

ST. TERESA OF ÁVILA

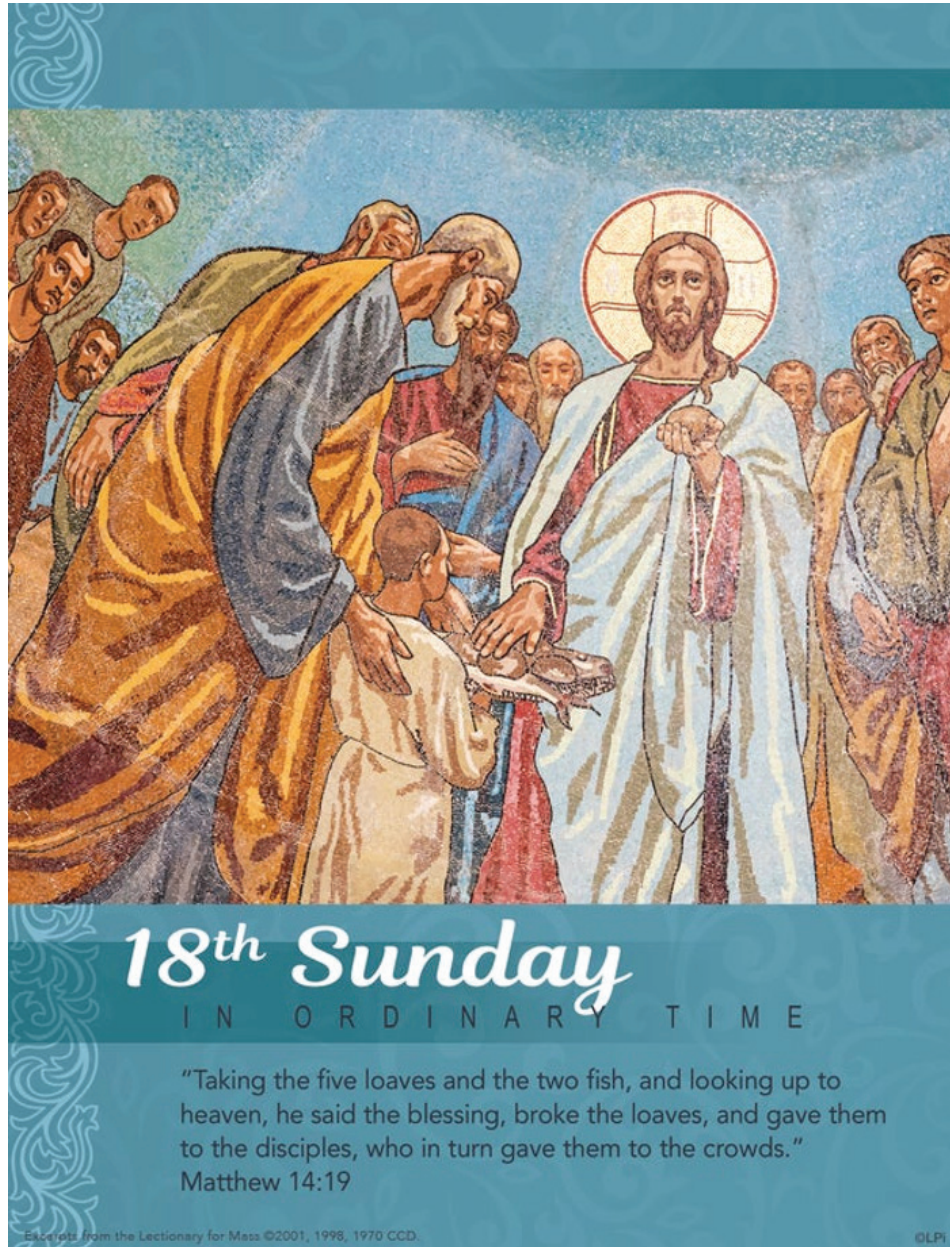
CATHOLIC PARISH ✚ EST 1889

August 2, 2026

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

T
H
E

J
O
U
R
N
E
Y



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: Thus says the LORD: All you who are thirsty, come to the water! (Is 55:1)

Second Reading: For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom 8:38-39)

Gospel: Taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds. (Mt 14:19)

Feasts and Saints:

8/4- St. John Vianney, Priest

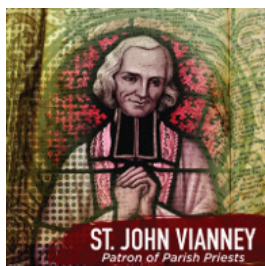
8/5- The Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major

8/6- The Transfiguration of the Lord

8/7- St. Sixtus II, Pope and Companions, Martyrs

St. Cajetan, Priest

8/8- St. Dominic, Priest



Gospel Meditation: 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

In his song, "Lose Yourself," the artist Eminem raps, "the mood all changed."

We all know that moment when the mood changes, when life turns from lighthearted to deadly serious. That happens in today's Gospel. Jesus has just heard that John the Baptist, his cousin, forerunner, and friend, has been murdered. As Matthew tells us, "When Jesus heard of it, he withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself." Until now, he had been teaching in parables and healing quietly. But John's death signals a new phase. The shadow of the Cross begins to fall. Evil shows its teeth.

And how does Jesus respond? Not with rage or despair. He goes to a lonely place to go into deep communion with his Father. From that silence comes action. He feeds the multitude. Out of grief comes generosity. Out of sorrow, life.

This is the rhythm of every disciple's life. When tragedy or violence breaks our hearts, we face a choice. We can react, or we can retreat into prayer — like and with Christ. This is the hidden place where pain becomes compassion and compassion becomes self-gift.

Lord Jesus, when life intensifies, draw me into Your quiet strength. In that hidden place with You and the Father, turn my heartbreak into the bread of love for the world. Amen.

— Father John Muir

Financials: June 2026

	FY26	FY25
Basket/Mail In:	6,702	8,500
Give Central:	35,869	37,053
Total:	THIS YEAR	PREVIOUS YEAR
	\$42,571	\$45,553
		\$(2,982)



From Fr. Peter:

Learning This Parish, One Person at a Time

Dear Friends,

Fr. Radley and I are still learning this parish, and honestly, the learning has been one of the great joys of these first months.

A community like Saint Teresa cannot be understood from an office. It has to be learned from people, and we have been blessed with wonderful teachers.

I want to name a few of them. Charisse, our office manager, has been extraordinarily generous in helping us understand how this parish actually runs, day in and day out.

Barb McHugh, our Director of Religious Education, brings not only her professional gifts but also the insight of someone who has volunteered in this community for more than twenty years. There is very little about the life of this parish that Barb does not know, and she has shared that knowledge with patience and love.

Jason, our music director, has helped us understand the heart of our worship and the people who make it possible.

And Eric, who coordinates the training of our liturgical ministers, has been a steady guide in helping us see how much care goes into preparing those who serve at the altar.

To all of them, thank you. We would be lost without you.

I was also able to visit our Loaves and Fishes team twice as they continue to serve our neighbors on Friday nights. What I found there was not only inspiring, it was clarifying. The call of Jesus to serve those in need is being taken seriously here. It is not an idea at Saint Teresa. It is a meal, prepared and served with real love, week after week. If you have never tried this ministry, I encourage you to come and see it for yourself.

The same is true of our Saturday morning food pantry. I was especially moved that Saturday by the number of young people serving, with big smiles and open hearts. That is the Church at its best.

Let me also say a word about our parish Happy Hours. I am so grateful to everyone who has already come. For Fr. Radley and me, these evenings have been exactly what we hoped for: firsthand learning, honest conversation, and real community building, all at once.

If you have not yet joined us, our next Happy Hour is Wednesday, August 19, from 5 to 7 pm. Come as you are, bring a friend, and let us get to know you.

As summer begins to turn toward fall, I want to invite you to start praying about a simple question: where is God calling you to step in this year?

Perhaps it is in liturgical ministry, helping our worship to be beautiful and prayerful. Perhaps it is in service to others, at the Friday meal or the food pantry. Perhaps it is in learning, going deeper into the faith through one of the offerings we will share in the weeks ahead.

There is a place for you in the mission of Christ here. Begin asking him where it is.

With gratitude for all of you,

Fr. Peter

Gospel Reflections:

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

The Miracles We Don't See

"Why aren't there miracles anymore?"

I've heard people say this more than once. Usually, it is someone who is a believer in Christ but not a Catholic, because Catholics understand that miracles happen at every Mass, to say nothing of the other miracles the Church recognizes. But even some Catholics often find themselves wondering why it's been so long since God gave us a good show. A good sun-dance in the sky. A good, flashy reason to believe.

I don't know what it looked like when the loaves and the fishes were multiplied. I believe it happened, and I have envisioned it often, but I just can't picture it. Did everyone blink, and there was a giant pile of food? Did they just keep finding more? Was it all the same kind of bread, or did Jesus mix it up?

I think the Gospel is deliberately vague on this to test the patience of pathologically nosy people like myself. It's not important what it looked like. If those details mattered, they would be spelled out in Scripture.

How often we find ourselves unsatisfied with the answers God has for us.

I wonder if that's what Christ was thinking when he savored those last few minutes of solitude on the boat, where he had gone to be alone after hearing the crushing news of his cousin's execution. Was he imagining the crowds gathering on shore? Was he contemplating their enormous expectations for God — for him! — and anticipating their disappointment when every wish could not be granted?

Maybe. But that's not what the Scripture says.

"His heart was moved with pity," we are told. I think of him looking at them all, so weary and uncertain and hungry. Pity — this is what he felt. Not resentment, exhaustion or frustration. Pity. And his precious heart was moved.

What a miracle. No details, no explanation. No dancing sun. But what a miracle.

Stewardship Reflections:

The Power of a Simple Action

I remember seeing a story on a morning news program about a little girl who wanted to give an elderly man in a grocery store a hug. She had no way of knowing that this man had just lost his wife of many years and now felt so very alone and depressed. Her reaching out to the man seemed odd to her mom at first, but the girl was so insistent about giving a hug she moved the shopping carts close together so the exchange could take place. No one knew that from that moment on the little girl would ask to visit her new friend at least once a week for the next four years until he passed away. In an interview soon after the initial encounter, the man said, "I haven't been this happy in some time." Imagine the joy that relationship brought to them both over the years!

It was just a moment. It was a simple gesture. Yet, it had a large impact that no one could have predicted. You never know what will result when we give just a little of ourselves. That uncertainty too often leads us to hold back or refrain from the simple actions of love or gestures of generosity that could come so easily for us if we wanted. We should never doubt the power of a simple random act of kindness. Generosity does not need to be grand to make a big difference. The time is now, and the opportunity presents itself often to plant a small seed that God can water and nourish so that something beautiful can grow.



Transfiguration of the Lord—Feast | August 6

All three Synoptic Gospels record the event of the Lord's Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1–8, Mark 9:2–8, Luke 9:28–36). Just prior to the Transfiguration, the three Gospels also record Jesus' trip with His disciples to Caesarea Philippi, about thirty miles north of the Sea of Galilee. Caesarea Philippi was a primarily pagan Greek town occupied by the Romans. The Greek god Pan was worshiped there in a cave thought to be bottomless and often referred to as the gate to the netherworld because of its association with the pagan god. It was there that Jesus asked His disciples who they thought He was. Peter declared, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus then blessed Peter and announced His intent to build His Church upon Peter, declaring that "the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it..." (Matthew 16:16–18).

After this exchange, Jesus began revealing to His disciples His impending fate—His journey to Jerusalem to suffer and die. Jesus responded sternly to Peter's resistance, correcting his human thinking with divine wisdom (Matthew 16:22–23).

This is the context of the Feast of the Transfiguration. First, Jesus proclaimed the triumph of His Church over evil. Second, He informed the disciples that this victory would be achieved through His own suffering and death. Although the first message is encouraging, the second one is challenging to accept. According to the Gospels, Jesus allowed His disciples about a week to grapple with these teachings.

Understanding their struggle, Jesus took His three closest companions, Peter, James, and John, up a high mountain. There He was transfigured before them, radiating pure white light, conversing with Moses and Elijah, and being affirmed in His identity by the Father.

This event was likely meant to reinforce the disciples' faith after a week when they pondered Jesus' foretelling of His suffering and death, along with His exhortation that they must follow Him. The Transfiguration affirmed Jesus' divinity and His relationship with the revered figures of Moses and Elijah. Further, the Father in Heaven confirmed Jesus as His divine Son with whom He was well pleased.

After the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus, these three Apostles shared their experience of the Transfiguration, fortifying others in the faith. This story is shared today to strengthen us as we bear our own crosses.

The Feast of the Transfiguration is strategically placed forty days before the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross. Thus, the Transfiguration should be seen as a preparation for both the Cross of Christ and our participation in that triumph. According to the Gospel, we are called to take up our crosses and follow Jesus for the glory of the Father, the fulfillment of His will, and the good of the Church, which will always prevail against the gates of hell.

St. Dominic | August 8



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- Drew Williams (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 8/9 10am- Fr. Peter Wojcik

Sunday 8/9 12pm- Fr. Peter Wojcik

Sunday 8/9 6pm- Fr. Radley Alcantara

Blessing of God's Provision

Dear God,

Thank You for the ways You have always provided in the past, and be with us in these days as well. Bless our community – every family, every home, every person entrusted to our parish's care. Provide for our needs – bodily, emotional, financial, mental, and spiritual – in Your holy and sacred name.

Amen.

Sunday Funday August 2:

Today is Coloring Book Day and Ice Cream Sandwich Day

1790- The first United States Census was conducted. There were 3,929,214 people counted that year.

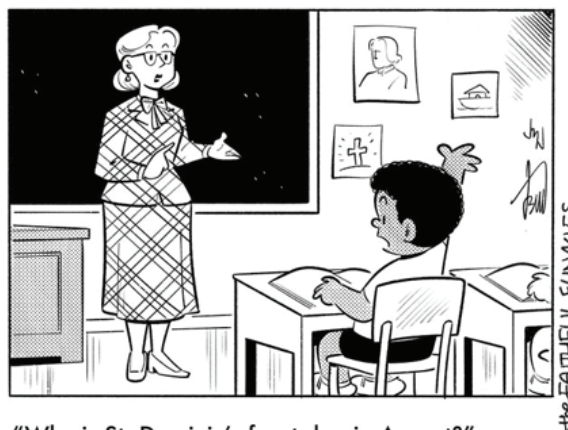
1873- The Clay Street Hill Railroad began operating the first cable car in San Francisco's famous cable car system.

1937- The Marihuana Tax Act of 1937 was passed in America, making marijuana and all its by-products illegal.

What's the difference between a nook and a cranny?

A nook is a corner and cranny is a crack.

In 1976, the first eight Jelly Belly® flavors were sold: Orange, Green Apple, Root Beer, Very Cherry, Lemon, Cream Soda, Grape, and Licorice.



"Why is St. Dominic's feast day in August?"

"Because those are the **Dog Days of summer?"**



FUN FACT! In iconography, St. Dominic is often pictured with a dog because, while expecting, his mother dreamed of a dog carrying a torch in its mouth, running about the world, setting it on fire! St. Dominic went on to found the Order of Preachers, the Dominicans.

GLP



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!

Devotions, Explained!

Holy Hour, Explained!

A holy hour is the practice of spending one hour's time in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, praying and meditating on the agony of Jesus Christ. More broadly, a holy hour can also refer to any 60 minutes set aside in prayer and reflection, whether in church or elsewhere.

The holy hour devotion dates to the late 17th century, when St. Margaret Mary Alacoque received visions of Jesus Christ. In these visions, the Lord requested that St. Margaret Mary spend one hour every Thursday evening lying prostrate and meditating upon his agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. This practice calls back to the Gospel of Matthew, which tells of Jesus' desire for the disciples to "remain here and keep watch with me" (Matthew 26:38) as he awaited his passion.

Holy hours can be made privately or in community, and the USCCB has created a variety of different holy hour formats that can be found at usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/eucharistic-devotion.

Catholic Trivia:

Question: In addition to Jesus' mother Mary, which saint is depicted in artwork more than any other?

Answer: St. Nicholas



Catholic Q&A:

Mary, Mother Of God

Question:

If God is eternal and infinite, how can He have a mother? Why don't we call Mary just the mother of Jesus?

Answer:

The title of "Mary, Mother of God" can be confusing. We aren't implying that Mary existed from eternity or that she is divine herself. We aren't promoting some kind of Marian superpowers. The Church has fought for this title throughout the centuries for one simple reason: Christ's identity is at stake.

As the Church grew in the early centuries, theologians wrestled with what it meant for Jesus to be both God and man. Many distortions of his identity began to emerge. One of these was propagated by a man named Nestorius. Nestorius and his followers denied that Jesus' human nature and his divine nature were inseparable. Following that logic, Mary could have only conceived Jesus' human nature. But people don't give birth to a "nature." They give birth to a whole person. For Jesus, his whole person is both human and divine. In 431 A.D. the Council of Ephesus denounced Nestorius. The bishops affirmed that Jesus is both fully human and fully divine and proclaimed Mary Theotokos. Translating the Greek to English, that means "God-bearer." Note that this isn't "God-generator" or "God-creator." Mary bore Jesus, God and man, in her womb and gave him birth. She is mother to the whole person, the whole Jesus, and therefore Mother of God.

Staff

Fr. Peter Wojcik

Pastor

pwojcik@archchicago.org

Fr. Radley Alcantara

Associate Pastor

ralcantara@archchicago.org

Charisse Gioia

Office Manager/Technology Coordinator/
Bulletin

cgioia@stteresaparish.org

Barbara McHugh

Religious Education

bmchugh@stteresaparish.org

Carol Spalla-Malone

Part-Time Business Manager

cspalla@archchicago.org

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.