

ST. TERESA OF ÁVILA

CATHOLIC PARISH ✚ EST 1889

August 9, 2026

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

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19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

He became frightened; and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught Peter. - Mt 14:30-31

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1996, 1970 CCD. ©LPI

Pastor

Reverend Peter Wojcik

Associate Pastor

Fr. Radley Alcantara

Address

1037 W. Armitage Ave.
Chicago, Illinois 60614

773-528-6650

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday 6 PM French Mass

Sunday 10 AM, 12 PM, 6 PM

Daily Mass Schedule

Wednesday - 8:00AM

www.teresa.church

Baptism, Reconciliation, Anointing

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

Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesdays- 6 PM to 7:30 PM

Office Hours

Weekdays: 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM

Welcome

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

Community Ministries

If you want to serve the St. Teresa’s community in our liturgies or our planning, there are many opportunities for you!

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)

teresa.church/rcia

If you are interested in joining the Catholic Church, or helping those through that process as a companion.

Lectors

teresa.church/lectors

Email eric.fredericks+lm@gmail.com for more information.

Eucharistic Ministers

teresa.church/eucharistic-ministers

Email eric.fredericks+lm@gmail.com for more information.

Pastoral Council

teresa.church/pastoral-council

Represent the parish and help advise the pastor in our mission and vision for our community.

Finance Council

teresa.church/finance-council

Reviews financial documents and position of the parish and advise pastor and business manager on financial decisions.



Are you interested in making St. Teresa’s your spiritual home? Or just want to learn more about our community?
Fill out the below form and drop it in the collection basket or join online at teresa.church/join.

Name	
Email	Phone
Address	
Ministries of Interest	

Welcome

In fulfilling our mission to be “Faith & Spirit. Alive.” we invite you to get involved with your family here at St. Teresa of Avila parish.

Outreach Ministries

We have a variety of opportunities you can join to get involved and help serve our community, the Lincoln Park area, and the city of Chicago.

Welcome the Stranger

Join with parishioners from St. Teresa of Avila, St. Josaphat and others in the Lincoln Park Community to support a refugee family's journey in Chicago. Please fill out this link and we will add you to our updates and emails! <https://bit.ly/welcomethestrangerLP>. Additionally, if you would like to work directly with a refugee family, you can sign up at any time for a 3 hour Engaging with Refugees: Cross-Cultural Training <https://exodusworldservice.org/register/>.

Loaves and Fishes Dinner

teresa.church/loaves-and-fishes

Weekly soup kitchen feeding and sitting with people in need of a meal.

La Posada Border Ministry

teresa.church/border-ministry

Travel to the border to help and understand those seeking asylum.

Food Pantry

teresa.church/food-pantry

Our parish food pantry is a welcoming, dependable source of nutritious food, respect and social contact to the needy of our community.



Spiritual Ministries

There are many ministries at St. Teresa's that celebrate our faith via small christian communities, serving in our liturgies, and learning more.

Women's Spirituality

teresa.church/womens-spirituality

Meets the Last Tuesday of the month to provide a supportive space for prayer and reflection.

Men's Spirituality

teresa.church/mens-spirituality

Meets virtually every Tuesdays at 7am to come together and discuss what it means to be a disciple. Email cdeanhockey@gmail.com to get the link and join.

Bible Studies/Discussion Groups

Throughout the year there are bible studies you can join or maybe a book study.

Schedules change throughout the year, so stay tuned!

Religious Education

teresa.church/religious-education

Whether it's our Montessori based Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for children, EDGE Middle School ministry, QUEST High School Ministry, or SPRED Ministry for those with special needs, St. Teresa's has a wide array of programs to meet the needs of our children.

Communauté Catholique Francophone de Chicago

teresa.church/french-community

St. Teresa's is home to a wonderful and vibrant French community.

This Sunday's Readings:

First Reading: Then the LORD said to him, "Go outside and stand on the mountain before the LORD; the LORD will be passing by." (1 Kgs 19:11)

Second Reading: I speak the truth in Christ, I do not lie; my conscience joins with the Holy Spirit in bearing me witness. (Rom 9:1)

Gospel: Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught Peter, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" (Mt 14:31)

Feasts and Saints:

8/10- St. Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr

8/11- St. Claire, Virgin

8/12- St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Religious

8/13- Sts. Pontian, Pope and Hippolytus, Priest, Martyrs

8/14- St. Macililian Kolbe, Priest and Martyr

8/15- The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Gospel Meditation: 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

As a young, newly ordained priest, I admired a senior priest who was gifted, beloved, and had changed countless lives. But soon I learned that he had fallen in catastrophic and destructive ways. The painful juxtaposition of good and evil was complex to process. How could someone so seemingly good also be so broken and deceptive? It forced me to confront a sobering truth: leadership in the Church is no guarantee against weakness or sin.

Peter teaches that truth in this week's Gospel. When he sees Jesus walking on the sea, Peter does what leaders do. He goes first. "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." But when he sees how strong the wind is, he becomes frightened and, beginning to sink, cries out, "Lord, save me." Immediately, Jesus stretches out his hand and catches him.

St. Thomas Aquinas observes that Peter overcomes the greater danger of the waves but falters before the lesser threat of the wind. This is the paradox leaders often face. It is not always the great trials that undo us, but the smaller, quieter temptations, such as subtle fears and compromises, that lead us to sink.

The good news is that Jesus does not abandon Peter. He saves him before it is too late. Our frail humanity lives within a rhythm of grace, risk, failure, and mercy. Jesus helps Peter overcome both the obvious and hidden sources of fear, and he promises to do the same for us. So, let us pray for all, especially our spiritual leaders.

— 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:

How We Will Walk Together These First Months

Dear Friends,

Over these first months, Fr. Radley and I have done a lot of listening, and I want to share one of the clearest things we have heard. From our staff, from some of our council members, and from so many of you, our engaged members, the message has been remarkably consistent: our programs need more support.

You want Saint Teresa to offer real pathways of engagement, belonging, and formation, and you want those pathways to be well organized, well accompanied, and built to last.

I have heard you, and I agree.

So let me share how we plan to strengthen that support in these first six months. As I wrote to you in July, our two communities, Saint Teresa and Saint Clement, remain genuinely distinct, and that will not change. But one of the real gifts of sharing a pastoral team is that we can also share the people whose experience can help both communities flourish. What I am describing is not a takeover of anything by anyone. It is a family sharing its gifts, so that you receive the highest quality support we can possibly offer.

With that in mind, I have asked three experienced leaders to extend their service to Saint Teresa. Ed Harasim, the Pastoral Associate at Saint Clement who oversees OCIA, Small Life Groups, and pastoral ministry there, has generously agreed to share his time and serve as our Pastoral Associate here at Saint Teresa as well. With his support, we will roll out our fall OCIA on Thursday evenings, along with our Small Life Groups. If you are interested in joining either of those teams, please reach out to Ed at eharasim@archchicago.org

He would love to hear from you.

The same is true of Elise Giles, who will serve as manager of evangelization and outreach to young adults at both parishes. Her main focus will be our Monday Alpha course, as well as organizing and supporting the young adult community that is growing around our 6 pm Mass. If you are a young adult, or you know one who is searching for a community, Elise is a wonderful first point of contact at egiles@archchicago.org.

Finally, I have asked Katie Bak, who serves as Chief of Operations at Saint Clement, to spend a portion of her time, about a third, here at Saint Teresa, helping me with important organizational elements of my responsibilities: a review of our buildings, organizational support, maintenance of our facilities, and long-term planning. This is the quiet, behind-the-scenes work that makes everything else possible, and Katie is exceptionally good at it.

I am deeply grateful to Ed, Elise, and Katie for their willingness to step into shared roles and support Charisse and Barb in their dedicated service. These roles are critical, both to our continued engagement with and support of you, our existing members, and to our growth and sustainability as a community of faith.

In it together,

Fr. Peter

Gospel Reflections:

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Looking for God

What do we think when we see Jesus coming to save us?

The first thing the Apostles scream is “Ghost!” when they catch sight of Jesus walking towards them on water. That always makes me laugh. After all they have witnessed thus far as the companions of the Messiah, they see someone walking on water and they still react like extras in a bad episode of Scooby-Doo.

We are always more quick to believe a bad thing than a good thing. We can easily believe gossip and hearsay about a friend, but we fear being taken for a fool when it comes to faith. We would rather look cynical than stupid.

“Save me, God, for the waters have reached my neck,” reads Psalm 69. “My eyes fail, from looking for my God.”

I think back on my life, on all the various ways that God has rescued me from slipping beneath the surface. Rarely did it ever occur to me, in the midst of it, that I was being rescued. In fact, I usually thought I was being held underwater. Did I hear His voice directing me, or did I only hear my own despairing? “Save me, God.” Was I looking for Him, or were my eyes shut in fear? “My eyes fail, from looking for my God.”

It’s never until after the fact — sometimes years after, or decades — that we see things clearly. That we see Christ in the situation, making his way toward us, hand outstretched.

Stewardship Reflections:

Being Human is to Doubt

Humans doubt. It’s what we do. We doubt ourselves and we doubt others.

Before any of us say anything about Peter’s doubting the words of Jesus that told him he could get out of his boat and walk on water, we need to get real with ourselves: How would I respond in the same situation? I remember when I was child taking swimming lessons. One day I simply tightened up my muscles and sank. The lifeguard pulled me up and asked what happened. I said I did not know. The truth is that I was sinking under the weight of my own doubt. I did not believe I could do what clearly, I was told I could. That was only in five feet of water in a pool! Now that I’m older, I can look back and laugh. But an adult, the swimming pool is life, and I would be lying if I said that there are no longer times I find myself sinking due to new doubts.

Much of our doubt comes about because of a lack of trust in God. We place our trust in material things, wealth, or imperfect people instead of the One who is worthy of our trust 100 percent of the time. Our stewardship is often hampered by our doubt that God will provide all that we need. If I give more, I may not have enough to survive! When we place all our trust in God, not only do we find that we have been given all we need — our doubt that cause us to sink in the pool of life fades away. We don’t suddenly become perfect in our trust, and there will be times when we find ourselves with concerns again. However, it is in those moments we find that He is still there, speaking the words we need to hear: “Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.”





TOGETHER IN JOY

MASQUERADE GALA

AN EVENING OF ELEGANCE, MYSTERY, & GENEROSITY

DATE

SATURDAY, NOV. 14, 2026
6:00 PM

LOCATION

SARABANDE CHICAGO
2726 W ROSCOE ST

LEARN MORE



TOGETHERINJOY.COM

ARE YOU CALLED TO GIVE?

We're seeking sponsors, auction treasures, and unique experiences to
make this night unforgettable.

ST. TERESA^{OF} ÁVILA
A Together in Joy Event

Join Us For Hospitality:

After the 10am and 6pm Mass

This is a wonderful way to catch up and visit with fellow parishioners as well as meeting new ones and getting to know each other! If you would be interested in hosting a Sunday after the 10am Mass please sign up on the board in the Parish Center.



Welcome Committee:

The Parish Council is excited to announce the formation of a new Welcoming Committee here at St Teresa of Avila. We are looking for 2-3 people to help lead this initiative, and help us build a team of welcome volunteers for each mass. The task is simple, we need amazing volunteers that will greet all parishioners before mass with a friendly smile, a nice “hello”, and possibly help them find a seat! You may think we already do this, but it’s not consistent. Imagine walking into someone’s house and not being welcomed when you walk in the door, a place of business, or a restaurant. First impressions can be lasting impressions.

Please consider joining this committee because it’ll be fun and rewarding! If interested, please reach out to **Jessica Marx @ chicago2381@hotmail.com**.

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



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 Bellarmine 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!

Mass Intentions

10AM- Parishioners of St. Teresa of Avila Living and Deceased
12 PM - Parishioners of St. Teresa of Avila Living and Deceased
6PM- Dorothy Marie Sibon (D)

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 8/16 10am- Fr. Ken Simpson
Sunday 8/16 12pm- Fr. Ken Simpson
Sunday 8/16 6pm- Fr. Peter Wojcik

Prayer in Faith in Trial

Dear God,

In this time of difficulty, be with me. When I don't feel Your presence or hear Your voice, sustain me. When I don't see the path ahead, guide me. When I don't know the next step, support me. In every day and in every moment, be my strength. Amen.



Sunday Funday August 9:

Today is Book Lovers Day and Rice Pudding Day

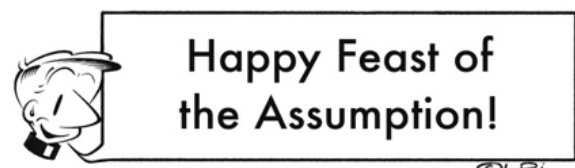
1930- Betty Boop made her cartoon debut in Dizzy Dishes.

1972- East End Show – Jesus Christ Superstar (Musical)

1974- US President Nixon resigned from office.

There is a species of fungus called “Spongiforma squarepantsii” named after the character “SpongeBob SquarePants”.

“Give me liberty or... OOOooo... A jelly donut !” – Homer Simpson



St. Clare of Assisi | August 11

As a girl in 12th century Italy, Clare heard the legendary St. Francis preaching in the square below her family home. Inspired, Clare snuck away in the middle of the night to join Francis and his followers. Francis cut her hair like the men and gave her a rough tunic and veil to wear. For the sake of propriety, Clare was placed in a Benedictine nun monastery for several years. As more women were drawn to the simple spirituality, a new order was founded, now known as the Poor Clares. Despite requests from the pope himself to relax their vow of poverty, Clare stood firm in following the spirit of St. Francis. Clare's reputation for virtue spread and attracted women -- rich and poor alike -- to the new order that still exists today.

St. Jane Frances de Chantal | August 12

St. Jane Frances de Chantal was born to a noble family in Dijon, France, on January 28, 1572. Her mother died when she was an infant. Her father raised her and provided for her education. In 1592, she married the Baron de Chantal; the couple was devoted to each other. They had six children, three of whom died in infancy. As Baroness, St. Jane Frances restored the custom of daily Mass and was famous for her charitable works. Unfortunately, her husband died in a hunting accident only eight years after their marriage. Devastated, St. Jane Frances was forced to live in her father-in-law's strict household, where she took a vow of chastity.

In 1604, while visiting her father in Dijon, she met St. Francis de Sales, and he became her close friend and spiritual director. Although few of their epistles have survived, the pair had a lively correspondence that lasted until St. Francis died.

Under the direction of St. Francis de Sales and with his partnership, she established the Congregation of the Visitation at Annecy in 1610. This was a unique order, without the extreme ascetical practices typical in other religious orders, accepting women and girls and those rejected by other orders because of poor health or age. The new order was also unusual in its public ministry, rather than a strictly cloistered life. St. Jane Frances transformed her convent at Annecy into a hospital during the plague of 1628. The saint died at the Visitation Convent in Moulins on December 13, 1641. At the time of her death, there were 86 convents of Visitation nuns. She was canonized in 1767 by Pope Clement XIII.

St. Jane Frances de Chantal, pray for us!



AUGUST 15

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

*This feast day
commemorates Mary's
body and soul taken
directly to heaven.*

Devotions, Explained!

House Blessing, Explained!

Catholics who move to a new place of residence often wish to have their dwelling blessed, to call the favor and help of God upon all those who live in the house and all those who will enter it.

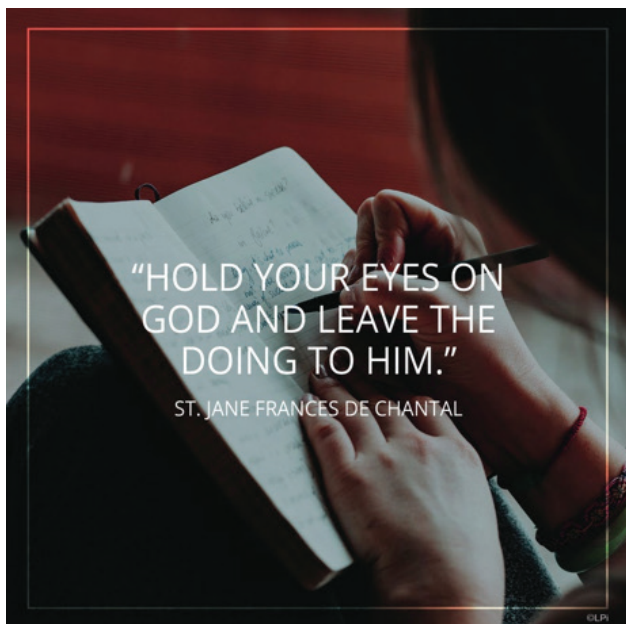
The Roman Ritual (Book of Blessings) provides two formats for house blessings: one during the Easter or Christmas season (specifically for the Epiphany) and one for Ordinary Time. Those who live in the home must be present for a house to be blessed. A priest, deacon or lay person can administer the blessing, although if a lay person does so they must use the rites accorded to lay ministers in the Roman Ritual.

A house blessing includes Scripture readings, intercessions and a prayer of blessing.

Catholic Trivia:

Question: Which artist was commissioned to paint the ceiling and wall behind the altar in the Sistine Chapel?

Answer: Michelangelo



Catholic Q&A:

Jesus Is Light of the World

Question:

Why do we call Jesus "the light of the world"?

Answer:

In cultures around the world, light and darkness are chief symbols of good and evil, order and chaos, clarity and confusion, hope and despair. These symbols tap into something essential about the nature of things. God has given us the created world as a gift. His first work, as we see in Genesis 1, is to create light, giving meaning and insight to the abyss. It is in the light that rest of creation comes to be. A gathering darkness emerges in Genesis 3. Adam and Eve hide, shrouding themselves from the sun's rays and the gaze of God. While God offers a promise of salvation and establishes a covenant with His people, the sense of fog and dim understanding still remain. The Hebrew people repeatedly betray the promises they have made to God, and all around them the nations actively worship idols.

The promise of God is not in vain, however. In John 1, we see a depiction of Christ as primordial goodness, order, clarity, and hope. "The true light, which enlightens everyone was coming into the world ... this life was the light of the human race" (John 1: 9, 4). Think of the last sunrise you witnessed (if you could wake up for it!). As you watched the lavender brighten to rose edged with gold, did your heart swell? Did you recall the goodness of the world? Did you feel rekindled hope? Such is the role of Christ in the soul. Such is his coming Incarnate in our world.

Staff

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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.