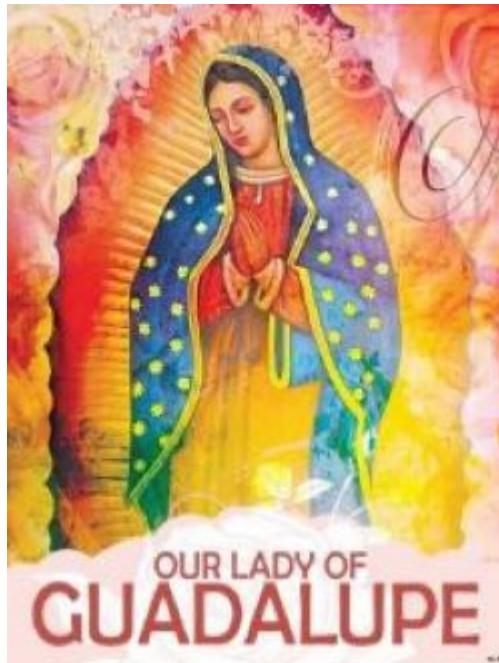


THE JOURNEY

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

Second Sunday of Advent
December 8, 2024



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 - 8:00AM Communion Service

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: 8:30 AM to 3:30 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: Baruch 5:1-9

Jerusalem shall see the splendor of God's glory.

Second Reading: Philippians 1:4-6,8-11

Paul prays for the Philippians.

Gospel Reading: Luke 3:1-6

John preaches repentance and baptizes in the region of the Jordan.

Feasts and Saints:

12/9- The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

12/10- Our Lady of Loreto

12/11- St. Damasus I, Pope

12/12- Our Lady of Guadalupe

12/13- St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

12/14- St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

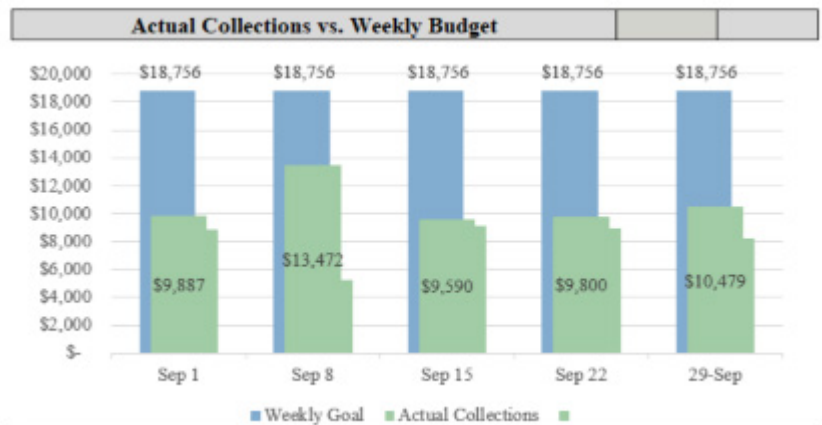
Gospel Meditation: 2nd Sunday of Advent

In the year 1995, in the seventeenth year of my life, when Fife Symington was governor of Arizona, Bill Clinton was president of the United States, Chuck Keiffer was pastor of St. Theresa parish in Phoenix, Arizona, and Ron and Mary were my parents, the word of God came to my youth minister Eric and through him I started to see the salvation of God. Soon, Christ came into my life never to leave. I'm thankful beyond words.

Why am I being so specific, you ask? Because in the Gospel this week we hear the specific names of people holding civic and religious authority in first century Palestine when "the word of God came to John the Baptist:" Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate, Herod, Philip, Lysanias, Annas, Caiaphas, and Zechariah. All this is meant to help us see that God breaks into our history, into real human events. Jesus is no mere myth. He is the Word-which-breaks-in, in concrete moments, you might say. And now we anticipate his coming once again in our specific situations. Advent challenge: Name as many civic and religious leaders who are in authority currently in your life. Now, name who the potential John the Baptists may be. A spouse? A friend? A podcaster? A work colleague who brings God's word to you? Spend a moment considering that this comprises the concrete, historical setting into which Christ wishes to come. Then, with these specifics in mind, pray: "Come, Lord Jesus. Come." — Father John Muir

Financials: September 2024

	FY25	FY24
Basket/Mail In:	10,521	9,763
Give Central:	36,699	37,837
Total:	THIS YEAR	PREVIOUS YEAR
	\$47,220	\$47,600
		(\$380)



Immaculate Conception

“Immaculate Mary, your praises we sing!” December 8th is one of our feasts celebrating Mary - the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. From the beginnings of the Church, spiritual writers and theologians have acknowledged the innocence and holiness of Mary. St. Irenaeus called her the “new Eve.” Both faced with the pure freedom to accept or reject God, Mary began with work of redemption with her yes to Christ! The Church began to celebrate the feast of Mary’s conception in the early Middle Ages. In 1854, Pope Pius IX infallibly declared that Mary was free of original sin from the first moment of her conception. On this feast day, we celebrate the beauty and goodness of Our Lady!

The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.” — Lk 1:30-31



Exercise equipment needed for Refugee Family

One of our newest Refugee Family’s that we welcomed has a very hard circumstance. The mother is single, and has 2 disabled adult sons. One of the sons has had to have open heart surgery, and the doctor wants him to have light physical exercise. The mother asked if anyone has a small treadmill or exercise bike they would be willing to donate to their family to help with recovery. The apartment is very small, so space wise, this would need to be compact. Also looking to see if someone has the ability to transport to the family’s apartment in Evanston/Rogers Park. They are on the first floor, but there are about 5 stairs leading up to the unit.

If you think you can help, please reach out to Kristen Castelloni kristen@rlcanning.com. Thanks in advance for your help.

Reconciliation:

Tuesday December 17th 6:00-7:30pm

Monday December 23rd 6:00-7:30pm



Gospel Reflections:

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

The Straight Path

Ten to fifteen years ago the Department of Transportation decided that it would be fun to give everyone in my zip code something to complain about and replaced most of our major intersections with roundabouts.

This wouldn't be so irksome, I suppose, if I understood how to navigate a roundabout. In theory I do, I've read all the rules and I've watched those cute little YouTube videos where they show you which car is supposed to go at what time. But theory and practice are rather different. And the bottom line is, I never approach a roundabout without taking a deep, anxious breath and tightening my grip on the steering wheel, not entirely sure what my next move should be.

I think of roundabouts every time I hear today's Gospel reading, where John the Baptist echoes Isaiah in beseeching us to make straight the paths of the Lord. See, I always think I've made a straight path between me and God. I go to Mass. I go to Confession. I say my prayers.

He can get to me if He wants, I tell myself.

But without realizing it, I put up roundabouts. I make rules. You go here, God, and then I go here. I'll do this, God, but first You do this. You stay in your lane, and I stay in mine. Eventually I find myself taking a different route altogether; the road that stretches between me and Him is too daunting. I start avoiding it.

Sometimes I think God wants the path to be straight not for Himself but for us. He can handle a roundabout. But He knows that when we must run to Him, we have to do it without thinking. In the dark. In fear, in anxiety.

So, this Advent, beware the roundabouts. Make straight the path.

Stewardship Reflections:

Everyday Stewardship

I remember growing up in Catholic school and having to make construction paper Advent wreaths every single year! The little yellow flames would be cut out and held until each new candle was lit. Great idea, except for the fact that the chance you could find the flames greatly diminished as each week passed. I will bet over 50% of the wreaths never received a 4th flame! Of course by then, most kids in elementary school had moved on to Christmas. Christmas was not a day. It was an entire experience of vacation from school.

You may or may not have an Advent wreath in your home or office, but those flames are rather insignificant to the flame that should be burning in our hearts during this season. How are you finding ways to light your fire? How are you preparing the way for Christ to come into your life and the lives of those around you in a more profound way?

The ritual of an Advent wreath is a good idea for anyone. But don't think that your preparations are done simply because you have one. You are called to be a flame to others during this season, reminding them of why we celebrate this time at all. Each person is a candle to be lit, and you have the gifts, given to you by God, to light them. At Christmas, you want God to look at you and see all the light generated by those He lit through you. Now is the time. Don't wait until Advent is almost over. You might not be able to find your own flames if you wait too long.

Turkey Trot 2024:

9th ANNUAL St. TERESA's TURKEY TROT..... A HUGE SUCCESS!

We held our 9th Annual Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving morning before the 9:00am Mass.

It was a fun social non-competitive walk / run with breakfast before and after the trot.

Ages ranged from a 6th grader to a 66 year old, parents brought their 2 year old in a stroller, Trotters came from Lincoln Park and throughout the city and Johnny from Oak Park. Several out of towners from the Twin Cities in Minnesota and even a jogger from Texas!

Everyone was given a warm St. Teresa's welcome and enjoyed a wonderful start to their Thanksgiving Day.

Thanks for our trotters for bringing donations for our food pantry and to Lonnie at Starbucks at Armitage and Sheffield for the delicious hot fresh Pike's Place coffee.

Hope to see you next Thanksgiving morning for our 10th ANNUAL No Fee TURKEY TROT!.....

Where all are welcomed!

Coach Mark Buciak



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:

Food Pantry Needs

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has partnered with The Greater Chicago Food Depository to increase the choices food pantries are able to receive each month. As a result, a variety of canned goods, nuts and dried/frozen fruit have been added to our deliveries. However, we continue to be in need of

INDIVIDUAL ROLLS OF WRAPPED TOILET PAPER.

It can be donated at Mass each week during the Presentation of the Gifts. Thank You for your generosity!

Welcome Committee:

The Parish Council is excited to announce the formation of a new Welcoming Committee here at St Teresa of Avila. We are looking for 2-3 people to help lead this initiative, and help us build a team of welcome volunteers for each mass. The task is simple, we need amazing volunteers that will greet all parishioners before mass with a friendly smile, a nice "hello", and possibly help them find a seat! You may think we already do this, but it's not consistent. Imagine walking into someone's house and not being welcomed when you walk in the door, a place of business, or a restaurant. First impressions can be lasting impressions.

Please consider joining this committee because it'll be fun and rewarding! If interested, please reach out to Jessica Marx @ chicago2381@hotmail.com.

Loaves and Fishes:

The Loaves & Fishes ministry has been inviting guests indoors to enjoy their meal on Friday evenings.

We need volunteers to greet our guests, serve them, and clean tables. Volunteers are needed on Friday evenings from 3:30 to 6:00. If you cannot arrive by 3:30, just let us know when you sign up. You can sign up here - <https://signup.com/go/rBJiFSK>.

Calling All Those Who Enjoy Cooking!

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 helpers) to prepare a warm dinner for the elderly and homeless in our area, served each Friday afternoon. For a 3-6 hour commitment, 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

Home Communion:

Please contact the parish office to request a home visit with a minister of care to bring the Eucharist to you.

Prayer

Mass Intentions

10AM - Healing Prayers for Bruce Lindstrom ; Chris Smith (D)

Francisco Lorenzo Gonzalez (D)

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

6 PM - Jeanette Gioia (D)

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

We pray for those 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 12/15 10am- Fr. Frank

Sunday 12/15 12pm- Fr. Frank

Sunday 12/15 6pm- Fr. Alphonse

Prayer for the second week of Advent

Prayer of Preparation

With abiding hope as we look forward to Jesus' arrival —

Make straight the paths, Lord!

Fill us with holy excitement, in Your name.

Amen.

Sunday Funday: December 8th:

Today is National Brownie Day and National Christmas Tree Day

1952- On the CBS show I Love Lucy, a pregnancy was acknowledged in a TV show for the first time, with the announcement that 'Me and my husband are about to have a blessed event.'

1980- John Lennon was shot by Mark David Chapman outside of his home in New York City.

2013- Metallica performed a show in Antarctica, making them the first band to perform on all seven continents.

"Did you hear about the shepherd who wanted a new job?"



"He fell asleep counting sheep."



Shepherding was a lowly job in the biblical era, but shepherds were the first notified of Jesus' birth!

G.L.P.

Our Lady of Guadalupe | December 12

When Mary appeared to Juan Diego as Our Lady of Guadalupe, she had encouraging words for him. “Am I not here, I who am your mother?”

In the image on Juan Diego’s tilma (tunic), Mary identifies herself with the Aztec people. She has their hair and features, their symbolic maternity dress. She incorporated their important symbols of the sun, moon, and stars.

Today’s Mass includes two Gospel options. Both are familiar passages from the Gospel of Luke - the Annunciation and the Visitation. Both are equally relevant to today’s feast because Mary’s yes to Christ isn’t only to care for him but to come to us.

Our Lady of Guadalupe is pregnant. The image bears witness to Mary’s yes to conceive the Savior of the World. But even in her pregnancy, she goes to care for Elizabeth. Now Mother to all the world, Mary comes to the aid of her children, reminding them of her presence among them.



Las Posadas

Question:

What is the Hispanic Advent custom of “Las Posadas”?

Answer:

“Posada” is the Spanish word for inn or lodging. “Las Posadas” refers to a traditional Advent custom in preparation for the birth of Jesus, beginning on December 16. For nine successive evenings, groups reenact the search of Mary and Joseph for shelter in Bethlehem.

Two children dress as Mary and Joseph, sometimes with Mary riding on an actual donkey. They are usually accompanied by children dressed as angels and shepherds along with the Wise Men. Adults accompany them as they process to designated homes where they sing Christmas songs and request lodging. Part of the group enters the home and becomes the chorus that responds to the request for lodging. In the beginning the request is rebuffed. They move to several more homes where the ritual is repeated. Eventually, at the last home, their need is recognized, and they all enter the home where a party ensues. This is repeated in different neighborhoods and homes each of the nine days.

While this custom teaches children an important aspect of the Christmas story, it also emphasizes the need for hospitality to strangers and the continual need we all have to make room for Jesus in our “posada.” As we struggle to arrive at a fair and just immigration policy, it would be good to recall the fact that Mary, Joseph, and Jesus were also immigrants looking for a hospitable place to dwell.

St. Lucy | Feast Day December 13

A name that means “light,” St. Lucy (283 – 304) is the patron saint of those blind or suffering with eye trouble. Not much is known about her life, except that she was determined to remain a virgin and thus refused marriage. History tells the story of a frustrated suitor who eventually accused St. Lucy of being a Christian (at crime at the time), and she was executed in Syracuse, Sicily, in the year 304.

Today, we celebrate a number of traditions that incorporate symbolic meaning of St. Lucy as the “bearer” of light in the darkness of winter. This is particularly seen in Scandinavian countries, with their long dark winters. There, a young girl dressed in a white dress and a red sash (as the symbol of martyrdom) carries palms and wears a crown or wreath of candles on her head. In Denmark, Norway and Sweden, girls dressed as Lucy carry rolls and cookies in procession as songs are sung.



St. John of the Cross

“Let us rejoice, O my Beloved!” December 14th is the feast of mystic, poet, and reformer, St. John of the Cross. St. Teresa of Avila enlisted his assistance in reforming the Carmelite order. The proposed reforms didn’t go over well, and John was imprisoned. Rather than become discouraged or defiant, John turned to prayer. His time in prison resulted in some of the greatest mystical poetry the Church has seen. After his escape, his efforts were recognized and honored by the Carmelites. While he was appointed to the highest office in his order, dissension forced him into solitude again. Following Christ isn’t always easy, nor will it always be received well by everyone around us. John of the Cross teaches us that these challenges can be opportunities to unite ourselves closer to Jesus.

Catholic Trivia Just for Fun:

Question: During the liturgical year, when is the very first solemnity celebrated?

Answer: December 8th — the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Question: Who does the first and second readings during Mass?

Answer: The Lector.

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

annamarialthoff@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.