

THE JOURNEY

“Truth suffers, but never dies.”- St Teresa of Avila

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24, 2023



Pastor

Reverend Frank John Latzko

Address

1037 W. Armitage Ave.
Chicago, Illinois 60614

773-528-6650

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday 6 PM French Mass

Sunday 10 AM, 12 PM, 6 PM

Daily Mass Schedule

Wednesday - 8:00AM

Friday Communion Service

Friday- 8:00AM

Baptism, Reconciliation, Anointing

Please call the office to arrange or email
cgioia@stteraparish.org

Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesdays- 6 PM to 7:30 PM

Office Hours

Weekdays: 9 AM - 7:30 PM

“St. Teresa of Avila Parish is an engaged community rooted in the beauty of the Eucharist and our Catholic faith. We want to make a difference in the lives of the people, especially those who are searching to discover how much God loves them and is calling them to join in the Mission of Christ to live His Gospel. We do so by welcoming people of all backgrounds and cultures in our parish, respecting their desires and questions, crossing borders and learning from those we encounter. You are welcomed to join in the Mission of building bridges and sharing the Good News of Christ.”

Community Ministries

If you want to serve the St. Teresa’s community in our liturgies or our planning, there are many opportunities for you!

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)

teresa.church/rcia

If you are interested in joining the Catholic Church, or helping those through that process as a companion.

Lectors

teresa.church/lectors

Email eric.fredericks+lm@gmail.com for more information.

Eucharistic Ministers

teresa.church/eucharistic-ministers

Email eric.fredericks+lm@gmail.com for more information.

Pastoral Council

teresa.church/pastoral-council

Represent the parish and help advise the pastor in our mission and vision for our community.

Finance Council

teresa.church/finance-council

Reviews financial documents and position of the parish and advise pastor and business manager on financial decisions.

Interested in Joining Our Parish?

Are you interested in making St. Teresa’s your spiritual home? Or just want to learn more about our community?

Fill out the below form and drop it in the collection basket or join online at teresa.church/join.

Name

Email

Phone

Address

Ministries of Interest

In fulfilling our mission to be “Faith & Spirit. Alive.” we invite you to get involved with your family here at St. Teresa of Avila parish.

Outreach Ministries

We have a variety of opportunities you can join to get involved and help serve our community, the Lincoln Park area, and the city of Chicago.

Welcome the Stranger

Join with parishioners from St. Teresa of Avila, St. Josaphat and others in the Lincoln Park Community to support a refugee family's journey in Chicago. Please fill out this link and we will add you to our updates and emails! <https://bit.ly/welcomethestrangerLP>. Additionally, if you would like to work directly with a refugee family, you can sign up at any time for a 3 hour Engaging with

Refugees: Cross-Cultural Training <https://exodusworldservice.org/register/>.

Night Ministry

Support our partnership with The Night Ministry by providing sack suppers to the homeless. Participation is easy and safe! For more information and to sign up, please contact Susan Matejka at smatejka@hpschicago.com.

Loaves and Fishes Dinner

teresa.church/loaves-and-fishes

Weekly soup kitchen feeding and sitting with people in need of a meal.

La Posada Border Ministry

teresa.church/border-ministry

Travel to the border to help and understand those seeking asylum.

Food Pantry

teresa.church/food-pantry

Our parish food pantry is a welcoming, dependable source of nutritious food, respect and social contact to the needy of our community.

Care for Creation Ministry

teresa.church/care-for-creation

Our mission, an authentic social and moral commitment, is to educate and inspire our parish to accept the health of the planet and all creation as a personal and communal responsibility, thereby instilling a desire to make choices that result in actions for the stewardship of God's creation.

Spiritual Ministries

There are many ministries at St. Teresa's that celebrate our faith via small christian communities, serving in our liturgies, and learning more.

Women's Spirituality

teresa.church/womens-spirituality

Meets the Last Tuesday of the month to provide a supportive space for prayer and reflection.

Men's Spirituality

teresa.church/mens-spirituality

Meets virtually every Tuesdays at 7am to come together and discuss what it means to be a disciple. Email cdeanhockey@gmail.com to get the link and join.

Bible Studies/Discussion Groups

Throughout the year there are bible studies you can join or maybe a book study with Fr. Frank. Schedules change throughout the year, so stay tuned!

Religious Education

teresa.church/religious-education

Whether it's our Montessori based Catechesis of the Good Shephard for children, EDGE Middle School ministry, QUEST High School Ministry, or SPRED Ministry for those with special needs, St. Teresa's has a wide array of programs to meet the needs of our children.

Communauté Catholique Francophone de Chicago

teresa.church/french-community

St. Teresa's is home to a wonderful and vibrant French community.

This Sunday's Readings:

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16

The Lord promises David that he will raise from his descendents a kingdom that will endure forever.

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Paul praises God for making his revelation known.

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel visits Mary to announce the birth of Jesus.

Reflections for Today:

In what ways can I cultivate a deeper trust in God's plan, especially in times of uncertainty or hardship?

What does it mean to me to have a heart willing to listen, trust, and respond to God's call? How can I develop these qualities during Advent and beyond?



Feasts and Saints:

12/26- St. Stephen, The First Martyr

12/27- St. John, The Apostle and Evangelist

12/28- The Holy Innocents, Martyrs



Daily Prayer for Today:

Lord God, our Father in heaven, you have sent us the Savior, who was born to bring great joy to all people. Glorify your name, we pray. Give the world the peace you alone can give, the peace that wells up in our hearts. Let your favor rest on us so that we may hold out under our sufferings on earth. We need your loving help to remain inwardly steadfast until everyone can be reached by the message, "Be strong in the grace of Jesus Christ." Amen.

Financials: October 2023

	FY24	FY23
Basket/Mail In:	8,917	21,536
Give Central:	38,753	34,775
Total:	THIS YEAR	PREVIOUS YEAR
	\$47,670	\$56,311
	\$(8,641)	

Stewardship:

"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" – Luke 1:28

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God's call. Mary teaches us to live with joy for all we have been given. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ's light to the world through our gratitude and generosity.

Angel Tree Visit at Little Sisters of the Poor:



On Saturday December 16th we visited the sisters and the residents to deliver the “Angel Tree” gifts.

We were joined by some of our families as well as some students from our CGS program to hand deliver the gifts and share some delicious treats with everyone at The Little Sisters of the Poor.

It was a beautiful morning and we would like to THANK everyone who made this possible through all of the generous donations we received.

It truly is better to give than receive!



Breakfast with Santa:



A huge THANK YOU to Santa and all of his helpers in helping to make this year's Breakfast with Santa so wonderful!

Everyone enjoyed a visit with Santa, a delicious pancake breakfast and a craft made by the children.

Until next year Santa!

Love,

Everyone at St. Teresa of Avila XO



Save the Date:

Cuisine du coeur 2024

Sunday March 10th



Christmas Eve French Mass:

There will be a Christmas Eve Mass today at 5pm.



Thank You-Refugee Amazon Wish List :

We would like to thank everyone who bought items and/or gift cards and contributed to the Amazon Wish List for Refugees. This is the season of giving and St. Teresa's parishioner definitely showed their generosity. The items that were purchased will be used to help set up the apartments for two new families that we will be expecting first quarter in 2024. Any extra items or gift cards will be used to help existing families that we are assisting acclimate to the US.

If you are interested in assisting to set up the apartment, or want to work with an incoming family and spending once a week with them (aprox 2 hours a week), reach out to kristen@rlcanning.com for more information.

We will plan to run another drive in the Spring. Thank you again for your generosity.



Bible Education: Returns January 7th, 2024

“A Biblical Walk Through The Mass” Join us, on Sunday at 8:50 – 9:50 am OR 4:40 – 5:40 pm, as we explore the rich biblical roots of the Liturgy and learn what our words, gestures, and rituals mean and why it all matters. Sign Up or Questions? Email Debbie at dbichimer@gmail.com

Join Us For Hospitality

After the 10am and 6pm Mass

This is a wonderful way to catch up and visit with fellow parishioners as well as meeting new ones and getting to know each other! If you would be interested in hosting a Sunday after the 10am Mass here is the link to sign up-

<https://signup.com/go/uwfqUZN>

Food Pantry

In an attempt to reduce the use of plastic bags, the Food Pantry is always in great need of DOUBLED PAPER GROCERY BAGS WITH HANDLES. Please drop off at the parish office or at the pantry. Help our Food Pantry by donating cans of HEARTY SOUP or BOXES OF CEREAL. Please bring to Mass each week to be Presented during The Presentation of the Gifts. Note: We only ask for soup and cereal as most items needed come from the Greater Chicago Food Depository. Thank You!



Loaves and Fishes:

Hello St Teresa Parishioners,

As the weather turns colder our Loaves and Fishes Ministry is looking for any new and gently worn coats for our guests. Men's large and x large are in the highest demand and the warmer the better!

Call the Parish Office to arrange drop off- 773-528-6650

Calling All Those Who Enjoy Cooking!

Hearing the call to serve those less fortunate? Always wanted to (learn to) cook for a crowd? Our Loaves and Fishes Ministry is seeking cooks (and their helpers) to prepare a warm dinner for the elderly and homeless in our area, served each Friday afternoon. For a 3-6 hour commitment one Friday a month, you'll meet a wonderful group of people to work with, share kitchen tips and feel good about helping those in need. For more info, please contact Charisse Gioia cgioia@stteresaparish.org Thank you!

Mass Intentions

10AM - Bill Walsh (D)

12 PM - Parishioners of St. Teresa of Avila Living and Deceased

6 PM - Parishioners of St. Teresa of Avila Living and Deceased

Let Us Pray For: The Sick, The Deceased and Peace in Our World:

We pray for everyone who suffers from illness of mind or body.

We pray for those who have passed away.

We pray for peace in our city and around the world.

We pray for the intentions on our prayer cards.

We pray for survivors and perpetrators

of sexual abuse.



Upcoming Mass Schedule

Sunday 12/31 10am- Fr. Udovic

Sunday 12/31 12pm- Fr. Udovic

Sunday 12/31 6pm- Fr. Udovic

A Prayer for the Fourth Week in Advent – a Prayer for Peace.

Lord, I invite your peace to rule my heart! As I end this year and reflect on your many gifts you have given me; let my heart be encouraged with the truth that you are a good God. I thank you for sending your Son to die for me. I thank you for the peace I have through you. May my words and actions be ones that glorify you. Amen.



Sunday Funday: December 24th

Today is- Christmas Eve, Last Minute Shopper's Day and National Egg Nog Day

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house

Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;

The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,

In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.

– from A Visit from St. Nicholas, by Clement Clarke Moore



Merry Christmas to All

From Fr. Frank and the entire staff of St. Teresa of Avila Parish

Wishing you a truly joyous Christmas.
May you enjoy a joy-filled day celebrating Jesus' birth.
May God bless you on this beautiful Christmas Day.



ST. TERESA OF AVILA

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE 2023

Christmas Eve Sunday December 24th

10am Sunday Mass

3pm and 7pm Christmas Eve Mass

Christmas Day Monday December 25th

10am Christmas Day Mass

New Year's Eve Sunday December 31st

10am and 12pm Sunday Mass

6pm The Solemnity of Mary



Fourth Sunday of Advent:

On this the fourth week of Advent, we light the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Savior. This final candle, the “Angel’s Candle,” symbolizes peace.

We meditate on the peace that Jesus brings our hearts and our world. Scripture is the place we can find the promises of God. Let us meditate on these truths and allow them to comfort our hearts this Advent season!

This week we focus our hearts on the “Lord of peace” who came down from heaven in the form of a baby. God knows that we are in a constant battle against fear! Fear wants to cripple us, to push us to react rather than carefully respond, and fear steals our joy. God has given us the gift of peace so we can live joy-filled lives!

An angel appears to Joseph, directing him to take Mary as his wife and telling him that the child she will bear will be called Emmanuel. Joseph trusted God’s message to him and accepted the responsibility of caring for Mary and the child she would bear, Jesus.



Parish Contacts

Staff

Fr. Frank Latzko

Pastor

frfrankjohn56@gmail.com

Charisse Gioia

Office Manager/Technology Coordinator/
Bulletin

cgioia@stteresaparish.org

Charisse is responsible for managing the parish office as well producing our weekly bulletin and emails.

Charisse has been with the parish since 2019.

Mark Neuhengen

Director of Evangelization and
Parish Mission

mneuhengen@stteresaparish.org

Mark is responsible for our Parish Evangelization and Ministry. Mark is a graduate from Loyola University Chicago, holds a masters in theology and has been with the parish since 2019.

Barbara McHugh

Religious Education

bmchugh@stteresaparish.org

Barb is responsible for our Children's Faith formation programs. She and her husband Ed have been parishioners at St. Teresa's for over 30 years.

Carol Spalla-Malone

Part-Time Business Manager

cspalla@archicago.org

Jason Krumwiede

Director of Music

musicalnut1@mac.com

Staff

Housekeeping

Irma Saavedra

Sergio Mora

Building & Facilities Manager

smora@stteresaparish.org

Parish Council

Anna Althoff- President

annamariealthoff@hotmail.com

The Parish Pastoral Council is a consultative body to the pastor and represents a cross section of the parish. Together with the Pastor, the PPC helps to craft and carry out the Mission of the Parish.

Finance Council

Don Eldred- Chair

The St. Teresa Finance Council reviews the financial documents and position of the parish and advises the pastor and business manager on financial matters, including the preparation of the annual parish budget.

Stewardship Committee

Dan Summins- Chair

dsummins@hotmail.com

The Stewardship Committee's goal is to foster a sense of gratefulness and response of increased sharing of gifts in the parish and communities we seek to support. We do this by creating, encouraging and communicating ideas and programs that help parishioners recognize and share their gifts.

Contributing to the Bulletin

Past bulletins and guidelines for submitting to the bulletin are available on our website at: www.teresa.church/bulletins

How to Report Sexual Abuse

To report an allegation of sexual abuse and/or neglect of minors, contact the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Hotline at 800.25.ABUSE (800.252.2873) and/or contact your local police department.

You can also contact the Office of Protection of Children and Youth (OPCY) at 312.534.5254.