The Catholic faith in Tazewell, VA, dates back to before the Civil War when the county had less than 10,000 residents and its town of the same name, only a few hundred people.

The earliest Catholic Church in Tazewell had its beginnings in 1842 and was located in what was then called Jeffersonville, now known as Tazewell. The Catholic Church was the second house of worship built in the area, following the construction of a Methodist church. It was built at a time when land around the Tazewell Courthouse was just beginning to develop and as what was then Jeffersonville was becoming an agricultural and legal center for the mountainous region which at that time included portions of what is now West Virginia, as well as what is now all of Buchanan County, VA. Fr. Edward Fox, of Wytheville, traveled on horseback across the mountains on a public trail through Burkes Garden to Jeffersonville to hold Catholic services.

Those first services were held in what was called the "Union Church," which the Methodists made available for use by other Christians. By 1852, however, construction was underway on Marion Street for a dedicated Catholic Church. The then Bishop of Wheeling, Bishop Richard Whelen, visited to commemorate the groundbreaking and conducted services in the Union Church.

The new church was a simple, single-story brick building. Among the pioneering citizens who were responsible for helping to establish the church in Jeffersonville were John Warfield Johnson and his wife, Nicolai. They also established a cemetery for Catholic burials on the northeastern edge of his lands on a hill overlooking town.

Just 30 years later in 1883, however, a militant anti-Catholic movement led in part to the church ceasing to celebrate mass in the Town of Tazewell. With fewer Catholics to serve, the Diocese conveyed its lot and church to the elders of a newly forming Disciples of Christ congregation, who utilized it until they chose to build another church in a different location. The former Catholic property was later conveyed to Tazewell County during the planning of construction for a high school. Initially, the former church was part of the school's campus. In later years, the school and chapel were torn down as the school was relocated and a public library was then located there. Later, the area where the church once stood became a county parking lot. A monument in Tazewell today makes note of the historic church location.

Years passed from the waning of an active Catholic presence in Tazewell to April 1951, when the Catholic community in Tazewell began to re-establish itself. Those seeking to practice the Catholic faith began to gather regularly for Mass at the home of Mr. and Mr. J.B. Lynch, on Tazewell Avenue. Fathers Alphonsus Hayes and James Maher were the first priests to begin traveling from Powhatan, WV, to serve a strong, but growing Catholic population in Tazewell. When it grew larger still, Tazewell's Catholic population began celebrating Mass in a small building, once used as a grocery store, located behind the Lynch home. Most referred to it as "the Little Chapel." In the fall of 1951, services were held there as the Lynch family donated it to the Catholic community as a temporary chapel.

It was in that same period the Tazewell Ladies Guild was developed and actively became involved in projects to benefit, develop and to expand the Tazewell Catholic community. Very early in their history, the guild members selected St. Theresa as the name and patron saint of the church.

The present day church building came into being after the A.J. Tynes home on Tazewell Avenue was acquired in 1960. Then Bishop McDonald bought the house and lot for the St. Theresa's Catholic community and for the next several years, church services were held in the Tynes home. In April 1967,

the dream of having a true church building edged closer to reality as ground was broken to build the new church.

Local families made special contributions to the building and furnishing of the church. The George Meder family also made the church possible through their donation which came to Tazewell through the Catholic Extension Society.

The first mass in the new church building was celebrated just a week before Christmas on December 17, 1967 and the church was formally dedicated on May 27, 1968 with Bishop Joseph Hodges in attendance to officiate at the celebration and assist in the ceremonial laying of the cornerstone. Father James Walsh was the first pastor of the new church. At the time the church was built, the rectory was part of the church.

In August 1974, the Southwest Virginia area was transferred from the Diocese of Wheeling, WV to the Diocese of Richmond.

In late August 1975, Fr. James Walsh, who had served St. Theresa's and surrounding churches as pastor, returned to his native Ireland and Fr. Tim Welsh came in as pastor and remained until 1980 when St. Theresa's achieved parish status. Fr. Louis Benoit served as pastor of the new parish and remained until 1986 when Fr. Dan Brady became pastor of St. Theresa's, a position he held for 20 years until 2006.

When Fr. Brady was reassigned in 2006, Fr. Gaudencio Pugat became pastor and remained until 2011. He was followed by Fr. Burt Sare, 2011-2014; Fr. Paul Muyimbwa, 2014-2016; Fr. Felix Amofa, 2016-2017; and Fr. Jugene Espeleta, who began serving as pastor in July 2017. Along the way, additional priests filled in until diocesan-assigned priests arrived to serve parishioners. Among those were Fr. Francis Musolooza; Fr. Mike Herbert; and surrounding area priests assigned to regional parishes.

In the intervening years, the original church building was renovated to separate the rectory from the church building and to turn the former rectory area into a commons-fellowship area. A new rectory was built in 2014-2015.

In 2010, St. Theresa's was merged with St. Elizabeth's, St. Mary's and St. Joseph's to form the Holy Family Parish – one parish with four sites, which continues today.