

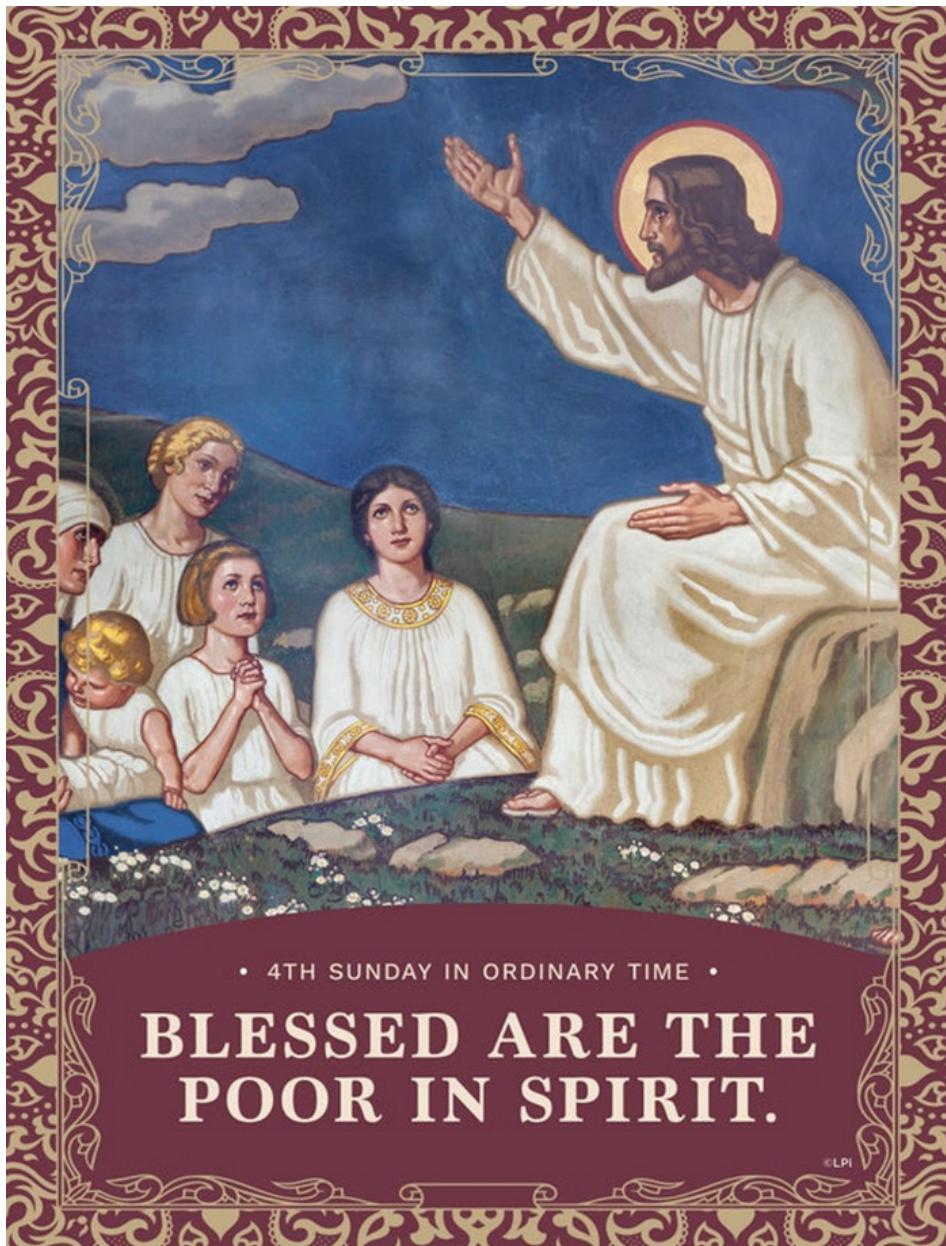
# ST. TERESA OF ÁVILA

CATHOLIC PARISH + EST 1889

February 1, 2026

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

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• 4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME •

## BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT.

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](mailto: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 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](http://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](http://teresa.church/lectors)

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

### Eucharistic Ministers

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

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

### Pastoral Council

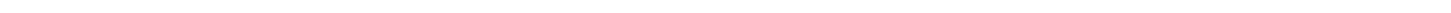
[teresa.church/pastoral-council](http://teresa.church/pastoral-council)

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

### Finance Council

[teresa.church/finance-council](http://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](http://teresa.church/join).

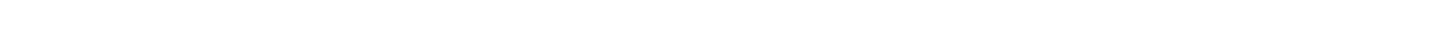
**Name**

**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 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.



## 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 [cdeanhockey@gmail.com](mailto:cdeanhockey@gmail.com) to get the link and join.

### 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.

## 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 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](https://teresa.church/french-community)

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

## This Sunday's Readings:

**First Reading:** But I will leave as a remnant in your midst a people humble and lowly. (Zep 3:12)

**Psalm:** Blessed are the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs! (Ps 146)

**Second Reading:** Rather, God chose the foolish of the world to shame the wise, and God chose the weak of the world to shame the strong. (1 Cor 1:27)

**Gospel:** "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (Mt 5:3)

## Feasts and Saints:

2/2- The Presentation of the Lord

2/3- St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr

2/5- St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr

2/6- St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs

## Gospel Meditation: 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

A priest I know was once falsely accused of a terrible crime. The claim was wild and easily disproved, but for a while, it didn't matter. In the atmosphere shaped by the abuse crisis of the early 2000s, the public assumption was guilty until proven innocent. His name was dragged through the mud, and his ministry placed on hold. I had the privilege — and the burden — of walking closely with him during that time. He was angry. He was confused. He felt abandoned and deeply disoriented. The last thing on his mind was the words of Jesus in today's Gospel: "Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me ... Rejoice and be glad" (Matthew 5:11-12). Rejoice? He felt anything but.

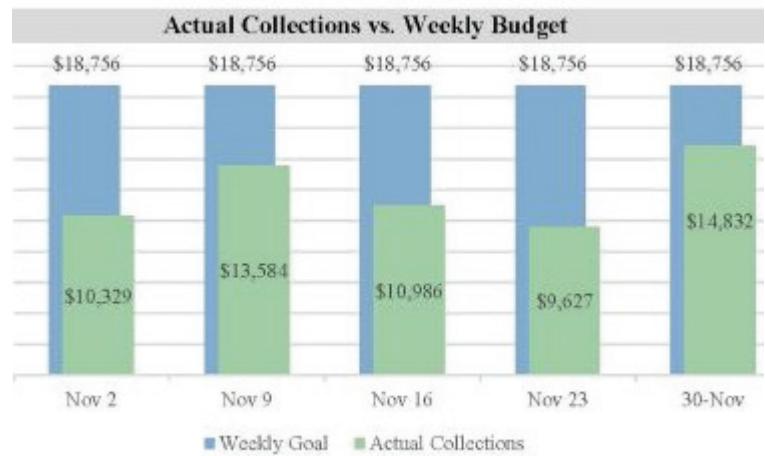
And yet... something holy slowly grew in him. Not overnight, and not without pain. But as the truth came to light and his name was cleared, I watched him become more Christlike — more patient, more compassionate, more detached from human approval.

Maybe you haven't faced something so dramatic. But where do you feel judged? Misrepresented? Overlooked? Maybe someone else got the credit or the promotion. Maybe someone you love isn't getting their due. In those moments, the Cross of Jesus is near. When we feel accused, that's when we ask him for the grace not just to endure, but somehow, mysteriously, to rejoice and be glad.

— Father John Muir

## Financials: November 2025

	FY25	FY24
Basket/Mail In:	11,197	15,667
Give Central:	33,891	35,487
Total:	THIS YEAR	PREVIOUS YEAR
	\$45,088	\$51,154
		(\$6,066)



## Koinonia Is Back!



### Details

#### Koinonia Groups

-Koinonia is the ancient Greek word for "deep friendship."

-Each night will include fellowship, topic intro, and intentional conversation on that topic.

-Shaped in the Ignatian tradition

-Each Session involves a free Meal.

Sessions start February 2nd at 6:30 PM

\*Questions? Contact Mark at  
[mneuhengen@stteresaparish.org](mailto:mneuhengen@stteresaparish.org)



\*QR Code Sign-Up Here



## The Presentation of the Lord | February 2

As faithful Jews who obeyed the Law of Moses, Mary and Joseph performed two ritual acts that the law prescribed after the birth of the firstborn son—Mary's ritual purification and Jesus' dedication. The Presentation of the Lord is celebrated forty days after Christmas, marking the day that Mary and Joseph would have brought Jesus into the Temple. Though Mary was pure and free from sin from the moment of her conception, and though the Son of God did not need to be redeemed, Mary and Joseph fulfilled these ritual obligations.

At the heart of this celebration is the encounter of Simeon and Anna with the Christ Child in the Temple. Simeon was the first to understand and proclaim Jesus as the Savior of the World. He also prophesied that this salvation would be accomplished by a sword of sorrow that would pierce Mary's Immaculate Heart. Anna, a prophetess, also came forward and "gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem" (Luke 2:38). In the ritual acts in the Temple, Jesus' divine mission was made manifest to the world.

We are invited to participate in Mary's ritual purification and Jesus' ritual redemption. Each of us is unworthy of entering the true Temple of the Lord in Heaven, yet we are invited to do so in union with Mary, our Blessed Mother. It was her consent to God's will that opened the door of God's grace to us all. By allowing Jesus to be born in our hearts by grace, we spiritually become Jesus' "mother." With her, we are now able to appear before God, purified and holy in His sight.

In presenting Jesus in the Temple, Saint Joseph also redeems us by presenting to the Father all who strive to live in union with Jesus. The hope is that, like Simeon and Anna, others will see God alive within us and experience the Savior of the World through us.

Ponder, today, your soul being the new temple of the Lord, and acknowledge your need to be purified and offered to the Father in Heaven. As Christ continues to enter into the temple of your soul, pray that He will shine forth for others to see so that, like Simeon and Anna, they will encounter our Lord within you.

## St. Blaise | February 3

You may be familiar with the annual "blessing of throats" that many parishes in the United States use to commemorate the beloved bishop and martyr. St. Blaise lived in the fourth century in Turkey and Armenia. Due to religious persecution, he was forced to flee and hide in a cave in the back country in order to save his life.

History has it that one day a group of hunters stumbled upon where St. Blaise was living. They found the bishop kneeling in prayer, surrounded by wolves, lions, and bears that he had tamed. The legend has it that as the hunters dragged Blaise off to prison, a mother came with her young son who had a fish bone lodged in his throat. At Blaise's command, the child was able to cough up the bone and thus lived.

Today we remember the saint on his feast day by taking two candles, crossing them against the throat, and saying the following prayer:

Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from ailments of the throat and from every other evil. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



## God Bless Fr. Frank



**February 4<sup>th</sup>, 1984**

Have you ever considered becoming more involved in liturgy by serving as a Lector or Eucharistic Minister at Mass?

We have opportunities available for both ministries and we would welcome your getting involved in these unique roles in the liturgical life of St. Teresa of Avila. Service in these ministries will deepen your faith and help you grow in your love of the Lord. To serve as a Lector, all that is required is a deep love of the Word of God and a desire to serve God's people. Likewise, to serve as a Eucharistic Minister, all you need is a deep love of the Eucharist and a desire to serve.

We will train you and teach you all you need to know.

Please prayerfully consider serving your parish in these very important ministries. If you are interested in serving, please email Eric Fredericks at [eric.fredericks+lm@gmail.com](mailto:eric.fredericks+lm@gmail.com). Eric will be organizing training sessions in February and he will coordinate with you on scheduling. Thank you for considering participating in our liturgies in these very important ministries!



2025 Contribution Statement:

Please email Charisse Gioia

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

to request a copy of your 2025

contribution statement.



# 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 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](mailto:Jessica.Marx@chicago2381@hotmail.com).

## Loaves and Fishes:

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

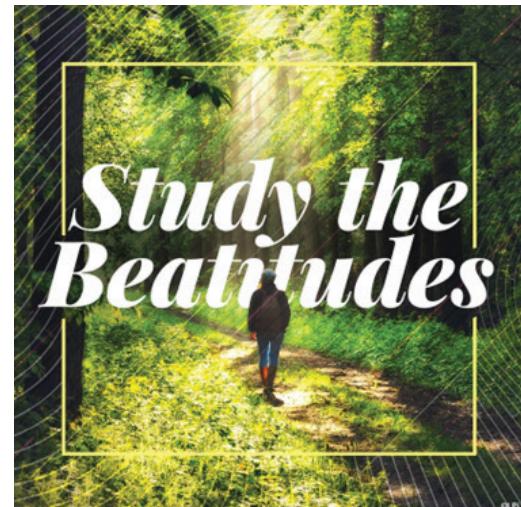
We need volunteers to greet our guests, serve them, and clean tables. Volunteers are needed on Friday evenings from 3:30 to 6:00. If you cannot arrive by 3:30, just let us know when you sign up. Please email Steve Sibon - [sjsibon@aol.com](mailto:sjsibon@aol.com)

## 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



## Mass Intentions

10AM - Dr. Patrick McCarthy (L)  
12 PM - Graham Crisp (D); Judy Castelloni (D); Carolyn and John Mondschean (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.



## Mass Schedule

Sunday 2/8 10am- Fr. Frank  
Sunday 2/8 12pm- Fr. John Eustice  
Sunday 2/8 6pm- Fr. Adam MacDonald

## Bless Us, Lord

Jesus,

You are good and gracious, every moment of every day. You invite us to be meek, merciful, clean of heart, peacemakers. Give us the grace to seek these virtues, and to seek you. May your blessing accompany us on our way. Amen.



## Sunday Funday February 1st

**Today is National Candy Making Day and Change Your Password Day**

**1898- Travelers Insurance issued the first automobile accident insurance.**

**1964- Hasbro introduced the G.I. Joe action figure (retail price: \$2.49)**

**1974- Good Times premiered on CBS.**

**1982- Late Night with David Letterman premiered on NBC.**

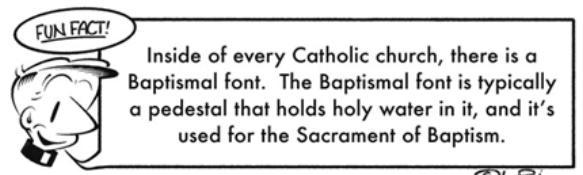
**If there were people who could read minds, they would hear an awful lot of songs, sung with incorrect words, and likely very out of tune or rhythm.**

**“Anyone Can Cook.” – Ratatouille #moviequotes**

**“What do you call the lettering on an invitation to a baby’s first Sacrament?”**



**“The Baptismal font.”**



## Gospel Reflections:

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

## What Stays the Same

Somewhere, there is a monk whose life is very quiet and who devotes long hours to prayer. And somewhere there is a nun, cloistered in a life of contemplation, who speaks very little except to God.

Somewhere, there is a father whose days are filled with noise, who hasn't finished a Rosary in years because he keeps falling asleep. Somewhere there is a mother whose voice is weak with giving direction and offering counsel.

Somewhere, there is a teenage girl with much to say, but few people to listen — fewer, at least, than she would like.

Somewhere there is a woman who holds a positive pregnancy test in one hand and a phone in the other, and somewhere there is a man on the other end of that phone who waits for her to speak.

In the Beatitudes, Jesus utilizes a literary device called anaphora. Both as a reader and a writer, I love anaphora. It's a clean, unfussy way to communicate a point. By repeating the same word or phrase at the beginning of successive clauses, you're basically saying the same thing over and over again, just a little bit differently each time. Those small differences tease at your audience's brain, gently highlighting the consistencies.

Discipleship is a lot like anaphora. It's the differences — those little aberrations from person to person, life to life — that so beautifully illustrate what remains the same across the broad spectrum of what it means to live out the Beatitudes.

Me. You. The monk. The nun. The father. The mother. The lonely girl. The man and woman who decided their own future without realizing it. How similar we all are in sin. How similar we all are in potential. How different we look to the world.

And yet, how wondrous it is that we are all offered the same hope: "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in Heaven."

## Stewardship Reflections:

## Countercultural Then and Now

Sometimes I wonder what this world will look like when my children get to be my age. Everything seems to be changing so rapidly and much of that change doesn't seem to be for the good. I do think in some ways the Church is experiencing resurgence and a strengthening, but it will have to be in the face of an increasing culture of atheism and selfishness.

Of course, I bet my parents wondered the same thing when I was a child. As much as things change, they remain the same. When Jesus gave his Sermon on the Mount, I would guess some parents there were having the same kind of worries. But Jesus proposed a way of life in the beatitudes that was countercultural then and is countercultural now.

In his book, *Life of Christ*, Fulton Sheen said this: "The Sermon on the Mount is so much at variance with all that our world holds dear that the world will crucify anyone who tries to live up to its values." Living a stewardship way of life means bringing the beatitudes into our daily lives in a profound way. However, it also means living in a way that others may not understand or they may even turn away from us because of it. But with the reward in the end being the kingdom of heaven, the choice is really a matter of life and death, eternally speaking.



## Catholic Q & A

### Vocation or Calling

#### Question:

Can you explain what we mean by a vocation or calling? I have heard this term used in many different contexts and am not sure what it means. Does it apply to religious life?

#### Answer:

A vocation or calling refers to a spiritual experience whereby a person senses within oneself the closeness of God and what he is asking in one's life. It is a realization of what one's part in God's plan could be. Vocation comes in all kinds of ways. Some are as dramatic as St. Paul's, being knocked off his horse, blinded, and hearing God's voice. Others are less dramatic, often occurring over time through little events and personal interests. Others happen in a hurry, accompanied by great spiritual insight or conversion. We often think that this applies to religious vocation, but in fact, every Christian has a vocation, a calling to serve others in and through the church. Whether married or single, religious or lay, we are all called to live out our baptismal commitment to preach and teach the Gospel message. Each of us has our role to play in God's plan, and we become coworkers with God in the work of redemption. With a little confidence, a willing spirit and God's grace, we can and will respond to his unique call.

## Devotions, Explained!

**St. Blaise Blessing of the Throat, Explained** Perhaps it's an example of divine providence that the feast of St. Blaise falls on Feb. 3 — right in the middle of cold and flu season! This fourth-century Armenian saint was a bishop and martyr and is venerated as the patron of those who suffer from illnesses of the throat.

On his feast day, Catholics traditionally receive a blessing of the throat. This blessing is administered by a priest, deacon or a lay minister who follows the rites and prayers designated for a layperson. During the blessing, the minister takes two candles that were blessed on the feast of the Presentation and makes a cross in front of the throat, saying "Through the intercession of Saint Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from every disease of the throat and from every other illness." A priest or deacon will then make the sign of the cross.

## Catholic Trivia:

Question: Who were the very first people to visit Jesus after he was born?

Answer: Two local shepherds who were told about Jesus by an angel.



## 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.