Carroll kcarroll@sttheresenorth.org
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR..... Autumn Burton aburton@sttheresenorth.org
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTJulie Carnes jcarnes@sttheresenorth.org

Parish History

Driving up Highway 9 in Southern Platte County, two miles north of the small, century-old town of Parkville, is the community of St. Therese Catholic Church and School. Established in 1950, it has grown from a small congregation of 75 people to a parish of over 3,000 families. In the past 50 years, the parish has encountered the many challenges facing any large organization. With new companies relocating employees within the parish boundaries and established businesses occasionally laying off personnel, the parish sees an average of 50 families being added or dropped on a monthly basis.

The formal establishment of St. Therese Parish was authorized by Bishop LeBlond after careful consideration. He sent Fr. Thomas Brett, who celebrated the first official Mass on Easter Sunday, April 9th, 1950, in the chapel of the former Leland Francis Funeral Home, now the Heritage Funeral Home. The families were delighted with their first pastor, as his goal was to have a permanent church, with room for future expansion. The present property, consisting of 12-13 acres, was purchased from Noble Johnson, a former Platte Countian. The acreage was perfect - setting high, with a beautiful view and room to grow. Plans were made and the first of several groundbreaking ceremonies were held on February 11, 1951, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. The first building was the parish center, with a church and school located upstairs, and nun's quarters downstairs. This original building served for 20 years as the church.

Though most of the people were poor, they were strong in spirit. They struggled and sacrificed to give their children a Catholic education. No child was refused into the school and the number of Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth teaching at the school climbed as the parish grew rapidly. Expansion was on the minds of many. A convent was built in 1955 to house the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, and later the Sisters of Francis of Savannah came to St. Therese. Eventually both orders left as a result of a decline in the number of those entering the religious teaching order. Peak growth between 1973 and 1976 commanded that additional space be built to the school. In 1977, a new wing added 11,000 sq. ft. allowing for 6 classrooms, library, administrative offices, faculty and music rooms, as well as religious offices.

The next expansion to the complex, in 1965, included a rectory for the resident priests, which at one time housed as many as five priests and a housekeeper. Just as Platte County experienced steady growth, so did the parish. There became a real need for a new church, as the gym was small and inadequate and needed for what it was - a gym. A church, seating about 650 persons, was dedicated on March 12, 1972 by Bishop Helmsing. Little did anyone realize then that within another 20 years, this facility would again be outgrown.

With the increase in outside-the-home working mothers, the need arose for loving, Christian childcare. A three-story building, housing a Child Care Center, Pre-School and Kindergarten classrooms and meeting space was added in 1991. The Early Education Center, as it is now called, has grown steadily in enrollment reaching a capacity of 260 children.

The Catholics of Southern Platte County have shown persistence and determination as they have continued to strive for a place to worship and education their children. Today, the parish of the "Little Flower," as St. Therese is sometimes known, is extremely large, encompassing the entire southern half of Platte County.

After a couple of years of overflow Masses the time had come to decide on the future of the St. Therese community - divide the area and start another parish or build to accommodate the crowds. After research, discussions and several Town Hall meetings, the decision was made to build on the present grounds. The convent was eliminated and a new 1,500 seat church was constructed. All anticipated with great pride and joy the dedication and blessing of the new worship space by Bishop Raymond Boland on January 14, 1998.

Planning for the future was at the forefront of many minds, as a diocesan-wide millennium study and the arrival of a new century showed that Platte County was still in line with anticipated growth. Needless to say, expansion was a high priority. Families faced with the thought of limited Catholic education, pushed for improvement and some type of development.

Again, Town Hall meetings and gatherings provided insight to what many wanted - a NEW SCHOOL!! Excitement was building with groundbreaking underway in July of 2002. Plans called for the first phase to be completed for the start of the 2003 school year. Final occupancy took place in December of 2003. Eventually, demolition included the elimination of several buildings - the old church, school, and rectory - making a property regrade possible to accommodate additional parking. The following year, a central fountain was placed in the courtyard, located where the old church was.

Many outstanding pastors and associates have served our parish family since its founding. Among them - Msgr. Thomas Brett, founding Pastor; Msgr. Denis A. O'Duignan; Msgr. Victor G. Moser; Rev. Frank Lackamp; Rev. T. James Hart; Rev. Michael Roach and our present pastor Rev. Joseph I. Cisetti, who has been an associate several times.

Serving as associate pastors have been; Rev. Bernard Branson; Rev. Lloyd Opoka; Rev. Lawrence Walsh, J.J.; Rev. Francis McGlynn; Rev. Terry Bruce; Rev. James Healy; Rev. David Schwartz; Rev. Harold Powell; Rev. Rick Dierkes; Rev. Michael Roach; Rev. Jerry Schuster; Rev. Bradley Offutt; Rev. Francis Carey; Rev. Michael Arciga; Rev. John McCormack; Rev. Philip Watanabe; Rev. Joseph Cisetti; Rev. Justin Hoyer; Rev. Duc Nguyen; Rev. Evan Harkins; Rev. Kevin Drew; Rev. Patrick Tobin and currently assisting is Rev. Randolph Sly. With a parish of this size, as with any large institution, it may seem difficult to have a personal congregation, but the various clubs and organizations, numbering around 50, attempt to bring people together in Christian activities. Making Platte County a better place to live is what many St. Therese parishioners strive for - many through their works and deeds, while others succeed through their words and prayers. All in all, the people that belong to St. Therese are a dedicated group: sincere and devout, they are as intent as their predecessors to give themselves and their children the best they can. We live out this mission through our prayer, worship and ministry.



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Administrative Community Pastoral Council

This group assists and advises the Pastor, primarily through the development and implementation of a parish vision and a Pastoral Plan. The Pastoral Plan is aimed at achieving long-term strategic goals that focus on enhancing the Seven Essential Elements of Parish Life - Community, Liturgy, Faith Formation, Stewardship, Leadership, Pastoral/Social Ministry and Spiritual. The Pastoral Council gathers information from throughout the parish, its ministries, and its parishioners to develop the strategic goals and the objectives that will help the parish achieve them. This information also assists the Finance Committee in developing annual budgets.

The Pastoral Council meets twice a month, typically on the first and third Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:30 PM in the Birkel Meeting Room. Council members are selected through a process of discernment and must be willing to make a 3 -year commitment. The current council members are Marilee Altenhofen, Julie Carnes, Pam Devling, Jo Dixon, Kathe Menown, Mary Noland, and Michael Rucereito. If you would like to discuss an issue with the Pastoral Council, feel free to contact any member or the Parish Office.

Finance Committee

This committee meets monthly to review fiscal matters of the parish and school. Periodically, they report to the parishioners and school families on such matters. In July, they review and approve the Annual Finance Report which is submitted to the diocese. Its members serve in an advisory capacity to the Pastor and Business Manager. Current members, serving 3-year terms are: Linda Braun-Anderson, Dale Chaney, Dan Cummings, Brad Grill, Joe Mandacina, and Ann McCoy.

Facility Scheduling

A parish-wide calendar is maintained through the Education & Parish Center and Parish Office to ensure coordination and communication of all parish events and activities. To assist with scheduling meeting space in the Church and Wooldridge Center, (Library, Birkel Meeting Room or large space), contact **Donna Patti** in the Parish Office at 741-2800, ext. 211 or dpatti@sttheresenorth.org.

Scheduling for rooms in the Education & Parish Center or Early Education Center may be placed through **Kim McConnell** at kmccConnell@sttheresenorth.org, or 741-5400, ext. 100.

Bulletin - The weekly parish bulletin is a tool for providing information and faith formation in (and beyond) our parish. **Printed without cost** to St. Therese (the expense is covered by the ads taken through the publisher/printer by local businesses and benefactors), the “deadline” for submitting requests to the bulletin is Friday afternoon, 8 days before the publication date. If you would like more information about how to submit articles, contact Tressa Collins at 741-2800, ext. 221 or tcollins@sttheresenorth.org

Prayers for Sick Bulletin List - The names of those listed in the bulletin are **parishioners** who have requested prayers for **themselves only**. This list is added to or removed from periodically, based on the improved health of the parishioner. A call to the Parish Office must be made by the individual or family member, to comply with HIPAA guidelines. Prayer requests for friends and family members who are not parishioners will be forwarded to the intercessory prayer chain.

Intercessory Prayer - A large group participate in this ministry, receiving prayer requests via phone or email and start praying for this intention. Prayer is in private and with whatever time you can give and no request is too small or too big for Jesus. He has answered many prayers and blessed not only those who are prayed for, but for the person praying as well. If you have a prayer need or would like to join this ministry call **Virginia Smith**, 587-9837 or email requests to **Anna Livojevich**, livojevichanna@gmail.com.

Sacramental Prep

Baptism - The Baptismal Preparation class is held on the THIRD MONDAY of the month, at 7:00 PM in the Birkel Meeting Room. (There is no class in December.) This class prepares parents for the Sacrament of Initiation. First-time parents are required to attend. Parents who have had over a 3-year interval between baptisms are encouraged to attend. Baptisms are scheduled on Saturday, following the 4:30 PM and on Sunday, following the 12:00 PM Mass. To register for the class or to schedule a baptism, contact **Susan Tomelleri**, 741-2800, ext. 213.

First Communion & Reconciliation - These sacraments are typically prepared for and celebrated by children in second grade, both those attending St. Therese School and those in the Religious Education program. Preparation is shared between the parents and the child's religious formation class. Children in grades three through eight, who are baptized Catholic but have not yet received these sacraments, will receive instruction from parents in the home also and through a special class in the Religious Education program. Preparation for First Reconciliation begins in the fall and is received by children when parents determine they have sufficient knowledge and understanding of the sacrament. Preparation for First Eucharist begins in January and the celebrations are held during weekend liturgies throughout the Easter season. Parents assist in the preparation of these sacraments by attending adult formation sessions to receive catechesis on these sacraments. For questions or to register, contact **Jennifer Davis** at jdavis@sttheresenorth.org or 741-5400, ext. 107.

Confirmation - Is a Sacrament of Initiation and completes Baptism. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are increased to provide the strength to live out God's call to serve the Church in various ways, especially through faithful witness (CCC 1285).

Youth preparing for this sacrament begin fall of their freshman year and are confirmed within six months. The program used is called *Chosen: Your Journey Toward Confirmation*. The goal of the program is to offer your teen a powerful, life-changing experience as he/she prepares to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is our hope that *Chosen* will not only offer your child a thorough knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Faith, but will also win over their heart at this critical time in their life. The program has been carefully designed to address and answer their fundamental questions about life, and to challenge him/her to embrace a life of faith. Let's face it - our world is full of distractions and detours that can easily set a young person on the wrong path. Nothing can take the place of a strong faith in God: not friends, money, or education. It is our faith that gives us our identity and our direction in life. For more information on how to volunteer for Confirmation contact: **Tim Volk**, Director of Student Ministry, 741-5400, ext. 119, email: tvolk@sttheresenorth.org

Marriage - Registered members of the parish are welcome to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage in our church. Couples are asked to contact the Parish Office a minimum of 9 months prior to a desired wedding date, or as soon as you become engaged. Call **Susan Tomelleri**, 741-2800, ext. 213 or stomelleri@sttheresenorth.org for further information.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.) - is the process by which adults are fully initiated into the Catholic faith community. This program, offered on Thursday, 7:00-9:00 PM, encompasses four formation periods: Pre-catechumenate (Inquiry), Catechumenate, Purification & Enlightenment and finally, Mystagogia. Pre-catechumenate begins with sessions familiarizing inquirers with the process and giving them the opportunity to ask questions about the Catholic Church. Inquirers meet once a week to receive catechesis about the Catholic faith and church. After a period of time, inquirers celebrate the Rite of Acceptance/Welcome. They are then called catechumens (those not baptized) and candidates (those baptized in another Christian tradition). After this Rite is celebrated, catechumens are dismissed from Mass each weekend to reflect on the Word of God proclaimed during that Mass. The formation process culminates with the candidates making a profession of faith and receiving sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist when they are ready. Catechumens are fully initiated into the church by receiving sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. Mystagogia, a time of reflection on the mysteries of the Church, is held after Easter for a period of a few weeks. Information about this process may be obtained by calling the Parish Office and ask for **Doug Warrens**, 741-2800, ext. 212 or dwarrens@sttheresenorth.org.

Children's Initiation into the Church - Children who have reached catechetical age (seven years and older) who have not been baptized or who have been baptized in another Christian tradition will attend the Rite of Christian Initiation of Children (RCIC) along with parents and, if possible, godparents/sponsors. Weekly instruction will be given to these children based on their age. Parents are also required to provide opportunities for prayer in the home and especially by attending Mass with the children each weekend. Children will participate in the special rites of the RCIC process, the Rite of Acceptance/Welcoming and the Rite of Election. Children will be fully initiated into the church at the Easter Vigil by receiving sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharistic. Contact Doug Warrens, 741-5400, ext 212, or dwarrens@sttheresenorth.org, for more information.

SPRED - Special Religious Education - The SPRED Center at St. Therese Parish provides a structured religious learning environment for persons who are developmentally delayed, ages 21 or older. Through prepared sessions provided by the diocese, adults experience meaningful participation as members of our faith community. Other opportunities for special liturgies and social events are also provided. Helper catechists aged 21 or older, assist in the sessions, sharing their time and kindness in relating everyday life experience to our journey within the Catholic faith. Meetings are held during the school year on Thursday evening, at 7:00. For more information contact **Pat or Geri Lantz** at 816-587-8403.

Parish Schools of Religion - The School of Religion serves children in grades Pre-K through 8. Religious Education (RE) classes for grades 1-5 are held on Wednesday evenings from 6:00-7:15 PM in the Education and Parish Center. Catechists utilize textbooks, parish resources and family activities to help students learn more about our faith. Religious Education classes meet from September through the first week of May.

Children in grades Pre-K and Kindergarten may attend Sunday School in the Education and Parish Center during the 10:00 AM Mass. Sunday School is ideal for all parish children (including those who attend Catholic School.) Curriculum includes a variety of activities to help children learn more about God and prayer. Sunday School meets from October through April. Contact Julie Parnell, 741-2707 for this program.



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Catechesis of the Good Shepherd - is a faith formation for children ages 3 through 12. It brings together the Mystery of God and the Mystery of the child, encouraging and nurturing children's deep and joyous relationship with Father, Son and Holy Spirit in a specially prepared environment called an atrium. Based on the pillars of Scripture and Catholic Liturgy, CGS uses the educational principles of Maria Montessori. Simple materials help to provide the children a rich experience of the essential truths of the Catholic faith, allowing them to grow in their love and knowledge of God within this tradition. Several sessions are available throughout the week. See the parish website for more details. For more information, contact Jo Thornley-Cox cgs@sttheresenorth.org or 816-522-3002.

Edge - EDGE is a branch of the Life Teen Youth Ministry. EDGE is a Catholic middle school youth ministry experience created for early adolescents in grades, six, seven, and eight. The program is designed to meet the educational, spiritual, emotional, and social needs of young adolescents. The teens are always welcomed and encouraged to bring their friends. EDGE meets on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 to 7:45. The evenings include faith topics (per semester), issue nights (moral and ethical topics that Middle School students face), and social nights which include Diocesan and Northland Youth Group events. During the summer, we also participate in a week-long Diocesan Camp called Camp Savio, www.campsavio.com.

Core Members are needed to lead EDGE, which relies heavily on the time and talents of adults within the parish community, men and women who care about our youth, and who make sacrifices to ensure that our young people come to know God through the love of Christ and the truth of the Sacraments. Junior Core Members are teenagers in Life Teen that come back to EDGE and serve as Core members.

To register for EDGE or to become a Core Member, contact **Tim Volk**, Director of Youth Ministry at 741-5400, ext. 119 or tvolk@sttheresenorth.org.

Registration fees are \$75.00 for one student, \$100.00 for two students and \$115.00 for three or more. Students who are preparing for sacraments have an additional book fee of \$40. **These fees apply to any PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION EDUCATION Program - - Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Sunday School, Wednesday night R.E. or Edge.** Contact **Jennifer Davis**, Director of Religious Education, 741-5400, ext. 107 or jadavis@sttheresenorth.org to serve in the RE ministry or for more information on PSR programs. To register for PSR programs, visit the parish website under Parish Schools of Religion.

Youth Ministry - St. Therese promotes a comprehensive vision of youth ministry. Total youth ministry encompasses - - Catechesis; Prayer & Worship; Justice, Peace and Service; Leadership Development; Social Events; Pastoral Care and advocating for and with our youth.

Life Teen - A Movement of the Holy Spirit - Life Teen is an international Catholic movement that serves the Church by providing resources and faith experiences that help lead teens closer to Christ. This is accomplished through vibrant Eucharistic spirituality and by creating opportunities for teens to grow in their faith.

Life Teen is the Faith Formation for all ninth - twelfth grade teens. At Life Nights, teens delve deeper into our faith, and discuss how the teachings of Jesus apply to their life. The focus of Life Nights is to integrate our Catholic faith with experiences. Life Nights are catechetical, social and issue related nights that are 100% Catholic.

There are four main segments of a Life Night derived from the Mass; Gather, Proclaim, Break, and Send.

There will be various social events - Diocesan and Northland Youth Ministry to attend. We also encourage the youth to attend local, national, and international youth conferences such as Steubenville and World Youth Day; service opportunities through mission trips, and faith growing experiences through camps. In order for the LIFE TEEN to achieve its full potential, volunteers are needed in the following areas - Core Member Ministry Leader, Sunday Night Liturgies, Youth Room Coordinator, Chaperones for High School Ministries, Youth Office Support Team.

For more information on ministry involvement for EDGE or LIFE TEEN, contact **Tim Volk**, Director of Youth Ministry, 741-5400, ext. 119 or tvolk@sttheresenorth.org.

Education & Parish Center - St. Therese School offers education to students from grades Kindergarten through 8. The school is accredited by the Missouri Non-Public Accrediting Association and North Central Accreditation/Advanced Education. It is part of the Diocesan School System of Kansas City-St. Joseph. St. Therese School is recognized for high academic achievement as diocesan students score higher on national achievement tests than any other area-wide group of students. The school's **MISSION STATEMENT** - - *St. Therese School is a ministry of the parish that promotes student's spiritual, moral and academic development within the tradition of a Catholic Community.* The school's **MOTTO** - - **"Living A Faith, Building A Future."** For information and details, please call our Principal, **Carol Lenz**, 741-5400, ext. 104 or clenz@sttheresenorth.org.

Advisory Council - This group advises and supports the administration and pastor through general meetings and committee work. The committee makes recommendations concerning policy, school planning, finance, public relations, marketing and development. Meetings are held monthly on the 3rd Tuesday @ 7:00 PM and are open to members of the parish.

Members for the School Year 2016-2017 are:

Rachel Briggeman, Mike Carnahan, Kelly Carroll (EEC Dir), Pam Devling (Parish Council Rep), Derek Dickemann (Pres), Kathleen Fisher, Amanda Galaske (Teacher Rep), Nicolette Gibson, Carol Lenz (Prin), Karen Redd, Marcy Schumacher, Kristine Stanley, Christie Witthar.

Parent Teacher Organization (P.T.O.) - Promotes child growth and development in the home, school, church and community, and the development of good parent-teacher relationships.

This organization exists solely for the support of our school and its students. Any and all funds raised are returned to the school for the benefit of the children by way of cultural arts programs, health room needs, various celebrations and areas of child development for which funds might not be available. Meetings are scheduled on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM in the Media Center of the Education & Parish Center.

PTO Officers serving for the 2016-2017 school year are:

President - Katie Nelson, Vice President - Shelley Risley, Secretary - Julie Swope, Treasurer - Kim Waldron, Asst. Prin. - Theresa Roth, Teacher Rep - Sharon Wunsch.

Early Education Center - Our nationally accredited Early Education Center provides care and education for children birth up until kindergarten. There are two program options available. One is a part-time preschool program designed for children three to five years of age offering educational services on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:00-11:00 or 8:00-3:00 and on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 8:00-11:00, 12:00-3:00 or 8:00-3:00, closely following the St. Therese School schedule. The other is a full-time program for children birth through the age of five, which provides services for children and families from 6:30 AM to 6:00 PM Monday-Friday.

The child is the primary focus of St. Therese Early Education Center. We endeavor to meet each child's individual developmental needs specifically in the areas of social-emotional, cognitive, physical, and language through our curriculum framework and educational philosophies. We value a strong self-esteem and a clear self-concept in each child. We provide a secure, warm, and nurturing environment, which creates a sense of school family and community. We believe learning occurs when children are actively involved with their environment, other children and adults. We hold as basic Catholic Christian tenants that God is love, God loves us, and we and our world were all created for good. Contact the Center at 746-1500, for Director **Kelly Carroll**, kcarroll@sttheresenorth.org or Assistant Director, **Autumn Burton**, aburton@sttheresenorth.org.

Faith Formation Community

Bible Studies - The question is asked - Why do we continually want to re-discover our faith? It isn't because it changes; it is because we change. During the school year, there are several groups that meet throughout the week, each focusing on a different aspect of the Bible. The purpose is to produce a more intimate relationship with our Lord, to make God's Holy Word more understandable, to make the Mass more meaningful, to strengthen our faith and love, and to share fellowship with one another. Sessions begin regularly in the fall with signups in September. Watch for current information posted in the weekly bulletin. Contact Doug Warrens at dwarrens@sttheresenorth.org, or 741-2800, ext. 212.

Christ Renews His Parish - (referred to as 'Chirp') is a process designed to bring members of the parish together in Christ. Twice a year separate weekend retreats for men and women are held to provide an uplifting weekend of renewal, emphasizing continued growth in each person's Christian life, their daily contact with others and their involvement with the parish. The weekend offers an excellent opportunity to move away from regular activities and commitments to be spiritually and personally enriched in a friendly, relaxing, yet highly stimulating environment. For more information, contact **Deacon Doug Warrens**, at the Parish Office, 741-2800, ext. 212.

Prayer Groups - Several groups meet regularly bringing people together, offering opportunities in several varieties.

- **Cenacles of the Marian Movement of Priests Prayer Group** - This group meets Monday morning in the Cry Room, having just attended the 8:30 Mass. They break open the spiritual messages from our Blessed Mother to Fr. Gobbi, as well as pray the rosary. Call **Elaine Sanborn**, 741-7759 for more information.
- **Chaplet of Divine Mercy** - is a powerful prayer given by our Lord to St. Faustina. The rosary is recited in song set to an original melody on Friday evening at 7:00. They pray a different day of the Novena each week and a basket is placed before the altar for personal petitions to be prayed over. After the ninth week of the Novena, the petitions are burned as another Chaplet of Divine Mercy is prayed over them. All are welcome to join them weekly in church. Contact **Chris Maag** at 216-7181 for more information.
- **Fatima Prayer Cell** - This small, intimate group gathers to pray the prayers given at the 1917 Marian apparition in Fatima, Portugal on Monday mornings from 7:30 to 8:30 AM in the Wooldridge Center Library. The prayer cell members are also educated and formed according to *Our Lady's* Message of Fatima, which is none other than the Gospel message itself. Contact **Stephanie Blydenburgh** at 816-521-8841 or see www.pray4america.net for more information about prayer cells.

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- **Mary, Martha & Lazarus Prayer Group** - This group meets from 10:00-11:30 AM in the Birkel Meeting Room on Tuesday. Their focus is to become more aware of how the Holy Spirit works in their lives and to deepen their personal relationship with Jesus. They praise the Lord through song and prayers of thanksgiving, renewing their dedication monthly to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Time is made for intercessory prayers for St. Therese staffs and organizations, for the sick of the parish, for those who have recently lost members of their family, as well as many other prayer intentions and requests. A special time is set aside for prayer for our priests. ALL ARE WELCOME! You do not have to say a word, just come and be blessed. Call **Sandy Danielsen** at 603-303-8814.
- **Queen of Peace Prayer Meeting** - This group meets from 9:30 to 11:00 AM on Thursday in the Wooldridge Center Library, spending time reflecting on prayers that follow the liturgical year, reciting the rosary with meditations, discussing the upcoming Sunday scripture readings as well as other Marian devotions. For more information call **Joyce Bischof**, 741-1748 or **Carleen Meyer**, 741-5117.
- **That Man Is You** - An interactive men's program focused on the development of authentic men in the modern world, transforming themselves, their families and the greater society. Contact **Joshua Wonderlich** for more information at 402-570-7624 or joshua.wonderlich@gmail.com.
- **Women of Faith Prayer Group** - This group of young mothers meets from 9:00 to 11:00 AM on Wednesdays on the third floor of the Early Education Center during the school year. Babysitting is provided. Mothers come together to learn and grow in their Catholic faith, to deepen their relationship with God. Through prayer, scripture study, religious books and faithsharing they strive to minister Christ's love to their families. Mothers with children of all ages are WELCOME! Call **Lisa Corley**, 569-4495 or email lisabrooksc@gmail.com.

Wooldridge Center Library - Located in the lower level of church and open to all parishioners, the library provides a variety of audio and visual (tapes and books) appealing to all ages that will help develop a more knowledgeable understanding of the history and practices of the Catholic faith and the people within it. The library welcomes donations of books, CDs and DVDs, subject to established guidelines. The Committee consists of Mariamma Cherian, Rose Marie Dorrbecker, Edie Eickhorst, Loraine Kloeppel, and Mary Jane Potts (chair), who may be reached at 587-7766.

Vacation Bible School - A week long summer camp of activities offered to children to enhance their Christian values. Activities such as music, prayer, games, snacks and study, are planned around a central theme. Children from kindergarten through fifth grade participate as students, while older teens offer their services as aides. Volunteers are always needed to help in the planning process and during the camp week. To volunteer or for additional information, contact **Molly Berg**, 816-589-8818 or sttheresenorthvbs@gmail.com.

Vocations - This group of committed people work to foster and promote vocations to the Catholic priesthood and religious life, and to encourage its members to fulfill their own Christian vocations to service. The Serra Club is the diocesan organization that meets regularly to discuss how best to promote their cause. Snacks for the seminarians are donated from parishioners and sent to Conception Abbey during the quarterly test-taking time. Questions?? Call **Wayne Snyder**, Northland Serra Club President at 741-3175.

Marriage and Family Life

This ministry provides pastoral counseling referrals, educational programs and services to individuals and families in need of assistance.

Sacrament of Marriage - All registered members are welcome to prepare for and to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage in our church. A “registered parishioner” presumes a completed census form on file in the Parish Office for one year, coupled with regular Mass attendance, and financial support. Young adults, having reached the age of 22, should be mindful of this policy and register as young adult parishioners as soon as they reach that age. Other stipulations and guidelines will apply to non-parishioners desiring to marry here at St. Therese. Couples should contact the Parish Office a minimum of 9 months prior to the desired wedding date. You are strongly advised not to make any arrangements before talking to our Marriage Preparation Coordinator, **Susan Tomelleri**, stomelleri@sttheresenorth.org who may be reached at 741-2800, ext. 213. Contact her for further information or as soon as you become engaged.

Marriage Preparation - is the process for couples preparing for the Sacrament of Matrimony. Volunteers are needed to assist these couples, with training and materials provided by the diocese. Lead Couples meet with engaged couples 4-5 times in a home setting. Contact **Susan Tomelleri**, 741-2800, ext. 213 or stomelleri@sttheresenorth.org.

Natural Family Planning - is offered monthly here at St. Therese and at several area hospitals. This is the only method of birth control approved by the Catholic Church. For more details call **Susan Tomelleri**, 741-2800, ext. 213 or stomelleri@sttheresenorth.org.

Marriage Enrichment - Marriage Encounter - A weekend experience for married couples interested in strengthening their relationship. A communication technique is taught which permits each couple to explore important areas of their relationship in a spirit of love, understanding and confidentiality. Principles of love, commitment, and effective communication are emphasized during this Friday evening through Sunday afternoon experience. For more information, contact: **Tony and Barbara Zimmerman**, 741-4066.

Retrouvaille - Designed to assist couples in re-establishing communication and insights to their marital relationship, the process is **not** counseling, a spiritual retreat, seminar or sensitivity group. Retrouvaille is a process that leads to a healing of relationships for couples contemplating separation, a divorce or already have divorced and hope to reconcile differences. For more information, or to register confidentially, call 505-0510 or contact **Susan Tomelleri** at 741-2800, ext. 213, or stomelleri@sttheresenorth.org.

Annulments - This is a final option to assist divorced people find closure and remarriage in the Church. Contact **Susan Tomelleri**, stomelleri@sttheresenorth.org or 741-2800, ext. 213 to begin the process.

Respect Life - The group actively promotes a renewed respect for human life by helping to make the parish a center of life, a place where parishioners understand the issues and the importance of meeting the needs of those who are most vulnerable - especially mothers and their unborn children. For more information, call **John or Mary Pat DeStefano**, 816-718-8990.

Birthright - This is an interdenominational emergency pregnancy service offering positive alternatives to abortion. It believes in the right of every woman to give birth to her child in dignity and the right of every child to be born. All services are free and confidential and include: pregnancy tests, emotional support and guidance, practical assistance and community referrals.

One of approximately 500 centers worldwide, Birthright of Greater Kansas City has offered caring service since 1971 and is located in the Brookside area at 6309 Walnut, Kansas City, MO 64113. Phone **Birthright at 444-7090 or 1-800-550-4900**. Our parish contact is **Janet Cozad**, 741-2696.

Elizabeth's Closet - Mothers seeking help from St. Vincent de Paul may be assisted through this "in-house" storage closet offering clothing for babies from infant to 2 Toddler. Contact **Susan Tomelleri**, in the Parish Office for more information.

Pastoral Care Community

The Pastoral Care Community provides care and support for the sick, the grieving and those struggling with difficult life transitions. Call the Parish Office at 741-2800 for a specific need.

Anointing of the Sick - This Sacrament is celebrated communally with a Spring and Fall Mass. The Anointing of the Sick is a wonderful, touching, intimate, mysterious encounter with the Risen Christ and is intended for times of chronic or serious illness, aging or life crises where there is a need for prayer and healing of mind, body or spirit. The priest administers the sacrament at nursing homes, senior complexes and to the homebound. Seek it early in any serious illness. **Please contact the Parish Office with your request.**

Compassionate Friends - This support group meets monthly offering friendship, understanding and hope to those who have experienced the death of a child, parent, grandparent, sibling or immediate family member. Contact **Denise McPherson**, 587-9853 or smothermom3@gmail.com regarding more details.

Divorce Support Group *"It's about Hope and Healing"* - A faith-based support group for people who are separated or recently divorced are offered in the fall and spring, for approximately 5 weeks. The group provides a confidential, caring and compassionate environment to work through the process. For information contact **John Henke**, 587-2359, or djhenke0927@aol.com

Funeral Planning - is offered by the parish community, to help prepare and plan the spiritual aspects of the funeral. Have someone call the Parish Office, 741-2800, ext. -0- as soon as the need is evident. **Should you call after regular Parish Office hours, listen to entire message in the EMERGENCY MAILBOX #4 for detailed information and a priest will return your call as soon as possible.**

CPR/AED Process - Training is regularly provided for CPR and AED instructions in order to have responders prepared in the event of a situation requiring the use of one of our 3 Automatic External Defibrilators (AEDs). The AED parish contact is **Kristie Hueble**, 741-5400, ext. 103.

Ministry of Holy Communion to the Sick and Confined - Trained Communion Ministers bring prayer, presence and/or Eucharist to those Catholics who are hospitalized, homebound, living in senior complexes or long-term care facilities. Contact the Pastoral Care Office, 741-2800, ext. 218 for more information about this ministry or if you or a family member would like to receive communion at one of the following locations.



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Homebound - Parishioners who are confined to their home on a short-term or long-term basis may receive communion from a lay minister who will visit them. If you or a loved one is recuperating from an illness or struggling with a condition that prevents them from attending Mass, call the Parish Office, 741-2800 so that arrangements can be made for a minister's visit.

Hospital Visits - Our ministers bring Holy Communion to Catholic patients at St. Luke's Northland Hospital on a regular basis. Parishioners in other hospitals throughout the city may also be visited if we are informed of their confinement. If you want a parish priest or lay minister to visit you or a family member, you need to give the hospital permission to place your name on the religion census. In addition, you must request that your parish be notified. **Please leave a message at the Parish Office, 741-2800, for Fr. Joe or Fr. Randy.**

Nursing Home Visits - St. Therese Ministers of Holy Communion visit Barry Health Center, Riverside and Windemere Nursing Home on Wednesdays and Sundays. Prayer services are provided weekly and a full celebration of Mass offered quarterly. To provide us with names of seniors in these facilities, contact the **Parish Office** at 741-2800.

Senior Complexes - Seniors living at Tremont Place, Wexford Place, Riverstone, Garden Village, Kendallwood Hills or The Gardens are currently meeting once a week with volunteer lay ministers for prayer and the Eucharist. Keep us informed of Catholics in these facilities who would like to participate in the prayer services and/or receive Communion. Contact is made through the **Parish Office**, 741-2800.

Pastoral Care Resources/Referrals - **Fr. Randy Sly** can provide family members and caregivers referrals for resources in the larger community that offer appropriate support in order to meet your specific need. He may be reached by calling the Parish Office at 741-2800, ext. 218 or via email to rsly@sttheresenorth.org.

Prayer Shawl Ministry - Members meet the 3rd Thursday each month to knit and crochet shawls, which are given to those who are ill, have suffered a loss or in need of solace with all levels of expertise welcomed. Contributions of yarn or financial donations are gratefully appreciated. Contact **Doug Warrens** in the Parish Office for more information.

St. Therese Memorial Fund

The Memorial Fund was established to remember, in a special way, beloved relatives and friends of our parish family at St. Therese. In grateful memory of the contributions made in their name, they will be remembered in prayers and Masses. A perpetual plaque in the church is a visible legacy for the people held dear to our hearts.

There are three ways a person may be remembered in the Memorial Fund. In lieu of flowers at the funeral, the family may request that contributions be made to the Fund in memory of their deceased relative or friend, whether recent or in years past. Have their name added to the Plaque in the Church with a donation of \$250.00 or more. Or third, when preparing your will, include a bequest to the St. Therese Memorial Fund in your name.

The person's name to be remembered with their date of birth and death will be added to the plaque in church. Once a month, an anniversary notice is printed in the Sunday Bulletin on the week preceding the anniversary of the person's birth and death.

If you need additional information, please call the Parish Office and ask for **Donna**, 741-2800, ext. 211.

Stewardship Community

Stewardship Committee - Stewardship is the meaningful involvement of people, building relationships with each other and who will share the good news of St. Therese and its many ministries. A group of committed participants work to assist the pastor and business manager in sustaining, improving and providing for the future of the parish by enhancing parish community participation in sharing of time, talent and treasure. The idea is to make stewardship a way of life. The core function includes *Leadership*, serving as examples of stewardship in the life of the parish; *Planning*, to develop plans and conduct programs asking parishioners to give of their time, their God-given talents and the return of a portion of God's financial blessings; *Education*, to see that God's lessons on the value of stewardship are communicated through all areas of parish activities, including worship, education and ministry; and finally *Ministry Coordination*, to facilitate the communication between the different ministries of the parish so that those parishioners wishing to give of their time and talents are matched with the appropriate ministry.

Annual Appeal - We show care for the work of God by the way we live. We join the work of God when we freely and gratefully share our gifts with the Church and others. Each fall, all parishioners receive an appeal and support form asking them to review their family's commitment to stewardship - the sharing of one's time, talent and treasure. Parishioners are encouraged to consider setting an eventual goal at the biblical tithe of 10 % - 5 % to the Parish; 1% to the Diocese and 4% to other charities. It may take a few years to accomplish this, but this is a worthy and rewarding goal for all, on the journey of stewardship and gratitude. For questions regarding tithing, call **Annette Teson** or **Jonathan Rhodes** 741-2800.

Marketing & Development Committee - The Marketing & Development Committee is an evolving committee that started as a School Development Committee. The Marketing & Development Committee assists the pastor, principal, stewardship director and business manager in sustaining, improving and providing for the future of our parish, school and ministries. To allow for more meaningful impact, the tasks assigned to this committee are spread throughout a number of committees. Contacts include **Annette Teson**.

Matching Gifts - As you consider your giving to St. Therese, be sure to check with your employer for potential matching gifts. Submissions completed online through your employer may require specific IRS numbers so contact **Jonathan Rhodes** at the Parish Office, 741-2800, ext. 217.

Communal Life - To foster continued growth in the parish, ministry communities are set up to enrich our lives and "seek your niche" and find a home where you feel comfortable. Join with others in sharing your talents with one or all of these many ministries.

Altar & Rosary Society - The guiding phrase of the Society is "Tend and Befriend" because that is what so many women have done in years past and continue to do today. Every adult woman of the Parish is considered a part of the organization and encouraged to become an active part of the group, working together for the good of the Parish & community, sharing gifts of time, talent and treasures.

Traditionally, the work of the Altar & Rosary began with the care and maintenance of the Altar of the church. Today they provide altar bread and wine, devotional candles, sacristan support and all funeral dinners. The Parish has always been able to count on the Ladies of "the Society. The Parish needs are an important part of the group's approach to "give back", with approximately 95% of all the monies raised given back to the Parish in one form or another.

There is a place for each and every woman in the parish to make a contribution and to enjoy the fellowship of this ministry. All are WELCOME who would like to meet monthly, September through May. The 2016-2017 officers are: President - **Irene Delich**, 741-3441; Treasurer - **Dianne Hartline**, 816-587-9317; Recording Secretary - **Carole Kimsey**, 816-741-2353; Corresponding Secretary - **Rosie Lykken**, 816-505-1744.

Mission Sewing - The members of this group meet from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM in the Birkel Meeting Room on the second Thursday of each month to assist the needy, and to share lunch and friendship with other women. From cutting and stuffing, to crocheting and embroidering, these ladies take on many projects, some benefiting parishioners and some the community at large. Volunteers who are unable to attend the regular monthly meeting, do some of the same tasks at home. Nearly all materials are either donated or received from factory samples and no item is ever sold. Some of the organizations that benefit from Mission Sewing are Pro-life and Birthright, St. Vincent's Child Care (Operation Breakthrough), St. Louis and St. Therese (south) Parishes, as well as Children's Mercy Hospital. Throughout the year, a basket is available (located on the lower level of church at the foot of the stairs) for donations of birthday gifts for less fortunate children, new or nearly new toys or clothing, socks, underwear and school supplies. New volunteers are always welcome. Again, ladies who cannot attend meetings are welcome as home sewing volunteers, since most machine sewing cannot be done during meetings. For more information, phone **Ellie Higgins**, 741-7679.

Knights of Columbus - The Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic fraternal service organization. Founded in the United States in 1882, it is named in honor of Christopher Columbus and dedicated to the principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. Charity is the foremost principle of the Knights of Columbus.

Here at St. Therese, Pope John Paul I - Council 7199 is actively involved in serving the needs of the parish and community. "Caring through volunteerism" is also a way to enhance one's faith. General Meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at 7:00 pm on the 3rd floor of the Early Education Center in the Knights Hall. Membership is open to Catholic men that are eighteen years of age or older. For more information, contact Grand Knight, **Dave Tracewell**, 536-4143, or Deputy Grand Knight, **Greg Fuido**, 377-1939. Web sites: Knights of Columbus home page - www.kofc.org Pope John Paul I - Council 7199, or www.kofc7199.org

Circle of Friends - This organization includes single and single-again adults from the Kansas City metropolitan area parishes that are North of the River. Activities are varied among social, spiritual and service. For more information contact **John Henke**, 587-2359.

Guess Who's Coming To Dinner - This social ministry offers people a chance to meet and become better acquainted with fellow members of our faith community. Participants are placed at pot-luck dinners for 6-12 people. Dinners are held on the first Saturday of the month, from October through April, with a finale picnic in late May/June. Participation is open to all adult members of the parish, married or single and regular monthly attendance is NOT required. For more information, contact **Gail Davern**, 816-844-9686 or dinner@sttheresenorth.org.

Over 50 Gang - This group consists of primarily retirees, welcoming anyone over the age of 50. They are always looking for active, new members with great ideas. Besides the social aspect of the group, nourishment for the soul is developed as well, since many of the members frequently attend 8:30 AM daily Mass. To find out more about this group, contact **Berenice McHale**, at 746-1345.

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Boy Scouts / Troop 261 - is chartered by the “Boy Scouts of America” through the St. Therese Scouts Parents, Inc. This not-for-profit corporation was formed to provide the operational organization needed to charter a local Boy Scout Troop and Cub Scout Pack. The troop was chartered over 25 years ago and prides itself in leading over 80 scouts to the rank of Eagle.

Troop 261 meets every Monday evening at 7:00 in the Education and Parish Center. There are 100 registered scouts and adult leaders, pledging to serve God and country and to help all people. Activities and development follow the general purposes of all Boy Scout troops. For more information call **Jeff McKinney** (Scoutmaster), 810-9913 or **Connie Revers** (Committee Chairperson), 718-9465.

Cub Scouts / Troop 261 - This organization is open to boys from 1st through 5th grade. First graders and their families begin as TIGER CUBS, working their way through CUB SCOUTS in second and third grade. WEBELOS is the rank for fourth graders into fifth grade. Den meetings are held twice a month, with Pack Meetings scheduled on a monthly basis. Parental participation is strongly encouraged and necessary for the boys and the overall continuance of this program. Questions can be answered by **David Whitbeck**, 816-674-5128 or **Jimmie Perlick**, 816-225-7585.

Girls Scouts - The full complement of the organization is in place for Daisies, Brownies, Juniors and Cadettes. Girls from kindergarten through eighth grade usually meet every other week. Call **Maureen Tejeda**, 505-0414, or email her at atejeda@kc.rr.com for further information.

Families with Young Children - is comprised of adults who are raising young children, from newborns through grade school age. Through faith, service and social events, they support each other as parents, friends and families. The group's objectives include community, spirituality and service. Goals are achieved through a variety of community activities such as large family gatherings, women's/men's nights out, holiday celebrations, play groups, adoration holy hour, prayer groups and an email prayer line. For further information contact the Parish Office and talk to **Susan Tomelleri**, 741-2800, ext. 213.

Social Outreach

In the name of Christian charity, we attempt to serve the needs of the poor and marginalized of our community and the wider world. The bulk of our temporal assistance requests are channeled through the St. Vincent de Paul Society. We have emergency food supplies on hand in our pantry and network with Harvesters for additional food needs.

Local food drives, plus the efforts of our RE and school children, keep shelves stocked with foodstuffs. Pickups of donated perishable food from area supermarkets, bakeries, etc. take place daily through the “Society” and other parish volunteers. These volunteers also make deliveries to food pantries, shelters and soup kitchens in the metropolitan area.

Through the interest and effort of our parishioners, childcare centers, homes for the aged, abused, or disabled, and missionary activities receive either monetary donations or clothing and medical aid. We continue to be open to other ways to affect social change through community projects and individual political activism.

St. Vincent de Paul Society - The St. Therese Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society has been active in providing for the emergency needs of families since 1961. Our organization, through our 100+ volunteers, provides assistance with food, rent, utilities, medical bills and other basic needs to the many Southern Platte County families that call our office every year. In each of the past few years, our financial assistance has exceeded the \$150,000 level and our food pantry has distributed over 18,000 bags of groceries.



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Our spiritual patron is St. Vincent de Paul and our Society's roots go back to France in 1833 when 10 year old Frederic Ozanam founded the organization to help relieve the suffering of the poor through the personal contact of a Society's member. We live out the teachings of St. Vincent de Paul and Frederic Ozanam by personally visiting those who have asked for assistance.

We are always in need of volunteers to assist in our ministry. We have a variety of ways to volunteer: home visits (with a partner) to clients who ask for aid; assist in the food pantry at St. Therese; pick up perishable food from area grocery stores; assist in the St. Vincent de Paul Office. Are you interested in helping with this rewarding service? Call the Office, 741-8661 today. Presently the officers include - President - **Pat Cummings**; Vice President - **Anita Coleman**; Treasurer - **Kris Knight**.

Adopt-A-Family - This program is dedicated to spreading the Christmas spirit by matching financially strapped families in Platte County with sponsors who can help with Christmas gifts and groceries. The families assisted are recommended from the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Usually, they are families that have needed help covering basic expenses such as food and could not afford the additional expense of Christmas gifts for family members. They seek sponsors who can assist a family with groceries and a few gifts for each family member.

Gifts of clothing and educational toys such as books, art supplies, etc. are emphasized. If you are able to sponsor a family, call **Joan Anderberg** at 741-8661, in the St. Vincent de Paul Office.

Christmas in October - Since 1984, volunteers throughout the Kansas City area have given of their time on the second Saturday in October to help make repairs to homes of disabled, elderly, and needy in our community. St. Therese has been involved in the program since 1999. Volunteers who are at least 13 years of age are needed to help with a variety of repairs including: yard work, painting, carpentry and miscellaneous repairs. We work, rain or shine, all day. Recruitment of volunteers starts in September. For further information call **Troy or Kris Knight**, 891-0723, or visit the website www.ciogroups.com.

Soup Kitchen - The second Sunday of each month our parish has been given the opportunity to serve a meal to approximately 350 individuals at the St. Mary's Soup Kitchen. The Kitchen is located in downtown Kansas City, KS, at 7th & Nebraska. To make this possible, volunteers are needed monthly to bake 30 meatloaves and provide desserts, with 12 more volunteers needed to work at the kitchen, preparing and serving the meal. For those interested in working the kitchen, participants leave the St. Therese parking lot at 9:15 AM and return around 1:00 PM. Sign-ups to bake a meatloaf or serve at the kitchen take place the last weekend of the month, followed by the first weekend of every month after all Masses. Another way to help with this ministry is to donate 6.5 lb. cans of green beans, corn or peaches. Canned donations may be left at the Parish Office during regular business hours. Call **John or Mary Pat DeStefano**, 718-8990.

Tomato Plants - Beginning in mid-May each year, free tomato plants are offered for parish families who want to offer a portion to the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry. Plants are located outside the Wooldridge Center doors, near the sidewalks.

Worship Community

Liturgy Committee - Meets in preparation for upcoming liturgical seasons, selecting music, environment, liturgy concerns, and other areas dealing with worship. This group meets monthly and for questions contact **Karen Engerbretson**, 816-741-2800, ext. 258.

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Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion - This ministry offers an opportunity to participate in one of the most significant and central works of the church. Ministers serve at parish liturgy and/or work with the Pastoral Care Ministry to bring Communion to the homebound, as well as those in nursing homes or hospitals. To find out more information contact **Karen Engebretson**, 741-2800, ext. 258 or kengebretson@sttheresenorth.org.

Lectors - The ministry of lector is open to adults and high school youth of the parish. Qualities for those involved include good public speaking ability, the capacity to convey warmth, to gain and keep attention and motivate others, as well as a love for and desire to grow in the Word of God. Training through the diocese and the parish is available. Lectors serve approximately once a month at weekend liturgies. Contact **Patricia Kissinger**, 587-8934 or pzkissinger@hotmail.com.

Ushers - The ministry of hospitality and welcome is just one aspect of what is offered by our ushers. They also facilitate the movement of the assembly and collection of gifts. Finally they assist disabled members of the congregation during the Eucharist. To volunteer for this ministry, call **Marty Wessinger**, 585-3979, wessfam@hotmail.com.

Altar Servers - ALL boys and girls of the parish, Grades 5 through 8, are eligible and encouraged to serve. Training sessions are conducted twice a year, in the spring and fall. Over 100 children participate in this ministry, serving not only at weekend liturgies, but assisting at funerals as well. The volunteer coordinator is **Deacon Doug Warrens or Laurence Freeman**, 505-1413.

Prayers of the Faithful - Members of the Parish are provided the opportunity with support and guidance to write the weekly intentions and prayers offered at the weekend Eucharist, representing the petitions of the members of the assembly. Contact **Dave Malanowski**, 587-6278 or malanowski@diocesekcsj.org to learn more.

Eucharistic Adoration - We are blessed to have the Bread of Life, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity, physically present in the monstrance here in our Chapel. Stop by for a peaceful visit with our Lord from Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 10:00 PM. The Bible and other spiritual books are available for silent prayer. People come to pray the Rosary, formal and informal prayers in the presence of Jesus, or sit and read. Still others sit or kneel content to just be in His presence opening their heart and mind. Eucharistic Adoration is one of the awe inspiring privileges of our Catholic Faith. For information or to schedule an hour call **Carolyn O'Laughlin**, 587-9223; **Monica Arredondo** or **Bill Rumker**, 891-2555.

Music Ministry - At St. Therese, this ministry encompasses keyboardists, instrumentalists, vocalists and choir members. There are a number of opportunities for involvement by youth from 3rd grade and up.

Cantors - This ministry leads the assembly in sung prayer. Good vocal skills are needed. Contact **Karen Engebretson**, 741-2800, ext. 258 or kengebretson@sttheresenorth.org.

Adult Choir - This musical ensemble is open to vocalists and instrumentalists, from seventh grade to adult. This choir assists in leading the assembly at the 10:00 AM Sunday and Holy Day Liturgies. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evening from 7:00-8:30 in church. Contact **Karen** at the Parish Office, 741-2800, ext. 258.

Treble Choir - All children of the parish who are in grades 3-8 are offered the opportunity to provide music ministry, service, leadership and community building by participating in this ministry. Practices are held in church, during the school year on Wednesdays, from 3:15-4:15. The Children's Choir usually sings the first weekend of the month, from October through May. Contact **Karen Engebretson**.



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