

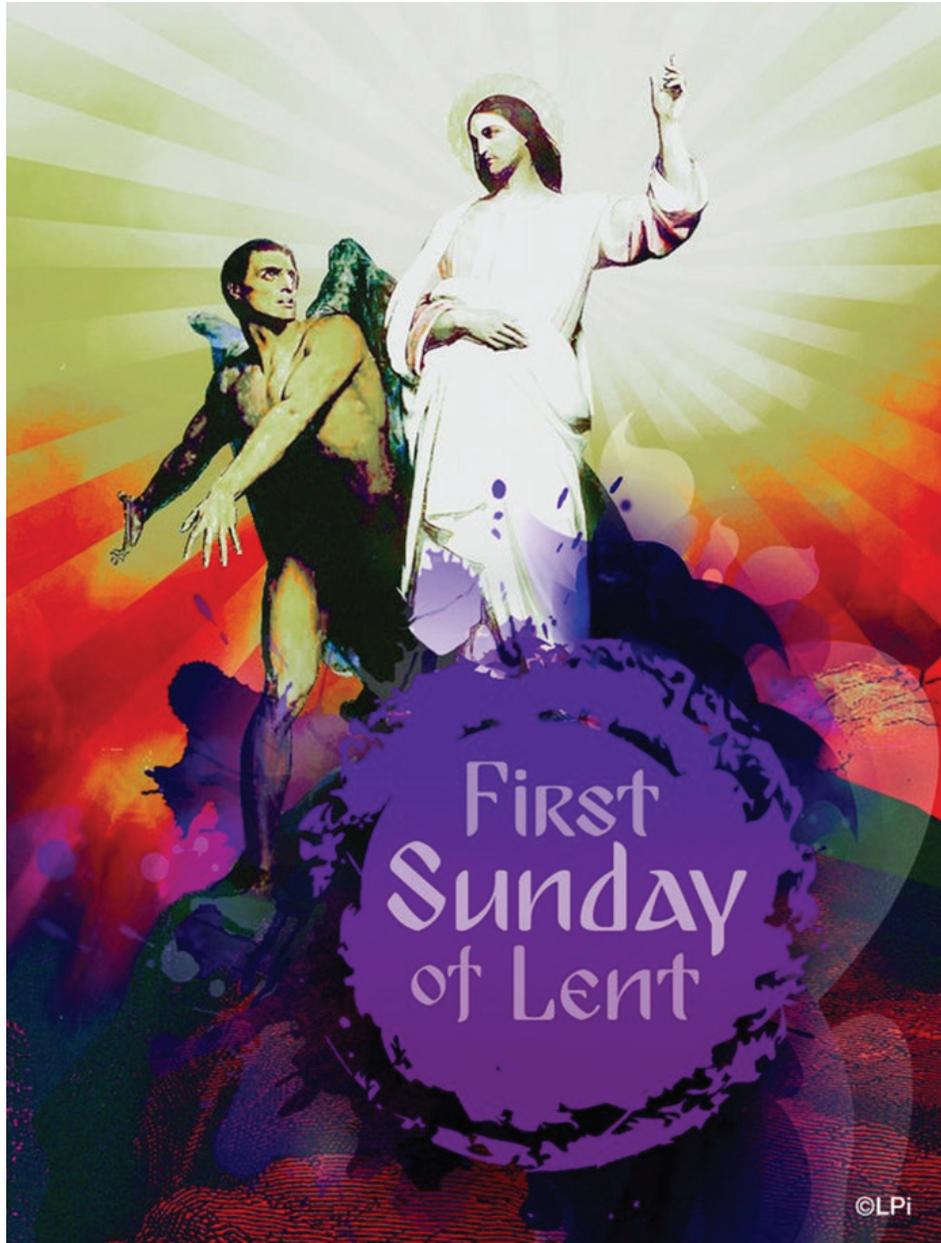
# ST. TERESA OF ÁVILA

CATHOLIC PARISH ✚ EST 1889

February 22, 2026

“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** 5 PM, 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

[www.teresa.church](http://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](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).

<b>Name</b>	
<hr/>	
<b>Email</b>	<b>Phone</b>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Address</b>	
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<b>Ministries of Interest</b>	
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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/>.

### Loaves and Fishes Dinner

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

Weekly soup kitchen feeding and sitting with people in need of a meal.

### La Posada Border Ministry

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

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

### Food Pantry

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

Our parish food pantry is a welcoming, dependable source of nutritious food, respect and social contact to the needy of our community.



## 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.

## 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:** The LORD God formed man out of the clay of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life. (Gn 2:7)

**Second Reading:** For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so, through the obedience of the one, the many will be made righteous. (Rom 5:19)

**Gospel:** At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights. (Mt 4:1-2)

**Feasts and Saints:**

2/23- St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr

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



**Gospel Meditation: 1st Sunday of Lent:**

In my second-to-last year of seminary, I woke up one September morning to devastating news: two beloved classmates had died in a car crash. I was overwhelmed with grief and anger like I had never known. I entered therapy for the first time and had intense conversations with my spiritual director. For months I felt lost in a spiritual wilderness. But something unexpected happened: I encountered Christ there. The fear and sorrow didn't destroy me. In fact, that spiritual desert was a time of intense growth in faith. Today's Gospel begins: "Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil" (Matthew 4:1). The word "led" denotes a gentle, humble submission to the Spirit. Jesus does not send himself into this desolate place where wild beasts roam and Satan tempts. Who wants to be around roaming, wild beasts? The Church Fathers saw them as symbols of our inner chaos: fears, temptations, wounds. The Spirit leads us there, sometimes against our wishes. But those same Fathers also saw that this deserted place is also where angels ministered to Jesus, amidst his great trial and temptation. Lenten Challenge: This Lent and throughout life's struggles, the Spirit leads you and me into the wilderness. Name one "desert" into which the Spirit has led you: perhaps grief, fear, silence, change, disappointment. Ask for the grace to go there willingly. The beasts may be real, but they will not harm you. There, the angels are waiting to minister to the Christ living in you, who always goes where the Spirit leads.

— Father John Muir

**Financials: November 2025**

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



## From Mark:

When I was introduced to St Teresa as a bright eyed college grad, I thought I was maybe going to do this ministry thing for a year. After almost seven years, this community has become a home, community and circle of friends. It is with all this love in my heart and very bittersweetly, say I am leaving St. Teresa of Avila to become the Ministry Director at St. Juliana Parish in Edison Park working under and with one of our Auxiliary Bishops to continue renewing the church and build communities of love.

The photo below encapsulates what I believe about St. Teresa and the Church more broadly. Taken at the end of a small group retreat, this is what I believe church can be. A place not of judgement and enclosure but an open circle of friends rooted in love and open to the world inspired by the Gospel. I pray that everyone can experience the community I've felt and everyone builds that community wherever they are.

My last Sunday at St. Teresa will be Easter Sunday, April 5th. My door at St. Julianna will always be open and you are always welcome to visit!

“As an eschatological reality, the Kingdom of God is universal, and open to all though not to all in the same way. But the Kingdom is addressed directly only to the poor. And this being so, it is essentially ‘partial’” - Fr. Jon Sobrino, S.J., Jesus the Liberator

## Lenten Drive:



### Lenten Drive For Refugee Families:

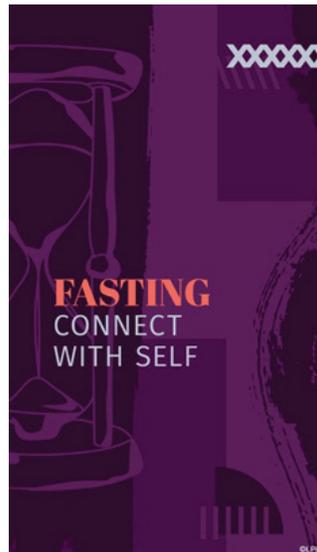
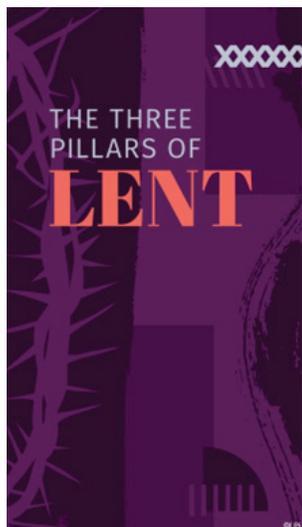
As we are all looking for ways to do Almsgiving this Lenten Season, St. Teresa's will be doing a drive for refugee families tied to Exodus World Services who are most in need.

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 15<sup>th</sup>.

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](mailto:kristen@rlcanning.com)

Thanks as always for your continued generosity.



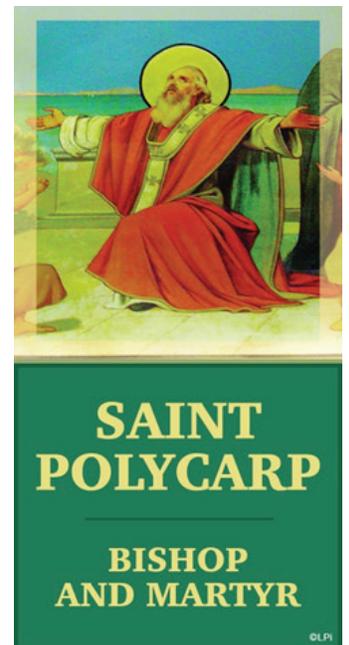


St. Polycarp of Smyrna | February 23

As a disciple of St. John, the Evangelist, St. Polycarp was able to hear about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection directly from those who witnessed it. Because Polycarp was ordained as Bishop of Smyrna by St. John, he is one of three chief Apostolic Fathers, along with Clement of Rome and Ignatius of Antioch.

During his life Polycarp defended the Church against heresies. His important writing, the Letter to the Philippians, quoted the Gospels and Acts of the Apostles, stressing Paul's authority in the Church and setting out clear arguments against the gnostic heresy that denied Christ's divinity.

The early period of the Church was a dangerous time to be a Christian and like many, St. Polycarp was martyred. He was captured by Romans and sentenced to burn at the stake. However, the fire did not touch him, instead rising up like sails around him. Seeing that the flames would not injure Polycarp, the Romans stabbed him instead. The Martyrdom of Polycarp is perhaps the earliest fully preserved account of a Christian martyr.



## CRS Rice Bowl:

### FIRST WEEK OF LENT

The holy season of Lent is a special time of personal and spiritual growth.

It's a time to reflect deeply on ourselves and others. The spiritual pillars of prayer, fasting and almsgiving guide us as we strengthen our relationship with God and our neighbors. Through prayer, we consider the challenges faced by the world's most vulnerable people and how God is calling us to respond. By fasting, we let go of our desire for material things, making room to understand the needs of others more deeply and allowing the Holy Spirit to work within us. When we give alms, we do it thoughtfully and with compassion toward our sisters and brothers.

Our world faces urgent needs as more families struggle with hunger and poverty. The Catholic social teaching principle of Solidarity teaches us that we are one human family. Because we are connected, the joys and challenges faced by our sisters and brothers affect us too. Over the next 40 days, we will meet families in Ghana, Guatemala and Timor-Leste. As we hear their stories and recognize our connection, may we better understand what our sisters and brothers face each day. May we also discover what God is asking of us to do to help.

As we prepare for the joyful celebration of the Christ's Resurrection, let's recommit ourselves to God and to care for our global family as we pray:

God of Hope,

You journey with us through the desert. You challenge us to become more like Christ.

During this Lenten season, may our prayers, fasting and almsgiving give us the courage to go forth and share our gifts with the world.

May our encounter with you allow us to bring hope to our global family.

Amen



## Saturday Evening 5pm Mass:



Join Us For

Saturday 5:00 PM  
Evening Mass

French 6:00 PM Mass  
Immediately After

## 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>

## 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



## 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).

## SAVE THE DATE!



## Mass Intentions

- 5 PM- Parishioners of St. Teresa of Avila Living and Deceased
- 10AM - Terry Mann (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.
- 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

- Saturday 2/28 5pm- Fr. Frank
- Sunday 3/1 10am- Fr. Frank
- Sunday 3/1 12pm- Fr. Frank
- Sunday 3/1 6pm- Fr. Udovic

## Lenten Blessing

**Bless us in Your mercy, Lord, as we enter these 40 Days of Lent.**

**Use this time to call, anoint, bind, strengthen, and inspire us anew.**

**Like a good shepherd, teach us Your voice, and give us the strength to follow.**

**Amen.**

## Sunday Funday February 22nd:

Today is National Margarita Day and Walk The Dog Day

1651- St. Peter's Flood (I): A storm surge flooded the Frisian (Germany/Netherlands) coast, drowning 15,000 people.

1878- In Utica, New York, Frank Woolworth opened the first five-and-dime Woolworth store.

1924- President Calvin Coolidge delivered the first presidential radio broadcast from the White House.

1956- Elvis Presley debuted on the music charts with Heartbreak Hotel.

1980- The 'Miracle on Ice' – The US Men's Hockey Team won a 4-3 victory over the Soviet Union at the Winter Olympics in Lake Placid, New York. Two days later, the Americans went on to beat Finland and take home the gold medal.

"What was papal infallibility called when St. Peter was the pope?"



**"Simon says!"**



Papal infallibility is the charism given by Christ to the pope, as the shepherd and teacher of all the faithful, to proclaim doctrines of faith without error when he speaks *ex Cathedra*—that is, in his official capacity defining a doctrine to be held by the whole Church.

BLP

Gospel Reflections:

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Into the Desert

When we first got married, I wanted to know everything my husband was thinking, exactly when he was thinking it.

Thirteen years later, I still want to know it all. But I want to know it after he's had a snack.

I think he still wants to know what I'm thinking, too. But he wants to know it after I've had 10 minutes without hearing the word, "Mommy!"

Life has taught us, you see, that it's hard to be a good person, a nice person, a gentle person, when your body doesn't feel good or nice or gentle. When you're hungry. When you're exhausted. When you're anxious.

It's not impossible, of course. It's just ... hard.

We're entering a penitential season, a time in which we purposefully deprive ourselves in certain ways. During Lent, we intentionally enter into the desert of physical hunger and weakness. Why, in preparation for Easter and in an effort to spiritually purify ourselves, do we go to this place where it's so hard to be good? Why do we go to the desert?

Because Christ has shown us that the desert is where decisions are made.

There are many reasons why the Word became flesh to accomplish God's plan for our salvation. But I think one of the most important reasons must have been that God wanted to show us that He knows, intimately, how easily the devil exploits our physical experience of this world. We see it in today's Gospel: Jesus, hungry and weary. Jesus, taunted and tempted.

We see him. We recognize him. We are him.

And we hear his voice, even though it trembles with fatigue: "Get away, Satan!"

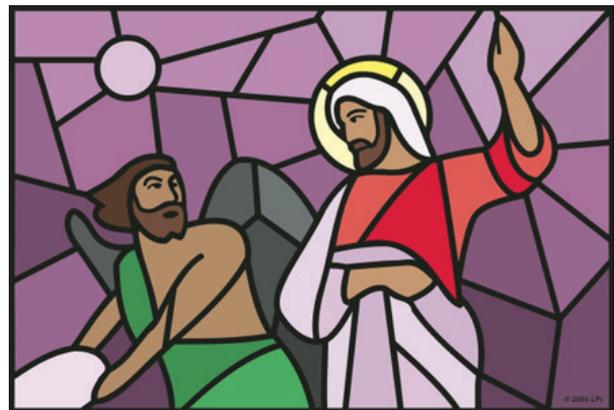
Today, we enter the desert. Because the desert is where decisions are made.

Stewardship Reflections:

Can you believe Lent is here already? It seems like not that long ago I was decorating a Christmas tree! Time waits for no one and that is why it is important to make a mindful commitment now to not let this Lenten season pass you by. It is a great time to focus on growing as an everyday steward. The temptations are always there to procrastinate or to give in to spiritual laziness, but the Church's observation of Lent offers us so many tools to help us get on track. Increased devotions such as Stations of the Cross, various parish missions, or Lenten-focused literature are all gifts that your parish may be offering to assist you in this season.

With the Passion being the focus of Lent, it is easy to contemplate the value of true generosity. How could someone give more than Jesus? He gave until his life was spent on a cross. When contemplating how we can increase our generosity in all aspects of our life, we only need to look to the cross. Of course, this also brings home to us that more may be asked of us than we bargained. The temptation is to not give too much, out of fear that we might face persecution or worse.

But we take solace in the fact that we are disciples of One who had the same temptations. He overcame those temptations. He rejected the easy way out. His love and generosity could not be contained. He gave it all so that you and I have the chance to do the same. This Lent, look to the greatest example of stewardship that ever lived. Jesus will show us the way to observe a Lent that will soon bring forth great Easter fruit.



Catholic Q & A

Question:

What does Jesus mean when he talks about taking up our cross?

Answer:

Our journey of faith begins in baptism. When we are faithful to it, we find God’s plan for us, his way of allowing us to participate in his saving work, which in turn becomes for us our own salvation. Stated simply, we share in the mission of Jesus each day. We live our life with all of its ups, downs, joys, and sorrows in union with the mission of Jesus. Our work then is holy. It is joined to the cross, God’s will for Jesus – the way in which he destroys sin and death and makes eternal life possible. His sacrifice accomplishes what we ourselves cannot do.

To take up the cross, then, means that we share in the mission of Jesus and so embrace the sufferings of the cross. It is our daily life made holy, given a redemptive mission. It is our purpose and goal to unite our life to that of Christ. St. Paul says it best, “If we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection” (Rom 6:5).

Devotions, Explained!

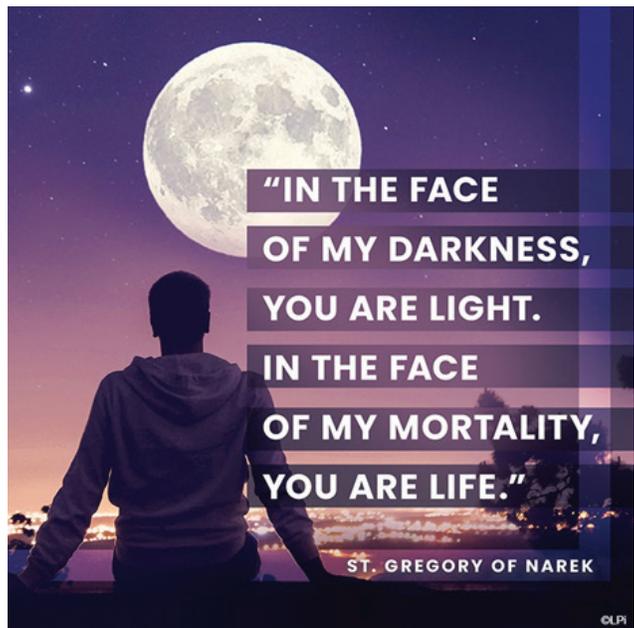
Fasting, Explained The practice of fasting predates Christianity. The Old Testament is full of examples of righteous men and women mortifying their flesh for the purpose of making atonement or simply to grow closer to God. Jesus himself fasted for forty days and forty nights in preparation for the beginning 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.

Catholic Trivia:

Question: According to the Acts of the Apostles, who was selected to replace the Apostle Judas?

Answer: St. Matthias.



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

## 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.