

ST. TERESA OF ÁVILA

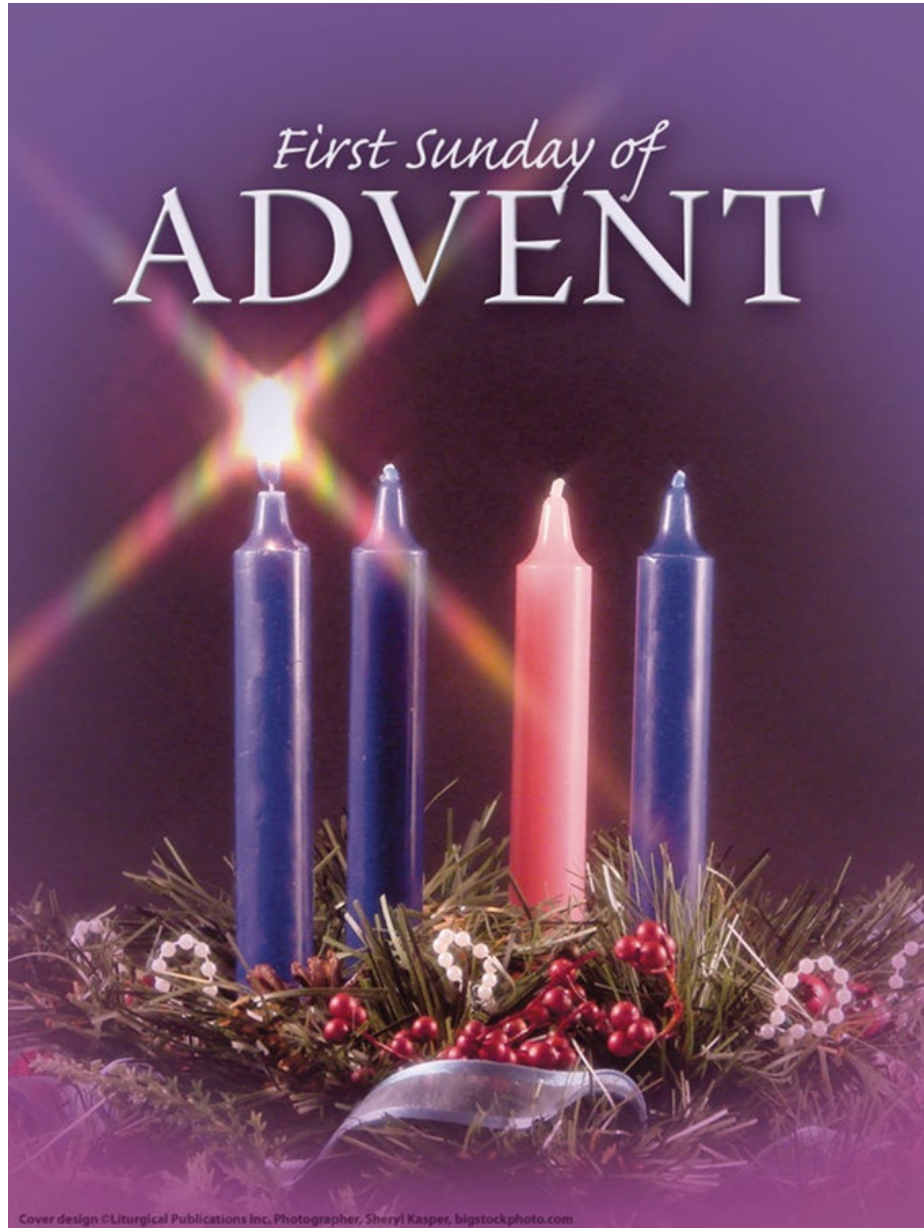
CATHOLIC PARISH ✚ EST 1889

November 30, 2025

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

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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

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

www.teresa.church

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 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.



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	
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Email	Phone
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Address	
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Ministries of Interest	
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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 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.



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.

This Sunday’s Readings:

First Reading: O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD! (Isa 2:5)

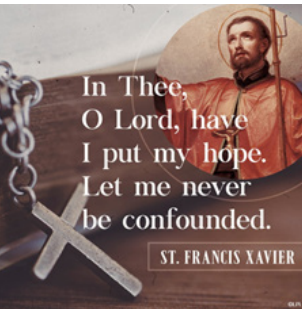
Psalm: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord. (Ps 122)

Second Reading: You know the time; it is the hour now for you to awake from sleep. For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. (Rom 13:11)

Gospel: “So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.” (Mt 24:44)

Feasts and Saints:

- 12/3- St. Francis Xavier, Priest
- 12/4- St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church
- 12/6- St. Nicholas, Bishop



Gospel Meditation: First Sunday of Advent

A few years ago, my house was broken into on Super Bowl Sunday. Turns out, it’s a great day for burglars. If the TV isn’t on, people are probably watching the game somewhere else, so ... easy pickins’. I’ll never forget walking into my bedroom and realizing someone had been there. My stuff was thrown all over the floor. The closet was torn apart. It was disorienting and disturbing — someone had invaded the space I thought was secure. After that, I bought an alarm system. And every Super Bowl Sunday since, I’m extra careful to lock the doors and keep the lights on. That experience made me more alert. Not scared. Just attentive. That’s much like the spiritual place Jesus wants us to be on this first Sunday of Advent. He doesn’t start the season with soft candlelight and cozy manger scenes. He starts with two brutal images: a flood and a thief. In other words, chaos and violation. Why? Because life will flood us. Chaos will come. And in the midst of it, Christ will come like a thief — not to steal from us, but to steal us back. He is the intruder we should want. The one who breaks in, not to ransack, but to rescue. Christ presents himself as the thief but also the new Noah. He builds the ark of the Church to carry us through the flood. And he invites us to join him. How? By participating fully in our parishes. By making our homes places of prayer. By guarding our hearts with truth. By refusing to let spiritual complacency leave us exposed. By repentance. This Advent, don’t just stay vaguely “awake.” Prepare. Build. Watch. The flood will come. But so will he.

— Father John Muir

Financials: September 2025

	FY25	FY24
Basket/Mail In:	6,683	10,521
Give Central:	54,874	36,699
Total:	THIS YEAR	PREVIOUS YEAR
	\$61,557	\$47,220
.	\$14,337	



From Fr. Frank:

I'm making my way back to Chicago, anticipating the beautiful season of Advent. As I write this reflection on November 21st, I just celebrated Mass on the train in honor of the Feast of the Presentation of Mary in the Temple. My prayer in honor of Mary was soothed into peace by the gentle movements of the train, a marvelous gift from God. As I held the Host up after the consecration, Jesus in calm spirit, gently swayed with me, from side to side. Yes, Jesus always moves WITH us.

I began a special prayer of dedication to Mary on November 5 and will complete this extended prayer on December 8th, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. The number of days adds up to 33 days, the number of days Jesus lived, Birth to Resurrection. I feel a little sad I have not spoken more of my love of Mary and how she has brought me closer to her Son. My devotion to Mary began when I was just four or five years old, and it has been with me ever since.

All my life I have had this strong devotion to Mary that I have not spoken about publicly, but I am now. My mom and dad taught me to love Mary through prayer, devotion, creating a small shrine, going to Mass on many a Tuesday evening in honor of our Mother of Perpetual Help and wearing the Miraculous Medal.

When I became pastor of St. Teresa's, I asked Mary to guide the parish closer to her Son and to help me to be a visible and compassionate instrument of Christ's presence to the people of this joyful Community of Faith. I have so much to hope for this Advent as we wait in quiet prayer for Christ to come into our lives. That's all Mary wants.

Thank YOU, one and all!!

Sacrament of Reconciliation | Advent Confession:

Tuesday December 2, 2025

Wednesday December 17, 2025

Tuesday December 23, 2025

6:00-7:30pm

Our Lady of Guadalupe:

Please Join Us next Sunday December 7th at the 10am mass to celebrate in honor the feast day complete with mariachi band!



Sunday December 14th after the 10am Mass:



November Parish Council Meeting:

Monday, November 10th, 7PM

Attendees: Father Frank, Dean, Margaret, Jamie, Charisse, Jessica, Barb

Opening Prayer: Led by Father Frank

Electronic Signage:

- Dean working with a company to determine the best placement for new church signage. By next meeting we expect to have sample signage to review.

New Missel Covers:

- The Voices Hymnal covers need replacement. Dean has explored companies that can help with this endeavor in partnership with Jason.
- Replacing the covers is more cost-effective than replacing the entire Voices Hymnal

New Furniture for Parish Center Foyer:

- Researching furniture options for several meeting “pods” in the Parish Center
- Presenting options to Parish Council during our next meeting.

Parish Ministry Fair

- Moving ministry fair to January 10th and 11th after all masses
- Father Frank to handle all mass announcements; Charrise to manage getting signage and announcements in bulletin.
- Barb to get descriptions out to ministry heads for review and approval + print outs for Ministry Fair Event
- Will allow ministries most in need of volunteers to make announcements at masses

Food Pantry

- Overall doing well – not seeing a big uptick in demand due to SNAP benefit reductions
- A special group of food pantry attendees are getting home delivery due to concerns about leaving due to safety concerns

Christmas Schedule:

- 4 Planned Christmas Masses: (2) Christmas Eve and (2) Christmas Day
- Confession 4 weeks leading up to Christmas (2 hours per session)
- Breakfast with Santa scheduled for 12/14
- Giving Tree this year will benefit both the Little Sisters of Poor and Refugee Ministry (the ask will be increased from previous years)
- Together in Joy
- Great success all the way around and expects to be a great success financially

Thanksgiving Drive:

- Confirmation kids will be handing out food collection/house hold items bags to collect supplies for refugee families we are supporting during Exodus.

Mass Attendance:

- Lots of new people coming to mass. In general, mass attendance is up:
- 10:00 Mass attendance up
- 6:00 Mass attendance up
- 12:00 Mass attendance is stable

Ministers of Care:

- Training 4-5 people to take communion to those that are homebound or hospitalized. Must be trained or approved.

Contact Father Frank if interest in participating.

Next Parish Council Meeting:

- February 2nd at 7 in Parish Center

Closing Prayer: Father Frank

Thanksgiving Food Drive for our Refugee Community

St. Teresa of Avila is collecting dried goods for our Refugee Community that are struggling to feed their families during this time.

If you have taken a bag which contains a list of the most needed items, please return the bag to the bag of the church by Sunday, November 30th.

The bags will be distributed to those families with the greatest needs in our refugee community.

Greenery Sale:

St. Teresa of Avila will be having it's Annual

Greenery Sale the weekend of December 6th and 7th after all masses.

While the deadline for any pre-orders has passed, there will be a limited number of fresh Greenery items for sale during this weekend, including Wreaths, Swags, Baskets, and gift items.

All proceeds help to decorate St. Teresa's for our holiday season, as well as support our other ministries.

Food Pantry Christmas Request:

St. Teresa's Food Pantry would welcome boxes or tins of Christmas cookies which will be used in Christmas bags for our Food Pantry guests.

Baskets will be provided in church for donations.

Thank you for always responding generously to requests to help those in need.



HELLO ST TERESA COMMUNITY

OUR WEEKLY FRIDAY LOAVES AND FISHES MEAL OFFERING HAS GROWN AND IS NOW AVERAGING OVER 100 GUESTS PER WEEK. THIS INCLUDES SENIOR CITIZENS, GUESTS WHO LIVE IN TRANSITIONAL HOUSING OR ARE HOMELESS AND IMMIGRANTS, ALL IN NEED OF A NUTRITIOUS MEAL. THANKS TO ALL OF THE AMAZING VOLUNTEERS WHO HELP TO PREPARE AND THEN SERVE THE MEAL. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING WITH OUR LOAVES AND FISHES MEAL SERVICE REACH OUT TO STEVE SIBON (630.881.3348, SJSIBON@AOL.COM).

AS THE COOLER WEATHER BEGINS TO SETTLE IN, OUR LOAVES AND FISHES GUESTS ARE BEGINNING TO ASK ABOUT WINTER COATS. WE ALL KNOW HOW CRITICAL IT IS TO HAVE A WARM CLOTHING FOR CHICAGO'S COLD WINTER SEASON. WE WILL USE SOME OF THE FUNDS GENEROUSLY DONATED TO L&F TO PURCHASE WARM GLOVES AND SOCKS FOR OUR GUESTS. HOWEVER, THE MOST URGENT NEED NOW IS FOR NEW OR GENTLY WORN WARM WINTER COATS. MEN'S LARGE AND EXTRA LARGE COATS ARE THE GREATEST NEED. WE WILL BE COLLECTING COATS OVER THE COMING WEEKS FOR OUR GUESTS SO PLEASE HAVE A LOOK IN YOUR CLOSETS AND SEE IF THERE ARE ANY COATS THAT YOU CAN SPARE FOR OUR GUESTS.

IN JOHN 21 15:19, JESUS ASKS PETER 3 TIMES IF HE LOVES HIM, PETER RESPONDS THAT YES HE LOVES HIM, AND EACH TIME JESUS TOLD HIM TO "FEED MY SHEEP". SUPPORTING THOSE IN NEED WITH A NUTRITIOUS MEAL AND WARM WINTER CLOTHING IS WHAT OUR LOAVES AND FISHES MINISTRY IS ALL ABOUT. THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



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 NEEDS

THE ST. TERESA FOOD PANTRY CONTINUES TO BE GRATEFUL FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY FOOD CHOICES PROVIDED WEEKLY BY THE GREATER CHICAGO FOOD DEPOSITORY. HOWEVER, WE CONTINUE TO BE IN NEED OF HEARTY SOUPS AND WRAPPED TOILET PAPER. 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



Mass Intentions

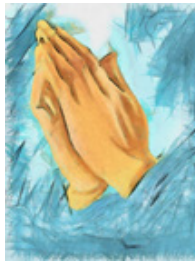
10AM - Josephine Bax (D); Fred Handler (D); Ken Jaszczor (D)

12 PM - Ken Jaszczor (D)

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.

Sunday Funday November 30th:

Today is - Computer Security Day and National Mousse Day

1931- The Joy of Cooking by Irma Rombauer was published.

1940- Lucille Ball married Desi Arnaz in Greenwich, Connecticut.

1971- TV movie Brian's Song, aired for the first time on ABC

2004- Longtime Jeopardy! champion Ken Jennings of Salt Lake City, finally lost, leaving him with \$2,520,700 – television's biggest game show winnings.

From Russia with Love was the last film JFK saw at the White House, on November 20, 1963, before going to Dallas.



Mass Schedule

Sunday 12/7 10am- Fr. Frank

Sunday 12/7 12pm- Fr. Inczauskis

Sunday 12/7 6pm- Fr. John Eustice

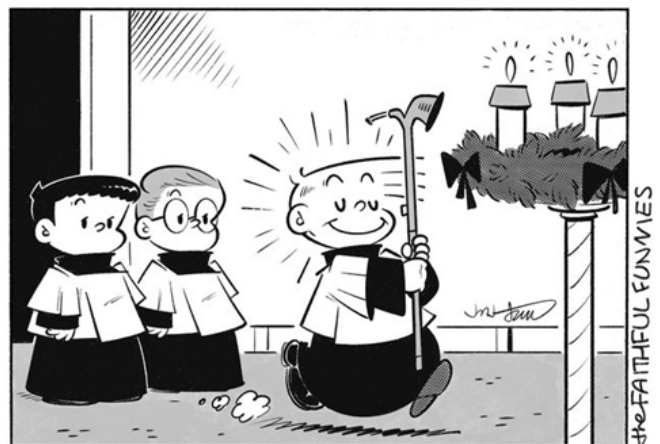
Prayer for Advent – Arise

Bless God's Holy Name!

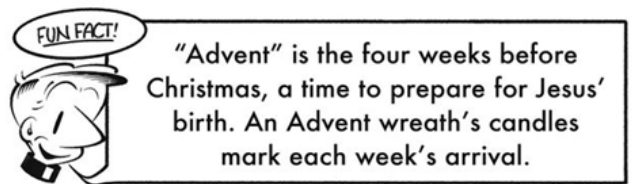
Prepare our hearts for Your coming, Lord. Awaken them from any places that have become sleepy or despondent. Inspire us with new visions. Be with us as we climb closer to You. Amen.



"Was the altar server happy or sad when it was his turn to blow out the Advent candles?"



"He was de-lighted!"



St. Francis Xavier | December 3

This week is the feast of St. Francis Xavier.

As a young man, Xavier met Ignatius of Loyola at the University of Paris. Xavier was inspired by his friend's zeal and devotion. When Xavier was 31, he became one of the first members of the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits). The order presented themselves to the Pope for service as missionaries.

Xavier would spend the rest of his life traveling the world and spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ. He served side by side with the poor in India, modern-day Malaysia, Pacific Islands, and ultimately Japan.

Rather than imposing on the people, Xavier wore local dress and arranged translations of religious texts into the local language.

It's estimated that he baptized 30,000 people. His charismatic joy is an inspiration for all who want to bring people to Christ.

St. John Damascene | Feast Day December 4

St. John Damascene (676 -749) was the son of the chief of the revenue department in the city of Damascus. Through his father, he received a classical and theological education and attempted to follow in his footsteps by serving in a government position. However, the Lord was calling him to a different life, and a few years later he resigned from his position and went to the Monastery of St. Sabas, where he wrote books and composed hymns along with his adopted brother, Cosmas.

St. John Damascene is best known for his writings against the iconoclasts, who opposed the veneration of images; his treatise, Exposition of the Orthodox Faith, a summary of the Greek Fathers; and his work as a poet, one of the two greatest of the Eastern Church. His devotion to the Blessed Mother and his sermons on her feasts are well known.

St. Nicholas | Feast Day December 6

St. Nicholas of Bari (March 15, 270 – December 6, 343), the bishop of Myra in the fourth century, is the saint that Santa Claus is modeled after. Known for his kindness and generosity to the poor, the story has it that St. Nicholas once tossed bags of gold through the open window of a poor man's house to help his daughters avoid a life of prostitution.

According to legend, the gold landed in stockings dangling on the corners of the beds, which is why many of us celebrate St. Nicholas Day by hanging stockings and filling them with candy, fruit, and small toys.

Not much else is known about this beloved saint, but regardless, his reputation as a generous man continues today.



Catholic Q & A :

Question: When we say the Penitential Act at Mass, why do we strike our chest three times?

Answer:

Our rituals and liturgical celebrations are filled with a variety of symbols, some of which also relate to our gestures and physical postures (e.g. kneeling, sitting, processing, making the Sign of the Cross). The custom of striking our breast three times during the “I Confess” of the Penitential Act of the Mass is one of those gestures that is loaded with symbolism.

The tradition of Christian’s striking the breast (above the heart) is rooted in the image of Sacred Scripture, especially texts like Psalm 51 which speak of a “humbled contrite heart” or how God heals broken hearts, binding up our wounds (see Psalm 147:3). Early Christian writers like Saint Augustine of Hippo and Saint Jerome also refer to this custom in their writings.

Ultimately, this practice is an expression of our sorrow for those times when we have been guilty of faults and a sign that we are willing to take responsibility for our sins and failings. That we all perform this gesture together is also an act of solidarity, recognizing that none of us, regardless of where we are on our journey of faith, is without fault and the need for grace and forgiveness.

Devotions, Explained!

St. Andrew Christmas Novena, Explained!

The St. Andrew Christmas novena is a prayer said from November 30, the Feast of St. Andrew, through Christmas Eve. Traditionally, it is recited 15 times each day.

The Gospel of John tells us that St. Andrew was a disciple of John the Baptist who heard John call Jesus “the Lamb of God.” Andrew followed Jesus, curious about him, and realized that he was the Messiah, so he quickly found his brother, Peter, and the two became the first disciples.

In praying this novena, Christians follow the example of Andrew’s prescient faithfulness throughout the season of Advent.

The prayer of the novena reads:

“Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother. Amen.”

Catholic Trivia:

Question: What dog breed is named after a saint?

Answer: St. Bernard.

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.