

ST. TERESA OF ÁVILA

CATHOLIC PARISH ✚ EST 1889

July 5, 2026

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

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14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I
will give you rest." - Mt 11:28

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

©LPI

Pastor

Reverend Peter Wojcik

Associate Pastor

Fr. Radley Alcantara

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

www.teresa.church

Baptism, Reconciliation, Anointing

Please call the office to arrange or email
cgioia@stteraparish.org

Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesdays- 6 PM to 7:30 PM

Office Hours

Weekdays: 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM

Welcome

“St. Teresa of Avila Parish is an engaged community rooted in the beauty of the Eucharist and our Catholic faith. We want to make a difference in the lives of the people, especially those who are searching to discover how much God loves them and is calling them to join in the Mission of Christ to live His Gospel. We do so by welcoming people of all backgrounds and cultures in our parish, respecting their desires and questions, crossing borders and 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/>.

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.

Schedules change throughout the year, so stay tuned!

Religious Education

teresa.church/religious-education

Whether it's our Montessori based Catechesis of the Good Shepherd 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 of 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: See, your king shall come to you; a just savior is he, meek, and riding on an ass, on a colt, the foal of an ass. (Zec 9:9)

Second Reading: For if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. (Rom 8:13)

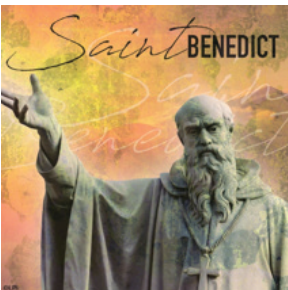
Gospel: Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart;and you will find rest for yourselves. (Mt 11:29)

Feasts and Saints:

7/6- St. Maria Goretti, Virgin and Martyr

7/9- St. Augustine Zheo Rong, Priest and Companions, Martyrs

7/11- St. Benedict, Abbot



Gospel Meditation: 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

This weekend, our nation celebrates the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Unlike most nations, the United States was not founded primarily on a shared ethnicity, language, or culture. Instead, our founders built a political community out of diverse peoples united by a shared vision of liberty. That vision echoes something deep in the Christian mystery revealed in today’s Gospel.

Jesus returns to his hometown. The people see only what is familiar: the carpenter, the son of Mary, one of their own. As Mark tells us, “They took offense at him. Jesus said, ‘A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and among his own kin and in his own house.’” Their narrow vision blinds them. Jesus has come to inaugurate a new communion that transcends geography, bloodlines, and culture. He has come to unite all people in himself.

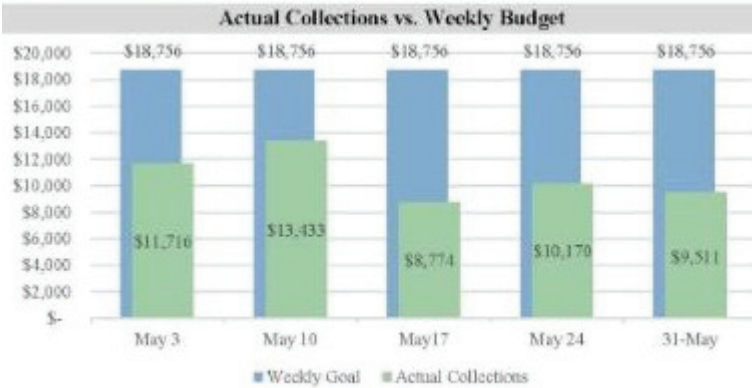
At its best, America’s national unity reflects this possibility, which fully subsists only in the Catholic Church. Our unity is not based on ancestry or tribe, but on a shared commitment to higher ideals. For this reason, we can love our country with gratitude while situating patriotism within the broader horizon of faith.

Rooted in Christ, we are less vulnerable to the unholy tribalism that threatens civic life and faith. This weekend, let us thank God for our nation and pray that we also live as citizens of Heaven in Jesus Christ.

— Father John Muir

Financials: May 2026

	FY26	FY25
Basket/Mail In:	13,323	20,290
Give Central:	34,150	34,942
Total:	THIS YEAR	PREVIOUS YEAR
	\$47,473	\$55,232
		\$(7,759)



From Fr. Peter:

A Grateful Heart, on a Weekend of Beginnings

Dear Friends,

This is a meaningful weekend to be writing to you for one of the first times as your pastor.

This 4th of July, our country marks its 250th anniversary. And here at Saint Teresa, we are at the very start of something new together. I find myself grateful for both, and I want to tell you why.

As you know, I am an immigrant. I came to this country from Poland as a young adult, and like so many who have made that journey, I arrived as a stranger. What I remember most is not the difficulty, though there was some, but the welcome. People made room for me. They were patient with my accent, my questions, my unfamiliarity with how things were done.

Slowly, a strange country became my own. On a weekend when our country marks 250 years, that welcome is very much on my heart. I do not take it for granted.

I share this because beginning my ministry among you has felt much the same way.

Once again, I have arrived somewhere new, even if only a mile away! And once again, I have been welcomed. Since I came to Saint Teresa in May, I have been moved by what I have found: a community that loves this place, loves one another, and loves Jesus. I have heard it in conversation after conversation.

I have seen it in people who have given years, and in some cases decades, of faithful service to this parish. You have made room for me and Fr. Radley, just as others once did, and we are grateful.

Fr. Radley and I begin this new chapter with gratitude for those who came before us, and with real hope for what God has in store for this community.

We know we are stepping into a story that began long before us. We are honored to be part of it now, and we are committed to walking it with you as we discern together God's plan for us in the future.

As you celebrate this weekend with fireworks, a cookout, and time with family, I hope you will also pause to give thanks: for this country, for this parish, and for the gift of beginning something together.

And we do not want to wait to begin getting to know you.

Next Sunday, we are hosting our first parish reception, and we would be glad to have you there. It is nothing formal, simply coffee and a cake, a chance for us to meet you and for you to meet us.

Bring a neighbor. Bring someone who has been meaning to get more involved.

Come with your stories and your hopes for this parish.

With a grateful heart,

Fr. Peter

Gospel Reflections:

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

The Smallness of Great Faith

My children attend Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) for their faith formation. Because of its Montessori basis, CGS atriums, which are something like classrooms, contain lots of objects made from real materials — authentic glass, wood, and ceramic.

This is a polite way of saying there are lots of breakable things in there.

So when my four-year-old entered the atrium on her first day of CGS, my whole body tensed, wondering what she would shatter first. I had to restrain myself from crying out, “Don’t touch anything!” She spotted the prayer table — the low, wooden stand which holds an open Bible, candles, a vase with flowers and a statue of the Good Shepherd. It’s the centerpiece of every atrium.

She knelt before the table. She made the sign of the cross. And she sat there, still and silent.

I stopped dead in my tracks. How had she known to come here? And where did she learn to make the sign of the cross? (Obviously we’ve tried to teach her, but she does it wrong every time!) And why was she sitting there so quietly, so expectantly, in front of a book she can’t read?

A thought came to me so clearly: Well, Colleen, you can read that book. But can you understand it?

It is so easy for us to forget that great faith does not require great intelligence. It does not require great knowledge of the world and its workings. Great faith does not require the believer to possess any answers.

Great faith only requires the believer to know his own smallness.

Stewardship Reflections:

Faith Like a Child

If you Google Search recommendations on how to raise generous children, almost every list of ideas begins with — or at least contains — the directive for adults to be good models of generosity themselves. Our children learn from our actions much more than from our words. Of course, when I think back over the years while my children were growing up, I think I may have learned as much from them as they learned from me. There is a time between early childhood and middle school where a child seems to be freer to give and share than at any other time in life. It is around the age of First Communion when the cries of “mine” turn to laughter and smiles, and the urge to be a part of something bigger than oneself leads to sharing. Before you know it, the child hits the pre-teen years, and once again, he or she becomes the center of the universe.

I believe that the previous paragraph is all true, however, the stages described seem to repeat themselves throughout adulthood. Don’t you agree? Sometimes we fall into seeing ourselves as the center of the universe, or we become consumed by our state in life or with what we have acquired. Also, we at times are generous and loving people. It is sin that draws us back into ourselves and away from any meaningful life of stewardship and generosity. In order to be freed for love, we need role models to help us see what really matters. We need to reflect on the example of many of our brothers and sisters in Christ. And, yes, we need to look to children who may be at the point in their lives where sharing is fun, and love is something in abundance.







**ST. TERESA
OF ÁVILA**

You're Invited!

MEET & MIX

WITH

FR. PETER & FR. RADLEY

Community. Conversation. Connection.



Join us for relaxed times of fellowship
and connection at St. Teresa of Ávila.



*Come for a few minutes
or stay the whole time—
everyone is welcome!*



SUNDAY Coffee & Cake

AFTER THE 10:00 AM & 12:00 PM MASS

Enjoy coffee, delicious cake,
and great conversation.

JULY 12

AUGUST 30

SEPTEMBER 27



WEDNESDAY Happy Hour

5:00 – 7:00 PM | DROP-IN STYLE

Stop by after work, meet others,
and enjoy a casual evening together.



JULY 22



AUGUST 19



SEPTEMBER 9



OCTOBER 7



All Are Welcome!



Whether you've been at St. Teresa for years
or are just getting to know the parish,
we would love to meet you.



**ST. TERESA
OF ÁVILA**

FAITH • COMMUNITY • HOPE

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 please sign up on the board in the Parish Center.



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:JessicaMarx@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



Mass Intentions

10AM- Parishioners of St. Teresa of Avila Living and Deceased

12 PM - Joseph Jaszczor (D)

6PM- 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 7/12	10am- Fr. Peter Wojcik
Sunday 7/12	12pm- Fr. Peter Wojcik
Sunday 7/12	6pm- Fr. Ken Simpson

Blessing for Our Country

Dear God,
Bless this land that we love, a land You created, in love.
We are at our best when we're close to You.

Please inspire, guide, and govern our leaders and our vision, that our greatness may be founded in and defined in You.
Amen.



Sunday Funday July 12th:

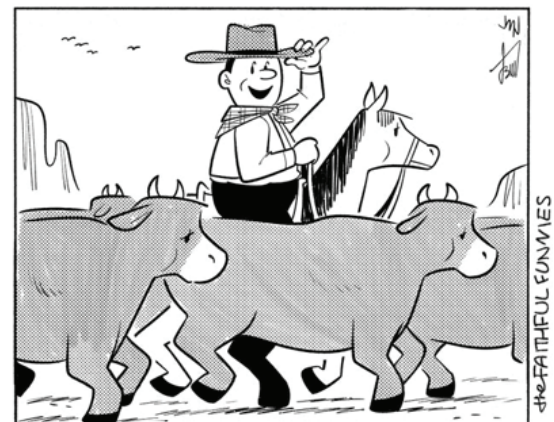
Today is National Pecan Pie Day and Simplicity Day

1862- The Medal of Honor was authorized by the United States Congress as the highest military decoration a person can receive.

1960- The Etch A Sketch went on sale for \$2.99, selling 600,000 units in its first year.

1962- The Rolling Stones performed together live for the first time at the Marquee Club in London.

The Breakfast Club, Ferris Bueller's Day Off, Sixteen Candles, and Weird Science were all filmed in and around Highland Park, Illinois. John Hughes grew up in the Chicago suburbs and rarely felt the need to pretend otherwise.



"I'm a ROAMIN' Catholic."



The term "Roman Catholic" distinguishes one rite of Catholicism from other rites, like the Maronite Church or the Coptic Church. Roman or Latin Rite Catholics make up the largest group of Catholics.

CLP

Best of Luck to you Stephen:



Maria Goretti | July 6th:

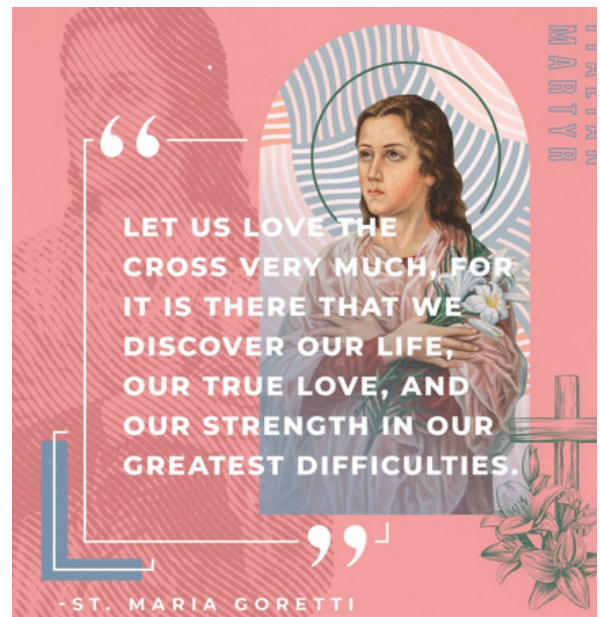
Have you heard of the patron saint of purity?

Born to peasant parents in southern Italy, St. Maria Goretti was a devout girl whose life was marked by difficulty. Her father died when she was nine, leaving her single mother with six mouths to feed. Two neighbors helped on the family farm, including a young man named Alessandro. He began making crude comments towards Maria. She repeatedly denied him.

After several years, Alessandro attacked Maria to force himself on her. She resisted and, in his anger, Alessandro stabbed her. Maria died from the wounds' infections, but her last words were "I forgive Alessandro Serenelli, and I want him with me in heaven forever."

While he was in prison, Maria appeared to Alessandro with a bouquet of roses, one for each wound he inflicted.

In a true miracle of mercy, Alessandro experienced repentance, became a Franciscan brother after his release, and was later present at Maria's canonization. St. Maria Goretti, pray for us!



Devotions , Explained!

St. Michael Prayer, Explained!

The prayer to St. Michael invokes the protection of the archangel Michael in the ongoing spiritual battle for the souls of all mankind. This prayer was composed by Pope Leo XIII and its use was instituted in 1886 at the end of Low Mass, a tradition which continued until the liturgical reforms of the Second Vatican Council. A popular story regarding its origin claims that the Pope wrote this prayer after having a vision of demonic spirits descending on Rome.

Michael is mentioned as one of God's seven archangels in the Book of Enoch and is presented by Revelations 12:7-12 as the warrior angel who cast Satan from heaven. He is therefore traditionally venerated as a protector against the forces of evil and a guardian of the Church.

The Prayer to St. Michael is still commonly said at the end of the rosary and by some parishes after the conclusion of Mass.

Catholic Trivia:

Question: What is the term for an uninterrupted hour of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament?

Answer: A Holy Hour

Virtues, Explained!

Empathy, Explained!

The virtue of empathy describes our ability to connect emotionally with the suffering of others. It's our interior capacity to appreciate and experience other people's feelings — to the extent, even, that we allow those feelings to impact our own decisions and our own actions.

Christ had empathy for us and for our state of imprisonment in original sin. He had empathy for the suffering we endure because of our self-imposed exile from friendship with God. This empathy meant that he sacrificed himself willingly for our salvation — he wanted to do it, because he had allowed our feelings to intermingle with his own.

Since empathy flows directly from charity, the theological virtue that enables us to love God and to love others, we can use charity as a way to increase the empathy we feel. If we find ourselves struggling to muster empathy in a particular situation, engaging in charity will liberate us from our state of self-centeredness.



Staff

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Pastor

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Irma Saavedra

Sergio Mora

Building & Facilities Manager

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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.