

# St. Therese Catholic Church

Church History  
Fr. Leonard Andrie

November 16, 2021

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## St. Therese Parish

- **Power of Story:** Generally speaking, people are captivated by stories. Give a lecture and children tune out. But tell an engaging story, and they captivated.
- **Capture Attention:** When reading a novel or watching a movie, we insert ourselves in the story, "What would I do?"
- **How to Live:** By knowing our beginning, our destiny, and our purpose, we better understand who we are and how we are to live. In short, stories gives us a lens through which we view our lives and make informed choices.

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### Babylonian Exile: 587/6 B.C.

- King Nebuchadnezzar destroys Jerusalem. He razes the Temple and exiles the best and brightest from the Promised Land.
- In exile, there was no Temple, no sacrifices, and no active priesthood.
- **Key:** They are disoriented. They've lost their story (identity).

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### Rebuilding their lives

- **538 B.C.** - Zerubbabel - rebuilds the Temple
  - Place of worship – heart of culture
- **525 B.C.** - Ezra – teaches the Torah
  - Spiritual and intellectual renewal
- **444 B.C.** – Nehemiah rebuilds the city walls
  - Economic and political renewal

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### Nehemiah 8: Hearing their Story

- Ezra gathers all the people together.
- Reads from the Book of the Law of Moses from daybreak to midday (long Liturgy of the Word).
- They bow down and prostrate themselves before the Lord. The people begin weeping (fallen from the Lord).
- **Key:** Ezra is giving them back their story (their identity).

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## St. Therese Parish

- Studying the history of the Church – our own family history – should help us grow in our devotion and love of the Holy Spirit, who guides, guards, and animates the Church.

~Page 16

- **Key:** God always guides His Church!

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Greek Understanding of History

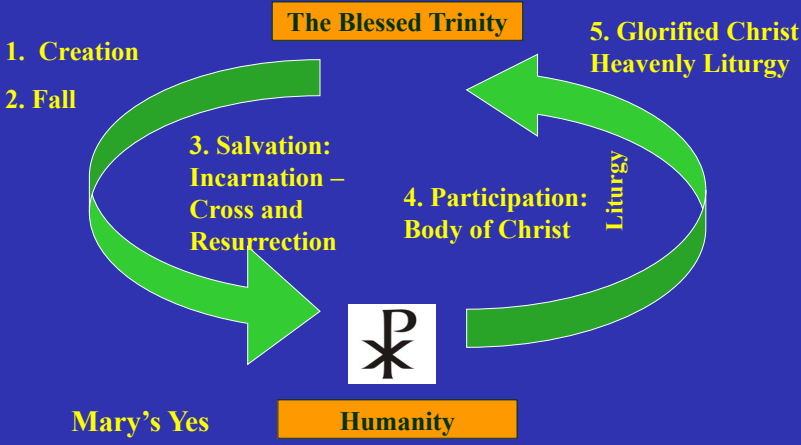


- History repeats itself – never ending cycle; no beginning, end, or purpose

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Catholic Understanding of History



1. Creation

2. Fall

3. Salvation: Incarnation – Cross and Resurrection

4. Participation: Body of Christ

5. Glorified Christ Heavenly Liturgy

The Blessed Trinity

Mary's Yes

Humanity

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## St. Therese Parish

### Reasons to Study Church History

1. **To make sense of our world:** See modern day problems more clearly and helps shape our future decisions to benefit the Church and the world
2. **To know Christ better:** Grow in deeper love for Jesus and His Church

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## St. Therese Parish

### Reasons to Study Church History

3. **To defend the Faith and the Church:** Much modern history is taught from an English Protestant perspective; balanced view of truth (good and bad)
4. **To know who we are:** Sense of a Catholic identity – understand how the Catholic Church has helped shape and influence Western civilization (19)

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- **Key:** Our study of Church history gives an opportunity to learn together, reflect together, and discuss the blessings and challenges of building up Christ's Church.
- Also, it's fun!



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### Stages of Church History

Each age has three successive movements:

1. Intense spiritual activity as the Church faces a new challenge;
2. A period of achievement in which a Christian culture arises in a kind of equilibrium;
3. A period of retreat and crisis as new challenges arise and old arrangements fail.

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|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <br><b>Crisis:</b> Boat in Storm         |  | <br><b>Mission:</b> Apostles / New Saints |
| <br><b>Christendom:</b> Gospel Permeates |  | <br><b>Crisis:</b> Retreat, Renews        |

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Beginning: Mustard Seed (0 – 99)



Mustard Seed



Mustard Plant

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Tower of Babel  
Pieter Bruegel the Elder  
(Genesis 11:1-9)



Pentecost  
(Acts 2:1-13)

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- Church (Gk ekklesia)
  - **Ek:** A preposition meaning “out of”
  - **Kaleo:** Verb meaning “to call”
  - Together, it means “called out.”
  - Soon became assembly, congregation
  - **Key:** Refers to people before institutions


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## St. Therese Parish

- **Catholic:** Original meaning of “general” or “universal.”
- **St. Ignatius of Antioch** (AD 35 – 107): First used the term in his Letter to the Smyrneans).
- Today, oftentimes refers to universal body of faithful in union with the pope and who profess a common faith (Nicene Creed), celebration of sacraments, moral life, and life of prayer.


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## Acts of the Apostles

- Covers a thirty year period of 1<sup>st</sup> century
- Earliest account we have of beginnings of Christianity (along with St. Paul's letters)
- Relates how God brings the activity of Jesus (His words and deeds) to the nations by the Holy Spirit through the Church.
- Key: We see the Holy Spirit powerfully at work through the apostles, deacons, and ordinary believers drawing people to Christ.

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| Gospel of Luke                      |
|-------------------------------------|
| Galilee to Jerusalem (9:51 – 19:44) |

| Acts of the Apostles           |
|--------------------------------|
| Jerusalem to Rome (new center) |

From Jerusalem to End of Earth




<https://christianity201.wordpress.com/2012/06/03/the-great-empowerment-for-the-great-commission-as-prayer-pattern/>

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| Meta-Narrative | Way of Seeing the World  |
|----------------|--|
| Beginning      | World created out of love, power and wisdom. World is both visible and invisible. I am willed with a purpose (i.e., vocation). |
| Fall           | We dealt ourselves a mortal wound by turning away from God resulting in consequences both in us and around us.                 |
| Salvation      | God entered our visible world, became one of us and paid the price for our rebellion.  |
| Participation  | I am connected to Christ through His Church and called to share Him with others.   |
| End            | Death is not the end. If I die in friendship with Jesus, I will enter into everlasting communion with Him and all the saints.  |

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| Three Essential Elements of the Church |  |
|--|--|
| Worships God                           | Liturgy of the Word, Breaking of the Bread (Eucharist), prayer       |
| Evangelizes                            | Teaching, preaching, Communal Life (Unity), saints, personal witness |
| Serves the Poor                        | Corporal and spiritual works of mercy (seven each)                   |

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| Apostle                 | Description                                  | Martyrdom  |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| Peter                   | First; rash and fearful                      | Crucified upside down                            |
| Andrew (Greek name)     | Brother of Peter                             | Tied to X-shaped cross                           |
| James and John          | Stormy temperaments; seek positions of honor | James: Killed by sword<br>John: Exiled to Patmos |
| Philip (Greek name)     | Go-between with Greeks (Jn 12:21)            | Crucified upside down in Persia                  |
| Bartholomew (Nathaniel) | Can anything good come from Nazareth?        | Skinned alive in Armenia                         |

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 **St. Therese Parish**

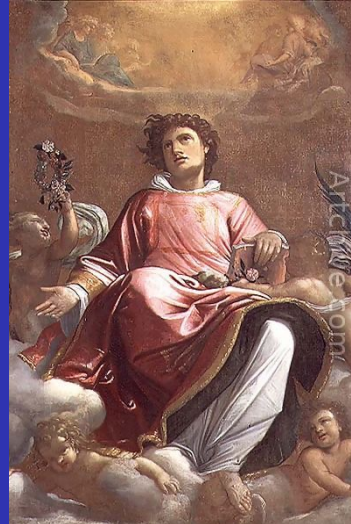
| Apostle                 | Description   | Martyrdom                           |
|-------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Matthew (Levi)          | Tax collector   | Martyred in Ethiopia                |
| Thomas                  | Known for doubting                                      | Stabbed to death in Mylapore, India |
| James (son of Alphaeus) | James the less  | Clubbed to death                    |
| Simon the Cananean      | Zealot or nationalist                                   | Crucified at Edessa                 |
| Thaddeus (Jude)         | Asks Jesus why not reveal self to the world? (Jn 14:22) | Clubbed to death                    |
| Judas Iscariot          | Betrayed Jesus  | Killed himself                      |

Source: <http://catholicism.org/how-did-the-apostles-die.html>

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- **St. Stephen** (Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>)
- First Christian martyr
- Life parallels Jesus Christ
- Martyrdom helped bring about the conversion of Saul
- **Tertullian**: The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church.



<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/342977327857862508/>

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## St. Therese Parish

- Caravaggio
- The Conversion of St. Paul
- Oil on canvas
- 1600 – 1601
- Santa Maria del Popolo, Rome



[https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Caravaggio-The-Conversion-of-St-Paul-1600-1601-oil-on-canvas-230-175-cm-Santa\\_fig1\\_270803566](https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Caravaggio-The-Conversion-of-St-Paul-1600-1601-oil-on-canvas-230-175-cm-Santa_fig1_270803566)

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St. James the Greater



<https://denvercatholic.org/celebrating-st-james-a-gift-for-aspiring-disciples/>

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Peter Freed from Prison



Gerrit van Honthorst (4 November 1592 – 27 April 1656)

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### Council of Jerusalem



<https://www.osvnews.com/2020/09/11/understanding-the-council-of-jerusalem/>

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### Council of Jerusalem

- Do Gentile converts need to be circumcised and follow dietary laws?
- **Key:** Do you have to be a Jew to become a Christian?
- **St. Paul:** We enter God's family by faith.
- **Debate:** Gentiles do not need to be circumcised.

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# St. Therese Parish

1. Spread the Faith through the known Roman Empire (over 10,000 miles by foot!)
2. Mentored converts and built up Christian churches – brought structure to communities
3. Wrote letters to nascent Christian community (13 letters in the New Testament)

## Saul of Tarsus



<https://drivethruhistory.com/saul-of-tarsus/>

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# St. Therese Parish



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## St. Therese Parish

St. Paul wrote 13 letters to various Christian churches



Source: <https://www.ccel.org/bible/phillips/CN092MAPS1.htm>

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## St. Therese Parish

### Nero's Persecution (AD 64)

- Large portion of Rome burned
- Rumor was the Nero started it
- Blamed Christians for the fire
  - Made a law illegal to be a Christian (4<sup>th</sup> century)
  - Had Christians arrested and executed (human torches)
  - Saints Peter and Paul were martyred under Nero
  - St. Peter crucified upside down and St. Paul was beheaded

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## St. Therese Parish

### Overview: Stages of Church History

- Each of the successive ages of the Church's history possesses its own distinctive character, and in each of them we can study a different facet of Christian life and culture (Dawson, 47).
- Each age begins and ends with a crisis:
  1. **Intense spiritual activity:** New apostolate for new situation;
  2. **Achievement:** Creates a ne Christian culture with new forms of life, art, and thought;
  3. **Retreat:** Church is attacked by new enemies from within and without, and the achievements of the second phase are lost or depreciated (47).

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## St. Therese Parish

### Beginning (33 – 99)

- Empowered by the Holy Spirit, the Apostles spread the Gospel throughout the Roman Empire and beyond. They give witness to Jesus Christ. The Gospel is meant for everyone. Believers are no longer separated by Mosaic Law and circumcision.
- **Saints:** Apostles, Martyrs, Missionaries

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### Empire and the Church (100– 312)

- The Church had to coexist with the Roman Empire, sometimes in a hostile environment. Christians experienced ridicule, physical persecution, and martyrdom. The Faith persevered via the saints, apologists, and brave laypeople. **Struggle:** Life-and-death struggle with the Roman Empire
- **Saints:** Apologists, Martyrs, Confessors

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### Conversion and Councils (313– 499)

- The Faith became legal and flourished even more. There arose controversies (Donatism), heresies (Arianism, Pelagianism), and attacks against the Church. This period gave the Church great saints: St. Ambrose, Augustine, and Jerome. **Struggle:** Christian heresy supported by the new Christian empire.
- **Saints:** Theologian Bishops

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### Bright Lights in a Dark Time (500 – 999)

- Referred to as the “Dark Ages,” the Gospel continued to spread among pagan and Arian Germanic tribes. Islam emerged on the scene as a major religious power, often in conflict with Jews and Christians for centuries to come. **Struggle:** Enemies on all sides, by the Moslem aggression to the South and by the pagan barbarism to the North.
- **Saints:** Monks, Missionaries

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### Cathedrals and Crusades (1000 – 1299)

- The Crusades saw a handful of campaigns into Muslim territory – some in victory, others in failure. The Church strove to reform her clergy which had disregarded vows of celibacy. The papacy struggled with secular rulers. **Struggle:** Secularization of the Church and its absorption into the feudal society.
- **Saints:** Scholars and Mendicants

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### The Family Weakens (1300 – 1499)

- Scandal and corruption rocked the Church, especially with the papacy. This period saw the Avignon Papacy, the black plague, and the fall of Constantinople. England and France lost causalities during the Hundred Years' War. **Struggle:** Subordination of Papacy to national monarchies and rise of new revolutionary movements.
- **Saints:** Women (St. Catherine, St. Bridget, St. Elizabeth, St. Gertrude)

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### The Great Divorce (1500 – 1544)

- Martin Luther, John Calvin, Ulrich Zwingli, and Henry VIII ignited a revolt against the Church. Kings pledged their allegiance to either the Church or Protestants for their own advantage. The Church needed to respond to the great crisis. **Struggle:** Separation of the greater part of Northern Europe from Catholicism.
- **Saints:** Defenders (St. John Fisher & St. Thomas More, Carthusians Martyrs of London)

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### The Great Reform (1545 - 1699)

- Pontiffs, clergy, and laypeople pressed for reform. Ecclesiastical abuses were punished. The Faith was brought to the Far East (St. Francis Xavier) and to the Americas (St. Peter Claver, St. Junipero Serra, and St. Isaac Jogues). **Struggle:** Address theological and ecclesial abuses.
- **Saints:** Reformers and Jesuits

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## St. Therese Parish

### Modern Attack (1700 - 1957)

- The Church faces hostility from secular rulers. Many countries and kingdoms tried to distance themselves from the Church. The Church had to address modernist philosophies and face the worldwide crisis of two world wars. **Struggle:** Everything had to be rebuilt from the foundations.
- **Saints:** Heroic love for Jesus and Church (St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, St. John Vianney, St. Henry Cardinal Newman, St. Thérèse)

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**Hope and Mercy (1958 - Present)**

- After two world wars, the Church needed to give the world hope. The Second Vatican Council aimed to reinvigorate the life of the Church. The Church addresses increasing secularization via evangelization, catechesis, and service. **Struggle:** Intense secularization and crumbling of a Christian culture.
- Saints: Lay Movements
- Weidenkopf, Steve. *Timeless: A History of the Catholic Church Study Guide*. Huntington: Our Sunday Visitor, 2019.
- Dawson, Christopher. *The Historic Reality of Christian Culture: A Way to Renewal of Human Life*. England: Routledge, 1960.

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**Epic: Timeline Bookmark (12 Periods – Color Coded)**

| <b>WEAK LEADERS &amp; SCHISM</b>  | <b>PROTESTORS &amp; DEFENDERS</b>                                       | <b>THE CATHOLIC REFORMATION</b>               | <b>REVOLUTIONS &amp; MODERNISM</b>   | <b>A WORLD AT WAR</b>   | <b>THE NEW SPRINGTIME</b>   | <b>THE THRESHOLD OF HOPE</b>                                     |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| <b>Black:</b><br>Dark Time of the Church  | <b>Oranges:</b><br>William of Orange                                    | <b>Gold:</b><br>Holy Saints Reform the Church | <b>Grays:</b><br>Clouds of Industry & Intellectual Confusion                 | <b>Bright Red:</b><br>Color of Fascism and Communism  | <b>Bright Green:</b><br>The Springtime of Renewal   | <b>Marian Blue:</b><br>Pope John Paul II & Mary Our Lady of Hope |
| 1300-1499   | 1500-1544   | 1545-1699                                     | 1700-1913  | 1914-1957   | 1958-1977   | 1978-Present   |
| Vienne (1311-1312)<br>Constance (1414-1418)<br>Florence (1431-1445)                 | Lateran V (1512-1517)   | Trent (1545-1563)                             | Vatican I (1869-1870)  |   | Vatican II (1962-1965)  |  |
|  | <b>MUSTARD SEED</b>   | <b>PERSECUTION</b>                            | <b>CONVERSION &amp; COUNCILS</b>   | <b>MISSIONARIES &amp; THE EMPEROR</b>   | <b>CRUSADERS &amp; SCHOLARS</b>   |  |
|   | <b>Mustard Yellow:</b><br>Parable of the Kingdom of God [Mt. 4:30 - 32] | <b>Dark Red:</b><br>Blood of the Martyrs      | <b>White:</b><br>Empire Clothed White in Christ                              | <b>Purple:</b><br>Royalty of the Holy Roman Emperor   | <b>Navy Blue:</b><br>Color of France: Land of Crusaders   |  |
|   | 33-99   | 100-312                                       | 313-499  | 500-999   | 1000-1299   |  |
|   |   |   | Nicaea I (325)<br>Constantinople I (381)<br>Ephesus (431)<br>Chalcedon (451) | Constantinople II (553)<br>Constantinople III (680)<br>Nicaea II (787)<br>Constantinople IV (869) | Lateran I (1122)<br>Lateran II (1139)<br>Lateran III (1179)<br>Lateran IV (1215)<br>Lyons I (1245)<br>Lyons II (1274) |  |

<https://ascensionpress.com/products/epic-a-journey-through-church-history-timeline-bookmark>

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## St. Therese Parish

- **Questions to Discuss**
  - What brought you to the Church history course?
  - Have you taken any of the Bible studies in the past? If so, how did you like it?
  - What are you looking forward to the most this year in the study?
  - **Prayer Intentions:** Write down and pray this week