The Baptism of the Lord January 13, 2019

St. Therese Chinese Catholic Church and School Archdiocesan Center for Chinese Apostolate

聖德力華人天主教堂

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Mass Intentions

January 13, 2019 The Baptism of the Lord

8:00 A.M. + Rocky Iacullo, Birthday Remembrance by Marion Roti

10:30 A.M. + Gail Yong by Darlene & Chris Lowe

+ Kwan Sheung Lau by Daughter Agnes Lee

MON. Jan. 14th

Weekday

8:00 A.M.

TUE. Jan. 15th

Weekday

8:00 A.M.

WED. Jan. 16th

Weekday

8:00 A.M. + Poor & Forgotten Souls in Purgatory by Dominic Barbaro

THU. Jan. 17th

Saint Anthony, Abbot

8:00 A.M. + William Hong Hing Lam by Monica Lam & Family

+ Vincent Briglio by Wife & Family

FRI. Jan. 18th

Weekday—-Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Begins

8:00 A.M.

SAT. Jan. 19th

Weekday

8:00 A.M.

5:00 P.M. Parishioners and Friends of St. Therese

- + James Gurgone by Daughter
- + Jimmy Annoreno by Family
- + Marie Roti by Friend
- + Michael Nardi, Birthday Remembrance by Frank & Sophie Nardi



From the Desk of Fr. Francis

Greetings of Christ's Peace and Joy! Hope you all had a blessed week.

Thanks

Thanks to all who have made a generous Christmas donation to our parish. If you are still thinking to offer a Christmas gift to our Church, you are most welcome to do so.

Thanks to **Lily May** for teaching our children new songs and thanks to all children who are enthusiastically learning to sing for us and to all parents for their support.

Thanks to all attended the first 2019 Lunar New Year celebration planning meeting last Sunday. Inspired by St. John Paul II, the theme for this celebration will be *Chinese Saints: Examples of Courage and Consistency to Us All* and the date will be on Sunday Feb. 10th at 10am. Please save the date and join us for the festivities. Special thanks to **Sharon Wong** for leading again with planning this year's celebration.





Pray for Peace

As we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, Luke reminds us in today's Gospel that Jesus begins his ministry with prayer. After he was baptized in the Jordan, Jesus turns to prayer. This is a great lesson for us all. We need to learn from Jesus on the necessity and importance of prayers in our daily lives. In prayer, we listen to God's voice speaking to us.

What are you praying for? We all have our personal prayers as well as praying for the intentions of our Church. Every year, Pope Francis writes a message of peace on New Year's Day. This year, Pope Francis focuses his message on World Day of Peace on "good politics." He claims that good politics should be at the service of peace. I don't want to paraphrase his ideas on politics, but here I want to emphasize his wisdom on peace. The Holy Father wrote,

{Peace} entails a conversion of heart and soul; it is both interior and communal; and it has three inseparable aspects:

- peace with oneself, rejecting inflexibility, anger and impatience; in the words of Saint Francis de Sales, showing "a bit of sweetness towards oneself" in order to offer "a bit of sweetness to others":
- peace with others: family members, friends, strangers, the poor and the suffering, being unafraid to encounter them and listen to what they have to say;
- peace with all creation, rediscovering the grandeur of God's gift and our individual and shared responsibility as inhabitants of this world, citizens and builders of the future.

Please see this link for its full letter: http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace/documents/ papa-francesco 20181208 messaggio-52giornatamondiale-pace2019.html



A Gospel Reflection on Epiphany by a St. Therese School Student (Grace Chin): I think that this Gospel is about Solidarity because solidarity means that everyone is invited but Herod can't accept him in the world without getting jealous.

Jealousy is such a powerful feeling and you might even hurt someone when you are feeling that. In this case, Herod was jealous and he was willing to go to extreme matters like death, just for his own reign. While Herod let his feeling of jealousy take him over, Jesus was spreading the word of God and inviting everyone to join him. Sometimes your feelings can get the best of you but you have to learn to control it. I think that Jesus shows epiphany when he is spreading the word of God because he is "showing forth" what he was brought here to do. Herod on the other hand, is not "showing forth" what a king is supposed to do. I think that he needs someone to lead him and teach him how to be a good ruler for his people but he isn't willing to accept that he isn't a very good rule. You have to be willing to accept the bad qualities to go forth and bring out the good qualities.

Hospitality Schedule for January 20, 2019:

GREETERS: Marian Torrez & STS Students
RECEPTION: Elisa, Kathryn, Renee, Rita

Today's Liturgy - January 13, 2019
READINGS: GATHER 1014 The Baptism of the Lord/C

PROCESSIONAL: #903 – Baptized in Water OFFERTORY: #584 - Come to the Water

COMMUNION; #916 – I Received the Living God RECESSIONAL: #773 – You Have Anointed Me

News and Events

HELP IS NEEDED to take down CHRISTMAS decorations today after the appreciation luncheon. If you can spare some time to lend a helping hand, it is greatly appreciated.

SECOND COLLECTION

Next weekend is the Collection for the Church in Latin America! Your support will help fund projects throughout Latin America and the Caribbean to build the faith of the people there! #ShareYourFaith #1church1mission



Fun Friday!

The next Fun Friday for our school children will be on Friday, Jan. 18th from 4:30pm to 6:30pm in the Church Community Room.

2019 Parishioner Offering Box can be picked up at the Church entrance table. If you don't have an assigned box and would like to have a set of it, please contact the parish office.



Please keep Mercy Hospital Patients in your prayers.

Christmas Donations as of 01/09/2019

(Continued from last weekend's list)

Thank you to all who contributed!
Grand Total Donations as of
01/07/2019: \$28,428

Theresa Scopacasa	\$50
Rebecca Moy	\$25
Carol & Thomas Spalla	\$100
Marian W. Torrez	\$50
Peter Pon	\$50
Andrew & Eva Feng	\$100
Marie Chan	\$100
Chris Lee, Zhiyun(Frances) Lee	\$200

Save the Date

Our Lunar New Year celebration will be on Sunday, Feb. 10th at 10:00am.

Sat., February 2 5:00 PM

Mass + Youth Ministry Meeting Help mentor and lead the future Young Adults of St. Therese!

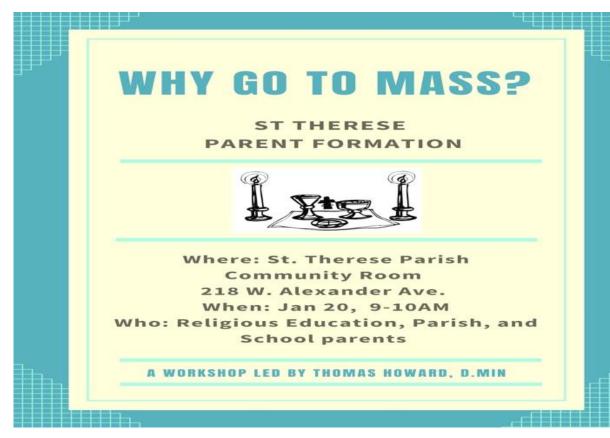
Sat., March 9* Time TBD Service Project TBD

*Date subject to change – stay tuned for details!



Sign up at the church entrance or at:

young.adult.ministry@sttheresechinatown.org | facebook.com/groups/StThereseYAM



Invitation for Jan. 19 Meeting for Parishioners and School Families

Thank you for your participation and patience as we have been discerning the best church, parish and school structures to revitalize the greater ministerial vitality of our Catholic communities.

As shared in November, Cardinal Cupich requested additional time for further discussion and consultation regarding the parishes of All Saints-St. Anthony, St. Barbara, St. Mary of Perpetual Help and St. Therese Chinese and the Archdiocesan Center for Chinese Apostolate.

Since then, further conversations have taken place allowing for more dialogue and discernment about the best future structures for these parishes. Parishioners and school families from the four parishes of All Saints-St. Anthony, St. Barbara, St. Mary of Perpetual Help and St. Therese Chinese are invited to an important update to learn next steps.

Meeting Details:

Saturday, January 19

6:30 p.m.

St. Barbara Church, 2859 S. Throop St., Chicago, IL 60608

We ask you to remember that Jesus Christ is calling each of us to renew His Church ... to find new and creative ways to make disciples, build communities and inspire witness.

RESPECT LIFE CORNER



Soon after the birth of my son, who has Down syndrome, a visitor asked whether he was "mild, moderate, or severe" – referring to his level of cognitive impairment. I knew the terminology, but the question shocked me. In my arms I held my beautiful baby boy, who defied easy categorization. Clinical labels may describe some aspects of an individual's "functioning," but they don't tell the whole story. Labels could not describe how my son's smile lit up a room or how the sweetness of his soul had captured our hearts so completely.

I have since come to understand that clinical categories also miss another important dimension of person-hood: we are created to be in relationship with others. As Pope Saint John Paul II said in his encyclical Evangelium vitae (The Gospel of Life), "Within the family each member is accepted, respected and honoured precisely because he or she is a person; and if any family member is in greater need, the care which he or she receives is all the more intense and attentive."

People often say, "I could never handle a child with a disability." But the beauty of parenting is that you aren't given a child with a disability. You are given your child with a disability. Your child enters the

world in a relationship with you, and that changes everything. You are not called to "handle" a disability. You are called to love a particular person, and caring for him or her grows out of that love. The challenges that come with his diagnosis make up only a small part of life with our wonderful little boy.

Many parents want perfect children, and our culture is obsessed with superficial perfection. Photos are airbrushed, and social media depicts seemingly perfect lives. However, God calls us to seek perfection not in appearance or abilities, but in love.

Christians know what perfect love looks like—Jesus offering himself on the Cross. Love in a family where one member has a serious disability may look unappealing from the outside. Indeed, love in any family is messy; there are faces to wipe and sacrifices to make. It's natural to fear that such sacrifices will require too much, but this is where the deep mystery of sacrificial love becomes apparent.

Perhaps this is why so many families of children with disabilities, despite difficulties, often radiate joy. When I meet another parent of a child with Down syndrome, there is usually a moment of instant recognition and understanding. Our eyes meet, and we smile conspiratorially, as if we're in on the same secret: the fundamental truth that every life is a good and perfect gift.

Many know this on an intellectual level, but those who love someone with a disability see it in their loved one's face in a particular way. Our love for our children has nothing to do with their abilities. We love them simply because of who they *are*, and understanding this teaches us how to truly love everyone. We also begin to understand our own worth, which depends not on our skills or appearance, but solely on the fact that we are created in the image and likeness of God and loved by Him. Our lives—all our lives—are worth living.

http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/respect-life-program/2018/a-perfect-gift.cfm



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Weekly Offering

Collection for January 6, 2019

Sunday Envelopes \$ 1,156

GiveCentral 205 July 1-To-Present (Actual): \$54,883 Sunday Loose 510 July 1-To -Present (Budget): \$61,600

Total Collection \$1,871

Weekly Budget: \$2,200 % of Budget Attained: 89%

Please consider giving one hour of your weekly salary as your contribution.

May God bless your generosity! Thank YOU!

Office for Religious 835 North Rush Street Chicago, IL 60611 tel 312 534.8360

January 2, 2019

Father Dong Ping Li Pastor St. Therese Chinese Catholic Church 218 W. Alexander Street Chicago, IL 60616

Dear Father Li,

Blessings for the New Year of 2019 to you!

On behalf of the retired religious of the Archdiocese and of the United States, I would like to thank you and the members of St. Therese Chinese Catholic Church for your generous donation of \$1,291.00 (check #3132) towards the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your gift continues to make it possible for religious communities to provide quality care for their retired members who selflessly served the People of God through years of dedicated service.

Please be assured of the prayers of all religious, both retired and active, asking God's continued blessings upon your parish throughout the year. If you have any questions regarding the Retirement Fund, please don't hesitate to contact me at 312-534-8234 or ref@archchicago.org.

Gratefully,

Brother Michael S. Segvich, CFC

Retirement Fund for Religious

Coordinator



Please remember in your prayers those who are ill, hospitalized, and homebound...

Lois Payton Helen Moy Katherine Culen

Amelia Lorraine Schroeder

Karl Schroeder Phil Maraldi Nicholas Tobar Vincent Thome Barbara McElroy Ramona Zavala Michael Howley Betsy Young Richard Tobar

Rose Perez Phyllis Robinson Bai Xue John Palenik Luz Whitehead Jade Yee

Dolly Roti James Gemkow Frank Karagianes

Levi Kirkland

Anthony Scuito

Joey L.
Joel Rivers
Shane O'Connell
Nathaniel Hicks
Debbie Annoreno
Rosemary Moy
Sister Noel Devine

Anne Pataka

Gerard Phillips

Ken Barber Kay Siani Jerry McCarthy Joey Nardi Mark Donato John Galvin James Longo III

David Leung Luke Williamson Richard Shew Brian Cook Roberta Cheong

Angelo Iasillo

Frank M. Nardi Carole Louie Schum Cita Orendain Jose Cardenal Cookie Jarzyna Benjamin N. Lucas

Lai I Fan
Xue Ying Mou
Suzanne Lynch
Gyna Gazzi
Joseph Rubin
Cecila Zastro
Soledad Magay
Dorothy Pascente
Mina Preysler Munoz
Mia Rose Faciana
James Rak

Lan Ying Yee
Ching Shiu Yau
Henry F. Wong
Matthew Mantia
Phyllis Centofanti
Susan Zibricky
Barbara Metzinger

Victor Roa Felina Li

"BAPTISM, The Gift of God" by Sister Caritas

Today we are celebrating the Baptism of Jesus. Do you remember someone important to you, telling you how good and, special you are or that you did something very well. You were very happy. Perhaps you stood a little taller and straighter or your smile was a little wider. You were happy for days or happy every time you remembered what that person said. Perhaps you have carried those words of positivity with you throughout your life. Parents are especially people whose comments and words can touch their children in that way.

We have a manifestation of the three persons of the Trinity in this Gospel. Jesus is the Son, is baptized. This baptism is not for the forgiveness of sin since Jesus was always free from sin. John's baptism was not like our baptism. When Jesus comes up out of the Jordon River, the Holy Spirit comes upon Him in the visible form of a dove. At the same time a voice is heard out of the heavens saying, "You are my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased." It is a God filled time. Surely the humanity of Jesus was especially touched by this special expression of God the Father.

Baptism is a very special gift given to us. Through this sacrament, we are filled with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We become temples of God. God lives in us and touches the world through us. We have original sin and all sin forgiven. We are free of all sin. We become members of the Church, the Body of Jesus on earth, both human therefor imperfect, and divine because of Jesus the head of the Church. We become children of God. God is our Father, Jesus is our brother, Mary is our Mother and we are all brothers and sisters. Because we are children of God, we have a chance to go to heaven since Jesus, our brother, died for us. Most importantly, we are filled with grace which is a share in the life of God. When we live out our baptismal commitment, to follow Jesus, we are full of the life of God. We share God's life. Perhaps God the Father can say of us what He said of Jesus, "You are my son, my daughter, in whom I am well pleased." WE celebrate and rejoice!



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