

St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Parish, 1408 Easton Road, Hellertown, PA

+ September 13, 2026 - 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time +

Rev. John Anthony Hutta II
Pastor

Rev. Dr. John A. Krivak
Pastor Emeritus

Deacon David K. Rohner

Our Mission Statement

We are a Roman Catholic Family of Faith, centered in the Real Presence of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist, faithful to the Church's teachings, bringing the Light of Christ to each other and to our Community.

Masses

Monday: 6:00pm Mass
(No 8:00am Mass on Mondays)

Tuesday through Friday: 8:00am Mass

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:15pm

**Sunday Masses: 8:00am,
9:30am, 11:00am**

Eucharistic Adoration

First Friday: 12:00pm - 3:00pm

Tuesday: 6:00pm - 7:00pm

Confession

Saturday: 3:00pm - 3:45pm

First Friday: 12:00pm - 1:00pm



The **kingdom of heaven** may be likened to a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants.

Matthew 18:21-22

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Sunday, October 11
is the Installation Mass
of our new Pastor,
Rev. John A. Hutta II.**

**See this bulletin for
more information.**

**FOLLOW
Jesus!**

*And could you also
follow us on social media?*



/sainttheresachurchhellertown



ST. THERESA OF THE CHILD JESUS CHURCH
/sttheresaotcj.org



+ September 13, 2026 - 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time +

Calendar, September 13- September 20

Sunday, September 13

9/11 Memorial Mass, Church, 11:00am

Monday, September 14

Seniors meeting, 2:00pm

Boy Scouts, Friendship Hall, 7:00pm

KoC, Rectory LL, 7:00pm

Tuesday, September 15

Exaltation of the Cross Prayer Group,
School bldg., 7:00pm

Wednesday, September 16

No meetings or events scheduled.

Thursday, September 17

No meetings or events scheduled.

Friday, September 18

Carmelites, Rectory LL, 5:00pm

Saturday, September 19

St. Monica Ministry rosary-making,
Friendship Hall, 10:00am - 12:00pm

Bingo, Friendship Hall, 6:00pm

Sunday, September 20

PREP 1-8, Friendship Hall, 8:25am -
9:20am

Mass Intentions, September 13 - September 20

Sunday, September 13, 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:15pm (Sat.) - Stanley J. Krycia (Joanne Krycia)

8:00am - Charles and Thomas Horvath (Ellie Fenner)

9:30am - Timothy Pastir (Patricia Purnell)

11:00am (9/11 Memorial Mass) - Donna Teles (Family)

Monday, September 14 - The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

6:00pm - Mary Frances Schurtz-Leon (Kelly Chevalier)

Tuesday, September 15 - Our Lady of Sorrows

8:00am - Joan Dornblaser (The Good Samaritan Society)

Wednesday, September 16 - Sts. Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs

8:00am - Jack Shumann (Ellen Loughlin)

Thursday, September 17 - St. Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church; St. Hildegard of Bingen, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

8:00am - Mary Rodgers (Ellen Loughlin)

Friday, September 18 - Weekday

8:00am - Cynthia Tracy (Richard Pastir)

Saturday, September 19 - St. Januarius, Bishop and Martyr

No 8:00am

Sunday, September 20 - 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:15pm (Sat.) - Jerry Lamantia (Eleana Melega)

8:00am - Edward Boris, Sr. (Bill & Terri Zakocs)

9:30am - Andrew P. Glovas (Family)

11:00am - Sandy Silvoy (Mike & Jack)

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (September 14)

When Moses lifted up the bronze serpent over the people, it was a foreshadowing of the salvation won for us by Jesus when He was lifted up on the Cross. The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross celebrates the redemptive transformation of the cross as an instrument of torture into a divine "tree of life" that brings hope to mankind. That is why the Liturgy of the Cross is a triumphant liturgy.

We make the Sign of the Cross before prayer to help to fix our minds on God. After prayer we make the Sign of the Cross to keep close to Him. During trials and temptations, our strength and protection is the Sign of the Cross.

Have you prayed your rosary today?

Devotional Candles, September 13 - September 19

Holy Family Candle

Felix Yip (*offered by Lisa Holub & family*)

Sanctuary Candle

Johanna Price (*offered by Linda & Larry Dull*)

St. Theresa Candle

Susan Woodhouse (*offered by Deacon Maurice & Judy Kelly*)

BVM Candle

Johanna Price (*offered by Cindy Markovcy*)

St. Joseph Candle

Ed Michaylira (*offered by Robert & Joanna Munshaur*)



Liturgical Ministers Schedule: September 19/20, 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass time

4:15pm Saturday

8:00am Sunday

9:30am Sunday

11:00am Sunday

Lector

Janice Sodemann

Lisa Albitz

Denise Goodrich

Cooper Sacco

EEM

Deacon Dave

Lisa Albitz

Deacon Dave

Deacon Dave

Altar server(s)

Bernadette Wisser

Gabe Silverthorn

Lay brothers

Antonio, Agustin Ponce

Food for Thought: The Three Rooms of Forgiveness

One of the retreats I give focuses on our encounter and journey with Jesus. During the retreat, I invite people to enter spiritually into three rooms.

In the first room, we remember the people who have hurt us—physically, emotionally, mentally, or spiritually. Then comes the invitation: *Forgive them.*

In the second room, we remember the people whom we have hurt, offended, disappointed, or sinned against. The invitation becomes: *Seek forgiveness.*

Then comes the third room, which can sometimes be the most difficult of all. There, we are asked to forgive one more person: *ourselves.*

Today's Scriptures remind us that forgiveness is not simply one beautiful characteristic of God. Forgiveness is at the heart of who God is, and therefore it must become part of who we are as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Sirach gives us a striking image: *"Wrath and anger are hateful things, yet the sinner hugs them tight."*

Sometimes we do exactly that. We hug the very thing that is hurting us. We replay the conversation. We remember the betrayal. We rehearse the offense. We hold tightly to resentment because we think letting go means pretending the hurt did not matter. But Christian forgiveness does not mean pretending that evil is good. It does not eliminate justice, healthy boundaries, or accountability.

Forgiveness means: I will not allow what someone did to me to determine what happens inside of me. I place the wound into the hands of God. The psalm tells us why this is possible: *"The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion."* We forgive because we have first been forgiven.

Peter asks Jesus, *"Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive him? As many as seven times?"* Peter probably thought seven sounded generous. Seven was the biblical number of completeness.

Jesus answers: *"Not seven times but seventy-seven times."*

Jesus refuses to put mercy on a calculator. Then He tells the parable of the servant whose enormous debt is completely forgiven by his master. Yet that same servant refuses to forgive another person who owes him far less. He experienced mercy—but he did not allow mercy to change his heart. That is the challenge for us. We can come to Mass, pray, receive absolution in Confession, stand beneath the Cross, and receive Jesus in the Eucharist—and still walk away clutching resentment. Yet every time we pray the Our Father, we say: *"Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us."*

Those are serious words. Some wounds are deep. Forgiveness may take time. We may even have to forgive the same hurt again and again when the memory returns. Forgiveness does not always begin with a feeling.

Sometimes it begins simply with the prayer: *"Jesus, I cannot do this without You. Help me."*

And then there is that third room. Perhaps God has forgiven us, but we still refuse to forgive ourselves. We continue punishing ourselves for yesterday's failures even after Christ has carried them to Calvary.

The Cross tells us that sin is real. But the Resurrection tells us that sin and failure do not have the final word. Mercy does. Our patroness, St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, understood this beautifully. Her "Little Way" was not about accomplishing extraordinary things. It was about allowing God's merciful love to enter the ordinary moments of life—and then sharing that love with others.

- Sometimes the "little way" is simply choosing not to answer hurt with hurt.
- Sometimes it is praying for someone who wounded us.
- Sometimes it is saying, "I am sorry."
- Sometimes it is allowing ourselves to believe that God really has forgiven us.

And every Eucharist brings us back to the source of that mercy. We approach the altar not because we are perfect, but because we need Jesus. We receive the One who, from the Cross, prayed: *"Father, forgive them."* And then He sends us from Mass to become what we have received—to carry His mercy into our homes, families, workplaces, parish, and world.

So perhaps Jesus is inviting us into those three rooms this week:

Who do I need to forgive? From whom do I need to seek forgiveness? And finally: What do I still need to forgive in myself?

St. Thérèse, teach us your Little Way. Jesus in the Eucharist, give us Your merciful Heart.

And may the Lord who is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion teach us not only to receive His mercy—but to become His mercy for one another.

Ask yourself: When I think about someone who has deeply hurt me, what am I still holding tightly—and what would happen if I placed it into the merciful Heart of Jesus?

The Parish Community of
St. Theresa of the Child Jesus
joyfully invites you to the



Installation Mass

of our new Pastor,
Reverend John Anthony Hutta II



Sunday, October 11, 2026
~ 3:00pm ~

Most Reverend Alfred A. Schlert
Bishop of the Diocese of Allentown,
Celebrant

*A reception will immediately follow the
Mass. Please RSVP to the Rectory before
October 4th: 610-838-7045*

St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Church
1408 Easton Road
Hellertown, PA 18055





**The
Simmering
September Soups
Sale**
is underway!
**Stop in the
vestibule and
fill out an
order form for
Frontier
Soups.**
**Order deadline is
September 30.**
**Kindly support this
parish fundraiser.**

Knights of Columbus present De-Clutter for a Cause

Knights of Columbus will be collecting Yard Sale donations during late summer and fall months.

We will be accepting donations

Saturday, September 12

Saturday, September 26

Saturday, October 3

from 8:00am to 10:00am in the church parking lot.

If you would like to arrange for pickup or would like more information, please contact Terry Coffey:

859-333-4476 or email **TFCoffey@gmail.com**



Weekly Collection Report

The September 6 total will be published in next week's bulletin. Included in the September 20 collection will be Preschool/PREP Support. Thank you for your generosity!

Support St. Theresa parish while also receiving possible financial and tax benefits! Those who are 70½ or older may make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) directly from their IRA. A QCD may allow a gift to be excluded from taxable income. Every financial situation is unique, so be sure to consult a tax advisor before taking any action regarding your IRA. For information, call **Sue at 610-838-7045.**

Burial in a Catholic cemetery allows the deceased to be surrounded by members of the Church, even in death. To arrange for burial, contact Holy Savior Cemetery at (610)866-2372.



Join the St. Theresa Seniors at Sight & Sound Theater!

"Joshua"

Tuesday, November 10

\$169 per person includes 11:00am show, bus transportation, and family-style meal at Hershey Farms.

Depart from St. Theresa parking lot at 8:00am. (Please arrive by 9:45am.) Return to St. Theresa parking lot approximate 6:00pm.

For information, please call Nancy (610-360-3738) or Isabella (610-838-7045) or email **stheresacj@gmail.com**

The Ladies Guild is seeking Theme Basket donations for its annual Autumnfest Basket Raffle. Suggestions for themes include Christmas, autumn, children, sports, car, pets, and baking. Be creative and come up with your own imaginative theme! A minimum \$50 value per basket is appreciated. More Autumnfest information is forthcoming. Watch the bulletin for updates!

The Good Samaritan Society offers short term assistance to Hellertown-Lower Saucon residents. If someone you know needs help, call the society confidentially at 610-509-5863. Monetary donations are accepted! Please make checks payable to St. Theresa Church, with "FBO Good Samaritan Society" in the memo line.



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS)

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a beautiful, Montessori-based approach to forming the hearts of children in the Catholic faith—rooted deeply in Sacred Scripture and the Liturgy.

In a specially prepared sacred space called the Atrium, children are invited into a living encounter with Jesus. Here, through hands-on materials, prayer, and quiet reflection, they listen, ponder, and celebrate the greatest Mysteries of our Faith.

Children will encounter:



Christ the Good Shepherd, who knows and loves them personally



The True Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist



The Parables of the Kingdom of God



The beauty of the Sacraments



The Atrium is more than a classroom—it is a place of wonder, where children begin to ask, “Who are You, Jesus?” and learn to pray, listen, and respond to God in the silence of their hearts. Here, they are gently guided to draw closer to God on their own, fostering a lifelong relationship with Him.



Start dates are
Sunday, September 20,
Wednesday, September 23,
and Thursday, September 24.

Program Offerings

Level I (Ages 3–6)

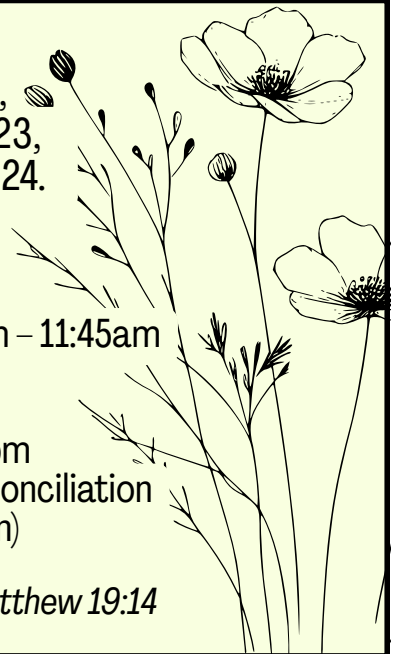
Wednesdays or Thursdays, 9:45am – 11:45am

Level II (Ages 6–9)

Sundays, 12:30pm – 2:30pm

(Includes preparation for First Reconciliation
and First Holy Communion)

“Let the children come to Me...” — Matthew 19:14



Looking for Assistants!

We need Assistants for each of our CGS sessions. Looking for individuals who can help lead, guide and listen to God with the children. Clearances needed. Training will be provided.

*Please contact Maria Jones at marialellis@gmail.com
if you are interested in enrolling your child in CGS or
if you are available to assist in the Atrium.*

BACK TO SCHOOL

A new school year
is here!

May God bless our little learners, their families, and our teachers
with a year filled with joy, kindness, love, and learning.

"Let the little children come to me" (Matthew 19:14).

