THE JOURNEY

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

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 23, 2025



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

Welcome

"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 learing 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.

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

Welcome

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 opportunites 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 for 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.

Parish Life Page 4

This Sunday's Readings:

First Reading: 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9,12-13,22-23

David does not kill Saul.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:45-49

As we bear the image of Adam, so we will bear the image of the one from heaven.

Gospel Reading: Luke 6:27-38

Jesus teaches his disciples to be merciful as God is merciful.

Feasts and Saints:

2/27- St. Gregory of Narek, Abbot and Doctor of the Church



Gospel Meditation: 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

One of my favorite new singers/songwriters is Noah Kahan. I'm a little biased because, like me, he is originally from Vermont. In a fine song entitled "Stick Season," he sings of his hope to "cancel out the darkness I inherited from dad." This lyric articulates his painful recognition of a dark spiritual "inheritance" from his father, and his hope to be free of it. We all inherit some degree of evil from our earthly forebears. It's easy to feel doomed to repeat their darknesses.

But we're not so doomed, thank God. This week's Gospel proclaims this. Whatever good or bad we received from our parents, we have a more definitive and perfect inheritance in God. Jesus commands us, "Be merciful just as your Father is merciful" (Luke 6:36). We have a perfect Father in heaven and are destined to inherit and reflect that perfect and merciful love. We have an inheritance of light, not darkness, and thus a whole new possibility of magnanimous love. Like any inheritance, this is a free gift to us.

What are we destined to repeat? Not the darkness of our earthly parents. We are destined to be a reflection of God's life. Jesus liberates us from the inevitability of repeating whatever evils and imperfections are in our familial or cultural upbringings. It's time to claim that perfect inheritance.

- Father John Muir

Financials: December 2024

FY25 FY24

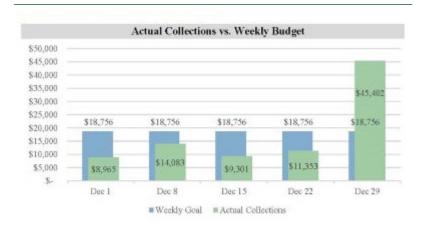
Basket/Mail In: 46,835 19,539

Give Central: 39,177 37,281

Total: THIS YEAR PREVIOUS YEAR

\$86,012 \$56,820

\$29,192



From Father Frank: Generation to Generation

As the Generation to Generation campaign continues, we will be holding two meetings at St. Teresa of Avila to explain the purpose of the campaign, how individual parishioners can participate, and strategies for getting the word out. Every parish is participating and each is given a specific amount needed to be raised, a number based on weekly Sunday collection. Consequently, each parish has a different goal to meet. The amount we need to raise is \$890,000, half of that amount comes back to our parish, the other to the Archdiocese. Each parishioner is given 5 years to complete their pledge.

The parish will not have to wait until the end of the five years to receive the fifty percent of the funds but will gradually be given reimbursements on a quarterly basis. Ideally, we will be receiving nearly \$450,000 over the five year period. If we raise funds OVER our \$890,00 goal, we will receive 80% of the amount raised over and above the \$890,000, which is a very high percentage.

The Archdiocese will use the funds to help parishes that are very poor and unable to meet expenses, to help all parishes engage in efforts to better form and educate adult parishioners in the faith as they take on more responsibilities for parish ministries, and to strengthen our care for priests who are retiring or who need more advanced health care. In addition, we need the financial resources to keep forming and educating priests AFTER Ordination. Every priest needs ongoing education in ministry, spirituality and Scripture studies to be effective leaders in the parish.

At St. Teresa's, we will use the funds for necessary repairs and maintenance. For example, the bell tower, needs some work, the floor in the Parish Center will need replacement, and the kitchen in the Parish Center needs some updating to accommodate increased usage. We also need to increase resources for our parish staff, including the potential hiring of a new position in adult formation.

Please plan on attending one of the following two parish meetings to hear more about Generation to Generation, answer every question you may have and get the pledging process moving forward. Each household is simply asked to support the campaign financially IF THEY ARE IN A POSITION TO by filling out the pledge form indicating the total amount pledged, the form of payment they will use, and how one wishes to pay off the pledge and the frequency.

Please give the form to me personally or place it in an envelope that is sealed and addressed to me and drop it in the collection or drop it off at the rectory in a sealed envelope to my attention.

Sunday, March 2: 1:00 PM, after the Noon Mass

Wednesday, March 26: 6:00 PM

Both are in the Parish Center.

Finance Update:

St Teresa's fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30. As shown in the table, the net surplus for the six months ended December 31, 2024 equaled \$279k.

Excluding Investment Earnings, the net surplus for the first half of the fiscal year equaled \$148k. This amount is \$71k higher than the same period last year and \$87k better than budget. The favorable variances result from higher Fundraising (largely Together in Joy) and Other Revenue (including a \$25k contribution to Loaves & Fishes).

Offertory Collections were higher than the first half of 2024 and nearly at budget. This December Collections included an individual donation of \$30k which closed previously unfavorable variances.

Partially offsetting the favorable revenue variances are higher Ordinary expenses.

These expenses were \$15k higher than the prior year and \$28k higher than budget and reflect a variety of factors. Salaries and benefits account for more than half ofour expenses. Staffing headcount has remain unchanged and at the budgeted level.

Consistent with the parish's typical cash flow pattern, the budget for the second half of the fiscal year anticipates a net loss. However, our full year forecast, excluding Investment Earnings, estimates a net surplus, which would continue our more than decade long string of full year net surpluses.

Thank you for your continued attendance at Mass, support of our ministries, and generous financial contributions.

Please ask your family, friends, and neighbors to join us.

St Teresa of Avila Parish
Semi-annual Report to the Parish

	ACTUAL Half Year			BUDGET Half Year	
	FY25	FY24	Variance	FY25	Variance
Collections	354,384	331,134	23,250	357,502	(3,118)
Fundraising	220,159	189,299	30,860	170,500	49,659
Other	43,200	42,237	963	36,957	6,243
Total Revenue	617,743	562,670	55,073	564,959	52,784
Expenses	(511,693)	(497,008)	(14,685)	(483,558)	(28,135)
Net Ordinary	106,050	65,662	40,388	81,401	24,649
Other Revenue	58,874	29,985	28,889	19,998	38,876
Other Expense	(17,213)	(19,227)	2,014	(40,498)	23,285
Net Other	41,661	10,758	30,903	(20,500)	62,161
Subtotal	147,711	76,420	71,291	60,901	86,810
Investment Earnings	131,148	46,571	84,577		131,148
Total Net	278,859	122,991	155,868	60,901	217,958

Fr. Frank: Lent

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025. The day before, commonly referred to as "Fat Tuesday" the last day we can fill ourselves with an abundance of food and sweets. We will have Paczki's in the morning, a traditional Polish pastry filled with all kinds of sweet fillings.

In the evening at 6:30, I will burn the palms, I could use help in with this. The ashes derived from the burnt palms will be used at our liturgies on Ash Wednesday. I am planning on making some delicious chili to share a meal together as we burn the palms and celebrate the end of Mardi Gras. No dieting in this day.

Masses on Ash Wednesday will be:

6:30 AM, 8:00 AM, NOON, and 7:00 PM

We will have Mass each Wednesday morning at 8:00 am

Each Tuesday of lent, Confessions will be heard during Adoration: 6:00-7:30 PM in our Chapel of Reconciliation-Confessional next to the statue of St. Francis. The screen is available for those wishing anonymity and privacy. I encourage people to sit/kneel behind the screen rather than face to face given the current situation in the church. Inappropriate encounters can more easily happen, or be construed as happening, face to face. No child can celebrate the Sacrament face to face, unless a parent or guardian are able to visually see the child and priest. The reality of the church in our times calls for diligence.

Each Tuesday, we will have soup, a simple meal to reflect a Lenten spirit and allow us to create community during this holy Season. We would love to have people sign up to make the soup for each Tuesday.

Sign up sheets will be available in the back of the church.

Activities for Lent:

- Volunteer on Saturday's for distribution of bags of groceries.
- -Come to Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament each Tuesday from 6:00-7:30 PM
- -Celebrate Reconciliation or Confession during Adoration
- Pray/meditate on the gospel for each day in Lent
- Fast every day in Lent, which means having one major meal and two smaller meals each day with no eating in between or after.
- -One day a week engage in a conversation with one homeless person: on the streets, selling Streetwise, sitting down at Loaves and Fishes on Friday in Parish Center from 4:00-5:30.
- -Read a spiritual novel depending on your interests. I'll be reading The Brothers Karamozov by Dostoyevsky, very long novel with rich content and themes relating to the gospel.

Others: East of Eden, The Grapes of Wrath by Steinbeck, The Song of Bernadette, Death Comes for The Archbishop by Willa Cather, The Power and the Glory by Graham Greene, The Book Of Longings by Sue Monk Kidd just to name a few.

- -Study St. Teresa of Avila 's The Way of Perfection, study edition.
- -Read ANYTHING by Ruth Burrows, a great spiritual writer in the Carmelite Tradition. She is the best!!!
- -Thomas Merton, New Seeds of Contemplation.



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Parish Life

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.

Friday Morning Communion Service:

There will be no Friday Communion Service starting Friday January 17th, 2025.

It will resume the first Friday of Lent March 7th, 2025.

Prayer

Mass Intentions

10AM - Russell Vollick (D) and David Zeunert (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 those who suffers from illness of mind or body.

Frank O'Toole Cynthia Rojas

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 3/2 10am- Fr. Udovic

Sunday 3/2 12pm- Fr. Frank

Sunday 3/2 6pm- Fr. Frank

Prayer of Christian Life

Dear Jesus,

Help me to pray for and bless everyone I encounter, whether that be easy or hard. Help me to act in the mercy I have known through you.

Help me to demonstrate generosity, as you have given so much to me.

Amen.

Sunday Funday February 23rd:

Today is Dog Biscuit Appreciation Day and National Banana Bread Day

1792- The Humane Society of Massachusetts was incorporated.

1896- The Tootsie Roll was introduced by Leo Hirshfield, in New York.

1940- Pinocchio was released in theaters.

1954- The first mass inoculation of children against polio with Jonas Salk's vaccine began in Pittsburgh, PA.

"How is a priest required to freshen his breath before Mass?"



"With a vestMINT."

When celebrating the Sacrifice of the Mass, priests wear special garments known as vestments. They wear the Amice, the Alb, the Cincture, the Stole, and finally the Chasuble, the colorful outer garment.

Devotions, Explained!

Fasting, Explained

The practice of fasting predates Christianity. The Old Testament is full of examples of righteous men and women mortifying their flesh for the purpose of making atonement or simply to grow closer to God. Jesus himself fasted for forty days and forty nights in preparation for the beginning of his public ministry, and we see his disciples following his example in the Acts of the Apostles.

Fasting continues to be an important part of Christian devotional life today. Many people feel the practice of fasting enhances their prayer and helps them fulfill St. Paul's advice to "put to death the deeds of the body" (Romans 8:13) to grow in the Spirit. Most Catholics will associate fasting with the liturgical season of Lent, which begins and ends with obligatory fasting for all members of the Latin Catholic Church between ages 18 and 59.



Gospel Reflection:

JUDGEMENT AND LOVE

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

"Oh, well. I'm going to hell anyway, right?"

I have a few family members and friends who are not practicing Catholics who say this to me from time to time. It's always spoken in a teasing manner, with a wink and a shoulder shrug, usually to explain away some sort of minor misbehavior they feel guilty about.

It saddens me that Christians have somehow gained this reputation as a people who judge, who condemn. I think in part it stems from a misunderstanding on the part of unchurched people (and lots of churched ones, too) regarding what constitutes "judging." It is absolutely not "judging" someone to disagree with a personal decision, whatever that decision may be, or to decline from participating in that decision. We all have functioning consciences; we are all supposed to discern the moral goodness of any action before we take it.

But it is judging someone if we allow their decisions to impact how we treat them.

Today's Gospel is an invitation for us to consider how we engage with people who disagree with us — or maybe even actively dislike us. Much is said these days of the "culture wars." I certainly don't disagree that it can often feel like you're fighting a war when you're trying to live as the Church teaches. The forces against you often seem overwhelming and nefarious. And guess what? They are.

But we need to remember who the enemy really is. The enemy is not other children of God, even if they are children of God who are actively promoting ideas that are wrong. Perhaps these people are misguided and mistaken. Perhaps they are misled by the devil. Have we not all been misled by him at some point?

We must interact lovingly with people who think differently and live differently from us. The Christian life absolutely demands it.

Around the Parish

Catholic Trivia Just for Fun

Question: In Italy, where can you find the painting of the crucifixion that, according to tradition, spoke to Saint Thomas Aquinas?

Answer: The Church of San Domenico in Naples.

Catholic Q&A

Ash Wednesday

Question:

Is Ash Wednesday a holy day of obligation?

Answer:

Despite the often packed churches, you may be surprised to hear that the answer is no! Holy days of obligation commemorate a particular event (such as the birth of Christ at Christmas) or celebrate particular people (such as Mary's Immaculate Conception or the feast of All Saints). Ash Wednesday is a day of penance, fasting, and abstinence to begin the season of Lent. In a sense, it focuses on a concept rather than something particular and concrete.

Of course, repentance ought to be reflected in particular, concrete ways! That's one of the reasons that attending Mass on Ash Wednesday is a very good idea. It marks the beginning of a solemn season of penance. Despite all its comparisons to the desert, Lent can be very fruitful for our spiritual growth! Beginning this season with the celebration of Mass and the reception of ashes is a sign of our commitment to God and to spiritual growth.



The Relevance of the Church

Join the Archdiocese Women's Committee (AWC) for one of three Zoom discussions on the relevance of the Church.

Our goal is to hear the voices of 200 or more women. Discussion will address the following:

- . How relevant is the Church in the lives of women today?
- What are three essential things a parish must have in order to be relevant (or more relevant) in women's lives?
- How has the practice of your faith changed since the pandemic? In what ways has your parish continued to or failed to nurture you in your new practices?

Advance registration is necessary in order to receive the Zoom link for participation. To register, please scan the GR code or click on your desired session below.

Wednesday, February 19 | 7 – 8:30 p.m. | bit.ly/AWCVOW0219 Tuesday, February 25 | 7 – 8:30 p.m. | bit.ly/AWCVOW0225 Monday, March 3 | 7 – 8:30 p.m. | bit.ly/AWCVOW0303



The Archdiocess Women's Committee is an adjunct committee of the Archdiocesson. Patitional Council, it serves as an advisory committee that works directly with Condinal Copicili.



The Annual Catholic Appeal theme for 2025 is Together we bring hope. It echoes the theme that Pope Francis has given to the Holy Year Playins of hope. It also resonates with our efforts of renewal in the Archdiocese of Chicago. Contributions to the Appeal enable us to bring real hope into our world, especially to those in need. We come together as the Lord's Church, and we demonstrate our love of God and our neighbor through our support of the Appeal. We foster the Church's mission to teach, to serve, and to sanctify in the name of Jesus Christ. Our support is a blessing for many.

Please consider supporting this years Appeal. Your generous contribution will be a source of blessing for many people, for yourself, and for your loved ones.

To make a gift by phone:

To mail:

835 North Rush Street Chicago, L. 506m



annualcatholicappeal.com

Parish Contacts Page 12

Staff

Fr. Frank Latzko

Pastor

frfrankjohn56@gmail.com

Charisse Gioia

Office Manager/Technology Coordinator/ Bulletin

cgioia@stteresaparish.org

Charisse is repsonsible 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.