

ST. TERESA OF ÁVILA

CATHOLIC PARISH ✚ EST 1889

July 19, 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: For your might is the source of justice; your mastery over all things makes you lenient to all. (Wis 12:16)

Second Reading: And the one who searches hearts knows what is the intention of the Spirit, because he intercedes for the holy ones according to God's will. (Rom 8:27)

Gospel: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a person took and sowed in a field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants." (Mt 13:31-32)

Feasts and Saints:

7/20- St. Apollinaris, Bishop and Martyr

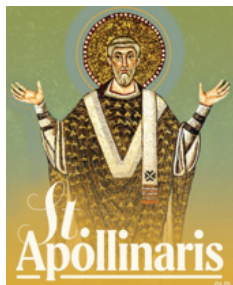
7/21- St. Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest and Doctor of the Church

7/22- St. Mary Magdalene

7/23- St. Bridget, Religious

7/24- St. Sharbel Makhlof, Priest

7/25- St. James, Apostle



Gospel Meditation: 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

A man recently told me he was losing patience with the Church. "It's supposed to be God's Kingdom on earth," he said, "but it's full of contradictions and hypocrisy. Why can't the Church just be better?" That last word landed with a judgmental thud. It hurt. Because at times the Church can look painfully ordinary, even disappointing.

But Jesus' parables in today's Gospel meet that frustration head-on. He says, "The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field," yet the weeds grow up with the wheat, and the master allows both to grow together until harvest. To his listeners, this sounded strange, even offensive. They expected God's reign to be pure, powerful, and glorious, anything but mixed up, hidden, or small.

Jesus is showing us something essential. The Kingdom always begins small and grows amid imperfection. Grace and weakness exist side by side until the harvest. That is why the Church often looks messy. Yet within that mess, God's quiet work continues. The weeds do not stop the wheat from growing.

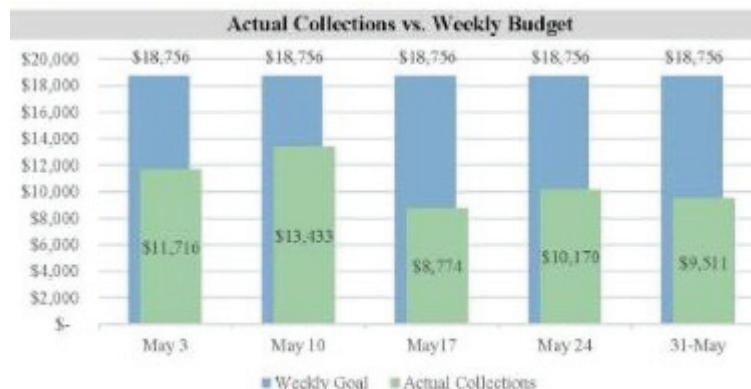
When we see the Church's flaws or our own, it helps to remember that this is exactly the field in which Christ chose to plant. The miracle is not that everything looks perfect, but that his Word keeps taking root anyway.

Lord, give me patience with Your field, the Church. Help me see Your hidden life growing even among the weeds. 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:

A Change, and an Invitation

Dear Friends,

One thing my ministry has taught me is that change almost always arrives carrying two things at once: a measure of uncertainty and a real opportunity. They tend to come together.

Today I want to tell you about a change here at Saint Teresa, and why I believe it is also an invitation.

The change is this: Fr. Radley and I serve both Saint Teresa and Saint Clement Parish. I know news like this can raise questions.

Will Saint Teresa have enough of our time and attention?

Will our parish lose what makes it its own?

These are fair questions, and I want to be honest with you about them.

Here is where I have landed. Saint Teresa is Saint Teresa. Its history, its people, and its way of doing things are its own, and that is not going to change. Fr. Radley and I have no wish to blur that.

What is new is that, for the first time, two neighboring parishes share the same priests, and a common heart for this part of the city.

The reality of our Church today is that priests are sometimes asked to serve more than one community. While that may feel new, I believe it is also an invitation, an invitation to deepen our shared mission and to reach more of the people who are searching.

Practically, this opens doors that did not exist before. In the months ahead, Fr. Radley and I will sit down with the leadership teams of both Saint Teresa and Saint Clement to look honestly at where we can do more together.

That may mean sharing speakers and programs, using our resources more wisely, and supporting one another's efforts rather than each parish carrying every burden alone.

None of this is about consolidating or combining our parishes.

It is about working more intentionally together so that we can serve more people and bring more of them into a living relationship with Christ.

We will not rush this, and we will not work it out from behind a desk. This first year is a time of listening and discernment, done in conversation with the people who know each parish best, which is you.

I ask for your patience, your honesty, and your prayers as we begin.

Change and opportunity, arriving together.

That is where we are, and I am grateful to be walking it with you.

In it together,

Fr. Peter

ST. TERESA OF AVILA

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 Avila.

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 AVILA
FAITH • COMMUNITY • HOPE

Gospel Reflections:

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

The Weeds We Need

Driving up my street in late spring, you can see which yard is mine from a whole block away: it's the one covered in dandelions. And I like it that way.

I fear neither my husband's shame nor the snarky comments of neighbors: I will never apologize for my dandelion-filled yard. "It's for the pollinators," I say, but it's a total lie. I just think it looks lovely. Who doesn't like a splash of yellow after a long, dreary winter?

People call dandelions "weeds," but it's just not true. Weeds are, by definition, any plant growing where it isn't wanted. A rosebush is a weed, if it's in the middle of a cornfield. I want my dandelions. Plants that are commonly considered weeds can even have beneficial properties. They attract pollinators, for instance, and they promote nutrient cycling, whereby soil health is improved.

We all have metaphorical "weeds" in the garden of our lives. I certainly do: facets of my personality I loathe, realities of my life I resent, limitations in my abilities I dread— these are my weeds, and their roots run deep, coiling closely around those of the plants I try to cultivate. But if I could rid my garden of any one of these weeds, would it really benefit me? And if I examined them all closely, could I tell them apart — the blessing from the curse, the struggle from the triumph?

One day, it will all become clear: what is the wheat, and what is the weed. We will be put to our ultimate purpose, and we will see ourselves for what we are meant to be.

Until then, we need the weeds. It's not harvest time yet.

Stewardship Reflections:

Do What Needs to Be Done

A friend recently confided in me that although he prayed frequently each day and was involved heavily in his parish, he did not sense much fruit coming from it all and was left feeling unsatisfied. I assured him he was not alone. I told him of a deceased pastor of mine who had spoken frequently about being in this type of situation. Even as a priest, he knew all too well of how we can feel like we are simply going through the motions. It is precisely at those times that continuing to pray and practicing good stewardship is most important, because it would be easier to simply take a break and risk never coming back. He liked to say, "Do the drill," meaning just do what needs to be done.

We are all called to be mature disciples who answer the call of Jesus Christ regardless of the cost. We cannot choose when and where the call will come. We cannot schedule our stewardship in a way that is always most convenient for us. Even when the fruits of our faithful efforts seem hidden from us, we hold to the promise that we are never called to give of ourselves for nothing. God is working through us and in us. No matter how dry the land may seem, seeds are being planted to yield a harvest greater than we can ever realize. Stay strong and do the drill!



St. Mary Magdalene | July 22

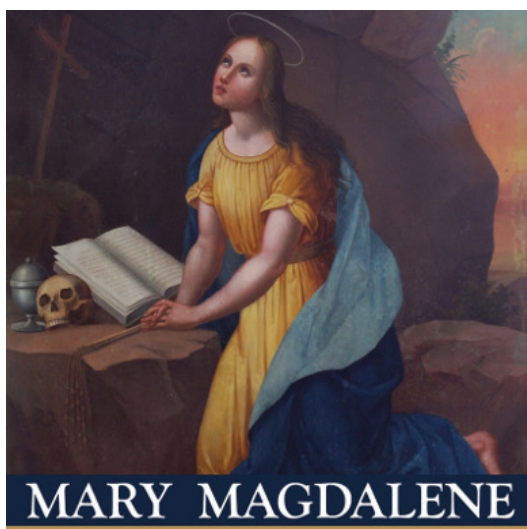
Saint Mary Magdalene, also known as Magdalene or Mary of Magdala, is likely named for the busy fishing village of Magdala on the Sea of Galilee's western edge. All we know about Mary comes from the Gospels. Luke 8:1–3 introduces her as one of the women who accompanied and provided for Jesus and the Twelve. The women had been “cured of evil spirits and infirmities.” Mary is noted to have been delivered from “seven demons,” which could be distinct demons who possessed, obsessed, or oppressed Mary. The number seven also symbolizes perfection, implying complete possession or perfect deliverance from these demons and from an evil life. Thus, she never returned to the sins from which Jesus delivered her. Some identify the seven demons as the seven capital sins, implying that Mary had gravely violated them all and was delivered from each of these sinful habits.

While many presume that the anonymous “sinful woman” who washes Jesus’ feet with her tears, wipes them with her hair, and anoints them from an “alabaster flask of ointment” in Luke 7:35–50 is Mary Magdalene, there is no way to be certain. This sinful woman might have been Mary of Bethany, Lazarus’ and Martha’s sister. It could have been a woman not mentioned elsewhere in the Bible, or one of the other women who accompanied Jesus and provided for Him and the Twelve.

The second time that Mary Magdalene is explicitly mentioned in the Bible is at Jesus’ crucifixion. Matthew, Mark, and Luke state that she and other women looked on from a distance. John’s Gospel has her standing near the Cross next to Jesus’ mother and aunt: “Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala” (John 19:25).

Mary Magdalene appears a third time after the Resurrection. Matthew, Mark, and Luke state that she and one or more other women went to the tomb early on Sunday morning to anoint Jesus’ body. John’s Gospel states that she went alone, found the stone rolled away, and Jesus’ body missing. She ran to tell Peter and John, who left after investigating and finding the tomb empty. As Mary sat by the tomb crying, two angels appeared and conversed with her. She then turned and saw someone whom she mistook for the gardener. Asking if he had taken Jesus’ body, she recognized Jesus when He said, “Mary!” Jesus said, “Stop holding on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am going to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God’” (John 20:17). Mary quickly informed the disciples that she had seen the Lord.

Because Mary announced Jesus’ Resurrection to the disciples, Saint Thomas Aquinas referred to her as the “Apostle to the Apostles.” Though the Bible infers that Mary Magdalene was the first to see the risen Lord, some theologians hold that Jesus appeared first to His own Mother, although this is not recorded in the Gospels. Nothing else is known about Mary Magdalene. One tradition says that she accompanied John and the Blessed Mother to Ephesus, where she spent the rest of her days.



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- Barbara Eldred (D) and Guiomar Havansek (D)

12 PM - Parishioners of St. Teresa of Avila Living and Deceased

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 7/26 10am- Fr. Tom Hickey

Sunday 7/26 12pm- Fr. Paul Shelton

Sunday 7/26 6pm- Fr. Peter Wojcik

Blessing for Summer

O God,

Pour your blessing upon these summer months of sun and clouds, flowers and growth. In this season of cultivation, cultivate us as we worship, work, play, and rest in You. May this season, and all the others, serve to draw us closer to You.

Amen.



Sunday Funday July 19th:

Today is National Daiquiri Day and National Raspberry Cake Day

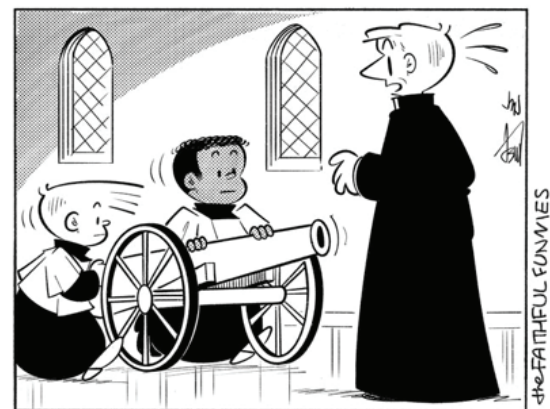
1900- The Paris Métro opened for operation.

1909- Baseball's first unassisted Triple Play was achieved by shortstop Neal Ball.

1952- The Summer Olympics, officially known as the Games of the XV Olympiad, were opened in Helsinki, Finland.

1954- Elvis Presley's first single was released. That's All Right, Mama

1977- The world's first Global Positioning System (GPS) signal was transmitted from Navigation Technology Satellite 2 (NTS-2) and received at Rockwell Collins in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.



"Oh no, fellas! I didn't mean THAT kind of canon!"



The "Canon of Sacred Scripture" is the list of books in the Bible that the Catholic Church recognizes as inspired by the Holy Spirit.

GLP

St. James | July 25

While the Twelve Apostles included two named James, today we honor James the Greater, the brother of John, the Gospel writer. Their mother is believed to be Salome, identified as the Blessed Virgin Mary's sister. If Salome and Mary were siblings, then James and John were Jesus' cousins.

Tradition holds that Andrew and James the Greater followed Jesus after John the Baptist said, "Behold, the Lamb of God" (John 1:35-51). Matthew's and Mark's Gospels record James following Jesus after He called James and John as they mended their nets (Mark 1:19-20). The family likely had means. The father, Zebedee, might have employed other fishermen besides his sons. The mother, Salome, is believed to be one of the women who supported Jesus and the disciples. John might partly have been entrusted with the care of Jesus' mother because he had the resources to do so.

The Gospels record Peter, James, and John as being present at three special events that the other Apostles were not. When Jesus cured Jairus' daughter, He brought the three into the house with Him (Mark 5:37). Second, Jesus took these three to the top of a high mountain where He was transfigured (Matthew 17:1-9, Mark 9:2-8, Luke 9:28-36). Finally, these three accompanied Jesus during His Agony in the Garden (Matthew 26:36-46, Mark 14:32-42).

James and John are also known for boldly asking Jesus that they sit at His left and right when He entered His Kingdom. In Matthew's Gospel, their mother, Salome, makes the request on their behalf (Matthew 20:20-28), and in Mark's Gospel, the brothers make the request (Mark 10:35-45).

In Luke 9:51-56, Jesus rebukes James and John when they want to call down fire from heaven after the Samaritans would not welcome Him and His disciples. Due to the brothers' excessive zeal, quick tempers, and boldness, they are referred to as the "Sons of Thunder" (Mark 3:17).

James is last mentioned in Acts 12:1-3. Herod Agrippa, ruler of Judea from 41-44, martyred James the Greater to appease the Pharisaic Jews who opposed Jesus and His followers. According to Eusebius, a fourth-century Bishop of Caesarea Maritima, James' zeal for the faith led to his arrest. James' accuser converted to the faith and was martyred with him.

A later tradition holds that James preached the Gospel in Spain before his martyrdom in Jerusalem. That same tradition states that his martyred body was either miraculously transported to Compostela, Spain or that his followers took his body there. Lost for centuries, his burial site was discovered in the ninth century when a hermit named Pelagius observed a star or a cluster of stars that led to the site. Afterward, King Alfonso II ordered the construction of a church over his grave; the site is now referred to as Santiago (Saint James) of Compostela (field of stars). Since then, pilgrims have traveled the 100- to 500-mile route known as the Camino de Santiago (Way of Saint James) from various starting points in France, Spain, and Portugal that lead to his burial site.



Virtues, Explained!

Generosity, Explained!

In the early Church, we read in the Acts of the Apostles, “all who believed were together and had all things in common; and they sold their possessions and goods and distributed them to all, as any had need.” (Acts 2:44-45)

This doesn’t mean we are obligated to sell our homes and cars, move in with our fellow parishioners and split the water bill. But it certainly does describe the spirit with which we must live as Christians — and it is a generous spirit, a spirit of self-denial, a spirit that prioritizes the welfare of our brothers and sisters as it does our own.

Generosity is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, cultivated in our hearts by a closeness to the sacraments and a persistence in prayer: “The one who provides seed for sowing and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed and increase the harvest of your righteousness.” (2 Corinthians 9:10)

Catholic Trivia:

Question: When bishops from around the world gather in council to make decisions for the Universal Church, what is the council called?

Answer: An Ecumenical Council

Catholic Q&A:

The Most Holy Trinity

Question:

I accept on faith that God is a Trinity of Persons, and I know it’s something we can’t fully understand. Should I just accept that, or should I try to learn more?

Answer:

There’s a legend from the life of St. Augustine. As the early Church grappled with the identity of Christ and his relation to the other Persons in the Trinity, the holy theologian wrote a book about the Trinity. The story goes that, while he worked on the piece, he took a break to walk along the seashore. He came upon a small boy who had dug a hole in the sand. He was carrying a bucket, which he’d fill up with seawater and pour into the hole. Back and forth he walked. St. Augustine gently chided the young boy, “You can’t pour the whole ocean into that hole.” The boy responded, “And you cannot fit the whole Trinity into your mind.”

The Trinity is a mystery! Our finite mind can’t comprehend the infinite God. Of course, the lesson isn’t about giving up trying to understand God. St. Augustine did write that treatise, after all. The hunger to know more about God is good. We can read books about the Trinity or about the fatherly love of God, the life of Christ, and the movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives. More than that, we can deepen our life of prayer. The heart of our Trinitarian teaching is “God is love.” The Three Persons are an infinite relation of love between one another. Real understanding of that comes less through our heads but through our hearts.



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Irma Saavedra

Sergio Mora

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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.