


**St. Therese Catholic Church**


Church History  
Fr. Leonard Andrie

November 30, 2021

1

 **St. Therese Parish**

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

<b>WEAK LEADERS &amp; SCHISM</b> Black: <i>Dark Time of the Church</i>	<b>PROTESTORS &amp; DEFENDERS</b> Oranges: <i>William of Orange</i>	<b>THE CATHOLIC REFORMATION</b> Gold: <i>Holy Saints Reform the Church</i>	<b>REVOLUTIONS &amp; MODERNISM</b> Grays: <i>Clouds of Industry &amp; Intellectual Confusion</i>	<b>A WORLD AT WAR</b> Bright Red: <i>Color of Fascism and Communism</i>	<b>THE NEW SPRINGTIME</b> Bright Green: <i>The Springtime of Renewal</i>	<b>THE THRESHOLD OF HOPE</b> Marian Blue: <i>Pope John Paul II &amp; Mary Our Lady of Hope</i>
1300–1499	1500–1544	1545–1699	1700–1913	1914–1957	1958–1977	1978–Present
Vienna (1211–1312) Constance (1414–1418) Florence (1431–1445)	Lateran V (1512–1517)	Trent (1545–1563)	Vatican I (1869–1870)		Vatican II (1962–1965)	
	<b>MUSTARD SEED</b> Mustard Yellow: <i>Parable of the Kingdom of God [Mt. 4:30 – 32]</i>	<b>PERSECUTION</b> Dark Red: <i>Blood of the Martyrs</i>	<b>CONVERSION &amp; COUNCILS</b> White: <i>Empire Clothed White in Christ</i>	<b>MISSIONARIES &amp; THE EMPEROR</b> Purple: <i>Royalty of the Holy Roman Emperor</i>	<b>CRUSADERS &amp; SCHOLARS</b> Navy Blue: <i>Color of France: Land of Crusaders</i>	
	33–99	100–312	313–499	500–999	1000–1299	
			Nicaea I (325) Constantinople I (381) Ephesus (431) Chalcedon (451)	Constantinople II (553) Constantinople III (680) Nicaea II (787) Constantinople IV (869)	Lateran I (1123) Lateran II (1139) Lateran III (1179) Lateran IV (1215) Lyons I (1245) Lyons II (1274)	

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

2

# St. Therese Parish

- Great nephew of Julius Caesar and adopted son
- After the death of Julius Caesar in 44 BC, Octavian was awarded the name Augustus “revered one.”
- Rome’s first emperor
- (31 BC – 14 AD) – nearly doubled the size of the empire
- Collected titles: Chief priest, first citizen, Son of a god, father of the country

## Gaius Octavius



<https://www.history.com/news/8-things-you-may-not-know-about-augustus>

- Extremely ambitious and savvy emperor; longest reign of any Roman emperor

3

# St. Therese Parish

## Roman Empire (31 BC – 476 AD)



The Roman empire at its greatest extent in AD 117

<https://www.historyextra.com/period/roman/roman-empire-history-facts-map-timeline-peak-when-start-when-split-how-long-tetrarchy/>

4

## St. Therese Parish

### Julio-Claudian Dynasty (AD 14 – 68)

- **Tiberius** (14 – 37) Adopted son of Augustus; capable and vigorous ruler; became a cruel tyrant in last year
- **Caligula** (37 – 41): Great-grandson of Augustus; uncontrolled passions and insane; assassinated
- **Claudius I** (41 – 54): Nephew of Tiberius; carried on the work of Augustus, Romanized the West
- **Nero** (54 – 68): Great-nephew and adopted son of Claudius; incarnation of vice and luxury.

5

## St. Therese Parish

- Emperor Nero (54 – 68)
- Rome's Fifth Emperor
- Began reign at age of 17
- Many emperors before age 35 went insane
- A psychopath and neurotic hedonist



<https://www.history.com/topics/ancient-history/nero>

- Outlawed the Christian faith

6

## St. Therese Parish

- Poisoned his brother, ordered the murder of his mother, and kicked his pregnant wife to death
- Nero was a man "of about average height, his body was pockmarked and smelly, while he had light yellow hair, good but not handsome features, blue, rather weak eyes, too thick a neck, a big belly, and spindly legs" and was "ridiculously fussy about his person and his clothes, having his hair done in rows of curls." (40)

7

## St. Therese Parish

- Fire broke out in AD 64
- Rumors that Nero started it to remake city after his own design ("Neropolis")
- Saints Peter and Paul martyred in Rome
- Bishop of Rome, Linus (67 – 76) became second pope



8

 St. Therese Parish

- Siege of Jerusalem (March – September 70 AD)
- Titus nears Jerusalem with four legions (20,000 men)
- Breached western wall and built barricade around old city
- Stormed Antonio Fortress in July and assaulted the Temple
- Early August breached Temple defenses, destroyed on August 10, 70 AD.
- Eliminate last resistance in upper city in September



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Siege\\_of\\_Jerusalem\\_\(70\\_CE\)-en.svg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Siege_of_Jerusalem_(70_CE)-en.svg)

9

 St. Therese Parish

Second Temple Model (AD 64)



[https://gatesofnineveh.wordpress.com/2012/12/27/mary-mother-of-god/img\\_5352/](https://gatesofnineveh.wordpress.com/2012/12/27/mary-mother-of-god/img_5352/)

10

 St. Therese Parish

- Biggest siege to date in Roman history (43).
- Calamities of Jerusalem and Temple (70 AD)
- Nearly one million Jews were killed or starved to death; corpses were stacked in the streets; thousands were crucified around the city, and thousands more sold into slavery.



Destruction of Jerusalem (70 AD)

11

 St. Therese Parish



Western Wall or Wailing Wall (Dome of the Rock in background)

12

## St. Therese Parish

### Masada

- Group of Jews took refuge on isolated rock plateau for 3 years.
- Romans built an impressive 300 foot ramp in order to enter the fortress.
- Jews committed suicide just before the Romans entered the fortress.



<https://www.rollaramp.co.uk/the-gigantic-ramp-of-masada/>

13

## St. Therese Parish

### Faith Spreads

- **Empire was in peace** – There were little revolts here and there, but the empire mostly at peace (Pax Romana)
- **Culturally unity** – Greek was the common language, Latin was the official in law and other official documents
- **Imperial people were religious** – polytheistic (multitude of different gods), but religious – the concept of worshipping a deity was not foreign to the Romans

14



## St. Therese Parish

### Pagans Attracted

- Witness of the early Christians, especially the martyrs; pagans generally did not die for their gods. Christians came to venerate the bodies (relics).
- Astounded how Christians treated the poor with dignity unknown to the pagan world.
- Gospel meant for everyone – brought in all kinds of people (race, class status, education, or profession) (47).

15



## St. Therese Parish

### Domitian (81 – 96)

- Younger brother of Titus who struggled with mental health
- First Roman emperor to deify himself with the title “Lord and God” during his reign.
- **Paranoid:** Constructed hall of polished surfaces that acted as mirrors so he could see anyone trying to sneak up on him
- Initiated limited persecution against the Church by striking down members of the imperial family who had become Christians (48).
- St. John was exiled to island of Patmos; Domitian assassinated

16





## St. Therese Parish

### Clement of Rome (4<sup>th</sup> Pope)

- Taught by Saints Peter and Paul
- Wrote a letter to Corinthian Church to stop uprising
  1. Clergy derive their authority from God, and not from the people
  2. Church is Apostolic, i.e., spiritual authority passed from apostles via ordination
  3. First exercise of the Roman primacy after Peter's death

17



## St. Therese Parish

- Roman Empire enjoyed relative peace under the Antonine Dynasty (138 – 193)
  - Antoninus Pius (138 – 161)
  - Marcus Aurelius (161 – 180)
  - Lucius Verus (161 - 169)
  - Commodus (177 – 192)
- Empire enjoyed internal peace and prosperity

18



## St. Therese Parish

### Church in the Roman Empire

- **End of First Century:** Fewer than 10,000 Christians (0.0017%) of 60 million (unaware)
- **End of Second Century:** 200,000 Christians (less than 1%); dislike and disdain for Christians
- **Around 250:** More than 1 million Christians (2%); First empire wide-persecution under Decius (249 – 251)
- **Beginning of Fourth Century:** 6 million Christians (10%); Church came into conflict with society (51)

19



## St. Therese Parish

### Pagan Attacks on the Church

- Romans Writers: Attacked Christians for the following:
  - **All those who were Christians were ignorant and poor:** Roman society was highly structured – nobility and everyone else (slaves and commoners)
  - **Christians were bad citizens:** Refused to worship state gods (or emperor) (seen as atheists and unpatriotic)
  - **Christians believed in unreasonable doctrine:** They attacked the Incarnation and the Eucharist
  - **Christians were cannibals:** Romans practiced many immoral things, but never cannibalism; Christians ate and drank the flesh and blood of the Lord

20



## St. Therese Parish

### Major Persecutions

- From AD 64 – 305, there were 12 major persecutions under the Roman Empire. Sometimes widespread, regionally, city, or a major province.
- **Emperors wanted a united empire:** Christians refused to worship the emperor and/or the Roman gods – religion and the nation were linked.
- **Reasons of politics:** Failing policies so deflected attention against the Christians (scapegoats).

21



## St. Therese Parish

### Emperor Trajan (98 to 117)

- Began with a benign policy toward Christians. Leave them alone if they were quiet and not public in the manifestation of their faith (57).
- Earthquake in Antioch causing destruction and death. Gods must be offended because of Christians. Trajan issued a persecution of Christians to be put to death.
- Ignatius of Antioch arrested and shipped to Rome. He wrote seven letters to six communities.

22



## St. Therese Parish

### Early Heresies

- **Gnosticism:** Greek *gnosis*, which means knowledge; material world is evil and spiritual things are good; denied the Incarnation, no baptism, renounce marriage, suicide is good
- **Marcionism:** Rejected the Old Testament and claimed that the Apostles were wrong in claiming that the New Testament is a fulfillment of the Old. Marcion claimed to be teaching a pure Christianity, which is a gospel of love to the exclusion of any law.
- **Montanism:** The substance of their doctrine was that the Holy Spirit was now supplementing the revelation of Christ, thereby displacing the bishops and even the Pope. The movement won over the great Tertullian (160-220).

23



## St. Therese Parish

### Apologists

- **St. Irenaeus:** Disciple of Polycarp; bishop of Lyons, wrote *Against Heresies*; argued against Gnosticism's evil to material things. Instead the origin is the misuse of free will. He died in AD 202. Pope Francis plans to name St. Irenaeus a "doctor of unity" soon!
- **St. Justin Martyr:** (100 – 165) Converted to the Faith at age 38; moved to Rome; opened a school to teach Christian philosophy, free of charge. Old Testament and philosophy are like "two paths that lead to Christ, to the *Logos*." Defended Christian belief in the Eucharist (67).

24



## St. Therese Parish

### Apologists (Mass)

- **St. Justin Martyr:** (155) On the day we call the day of the sun, all who dwell in the city or country gather in the same place. The memoirs of the apostles and the writings of the prophets are read, as much as time permits.
- When the reader has finished, he who presides over those gathered admonishes and challenges them to imitate these beautiful things.
- Then we all rise together and offer prayers for ourselves . . .and for all others, wherever they may be, so that we may be found righteous by our life and actions, and faithful to the commandments, so as to obtain eternal salvation.

25



## St. Therese Parish

### Apologists (Mass)

- **St. Justin Martyr:** (155) When the prayers are concluded we exchange the kiss.
- Then someone brings bread and a cup of water and wine mixed together to him who presides over the brethren.
- He takes them and offers praise and glory to the Father of the universe, through the name of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and for a considerable time he gives thanks (in Greek: *eucharistian*) that we have been judged worthy of these gifts.

26



## St. Therese Parish

### Apologists (Mass)

- **St. Justin Martyr:** (155) When he has concluded the prayers and thanksgivings, all present give voice to an acclamation by saying: 'Amen.'
- When he who presides has given thanks and the people have responded, those whom we call deacons give to those present the "eucharisted" bread, wine and water and take them to those who are absent.

*English Translation of the Catechism of the Catholic Church for the United States of America © 1997, United States Catholic Conference, Inc. Paragraph 1345.*

27



## St. Therese Parish

### Apologists

- **Tertullian:** (163-230): Converted to the Faith in his thirties. Ordained a priest. First Christian writer to use the word "Trinity" and "person" – God is one yet three. Famously said, "The blood of martyrs is the seed of Christians." Believed the Church was too lax and so joined the Montanist movement (68-69). Need for humility!
- **Origen:** (185 – 254): Born in Alexandria in Egypt; became the head of a famous catechetical school in Alexandria'; first Christian scholar to write commentaries on the books of the Old Testament (69). Possibly castrated himself.

28



## St. Therese Parish

### Five Most Famous Persecutions

- **Nero (64)**: First persecution by the Romans; mainly in Rome; deaths of Peter and Paul; one man playing on popular prejudice
- **Domitian (95)**: Most difficult in Rome where numerous senatorial families saw members brought to trial; affected Christians throughout the Empire; most probable background to the Apocalypse of John and the first letter of Clement; primary charge against Christians was atheism, understood as a kind of treason

29



## St. Therese Parish

- **Decius (250)**: “Holy War” against all who would not subscribe to paganism (first Empire-wide persecution), Christians included; all subjects were forced to sacrifice to the gods or face loss of property or life; backlash against Christianization of the empire; All who sacrificed received a certificate (*libellus*). Origen tortured, Cyprian in hiding, Pope Fabian martyred.
- **Valerian (257-60)**: Systematic attack on Christianity as an organization; continuation of Decius’ holy war; removal from positions of influence of Christians; Cyprian, Lawrence, Pope Sixtus II, 300 Africans, bishops in Gaul and Spain martyred.

30



## St. Therese Parish

- **Diocletian (303-311):** The Great Persecution of Christians
  - Galerius (Diocletian's Caesar) persuaded Diocletian to persecute Christians because some refused to join the army and others in the army refused to sacrifice to the pagan gods before battle (per army custom).
  - Diocletian ordered the closing of all Christian churches and buildings. All copies of the Scriptures were to be handed over Roman authorities for destruction.
  - Clergy were imprisoned, then tortured. All Romans were to sacrifice to the pagan gods. More than two hundred bishops in North Africa were martyred (75).

31



## St. Therese Parish

### Diocletian (Political Structure Changes)

- Divided the empire in two. The western half encompassed what became Europe and parts of North Africa. The eastern half of the Empire contained Greece, Asia Minor, the Holy Land and Egypt.
- Smaller jurisdictions in each half of the Empire, named "dioceses" after himself (12 in all ruled by a vicar).
- Created a tetrarchy (political structure) based on four rulers, two emperors (each half of the empire) and two caesars as deputies to the emperors. When an emperor died, the Caesar automatically became emperor (74).

32



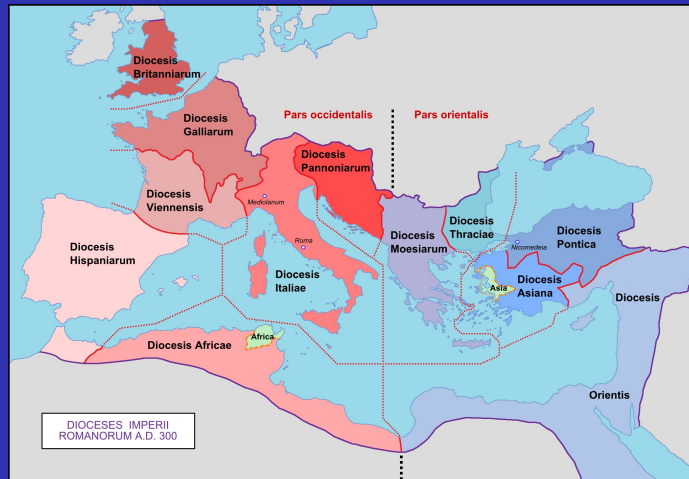
# St. Therese Parish



33

# St. Therese Parish

## Twelve Dioceses Each Ruled by a Vicar



34



## St. Therese Parish

### Christian Response (Heroic)

- **Martyrs:** Witnesses suffered horrible deaths by fire, wild beasts, beheading, and other manners of painful death.
- **Confessors:** Imprisoned and suffered the tortures of racking, beating, scourging, or having their finger nails ripped out. Christian women were frequently sent to brothels. Men sometimes sent to mines – tendon on left foot was cauterized to prevent escape or right eye ripped out. Sometimes they suffered the horror of castration (76).

35



## St. Therese Parish

### Christian Response (Caved)

- **Traditores:** Traitors from the Latin “to hand over.” Handed over the Sacred Scripture or vessels used in the celebration of the Mass. They revealed names of Christians who had such items.
- **Lapsi:** Gave in during the persecutions and, after they ended, desired readmittance.
- **Key:** Debate how to handle the *lapsi*. Rigorists wanted permanent exclusion. Pope Cornelius and Bishop Cyprian set the policy for mercy (77).

36



## St. Therese Parish

- The Great Persecution produced many saints.
  - St. Agnes
  - St. Sebastian
  - St. Lucy
  - Sts. Peter and Marcellinus
  - St. Pancras
- **Key:** North Africa was hit particularly hard. Entire towns were wiped out. Eusebius: So many were killed on a single day that the axe, blunted and worn out by the slaughter, was broken in pieces, while the exhausted executioners had to be periodically relieved (78).

37



## St. Therese Parish

### Conversion of the Roman Empire

- **Tertullian:** The blood of the martyrs was the seed of Christians. The experience of the persecution laid the foundation for the conversion of the empire.
- The Church would grow from a hunted sect to an official state religion in just over three hundred years.
- The conversion of the Roman Empire, one of the most monumental events in the history of the world, was made possible by the witness of those early Christians who stood firm in the midst of persecution, motivated by their love of Christ and his Church (79).

38

## St. Therese Parish

### Chapter 3: Conversions (Read pages 81 – 113)

- Period runs from AD 313-499. Period is white because the Empire converts.
- Conversion reminds us of our baptism and the Holy Spirit (white dove).
- Holy Spirit was active for four important councils.

Goldy the Soldier

