

ST. TERESA OF ÁVILA

CATHOLIC PARISH ✚ EST 1889

July 26, 2026

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

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17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field." - Mt 13:44

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

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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: "Give your servant, therefore, an understanding heart to judge your people and to distinguish right from wrong. For who is able to govern this vast people of yours?" (1 Kgs 3:9)

Second Reading: We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. (Rom 8:28)

Gospel: "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field." (Mt 13:44)

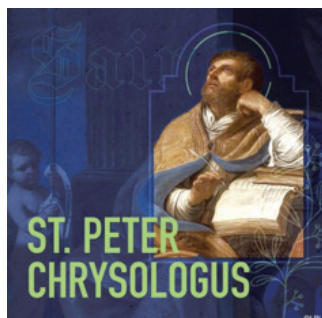
Feasts and Saints:

7/29- Sts. Martha, Mary and Lazarus

7/30- St. Peter Chrysologus, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

7/31- St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest

8/1- St. Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop and Doctor of the Church



Gospel Meditation: 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Around the time that the gold rushes ended in the nineteenth-century West, a curious phenomenon arose in New England known as money diggers. These were men who roamed the countryside with shovels, divining rods, and superstitious hope, convinced that treasure lay buried beneath their feet. Surely there must be gold under our feet. But there was not. The craze of these wild goose chases caused many to lose farms, families, and sanity.

In this week's Gospel, Jesus inaugurates a new era of spiritual money digging. He announces, "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field." He invites us to become treasure seekers who search in the right place. What is of greatest value is not money beneath our feet, but the infinite treasure hidden deep in the humanity of Jesus himself, God's own blessed life. The glory of heaven lies veiled in his ordinary life, his teaching, his suffering, his Church.

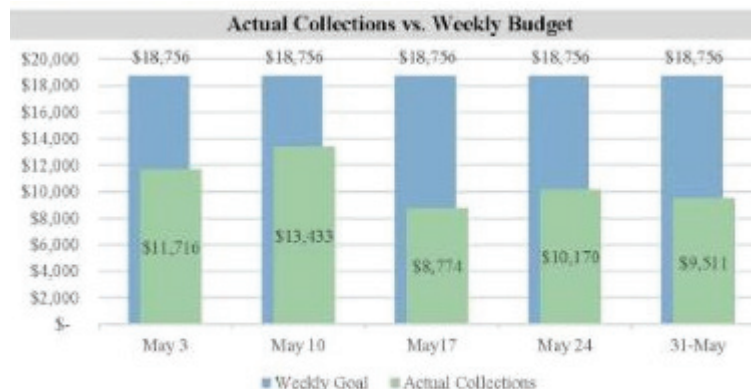
This teaching about the Kingdom changes things. Now we see the Church's doctrinal and moral teachings are not arbitrary rules. They are a treasure map. Follow them, and we will uncover divine happiness. Ignore them, and we will wander aimlessly, spade in hand, digging in empty fields, discouraged.

Where have we wasted energy seeking treasure in the wrong places? How have we given up on seeking the treasure of truly finding God's love for us? If so, let us repent of both. Then let us dust off our shovels and get back to digging deep into the field of Christ Jesus and his Church. After all, He never ceases seeking his treasure in us.

— 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 Season of Learning — and an Invitation to Go Deeper

Dear Friends,

These first weeks have been, more than anything, a season of learning for me. Learning your names, I am getting there, slowly. Learning my way around the building. And learning how things are done here at Saint Teresa, the rhythms, the traditions, and the quiet ways of doing things that took years to build, and that many of you have patiently walked me through.

What has struck me most is how many people quietly keep this parish going, in every season.

Not only at Christmas and Easter, but on ordinary days too: those who arrive early to set up, who teach our children, who visit the homebound, who care for the books, who receive food on Thursday and joyfully participate in Loaves and Fishers Ministry on Friday.

I have been deeply impressed by the commitment of those who serve here. I want you to know that I see it, and that this city is better because of the work that is done at Saint Teresa, week after week, often with no one watching but God.

It is on that foundation that Fr. Radley and I have been praying about what to offer this fall, not simply as programs, but as real pathways for people to encounter Christ, grow in faith, and become more fully the disciples they are called to be.

Here is what we are planning, and I hope something in this list speaks to where you are right now:

Alpha — For anyone curious about faith, exploring Christianity for the first time, or wanting to re-examine the foundations of what they believe, Alpha offers a welcoming, no-pressure space for honest questions. It is one of the most powerful tools we have for people who are searching.

Small Faith Sharing Groups — For those already on the journey, we want to make sure there are places to go deeper. Faith is not meant to be lived alone, and small groups are where many people find the community that sustains them.

Beta Course- in the Spiritual Lessons from St. Teresa of Avila. Offered by Fr. Tom Hickey, this fall course will help us learn, pray, and share the spirituality of St. Teresa as a pathway to learning, revisiting, or strengthening our own spiritual journey.

Bible Study — Mike and Debbie have generously offered to continue the Sunday and Wednesday morning Bible studies. These are critically important. If you want to grow in your knowledge of Jesus, not just knowledge about him, but real, living knowledge, there is no substitute for spending time with the Word.

OCIA — For those who are considering full entry into the Catholic Church, or completing their sacraments, the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults walks with you through that process with care and accompaniment.

And finally, we want to invite you to consider serving. Both in our liturgy and in our outreach to those in need, there are meaningful ways to give of yourself. Service is not just something the Church asks of you. It is one of the most reliable paths to a deeper, more joyful faith.

More details will follow as fall approaches. For now, begin asking yourself: Where is God inviting me to grow this year? We'll be here to help you find the answer.

— 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.

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

SUNDAY Coffee & Cake

AFTER THE 10:00 AM & 11:00 PM MASSES

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

Choosing Heaven

My children often ask me questions about Heaven. What does Heaven look like? Is there nighttime in Heaven? Do you get hungry in Heaven? Are there oceans in Heaven? Will we feel bored in Heaven?

My answer is almost always the same: "I can't tell you for sure." I guess I didn't realize how little we actually know about Heaven until I had kids who were obsessed with hearing the details.

But accepting human ignorance is liberating in a way, because it allows me to see clearly — and cling wholeheartedly to — the three things I do know for sure: Heaven is where God is, and Hell is where He isn't, and it's completely my decision where I want to be.

The choice, you see, is everything.

We need to pay attention to how Jesus describes the kingdom of Heaven in his parables. It is, he tells us, a treasure — but a treasure buried in a field owned by someone else. It is a beautiful pearl — and a very expensive pearl. It is a bountiful yield — one which must be carefully, even painstakingly sifted through.

It's so easy to imagine the delight of the man who finds the treasure, who encounters the pearl, who hauls the bursting net aboard, just as it is easy to call ourselves followers of Christ, to hang a Rosary from our windshield and go to Mass.

It's less easy, and a great deal more uncomfortable, to contemplate what comes next: the sacrifice, the commitment, the perseverance through uncertainty.

Heaven is an incredible stroke of luck — one that requires a good deal of follow-through. We can never earn it, but we must choose it. Again and again and again, we must choose it.

Stewardship Reflections:

What Is God Asking of You?

What are you willing to give for the sake of the kingdom of God? Often, we begin a discussion like this with a story or a few leading thoughts. However, if we are to be serious about who we claim to be as Christians, there should be no beating around the bush. The question is not only important for each of us and our relationship with our God, but it should be important for the relationship each of us has with the entire Body of Christ. Like any good team or family, I need you to have my back, and I need to have yours. If one of us is going to lay it on the line and be all in for our faith, then we all need to be as well.

If only all the Christians of the world felt the same way. In some parts of the world, Christians are still being martyred for their faith. Others must worship underground and avoid the government-led police. Then there are those who seem to take faith for granted, and because little is asked by their friends or parish, they give nothing. It is quite a contrast of situations.

On this day, it may seem like little is being asked of you and I by God. Is that because we aren't being asked or because we aren't listening? If you are counting on me and I am on you, we should figure this out sooner than later. Of course, I suspect we actually do know the answer, don't we?



St. Ignatius of Loyola | July 31

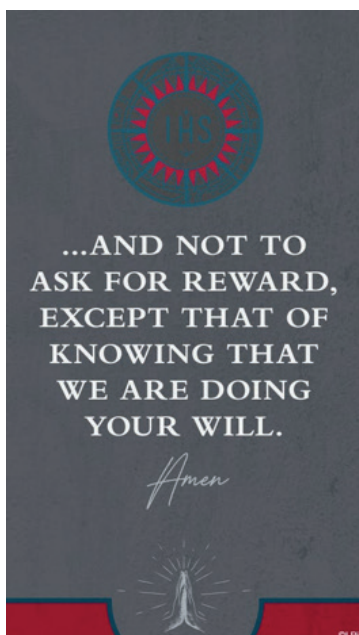
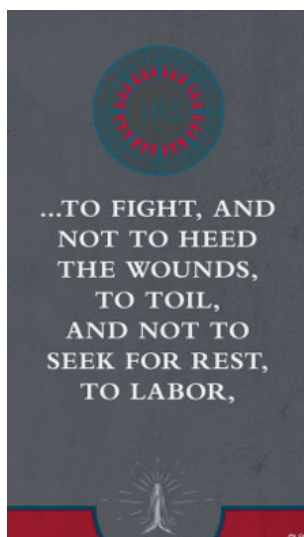
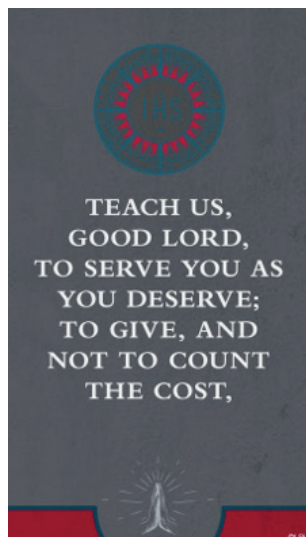
This week we celebrate a spiritual master!

Not only is St. Ignatius Loyola the founder of the Jesuits, but the legacy of his life of prayer -- now called Ignatian spirituality -- inspired believers the world over.

Injured as a young soldier, Ignatius spent his time in recovery reading the lives of the saints. They inspired his soul to holy heroism, changing his life forever. Ignatius gathered a group of friends who also desired to be "contemplatives in action," finding God in all circumstances.

This became the Jesuits -- a great missionary and teaching order. Ignatius himself was constantly attuned to his own inner promptings. This self-knowledge -- open to the movements of the Holy Spirit -- led him to be an incredibly astute spiritual director.

For Ignatius, recognizing God as the first principle of one's life determined everything. How has God changed you?



St. Alphonsus Liguori | August 1

St. Alphonsus Liguori, (1696-1787) was born in Marianella, near Naples, in Italy. When he was young, he displayed exceptional intelligence and piety, earning a doctorate in civil and canon law by the age of 16. Feeling a calling to dedicate his life to God and the service of others, however, he abandoned his legal career and pursued ordination to the priesthood. He was ordained at the age of 30 in 1726.

Throughout his priestly ministry, Liguori focused on preaching missions and retreats, seeking to renew people's faith and draw them closer to the Eucharist. He frequently preached on the real presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and encouraged frequent reception of Holy Communion as a source of spiritual nourishment and grace.

In 1732, Liguori founded the Redemptorists, a religious congregation dedicated to promoting devotion to the Eucharist and the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Redemptorists' charism also revolved around reaching out to the most abandoned, including the poor and marginalized, and offering them hope through God's love and mercy.

As a prolific writer, Liguori authored numerous works on moral theology, spirituality, and Eucharistic devotion. His most famous work, "The Glories of Mary," remains a classic in Marian theology and devotion. He is remembered for his practical and merciful counsel, always seeking to lead souls to reconciliation, and union with God.

St. Alphonsus was canonized as a saint in 1839 and declared a Doctor of the Church in 1871. His spiritual writings, particularly on the Eucharist, continue to inspire and guide the faithful worldwide. As the patron saint of moral theologians, his example reminds believers of the profound love and presence of Christ in the Eucharist and the enduring mercy of God. St. Alphonsus Liguori, pray for us!

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- Parishioners of St. Teresa of Avila Living and Deceased

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 8/2 10am- Fr. Radley Alcantara

Sunday 8/2 12pm- Fr. Radley Alcantara

Sunday 8/2 6pm- Fr. Peter Wojcik

Blessing for Our Parish

Dear God,

Pour Your blessing upon our parish, in need of Your renewal and inspiration.

Prune the places that need pruning, and pour fresh grace and courage into our midst.

Help us to find You and, with great joy, follow You wholeheartedly. Amen.

Sunday Funday July 26th:

Today is Aunt and Uncles Day and National Bagelfest Day

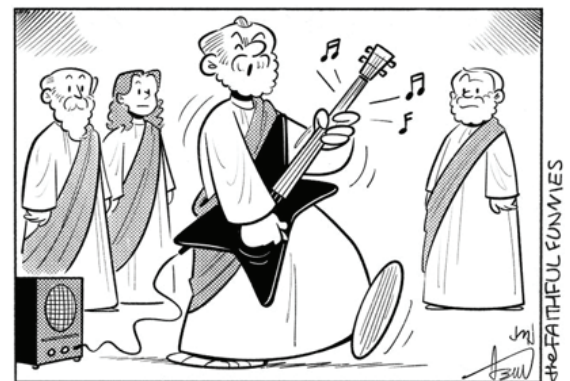
1775- The Second Continental Congress established an allowance for The United States Post Office Department. It was called the Post Office Department 1792 – 1971. United States Postal Service was effective on July 1, 1971.

1946- Aloha Airlines began service from Honolulu International Airport. They closed on March 31, 2008.

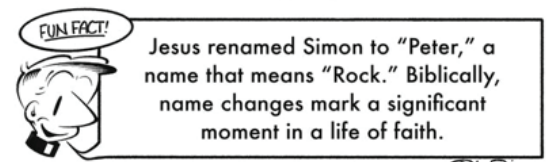
1963- Syncom 2, the world's first geosynchronous satellite, was launched from Cape Canaveral. It was used to telecast the 1964 Summer Olympics in Tokyo to the United States.

1990- The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 was signed into law by President George Bush.

"What is St. Peter's favorite kind of music?"



"Rock!"



Jesus renamed Simon to "Peter," a name that means "Rock." Biblically, name changes mark a significant moment in a life of faith.

G.L.P.



St. T's Men's Annual Retreat
September 11-13, 2026

Bellarmino Jesuit Retreat House, Barrington, IL

All men ages 18 and older are warmly invited to join the St. T's Men's Spirituality Group for our annual retreat, taking place the weekend of September 11-13 at the peaceful

Bellarmino Jesuit Retreat House in Barrington.

God continually calls us to go deeper, to draw nearer. This retreat offers a rare opportunity to step away from the demands of everyday life and spend intentional time with God. Through silence, prayer, and reflection, encounter Christ anew as we immerse ourselves in the grace of the Spiritual

Exercises and rekindle the hope that strengthens our faith.

For well over a decade, our Men's Group has made this retreat an annual tradition—and for good reason. This is a chance to step away from the noise, deepen your faith, and connect with other men from St. Teresa's in a way that everyday parish life rarely allows. We attend as a group, gathering at both the start and close of the retreat.

Carpooling from the city will be available.

Register directly at:

<https://jesuitretreat.org/retreats/september-11-13-2026/register>

Questions? Contact Craig Dean at cdean@aegpartners.com.

Whether or not you've participated in Men's Group activities before you are encouraged to participate.

All are welcome!

Virtues, Explained!

Hospitality, Explained!

When three strangers came to Abraham's tent at Mamre on a sweltering day, he rushed to offer them respite from the heat (Genesis 18:2-3). When the prophet Elisha visited Shunem, a woman set aside a special room in her house for him, so that he would return and feel comfortable (2 Kings 4:10).

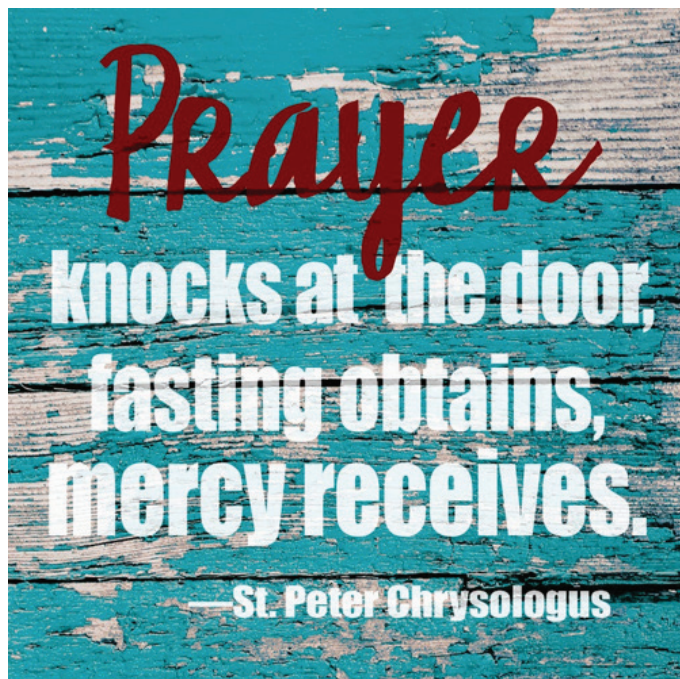
These Old Testament examples show people living out the law of welcoming the sojourner (Leviticus 19:33), a law that found fulfillment in the Christian mandate to "practice hospitality" (Romans 12:13) and show "brotherly love" (Hebrews 13:1-2).

The virtue of hospitality is characterized by kindness and welcome, particularly to those who are strangers. Since the stranger, by nature, has no particular claim on our affections, the love we extend to him is true Christian love — love purely for the sake of the one "who loved us first" (1 John 4:19).

Catholic Trivia:

Question: Who is considered the founding father of the Catholic Church in Ireland?

Answer: St. Patrick



Catholic Q&A:

The Giving of Treasure

Question:

Why are Catholics required to give money to the Church?

Answer:

Offering money and other goods to God and the Church is, before all else, a statement of gratitude. We see this when we look at how our spiritual ancestors showed their gratitude to God for the gifts they had received (e.g. Genesis 14:18-20 and Genesis 28:16-22). One of the ways they offered thanks to God was through a practice called "tithing," in which 10 percent of a person's goods (crops, livestock, money, etc.) were given back to God.

Today, the practice of tithing — giving 10 percent — is still common in many Protestant communities, but it is not required for Catholics. Instead, the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that, "The faithful also have the duty of providing for the material needs of the Church, each according to [their] own abilities" (no. 2043). This means that, although we are not bound to practice "tithing" in the traditional sense, we do share a responsibility to share our money or other resources with our parish communities. Like our spiritual ancestors, we give as a sign of our gratitude for the many gifts that God has given to us. Beyond this, we also share our resources with other Catholic organizations to help them finance their ministries, to continue and grow their outreach to the poor and the needy, and to provide just wages for their employees.

How much we give depends on our individual circumstances, but since we share a responsibility for the programs, outreach, and health of our parish communities and Catholic organizations, this question gives us a wonderful opportunity to ask some important questions about the quality of our giving and what our priorities are. Remember, we are only stewards of our time, talents, and treasures and as the First Letter of Peter reminds us, "As each one of you has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied graces" (4:10).

Staff

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Fr. Radley Alcantara

Associate Pastor

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Charisse Gioia

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Barbara McHugh

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Carol Spalla-Malone

Part-Time Business Manager

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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.