

ST. TERESA OF ÁVILA

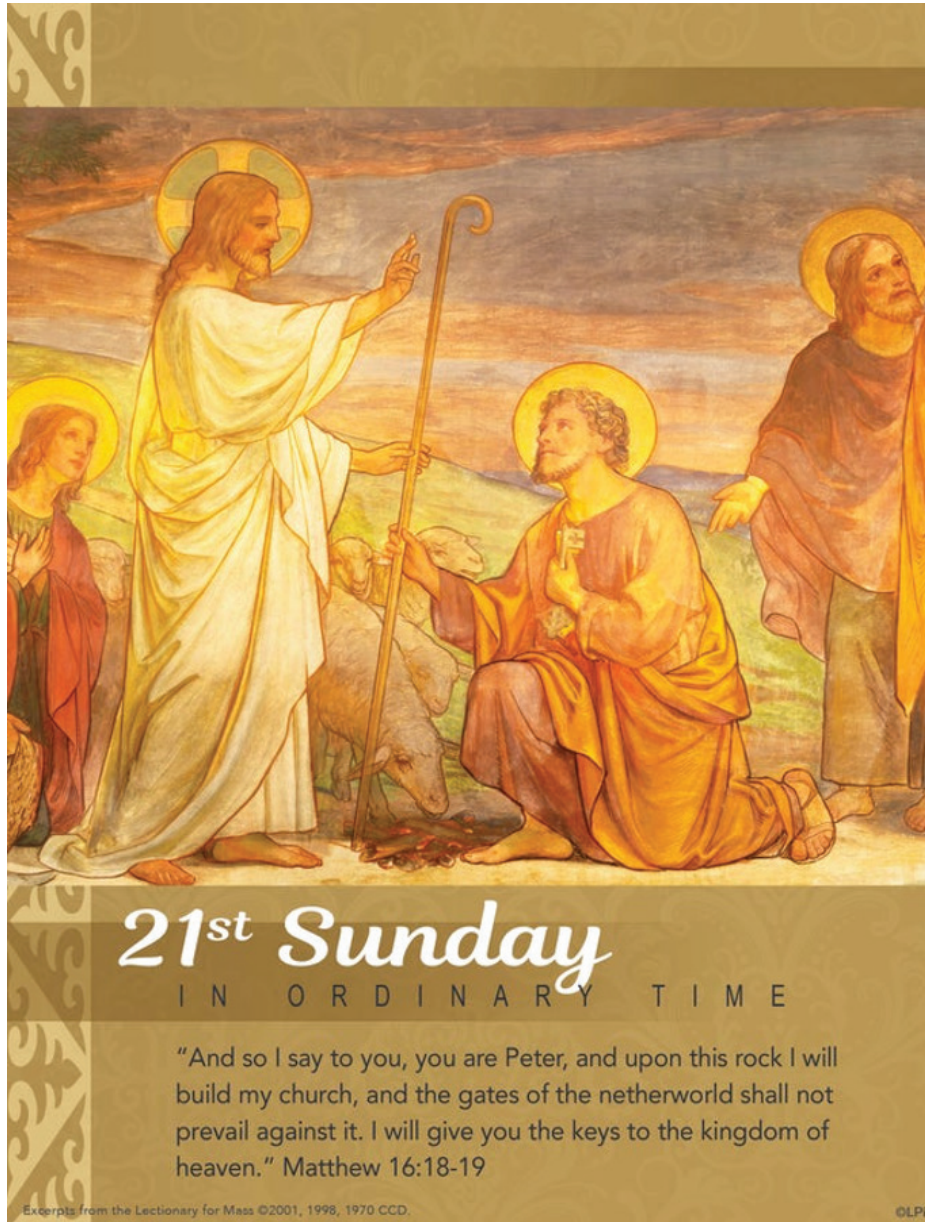
CATHOLIC PARISH ✚ EST 1889

August 23, 2026

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

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Pastor

Reverend Peter Wojcik

Associate Pastor

Fr. Radley Alcantara

Address

1037 W. Armitage Ave.
Chicago, Illinois 60614

773-528-6650

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday 6 PM French Mass

Sunday 10 AM, 12 PM, 6 PM

Daily Mass Schedule

Wednesday - 8:00AM

www.teresa.church

Baptism, Reconciliation, Anointing

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

Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesdays- 6 PM to 7:30 PM

Office Hours

Weekdays: 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM

Welcome

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

Community Ministries

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

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)

teresa.church/rcia

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

Lectors

teresa.church/lectors

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

Eucharistic Ministers

teresa.church/eucharistic-ministers

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

Pastoral Council

teresa.church/pastoral-council

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

Finance Council

teresa.church/finance-council

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



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

Name	
Email	Phone
Address	
Ministries of Interest	

Welcome

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

Outreach Ministries

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

Welcome the Stranger

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

Loaves and Fishes Dinner

teresa.church/loaves-and-fishes

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

La Posada Border Ministry

teresa.church/border-ministry

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

Food Pantry

teresa.church/food-pantry

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



Spiritual Ministries

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

Women's Spirituality

teresa.church/womens-spirituality

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

Men's Spirituality

teresa.church/mens-spirituality

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

Bible Studies/Discussion Groups

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

Schedules change throughout the year, so stay tuned!

Religious Education

teresa.church/religious-education

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

Communauté Catholique Francophone de Chicago

teresa.church/french-community

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

This Sunday’s Readings:

First Reading: *I will place the key of the House of David on Eliakim’s shoulder; when he opens, no one shall shut, when he shuts, no one shall open. (Is 22:22)*

Second Reading: *For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen. (Rom 11:36)*

Gospel: *“I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” (Mt 16:19)*

Feasts and Saints:

- 8/24- St. Bartholomew, Apostle
- 8/25- St. Louis; St. Joseph Calasanz, Priest
- 8/27- St. Monica
- 8/28- St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- 8/29- The Passion of St. John the Baptist



Gospel Meditation: 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

The first time I stood inside St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome, its majesty overwhelmed me. The sheer beauty of Michelangelo’s dome seemed to lift my soul right out of my body. Later, I joined the Scavi tour that winds below the basilica, down into the ancient pagan cemetery where Peter was buried. There, in the dim light and narrow passageways, I found myself looking at the bones of a murdered Jewish fisherman, his feet cut off so his crucified body could be taken down more easily.

What a paradox. Above me, the most glorious church ever built. Beneath me, the remains of a backwater fisherman. But this man dared to answer Jesus’ question, “Who do you say that I am?” And crowning that immense dome above his tomb are the words from today’s Gospel, “You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church.”

Within you and me is the drama of the lowest and the highest. Every time we confess Christ, humbly, imperfectly, maybe even trembling, we enter that same mystery. The dust of our humanity, touched by the splendor of heaven. God’s presence and our dry bones together. Humility and glory. May our lives embrace both the lowest and the highest, like that great basilica, as we profess Jesus.

— 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:

Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wherever You Are, There Is a Next Step

Dear Friends,

As we approach the fall, I want to share the framework that will shape everything we offer this year, and the reason behind it.

Faith is a journey, and no two people are standing in the same place on it. Some of us are seekers, curious about God, exploring, or simply looking for a community where we can belong.

Some of us are believers, already walking with Jesus and wanting to grow deeper in prayer, knowledge, and friendship with him. And some of us are ready to live as disciples, leading others, serving generously, and helping carry the mission of the Church. Seeker, believer, disciple. These are not labels or rankings.

They are simply an honest way of asking: where am I right now, and what is my next step?

This is why we organize our offerings the way we do. We never want anyone to look at a list of parish programs and wonder which one is for them. Wherever you are, there is a clear next step waiting for you, and a community ready to walk it with you.

For those seeking, Alpha is a welcoming space for anyone curious about faith, exploring Christianity for the first time, or wanting to revisit the foundations of what they believe. It is built around a meal, a short talk, and honest conversation, with no pressure and no question off limits.

And OCIA, the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults, accompanies those considering full entry into the Catholic Church or completing their sacraments.

For those growing as believers, our Small Life Groups are where faith gets personal, small communities that meet regularly to pray, share life, and support one another.

Our Bible Course with Mike and Debbie continues on Sunday and Wednesday mornings, and if you want a real, living knowledge of Jesus, there is no substitute for time spent with the Word.

And our Religious Education program continues to form our children and families in the faith.

For those ready to live as disciples, there are meaningful ways to serve and to lead, in our liturgy, in our outreach, in active participation in the morning men's group or monthly women's ministry gathering.

I am also excited that some of the members of our community have joined the planning in collaboration with Saint Clement on both the fall Women's and the Men's Executive Series, gatherings where we support one another in living our faith in the midst of demanding professional lives.

Underneath all of it is one conviction: everyone deserves a place to belong.

So if you have been part of this parish for decades, thank you for building the home the rest of us get to walk into. And if you are new to Saint Teresa, please hear me say this clearly: we are so excited that you are part of the family.

Do not wait to be invited twice.

Come to a Happy Hour, join a group, introduce yourself after Mass.

There is a seat here with your name on it.

Details on all of these offerings will follow in the coming weeks.

For now, I ask you to sit with one question: where am I on the journey, and what is my next step?

We will be here to help you take it.

With hope for what we will build together,

Fr. Peter

Gospel Reflections:

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Only Peter Has the Answer

“What do you think of the Pope?”

After the election of Pope Leo XIV in 2025, all my non-Catholic friends texted me this question. The result of the papal conclave was dominating the news cycle, and everyone was curious about this man who would now be so prominent on the world stage, making me temporarily popular with people who apparently need more (and better) Catholics in their lives.

In today’s Gospel, we see Jesus entrust Peter and his heirs with the stewardship of the kingdom here on earth, creating an unbroken line of authority that stretches through the millennia all the way to our current Pope — whoever he is at the time you are reading this.

I don’t know if you like the Pope. The same goes for your local bishop and your pastor. If a friend texted you, “What do you think of him?” I have no idea how you would respond.

All I know is this: it doesn’t really matter. What really matters is what we would say if a friend texted us the same question about Jesus Christ: “What do you think of him, and why?”

In today’s Gospel, Jesus doesn’t ask his disciples to take an IQ test. He doesn’t try to find out which one is the nicest, the hardest worker, the most humble, or even the holiest.

He asks a very simple question: “Who do you say that I am?”

Peter has the answer.

I am not Catholic because I like the Pope. I am not Catholic because the human representatives of the Church have anything to offer me (they often do, but this is beside the point).

I am Catholic because only Peter has the answer.

Stewardship Reflections:

The Choice of Stewardship

What does it mean to be a good steward? Does it mean to be an active parishioner, or something more? Are we better stewards because we give more in terms of our money and time to our parish, or are we called to do even more than that?

The truth is that stewardship is a way of life. We are not simply called to be active parishioners, but instead be active disciples all the time. In fact, what we learn to do in our parish should serve as preparation for the mission field of the world. What have we really done if we only act like disciples of Jesus Christ while we are assembled with others who claim to be the same?

The choice before us is to give of ourselves in all aspects of our day and life. The call of Jesus will come in our everyday lives with our co-workers, family, and friends more often than it will within our parish community. First, if we can’t become good stewards when we are among those who proclaim Jesus as Lord, how will we be able to do so when we are with those who are non-believers? Second, when our muscles of gratitude, generosity, and graciousness are strengthened within our parish community, we are more able to meet the challenges of this world. However, we do not become good stewards by accident. We must always choose to live this way. What will you choose?





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 - 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 8/30 10am- Fr. Peter Wojcik

Sunday 8/30 12pm- Fr. Peter Wojcik

Sunday 8/30 6pm- Fr. Radley Alcantara

Prayer for the Pope

Dear God, Be with Our Holy Father in his ministry.

Bless, anoint, and protect him in his comings and goings.

Inspire his words, direct his interactions, guide his prayer.

Amen.

Sunday Funday August 23:

Today is Ride Like the Wind Day and Spongecake Day

1913- The Little Mermaid statue was dedicated in the harbor of Copenhagen, Denmark

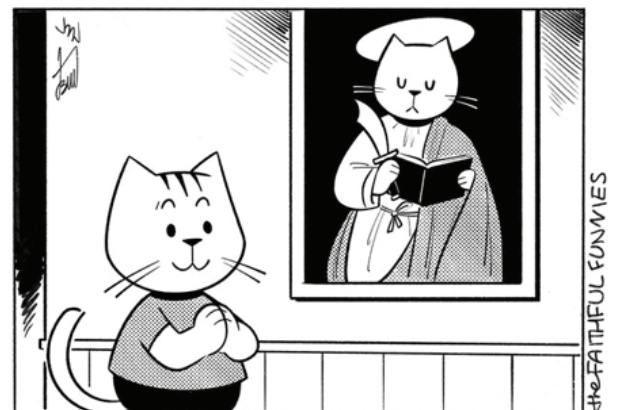
1948- World Council of Churches was formed.

1965- The Sound of Music was released, starring Julie Andrews

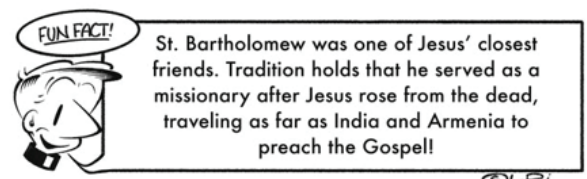
1991- Tim Berners-Lee, inventor of the World Wide Web opened the WWW to new users.

1996- The Price Is Right celebrated its 25th anniversary special on CBS

"Who is a kitten's favorite Apostle?"



"St. BartholomEW."





ST. TERESA OF ÁVILA

BLOOD DRIVE

DONATE BLOOD

Sunday October 25
7:30am-2:00pm

Helpful tip:
Make sure to eat a healthy meal and drink plenty of water before donating.. Please bring your id.

St. Teresa of Avila Blood Drive
1950 N. KENMORE AVE CHICAGO, IL 60614
@ The Parish Center

APPOINTMENTS PREFERRED, call 1-800-786-4483, or scan the QR code below or visit <https://tinyurl.com/rhya52u6>

One Pint can help save up to 3 lives! Your simple act of kindness could make a life-changing difference for patients in need.



versiti
Blood Center of Illinois

QUESTIONS? CALL 1-800-786-4483

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





ST. TERESA OF ÁVILA
CATHOLIC PARISH • EST. 1889

You're Invited!

WELCOME BACK

TACO FIESTA & BINGO NIGHT

Community. Conversation. Competition.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9
6:30 - 8:30 PM



TACOS



BINGO



FELLOWSHIP

All Are Welcome!

FAITH • COMMUNITY • HOPE

SCAN TO REGISTER



ST. BARTHOLOMEW

ONCE YOU
BEGIN TO
BELIEVE
THERE IS HELP
'OUT THERE,'
YOU WILL
KNOW IT TO
BE TRUE.



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/growinginGrace



Staff

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Pastor

pwojcik@archchicago.org

Fr. Radley Alcantara

Associate Pastor

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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.