

ST. TERESA OF ÁVILA

CATHOLIC PARISH ✚ EST 1889

August 16, 2026

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

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20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Then Jesus said to her in reply, "O woman, great is your faith!
Let it be done for you as you wish." And the woman's
daughter was healed from that hour. - Mt 15:28

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:

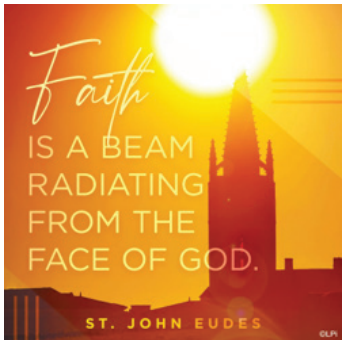
First Reading: *Thus says the LORD: Observe what is right, do what is just; for my salvation is about to come, my justice, about to be revealed. (Is 56:1)*

Second Reading: *For God delivered all to disobedience, that he might have mercy upon all. (Rom 11:32)*

Gospel: *Then Jesus said to her in reply, “O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” (Mt 15:28)*

Feasts and Saints:

- 8/19- St. John Eudes, Priest
- 8/20-St. Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church
- 8/21-St. Pius X, Pope
- 8/22- The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary



Gospel Meditation: 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Does God ignore or act a bit rough with you? Jesus crosses the border into the pagan region of Tyre and Sidon, the territory long outside the covenant. There, a Canaanite woman calls out, “Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David.” At first, he is silent. Then he rebuffs her. “It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs.” But the Church Fathers saw this not as an insult but as an initiation. Christ draws out of her heart a deeper faith.

She presses on. “Please, Lord, even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters.” Jesus’ silence and response solidify her humility and trust. She thus becomes a model for prayer for centuries of Christians. St. Augustine said she shows how sinners come to grace by moving from silence to humility to perseverance.

This woman is the Church. She is you and me. She is every soul who dares to cry out from the margins, who endures divine silence until it turns to compassion. When Jesus says, “O woman, great is your faith,” it is the joyful cry of God discovering faith where the world least expects it. Even the smallest crumb of Your mercy, Lord, is enough to heal the soul. Do we have the courage to show faith like that?

— 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:

The First Ten Minutes

Dear Friends,

Those who study parish life tell us that most first-time visitors decide whether they will return to a church within the first ten minutes of their visit. Think about what that means. The decision is made before the first note of music, before the opening prayer, and, thankfully for me, long before the homily.

What shapes that decision is everything else: the welcome at the door, the cleanliness of the space, the sense that someone was expecting them and is glad they came.

This is why I believe our buildings are not just buildings. They are an expression of our care for every person who comes through our doors, from the guests at our Friday meals to the families who join us for Sunday worship. I always say that we, as members of this parish, have to ensure that everyone who comes here feels the way they would feel in the living room of our own home: welcomed, expected, and cared for.

That means our places should be clean, ready, and prepared for company, and our welcome should be intentional, not accidental.

To that end, we have been working hard over these summer months, cleaning some of our spaces, painting, and moving things around so that everything looks fresh, inviting, and organized.

First impressions matter, and I want the first impression of Saint Teresa to be a true one: that this is a place where people are loved and where God is honored. Here is the good news.

In my short time here, I have found that welcome is simply in our DNA at Saint Teresa. You already do this naturally. So these things should be easy for us.

We just have to keep doing them on purpose.

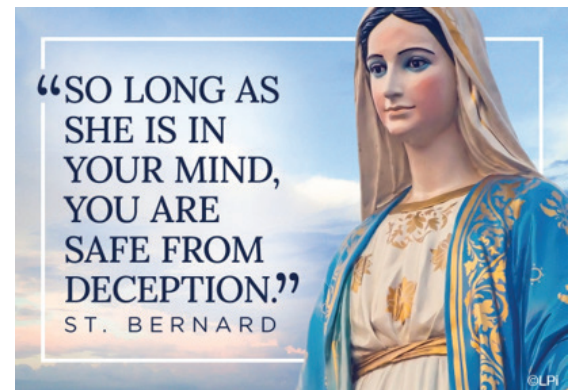
And speaking of putting our faith into action, I am delighted to share that this September we will join our friends at Saint Clement for a Fall Service Day on Saturday, September 19.

Together, our two communities will go out across Chicagoland to serve alongside partner organizations, supporting food security, refugee families, local ministries, and more.

There are projects for all ages, and you can even choose your service site, though some sites fill quickly, so please register early. Registration is now open at clement.org. I can think of no better way for our two parishes to begin the fall than side by side, serving as the hands of Christ.

With hope for a beautiful fall,

Fr. Peter



Gospel Reflections:

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Chess, Not Checkers

There's a saying that good leaders have to play chess, not checkers.

It will surprise no one who knows me well that I am terrible at chess. It's not so much a lack of skill (although that's part of it) as a lack of effort. I find chess exhausting. To succeed at this complex game of strategy, you have to see not just the board in front of you, but the person in front of you — and more than that, you have to consider not just what is, but what could be.

I prefer checkers.

When I read a Gospel passage like today's, I think of what Jesus would be like as a chess player. It's so easy to see this account of the Canaanite woman and her tenacity and take it at face value, as a reminder to pray without ceasing, to never stop asking God for what we need. And certainly, it is that.

But it's not only that.

We see a woman begging God for help, and we see God refuse — at first. We see her persist, and we see him capitulate. At least, that's what it looks like to us.

What does it look like to Jesus?

Jesus sees this woman's face and hears her words, just as his disciples do — but he also sees her heart. He sees her whole life. He sees every moment that leads up to this one. He sees her belief, but he also sees her unbelief. He sees her wounds. He sees her daughter.

He sees the game board not just for what it is, but for what it could be.

Stewardship Reflections:

The Challenge of Stewardship

Every day we are called by Christ to respond in some way. The more practice we have at giving of ourselves freely and living in His presence, the easier it is to discern that call. Once we hear the call, the choice is ours: will we respond with yes or no? We could say that we are not required to say yes because God has given us free will. However, our response speaks much to where we are in our maturity of faith. When we were children, the word "no" used to be one of our favorites. If we continue to say that as we get older, well, that says something about where we are in our walk with the Lord. If we truly are disciples of Jesus Christ and are serious about growing in our faith, we will say "yes." We are not required to say yes, but we say yes because that is who we have become.

This is the challenge of a stewardship way of life. Have we matured enough to say yes when God calls, regardless of how much our answer may cost us? What matters more to us: what it will cost us or our relationship with Jesus? Some days we will easily be able to say yes. The grace and love he gives us will be plenty to see us through whatever situation in which we find ourselves. However, we are imperfect beings and there will be days when we are more into ourselves than him. It is on those days that we find ourselves at a true crossroads of a challenge. The choice is always ours. Hopefully, our faith will be strong enough. His call is never for his own sake. He calls us because the world he created and the Church he instituted need us. They wait just as he does for our response.





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



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!

Mass Intentions

10AM- Parishioners of St. Teresa of Avila Living and Deceased

12 PM - Kenneth and Joyce Jaszczor (D) and Jeffrey Rivera (D)

6PM- Parishioners of St. Teresa of Avila Living and Deceased

Let Us Pray For: The Sick, The Deceased and Peace in Our World:

We pray for those who suffers from illness of mind or body.

We pray for those who have passed away.

We pray for peace in our city and around the world.

We pray for the intentions on our prayer cards.

We pray for survivors and perpetrators of sexual abuse.



Mass Schedule

Sunday 8/23 10am- Fr. Radley Alcantara

Sunday 8/23 12pm- Fr. Radley Alcantara

Sunday 8/23 6pm- Fr. Radley Alcantara

Prayer for Conversion in Our Communities Dear God, Move in our community:

Bring Your light to the darkness, Your justice to the oppressed, Your hope to those in despair, Your healing to those in pain. Work in us, Lord, and change our hearts, making us more loving, more merciful, and more compassionate.

Amen.



Sunday Funday August 16:

Today is Bratwurst Day and Roller Coaster Day

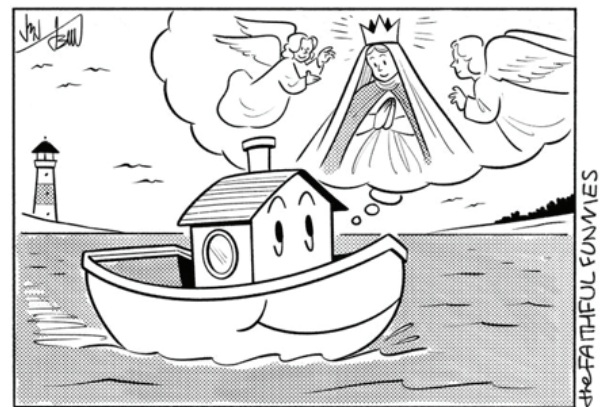
1920- Ray Chapman of the Cleveland Indians is hit on the head by a fastball thrown by Carl Mays of the New York Yankees, and died early the next day.

1954- The first issue of Sports Illustrated was published.

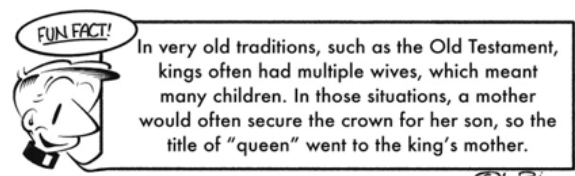
1989- A solar flare from the Sun created a geomagnetic storm that affected micro chips, leading to a halt of all trading on Toronto's stock market.

Jeanne Clemont was the oldest person ever to live, surviving all the way up 120 years and 238 days.

"What's a boat's favorite Marian feast?"



"The Queenship of Mary!"



Meet Ed Harasim:

Since Fr. Peter became pastor of St. Teresa, retaining his responsibilities as pastor of St. Clement, I've had the opportunity to attend Mass at St. Teresa and one of the meet and greets with our priests. I have felt welcome by both the parishioners and the staff of St. Teresa.

As Fr. Peter mentioned in a bulletin article in July, the new structure allows us to use the resources of the two parishes wisely, sharing speakers and programs and supporting one another's efforts.

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Ed Harasim and I serve as Pastoral Associate at St. Clement, with responsibility for our process of Christian initiation (OCIA).

We sponsor two OCIA sessions each year, one beginning in November leading toward the sacraments at the Easter Vigil and another beginning in May with sacraments celebrated the first Sunday of October.

In order to facilitate conversation and sharing, we have one cohort meet on Monday evenings and the other meets on Thursday evenings. Participants are able to choose which evening best fits their personal schedule.

Information regarding registration will be shared in September. St. Teresa has a strong culture of Koinonia/Christian life Community faith sharing groups, based on the spirituality of St. Ignatius.

I'd like to get better acquainted with those who have participated in these faith sharing groups. I'll be attending the 10 am and noon Masses next weekend, August 23, and will be available afterward to get better acquainted with parishioners and learn more.

The upcoming year looks to be a time of new opportunities as we build the kingdom of God.

Warmly, Ed Harasim, Pastoral Associate, St. Clement



Building & Grounds Advisory Group — Parishioners Needed

Are you a building manager, architect, or general contractor?

St. Teresa of Avila is forming a small group of 5–6 parishioners to assist our pastor and Katie Bak, our upcoming Director of Operations, in assessing the health of our buildings, developing a long-range plan for our campus, and identifying capital and upkeep needs.

If you have experience in these fields and would like to share your expertise with the parish, we'd love to hear from you. Please email Katie at kbak@archchicago.org





GROWING IN *grace*

community of faith for 55+

Book Club

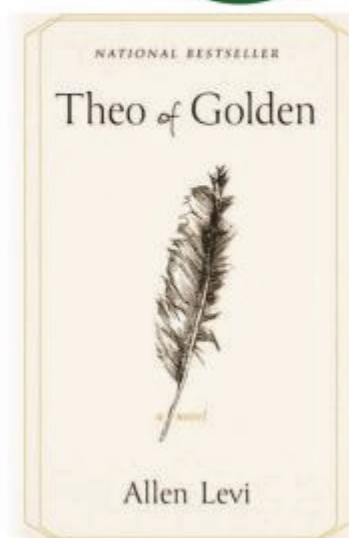
Theo of Golden by Allen Levi

Join us for our first book club discussion as we explore this heartwarming New York Times best-seller — a story rich with spiritual and meaningful lessons.

Our conversations will bring an added lens to the book's religious dimensions, especially its portrait of Theo as a “saint next door.”

Led by Sheila Collins, educator and public speaker

All are welcome. We hope you can join us! Light hospitality provided.



THURSDAY, AUG 27 & THURSDAY, SEPT 3

Saint Teresa of Avila

**1950 N. Kenmore Ave., Chicago,
IL 60614**

6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.



REGISTER & JOIN US

clement.org/growinginrace

Staff

Fr. Peter Wojcik

Pastor

pwojcik@archchicago.org

Fr. Radley Alcantara

Associate Pastor

ralcantara@archchicago.org

Charisse Gioia

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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.