

ST. TERESA OF ÁVILA

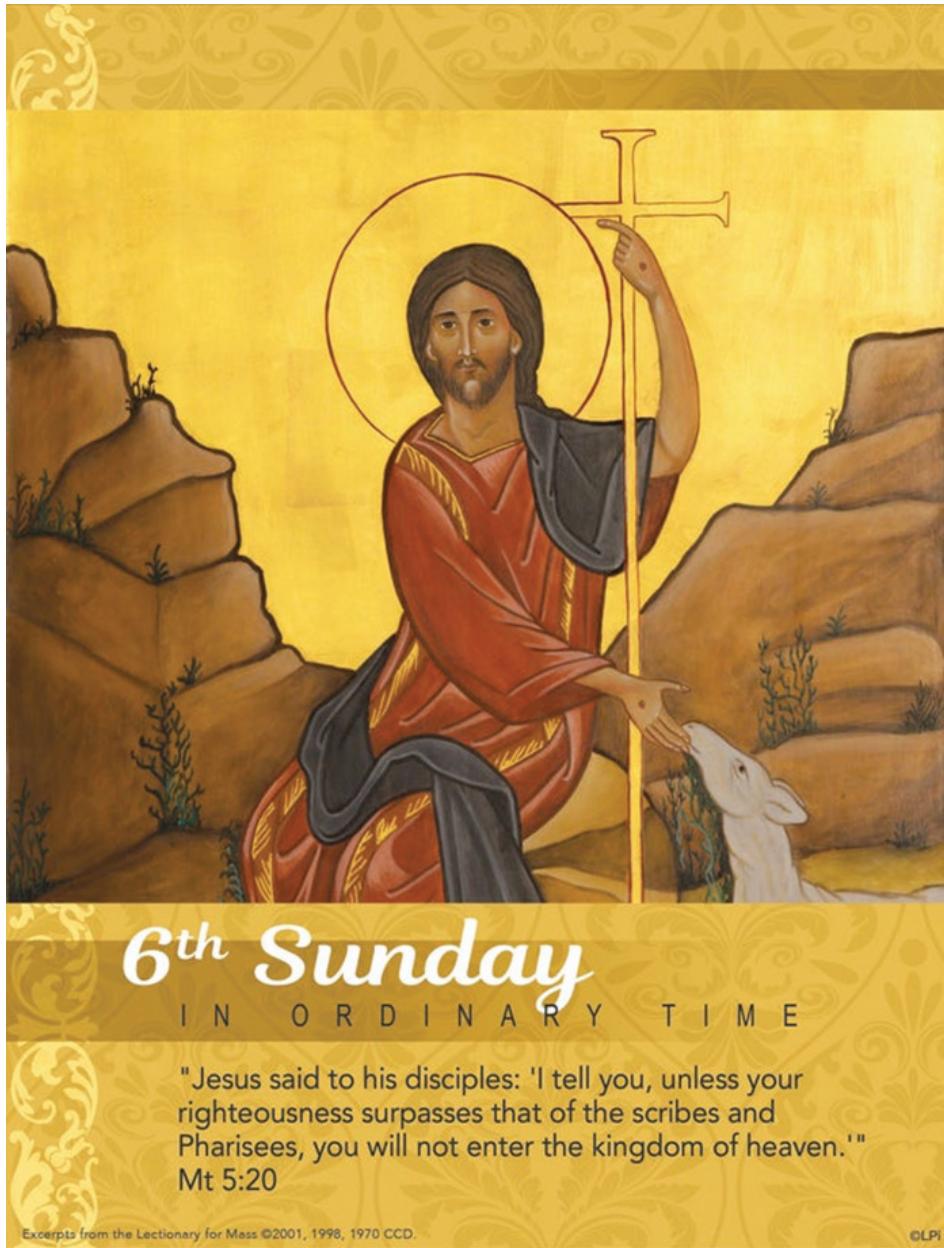
CATHOLIC PARISH + EST 1889

February 15, 2026

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

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6th Sunday IN ORDINARY TIME

"Jesus said to his disciples: 'I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.'"
Mt 5:20

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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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

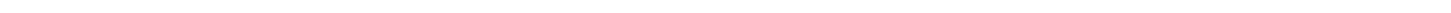
teresa.church/pastoral-council

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.

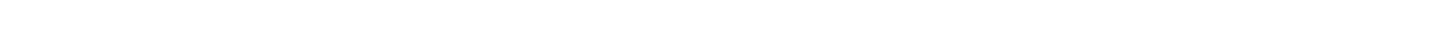
Name

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.

Loaves and Fishes Dinner

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

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.

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.

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: No one does he command to act unjustly, to none does he give license to sin. (Sir 15:20)

Psalm: Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord! (Ps 119)

Second Reading: Rather, we speak of God's wisdom, mysterious, hidden, which God predetermined before the ages for our glory. (1 Cor 2:7)

Gospel: "I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven." (Mt 5:20)

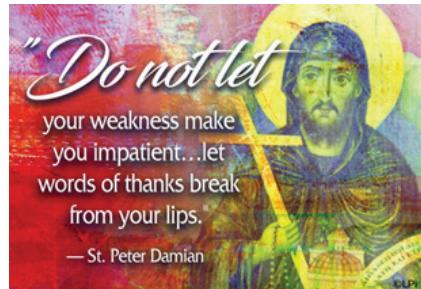
Feasts and Saints:

2/16- President's Day

2/17- The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order

2/18- Ash Wednesday

2/21- St. Damian, Bishop and Doctor of the Church



Gospel Meditation: 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

A few years into my priesthood, I hit a wall. I had taken on too many commitments: Masses, meetings, ministries, projects. I couldn't keep up. I was double-booking, forgetting things, running late, and letting people down. My boss at the time, a wise priest, and our shared secretary, noticed. For my birthday, the two gave me a stack of 100 flashcards, each with one word printed in a different language: "NO." It was funny, but also painfully true. If I couldn't say no, my yes was in danger. In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus says, "Let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes,' and your 'No' mean 'No.' Anything more is from the Evil One" (Matthew 5:37). He's not just giving advice about polite speech. He's showing us something about the freedom of Christian discipleship. The follower of Christ is called to speak clearly, simply, and honestly. There is joy in that kind of freedom. The Church Fathers often linked this kind of straightforward truthfulness with spiritual maturity. The devil is the father of lies, but Jesus is the Word made flesh. When we hedge, flatter, exaggerate, or avoid, we open space for the shadows to creep in. That little stack of flashcards reminded me that God does not want us enslaved to the expectations of others or to the fear of disappointing them. He wants us to enjoy the peace of saying yes and meaning it, and saying no, and meaning it, too. Lenten Challenge: Practice one moment of honest, peaceful speech this week. Maybe it's a sincere "yes" to something important, or a humble "no" to something you cannot do. Let it be a quiet step into the freedom Jesus offers.

— 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)	



From Father Frank:

February 1st began our annual Black History month, a time to celebrate the culture and beauty of our Africa's American brothers and sisters. It is also a call to address the reality of racism that continues to plague our reality in the 21st century and in our own country. To throw the "light" on this very dark part of our history, a history that goes back many centuries, is extremely important and needed if we are to continue evolving as human beings and as a people. Slavery is in the very fabric of our nation's past, as well as, the past of many other nations. Changing all the laws isn't enough; we must change our hearts. The transformation of the heart can be very painful, and many avoid it at all costs.

A horrible and racist cartoon from the White House appeared on social media that portrayed President Obama and Michelle, as well as other political figures, with animal-like faces. Cardinal Cupich responded with a letter decrying this portrayal and called for an explanation of how this could happen at ANY moment, not just during Black history month. I fully support his statement.

If the current Administration had nothing to do with this posted cartoon, apologies are still much needed. The mark of a truly evolved human being is humility, the virtue that is the foundation of all the other virtues: the "mother" of a virtuous life. To be a disciple of Jesus demands a life of humility, our very Lord Himself ministered and preached out of a humble spirit.

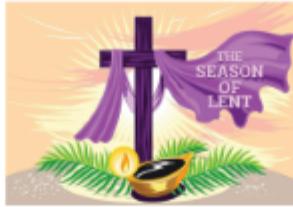
Racism, and any other form of bigotry, simply wants to demonize and humiliate any human being who is the "other", and the "other" can include race, ethnicity, religious belief, gender, sexuality, the foreigner and immigrant. It is a tragedy that people, some Christian's no less, want to keep creating a culture of segregation, diminishing the humanity of people who are different by seeing them as less than human, hence the caricatures as animals.

I am sorry for the deep wounds of racism that keep surfacing in our own times. I grew up in a culture of segregation and racist stereotypes, it was the air we breathed. To be aware of this part of my past is not comfortable in any way, shape or form. But the Gospel, if it is truly lived, particularly the Beatitudes, will make one VERY uncomfortable. As I preached a few weeks ago, the first Beatitude, poverty of spirit, is the heart of discipleship, begging for humility.

However we choose to mark this Lent in less than a week, let each one of us dare to look within our own heart and see what darknesses lurk there.... hidden. Let us have the courage of looking at ourselves in the mirror, letting the "light" shine within, exposing dark realities, and perhaps allowing us to become more uncomfortable with what we see.

The Christ of Easter wants us to be immersed in His love and mercy, transforming the heart to love God and neighbor as ourselves. EVERYONE is our neighbor and we are all connected in our humanity. We belong to each other and no one is the "other". Baptism transforms us into a family of brothers and sisters. Lent is a new springtime, new way of living and loving and its journey begins with ashes, symbolizing that we are all a part of the earth, dust, and we shall return to this dust. But this isn't the end of the story. Easter transforms the dust of our bodies into glorified bodies rising to an Easter that never ends.

This journey from Lent to Easter is beautiful, transformative, the triumph of love and joy... but the journey can be very uncomfortable.



Lenten Drive For Refugee Families:

As we are all looking for ways to do Almsgiving this Lenten Season, St. Teresa's will be doing a drive for refugee families tied to Exodus World Services who are most in need.

Starting Ash Wednesday, tags will be placed on the cross in front of church with purple bags nearby. Please grab a nail with a list of needed items including gift cards for groceries, along with a purple bag to fill. We ask that all items be brought back to St. Teresa's by Sunday, March 15th.

If you are interested in signing up to work with a refugee family, or to deliver items to those in need, please send an email to kristen@rlcanning.com

Thanks as always for your continued generosity.



February 18, 2026

8am Mass
12pm Prayer Service
7pm Mass



Fat Tuesday
February 17, 2026
Paczki and Coffee
Parish Center
7am...Till they are gone!

CRS Rice Bowl:

Ending Hunger With CRS Rice Bowl

This Lent, our community will participate in CRS Rice Bowl—connecting our prayers, fasting and almsgiving to encounter God through our global family. We'll meet, pray for and learn from families in Ghana, Guatemala and Timor-Leste who are rising above the challenges of hunger and malnutrition.

Pick up your rice bowl in the back of the church.

Then, visit crsricebowl.org/join to share your Lenten prayer intentions.



crsricebowl.org/solidarity | crsplatodearroz.org/solidaridad

A poster for the 2026 Annual Catholic Appeal. It features a large image of Pope Francis smiling and waving. The text "TOGETHER WE BRING LIGHT" is prominently displayed above the image. The Archdiocese of Chicago logo is in the top left. The bottom left corner contains the text "2026 Annual Catholic Appeal". The right side of the poster contains text about the theme, instructions for giving, and a QR code.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

TOGETHER WE BRING LIGHT

2026 Annual Catholic Appeal

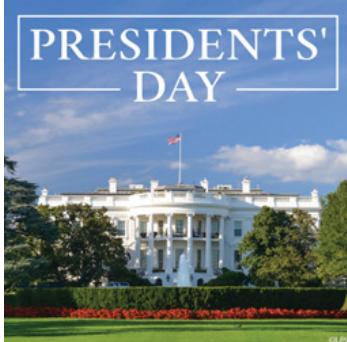
The Annual Catholic Appeal theme for 2026 is *Together we bring light*. It stems from Jesus' words to his early disciples and to us: "You are the light of the world." (Matthew 5:14) We understand our responsibility to bring light to a world that seems often covered in darkness. Contributions to the Appeal enable us to bring light to those in need. We do not do this alone but together as the Body of Christ. Our Church finds the fulfillment of her mission when we support the Appeal and the ministries of teaching, sanctifying, and bringing pastoral care to those in need. Truly, together we do bring light.

Please consider supporting this year's 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: 312-534-7959

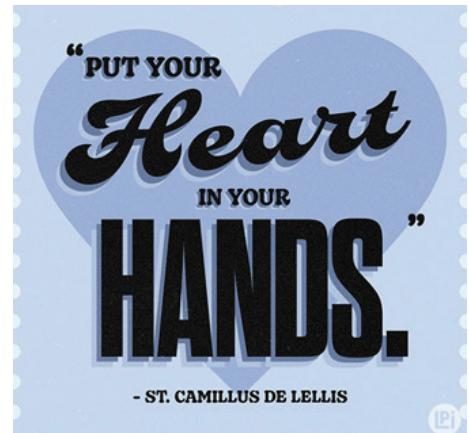
To mail:
835 North Rush Street, Chicago, IL 60611

To give online:
annualcatholicappeal.com



The Parish Office
will be closed
Monday

February 16, 2026



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

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

SAVE THE DATE!



Prayer

Mass Intentions

10AM - Parishioners of St. Teresa of Avila Living and Deceased
 12 PM - Kenneth and Joyce Jaszczer (D); Jeffrey Rivera (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 February 15th:

Today is National Gumdrop Day and National Hippo Day
1903- The first Teddy Bear was introduced in Brooklyn, NY.
1953- The first American to win the women's world figure skating championship was 17-year-old Tenley Albright.
2005- YouTube was activated online.
Hello Kitty has an identical twin sister named Mimmy.



Mass Schedule

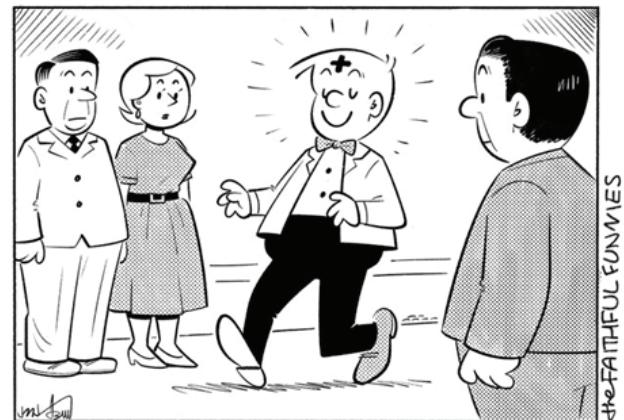
Sunday 2/22 10am- Fr. Frank
 Sunday 2/22 12pm- Fr. Frank
 Sunday 2/22 6pm- Fr. Frank

Blessing of Love

Heavenly Father,
Ignite us with Your love.
Reveal to us Your will,
guide us in Your path.
Pour Your blessings upon us,
You who are the giver of every good thing.
Help us to live, work, act, and speak
in ways that bring honor and glory to You.

Amen.

"There's a certain Wednesday during the year when you can easily tell who's Catholic."



"I doubt you need to **Ash me which one that is."**



During Mass on Ash Wednesday, the priest will place ashes on our forehead. This is a symbol to remind us of our mortality. From dust we have come, and to dust we will return.

©LPi

Gospel Reflections:

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

The Carpenter and the Law

My husband and I couldn't believe our luck: our new house had a deck. It was more than a couple of broke millennials had ever dared to dream. Lounging in our patio furniture drinking coffee and watching the cars drive past, we felt like Kennedys at Hyannis Port. We had arrived.

Well, until it started falling apart.

To be fair, my husband knew this was going to happen all along, because he's a person who uses words like "joist" and "weight-bearing" correctly. He took one look at the deck at the open house and knew it wasn't up to code. "We're going to have to reinforce this at some point," he told me. "Whatever!" I replied, daydreaming about twinkle lights and porch parties.

Sure enough, our second summer in the house, he had to rip the rotting surface boards off. The biggest issue was that the joists were too far apart; when we stepped on the boards, they bowed and almost cracked, lacking adequate support beneath. But we weren't going to redo the whole deck — we're not actually Kennedys. We (okay, he) simply ripped the surface boards off, added the necessary joists, and replaced the decking with newer, better, stronger wood.

Simply put, my husband did not come to abolish the deck, but to fulfill it.

The law of Moses was like a good deck, admirably built. You could say "Raqa," your heart filled with anger, and the law didn't break. But that anger treads heavily on boards not adequately supported. Over time, the anger becomes too much to bear. And that board — that law, that heart — it'll break. Just you wait.

And when it does, you'll see why: there wasn't anything beneath, holding it up.

So God sent a Carpenter to reinforce the law. The Carpenter crafted joists from prudence, fortitude, justice and temperance — strong virtues that can withstand a lifetime of battery, if properly maintained.

And the law still holds.

Stewardship Reflections:

Ash Wednesday

Good stewards realize they really don't own anything. It all belongs to God. It is not so much that God owns them, but they are not ours because we are called to offer them to him.

The reality is that you and I were born naked and with nothing. We will die naked and with nothing. If we really could possess something material, there would be a way to take it with us. But alas, it all slips through our grasp and passes away. And even though all of us came from dust and to dust we will return, through Jesus Christ we will live forever in a perfect state. The only thing we can take with us? Our hearts and whether or not we loved.



Catholic Q & A

Stem Cell Research

Question:

Why is the Church against stem cell research, especially if it offers the possibility of cures for diseases like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's?

Answer:

Like so many issues, the truth about stem cell research is more complicated than a few sound bites and vague promises of cures. For the Church, the problem is with embryonic stem cell research, not the research itself. The destruction of human life, even for a seemingly noble cause, is never acceptable. The ends cannot justify the means. Stem cells can be obtained in other ways, including from the placenta as well as from adults. So research is possible without the destruction of other life.

On the other hand, stem cell research shows much promise, but no concrete results. Some scientists also dispute what diseases might be cured by new discoveries. The research is still in its early stages. The question for our country is whether we should invest a lot of money in research now, looking for cures that will probably remain out of reach for most people, or should we invest that money in other programs with more immediate benefits, especially those that stress prevention and education. It is indeed a complex issue that requires close scrutiny and investigation before we jump to inaccurate conclusions or make decisions based on good, but misinformed, intentions.

Devotions, Explained!

Stations of the Cross, Explained In the earliest years of Christianity, the locations central to the story of Holy Week — the Garden of Gethsemane, Calvary, the Holy Sepulcher, and more — were destinations for pilgrims who wanted to experience Christ's sacrificial love for us in a physical way. In the years after the Crusades, pilgrimage to the Holy Land became impossible for most Christians, and the Stations of the Cross was popularized as a devotional means to pray through the passion and death of Christ.

Throughout history the number of stations has varied, with different traditions focusing on different events. In the 18th century, the number was officially fixed at 14 by Pope Clement XII. These stations are taken from the Gospel accounts of Christ's passion and death, though there are several which are derived from tradition and apocryphal sources, such as the meeting of Mother and Son and St. Veronica wiping the face of Christ.

Catholic Trivia:

Question: What are the names of the three theological virtues of the Catholic Church?

Answer: Faith, Hope, and Love (Charity).



Together in Joy
Saturday, 11/14/2026
Sarabande
2726 W. Roscoe St.
Chicago, Illinois

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.