

**For immediate release**

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**St. Therese, Orange to be dedicated after hurricane destruction and flooding**

An Orange church rebuilt after it was destroyed by Hurricane Rita will be dedicated this weekend despite receiving significant water damage from Hurricane Ike. St. Therese Catholic Church, Orange, will be dedicated Dec. 21 with Mass at 9 a.m. celebrated by Bishop Curtis Guillory, SVD.

It has been a long road to recovery for St. Therese. The church was destroyed after Hurricane Rita, and the construction for the rebuild was almost totally funded by Catholic Charities USA. The construction of the new church was close to completion when Hurricane Ike swept through Southeast Texas causing water damage that delayed the dedication by more than two months.

During the dedication, the lights in the church will be kept dim. The parishioners and inside of the church will be sprinkled with holy water, and the altar and walls of the church will be anointed with sacred chrism. The altar and church will be incensed. To finish the dedication, the church will be fully lit as a sign of rejoicing, because now the entire church has been anointed and dedicated to the worship of God.

Since returning from the evacuation for Ike, Mass has been celebrated in the education building due to the water damage that the life center received.