

ST. TERESA OF ÁVILA

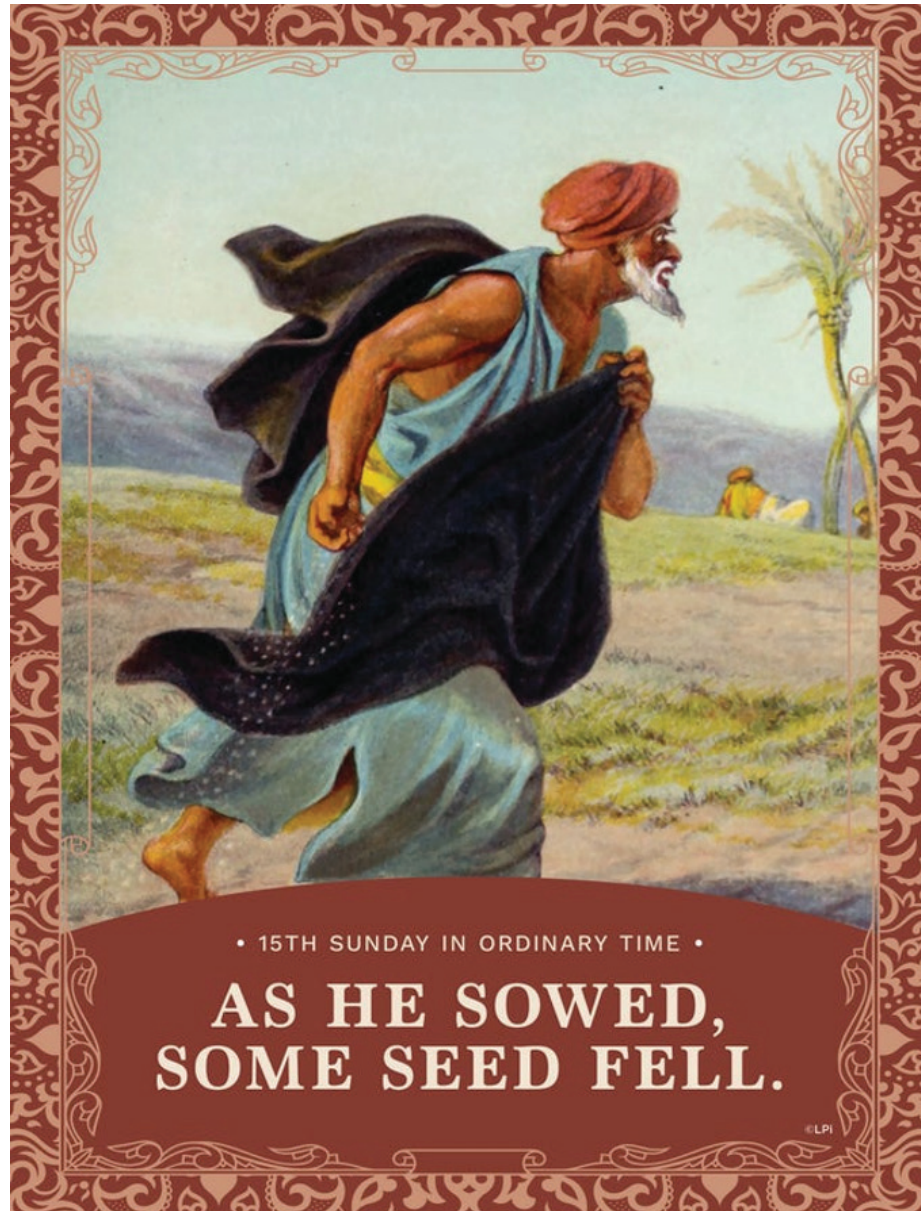
CATHOLIC PARISH ✚ EST 1889

July 12, 2026

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

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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: My word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it. (Is 55:11)

Second Reading: I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us. (Rom 8:18)

Gospel: Amen, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it. (Mt 13:17)

Feasts and Saints:

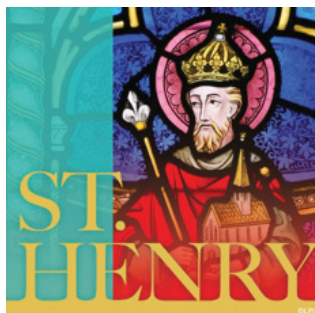
7/13- St. Henry

7/14- St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin

7/15- St. Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

7/16- Our Lady of Mount Carmel

7/18- St. Camillus de Lellis, Priest



Gospel Meditation: 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

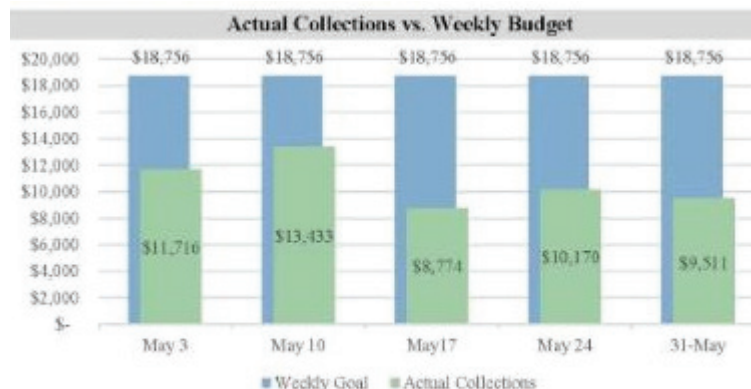
Sometimes I feel capable of absorbing almost anything except God's Word. My mind soaks up song lyrics, sports trivia, and endless online content. But what was the reading at Mass this morning? I struggle to recall. That realization discourages me, and it leads to an uncomfortable question. What is my heart really for? Is it shaped for constant information and distraction, or is it truly designed for God? Am I capable of deeply receiving His Word? Jesus speaks directly to this today with a simple image. "The seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it." By comparing the Word of the Kingdom to a seed, Jesus reveals something hopeful about us. The human heart is made for that seed. Soil and seed belong together. No matter how compacted, rocky, or overgrown the ground has become, the Sower never stops sowing. God loves our hearts. He sees them as a farmer sees his fields, full of potential. Human hearts can indeed "understand the Word." Understanding does not mean mastering information. It means letting the Word sink in, interacting with it, and giving it a home. It means trusting that, beneath the surface, God is at work in quiet and hidden ways. When we allow the Holy Spirit to loosen the soil of our hearts through prayer, repentance, and simplicity, the same Word that created the universe begins to bear fruit in us, 30, 60, even a hundredfold.

Lord Jesus, Sower of life, soften the soil of my heart. Let Your Word take root in me again, and bring forth the fruit You desire. Amen.

— 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:

Dear Friends,

One of the most important things Fr. Radley and I can do in this early season is simple: get to know you.

Not know about you, know you. Your name, your story, how long you've been part of this community, what matters most to you, what you're hoping for. That kind of knowing only happens in person, and over time.

But there is another kind of listening, and that is listening to the culture around us. On a recent episode of Magnified Ministries, the podcast I co-host with Marco Oropeza, we spent our time talking about exactly this. One thing kept coming back to us: many of the people who live near our parishes are not hostile to faith.

They are simply unfamiliar with it. They are not running away from God so much as they have never really been introduced to Him. In many ways, they are starting from zero, not out of rejection, but because no one has yet offered them the Gospel in a way that made sense to their lives.

I find that genuinely hopeful, and it shapes how I want us to move forward. So I would like to begin something new. Every few months, I hope to bring together the leaders of our ministries and groups, not for another meeting, but for prayer, for conversation, and for celebration. A chance to give thanks for what God is doing, to listen to one another, and to ask together a simple but important question: where is God already at work in our community? Not only inside these walls, but in our neighborhood, our workplaces, our families, and in the lives of people who have not yet found their way to us.

That same desire to listen is behind the parish receptions we are hosting this summer and fall, casual gatherings where you can share a snack or a glass of wine and tell us what is on your heart.

Watch the bulletin and weekly email for dates and details.

We would be glad to see you there.

— Fr. Peter

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 MASSES

Enjoy coffee, delicious cake, and great conversation.

WEDNESDAY Happy Hour

5:00 – 7:00 PM | DROP-IN STYLE

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

DATES:

- JULY 12
- AUGUST 30
- SEPTEMBER 27
- 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

Gospel Reflections:

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

The Gardener and the Soil

I began writing this piece by googling “how do you make soil fertile?” which should tell you everything you need to know about my own abilities as a gardener.

I remember seeing a packet of seeds in the store one summer as a child and convincing my mother to buy them. They were delphiniums, which bloom into a beautiful cone shape if you know what you’re doing. Alas, I didn’t. I chose for my garden a particularly dry spot of earth right next to my backyard playset, scattered the seeds, congratulated myself, and went on my merry way. I returned occasionally to water the area, but only when I remembered to.

Nothing grew, not even a little sprout. I was more than heartbroken — my faith was shaken. I had planted these seeds! I had watered them! (A little.) There was sunlight! All my childhood books and rhymes said this was all you needed. Was it all a lie?

Of course it wasn’t a lie. Seeds need soil, sunlight, water, and oxygen — good soil, adequate sunlight for whatever the plant is, and consistent water.

So what seeds need more than anything is a gardener. (At least, delphiniums do.)

When I hear the parable of the rich soil and the rocky ground in the Gospel of Matthew, I often miss the point. I think Jesus is trying to give me a message about how I should be. “Be better.” That’s what I think he’s telling me.

I forget that I am only the soil. I cannot enrich myself; all my efforts to do so will come to nothing. What he is telling me is to ask the gardener: “Make me what I need to be.”

Stewardship Reflections:

Over the years I have wasted a lot: a lot of money, a lot of time, and a lot of talent. Sometimes I didn’t realize I was wasting these things but, after reflection, I realized I could have done more and accomplished much greater things. Of course, I think that is part of our imperfect humanity. It truly is easier for us to waste our gifts than grow them into something more.

The parable of the sower speaks about the word of God that gets planted in our hearts. If the soil of our heart is rich, then the word will grow and change us. If that soil is rocky or full of weeds, the word will lie there without any impact, bearing no fruit.

This parable can be applied to living a stewardship way of life as well. As sowers, we have been given the seeds of our time, talent, and treasure. We have a choice of where to plant these gifts. As good everyday stewards, we are called to plant them wisely and prudently. Oftentimes it is not enough to simply give away what we have. We need to discern the best places to sow these gifts so the maximum harvest can grow. This takes prayer, reflection, and study. Without a solid discernment process, we can find ourselves sowing seeds endlessly without much to show for it. But joyful is the person who has used one’s gifts wisely, for the bounty of the harvest is great.



Mission Appeal Next Sunday:



Rev. Fr. Anthonyraj Bellamkonda Irudayam

Priest of the Diocese of Columbus · Pastor, Our Lady of Peace Parish, Columbus, Ohio

This weekend Rev. Fr. Anthonyraj Bellamkonda Irudayam will preach at all Masses at St. Teresa of Avila Parish, Chicago, Illinois, and share the Bishop Iruthayaraj Foundation mission appeal. He serves as a priest of the Diocese of Columbus and as pastor of Our Lady of Peace Parish, Columbus, Ohio, and invites the parish community to participate in this work of mercy, pastoral care, education, and hope.

Sharing Christ's Mercy Through the Universal Church

The Bishop Iruthayaraj Foundation, established in Columbus, Ohio, in 2024, honors the Christ-centered legacy of Bishop Savarinathen Iruthayaraj and serves vulnerable communities through education, healthcare, pastoral care, and missionary support. With the support of leaders including Bishop Earl K. Fernandes and Archbishop Antonysamy Savarimuthu, the foundation helps strengthen communities in need as part of the Church's shared missionary mission.

This work is both practical and spiritual. Through supported efforts, 5,000+ children receive education annually, 200+ youth have received vocational support, and 50+ parish communities have been strengthened.

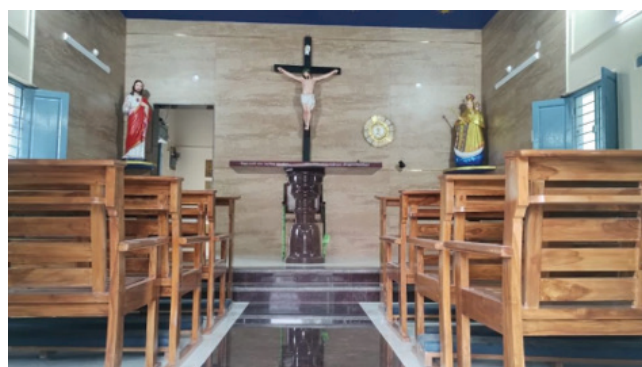
The mission also helps provide rural clinics, clean water projects, support for seminarians and altar servers, and sacred spaces for worship and formation. In Zambia, a borehole project brought clean water to a community where there had been no water for 20 miles, and school children were seen drinking clean water for the first time. In Ayalpatti, India, the mission has helped support parish improvements including chapel and altar work, presbytery and sacred space development, and the Blessed Mother's grotto.

Jesus teaches us in Matthew 25:40 that what we do for the least, we do for Him. Your parish's support is a real participation in the universal Church's mission of mercy. Help is needed now, because many communities still face hardship, under-resourced facilities, and ongoing vulnerability.

Through prayer and generosity, we can stand with them in Christ.

What Your Gift Makes Possible

- Helps support education for 5,000+ children annually
- Helps provide vocational support and training for 200+ youth
- Helps strengthen 50+ parish communities
- Helps sustain rural clinics and healthcare outreach
- Helps expand clean water access, including communities where water has been scarce or distant
- Helps support seminarians and altar servers as future servants of the Church
- Helps build and improve mission churches, faith-formation centers, chapels, presbyteries, and other sacred spaces
- Helps connect U.S. parishioners with vulnerable Christian communities through the shared mission of the universal Church



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.

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

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.



Mass Intentions

10AM- Celeste Gannon (D)

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 7/19 10am- Fr. Ken Simpson

Sunday 7/19 12pm- Fr. Ken Simpson

Sunday 7/19 6pm- Fr. Peter Wojcik

Blessing for Abundant Growth

Dear God,

Bless our efforts in Your Name.

Help us to understand Your will.

Allow us to follow the invitation You have provided.

We want to be rich soil — help us respond

deeply and abundantly to every place You call. Amen.

Sunday Funday Dog Days of Summer:

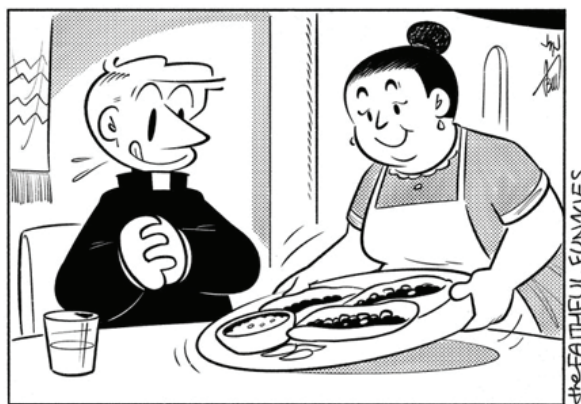
Traditionally span from July 3 to August 11, marking the hottest and muggiest 40 days of the year.

Weather Proverbs: Ancient lore dictates that if the Dog Days begin bright and clear, it indicates a happy year. However, if it rains, they expected vain hopes for better times ahead.

The “Scorching” Star: Sirius, the brightest star in the night sky, is part of the constellation Canis Major (Greater Dog). Its name originates from the Greek word seirios, meaning “scorching”.



“What’s a priest’s favorite type of taco?”



“Tacos Al Pastor.”



This taco term means “shepherd style” in Spanish and was inspired by Lebanese immigrants who made lamb in Mexico. Mexicans adopted the style and made their own (yummy) version. “Pastor” means “shepherd,” something he does for his congregation.

OLPI

Feast of St. Bonaventure | July 15

Do you ever get stuck with the tough jobs?

It's well known that the Franciscan Order was incredibly influential throughout history. But one of the most challenging times for a new movement is surviving the death of the founder.

Bonaventure joined the Franciscan Order almost two decades after the passing of St. Francis. Initially, the young man's theological insights earned him a prime faculty position at the University of Paris. More than his academic skill, however, he was known for his deep devotion to Christ.

He was elected the General Minister of the Franciscan Order, right in the thick of controversies. Some friars had conflicting views of how to interpret St. Francis' poverty as the order grew.

Others started a new heresy, saying that the Franciscan Order began a new era of the Holy Spirit, replacing the era of Jesus and the authority of the Church.

St. Bonaventure weathered these crises with grace, restructuring the order when necessary and offering a more organized perspective on the insights of St. Francis.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel | July 16

The origins of this feast reach all the way back to the Old Testament.

In the book of Kings, we read the story of the prophet Elijah. Much of his prayer, fasting, and public ministry occurred from Carmel, a mountain in Israel.

Christian hermits -- seeking solitude -- made their homes on the mountain during the first millennium. Over time, the hermits assembled into a community and were given a Rule of Life. They named their church after Mary -- Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Political upheaval forced the Carmelite order out of the Holy Land and into Europe, where they established monasteries for both men and women across the continent.

Many great saints and doctors of the Church have come from the Carmelite order, including St. Teresa of Avila, St. John of the Cross, St. Therese of Lisieux, and St. Edith Stein. Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Pray for us!



Devotions , Explained!

Spiritual Direction, Explained!

Spiritual direction is the practice of seeking counsel from someone who is trustworthy and learned in the faith for the purpose of discerning the will of God in one's life and for more effectively living out one's baptismal calling.

All Christians are commanded, in a way, to provide spiritual aid to one another ("Go, make disciples of all nations...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" — Matthew 28:19), but a spiritual director is usually an individual who has received some form of training or formation for this specific purpose. The Catholic Church, however, does not have explicit requirements, professional standards or a formal certification process for spiritual directors. Spiritual directors can be lay, religious or ordained persons.

Spiritual direction is not to be confused with the sacrament of Penance, though the latter does usually include some spiritual counsel.

Catholic Trivia:

Question: In what country did both the Christmas tree and the Advent wreath originate?

Answer: In Germany

Catholic Q&A:

Sharing Your Faith

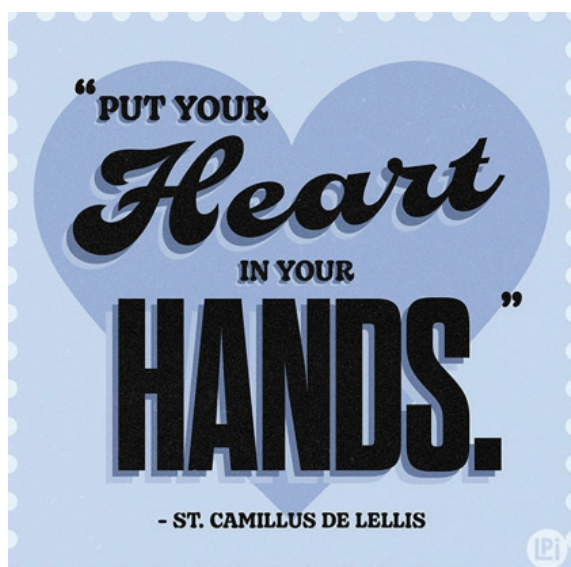
Question:

My friend has never heard of Christ and I want to share the Gospel with her but I'm afraid to. How do I share my faith?

Answer:

There are a lot of ways to bring up the topic of religion, without being judgmental or pushy. Begin by asking what her thoughts are about religion, or what her experience was growing up. Finding common ground is often easier than you think, because the questions and problems we have about God, the presence of evil, our purpose in life, and our relationship with God are universal concerns.

Why are you afraid? If you do not want to insult or offend someone, don't be pushy or judgmental. If you are uncertain about how to explain your own faith, do a little reading or practice with a friend. If you measure success only by this person converting, focus your attention more on beginning the conversation, not on bringing it to a perfect close! Faith is a journey of many acts of belief, many discussions about God, and many choices about how we practice what we preach. In some we will have great success; in others we will need forgiveness and perseverance. The most important thing to keep in mind is that the Holy Spirit is always at work and our most humble efforts can bear great fruit. Have faith in God because he has faith in you!



Staff

Fr. Peter Wojcik

Pastor

Fr. Radley Alcantara

Associate Pastor

Charisse Gioia

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Bulletin

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Barbara McHugh

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Jason Krumwiede

Director of Music

musicalnut1@mac.com

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.