

# THE JOURNEY

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 22, 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](mailto: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](https://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](https://teresa.church/lectors)

Email [eric.fredericks+lm@gmail.com](mailto:eric.fredericks+lm@gmail.com) for more information.

### Eucharistic Ministers

[teresa.church/eucharistic-ministers](https://teresa.church/eucharistic-ministers)

Email [eric.fredericks+lm@gmail.com](mailto:eric.fredericks+lm@gmail.com) for more information.

### Pastoral Council

[teresa.church/pastoral-council](https://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](https://teresa.church/finance-council)

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

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## 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](https://teresa.church/join).

Name

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Email

Phone

Address

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Ministries of Interest

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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](mailto:smatejka@hpschicago.com).

### Loaves and Fishes Dinner

[teresa.church/loaves-and-fishes](https://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](https://teresa.church/border-ministry)

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

### Food Pantry

[teresa.church/food-pantry](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://teresa.church/mens-spirituality)

Meets virtually every Tuesdays at 7am to come together and discuss what it means to be a disciple. Email [cdanhockey@gmail.com](mailto:cdanhockey@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](https://teresa.church/religious-education)

Whether it's our Montessori based Catechesis of the Good Shepherd 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](https://teresa.church/french-community)

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

This Sunday’s Readings:

**First Reading:** Micah 5:1-4

The ruler of Israel is promised to come from Bethlehem.

**Second Reading:** Hebrews 10:5-10

Through his obedience to God’s will, Christ consecrated all.

**Gospel Reading:** Luke 1:39-45

Mary visits Elizabeth, who sings praise to Mary and her child.

Feasts and Saints:

- 12/23- St. John of Kanty, Priest
- 12/25- The Nativity of the Lord , Christmas
- 12/26- St. Stephen, The First Martyr
- 12/27- St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
- 12/28- The Holy Innocents. Martyrs

Gospel Meditation: 4th Sunday of Adven

The Blessed Virgin teaches us the secret to being blessed, happy, and full of joy. When Elizabeth, her cousin, greets her, she calls Mary “blessed” for two reasons, her motherhood of Jesus, and Our Lady’s belief that “there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord” (Luke 1:45). Mary is “blessed” entirely because of her relationship to the Incarnation of God in Jesus, and for no other. This of course makes perfect sense, because as the Lord, as God-in-the-flesh, her son is the source of all blessedness, life, and joy. Mary is blessed because of her contact with Jesus, and by her faith in him.

So, it is with us, too. We become blessed by our “motherly” contact with Christ in our souls through baptism. He lives in us and grows to maturity within us. We bear him to the world. This requires unshakeable faith that his promises to us will be fulfilled, despite all the problems and difficulties that plague us. We become blessed, happy, and joyful in the measure that we are in contact with Jesus and trust in him.

Advent challenges: 1.) This week go to someone who has borne the love of Jesus to you and tell her or him how they have been a blessing to you. 2.) Name someone in your life now to whom God has sent you to bring Jesus’ presence. Pray: “Lord, thank you for the blessing of sending me to bring your presence to this person. Help me bear you faithfully to him/her.” — Father John Muir

Financials: October 2024

	FY25	FY24
Basket/Mail In:	10,782	8,917
Give Central:	39,591	38,753
Total:	THIS YEAR	PREVIOUS YEAR
	\$50,373	\$47,670
	\$2,703	



## From Mark:

I like to think of the readings for the Advent season as a good yardstick to measure how harmonious my relationships are. Throughout the readings we hear on Sundays and daily mass, we are presented with a vision of the Kingdom of God. One of the first readings we heard this season is from the beginning of Isaiah. The author paints a rather powerful picture of what the Kingdom of God looks like.

Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid;  
The calf and the young lion shall browse together, with a little child to guide them.  
The cow and the bear shall be neighbors, together their young shall rest; the lion shall eat hay like the ox.  
The baby shall play by the cobra's den, and the child lay his hand on the adder's lair.  
There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the LORD, as water covers the sea.

In these short verses, the Book of Isaiah is showing us what the Kingdom of God will feel like. It will be a place of perfect harmony where even the more extreme opposites one could imagine (cow/bear, baby/cobra, wolf/lamb) do not just begrudgingly accept each other. They come together in a spirit of pure unity and love. Jesus himself called on us to see this ideal utopia of snakes, children and bears being friends and see how we can make it a reality. We are asked by the Lord to pray that "thy Kingdom come." This is both an invitation to us to pray for God's presence in our lives and a radical challenge to see our own relationships in the world and measure them against the Kingdom shown to us in our scriptures. This is a tough challenge for all of us. Am I in harmony with the homeless people who sleep under Lakeshore drive? Am I in harmony with my family member who voted for the other candidate last month? Am I in harmony with the college students in the city who are anxious about finding a job that works for them? Am I in harmony with my fellow Americans who live in Wyoming or New York or in California? Am I in harmony with God's creation; the trees and animals that share this world with us?

As we prepare for the birth of Jesus, let us look to him who is the One who is in perfect harmony and unity with all of creation and with all people.

## Little Sisters Angel Tree Visit:

On Saturday December 14, we visited the residents at Little Sisters of the Poor for a beautiful Christmas visit.

We had many of the children who attend our CGS religious education program and their family's as well as staff and parishioners who helped to bring Christmas cheer, presents and treats to the residents and the sisters.

Thank you to everyone who donated gifts and volunteered to make this a most joyous day!



## Gospel Reflections:

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

### The Hidden Truth

If you have ever been visibly pregnant, chances are that someone, somewhere, whom you do not know, has reached out to touch your stomach.

I've had this happen to me, and sure, it's a little strange. Generally, I prefer people to ask before they touch me. But it's also very sweet, this great mystical excitement inspired by a pregnant belly. We know that belly is special. We know enclosed within it is hope and potential — the very future of our world. Hidden, but real. How can we help but venerate it?

It's why the pregnant Madonna is my favorite devotional image. I even prefer it over the depictions of the Madonna and Child because I find in the sight of Mary's swollen belly more to meditate upon than I find in the unveiled face of the Christ Child. Salvation and redemption, enclosed in flesh, moving, and growing and breathing, but I cannot see it. It's real and it's true and it's there.

And it is hidden.

There is much about God that we know with certainty. But there is so much that remains beyond our sight, beyond our comprehension. Questions of evil and sorrow. Pain and tragedy. Life and death. Why don't we have all the answers? We grow very impatient about this. We're like teenagers who want to be trusted with all the family secrets. We hate feeling left out of the loop.

But truth, like life, does not come to us showing its face. Perhaps this is because we could not bear its terrible beauty. Perhaps it's because we would not recognize it if it was laid bare for us to see.

But it's there, right in front of us. We can reach out and touch it. We may not see it. We may not understand it. But we can know it.

## Stewardship Reflections:

### Baby Jesus' Wish List

Odds are you've got a Christmas list going by now — gift ideas for everyone from your nephew to your goddaughter to your mailman. But what about the birthday boy? What's the gift Jesus gets from you this Christmas?

If you've ever read the Book of Leviticus, you know all about the sacrifices God asks of the Israelites, referred to in the reading from Hebrews today. Leviticus can be a chore to read — a little repetitive, a little intimidating. There's a lot of very specific actions that God asks His Chosen People to complete to make up for whatever they have done wrong. In essence, it's a bit of a wish list for gifts.

But it's a wish list that can really confuse you. What's God going to do with a cereal offering? The kidneys of an animal? If you look closely, what God is doing here is beautiful. He's customized his wish list to only those things He knows the Israelites can give. It's God saying, in what amounts to theological baby-talk for folks who barely know of Him and His ways, exactly how they could be stewards. "Do this, but don't do that. If you do that, do this and you will find My mercy."

Our guide to stewardship — the Gospels of Christ — is less precise because by the time of Christ, God's people have grown in understanding of love and mercy and relationship with the divine. Through Christ, we find out that God's real wish list didn't really consist of cereal offerings and the kidneys of various animals. It's far simpler, but luckily, it's something we still have on-hand. All He wants is our whole heart.



## 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>

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## 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!

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## 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](mailto: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>.

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## 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](mailto:cgioia@stteresaparish.org)

Thank you

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## 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 - Parishioners of St. Teresa of Avila Living and Deceased

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 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 12/29 10am- Fr. Frank

Sunday 12/29 12pm- Fr. Frank

Sunday 12/29 6pm- Fr. Udovic

## Prayer for Advent Joy

Dear Jesus,

The news of your coming was met with boundless joy — fill us anew with the wonder of your presence.  
You are Emmanuel, God with us. Amen.

## Sunday Funday: December 22nd:

Today is Be a Lover of Silence Day and National Cookie Exchange Day

1882- The first string of electric lights decorating a Christmas tree was created for his house by Edward H. Johnson.

1947- The transistor was first demonstrated at Bell Laboratories.

1963- The National Christmas Tree was not lit until December 22nd because of a national 30-day period of mourning following the assassination of President Kennedy.

"What type of key do you need for the Nativity play?"



"A don-key!"



**FUN FACT!**  
The Bible doesn't have any recording of Mary riding a donkey, but it's become a beloved part of the way we imagine the Holy Family traveling to Bethlehem.

G.L.P.

### Breakfast with Santa:

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Breakfast with Santa a wonderful event.

We could not have done it without ALL of Santa's Helpers who worked so hard, And a very special THANK YOU to Santa and his elves.

Until next year, Merry Christmas to All!



### CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

#### CHRISTMAS EVE

3PM, 5PM FRENCH MASS AND 7PM

#### CHRISTMAS DAY

10AM

### The Nativity of the Lord

Our hearts are aglow with the joy of Christmas! Our senses are alive with the season, from the rich smells of evergreen and gingerbread to the feel of crisp air on our skin and the warmth of a loved one's embrace. At some point in the holiday hustle and bustle, take a few moments of quiet. In the silence, reflect on the other senses of the season. Imagine the cool damp of an animal stable, the earthy smell of hay and feed, and the crisp night air blowing in softly. Imagine kneeling beside an exhausted, joyful mother and a relieved, protective father. Imagine an infant wrapped in cloth scraps held out to your open arms. Imagine holding the infant Jesus. As his eyes meet yours, welcome into your heart the greatest gift of Christmas.

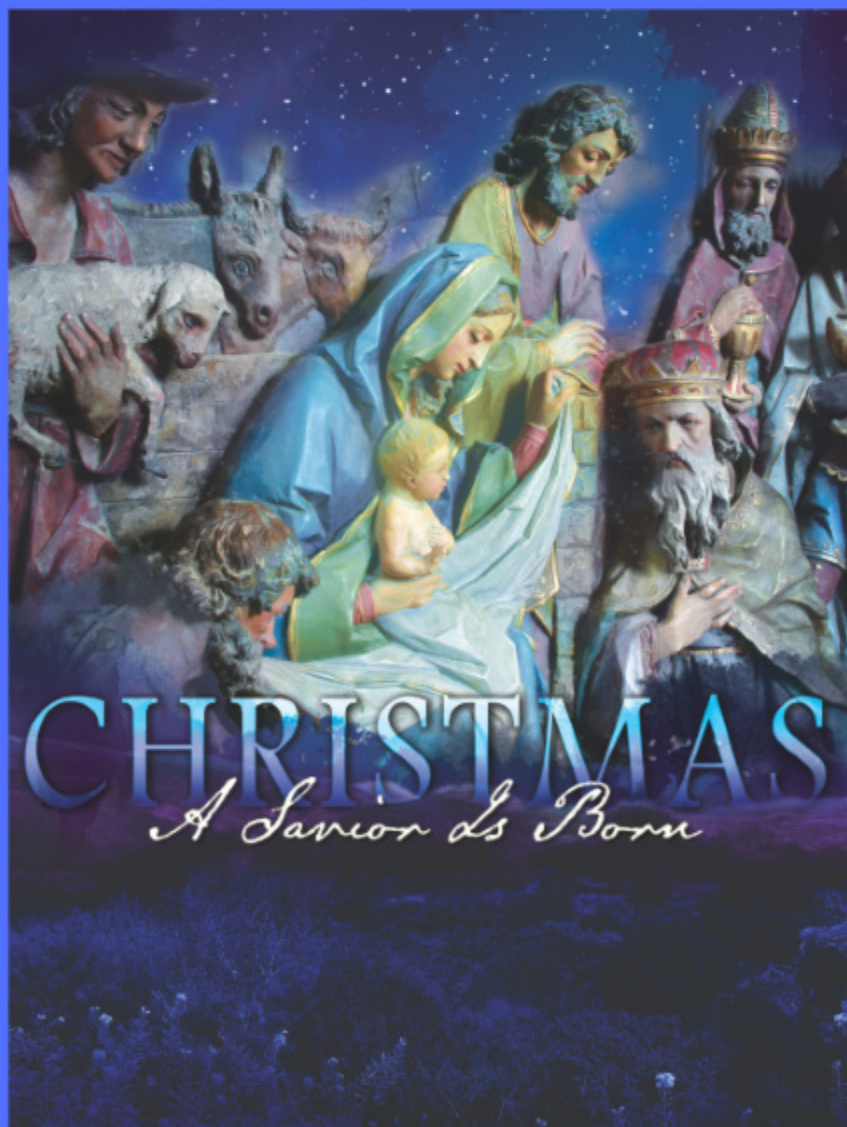
### CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

**Question:** According to tradition, who were Balthasar, Melchior, and Casper?

**Answer:** The three kings who visited baby Jesus.



**From Fr. Frank and the entire Staff of  
St. Teresa of Avila  
We wish You and Yours a  
Blessed Christmas Day**



## Parish Contacts

### Staff

**Fr. Frank Latzko**

Pastor

[frfrankjohn56@gmail.com](mailto:frfrankjohn56@gmail.com)

**Charisse Gioia**

Office Manager/Technology Coordinator/  
Bulletin

[cgioia@stteresaparish.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:cspalla@archicago.org)

**Jason Krumwiede**

Director of Music

[musicalnut1@mac.com](mailto:musicalnut1@mac.com)

### Staff

Housekeeping

**Irma Saavedra**

**Sergio Mora**

Building & Facilities Manager

[smora@stteresaparish.org](mailto:smora@stteresaparish.org)

### Parish Council

**Anna Althoff- President**

[annamariealthoff@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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.